



# The Grinnell Magazine

Summer 2013

Grinnell Farms



# What You Taught Us

*During spring break, 52 alumni hosted 52 Grinnell students for job-shadowing experiences lasting three to five days, called externships. Here is what the externs had to say about their experiences:*

## **It doesn't work like school.**

This is the real world, and it doesn't work like school. There is not necessarily immediate feedback, and there is much more responsibility to fend for oneself. But this also comes with many privileges, and an externship is an excellent time to experience them.

–**Sophie Kornbluh '16** of Evanston, Ill., externed with **Alok Shah '04**, co-founder and senior research scientist, Emmyon Inc., Iowa City, Iowa.

## **Stumbling can be profound.**

Networking is a lot less intimidating – and a lot more fascinating – than I had imagined. I love listening to people's stories and figuring out what they value in their careers; I think it lends a perspective that is missing in college life. A lot of them had stumbled into unexpected opportunities. What has really surprised me is the degree to which this stumbling is both the cause and the effect of a really profound understanding of one's own skills and values. No one I talked to anticipated ending up where they did. But almost everyone had always been devoted to the skills and values that characterized their work.

–**Meredith Carroll '16** of Grayslake, Ill., externed with **Lura Barber '03**, senior policy analyst, National Council on Aging, Washington, D.C.

## **Leadership is a sophisticated science.**

Because my host's job involves a lot of communication, some marketing strategies and good leadership skills, I found out that those soft skills are as important – or even more important – than the hard skills. Leadership is a sophisticated science in real life; and if I can improve my soft skills, I will benefit a lot from them in my future career!

–**Tina Chen '16** of Nanchang, China, externed with **Jennifer Halcrow '87**, vice president of advancement, MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis.

## **It's a jungle gym out there.**

My host says her career has been more like climbing a jungle gym than climbing a ladder. While she now works in sales, she once worked in marketing, and before that in consumer insights. She helped me realize the crossover between career paths and the ability to easily transfer from one career to another. This reassured me that I don't need to fear being stuck in a career I hate because skills are very transferable. My host explained

this idea in order to demonstrate the value of a liberal arts education. She said that liberal arts educations teach you how to think critically; in the workplace it is more important that you are able to think and learn than that you have a specific knowledge set related to the field.

–**Madeline Gray '16** of Denver externed with **Heidi Eggert '95**, global sales ecommerce lead, Nike, Portland, Ore.

## **Been there, done that!**

Donning scrubs? Check! Squeezing pus out of an inflamed appendix? Check. Being clueless in the board meeting? Check! Using a stethoscope to hear the heartbeat? Check. Getting called “Doctor?” Check. While my first day was nothing like an episode of *Grey's Anatomy*, spending 10 hours in the hospital was quite an experience.

–**Mingzheng Ronald Foo '16** of Singapore externed with **R. Benjamin Johnston '85**, physician, Morris Hospital, Morris, Ill.

## **Scientists are artists, too.**

Every doctor seemed more artist than scientist. They all had very distinct styles and personalities. The pediatric cardiologist, especially, was so careful and artful in the way he went about patching holes in the heart of a four-month-old. Because every child has slightly different anatomy drastically different from adults, pediatric surgeons have to be creative in figuring out the best steps to take and envisioning the best solutions to problems. In the same way, it was really a form of art the way the clinical doctors explained their findings to the patient after a physical evaluation and how they connected with the person they were talking to in order to make them feel more comfortable.

–**Dabney Hofammann '15** of Birmingham, Ala., externed with **Neal Fleming '77**, professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of California-Davis.

## **Adults are easy.**

It really is useless to be nervous or anxious about interacting with “adults.” Honestly, as long as you pester them about the details of their life, all goes well.

–**Isabel Monaghan '16** of Oak Park, Ill., externed with **Carter Newton '77**, publisher, Galena Gazette Publications, Galena, Ill.

**Waldo S. Walker**, professor emeritus of biology, acknowledges congratulations during the Class of 1963 50th Reunion Luncheon. It was announced there that the late **Margaret (Peg) Martin Stiffler '63** had established the Waldo S. Walker Chair in Biology through a gift from her estate in the amount of \$1.5 million. More information on this gift will appear in the Fall 2013 issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*.

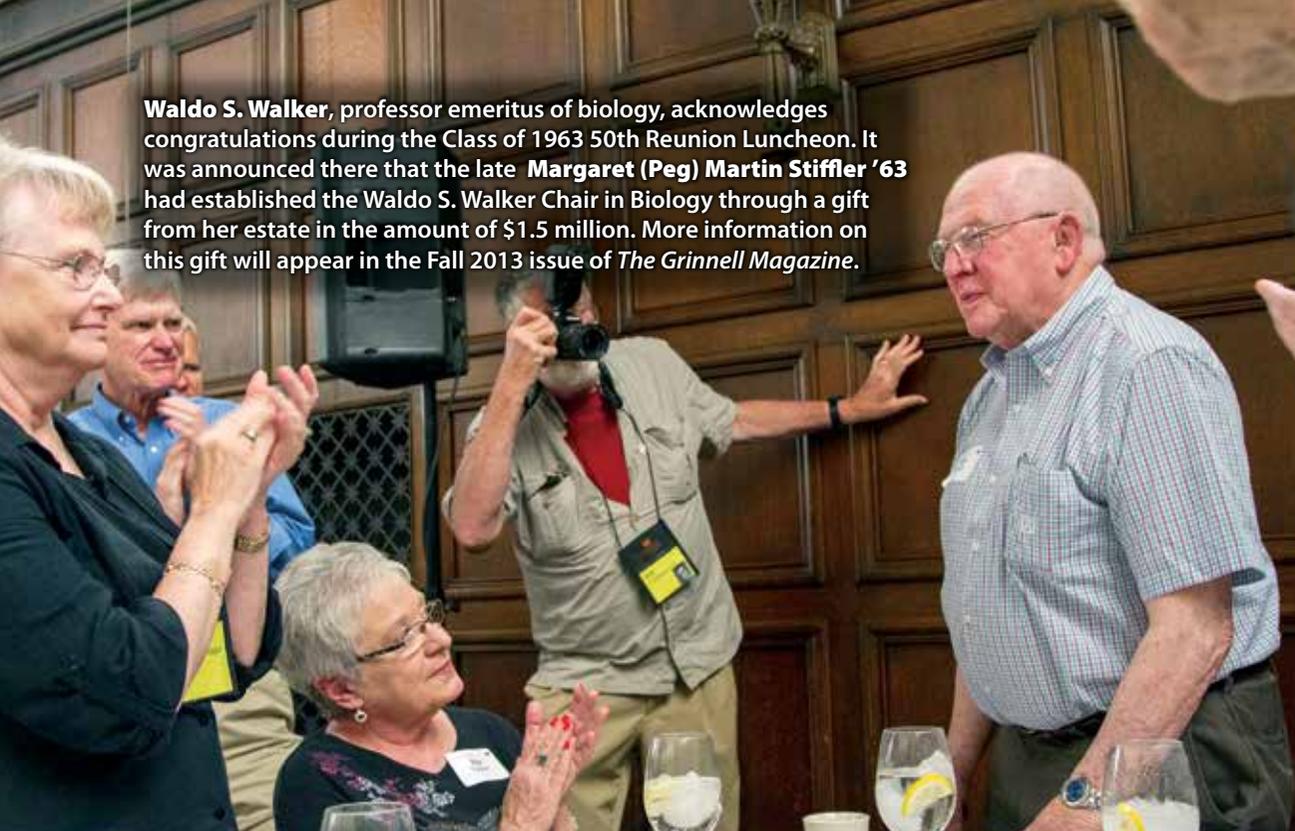


Photo by Justin Hayworth

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### Download this issue!

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# The Grinnell Magazine

## Summer 2013

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#### Mission Statement

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

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#### On the cover:

Photo of Jordan Schriber '10  
by Justin Hayworth



## EDITORNOTES

### *We'll always belong*

There are some places that never leave us, to which we feel we always belong. "I felt incredibly at home here right away." "The people here – I feel like I've known them all my life." You hear such things from first-year Grinnell students – even from visiting prospective students. You may have said similar things yourself.

Perhaps that's because Grinnell truly is an intentional community. Grinnellians come here to build – with faculty, with staff, with alumni, with one another – a unique educational experience. And they come to engage with other similarly curious, open, smart, independent people worldwide who are doing the same. Even after years away, there's a bond that never breaks.

Just ask **Yafa Napadensky '81** and **Bob Shannon '81**. They barely knew each other as students, but met and married decades later. Like the six other couples featured in "Reunited" (Page 16), they credit Grinnell with their instant feeling of deep connection to each other and to something larger.

Or ask **Dorje Gurung '94** ["Free Dorje!" Page 30], who was released from detention in Qatar thanks largely to the quick action of hundreds of Grinnellians, almost all of whom he'd never even met, who rallied to his defense – and thanks to a College that was ready to step in as an institution to advocate for him as well.

That's a great community to belong to, don't you think?

Speaking of community, it has been my joy and a delight to reconnect with the College and with so many of you during my three years at this magazine. This is my last issue – by the time you read this, I'll be in the editor's chair of *The Iowan*, a 61-year-old magazine in Des Moines. I've appreciated your responsiveness, your story suggestions, and your support more than you realize. Please continue to offer the same to my successor at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

– Dan Weeks '80, editor



**Jon Andelson '70**, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Prairie Studies, is looking for Grinnellians with experience in **publishing** or **prairie studies** to advise a group of faculty that is planning on offering a course to Grinnell students about publishing content related to the prairie region. For more information: [andelson@grinnell.edu](mailto:andelson@grinnell.edu)

**Doug Caulkins**, professor emeritus of anthropology, is looking for Grinnellians with experience in **organizational management** who might be interested in participating as presenters in a course on that topic. For more information: [caulkins@grinnell.edu](mailto:caulkins@grinnell.edu)



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*Because, sir,  
I don't know  
how to dance.*

—David Saxe '36

## LETTERS

### Freshman can't dance

My father, **David Saxe '36**, told me that he at first felt lost and isolated at Grinnell, perhaps in part because he was younger than most of his classmates and had come from Omaha to small-town Grinnell. One day he received a note from the dean, to the effect of, "See me in my office."

"Oh man, what have I done now?" he thought to himself.

When he arrived, the dean glared at him sternly. "Saxe," the dean said, "Why weren't you at the dance last night?"

"Because, sir, I don't know how to dance," she replied.

The dean reached into a box on his desk, took out a business card, and handed it to my father.

"This woman will teach you how to dance. Call her."

My father took dancing lessons, went to the next dance, met a girl he liked, and started to feel more a part of the College, which he remembered fondly all of his life. As an upperclassman, he transferred to the University of Chicago, but he always felt a close connection to Grinnell.

From the Grinnell website and an old yearbook, I assume the dean in this story was **Shelton Beatty**, dean of men from 1929 to 1941.

—Robert Saxe  
*La Cañada Flintridge, Calif.*

### Florence entertained me royally

Thank you for including the wonderful picture of **Florence Kerr 1912** in the **Harry Hopkins 1912** article ["Harry's War," Winter 2012, Page 19]. I was born and grew up in Grinnell, and Florence was one of my mother's closest friends. In those days we weren't too sure why Harry wanted to work for "That Man," but we were pleased when he chose Florence to be the women's head of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

When I graduated from college, I immediately went to Washington, D.C. to work for the Signal Corps. Florence entertained me royally several times, and when I got married I asked Robert Kerr to give me away. This was 1944 wartime ... my mother had come to Washington earlier but my Dad could not get transportation. It was a hurry-up weekend affair — my fiancé was on convoy duty in the Atlantic, so we had little time for all the

amenities. When Florence found out we hadn't ordered a cake, she called the White House caterers to make me one. I was one of three girls living in a small Arlington, Va., apartment; we didn't have a table big enough for the cake, so it resided on the kitchen stove for the whole occasion.

One of Florence's jobs as WPA head was to travel around the states encouraging women to organize projects to earn money during the years the men were off at war. One of my favorite necklaces was made with the tip of a bull's horn. A group of women from South Dakota had made this their project, and to this day I get compliments when I'm wearing it.

I agree with those others — don't ever stop printing this magazine — it's TOPS in its field! I read it cover to cover, and I'm amazed at what I find.

—Janet Brooker Woodworth '43  
*San Diego*

We were proud  
of Grinnell's boldness.

—Bruce H. Cole '53  
and Jane Bagby Cole '53

In the late 1930s, as  
a tent leader at Boy Scout Camp,  
one of my charges was  
a cute little curly-headed kid  
by the name of Bobby Noyce.

—George McIntosh '45

## At your peril!

A few days ago, the spring issue of *The Grinnell Magazine* arrived. This is always a welcome addition to the day. But the only mention of anyone alive today, from any class prior to 1954, was that of **Sterling Lord '42** ["On the Book," Spring 2013, Page 26].

There are hordes of alumni still very much alive from classes prior to 1954, and for the most part, we live active and interesting lives. You *write* about **Grant Gale**, **Robert Noyce '49**, **Oliver Buckley 1909** ["It Takes a College," Spring 2013, Page 14]; we *knew* them. For example:

Many of us learned whatever we learned about physics from Grant O. Gale.

In the late 1930s, as a tent leader at Boy Scout Camp, one of my charges was a cute little curly-headed kid by the name of Bobby Noyce. He showed no indication of budding genius and had to be bribed to make up his cot for morning inspection.

Oliver Buckley 1909, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories, married **Clara Lane Buckley 1911**, a friend of my mother's (**Marion Lee McIntosh 1910**). Many of us remember his children **Bill Buckley '42** and **Barbara Buckley Wolf '46**. When I was at Midshipmen's School at Columbia University in 1942, Buckley invited me to Bell headquarters (he sent a limo) for his lecture to the company staff concerning the company's recent development of the transistor. I didn't understand a lot of it, but got a tour of their headquarters plus a great lunch, infinitely superior to Navy fare.

Ignore the surviving members of the classes prior to 1954 at your peril! We are well connected with one another — and a treasure trove of Grinnell history.

—George McIntosh '45  
Bow, Wash.

## The devil incarnate

I was so moved by your article on **Harry Hopkins 1912** ["Harry's War," Winter 2012, Page 19], especially because I had been brought up to believe that Harry Hopkins was just one step removed from the devil incarnate (FDR). I can still hear my father ranting about the money that Hopkins was wasting on WPA projects.

Because I was so impressed by the article, I chose to make a donation to the College in gratitude for the Yunker scholarship, which allowed me to attend. I was hard put to find an address for unsolicited giving [it is <https://loggia.grinnell.edu/makeagift>—Ed.], and it occurred to me that you might want to list an address for gifts from liberal art students who are grateful for their years of enjoying their education. I was a student during the war years — no computers, no Internet, no cars, no TV, just many good books well explored.

—Virginia Johnston Marsden '46  
Elmira, N.Y.

## Gutsy Journalism

Thank you so much for publishing **Harvey Golden '53's** complaint ["Delight and Embarrassment," Spring 2012, Page 3] about **Joel Shapiro '89's** critique of U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan ["When Paul Ryan and I Were Friends," Winter 2012, Page 16]. It ignited our curiosity enough that we searched out the article and reread it. We found Shapiro's observations fair, amusing, and insightful, but mostly we were proud of Grinnell's boldness in running it. It's what we have grown to admire and expect from Grinnell. So keep up the gutsy journalism. It makes *The Grinnell Magazine* worth reading.

—Bruce H. Cole '53  
and Jane Bagby Cole '53  
Paradise Valley, Ariz.

*If this keeps up, I am  
going to find a less dynamic  
and photogenic mainstay  
for my courses.*

—Doug Caulkins

## Fond memories

Jim Rounsevell '82's letter ["Not just women," Spring 2013] brings back fond memories of the Grinnell soccer team's annual end-of-season party with the field hockey team. My (admittedly foggy) memory is that we played an intrasquad scrimmage, one-half field hockey, one-half soccer, and that there were more accomplished field hockey players on the soccer team than soccer players who had mastered field hockey! As for the photo, my guess is the credit goes to **Bruce Pollard '83's** older brother **Don Pollard '81** (now a professional photographer), and that the photo dates to 1979 or 1980. If that is **Guy Holappa '81**, the photo would have to date from earlier than fall of 1981 as he would have graduated in May 1981.

—Charles Bloomfield '81  
Boulder, Colo.

## Disturbing trend

I've noted a disturbing trend in *The Grinnell Magazine*. Although the magazine continues to cover my activities, particularly with regard to "alumni-enriched" courses ["Learning from Alumni," Spring 2013, Page 16], the photographs of me have become smaller and, in the spring issue, disappeared altogether. Meanwhile there has been a sinister increase in the size of my former student **Bruce Weindruch '78's** photos in the magazine. OK, OK, he really does a dramatic photo well, I'll give you that. And, of course, my students find him inspiring, which is why I keep bringing him back. I want him back next semester

too, for that matter. But if this keeps up, I am going to find a less dynamic and photogenic mainstay for my courses.

—Doug Caulkins, professor  
emeritus of anthropology  
Grinnell, Iowa

I was walking the dogs at 7 a.m. yesterday when I was stopped by a neighbor I know quite well by sight, but not by name. He said, "I saw your doppelgänger in my college magazine." He turned out to be **Jamie Barden '97**. I replied, "It's me." I then introduced myself as "Harry Hopkins" and continued on. Fame has its costs.

