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

Elise Hadden ’14 has her eye on the prize.

Denton Ketels’ superpower is understanding sports statistics.

Lisa Lacher introduces the media to Grinnellians doing cool things.

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

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

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

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

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On the cover:
Reactions to the new design

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

– Bill Ingraham ’53
Ann Arbor, Mich.

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

– Lynn Voedisch Blumenthal ’76
Lincolnwood, Ill.

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

– Genevieve Vetrlik ’55
Lancaster, Pa.

I was delighted when I caught my first glimpse of the cover on the most recent issue of The Grinnell Magazine and realized that, indeed, Kevin Cannon ’82 is back! I’m sure I sent what I hope was not an impolite message of disappointment to the then-editor when Cannon’s cartoons stopped gracing the pages several years ago. But I held out hope that he might one day reappear. Prayers are answered! Satchmo on the cover, illustrations on the inside, and an editorial promise of more to come! As you can guess by now, I’m a fan of Kevin Cannon. In his honor and in appreciation of the reappearance of his work, I will be sending in an additional contribution to Grinnell for this year.

– Dave Scott ’50
Moorhead, Minn.

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

– Carol Baker ’83
Berea, Ohio

I like the ne w look and feel of the book right away. Not only was he in my class, but I really liked the description of the novel.

– Lynn Voedisch Blumenthal ’76
Lincolnwood, Ill.

Kudos to the Liberal Arts in Prison Program

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

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

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

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

Legalizing marijuana

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

In Oregon the job was given to the State Liquor Control Commission, which requested input from small businesses, conducted town halls, and even created an online survey for Oregonians. The practical issues: • The concern about access by children to marijuana cookies and candy — the “Joe Camel” factor. • Regulatory interface with the medical providers who also wish to sell retail. • Scientific quality control including graded THC levels. Current marijuana is far stronger than that consumed by my own “Woodstock generation.” • Preventing outside big business, such as the tobacco companies, from taking over. • Creating a seamless “farm to table” system but not overregulating. • Developing an effective roadside drug test for drivers who are possibly [impaired] from the drug.

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

– James MacAfee ’76
Salem, Ore.

Honoring Georgia Dentel

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

– Jim Asplund ’88
Woodbury, Minn.

Thank you so much for the well researched, well written, and entertaining feature on Georgia Dentel. The tribute was due, and it’s wonderful it was done so well. I worked with Miss Dentel for three years, and knowing her and learning from her are among the best things I took away from Grinnell. Miss Dentel was always her own person, I am sure she still is. At a time when some of us from the middle of the country were trying to become sophisticated like those from the coasts, and when the students living off campus were cool beyond our reach, Miss Dentel went her own way. It could be zero degrees in winter, and she would stride the campus in a thin leather jacket and spike-heeled black patent leather pumps. She said she wanted to get used to the cold so she could save her winter clothes for when she really needed them. She listened. She laughed. She got along with almost everybody. She was an inspiration to people who didn’t fit in easily.

– Keith J. King ’66
New York

The Grinnell Magazine welcomes letters discussing the contents of the magazine or issues relating to the College. All letters should include the author’s name and address. Anonymous letters will be discarded. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, and style. Address correspondence to: The Grinnell Magazine, Office of Communications, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112-1600 or send email to magazine@grinnell.edu.

– The Grinnell Magazine

Winter 2015
In his June 1906 inauguration speech, Grinnell president John H.T. Main predicted a future when a person could sit at the breakfast table and speak by phone with a friend in Berlin or Hong Kong “while the wheat cakes are coming in.”

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

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

Today, with tremendous help from alumni, the College is on a strong footing — strong enough that the admission pool and alumni engagement at historic highs, now is the time to articulate a new vision for Grinnell’s next phase of excellence.

But times are changing. With our admission pool and alumni engagement at historic highs, now is the time to articulate a new vision for Grinnell’s next phase of excellence.

How can we be, and that through our example, standards of higher education should be, and can be, and that through our example, standards of higher education generally will be raised.”

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

— Raymond S. Kington, president

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

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

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

“Creativity: to have new and original ideas.”