—Bruce Weindruch '78  
Washington, D.C.

## Art for life

I remember we could borrow paintings to hang in our dormitory rooms. I borrowed a bunch of John Marin watercolors. I still have one of them; I think I bought it at the end of the year. Is there still a program like that at Grinnell?

—Jane Bagby Cole '53  
Paradise Valley, Ariz.

At one time Grinnell did have a rental collection where students paid several dollars to rent a work of art for the semester — a program quite possibly initiated by Edith Sternfeld, who taught in the College's art department from 1930 to 1967. Most of the works were reproductions and, after years in direct sunlight, became badly discolored. The program was discontinued some time ago.

—Kay Wilson, curator of the  
collection, Faulconer Gallery

## Meet the class of 2017

### Admission has another record year.

Preliminary data on the incoming class show:

- Applications are up 55 percent from two years ago.
- 30.3 percent of applicants were admitted – down from 45 percent two years ago.
- 26 percent of the entering class is domestic students of color, versus 23.6 percent of last year's class.
- 15 percent of the class is international students.
- 10 percent of the class is from Iowa, compared to about 8 percent in each of the past two years.
- The class's SAT/ACT high score average is 1351 – similar to last year's class.

## CAMPUS NOTES

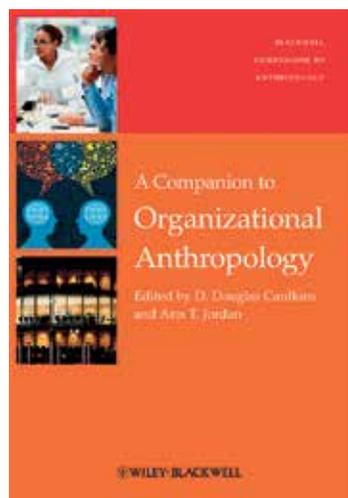
### Expanding Anthropology

#### New book a milestone for organizational anthropologists.

Anthropology professor emeritus **Doug Caulkins** co-edited *A Companion to Organizational Anthropology* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), with University of North Texas professor Ann Jordan. It is the first comprehensive textbook exploring anthropological studies of complex organizations, heralding a coming-of-age for the subdiscipline.

The book boasts 38 contributing international scholars and highlights organizations as diverse as government agencies, nonprofits, and transnational corporations, examining how these organizations interact to shape market, societal, and global trends.

"I've been studying organizational life since my dissertation research on voluntary or nonprofit organizations and community social capital in Norway," says Caulkins, whose recent work has included sustainability issues in organizations, as well as heritage organizations in post-conflict Northern Ireland.



In addition to editing, Caulkins co-authored three chapters: "Expanding the Field of Organizational Anthropology for the 21st Century," "Entrepreneurship Studies," and "Sustaining Social Sector Organizations." The book also features other Grinnell connections, including chapters by **Davydd Greenwood '64** and associate anthropology professor **J. Montgomery Roper**.

—Kate Moening '11

### Welcome!

#### Grinnell's Pioneer Fund gets a new director.

**Mae Turley** joined the College's Office of Development and Alumni Relations as Pioneer Fund director on May 31. Her primary role is to guide and conduct fundraising efforts of the Pioneer Fund, which supports the College's highest priorities.

"Mae is a graduate of a liberal arts college and a proven leader in creating and executing successful annual giving campaigns," says Jackie Aanes, director of operations for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. "She will be an invaluable link in our relationship with alumni, parents, and friends of the College."

Turley worked in alumni and development the past eight years at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., managing reunion planning and giving campaigns and traveling to meet leadership donors. She also served as an academic adviser and provided leadership and guidance to Girls Inc. of Wayne County, Ind., as a volunteer and board member and to the Institute for Creative



**Mae Turley**

Leadership as an advisory board member.

"I'm truly happy to be serving Grinnell College," Turley says. "I look forward to building strong relationships that serve the needs and mission of the College."

Turley has a master's in executive development for public service from Ball State University and a bachelor's in business and nonprofit management from Earlham.

## From a Distance

Through Sept. 8

Photographer Lorna Bieber builds her monumental installations from the vast array of images that activate contemporary culture. Through an intense process of taking and remaking these found images, Bieber creates a visual language that evokes memories of past worlds, while stoking the imagination to conjure new ones. She uses collage, paint, copier, computer technology, and both traditional and nontraditional photographic techniques. By altering the root picture, she alters the image's narrative, immersing the viewer in a parallel world of memory, dreams, and nostalgia.

Lorna Bieber,  
*Birds and Flowers (detail)*, 2008,  
gelatin silver prints, 52 x 46 in.  
© Lorna Bieber.



## Raving about Their Exes

Externships pair students exploring careers with alumni mentors.

Meg Schmitt '15 backpacked with Joy Tamayose '88, a wildlife biologist on Maui, to the crater at the center of Haleakala National Park during her spring break externship.

"It far exceeded my expectations," Schmitt told 52 fellow students at an extern debriefing session organized, like the three-to-five-day job-shadowings themselves, by the College's Career Development Office (CDO). Superlatives flew as the mostly first- and second-year students described mediating corporate disputes in Philadelphia, teaching bilingual classes in New Mexico, and consulting in Shanghai, to name just a few experiences.

"She was so willing to share her experiences! The conversations we had were a highlight," Paulina Campbell '16 said about her host, Ali Borger-Germann '99, an English teacher in Iowa City, Iowa.

"I could not have asked for a more interesting and wonderful family to stay with!" said Andrea Semlow '16, who

joined evolutionary biologist Erin Marie Williams '00 at George Washington University and hosts Kenneth "J-C" Labowitz '71 and his wife Patti Rounsevell '71. "I learned so much about life ... and a different generation of Grinnellians."

Students learned alumni are doing incredible work and are eager to mentor students. "Before I even left," said Sarah Henderson '16, "I'd already applied for a summer internship and my host had written me a recommendation!"

Alumni hosts were equally enthusiastic. "Hosting a student is a lot of fun!" said Carter Newton '77, owner and publisher of *The Galena Gazette* in Illinois. "I believe this type of experience is very important for young people trying to decide upon both their career and path in life."

These outcomes delighted Abby Trout, Grinnell's assistant director of career development, who coordinates the program. Last year, externships received,



Meg Schmitt '15

"such an overwhelmingly positive response from students and alumni that we doubled participation this year," she says.

Externships — along with alumni-enriched courses on campus and alumni-hosted industry tours in cities around the country — are part of the College's plan to involve more alumni in teaching and mentoring roles.

The externships help students network, explore potential career paths, and think about what

jobs might fulfill them and why. "Ultimately," Trout says, "we hope externships help students discover ways to live and work with meaning and purpose."

—Clare Boerigter '14

### Grinnellians Wanted

Interested in mentoring or hosting an extern? Contact Abby Trout at [trouta@grinnell.edu](mailto:trouta@grinnell.edu).

## Margaret Whiting: Environmental Concerns

July 19–Sept. 8

Margaret Whiting carves, alters, and recombines science texts, encyclopedias, law books, and maps to raise environmental issues with her art. Her exhibition addresses such issues as deforestation and the ways human laws help and hinder environmental protection, the connections between human health and the health of the land, and the patterns and systems that connect us all. Whiting is based in Waterloo, Iowa. This exhibition features a large floor installation of tree stumps made from law books.



Margaret Whiting, *Deforestation (detail)*, 2012, installation with altered law books, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.

## No Program? No Problem!

## Grinnell's "freelance film students" win national recognition

Although several departments offer film courses each year and there is an active calendar of film-related events and film clubs at Grinnell, there is no film major or concentration. Nevertheless, five Grinnellians presented research at national film conferences in April – making this the fourth year in a row that students from various majors have traveled to national cinema studies conferences to present their work.

"The first assignment in my Film Genres course is to write

a conference abstract, which students then had the option to submit to various conferences," says **Theresa Geller**, assistant professor of film theory and history in English.

In response to the several abstracts she received from Grinnell students, Pamela Wojcik, professor of film, TV and theatre at Notre Dame, host of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) National Undergraduate Conference, wrote, "Your students really stand out!"

They certainly did: Nearly half of Geller's Humanities 290 class presented at two national conferences. **Vilma Castaneda '14**, a sociology and gender, women's, and sexuality studies (GWSS) major from Washington, D.C.; **Claire Fleckenstein '13**, a French and GWSS major from Olympia, Wash.; and **Brian Buckley '14**, an independent major in American studies presented at the undergraduate SCMS conference. **Benji Zeledon '14**, a political science major and policy

studies concentrator from Miami, and **Victor Kyerematen '14**, an English major from Accra, Ghana, were the *only* undergraduates invited to individually present their original research at the 20th annual (dis)junctions Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Conference at the University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Geller's students were thrilled to meet others pursuing film studies. "The conference was a success, and being able to gain experience at that level went a long way," says Kyerematen, who presented on the shifting form of racism in recent American films. "Everybody who attended was quite impressed [with us]. The other people on my panel had, on average, 10 years in academia each and had J.D.s and Ph.D.s; but to be honest, their writing wasn't so far off from what we produce in class. ... We made good friends in the English department [at UCR] and several of the grad students encouraged us to apply to the program."



Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Wild Horses

July 19–Sept. 8

Scott Robert Hudson's project synthesizes three cultural constructs: the socioecology of the North American wild horse herds, the atmospherics of the Paleolithic caves of Southern France, and the human drama of the Ghost Dance. Inspired by a backcountry encounter with wild horses in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, Hudson's installation is made with horse skulls and explores how cultures collide and entwine through the horse and in the museum. Hudson lives and works in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He has works in the collections at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Chico Museum of Natural History at California State University.



Scott Robert Hudson, *Wild Horse (prototype)*, 2012, bones, paint, wood, 108 x 9 x 18 in. Courtesy of the artist.

## Where Grinnell Meets Finance

Alumni visit campus to give students a look at financial careers.

This spring, three enterprising students kicked off Grinnell's first Liberal Arts in Finance Symposium. The April 6 event featured nine alumni speakers and an array of panels, networking sessions, and meals designed to offer students insight into how a liberal arts background can translate into a successful finance career.

David Jutrsa '15, Jody Lee '15, and Pancho Poshtov '13 (all three economics majors) worked with Arlene Holmes in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations and David Clay in the Investment Office to draw speakers from different fields. Poshtov had organized similar events while studying at the London School of Economics. Attending were: Ben Armstrong '87, RMB Capital Management, asset management; Jill Cetina '94, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, U.S. Department of the Treasury, public finance; Christina Mantiziba Cutlip '83, TIAA-CREF, financial services;



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Nathaniel Hoch '11, Royal Bank of Canada, asset management; Ahsan Rahim '11, Alliance Bernstein, dynamic asset allocation; Ashfaqur Rahman '02, Royal Bank of Scotland, debt capital markets; Andris Upitis '96, Viking Global Investors (retired), hedge funds; and Scott Wilson '98, Grinnell College, derivatives.

"Finance encompasses everything we learn at Grinnell," says Lee. "Markets move for economic, political, environmental, sociological, psychological, idiosyncratic reasons; this list is in no way exhaustive. Finance is stunningly beautiful and complex."

Open to everyone, the symposium offered students

a broad overview of careers and current industry trends. Participants were asked to register and submit questions for the speakers in advance. "A common theme was, how do I differentiate myself from students at larger universities," Jutrsa recalls. "A lot of people had ethical questions: How are you benefiting the world with your Grinnell degree while working in finance?"

"People stayed afterward to talk with the speakers; resumes were being shared; people were talking and having phenomenal conversations," Poshtov adds. "Alumni were very excited; I don't think anyone was disappointed."

Next semester, Jutrsa says, there are hopes to run an even more ambitious symposium on the liberal arts in business. The event was co-sponsored by the Career Development Office, alumni relations, the economics department, and the Wilson Program.

—Kate Moening '11

## Honoring Innovators and Activists

### Poet and Commencement speaker Sarah Kay and three distinguished Grinnell College alumni



**Sarah Kay** received a doctor of humane letters for expanding the reach and power of spoken word poetry. She began performing at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York at age 14 and was a featured performer at the 2004 World Youth Report at the United Nations. In 2006, she was the youngest competitor in the National Poetry Slam. She appeared on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*; performed at Lincoln Center and the Tribeca Film Festival; and was featured in *Wired, Inc.*,

*Poets & Writers*, and other publications. Through her Project VOICE, she has taught thousands of children and young adults to create spoken word poetry.



**David Abarr '83**, a fourth-grade math, science, and social studies teacher at Davis Elementary School in Grinnell, received a doctor of science for helping his students develop a love of learning through his enthusiastic teaching. Every year, he brings a portable planetarium to school to teach all Davis School students about astronomy. Through his work with the school's curriculum advisory committee, he has strengthened science and math coursework throughout the

Davis School. Abarr received a Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching from WHO-TV, was recognized by the Governor's Scholar Recognition Program, and was honored by the Belin-Blank Center Teacher Recognition Ceremony at the University of Iowa.

## Overheard at Commencement

### A graduate, three honored speakers, and the president

"I've been to three graduation ceremonies, and this was my favorite. I liked all of the speeches; it was windy, so people's hats kept blowing off. We didn't realize we were supposed to line up, so we all just clumped together. It was all very true to the 2013 spirit."

—Aditi Roy '13, graduate

"Listen to others. ... Spend time meeting and working with folks who are different from you. ...

Don't be tricked into thinking certain people deserve less of your listening. Don't be tricked into thinking you can read someone without listening. Don't be tricked into thinking it is always your turn to talk.

—Sarah Kay, poet, commencement speaker, recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree

"MIME is used roughly a trillion times a day. But only the very best

uses are actually pictures of my grandchildren. Most of the rest are useless garbage."

—Nathaniel S. Borenstein '80, about MIME (multipurpose Internet mail extensions), his invention that allows people to send email attachments over the Internet

"I know that it is customary to share a few words of wisdom with graduates. To that end, I have enlisted the aid of my students. ...

'Dear Random College Student. Take life as it goes and follow your passion and what you are good at. Don't try to make life revolve around you. Become a part of it.' Wow! I add only this. Be mindful of the impact you can have on others. Be kind, do well, be happy."

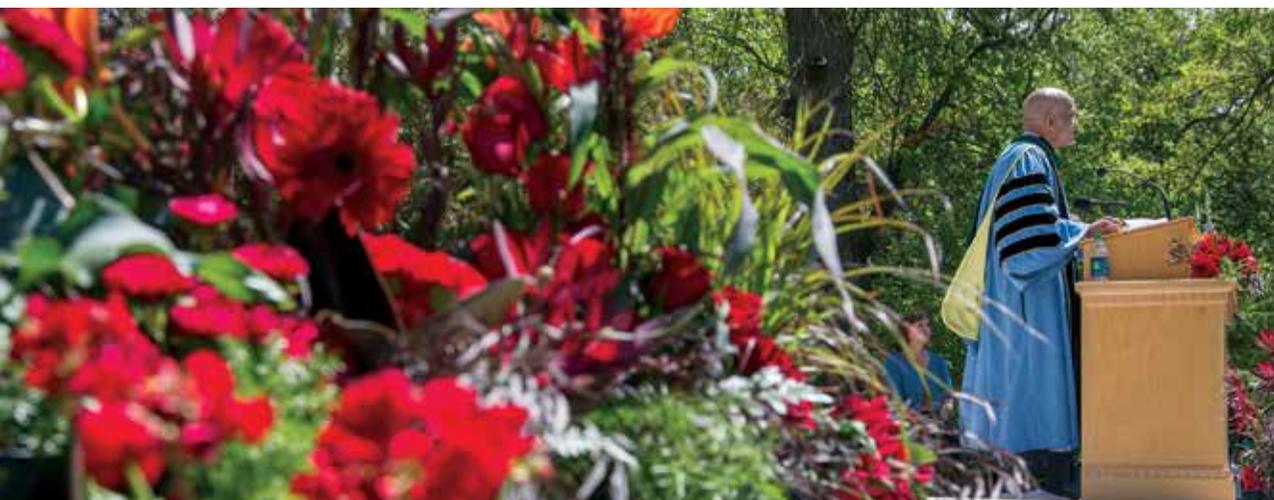
—David T. Abarr '83, fourth grade math, science, and social studies teacher at Davis Elementary School in Grinnell; recipient of an honorary doctor of science degree

"Don't be surprised if success doesn't look like what you expected."

—Nathaniel S. Borenstein '80, recipient of an honorary doctor of science degree

"Being a Grinnellian requires that each of us humble ourselves before the truth. Not the truth of simplistic 'true or false' statements, but the greater, more complex, more subtle, and truly awesome truth of being human."

—Raynard S. Kington, president, Grinnell College





**Nathaniel Borenstein '80** received a doctor of science for technical innovation and commitment to justice and peace. A math and religious studies major with a Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University, Borenstein developed the MIME protocol for email attachments; co-founded First Virtual Holdings, the world's first "cyberbank"; started NetPOS.com; wrote three books, including *Programming As If People Mattered*; developed metemail and Safe-Tcl

software; and is chief scientist for Mimecast. He has received the New York University Olive Branch Award, is past president of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, and was primary author of the One Planet, One Net campaign. He is frequently listed among the world's famous vegetarians.



**Bonnie Tinker '69** received a doctor of laws for a lifetime of social justice work. A theatre major, she protested the College's policy of comprehensive exams and as a result never received her diploma. She co-founded Red Emma, a free health clinic and halfway house; was founding director of the first West Coast battered women's shelter; was first chair of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; created a documentary about lesbian and gay marriage called *Love Makes*

*a Family*; and founded an organization dedicated to LGBT marriage and family equality. Just before her death in a bicycle accident in 2009, she presented a workshop on nonviolent change. Her son, Alexander Tinker, accepted the award on her behalf.

## Faculty Promotions

Sixteen faculty members have new ranks for the 2013–14 academic year.

### Promoted to associate professor with tenure:



Paul Hutchison, education



Asani Seawell, psychology



Stephen Sieck, chemistry



Justin Thomas, theatre and dance

### Awarded tenure:



Jeffrey Jonkman,  
associate professor of  
mathematics and statistics

### Promoted to full professor:

- Shuchi Kapila, English
- Sarah Purcell '92, history
- Ralph Savarese, English
- Erik Simpson, English

### Moving to senior faculty status\*:

- Susan Strauber, art
- Edmund Gilday, religious studies
- John H. Mutti, economics

### Moving to emeritus status:

- Elizabeth Dobbs, English
- Andrew Hsieh, history
- Daniel Kaiser, history
- Martha Voyles, education

\* Senior faculty status recognizes those faculty members who are released from regular full-time teaching obligations to pursue scholarly and professional activities associated with the College.

## A Lifetime Achievement

Professor Henry Walker wins award for his contributions to computer science education.

Henry Walker, professor of computer science, received international recognition recently for his service, scholarship, and 40-plus years of teaching. The Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) honored Walker's work with its 2013 Award for Lifetime Service to the Computer Science Education Community. He delivered the keynote address at the 2013 awards ceremony, held in March in Denver.

A subset of the Association for Computing Machinery, SIGCSE is the primary organization for computer science educators from kindergarten through graduate school. It boasts 2,600 members worldwide and annually recognizes an individual with a history of service to computer science education.

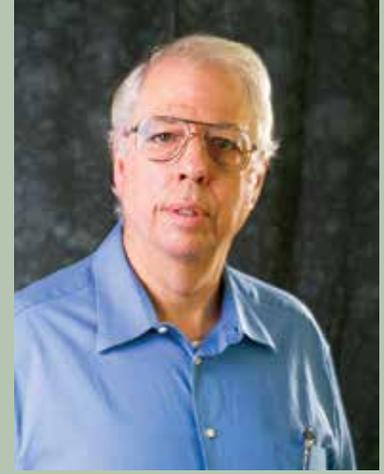
Walker's career is perhaps best defined by the intersections of service, academic scholarship, and teaching. During a sabbatical in 2000, Walker collaborated with several students and College staff members to develop an online system that would allow educators to submit papers and reviewers to offer feedback.

"The online system allowed, for the first time, reviewers around the world to contribute without the constraints of sending papers through

the mails internationally," Walker says. "In academia, many faculty think of their work as involving three separate activities: service, scholarship, and teaching. I have been fortunate to integrate all three of these categories in many of my projects."

Walker also serves on the development committee for the Advanced Placement Computer Science exam and volunteers as an exam grader. He's the author of nine textbooks, including last year's *The Tao of Computing*; frequently acts as a reviewer for computer science programs at other institutions; and worked to develop an online system to place incoming math and computer science students.

"My work often supports the broad computer-science-education community, while my teaching benefits from this widespread experience, and my teaching informs my service," Walker says.



## Almost Everyone is Afraid of Writing

Visiting authors give young writers insight into the possible.

Staring out at an assembly of bright-faced Grinnellians, Verlyn Klinkenborg announced: "The way you've been taught writing is wrong." A few people flinched. "Forget about the rules and the writing myths," he continued. "All you can do is jump in and start thrashing around."

He gave the room a reassuring smile: "Don't worry, you'll learn what you need to know."

A nonfiction writer and member of *The New York Times*

editorial board, Klinkenborg was one of seven authors who spoke on campus this semester as part of the English department's Writers@Grinnell series. This spring, visiting authors used their unique styles to examine a diverse set of themes, engaging with ideas about feminism, race and miscegenation, genocide, and environmentalism.

Introduced as "the nation's official lightning rod," U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey

explored her own identity as a biracial woman before turning her eye on colonial Casta paintings, depictions that tried to classify mixed-race children. "The boy is a palimpsest of paint — layer of color," Trethewey read liltingly. "History rendering him that right shade of in-between."

While Randa Jarrar's humorous fiction got young writers laughing and Andrew Sean Greer's fiction brought students into a world hued by magic, *The Nation's* Katha Pollitt got Grinnellians thinking, asking in her lecture on feminism, "Have we achieved it? Are men and women equal yet?!"

Environmental activist and writer Rick Bass emphasized words in the service of a message. Walking the trails at Conard Environmental Research Area, Bass discussed the importance of understanding a place for its unique ecology, culture, and beauty

— and the extreme importance of maintaining natural landscapes against the human threat.

In her new book about the Cambodian genocide during the Vietnam War, Madeleine Thien also touched upon human destruction. "Where is the self buried?" Thien asked as she investigated the tales of survivors and refugees, focusing on the dynamics of identity. "Is any part of us incorruptible, the absolute center of who we are?"

For young writers, the Writers@Grinnell series is a window into the possible — a moment in which to see what can be done with language, what diverse styles and themes can be explored, what singular characters can be elucidated.

"Almost everyone is afraid of writing," Klinkenborg told his audience. Afraid to fail, afraid to break the rules, afraid to write the wrong thing. To this, Klinkenborg had only one thing to say: "Don't be."

—Clare Boerigter '14



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Writer Katha Pollitt addresses a gathering in the Rosenfield Center.

# Pioneer Football

*It has made me who I am.*

While some of my fellow alumni aren't clear of the benefits of athletics at Grinnell, I would not be where I am today had I not played football at Grinnell. It gave me an opportunity to be adopted into a family of brothers, enhance my interpersonal skills, and push my limits to learn what I am capable of.

Without football, Grinnell would have been a fleeting thought in my high school adviser's mind. In fact, I was quite irate at my parents for forcing me to spend my one weekend away from sports through the academic year to drive 14 hours from my Colorado hometown to Grinnell for a college visit. (I now love Iowa, but my sentiments were quite different at the time.) Upon my arrival and subsequent stay, my negativity was dwarfed by the exuberance and potential I saw in Grinnell. It was not the school itself that drew me in most of all, but rather the people on the football team that I fell in love with.

Nevertheless, I spent the good part of my first year coping with acute homesickness. Football alone kept my spirits up and gave me the family I so deeply craved. I would certainly have transferred to a school closer to home without sports. The brotherhood among teammates was unlike any other. We were quirky Grinnellians and dedicated students and athletes; as a member of this group, I found solace and acceptance.

My team and coaches became my closest friends. The coaches taught us how to be in constant communication with them – how to address concerns and issues respectfully and clearly – while also allowing us to resolve interpersonal conflicts within the team structure. These skills have been essential in my professional life as an orthopedic clinical researcher. Because of Pioneer football, I can communicate easily with many intimidating, world-renowned surgeons and voice my opinion amongst them, just as I did with my coaches at Grinnell. Without football, I would not have the ability, confidence, or eloquence that I do.

Many other football programs handle conflicts between players poorly, appointing coaches to resolve issues between players. These coaches often simply tell the players to resolve their grievances and move on. This commonly does little to resolve the issues, but rather exacerbates rifts between teammates, as they harbor the anger and suppress it per coach's instructions.

At Grinnell, our coaches taught us how to resolve conflict. They acted as mediators when necessary, but

generally let the players govern themselves. This training has translated well into my career, as with minimal guidance I am now able to resolve issues with coworkers quickly and efficiently. Some could argue that self-governance is learned as a part of student life at Grinnell, but it was the conflict resolution I learned with the team that allows me to excel now. Within the self-governance system of the school, conflict is frequently resolved by mutual distance and avoidance. This works well on campus, but not on the football field where players must work with each other daily. It is this environment that more closely mimics the professional world.

One's limitations in any aspect of life are determined primarily by one's mindset. I was not aware of this before collegiate football. I had spent my life within my comfort zone, choosing places, people, schools, and sports that were familiar to me. Pioneer football camp changed that. My young mind was quickly blasted with tests both on and off the field. Coaches evaluated us and set new team and individual-player goals. They expected perfection on the field and stressed academics equally. We were not allowed room for failure. The constant feedback and expectations drove constant improvement. Athletically, success was measured as with any program, but most surprising was the realization that the constant expectations on the field drove my classroom performance as well. Perhaps because of my structured schedule, my grades during football season were always better; procrastination was not an option. As I learned how far I could push myself on the field, I realized I could do the same mentally. Whatever the reason, without football, my academic performance would have suffered immensely.

A collegiate experience continues to become more prevalent in today's society, and with it many considerations need to be made in order to enhance students' experiences. While many do not have the physical ability to compete in athletics, those who do are truly blessed. Football at Grinnell resulted in negative stereotypes about me, took up the majority of my time, and left me with multiple injuries and physical impairments that I still struggle with daily. Despite that, I feel truly lucky to have been a collegiate athlete, and wouldn't trade my experience for any other. Without Grinnell football, I would not be where, what, or who I am today.

## Observations



By **Brian Westerlind '12**, a medical research assistant in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. He received the Florence Smith Sifferd '30 Science Scholarship and the James Walter Rosenfield Scholarship while a student at Grinnell.

# Straight Through the Heart

*Teaching reading – and creative writing – as a process of seduction.*

By **Dean Bakopoulos**, a professor of English at Grinnell College, is the author, most recently, of the novel *My American Unhappiness*. This piece first appeared in *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, March 22, 2013 and is reprinted with permission.

As each semester begins at Grinnell College, a small liberal arts school nestled in the Iowa prairie, I get numerous emails from students pleading for a spot in my fiction workshop. The wait list is long, and as much as I'd love to take credit for the course's popularity, I'm learning it's less about the teacher and more about the way fiction writers approach the teaching of literature.

Many of these students aren't English majors – in our dynamic department, majors tend to geek out on theory and critical reading courses from the start. And unlike most M.F.A. students I've taught, these undergraduates tend not to consider writing a career choice. They never ask for my agent's email.

Instead, each semester, I meet students who might be afraid of traditional English courses, but are drawn by the oddly warm and fuzzy phrase “creative writing.” In most academic work, we teach students to discuss other people's ideas before they attempt to formulate their own. We withhold the challenge of creation. But in creative writing, we read a few books and then we're off. By semester's end, a seeming mystery, I have a roomful of young people in love with reading stories and telling their own. Almost all of them write better sentences and cleaner paragraphs too.

I realized that what I'm really instructing them in is reading as a process of seduction. Consider how one falls in love: by fixating on certain attributes of the beloved. The way he looks in his brown cords. The way she flips her hair from her face. The flecks in her eyes, the twitch in his smile. We do not yet know the whole person, but we are lured by primal responses to a few details. We get to the classic final lines of *The Great Gatsby* or see Lily Briscoe finishing her painting in *To the Lighthouse*, and we want to go back to Page 1 and start again, to know the novel more deeply.

It took a while for me to figure out how to offer students any kind of instruction in this. As an undergraduate myself, when it came time to write an essay on Aphra Behn or Theodore Dreiser, I found I had no idea what to say about it. My professors, and their graduate assistants, usually agreed. They pointed me to secondary texts, which confused me even more. Later, as a teaching assistant in one of the nation's best English departments, I still had no idea what to say about a piece of literature. I only knew to teach the works that I liked to read. And so that's where I began with my students. Not exactly a strong teaching philosophy, perhaps, but now that I am both an author and experienced teacher, I still ground the discussion of a well-known work of

fiction in that basic question: What did you like about this story? Show me your favorite lines.

A cynical friend of mine calls this the Book Club pedagogy, akin to treating literature as a string of Facebook statuses about our feelings. But think about the first work of literature that blew your mind. Whether it was Salinger or Ellison or Austen, or a Munro story you came across in a waiting-room copy of *The New Yorker*, there was most likely a moment, a snippet of dialogue or flight of lyricism that exploded in your squirrely little heart. Perhaps you put an exclamation point in the margin or yellowed the sentence with a highlighter. You felt real energy there – a stirring in your soul, and you wanted more. Excited to find a kindred consciousness, you wanted to understand how a writer could make you feel that intensity with nothing more than words on a page.

In my classes, we read great fiction obsessively, and then attempt to see how a writer managed to affect us. We try to understand which elements – diction, syntax, point of view and so forth – made us feel that way. After we spend several weeks reading this way, wondering how the author made us shiver like that, we try our own hand. I ask students to begin with “green lines,” to isolate writing so good it makes one writer envious of another. Which parts do they wish they had written themselves? Students start to understand how their own writing works, where it ripples with energy.

Obviously, this is great fun for a pack of aspiring novelists, but why does such a motley assortment of computer science majors and chemistry students flock to these classes? For one thing, there is, at first, no reason to understand the historical significance or theoretical implications of a given work. It begins with a reader in the room with a story. Reading like a writer, as we do in workshops, provides a ground floor for any student. The question, “What was your favorite moment in a story?” is an easy entry point for both a student schooled in the finest prep academy and a science major straight out of a substandard district. Anyone can find a favorite line. Placing further pressure on those lines – Why did you like it? “What changed at that moment that brought energy to the text?” – can help students trust their instincts: They were on to something! It's a less intimidating approach to literature, free from the burden of historical background and devoid of grad-school jargon.

Back when I was teaching first-year composition at a large state school, I'd often lament with my colleagues

that so many of our incoming students hated to read (we were instructed not to use texts more than a few pages long). We bemoaned the fact that many had left high school without even knowing how to write a sentence.

But how can you teach someone to master language or read literature until he's fallen in love with it? Maybe in place of first-year composition we should be teaching first-year fiction. In a creative-writing workshop, students begin to think about literature as stories to love, the way many of them did as children. Instead of deconstructing a text (that terrible word, text), they begin to understand the well-crafted sentence and the way it energizes and adds power to a larger story. After reading masterworks and feeling the effects a writer can have on their own souls, they want to get out their laptops and try doing the same thing.

What they really want is to have some kind of firsthand, visceral relationship with a book – to see what it's like to take a work apart and put it back together – using great stories as structural models, just the way the kids I grew up with in Detroit fell in love with cars by spending weekends trying to make derelict Ford Mustangs run again. When the engine finally starts, when you figure out how to make it fire, it's an incredibly powerful learning experience.

Love, after all, isn't a passive process. Just as a chemistry student doesn't want to lean back and watch an experiment in class, my students don't like to be told to sit around and admire something simply because it is theoretically or historically significant. They want to formulate their own theorem, to write their own code.

By teaching the pleasures of writing our own stories, we remind them of the pleasures of reading and of the power of literature, something they may have experienced with Harry Potter but lost when they wrote a five-paragraph essay about Hawthorne. For one semester, at least, we do the work because we grow to love the work. After that? Well, with love, all things are possible.

*By semester's end, a seeming  
mystery, I have a roomful  
of young people in love with  
reading stories and  
telling their own.*

Photo by Ben Brewer '11





# Reunited!

*Grinnell couples share stories  
of getting together years – even decades – after graduation.*

**By Suzanne Kelsey**

When folks saw **Yafa Napadensky '81** and **Bob Shannon '81** at their 30-year cluster reunion in June last year, they couldn't help noticing how happy – even luminous – the couple was. But none of their classmates could remember seeing them together during their student years.

There's a reason for that: Napadensky and Shannon were barely aware of each other as students and met almost as for the first time at their 20th reunion. They married two years later.

A surprising number of Grinnell alumni have similar stories to share. Why? Are Grinnellians so enduringly attractive to one another that they find each other even at midlife? If so, what exactly is the attraction? A shared history? Shared values? An intuitive, tribal identity?

Writer and educator Parker Palmer suggests true community requires a transcendent “third thing” that both holds members accountable to something beyond themselves and also holds them together.

As we talked to the couples who tell their stories here, it became clear that they all experienced – whether in tandem, in parallel, or asynchronously – Grinnell College as that third thing. Their exceptional stories are ones of community, transcendence, and love. *We hope you enjoy them.*





### **Yafa Napadensky '81 & Bob Shannon '81**

#### *In brief:*

First met in 1979 during a five-day, winter-break caving trip with Grinnell Outdoor Recreation Program (GORP). Reunited in 2000 at their 20<sup>th</sup> reunion picnic. Married in August 2003.

Live in Grand Marais, Minn., where Napadensky is a grant accountant and Shannon is an environmental radiochemist.

#### *About each other:*

*Napadensky:* "It was like meeting my best friend when I was almost 40. I was totally comfortable."

*Shannon:* "It was amazing. We shared so many common experiences and friends even though we were on parallel tracks."

*Napadensky:* "We're planning on making it to our 50th wedding anniversary. He'll be 94 and I'll be 93."

*Shannon:* "I'm not a big believer in supernatural forces, but you start wondering, was there a hand that kept us apart because we weren't ready to be together? Did it have to happen 20 years down the road?"

#### *The third thing:*

Both were mentored by GORP faculty adviser and geology lecturer **Kathy McCluskey**, who helped shape Shannon's career as an environmental chemist. McCluskey was killed on a caving trip in 1987; Shannon and Napadensky were both still haunted by the loss of their mentor when they met in 2000. "I think Kathy was a real link between Yafa and me that weekend," Shannon says.