When do I get my CLS adviser?” Peltz says. “Some upper-class students who’ve learned about this initiative have asked, ‘When do I get my CLS adviser?’ It’s an affirming message but also harder for a student to slip through the cracks. We are strong in many of these areas already. But fulfilling Grinnell’s promise of an innovative education for every student will require shared effort. All of us need to work together — as teachers and mentors, donors and volunteers, coaches and supporters — to ensure the success of Grinnellians, and Grinnell, in new times.

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

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

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

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

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

There was one result the CSL didn’t foresee — helping a couple of first-year students who were seriously struggling with whether they belong at Grinnell.

“We’ve reached out to their RLCs [residence life coordinators] and their faculty advisers,” Crawford says, to make sure those students “were on their radars.”

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

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

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

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

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

“There’s a real strong appetite from first-year students for this kind of connection,” Pelz says. “Some upper-class students who’ve learned about this initiative have asked, ‘When do I get my CLS adviser?’ It’s an affirming message but also harder for a student to slip through the cracks. We are strong in many of these areas already. But fulfilling Grinnell’s promise of an innovative education for every student will require shared effort. All of us need to work together — as teachers and mentors, donors and volunteers, coaches and supporters — to ensure the success of Grinnellians, and Grinnell, in new times.

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— Raymond S. Kington, president
**At the Faulconer Gallery**

**Siberia: In the Eyes of Russian Photographers**

January 29–March 20, 2016

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

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

Beverly Semmes: FRP

January 29–March 20, 2016

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

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

**After Many Years of Service**

Life trustees retire

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

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

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

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

James H. Lowry ’61 was first elected to the board in 1987 and became a life trustee in 2002. He and his wife Charlayne Hunter-Gault have contributed generously of their time and talents to students.

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

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

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Champion of Change

White House honors Yesenia Ayala ’18

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

As a service learning work-study student at Grinnell, Ayala works for Al Exito, a nonprofit group that empowers Latino youth in nine Iowa cities. She coordinates programming and mentoring for middle and high school Latino students, facilitates and inspires members of their communities. At a ceremony on Sept. 15, Ayala was honored for her contributions to the Latino community in Iowa.

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Championing Healing

2015 Schwab Alumni Grants awarded

Amy Nevedel ’95, a researcher at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received a $1,500 grant to support the development of a peer-mentoring video web project to promote reintegration and reduce the risk of HIV in previously incarcerated women in North Carolina and across the country.

Beth Prullage ’94, a social worker at Providence Behavioral Health Hospital in Holyoke, Mass., will use her $1,500 Schwab grant to maintain and expand the music therapy resources at the hospital.

Erin Hustings ’98, a founding member of the D.C., Detention Visitation Network, obtained $1,500 to reinforce and magnify the program’s efforts in providing support and friendship to immigration detainees in the Washington, D.C. area.

Lori Ann Schwab ’95 Alumni Grants are presented annually to alumni who graduated between 1992 and 1998 and who are staff members or volunteers in nonprofit service organizations and public schools. Schwab was committed to helping others. She died of a sudden illness while studying in London in 1994.

Need-Blind Policy Retained

Board to review commitment in 2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clark Lindgren Honored

Helps students from underrepresented backgrounds

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

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

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

Driven by DATA, Connected by Grinnell
Alumni in tech careers share insights during fall break

by Cindy Deppe

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

The New York City tour, sponsored by the Donald L. Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership, the Center for Careers, Life and Service, and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, was nicknamed DATA for its emphasis on data analysis, technology, and applications. But it wasn’t all stats and spreadsheets as Grinnellians, old and new, learned from each other about the prospects for data-based careers.

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

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

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

Biology major Jarren Santos ’17 calls the Sloan Kettering visit “pivotal” in his career exploration. “The DATA tour helped me explore how research and data is applied to a company setting,” Santos says. “These individuals were working with data in upcoming health innovations while collaborating with public health experts to determine the impact of new surgeries or the decrease in survivorship of a certain disease. I could totally imagine myself doing this.”