### **Bruce Koff '75 & Mitchell Channon '82**

#### *In brief:*

Met in 1982 during the High Holidays at Or Chadash, a LGBT Jewish congregation in Chicago where Koff was a cantorial soloist. Began dating soon after. Married in Canada in 2003. Live in Chicago, where Koff is a psychotherapist and clinical social worker and Channon is an interior designer.

#### *About each other:*

*Koff:* "It amuses us to think about what it might have been like if we'd been college sweethearts. When we're on campus for reunions, we get to retroactively rewrite the scenes."

*Channon:* "We realized we shared a sense of Jewish humor. We both came from very warm families who were very accepting. Our parents came to know each other well



and were fond of one another. We've played a part in our nieces' and nephews' lives, too. In those days it wouldn't have been unusual for gay men to move away from their families to have their lives. Our intention was to be part of their lives and have them be part of ours."

### *The third thing:*

*Channon:* "We have friends who seem to collect Grinnell friends, not by intention, but sheer coincidence. They'll meet people they're immediately drawn to and will find out they went to Grinnell. We'll say, 'That figures.'"

*Koff:* "The Grinnell experience is unique. Grinnell was a progressive safe place for both of us as gay men. It was a Utopian place — and because Grinnell was that way, we came to expect the world to be that way, too."

*Channon:* "We strive to give our best and to bring creative and intellectual rigor to what we do. ... There's a Jewish term, 'bashert,' which means 'fate.' It's fitting that we met at Simchat Torah, a holiday that celebrates the rerolling of the Torah scroll, a new beginning. Between that and our Grinnell connection, we feel we were meant to be."

## **Kirsten Finlayson '92 & David Gerard '90**

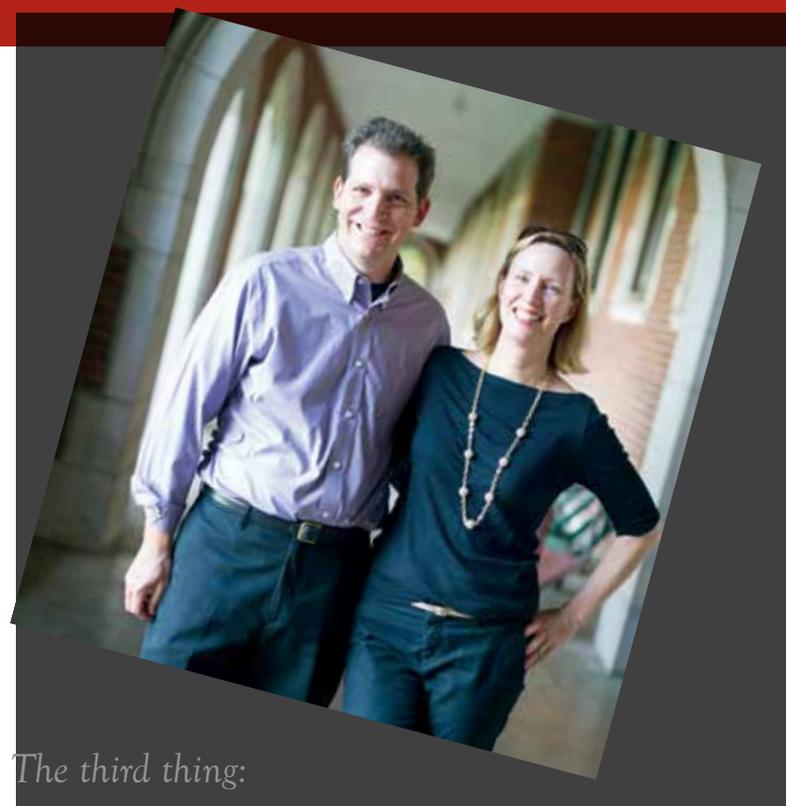
### *In brief:*

Were casual friends as rugby players at Grinnell. Got reacquainted while she attended law school and he attended grad school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Married in 2000; **Corrie Zoll '92** officiated. **Thad Bartlett '88**, now an anthropologist at University of Texas-San Antonio, and **Tom Berger '91**, who also studied anthropology in graduate school, created a wedding ceremony that celebrated the joining of the couple's two "tribes," or groups of friends. Have two school-age children. Live in Appleton, Wis., where Finlayson is a specialty claims attorney handling international litigation and Gerard is an economics professor at Lawrence University.

### *About each other:*

*Finlayson:* "David definitely has Grinnell qualities, including an adventurous intellect. Grinnell is a place where you read and think and write. He reads all the time and is curious about the deeper meanings of things. From his career as a liberal arts professor to the faculty reading group he's established at Lawrence University, he's modeling his life after what he experienced at Grinnell."

*Gerard:* "Kirsten had carried on that strong feminist tradition from Grinnell, so I suggested that maybe she should propose to me. But she had trouble mustering up the gumption, so I got down on my knee and gave her a ring."



### *The third thing:*

*Finlayson:* "I intended to go to law school in Champaign, meet an international man of mystery, and live abroad, yet here was this hometown kid [from Champaign]. He's very smart — that drew me right away — but I remember looking at him, shaking my head, and thinking, 'Okay, it's going to be David, isn't it? So much for my plans. I'm going to end up dating this known quantity.'"

*Gerard:* "We understood where each other was coming from because of our shared background. We had a similar expectation about interacting with each other, and we knew each other's social mores. In economic terms, there was a low cost in getting to know each other."

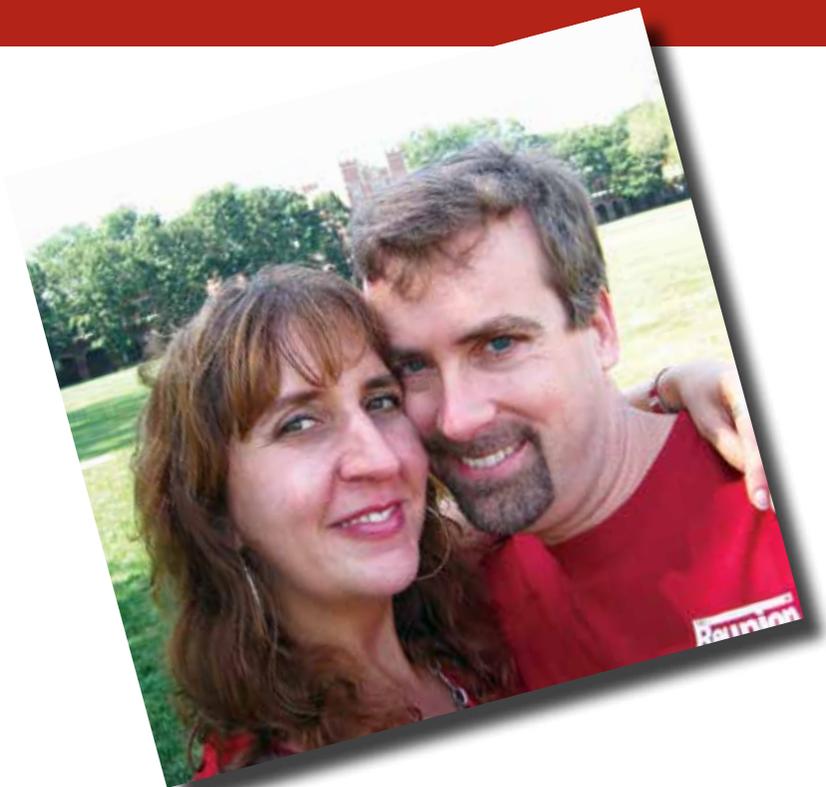
*Finlayson:* "We knew of each other's friends, and we both value our friendships. It was important to me that he totally loves and values my girlfriends."

*Gerard:* "It's a manifestation of having attended a residential liberal arts school. Grinnell students are branded, and it's okay."

## **Elisabeth (Lis) Stieg Hooper '95 & Craig Hooper '93**

### *In brief:*

Overlapped two years while students at Grinnell but never met. While at Grinnell in 2009, Stieg Hooper to help plan her class reunion and Hooper on class-agent business, they realized they both lived "a bay apart" in California — he in Oakland and she in San Francisco. Had first date a week later. Hooper proposed during his class reunion under a tree outside Younker Hall, and the two married in 2012. Live



in Mobile, Ala., where Stieg Hooper is a graphic designer and Hooper is a vice president of business development and external relations for a ship manufacturer.

### *About each other:*

*Stieg Hooper:* "He's funny and interesting."

*Hooper:* "She's really intuitive. She has these incredible insights into human nature. The standard mantra about Grinnellians is that we're socially engaged, but it seems less widely appreciated that the Grinnell experience helps people learn to build communities, whether on a large scale or just by linking a couple of people together. Lis does that."

*Stieg Hooper:* "He has a lot of diverse interests, which is reflective of being a Grinnellian."

*Hooper:* "People tend to get married younger in the South, but there are also lots of divorces. People are shocked that this is our first marriage. Here, the expectation is that if you're 40, you've been married awhile."

*Stieg Hooper:* "We met each other at the right time."

### *The third thing:*

*Hooper:* "Our shared Grinnell experience helps us appreciate the unconventional pathway. When we got together, I was a bottom-feeding academic and getting paid commensurately. Lis took the risk to support me, and without her encouragement, I wouldn't have gotten such an amazing career opportunity. ... Other colleges almost seem to instill a sense of entitlement. At Grinnell, it was more like, 'Let's try this and see what happens.' We both think that way."

*Stieg Hooper:* "We didn't know each other while at Grinnell, but having the shared experience of attending there, we both understand it. And it's nice that we don't have to unwillingly drag each other back to the College."

## **Ivy Chang '01 & Jeremiah Garza '98**

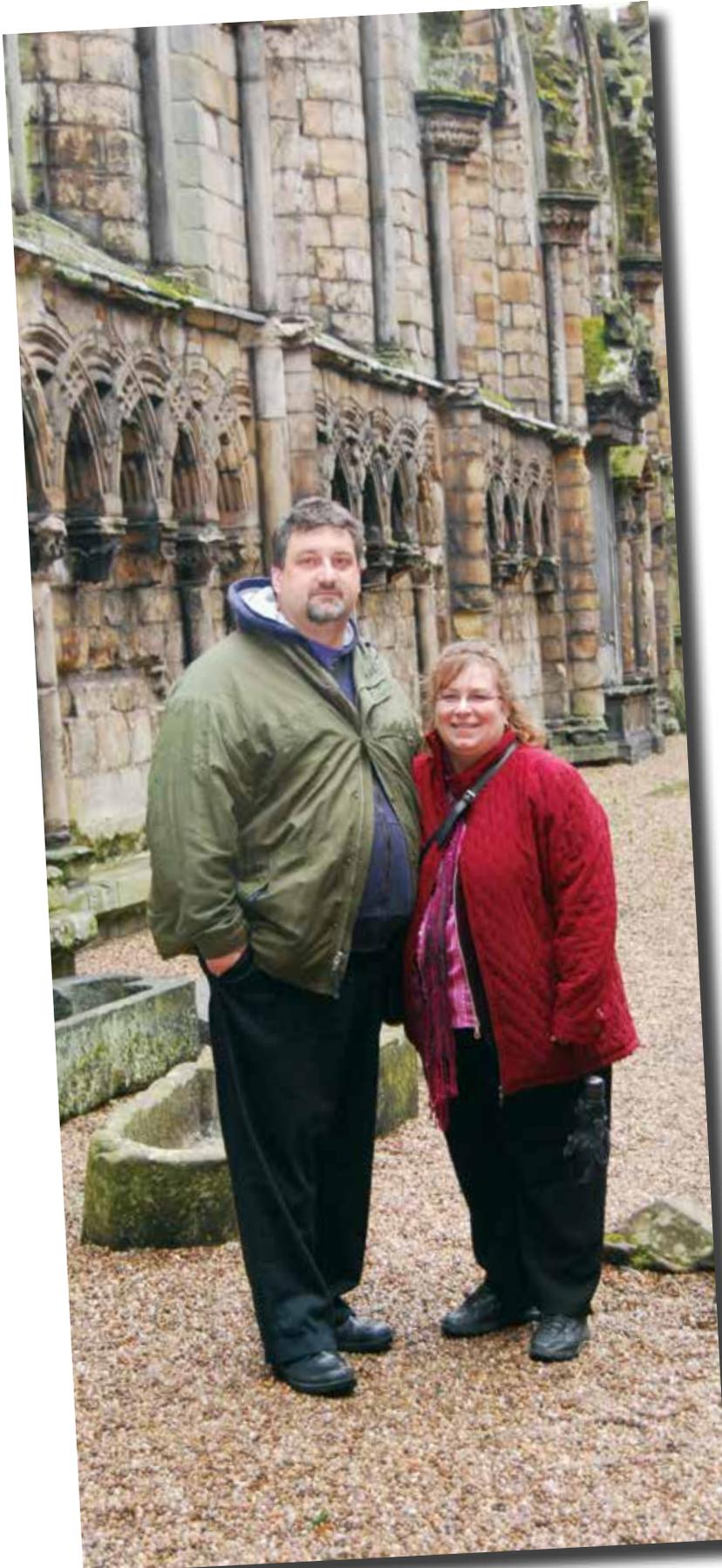
### *In brief:*

Began dating during Chang's first year and Garza's last year at Grinnell; married in 2007 when career and education trajectories allowed. Live in Los Angeles, where Chang is a social worker and Garza is a doctoral student in public health.

### *About each other:*

*Chang:* "He was always very private on our residence hall floor. We'd try to collect people's birthdays and he wouldn't tell us. The more secretive he was, the more we wanted to know. I went out of my way to introduce myself to him. After I met him I came back to my roommate and said, 'I just met this really hot guy.'"





*Garza:* “What blew me away about Ivy is that she would bring up aspects she appreciated about me that I considered my peccadilloes. She really made me feel more comfortable in my own skin.”

*Chang:* “He was always organized. He was the only senior I knew on the 21-meal plan; he got up religiously every day for breakfast.”

*Garza:* “She was so confident and nice. She wrote a column for the *S&B*; she could critique topics in a very Grinnellian way, connecting all the dots.”

*Chang:* “It’s probably true that opposites attract! Jeremiah and I have very different work styles. I’m last-minute but I do get things done; he would rather start well in advance. We do complement each other.”

### *The third thing:*

*Garza:* “As part of our Grinnell legacy, when we look at inequalities and disparities in education or health, we are both quick to look beyond the obvious to influences of context, structure, and organization.”

*Chang:* “We found our careers after Grinnell, but public health and social work are very Grinnell because of the concern for social welfare and the greater good. It’s nice that we fell into complementary careers; it gives us lots to talk about.”

## **Andrea Newman Sirls '89 & Daniel Sirls '90**

### *In brief:*

Both lived in Cowles Hall her first year. She was student athletic trainer for his football team, but they didn’t date. Kept in touch but did not see each other for years. Reunited in 2002 after Newman Sirls looked Sirls up when she was on a business trip. Married in 2003. They live in Denver, where Newman Sirls is a meeting and event planner and Sirls is a library page.

### *About each other:*

*Sirls:* “It was the kind of friendship where you fall in and out of touch. When it came back in, it was like picking up the same conversation.”

*Newman Sirls:* “We talked about the crazy people we’d met [on match.com] and we agreed that we would critique each other’s ads for better results.”

*Sirls:* “Not long after, I got an email from Andrea titled ‘Top 10 reasons I think we should go out.’ I thought, ‘That’s

genius, why didn't I think of this?' So I sat down and started taking notes, thinking I would steal it for my ad. It's embarrassing to admit I didn't get right away that she was writing to me. But then I sent her back two emails. One was 'Top 10 reasons I think you're right' and the other was 'Top 10 reasons you better know what the hell you're doing.'"

*Newman Sirls:* "We knew each other, and because we were in our mid-30s, we felt like we knew who we were and what we wanted. We could cut to the chase."

### *The third thing:*

*Newman Sirls:* "He's very Grinnell. He wants to think for himself. He doesn't just read something; whether it's liberal or conservative press, he does his own research. He's very accepting of others: Live and let live; if you want to live in a tree house, go forth and prosper. That attracted me to him."

*Sirls:* "There's a shorthand when you're talking about something. You refer to someone you used to know in terms of geography: 'They lived in Younker basement that year' or 'The guy from that place who always went to that thing.'"

## **Kay Jones Rencken '62 & Bill Parsons '62**

### *In brief:*

Overlapped as students at Grinnell but never knew each other. Met each other for the first time at their 50-year reunion last year. Parsons stood up during a sing-along and gazed into Rencken's eyes while singing "Honey" — a song popular during their undergraduate days that signified a couple getting pinned. Have been seeing each other since. Rencken is a retired kindergarten teacher who also taught university-level early childhood education classes and lives in Tucson, Ariz.; Parsons is a retired professor of history and Russian studies at Eckerd College and lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

### *About each other:*

*Rencken:* "I'd been in love before but I'd never fallen off the cliff before. That's what happened with Bill. I fell quick and hard. It's wonderful. I'm still glowing and giggling."

*Parsons:* "My sister, **Carolyn Parsons McCall '60**, graduated from Grinnell two years ahead of me. She and Kay knew each other; they lived in the same dorm and were fencing partners. Kay jokingly says she's upset with my sister for not introducing us back then."

*Rencken:* "Bill was pretty shy and studious, so he could understand how I could miss him. What he doesn't



understand is how he missed me! But here we are. Whatever faith you put in kismet, or the gods, or whatever, it was there. If you believe in 'meant to be,' this was definitely meant to be."

### *The third thing:*

*Parsons:* "I'm not sure that either one of us was actually looking to establish a relationship. [Parson's wife died in 2003; Kay's husband in 2008.] But the fact that we had so many common interests and acquaintances and similar experiences, both at Grinnell and later, made this an interesting connection."

*Rencken:* "Bill is still questing on that white horse of social justice by helping international groups work together. I'm on the same quest in a different way; one of the classes I teach is about using play to help young children learn about social justice."

### **Grinnellians Wanted**

Have you experienced a reunion romance, a class letter connection, or otherwise unexpectedly connected with a fellow Grinnellian in a way that led to a significant relationship? If so, we'd love to hear the whole story! Write us at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

# Grinnell Farms

*American agriculture is changing fast –  
and Grinnellians are in the thick of it.*

By Kate Moening '11  
Photos by Justin Hayworth

It's an old saw: There are more cows than people in Iowa.  
(And hogs. And chickens. And ears of corn.)

But though we spend four years surrounded by some of the richest farmland on earth, we Grinnellians are generally strangers to Iowa agriculture. Few of us venture into a cornfield or understand how a combine works.

Yet Grinnell now ranks eighth nationwide, among all colleges and universities, in per capita graduates pursuing Ph.D.s in agricultural science. That's ahead of Iowa State (ranked No. 9), and Texas A&M (ranked No. 11).





**Jon Andelson '70**, professor of anthropology and director of Grinnell's Center for Prairie Studies, has recently noticed a spike in student interest in agriculture. It's not the first time. "In the late '70s when the shift toward industrial agriculture was beginning to become apparent, six of 12 students in my class on ecological anthropology went on to become farmers," he remembers.

Then and now, says Andelson, "I think many Grinnellians in agriculture are motivated by ethical concerns."

If that's true, U.S. agriculture offers much to consider: Economic, ecologic, and health worries abound. We are quickly becoming a nation of larger and fewer farms — a production agriculture reliant on technology, chemical inputs, and genetically modified crops. There's also a blossoming alternative movement characterized by community-supported agriculture, organic farming, and a resurgence of community food cooperatives.

The issues are far from clear-cut; many of agriculture's largest environmental gains come not from small organic plots, but from more efficient production farming. Vast tracts of land require fewer fuel and chemical inputs and experience less erosion than in decades past.

And while some see the organic movement as humanity's last best hope to feed itself, others fear its products will become boutique commodities that only the wealthy can afford.

But conventional or alternative, the agricultural sector lends itself to consumer authority. Although agricultural workers can offer options, it is the rest of us — voting with our mouths and wallets — who ultimately will determine the course of American agriculture.

Over the past few months, I spoke with Grinnellian farmers, food policy experts, food co-op organizers, consumer advocates, food justice workers, and urban agriculture pioneers. They were, to a person, thoughtful and passionate about their views and work. Through our conversations, three themes emerged: increasing consolidation and entry barriers for young farmers; the growing choice between conventionally farmed and organic products; and the role of the consumer in determining farming's future.

What emerged is a fascinating picture of American agriculture at a turning point.

## Limited Access

**Matt Moreland '90** and  
**Lisa Laue Moreland '87**

South Haven, Kansas

Farm: 7,000 acres

Produce: winter wheat, soybeans,  
corn, 100 head of beef cattle

*"Twenty years ago, 1,000 acres was big.  
Fifteen hundred acres is now average."*

An aspiring production farmer must be born into the sector or truck a mountain of debt behind, easily sinking \$1 million into start-up costs. So as a generation retires — the average American farmer is around 60 years old — it tends to turn the land over to other incumbent farmers. The upshot: ever-swelling farm sizes.

Not surprisingly then, the Grinnellians I talked to with the largest farms started with family land. **Matt Moreland '90** and his wife **Lisa Laue Moreland '87** have seen the size shift acutely in two decades of farming on the Kansas/Oklahoma state line. "Twenty years ago, 1,000 acres was big," Matt Moreland says. "Fifteen hundred acres is now average." His parents, both high school math teachers, owned a few hundred acres of farmland. Moreland began renting 640 acres from his grandmother during his second year at Grinnell.

Since then, the proportion of land that farmers own outright has dropped significantly. Moreland's family owns less than a quarter of the land they farm, which is spread over 40 miles and owned by a combination of investors (including one in Seattle for whom Moreland farms 320 acres) and families who no longer farm their own land. "People want to keep their family plots going," he says. "It's a great honor when someone's retiring and the family wants you to farm that land."

That's good, Moreland says, as efficiencies of scale allow him to farm more land with a much smaller carbon footprint than in decades past.

## Suzanne Castello '87

Grinnell, Iowa

Farms: 500 acres

Produces: hogs, sheep, cattle, chickens

*“There’s going to be a shake-up, and ... great opportunities for new farmers. It’s a race against time, to get enough people in the wings.”*

Suzanne Castello '87 fell in love with farming during a college job on a dairy. Even while she earned a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the northern California native worked summers at an organic produce farm in northeastern Iowa. She returned to Iowa permanently in 2004 and has since raised cattle, hogs, sheep, and chickens at Grinnell's B&B Farms with her husband, Barney Bahrenfuse. When she decided to return to Iowa, she made cold calls until she found someone who would hire her to milk cows and teach her to raise hogs. “There’s a very steep learning curve,” she says.

Castello later married Bahrenfuse, who already had a livestock operation — but she adds that had she not married into farming, it would have taken much longer to get started. She says start-up costs hurt a sector that has already lost too many young farmers. During the boom time of the '70s, banks pushed variable-interest loans on farmers, while “get big or get out” became the maxim. A decade later, when the land bubble burst and interest rates skyrocketed, many independent farms collapsed under their debt load. “We lost a whole generation,” Castello explains. “People told their kids to do anything but farm.” Livestock and produce prices crashed during a sweep of buyer consolidation in the '90s, breaking another generation of small farmers.

Still, she sees hope: “I think the land bubble will burst again, and there’s going to be another shake-up. That’s going to bring great opportunities for new farmers. It’s a race against time, to get enough people in the wings who have saved up money for when it happens. What we need is for the stock market to go radically up and the price of corn to go radically down.” That would reduce the price of land and clear the market of investors and speculators so that farmers could afford to start small.

And those small farmers, Castello predicts, will be the new face of farming. “The people who are able to be innovators are people who don’t know it isn’t possible,” she says. “Going to Grinnell gave me the tools to take this on.”

## Jordan Scheibel '10

Grinnell, Iowa

Farms: ½ acre

Produces: market produce

*“I don’t think the industrial system can be maintained ... There’s space for alternatives.”*

Jordan Scheibel '10 is in the first year of his own operation, Middle Way Farm, on a half acre he leases outside Grinnell. He says starting small isn't impossible — but it requires creativity and persistence.

“In the local foods movement in Iowa, there seem to be two paths to getting started. One is the high-debt, fast-growth path, where people try to get up to a certain scale to make a full-time living from it,” he explains. “Then there’s the slow-growth, low-debt model, where you start small and build incrementally.”

To help build his business, Scheibel's resources include a loan from the College's student-run microloan nonprofit, Social Entrepreneurs of Grinnell; volunteer help from Grinnell City Collective artist residency, a program with which he shares space and buildings; a part-time job at Iowa Valley Community College; and mentorship through Practical Farmers of Iowa, an organization dedicated to facilitating farmer-to-farmer learning and farmer-led research.

This season, Scheibel is running his own small but thriving community-supported agriculture (CSA) program. CSA members pay a fee for periodic boxes of fresh produce, allowing consumers to buy directly from farmers. “I decided I would create a pay-as-you-go system,” he explains, instead of the standard CSA practice of charging shareholders an upfront price. He says it's been a popular innovation with his customers.

Scheibel hadn't encountered much agriculture before Grinnell. “There aren't many farmers left in Connecticut,” he says about his home state. As a student and new alum, he “became enamored with the process” while working for Grinnell Heritage Farm, another CSA and pillar of the local farming community.

Scheibel has a challenging row to hoe. Still, he predicts small, niche operations such as his will multiply. “I don't think the industrial system can be maintained,” he says. “One of the best classes I took at Grinnell was U.S. Environmental History with assistant professor of history Michael Guenther. Being able to put industrial agriculture in a historical context, I began to see that it's not inevitable. There's space for alternatives. I have a lot in common with older people, who grew up when everyone had a diverse farm.”



**Corey McIntosh '00** surveys the corn fields on his farm in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

## Agriculture at a Crossroads

### Jay Feldman '75

Washington, D.C.

Specialty: organic policy and public education

*“Organic practices are much more capable of feeding the world.*

*The question is: Will that happen in time?”*

Jay Feldman '75 is co-founder and executive director of Beyond Pesticides, a D.C.-based nonprofit that educates the public on pesticide use and works to effect organic policy change. He helped draft the original Organic Foods Production Act and is currently serving a five-year term on the National Organic Standards Board, a committee appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to review acceptable organic materials and advise on federal organic policy.

Feldman says organic production is the future of agriculture. He lays out his case against herbicide-dependent farming and genetically modified crops with intense, clear-eyed directness. “There’s still the GMO [genetically modified organism] locomotive, which is the old mindset of chemical dependency. But we’ve exhausted Roundup Ready and herbicide crops, because of weed resistance,” he says, referring to Monsanto’s controversial, genetically modified seed line.

“We are talking about the increase of 2,4-D, a chemical that was 50 percent of Agent Orange,” and is a widely used herbicide, he says. “Those farm models are

outmoded. This so-called new technology is going down the same path; it’s the same train that is heading for a collision course with humanity.”

Like Scheibel, Feldman predicts a growing presence for organic agriculture in the sector. “We’re at peak conventional farming right now; it’s on a downward spiral. I think organic will become mainstream agriculture. If we are to survive as a planet, it has to. Organic practices are much more capable of feeding the world. The question is: Will that happen in time?”

• • •

But for many conventional farmers, the issue isn’t so clear-cut. Matt Moreland points out that staggering progress in farming technology has drastically diminished the environmental impact of large operations such as his. GPS technology built into modern combines and tractors pinpoints exactly how much each area of land produces and precisely how much fertilizer it needs, significantly reducing the amount of chemicals used. And no-till farming eliminates plowing the soil, which cuts down on erosion and energy consumption. “We use less than a quarter of the diesel fuel we used to,” he says. He also practices crop rotation to improve soil quality and weed control, allowing him to further decrease his chemical usage.

He wants people to know that farming can be ecologically responsible without being organic. “Organic is a nice thought, but no-till works for me economically. It’s going to be economics that makes me change.

“If there were enough demand for organically grown wheat,” he adds, “I’d grow it.”

## Organic Oversight

Farmer **Jim Riddle '78** makes the case for federal certification

“Organic is working with nature and understanding nature, rather than thinking we can control it,” says organic fruit farmer **Jim Riddle '78**. Riddle has dedicated his career to organic agriculture. He and his wife, Joyce Ford, manage Blue Fruit Farm in Winona, Minn., and last year won a national sustainability award from the Ecological Farming Association.

Riddle also helps create organic standards nationally and worldwide. He was founding chair of the International Organic Inspectors Association 1991–98, and served on the USDA National Organic Standards Board 2001–06. He also helped engineer a Minnesota cost-share program that reimburses organic farmers for 75 percent of the certification costs; the program was later included in the 2002 national farm bill. “That’s probably the political accomplishment I’m most proud of,” he says, despite frustration that the program lost funding in the current farm bill extension. Currently, Riddle is working with Minnesota legislators on a bill to label foods containing genetically engineered ingredients.

“We’ve created quite a bureaucracy to verify that organic is authentic,” he says. “But having federal organic standards has facilitated growth, research, consumer confidence, and investor confidence.”

In addition to farming, Riddle works as organic research grants coordinator for Ceres Trust of Milwaukee, which distributes more than \$2 million per year for organic research in the north central region of the U.S..

### Requirements for certification by the USDA National Organic Standards Board:

- Operation is free of prohibited materials for three years.
- Completed paperwork explaining crop rotation, inputs, sources of seeds, manner of harvest, pest control, conservation practices, and more.
- Inspection, then approval, by a certification agency regulated by USDA

## Elizabeth Archerd '76

Minneapolis

Specialty: food co-op membership and marketing

*“We’re doing this experiment on the whole globe. It’s not the wheat our grandparents ate, and we don’t really know what we did to it.”*

The demand for organic may not have grown enough to draw large operators like Moreland, but **Elizabeth Archerd '76** has noticed a dramatic shift in public consciousness during her 30-plus years in the Minneapolis food co-op world. Archerd is director of community relations at Wedge Co-op, which turns 39 years old this fall. With 15,600 active members (each owns eight shares of the business), Wedge was the first retailer of certified organic meat and seafood in the United States and the first certified organic retailer in Minnesota.

Back in 1974, Archerd says, “Health authorities were pretty hostile to the health food movement; they dismissed granola as fatty. People thought we were downright communist.”

Wedge was a food source for people who distrusted mainstream agriculture. “There were always people resisting highly processed food. There was this small number of vibrant, straight-backed elderly people; they would come in and say, ‘I’ve been waiting for you,’” Archerd says. Co-ops such as Wedge also opened doors for the burgeoning organic movement. “Organic farmers were able to expand because they had outlets like Wedge that said ‘bring whatever you can grow.’ No one was saying we were going to build the perfect world, but people brought the energy as if that was their motivation.”

Today, she says, the movement, “has reached critical mass. We started as the city weirdos. Now people flood in to ask, ‘What do I do?’ It’s not a left/right thing. There are people on the more traditionally conservative side who see co-ops being as American as a barn-raising. They don’t trust big food any more than they trust big government.”

Echoing Jay Feldman, Archerd says agriculture and the planet don’t have time to spare. “No one has ever eaten this ultra-processed food in human history. We’re doing this experiment on the whole globe. It’s not the wheat our grandparents ate, and we don’t really know what we did to it,” she says. “People don’t trust what’s out there. They want assurance that this is something they’d want to feed their children.

“Wedge is more than just a grocery store. It’s carrying all these hopes people have.”

## Corey McIntosh '00

Missouri Valley, Iowa  
Farms: 4,000 acres  
Produces: corn, soybeans

*“I think the world is going to need a healthy, collaborative mix of production agriculture and smaller-scale organic.”*

**Corey McIntosh '00** is a sixth-generation farmer in Missouri Valley, Iowa, just east of the Nebraska state line. (His wife **Tina Popson '97** runs an environmental education program in the area). A classics major at Grinnell, McIntosh didn't intend to return to the family farm until a year abroad in Athens, Greece, made him realize how much he missed the open spaces of his childhood. He now farms with his father and uncle. After they retire, he'll manage the operation solo.

Like Matt Moreland, consolidation and rented land have helped McIntosh nearly double his farm's size. He rotates his crops (corn and soybeans), keeps tillage to a minimum, and sees the debate between production and organic farming as less than cut-and-dried.

“For all the debate and controversy over GMOs, there are some definite benefits if the technology is used responsibly,” he says. “It has greatly reduced the exposure of farmers to dangerous chemicals. You can target certain detrimental pests and avoid blanket insecticide treatments.”

The region currently does not accommodate alternative methods well, he adds. “When I came back from Grinnell, I had hopes of steering our operation in alternative directions,” he says. “But there's no infrastructure to do it on a large scale. The infrastructure is in place to grow corn and soybeans efficiently.”

McIntosh incorporates conservation and sustainability where he can, but doesn't see traditional farming going away anytime soon. “I think the world is going to need a healthy, collaborative mix of production agriculture and smaller-scale organic,” he says. “I think the larger farms will continue to grow; and as that happens, it will allow more room for smaller, more specialized operations to crop up. I'm seeing more CSAs, and those adaptable, niche organizations are filling a need.”

Growing organic produce in regions such as Moreland's and McIntosh's is further complicated by agreements between grain states and produce states; federal subsidies only go to farmers growing the crops allotted to their state. That often leaves organic production up to small, nonsubsidized, niche operations.



## Community Garden

**Angela Bishop Baker '01**  
and **Casey Baker '98**

open doors to food accessibility.

Salt of the Earth Urban Farm sits on a quarter acre in northeast Portland, Ore., teeming with fruit trees, chickens, ducks, and thickly planted bushes and vegetables. **Angela Bishop Baker '01** and husband **Casey Baker '98** have lived there since 2009, when they leased their land-trust home for 99 years in exchange for farming it.

They've turned their yard into a vibrant permaculture that grows 1,500 pounds of produce annually for Birch Community Services, a local gleaners' organization that serves low-income families.

Bishop Baker also runs free gardening workshops to teach low-income families how to produce their own food. She surveys the community-service clients about what skills they'd like to learn and plans workshops accordingly. “Tuition” for a two-hour workshop is an hour of volunteer work in the garden; local restaurants provide a free lunch. “Permaculture mimics natural systems,” she says. “There are no straight rows. We encourage wildlife. The garden is extremely biodiverse, which means it's less susceptible to disease. There is something planted in every inch. Our trees and berries make us carbon neutral. We care for the Earth, care for the people, and share the surplus.”