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

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

Grinnell Trustee Michael Kahn ’74 was a music major at Grinnell and is now an executive in corporate strategy and development for TIAA-CREF, a nonprofit corporation. He has hosted a stream of interns over the past 15 years and enthusiastically agreed to be on the short-term DATA tour schedule. TIAA-CREF employees Chris Lee ’15, Derek Farnam ’13, and Christina Mantziua Cutlip ’83 traveled to New York to join Kahn in hosting the tour, as did employee Hans Erickson, son of Luther Erickson, professor emeritus of chemistry, and Jenny Erickson, retired Forum director.

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

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

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

Ajuna Kyaruzi ’17, a computer science major from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has followedher varied and ambitious career path.

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

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

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

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

“The DATA tour helped me hear from alumni that is they gained the ability to do things they had no right doing because they didn’t question that they couldn’t. That’s the value of the liberal arts,” Roper says.

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

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

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

Success and the Clergy
Ted McConnell ’60 has published Success and the Clergy (Inkwater Press, 2015) for all clergy who have been called by God, and for all people seeking to understand this calling.

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

The Grinnell Magazine
Winter 2015

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

Michael Maiorana ’12, a music composer who has composed for the Central Iowa Symphony, was chosen to be mentored in the VocalEssence ReMix program. VocalEssence is a nationally acclaimed choral ensemble that has added a new educational program to cultivate an upcoming generation of choral music composers.

Scholarship and professional publications


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

Lizeth Gutierrez ’12 has published work in Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, Mujeres Talk, and The Encyclopedia of Social Theory. She has forthcoming publications in an anthology, Gendering XXI: Women as Protagonists in U.S. Latinos and Hispanic Caribbean Narratives and Aztlán. Some of her recent awards include the Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant by the Social Science Research Council (2014) and Washington State University’s College of Arts and Sciences/Liberal Arts Scholarship (2013).

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

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

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


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Excerpt from a Q&A with Peter Coyote '64

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

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

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

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

It’s hard to describe, because it was all new, and I didn’t have anything to compare it to. I had a train ride out here, and I had two suitcases, one of which was filled with records with a record player strapped to it. I had my guitar and one suitcase of clothes. And I met one of my best friends on the train, Ken Schiff [’64], who’s a novelist. I met Terry Bisson [’64] the first day of school. He was whistling a John Coltrane tune while walking across the Quad, and I called out the title. Fifty-five years later, we’re still friends!

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

That experience carried over to faculty as well. I made a lot of friends on the faculty that I stayed friends with until they died. And because I was older than a lot of the kids, the faculty really took me under their wing, and I used to bartend their parties because they knew I would keep my mouth shut [chuckles].

I got a sense of the humanized faculty with their hair down, not from the other side of the desk. I really came of age here. I was supported, it was a safe environment to experiment, and I had every tool that I needed to mature.
Twins Challenge School and Conference Golf
Records in Their First Year
Finish 1-2 in conference tournament and help rewrite record books for team

by Denton Ketels

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

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

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

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

Vrishali was the first of the two sisters to play competitively, winning her first tournament by 27 strokes. According to the twins, most women's sports in India are pursued outside of school, and the Shri Ram School they attended did not offer golf. Aided by one of the best coaches in the country, they sharpened their skills against national competition in the Indian Golf Union (IGU), India's governing body for men's and women's amateur golf.

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

"We don't hit it long," Vidushi says. "We just hit it really straight and play perfectly.

"I felt a huge sense of relief," she says. "Once I realized how close I was, it was really exciting.

"I felt a huge sense of relief," she says. "Once I realized how close I was, it was really exciting.

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

"The finish line itself was stressful because the wind picked up," she says. "I was trying to land on a rocky beach and not get completely smashed." A month after completing the most famous long-distance swim in the world, Salomon recalled her landing at Cap Griz Nez September 7. "I felt a huge sense of relief," she says. "And also disbelief. It still feels like a dream.

Salomon trained a full year for the crossing, getting help with open water technique from Tim Hammond, Grinnell assistant swimming and diving coach, for helping her overcome negativity when she was a student.

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

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

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

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

It’s beginning to look a lot like winter

1976 vs. 2015
Social Justice: From Theory to Practice

How the Grinnell Prize embeds global innovation in campus culture

by Elise Hadden ’14

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

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

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

Now celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Grinnell Prize has begun to highlight an important new trend in social entrepreneurship — a focus on sustainability.