Photo by Jigervasi

## Consumers Will Decide

### Ali Wade Benjamin '92

Williamstown, Massachusetts  
Specialty: writing, blogging, community activism

*“You don’t need to convince everybody; you just need to convince enough that the companies hear them. As soon as they change, everything changes.”*

Both production farmers and organic activists agree that consumers, not farmers, will decide the future of American agriculture. **Ali Wade Benjamin '92** is a writer in Williamstown, Mass. Friendly and approachable, she’s passionate about food issues without being dogmatic. Last year, she published *The Cleaner Plate Club*, a guide for parents struggling to find healthful meals their children will actually eat. She also was the lead researcher and casting director for an Emmy-winning *Sesame Street* special on food insecurity in the United States.

For Benjamin, helping consumers engage with agriculture in practical ways is a vital component for change in the agricultural sector. Upon moving to Williamstown — home to many family farms — she says, “I had these ideals; and then, particularly as my daughter got

older, I found them bumping against the reality of modern family life. There was a lot I didn’t know. I’d get these bags of vegetables from the CSA that were so beautiful, and there are no directions; it’s not coming out of a box.”

When consumers are able to connect with food issues, they wield a powerful voice. For example, Benjamin explains that a few years ago, consumer opposition to rBST — recombinant bovine somatotropin, a hormone that increases milk production — led to a revolution in the milk industry. First boutique dairies, then Ben & Jerry’s, and finally Wal-Mart Stores, bowed to consumer voices to eliminate the hormone. “It was totally consumer pressure, and almost overnight,” Benjamin says. “It doesn’t take that many consumers — you don’t need to convince everybody; you just need to convince enough that the companies hear them. As soon as they change, everything changes.”

• • •

In his policy work with Beyond Pesticides, Jay Feldman sees local consumers as the heart of the organic movement, even at the federal level. The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 “requires a level of involvement from the local community and environmentalists that you don’t see in other areas of government,” he says.

So “it is a tenuous movement, reliant on some degree of consumer trust. Consumers are digging deep into their pockets to support a system of agriculture they believe is verifiable and is adhering to relatively high standards,” Feldman says.

The key, he adds, is showing people that digging deep translates into lower costs in the long run. “We pay more as taxpayers if we are buying into the chemical-intensive system, because we’re paying for cleanup of our waterways; we’re paying through lost workdays and increased hospitalizations and health care costs; we’re paying in terms of production costs and lost pollinators,” he says. “All these things are secondary costs associated with chemical-intensive agricultural production. What we don’t pay at the grocery store, we pay as taxpayers.”

Higher costs at the store may mean lower taxes overall, but many Americans cannot afford to pay those costs up front. Agriculture may be changing— but for whose good?

Benjamin says as organic food becomes trendier and more expensive, issues of accessibility need action now. “If we don’t focus on feeding all families equitably and healthfully, then the sustainable food movement risks becoming a caricature, with rich people eating food that others can’t afford,” she says. “We shouldn’t have two food systems, one for people who can afford to eat healthfully and one for everybody else.”

Benjamin has worked with Williams College students to improve accessibility to nutritious, low-processed food. One student suggested making packages of healthful food that come with instructions, “like soup in a bag,” to help people learn how to manage a new kind of cooking. She also worked with students on a proposal to double the value of SNAP dollars (Massachusetts’ food stamp program) used at the farmer’s market. Young people, she says, have local food “deeply embedded in their mindset.”

Benjamin, who grew up in suburban New York City, says her agricultural awareness began with her first visit to Grinnell. “I remember this kid saying, ‘It’s crazy, there are real farms here!’ I had never thought about it before.”

Even more important, she says, were professors who helped shape her vision of the possibilities for the world around her. “My adviser was Jon Andelson. He is an idealist, and I hadn’t met too many idealists before Grinnell. I knew a lot of cynics,” Benjamin says. “It was lovely, to think intensely about why we have the world we have — and what world we want.”

### **webextra!**

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## **Agriculture on Campus**

Grinnell’s student garden and local foods co-op connects students with the community.

Nestled between two College-owned houses across the street from Younker Hall are nine vegetable beds, a greenhouse, a toolshed, and a brightly painted sign welcoming visitors to the campus garden. Since 1999, the plot has been a hands-on bridge between students and Iowa’s agricultural roots.

**Ellen Pinnette ’15** was one of two student apprentices at the garden in the summer of 2012. She asked fellow students what to grow and hosted volunteer days so those summering in Grinnell could get acquainted with the garden and take home a few fresh vegetables. Extra produce goes to a town community meal, to a local foods buffet, and to Mid-Iowa Community Action, a nonprofit that serves low-income families.

There’s also a student-run local foods co-op that has been a growing force since it started in 2006, when **Hart Ford-Hodges ’10** bought local Paul’s Grains in bulk and took orders out of her dorm room. It now includes nine coordinators — students, staff, and community members — and 11 local producers, all members of the Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance (GALFA). **Sarah Shaughnessy ’13**, last year’s lead co-op coordinator and Pinnette’s fellow 2012 apprentice, says the co-op offers honey, grains, and baked goods in the off-seasons and is working toward meat and dairy licensing as well. “You’re in the middle of the prairie, surrounded by producers,” she says. “There’s a lot of opportunity.”

# Free Dorje!

*Rapid reaction by alumni helps free Dorje Gurung '94 from detention in Qatar*



Dorje Gurung '94

A swiftly assembled grass-roots, global coalition of Grinnell College alumni and their allies most likely helped win the freedom of a fellow graduate who had been jailed in Qatar under a charge of insulting Islam.

**Dorje Gurung '94**, 42, a native of Nepal, was nearing the end of a two-year stint teaching chemistry at Qatar Academy in Doha when he was arrested and detained May 1. He was not charged until May 9.

“All of us got a little bit worried,” says **Rupesh Pradhan '95**, a fellow Grinnell grad and lifelong friend who attended school with Gurung in Nepal, Italy, and Iowa, “because that can be a pretty devastating charge.”

Pradhan, now CEO and president of his own IT consulting firm in Minneapolis, helped rally Gurung’s supporters across continents.

Their far-flung effort paid off. The charge reportedly was dropped, and Gurung was released. He arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal, where he was welcomed home Monday [May 13] by his parents.

**Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94**, a University of Iowa law professor, was Gurung’s classmate at Grinnell and helped mount a legal defense.

“He just had a really good aura about him,” Onwuachi-Willig says of her friend. “He’s one of those people you meet who’s a genuinely good person.”

The charge against the teacher, according to Gurung’s supporters and news accounts, was sparked by confrontations last month with some of his 12-year-old students who had been taunting him. Despite the fact that Gurung is Nepalese, the boys called him Jackie Chan (after the Hong Kong movie star). They allegedly pulled his hair and shoved him.

“It actually got physical,” says Pradhan, who coordinated release efforts with some of Gurung’s fellow teachers in Doha. “It was not just verbal.”

Gurung reportedly sat down with the students in question and tried to reason with them. How would you feel, he asked them, if somebody stereotyped you as terrorists?

One student’s parents reportedly complained, and the incident spiraled out of control until Gurung was perceived as having said unequivocally that all Muslims are terrorists.

So within a few days, Onwuachi-Willig and others hired the best possible attorney in Qatar – Dr. Najeeb Al-Nauimi, a former Qatar justice-minister-turned-human rights activist – and drafted documents in Iowa to launch a nonprofit that would have been used to raise funds for the teacher’s defense.

Gurung’s supporters were daunted by the prospect of navigating Qatar’s legal system. But it was good, Onwuachi-Willig says, that Qatar has cultivated a reputation as a modern nation, and she “was hopeful that the leaders there would be concerned about the image of the country if this were to go further.”

The Arab nation, with just under 2 million residents, shares a border with Saudi Arabia and is situated on its own peninsula that extends into the Persian Gulf.

There was plenty of online clamor in Gurung’s favor. An online petition, “Government of Qatar: Release Dorje Gurung,” gathered nearly 14,000 signatures in just a few days. An open Facebook group, “Free Dorje Gurung – Grinnell College Supporters,” attracted more than 300 members, and another “Free Dorje Gurung” page drew a couple thousand likes. There’s also a Tumblr page.

Gurung, who is single, also had relatives in Nepal working on his behalf, as well as friends in Italy and many other nations.

“There is no question that the awareness and the campaign done in these three days was what caused (Qatar) to say, ‘We shouldn’t touch this,’ ” Pradhan says.

Had Gurung lingered in jail, administrators at Grinnell College were prepared to push an official campaign, including public statements and letters to Iowa’s congressional delegation and the U.S. State Department. **George E. Moose '66**, a longtime U.S. diplomat and ambassador who is also a Grinnell alum, was enlisted as a key ally.

“This is a new space for colleges to stake your public reputation on an issue that relates to something going on with one of your alums,” says **Jim Reische**, Grinnell’s vice president for communications. “Big decision – but we believe it fits perfectly with Grinnell’s commitment to social justice.”

The idea that somebody dedicated to education across cultures would have to wrangle with such an accusation left Pradhan stunned. Since his days in Grinnell, Gurung has worked in Malawi, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Norway, Australia, Hong Kong, and New Mexico.

“If there’s an international, multicultural person in action, it’s him,” Pradhan says.

*By Kyle Munson, a reporter for The Des Moines Register. This piece first appeared May 13, 2013, as “Rapid reaction by Grinnell grads, allies helps free fellow alum jailed in Qatar” on DesMoinesRegister.com and is reprinted here by permission.*

# CLASSNOTES

## 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



**Hester Pitts Newton '49**  
*Muskegon, Mich.*

With a Grinnell family history spanning four generations, Newton has served as a class agent since 1977 and a class committee volunteer since 2004. She majored in history and English; participated in women's government, YWCA, and Women's Honor G. In 1972, she began a 21-year career as a first-grade teacher at Muskegon Heights (Mich.) Public Schools, even helping one student find, fund, and attend college.

## 1957 55th Reunion

**John H. Williams** received the 2012 Wayne Templeton Volunteer of the Year Award for his volunteer service on the Council on Aging executive board in Simi Valley, Calif., and for his 11 years serving Meals on Wheels, January 2013. This award is given for the amount of time contributed and the value of the volunteer service performed.

## 1958

**Peter F. Parshall** and his wife Carol celebrated their 50th anniversary, June 16, 2012, with a trip to Hawaii.

## 1963 50th Reunion

**Stephen C. Aldrich** was elected president of the Bloomington, Minn., Good Times Chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He has retired from singing but continues as the master of ceremonies for chorus performances.

## 1964

**Ann M. Lousin** has been named the Edward T. and Noble W. Lee Chair in Constitutional Law at John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Ill. for the 2013-14 academic year. She will spend most of her time researching, writing, and speaking about Constitutional subjects, especially the Illinois Constitution.

## 1965

**John F. McDonald** received the David Ricardo Medal from the American Real Estate Society (ARES), April 2013. ARES is an academic society for real estate, and the medal is the highest career award for scholarly writing. For the past four years, McDonald has held the Gerald W. Fogelson Distinguished Chair in Real Estate at Roosevelt University, Chicago. He retired in May 2013.

## 1973

**G. Barry Huff** was quoted in the *Parade Magazine* cover story April 4, 2013, about the illness and recovery of *Good Morning America's* Robin Roberts. He is senior vice president of Be the Match, the trade name for the National Donor Match Program.

## 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



**Don R. Yungclas '50**  
*Wichita, Kan.*

A psychology major who participated in glee club, choir, track, and the Iowa Pilgrim Fellowship, Yungclas earned a bachelor of divinity degree at Chicago Theological Seminary in 1955. As a United Church of Christ minister, he led congregations for five decades – including a new church with a theology rooted in the celebration of diversity – with an open heart, an engaged mind, and a giving spirit.

## A Better Start

**As executive director of the National Head Start Association, Yasmina Stefanovic Manning Vinci '63 gives children a better chance to succeed.**

During nine years as executive director at King's Daughter's Day School in Plainfield, N.J., **Yasmina Stevanovic Manning Vinci '63** appreciated the praise she received for the center's thoughtful, holistic work for young children of low-income families. But her critics taught her the most. "One mom and dad were uncomfortable that we were teaching children to play," she says. "They just wanted us to drill them."

The conversation was challenging, and the trio discussed everything from the school's education philosophy to the Koran (which, thanks to some early work in classical Arabic studies, Vinci could read line by line with the couple). In the end, she and the couple found middle ground and mutual respect. "I saw how hard parents worked to give their kids the best possible education," she says. "Low-income parents wish no less for their kids than anyone else, and they held us to very high standards."

Conversations like these drove Vinci to make an even bigger impact in the field of childhood education. Today, as executive director of the National Head Start Association, she crafts policies that affect nearly

a million children and their families. She does so with the heart of a parent, a teacher, and an administrator who spent years working one-on-one with students and parents. She deeply understands the stakes of getting childhood education right.

After working in a range of increasingly powerful consulting, nonprofit, and government positions linked to child care, Vinci took the top post at Head Start in 2009, a program she calls "one of the best success stories of the federal government." She says the holistic approach of its 2,600 nationwide centers – which involve academics, nutrition, physical activity, and family involvement – has led to many benefits for children and their families.

One study found that Head Start children are 62 percent less likely to need special education services compared to their non-Head Start peers, saving up to \$10,000 per student. As adults, Head Start participants are 12 percent less likely to be charged with a crime. They are significantly less likely to be obese as children or to smoke as adults.

### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



**David M. Van Nostrand '58**  
Sartell, Minn.

Biology major Van Nostrand participated in glee club, choir, drama, and basketball, then earned an M.D. from Boston University in 1962. He left his practice as a boarded general surgeon in 1996 to found Occupational Medicine Clinic, where he evaluates patients with disabilities. In 1995, he founded the Minnesota branch of Wings of Mercy, flying very ill patients with financial need to medical centers in the Upper Midwest.

### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



**George T. McJimsey '58**  
Ames, Iowa

Basketball, student council, YMCA, and track occupied McJimsey, a history major, at Grinnell. After earning a master's in history from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin, he taught history for 37 years at Iowa State University and wrote four books, including *Harry Hopkins: Ally of the Poor, Defender of Democracy*, which was published by Harvard and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He also is an active volunteer.

**Ronald R. Medvin**, as a member of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, sang as a guest of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra at its concert at the Miami Arsht Center, March 2013. Along with numerous a capella pieces, they performed Beethoven's ninth symphony, "Ode to Joy."

### 1977 35th Reunion Cluster

**Elizabeth "Libby" Siegel Hill** became a senior trainer of Tai Chi for Health Programs with the Tai Chi for Health Institute, June 2012. She has been an instructor of Tai Chi for Arthritis since 2001. She has been selected as the instructor for a research study on the effects of tai chi on reducing stress levels of pre-med students at Lake Erie College in her hometown of Painesville, Ohio.

**P. Carter Newton** was interviewed for the article "Words of Wisdom: Best college commencement addresses stick with grads years later" by Mike Kilen, *DesMoinesRegister.com*, April 29, 2013. Carter recalled his commencement speaker, Studs Terkel, and the message he gave that has stuck with him through the years.

### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



**Mary Greenwood '78**  
Menlo Park, Calif.

Greenwood majored in political science and participated in Christian Fellowship at Grinnell, earned a J.D. from the University of California's Hastings College of Law, was a public defender and later chief defender in Santa Clara County, and was appointed a county superior court justice in 2012. Accolades include "Defender of the Year," "Unsung Hero Award," and "Woman of Influence Award" from various organizations.

Still, Vinci has had to fight hard for the program's continued funding. Last summer, she appeared in front of Congress to prevent cuts that could have eliminated 55,000 Head Start jobs and affected 200,000 low-income children. By coordinating local action with national conversations, Vinci kept Head Start off the chopping block. Still, she says, it's not enough: nearly 6 million children under the age of 6 live in poverty, and she's eager to expand the Head Start model.

That's why, when President Obama proposed the idea of universal preschool in his January State of the Union address, she may have been cheering the loudest. Although Head Start focuses primarily on 4-year-olds, it also has programs that serve kids starting from birth. "If that proposal provides more money to serve 4-year-olds, that will give us the chance to serve more 1-, 2-, and 3- year-olds," she says. "And that's what I'm always thinking about. How many more people can we serve? How many more lives can we help transform?"

—Erin Peterson '98



#### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



#### Sandra J. Stein '88

New York City

A sociology major, Stein earned two master's degrees and a Ph.D. at Stanford, then taught at Baruch College's School of Public Affairs, where she founded the Aspiring Leaders Program and earned a Presidential Excellence Award. In 2003, she joined the New York City Leadership Academy, developing several new programs and writing books on educational leadership. In 2011, she became an education leadership consultant.

#### 1978

**James A. Riddle** and his wife Joyce E. Ford received the 2013 Sustie award at the 33rd annual EcoFarm Conference in Pacific Grove, Calif., February 2013, for their work to advance organic food and farming systems in more than 15 countries.

#### 1982

Mitchell Channon Design, owned by **Mitchell E. Channon**, earned "Top 5" designation from *Architectural Digest* for the magazine's online kitchen design Before and After Competition, February 2013.

**Mark A. Finkelstein** was recently named by *North Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine as a top attorney in 2013 for his work in business litigation. Fewer than five percent of attorneys in the state are named to this list.

#### 1984

**Jennifer A. Loehlin** is serving a second year as sail training commander at the Austin Yacht Club at Lake Travis, Texas.

#### 1986

*Amphiboly*, a new-media artwork by **Carolyn Carpenter Frischling**, was chosen winner in the first 2013 Showcase on ArtSlant.com.

**Charles E. Gottdiener** was named to the SRA International board of directors, Fairfax, Va., February 2013. He serves on the board's audit, compensation, and personnel committees.