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

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

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

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

At the time, Jennison was in the early stages of founding his own nonprofit, Tab for a Cause, which has her organization, Golden Baobab, creating a regular source of income to fund her project of supporting emerging African illustrators and writers through training, workshops, and prizes. Maria Vertkin, also a prizewinner this year, has developed her organization, Found in Translation, which trains disadvantaged, bilingual women to be translators, into a viable business. By hiring the women she’s trained and then contracting with other organizations for translating services, Vertkin’s model safeguards the success of her project. This kind of long-term, innovative thinking in the field of social justice is an important hallmark of the Grinnell Prize.
now raised more than $170,000 for charity: “One piece of memorable advice they gave me was not to get caught up in short-term successes until they become long-term,” Jennison said. “The meeting also led to an excellent partnership between Educate! and Tab for a Cause; we’re very proud to support them.”

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

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

Awe says her internship saved her a lot of time after graduation. Learning about the day-to-day realities of nonprofit work helped her to identify early on that it wasn’t the path for her. Instead, she wanted to focus on the role of policy in development. The recipient of a 2012 Grinnell Prize, Awe says she did not think about chemistry a single time,” Awe says. “I did think about governance, about politics, and how to lift people out of poverty.” Upon returning to Grinnell, she declared an independent major in international affairs.

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

Building a better future
One of the first prizewinners was James Kofo Annan, who received the prize in 2011 for the work he’s done with his organization, Challenging Heights, which seeks to end child slavery in Ghana. Since winning the Grinnell Prize, Challenging Heights has been able to employ a larger staff, build a shelter for children rescued from slavery, establish a sports program, and build a library. It has also expanded its efforts to work with families in villages to combat poverty and end the cycle of slavery. Annan used his personal share of the prize to establish a large restaurant that generates additional revenue to support the organization when grant funding falls short. As of this year, Challenging Heights has rescued more than 1,200 children from slavery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Iowa Caucuses

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

by Carroll McKibbin ’60

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

Grinnell’s involvement with public policy is as old as the College, dating back to abolitionist activities in the 1850s. The struggle against slavery developed into a tradition that continues to this day, having progressed through the Social Gospel Movement following the Civil War, the Progressive Era into the early 20th century, and the New Deal of the 1930s. In the latter instance, a number of Grinnellians served with distinction, including Chester Davis 1911 on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve, Florence Kerr 1912, a Works Progress Administration executive, and Harry Hopkins 1912, a close adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a major architect of the New Deal’s many administrative and legislative measures.

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

Iowa’s caucus

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

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

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

Iowa’s rise to prominence

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

A little known governor of Georgia named Jimmy Carter also recognized the growing potential of the Iowa caucus. With the White House in mind and his term of office completed, Carter commenced his presidential campaign in Iowa nearly a year before the 1976 precinct caucuses.
Carter’s grassroots campaign across Iowa featured hundreds of personal appearances, including one at the Grinnell College Forum, and tens of thousands of handshakes. His standard introduction, “I’m Jimmy Carter and I’m going to be the next president of the United States,” was planted in the ears of thousands of Iowans.

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

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

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

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

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

From that beginning, Dane participated in the district and state party meetings, and later attended the Republican national convention in Kansas City as an invited, college-age activist. On the convention floor he carried a sign reading “Grinnell, Iowa, loves Jerry and Bob.” Dane originally had in mind Gerald Ford, he carried a sign reading “Grinnell, Iowa, loves Jerry and Bob.” Dane originally had in mind Gerald Ford, who had won, he might still live in Iowa, something he says, “I wouldn’t mind at all.”

Gatekeeper to the White House

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

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

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

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

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

Reagan later won the Republican nomination for president, but his erstwhile opponent had made his mark in the Hawkeye State. Bush became Reagan’s vice president and later succeeded him in the Oval Office. President Carter was challenged in the 1980 Democratic caucus by U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., whose many visits to the state included speaking to a packed house in Darby Gym. Carter trounced Kennedy, 59 percent to 29 percent, in the caucus vote. The senator from Massachusetts continued his campaign, but never recovered from that devastating defeat.