**Barbara Wood Jabba** chairs the California chapter of the Congress for New Urbanism and was recently appointed to the board of directors of the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce, 2013. She owns her own consulting business, providing public affairs, development, and strategy expertise for real estate developers and nonprofits.

#### 1989

**Anya C. Grundmann** was included as part of the 2013 *Billboard* Power 100 list, February 2013. Since its launch in 2007, she has been instrumental in developing National Public Radio Music as a premiere destination for music discovery and also guided its innovative expansion into web and mobile platforms.

#### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



#### Emily A. Bergl '97

Los Angeles

A theatre and English major and Phi Beta Kappa, Bergl starred in *The Rage: Carrie 2*, played Juliet opposite Neal Patrick Harris, and received the Best Broadway Debut award — all within a year of graduating. She performs on Broadway; in her one-woman cabaret show; in independent films; and in TV shows including *Desperate Housewives*, *Men in Trees*, and *Gilmore Girls*. She is also a spokesperson for affordable housing, legal assistance, and abortion rights.

## Innovating to Cure

### Generations of alumni meet to discuss the intersection of entrepreneurship and health care.

On Feb. 24, three Grinnell alumni scientists representing 40 years of the College's history told an audience of fellow alums about research in curing diseases such as autism and obesity. **Paul Patterson '65**, **Shenda Baker '85**, and **Alok Shah '04** also shed light on how scientists market their work.

Los Angeles resident **Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73** was inspired to organize the event at the California Institute of Technology following a book talk last year by Patterson, a biological sciences professor there. Patterson's book, *Infectious Behaviors*, explores the link between the immune system and mental disorders; for example, infection during pregnancy can increase the chance of a child developing autism or schizophrenia. He is working to develop a clinical study that could lead to a diagnosis for mental disorders such as autism, for which no new effective medications are available.

Alves, who works in law, was impressed that Patterson "gave a lecture to the layman," and the two worked to create the event. She

recruited Baker, president of Los Angeles-based biotech medical company Synedgen and also a chemistry professor on leave of absence from Harvey Mudd College. Synedgen wants to develop medications that treat infectious bacteria.

Next came Shah, who co-founded Emmyon Inc. in Iowa City, Iowa, last year after he earned a doctorate in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Iowa.

Fifty-five people – mostly Grinnell alums – attended the scientists' 30-minute talks on how research can move therapies into the clinical stage.

Baker says every day is different working at a start-up – a contrast to her experience of academia's regular schedule and clear expectations. She likes her work, and says the biggest challenge is getting the money needed to produce breakthrough treatments.

During Shah's last months as a grad student, he discovered that ursolic acid, found in the skin of green apples, may reverse metabolic diseases such as muscle atrophy, obesity, and diabetes.

#### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD



#### 2013 ALUMNI AWARD

##### Warren A. Morrow '99

At Grinnell, Morrow was a biology major, active in the Student Organization of Latinos, theatre, and soccer, and developed a Leadership Project for Latino high school students. After graduation, he volunteered with community organizations seeking to improve the lives of Latinos. He came to believe that a central problem of poverty in the Latino community was a lack of access to financial tools such as checking and savings accounts. These "unbanked" individuals often relied on alternate, predatory services.

So he founded what is now Coopera Consulting to develop financial services for the Latino community. In 2008, he was named one of *Des Moines Business Record's* "Forty under Forty" for his work. After his unexpected death in 2012, several scholarships and grants were named in his honor.

##### Joshua A. Tepfer '97

Chicago

A sociology major who participated in tennis, children's theatre, and Best Buddies, Tepfer earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota, then became project director and assistant clinical professor at the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth at Northwestern University School of Law. He has overturned 10 wrongful convictions, spoken widely about false confessions, and was featured by *The New York Times* and *60 Minutes*.

**Geoffrey C. Hoops** became full professor of chemistry at Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind., April 2013. His wife is *Joanna Gibbs Hoops '91* and his daughter Jennifer will attend Grinnell in the fall of 2013. Parents are *Stephen Hoops '62* and *Shirley Neuhaus Hoops '64*.

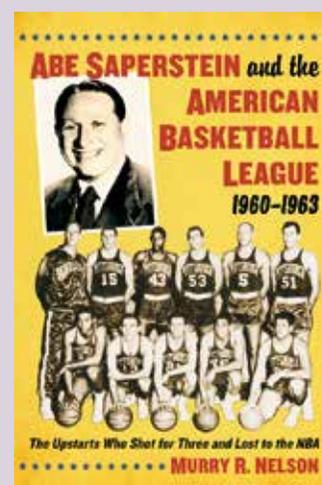
#### 1990

**Sylvia D. Bachmann** was elected president of the board of directors of the Minnesota Environmental Fund, St. Paul, January 2013.

#### 1992

**Elizabeth A. Banfield** has been featured several times in the blog, "Little Black Book, the Best Wedding Vendors," at [www.stylemepretty.com](http://www.stylemepretty.com). The blog spotlights her photography business.

**Christian E. Hardigree** recently accepted the position of founding director of the Institute for Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga. The institute teaches students how to infuse sustainable practices in culinary and hospitality management.



#### Murry Nelson '69

Nelson's new book *Abe Saperstein and the American Basketball League, 1960-1963* examines the American Basketball League's short history. The league was first to use a trapezoidal, wider lane, a 30-second shot clock, and the 3-point shot. Many players and coaches also migrated to the NBA. Nelson is a professor emeritus at Penn State University.

“I’m not a businessperson, I’m a scientist,” Shah says. Yet he decided the best way to maximize his finding’s potentially huge impact was to start a company, learning issues such as fundraising and payroll, to eventually bring a treatment to market. “In Paul’s generation,” Shah says, “Starting a company would be selling out.”

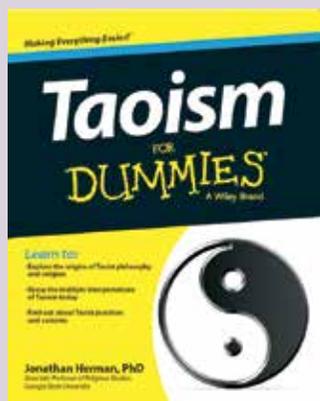
Times have changed, Shah notes, partly because websites such as Kickstarter make financing entrepreneurial efforts easier and more democratic. Baker sees another shift: Big drug companies are funding less original research, so start-ups must fill the void.

“Entrepreneurs are not going to Wall Street and joining a big company,” Baker says. “Entrepreneurship is going out and doing something that you think is worthwhile.”

—Matt Blake '04



Photo by Lorrie Buchanan Alvez '73



### Jonathan Herman '77

“Grinnell alumni write lots of books, but this one comes full circle to my Grinnell history,” Herman writes. “In the fall of 1974, during the first semester of my freshman year, I wrote my first paper on Taoism for professor of religious studies Harold Kasimow in Major Eastern Religions. Now, 40 years later, I’ve written *Taoism for Dummies* (Wiley, July 2013).” Herman is associate professor of religious studies and director of undergraduate studies at Georgia State University.

**Donna Lybecker**, associate professor of political science at Idaho State University, was one of five honored as a University 2013 Outstanding Master Teacher, April 2013. She specializes in international relations, comparative politics, and environmental politics.

### 1993

**Brett D. Burton** was selected as a supervisory attorney adviser for the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals, Falls Church, Va., fall 2013. The board is the highest administrative body for interpreting and applying U.S. immigration laws. As adviser he will supervise the daily work of 11 attorney advisers and paralegals on immigration-related topics.

**Glynnes Wiseman Lanthier** founded and is music director of the Cypress Philharmonic, a professional orchestra in Cypress, Texas, February 2013.

### 1995

**Scott Newstrom Newstok** was named outstanding faculty member of the year at Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn., May 2012, where he is associate professor of English and president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

### 1997 15th Reunion Cluster

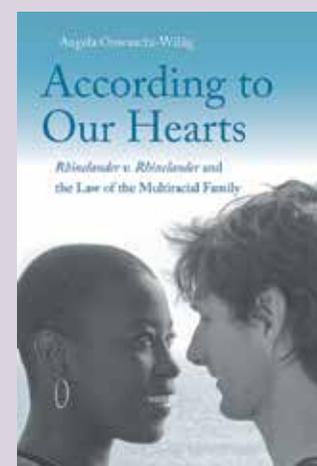
**Derek S. Brown** accepted the position of assistant professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, St. Louis, July 2012.

### 2001

**Shana F. Barchas** accepted the position of education specialist at Children’s Fairyland in Oakland, Calif., January 2013. Fairyland, a nonprofit, is the oldest storybook theme park in America. Barchas creates programming on the 10 acres of gardens, farm animals, themed playgrounds, and story sets.

### 2004

**Sarah B. Labowitz** accepted a research scholar position in the business and society program area at New York University Stern School of Business, Greenwich Village, N.Y., February 2013. She will help build and direct the center on business and human rights.



### Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94

In *According to Our Hearts: Rhinelander v. Rhinelander and the Law of the Multiracial Family*, Onwuachi-Willig explores historical and contemporary disadvantages facing multiracial couples. “I wanted to undercut assumptions I commonly hear that interracial couples — particularly heterosexuals — no longer experience negative impact from the law,” she explains. Onwuachi-Willig is a law professor at the University of Iowa.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Our Public Intellectual

### Sam Tanenhaus '77 is the country's archjournalist.

Pick a topic – anything that interests you. Write about it – not just for anyone, but for the nation's most powerful news source. Repeat.

For a lot of people, this would be a dream job. For **Sam Tanenhaus '77**, it's his real job.

In May, Tanenhaus became the writer at large for *The New York Times*, an "in-house freelancer," he says, responsible for covering topics of interest thoughtfully, thoroughly, and in some depth.

The job description is still a work in progress – but look at the title. Usually, newspapers have reporters, editors, proofreaders, columnists. "But to be called a 'writer' suggests that you get to cross certain boundaries," Tanenhaus says. "What you write has to be real journalism – it has to connect with the news – but it must also have a strong 'writerly' component. You're not strictly delivering the news, but also providing it with some context.

And of course, he adds, "One wants to be accurate and have something to say."

### 2005

**Chad G. Marzen**, assistant professor of legal studies in the College of Business at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla., received the 2013 Distinguished Scholar Award from the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association at its board meeting in Washington, D.C., March 2013.

### 2006

**Julia I. Bradley-Cook** received honorable mention as an emerging public policy leader by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, March 2013.

### 2008

At an awards ceremony at the Observatoire de Paris, France, **Allison M. Louthan** received one of 15 2013 UNESCO-L'Oreal fellowships for young women in science whose promising research projects have a potential impact on human well-being and the environment at their awards ceremony, March 2013.

**Sarah S. Mirk** accepted the position of online editor of Bitch Media, a national feminist media nonprofit that produces a daily website, monthly podcast, and quarterly print magazine, January 2013. Since she became editor, she has published writings of **Courtney K. Sheehan '11**, **Molly A. McArdle '09**, and **Zoe S. Schein '12**.

### 2009

**Lindsay D. Robinson** was admitted to the master of arts in teaching program in elementary education at Brown University, Providence, R.I. She was also selected as the Urban Education Fellow at Brown.

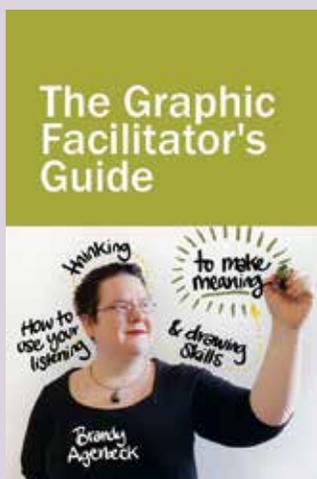
### 2011

"Network Free K.C." by Whitney Terrell, *The Stream*, *Harper's* magazine, April 30, 2012, featured **Tyrone J. Greenfield '11** and **Isaac M. Wilder '13**. The article discussed their goal to provide Internet service to low-income families through the use of decentralized "mesh" networks that rely on microwave dishes to distribute a powerful wireless Internet connections they call FreedomLinks.



### Ali Borger-Germann '99

Borger-Germann, an Iowa City, Iowa, high school English teacher, won the Iowa City Education Association's Educator of the Year award this spring. Her principal, John Bacon, calls her "the definition of a master teacher" and says "she knows where each student is and can identify how to push them to the next level." Recently, her advanced English class acted out scenes from *Hamlet* adapted to genres as diverse as country-and-western movies and action films.



### Brandy Agerbeck '96

Graphic facilitator Agerbeck creates live, conceptual maps of meetings, workshops, and conversations. Now she's written *The Graphic Facilitator's Guide: How to use your listening, thinking and drawing skills to make meaning*. Nancy Margulies, author of *Visual Thinking and Mapping Inner Space*, calls it "the graphic facilitation Bible." For more information, visit Agerbeck's site: [www.loosetooth.com](http://www.loosetooth.com).

For Tanenhaus, that's never been an issue. As editor of *The New York Times Book Review* since 2004, the Grinnell English major earned plaudits for his bold reshaping of what is arguably the nation's most important intellectual forum. Bill Keller, the *Times'* highly respected former executive editor, once described him as "our public intellectual."

In his new role, Tanenhaus will have a broader canvas; his writing will span various sections of the newspaper and will cover a range of topics, many of which he will choose himself. At this point, Tanenhaus is casting a wide net, thinking about politics, science, sociology — you name it. What, specifically, is on his mind? Among other things: The continuing polarization in American culture. The Republican Party and the search for identity in conservatism. Demographics: "Is a new majority emerging, and what does that look like?" The changing electorate. And, at the risk of getting too meta: "What are the sources of the ideas we're hearing about in politics?"

The author of *The Death of Conservatism* and a Pulitzer Prize-nominated biography of Whittaker Chambers, Tanenhaus has written widely for influential publications (including *Vanity Fair* and *The Nation*) and is still free to do that in his new role — though it may be hard for him to find the time. In addition to his new full-time job at the *Times*, he's completing a biography of William F. Buckley for Random House. And he's active with nonwriting projects, too — including staying involved at Grinnell, where his daughter, Lydia, just completed her third year. He taught a short course on The Writer in the World at the College this past fall and is still in touch with many of the students from his class.

Like any good English major, Tanenhaus sees a narrative arc that connects his Grinnell student days to what he hopes to accomplish at the *Times*. "I'd like to be able to draw parallels," he says, "to find the place where culture and politics intersect. It's all the things I studied at Grinnell — the humanistic tradition, the historical tradition, the literary tradition."

—Stacey Schmeidel



### Noga Ashkenazi '09

In April, Ashkenazi won the Best Documentary Award at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival in Dubuque, Iowa, for *The Grey Area*. The film's Hollywood premiere was at the ArcLight Cinema in November last year. It was also the official selection at two additional film festivals. *The Grey Area* documents teaching and learning feminism inside a maximum-security women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa.

**Hanna M. Key** received a 2013 National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate research fellowship grant in the field of chemistry-chemical catalysis, April 2014. She is enrolled in postgraduate work at the University of California-Berkeley.

### 2012

**Aude D. Bouagnon** received a 2013 NSF graduate research fellowship grant in life sciences-physiology, April 2014. She is enrolled in postgraduate studies at the University of California-San Francisco.

**Paul R. Leger** received a 2013 NSF graduate research fellowship grant in the field of chemistry-chemical synthesis, April 2013. He is doing postgraduate work at University of California-Berkeley.

**Paloma Velazquez** accepted a position as front-end developer at Webspec Design, Des Moines, Iowa, May 2013. She handles front-facing features, jQuery and Javascript for clients.

### Degrees

**Margaret Rayburn Kramar '72**, Ph.D. in English, University of Kansas, Lawrence, August 2012.

**Lizette "Eve" Price '96**, bachelor's with honors in English and a minor in theatre arts, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, December 2012.

**Alison R. Walsh '02**, master of public health in epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, May 2013. She is enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the university in the fall.

**Nathaniel Inglis-Steinfeld '06**, J.D. and M.P.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 2012. He was elected to Order of the Coif and admitted to the Wisconsin and Illinois bars. He is a policy analyst at the city of Chicago's inspector general's office.

**Daren W. Daniels '07**, master of laws in environmental law with highest honors, George Washington University Law School, January 2013. He is an environmental attorney at the Department of Justice-Environmental and Natural Resources Division on behalf of USIS-Labat, Washington, D.C.



### Henry Reich '09

In March, Reich's Twitter account was named one of *Time Magazine's* 140 Best Twitter Feeds of 2013. The account, @minutephysics — accompanies MinutePhysics, the YouTube series Reich created to explain physics concepts in short, easy-to-understand videos. The MinutePhysics Twitter feed has more than 39,000 followers. Videos also appear in Spanish, and in March, Reich launched a companion series, MinuteEarth. Watch and learn at [www.youtube.com/minutephysics](http://www.youtube.com/minutephysics).

## Publications, Productions, and Exhibitions

*Goldilocks, James, and Baby Bear Battle the Space Alien Smots*, by **James M. Daughton '58**, Beaver's Pond Press, Edina, Minn., December 2012.

*Altman and After: Multiple Narratives in Film*, by **Peter F. Parshall '58**, Scarecrow Press, Lanham, Md., June 2012.