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

The 2016 election approaches

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

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

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

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

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

Participants and Practitioners in Politics

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

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

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

When she leaned forward to hand Bohman a cup of coffee she lurched back in surprise. “You’re not my grandson!” she exclaimed. “Son, if you’re all-conference anywhere in Oklahoma, you can play for Grinnell,” Pittsch replied.

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

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

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

Most Grinnell students experience only one presidential cycle while in college. Faculty and staff, in contrast, are more permanent and have opportunities for participation over a longer period. Kevin Crim, who became interested in politics as a young boy in Indiana when he shook hands with a campaigning John Kennedy, has been a Writing Lab assistant since 1972.

During that time he has chaired the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee and served on the party’s state platform committee. In 1984, Crim presided over Grinnell’s First Ward caucus; the First Ward includes the College campus. The 700 attendees comprised the largest caucus in the state.

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

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

— Carroll McKibbin ’60

Photo by Justin Hayworth

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

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

The cancellation did not disappoint Cole.

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

As the 2016 presidential election approaches, the significance of Iowa is very much in evidence. The day after announcing her bid for the presidency over Iowa’s special role in presidential elections, but he is comfortable with it, saying that Iowa, unlike many states, is politically competitive.

The day after announcing her bid for the presidency

Hillary Clinton headed for Iowa. The first official event in her campaign was not held in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria in the spring of 2015, but she is comfortable with it.

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

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

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

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

Gifts of treasure are rarely about just money. They’re about serving future generations.
The value of studying classics
Grinnell College trustee M. Anne Campbell Spence ’66 made a career for herself as a research geneticist, teacher, and higher education administrator. But it was Spence’s rediscovery of classic literature 50 years after her first experience to it at Grinnell that inspired her to help students grasp its historical relevance in today’s world.

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

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

Helping international students experience Grinnell
Growing up in India, Saumil Parikh ’99 benefited from his father’s determination and foresight. Harish Parikh worked and saved to ensure that his sons could experience Grinnell.

“Having the opportunity to come to a U.S. private liberal arts college, Saumil Parikh says he was struck by the lack of scholarship opportunities for international students.

Now, having created a scholarship fund to honor his father as well as his friend and mentor Paul McCulley ’77, Parikh enjoys seeing the outcomes created by the Parikh/McCulley scholarship. It is a fully funded four-year opportunity for an international student who could not otherwise attend Grinnell.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sandler and his wife Rita have given generously to Grinnell through a series of planned gifts, including in 2015 a unitrust, which creates a stream of income that ultimately benefits the College in the future. He says he “enjoys seeing how the College has evolved” since he was a student and an athlete at Grinnell.

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

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

A positive habit starts early
Erik Kocher ’84 and Linda Sherry Kocher ’84 are living proof that giving back is a habit of successful people. They seized the opportunity to teach a quick course in philanthropy while accompanying daughter Audrey Kocher ’19 to New Student Orientation this fall.

“We had just bought bed risers at a sale on campus,” Linda recounts. “All I had was a 20, and the young woman at the sale said ‘It’s only 2 dollars; don’t you have 2 dollars?’ I told her I’d used up all my ones and she said ‘Oh, well, I can’t do it.’”

“She was shocked!” Linda laughs. “But that’s the way it works.”

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

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

Class fund directors since 1997, the Kochers devote a lot of time and effort each year creating handwritten, personalized thank-you notes to donors. They are strong
proponents of targeted giving and enthusiastically favor both need- and merit-based financial aid with their own gifts to Grinnell.

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

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

Providing good stewardship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Roll of “spike tape” for theatre rehearsals: $5
- One color-changing LED theatrical light: $2,200
- Colored powder for Festival of Colors: $38.75
- Student staff for one Harris Center event: $150
- Transport one visiting prospective student to and from airport: $100
- Academic Advising semester calendar (one copy): 10 cents
- Language tutors for one semester: $5,530
- Airport shuttles for new international students: $1,450
- Groceries for International Student Organization Food Bazaar last year: $3,900
- Airfare for most Rosenfield Program speakers: $500–$600
- Music licensing fees for public performance, annual: $1,310
- Flu shots for students, staff and faculty: $1,000
- Officials for one football game: $1,120
- Overnight travel to competition for one soccer player (out of state, using a charter bus): $235
- Tape from the training room to wrap ankles for one competition (basketball, football, or soccer): $50
- An incarcerated student’s enrollment in one semester of the First Year of College Program: $1,000
- Publish Local Foods Directory for free distribution, annual: $100
- Garden seed for the campus garden: $50–100
- Conducting savanna restoration (mechanical removal of invasive species): $250/acre
- Water test kit to measure nitrate/nitrite, phosphate, turbidity, chloride, flow: $205/kit

Thank you for your support.

Alumni Council News

Fall Meeting Focuses on Connections — and a Few Traditions

by Mary Knuth Otto ’63, Alumni Council Communications Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

between alumni and students.
• The Stewardship Committee joined donor relations at the College to recognize the growth of alumni giving.
• The Alumni Awards Committee reported receiving 28 nominations for the 2016 awards. An informative panel presentation called “College Financing 101,” held in ARH 302, was designed for all volunteers. The aim was to bring us up to date on the basics of Grinnell’s approach to finances and to provide an opportunity for discussion and feedback. Speakers were Kate Walker, vice president for finance and treasurer; Shane Jacobson, vice president for development and alumni relations; Andrew Choquette ’00, director of investments; and Brad Lindberg, director of financial aid.

The fall Alumni Council activities concluded with a Saturday evening dinner at Grinnell House and an all-volunteer party at the home of Nancy Schmulbach Maly ’61, former Alumni Council president. Want to join the Grinnell College Alumni Council? The Alumni Council is a group of 26 Grinnell alumni and two student representatives working under the auspices of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. The council’s mission is to foster strong connections between alumni and the College and among the 20,000 Grinnell alumni located in the 50 states and 55 nations.

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

Celebrating Pioneer Football
Gift honors namesake of Rosenbloom Field

Football games on crisp autumn afternoons have enhanced college life for generations of Grinnell students, and alumni are honoring the experience with generous gifts of support for the Pioneer gridiron program.

John Rosenbloom ’71 and Kathy Rosenbloom have made a significant bequest to Grinnell football in honor of John’s father, Abe Rosenbloom ’34, the namesake of Grinnell’s football field. A three-time letter winner and star tackle lineman during the Pioneers’ 1931–33 seasons, Rosenbloom earned Des Moines Register all-conference (then Missouri Valley) honors in 1932 and 1933. Rosenbloom Field was dedicated in October 1975 and was made possible by a gift from Virginia Whitney Rosenbloom ’36 and her husband Abe.

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

“The generosity and leadership of these types of gifts are incredible,” says Jeff Pedersen ’82, Grinnell head football coach. “These gifts will allow us to pursue the finest student-athletes from across the country and will allow us to provide the outstanding college experience and playing experience they deserve.”

— Denton Ketels

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

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

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

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

— Ina Fishman Gossack ’95, Cave Creek, Ariz.

A Regular Occurrence
Feminist folk singer Ani DiFranco’s performance (with drummer Andy Stochansky) [Oct. 6, 1994, Harris Center] was powerful, inspiring, and totally moving. Despite the epic nature of the concert, it wasn’t as well attended as expected due to a concurrent streaking event happening outside on Mac Field. The backstage doors were open and Ani and Andy had a decent view of Grinnell’s cross country runners and their friends, racing across the grass in their birthday suits.

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

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

— Lynn Makau ’95, Portland, Ore.

The Police
It was spring of 1979 and New Wave music was sweeping the nation. Georgia [Dentel] was able to book The Police, the hottest band in this genre to play Darby Gym. On the day of the show I ran into John Buckwalter ’79, the Grinnell concert chairman, and he invited me over to his off-campus house for dinner. Through the wonder of Georgia, I now have a lifelong memory of sharing a spaghetti dinner and a great conversation with Sting and the boys on a cold, early spring afternoon in Iowa.

— Bob Greenberg ’80, Dallas

Prompt for Spring 2016: The people we meet because of Grinnell—the classmates, the professors, the staff members, the townpeople, the alumni— affect us in many ways. Describe an encounter with a Grinnellian who made a difference to you, whether the person brightened a cloudy day or changed the direction of your entire life. Submit up to 200 words by Jan. 31, 2016, to magazine@grinnell.edu with “difference” in the subject line. If we publish your story, we’ll send you a special T-shirt.
Dan Burns, a visiting professor for eight weeks this summer at Nar, was a visiting professor for the Southern District in Mississippi, where he is a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, licensed to practice in both countries.