*Risk, Resilience, and Positive Youth Development: Developing Effective Community Programs for At-Risk Youth, Lessons from the Denver Bridge Project*, by **Catherine Foster Alter '60**, Jeffrey M. Jenson, Nicole Nicotera, and Elizabeth K. Anthony, Oxford University Press, Oxford, England, November 2012. Written for graduate students as well as community activists, this case study describes a program model that integrates three theories of youth and community development and presents outcome data on the successful Bridge Project in Denver.

*Essential Occupation*, by **Stephen A. Brooks '64**, New Native Press, Cullowhee, N.C., October 2012.

*Anthem of the Aching Heart*, by **Keith S. Felton '64**, PublishAmerica, Frederick, Md., December 2012. Also, *A House Call in Ink*, PublishAmerica, Frederick, Md., January 2013.

*Too Hot? Too Cold? Keeping Body Temperature Just Right*, by **Caroline Scheaffer Arnold '66**, Charlesbridge Publishing, Watertown, Mass., February 2013.

*Advanced Negotiation and Mediation: Concepts, Skills, and Exercises*, by **James R. Holbrook '66** and Benjamin J. Cook, West Academic Publishing, Eagan, Minn., May 2013.

*Northern Summer*, a music CD by Northern Light, with producer **David S. Sandler '69** on piano and vocals, Glacier Records, June 2012.

*At Ease in the Borrowed World*, a book of poems by **Barbara Swift Brauer '73**, Sixteen Rivers Press, San Francisco, Calif., April 2013. Her husband, **Laurence M. Brauer '73** designed and provided the cover.

**Avram M. Gottschlich '07**, Ph.D. in mathematics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., November 2012.

**Adam D. Wert '10**, master's in divinity, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., May 2013.

### Marriages and Unions

**Anton C. Jones '02** and Kelly Fallows, April 6, 2013. Attending were *Sahil N. Merchant '01*, *Robert X. Barron '02*, *Bryan K. Coy '02*, *Nora P. Gluch '02*, *Tricia J. Hadley '03*, *Michael S. Heller '03*, *Angela D. Matsuoka '04*, and *Daniel M. Schulte-Sasse '04*.

**Leah C. Blasiak '03** and Robert S. Hagan, April 13, 2013. Attending were *Anna E. Carey '03* and *Emily J. Wergin '03*.

### Births and Adoptions

**Mary E. Novotny '87** and Andrew J. Rodriguez, Dec. 12, 2012, their first child, a son, Tycho Antonin Rodriguez.

**Karin Bellomy Davidson '93** and James Davidson, Jan. 19, 2013, their second child, first daughter, Sara Grace Davidson.

**Kendra L. Ford '93** and John M. Benford, Feb. 16, 2013, their first child, a son, Ronan Ford.

**Megan K. Schuknecht '93** and David Wager, Dec. 7, 2012, their first child, a son, Theo Joshua Wager.

**Jenel M. Chang '94** and **Ian G. Shoemaker '96**, Feb. 20, 2013, second child, first daughter, Quinn Maile Chang Shoemaker.

**Scott Newstrom Newstok '95** and Sarah B. Newstok, Oct. 23, 2012, their third child, second daughter, Pearl Jeanne Newstok.

**Brigid Rielly DelVecchio '96** and Philip DelVecchio, Dec. 18, 2012, their second child, second daughter, Molly DelVecchio.

**Julie C. Poelchau '96** and Adam Ehven, March 16, 2012, their second child, first daughter, Alison Ehven.

**Anna Curtis MacNeish '97** and Richard MacNeish Curtis, Dec. 11, 2012, their second child, first daughter, Nicanna Curtis Neish. Maternal grandmother is *Marion Madara MacNeish '67*.

**Nell W. Barker '99** and Michael Ferbrache, Dec. 11, 2012, their first child, a daughter, Edie Barker Ferbrache.

**Jeremy W. Lundquist '99** and **Regan Golden-McNerney '00**, April 24, 2012, their first child, a son, Trygve James Golden-Lundquist.

**Andrew R. Choquette '00** and Mary Swanson, Dec. 3, 2012, their first children, twin sons, Emmett James and Oliver Edward Choquette.

**Katherine E. Marienfeld '00** and Benjamin Crenshaw, Feb. 11, 2013, their second child, second daughter, Maia Dawn Marienfeld-Crenshaw.

**Molly Gallogly Miller '01** and Timothy J. Miller, Dec. 8, 2012, their third child, first daughter, Paige Alexandra Miller.

**Malinda Walter '00** and **Michael C. Slagle '01**, Oct. 10, 2011, their second child, second daughter, Gwendolyn Cora Slagle.

**Katherine T. Wolf Lopes '01** and Carl Lopes, Feb. 24, 2013, their first child, a daughter, Anika Jamie Lopes. Maternal grandfather is *Peter D. Wolf '64*.

**Tessa Bergan Adcock '04** and George L. Adcock, Feb. 17, 2013, their first child, a son, Quinn Bergan Adcock.

*What Pharmacists Need to Know about Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*, by **Tamar Nyman Lasky '76**, MIE Resources, West Kingston, R.I., 2013.

*Storytelling Across Worlds: Transmedia for Creatives and Producers*, by **Michael A. Niederman '80**, Tom Dowd, Michael Fry, and Josef Steiff, Focal Press, New York, February 2013.

*Bounce Back from Bankruptcy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Back on Your Financial Feet*, fifth edition, by **Paula Langguth Ryan '86**, Pellingham Casper Communications, Cocoa, Fla., fall 2013. Also, "Overcoming Core Beliefs that Sabotage Your Success," an essay, *Cosmic Thoughts: New Thought and Real Life*, Millington House Publishing, May 2013.

*Maritime Fresh*, by **Elisabeth B. Bailey '94**, Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 2013.

"Where the jobs are," by **Jefferson C. Mok '02** and Beibei Bao, "Between the Spreadsheets" column, *Columbia Journalism Review*, February 2013.

"Is Greed Good? A Catholic Perspective on Modern Usury," by **Chad G. Marzen '05** and William Woodyard, *Brigham Young University Journal of Public Law*, Fall 2012.

"History: Made by You: A New Approach from the Southern Oregon Historical Society," by **Amy E. Drake '08** and Allison Weiss, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2012.

*An Alliance of Passions*, by **Katherine "Cara" Rowe '11**, Corvallis Press, Albany, Ore., February 2013.

## In Memoriam

Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 866-850-1846, and ask for Meg Jones Bair.

**Lucile Bauman Norton '33**, Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 2, 2012.

**Henry L. Hirsch '36**, Weston, Mass., Feb. 7, 2013. Survivors include his son, *Harold E. Hirsch '64*.

**Ruth McDuffee Knight '37**, Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 24, 2013.

**M. Elizabeth Hopkins Evenson '39**, Yakima, Wash., Feb. 11, 2013.

**Robert W. Lehman '39**, Portland, Ore., March 6, 2013.

**Jean Hill Krapfel '40**, Lacey, Wash., Feb. 24, 2013. Survivors include her daughter, *Anne Krapfel Yerger '70*.

**Mary Frances Hall Nelson '40**, Minneapolis, April 1, 2013.

**June Nelson Ross '40**, Geneseo, Ill., Oct. 28, 2012. Survivors include her brother, *C. Roger Nelson '37*.

**E. Jane Goplerud '41**, Palmerton, Pa., Feb. 14, 2013.

**Bette Dobry Coburn '42**, Greenville, S.C., April 21, 2013

**John E. Griffenhagen '42**, Claremont, Calif., Jan. 14, 2013.

**Jean Freed Miles '42**, Lakewood, Colo., March 9, 2013. Survivors include her daughter, *Patricia Miles Patterson '68*.

**R. Maurine Dell Griffenhagen '43**, Claremont, Calif., March 10, 2013.

**Maybl Olson Huston '44**, Ames, Iowa, Jan. 31, 2013.

**Wanda Smith Joy '45**, Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 10, 2013. Survivors include her son, *George C. Joy III '70*.

**Shirley Dihel Wettling '47**, Seabrook, Texas, March 21, 2013.

**Dorothy Zimmerman Corkhill '48**, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 9, 2013.

**Preston Burlingham '49**, Saratoga, Calif., Feb. 10, 2013. Survivors include his wife, *Margaret McMillan Burlingham '49*.

**Mary Besore Calm '49**, Arvada, Colo., Dec. 7, 2012.

**Jeanne Gibson Foss '49**, Highland, Ind., April 17, 2013.

**Stewart C. Crockett '50**, Elgin, Ill., Jan. 23, 2013.

**Alice Sturtz Kuehl '50**, Bremerton, Wash., March 5, 2013. Survivors include her brother, *John P. Sturtz '55*.

**Mary Lou Plank Mackey '50**, Casper, Wyo., Nov. 13, 2012.

**Nyda Haas Kolp '52**, Boulder, Colo., Dec. 8, 2012. Survivors include her husband, *James R. Kolp '50*.

**David F. Bowersox '53**, Lynden, Wash., Dec. 20, 2012.

**Barbara Groth Cowles '53**, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 4, 2013.

**Keith W. Dempster '54**, Lone Tree, Iowa, March 16, 2013.

**Kennard C. Kaplan '54**, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Feb. 11, 2013.

**Marilyn Wuestenberg Largent '55**, Duxbury, Mass., March 21, 2013.

**Eva Passweg Bard '56**, Modlothian, Va., March 17, 2013.

**Dianne Hejna Paul '57**, Westland, Mich., Jan. 12, 2013. Survivors include her brother, *George F. Hejna '62*.

**Peter C. Dooley '59**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, June 19, 2012. Survivors include his wife, *Anne Moore Dooley '59*.

## Alumni Council News

### In 2012–13, the Council helped:

- Gather and share with the trustees' alumni feedback about Grinnell's admission and financial aid policies.
- Identify for the Career Development Office those alumni interested in offering career advice, mentoring, and networking to Grinnell students. One result: Alumni and student participation in the CDO's Externship program doubled this year. (For more information, see "What You Taught Us," inside front cover, and "Raving about Their Exes," Page 7.)
- Expand the Grinnell Regional Admission Support Program (GRASP). Piloted in the winter of 2012, GRASP volunteers conducted more than 370 admission interviews (a 97 percent increase!) in 2013 with prospective students across the country.
- Offered input to *The Grinnell Magazine* via our communications committee.

### In June 2013:

- **Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61** became president.
- Past president **Matthew Welch '96** completed service to the Council and joined the College Board of Trustees.
- **Mary Brooner '71** became chair of the 2014 Alumni Awards committee, a position vacated by Matthew Welch.
- **David Holmberg '81** became president-elect and chair of the election and membership development committee.
- **Bill Ingram '53, Joan Vander Naald Egenes '58, P. Carter Newton '77, and Renee Bourgeois Parsons '96** completed service to the Council.
- **Richard Raridon '53, Bill Simmons '58, Peter Calvert '79, and Cameo Carlson '93** joined the Council.

### Interested in joining the Alumni Council?

The Alumni Council promotes alumni engagement with the College. It meets on campus twice a year and conducts other business electronically, so membership is great way to keep informed and to support College activities. For more information: <http://loggia.grinnell.edu/alumniCouncil>

### Erratum:

In "It Takes a College," Page 14 of the Spring Issue, we incorrectly stated that a twelve-year-old **Robert Noyce '49** and "his then-7-year-old-brother Gaylord" designed and flew a glider in the summer of 1940. In fact, Gaylord turned 14 in the summer of 1940. *The Grinnell Magazine* regrets the error.

**Sarah Williams Jacobson '60**, Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 28, 2013.

**James P. Allison '63**, Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 16, 2013.

**Margaret "Meg" Martin Stifler '63**, Tacoma, Wash., June 6, 2013.

**Karen Johnson Mauer '64**, Wilton, Conn., April 1, 2013. Survivors include her husband, *Laurence J. Mauer '62*.

**Steven R. Nelson '64**, Vienna, Va., March 14, 2013.

**J. Dirk Wright '67**, Prairie Village, Kan., July 4, 2012.

**Andrew Cooper '70**, Westport, Conn., March 14, 2013. Survivors include his sister, *Martha Cooper '63*.

**Nancy Harris McIntosh '72**, Tampa, Fla., April 29, 2012.

**Georgiana F. Ruzicka '73**, Wahoo, Neb., Jan. 13, 2013. Survivors include her sister, *Cynthia Ruzicka Mahlin '75*.

**Deborah J. Conard '74**, Allentown, Pa., March 14, 2013. Survivors include her husband, *David N. Rosenwasser '73*, and her sister, *Joy Conard Hayes '70*.

**Philip L. Beaurline '75**, Ivy, Va., Jan. 18, 2013.

**Maurine A. Gordon '79**, Oakland, Calif., Oct. 13, 2012.

**Erik C. Zobrist '83**, Silver Springs, Md., March 28, 2013.

**Katherine F. Ingwersen '84**, Alexandria, Va., Dec. 29, 2012.

**Leopoldo J. Martin '06**, Brentwood, Calif., Feb. 2, 2013.

**Daniel L. LaFountaine '09**, Albuquerque, N.M., Feb. 26, 2013.

# Washington, D.C.: Your Colony

*Statehood for most of D.C.? Anne Brineman Anderson '64 thinks it's a capitol idea.*

I could go snarky: *Hail, colonial masters!*

I could play victim: *"Nobody knows the trouble..."*

Perhaps if I just explained clearly enough: *The injustices perpetrated on the citizens of the District of Columbia were instituted with its establishment in 1801...*

But really, I just want to tell you how it feels to be a disenfranchised citizen of this country by simple virtue of living in my hometown, Washington, D.C., surrounded on the north, south, east and west by the United States of America.

And, my fellow Grinnellians, it feels lousy. Here's why:

- Congress is in charge of the District of Columbia. We have a delegate in the U.S. House who cannot vote, no Senators, and a home rule charter with local government responsible for day-to-day affairs.
- Our mayor and council are subject to the authority of Congress, which must approve all actions, including our annual budget – only 25 percent of which is federally funded.
- Congress imposes any law it pleases, regardless of the wishes of the 632,323 citizens of the District of Columbia. Examples include instituting public charter schools after we had voted to keep neighborhood schools, instituting the death penalty after we voted against it, and trading away the district's right to fund abortions for low-income women in a deal between House Speaker John Boehner and the president.
- Congress prevents us from collecting taxes on wages earned in D.C. if workers live elsewhere, so every year D.C. taxpayers subsidize Maryland and Virginia to the tune of more than \$2 billion. And we **do** pay taxes – there are 18 states that generate less federal tax revenue than the District of Columbia.

We have historically had a population on par with eight other states; we send our young people to war; we fulfill all responsibilities of citizenship. And yet we are, functionally, a colony. Revolutions have started for less cause.

Now, I understand why D.C. citizens mostly just keep their heads down, go to work, and tend to their families rather than spend precious energy on attempting equal standing with the rest of the country. It is easy to become stuck in a colonial mentality and feel powerless to effect change. And the rest of the United States, also stuck in a colonial mentality, doesn't help by making D.C. the butt of jokes and rendering our difficulties as character flaws (historically often with a racist flavor). It's easier to dismiss our complaints and to refuse to see

how keeping us voiceless and voteless undermines civic discourse and democracy and tempts people to just "get mine."

More objective observers, however, judge us pretty harshly. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have both declared the United States to be in violation of international human rights treaties, with the OSCE citing the U.S. government's obligation to ensure "equal voter rights" for all U.S. citizens – including the people of Washington, D.C. It's a relief to know that external onlookers confirm our reality, when we – outraged by the latest Congressional action – are often labeled as a bunch of overreacting whiners.

Things were looking up in 1964, when I graduated from Grinnell College and moved here. With the passage of the 23rd Amendment, D.C. citizens cast their votes for president for the first time. Another Constitutional amendment in the 1970s would have granted D.C. equal representation, but it died in state legislatures. More than 60 percent of D.C. citizens voted for statehood in the 1980s; it was last considered in Congress in 1993.

Yet, my fellow Grinnellians, there is hope. I am part of a D.C.-wide Statehood Coalition that includes native-born Washingtonians, longtime civil rights activists, and relative newcomers who are horrified to find themselves without a vote because they moved to D.C. With determination and hope, The New Columbia Admission Act introduced again this year in both the House and Senate (House Resolution 292 and Senate Bill 132) would first shrink D.C. to the area around the Washington Mall, Capitol, White House, and other federal buildings. (The district was last shrunk on July 9, 1846, when the Virginia portions of the original District of Columbia were returned to Virginia.) Then, it would admit the residential and commercial portions of the current District of Columbia as the 51<sup>st</sup> U.S. state – the state of New Columbia. All we need is a majority vote in Congress to pass this legislation.

This, my fellow Grinnellians, is where **you** come in.

*America can do better! Grinnellians believe in social justice – not to mention self-governance!* I am almost prayerful that you will pick up your phone, contact your *voting* legislators and tell them you don't approve of their role as D.C.'s overseers. After all, if the Grinnell 14 could help bring about the end of nuclear testing shortly before I arrived here, imagine what a few more of us could do to bring the last American colony into the union.



By **Anne Brineman Anderson '64.**

A clinical social worker in private practice, she spent 22 years as the coordinator of Psychologists for Social Responsibility and received the Joseph F. Wall '41 Service Award in 1999 for her work with that organization during the war in the Balkans. She is an avid birder and enjoys visiting with her three children and their families as often as she can.



GRINNELL COLLEGE

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

*Iowa View*



Commencement, 2013. (Photo by Justin Hayworth)