In December, I am going back to Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. I was invited by the faculty of nursing, who had me teach both undergraduate and graduate students basic counseling skills as well as shared knowledge of research ideas with faculty,” he writes.

Joe Berry and his wife Helena Worthen are teaching labor studies since 2000. Berry has been on the College’s board of trustees since 2000. Rick Lee ’81

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

Russell Pierce was keynote speaker at the National Alliance on Mental Illness’s 22nd annual Massachusetts State Convention, Oct. 18, 2014. As director of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health’s Office of Recovery and Empowerment, he spoke about the role of peer voices and volunteers and received the organization’s award for Emerging Peer Voice.

Get a Haircut, Read a Book

A Saturday morning haircut ignited a passion and later a program that is drawing Alvin Irby ’77 national attention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each barbershop book space costs $500 to stock with “culturally diverse, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive books,” as well as an attractive yellow reading chair and book sling. Irby is working full time to apply for grants and solicit strategic partnerships with companies that are now needed to launch the program in other cities. He won a $25,000 Wall Service Award from Grinnell College in 2013 that he’ll use to expand the program.

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

One haircut, one book at a time.

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Irby随后被提升为教育主任在男孩俱乐部的纽约市东哈莱姆区。当他决定需要接受管理方面的专业培训时，他申请了纽约大学的威格纳公共管理学位。他进入了非营利管理项目，并“利用每一堂课来开展剃发读书活动。”

“有一次我在完成了我的M.P.A.后，我知道我已经准备好开始剃发读书活动了，”艾比说：“我用我自己的钱，加上一些众筹资金，帮助在哈莱姆区和布鲁克林区的理发店建立了阅读空间。”

一个理发，一本书。——辛迪·迪佩

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每个理发店的空间成本为500美元，用于购买“文化多样、年龄适宜、性别响应”的书籍，以及一个有吸引力的黄色阅读椅和书架。艾比全职工作，目的是申请拨款和寻找战略合作伙伴的公司。这些公司现在需要来启动这个项目在其他城市。他获得了一个2.5万美元的Ball Service Award，来自2013年的葛林奈尔学院的大学，他将用这笔奖金来扩大这个项目。我们都是由我们的经历所构成的，”艾比说：“我不认为我有太多机会，但我想要使用我的经验来改变黑人男孩的自我认同。”

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1990

Ferguson was included in some recent software startup in Washington, D.C. is a founder structuring alternative reimbursement managed care, payer operational issues, the state, working with legislators, hospitals and health care systems in director of managed care for the Illinois has assumed the role of

Paula Rue Dillon

has recently started a new position as director, business analysis, for

the Gulf Coast in 2005 after hurricane

At the Southern Poverty Law Center, cases ever brought in the United States. behing one of the largest labor trafficking

2015. Werner was part of the legal team received the national Lawyer of the Year award on July 14, 2015.

Daniel Werner

opened their Bricks & Minifigs franchise store in Madison, Wis., in late October.

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

1991

Daniil Jacobsohn is leaving the world of computing to start a new business that will buy, sell, and trade new and used Legos. He and his wife

opened their Brick

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

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

1992

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

After a 20-year career in information technology, Daniel Jacobsohn is leaving the world of computing to start a new business that will buy, sell, and trade new and used Legos. He and his wife Costa Jacobsohn opened their Bricks & Minifigs franchise store in Madison, Wis., in late October.

Anna Ryon married Kevin Althaus on June 20, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. The ceremony was held at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park, next to Tony Smith’s sculpture “Marriage.” The ceremony was officiated in person by Brigit Monson Stevens, spouse of Joe Stevens ’95, and virtually by Kerry Baer ’94, who joined the ceremony by Skype from Barbourville, Va. Attending were: Lori Leinbach Millhiser ’91, Mark Millhiser ’91, Joanna Sackett ’90, Joe Stevens ’95, Scott ’98 and Sarah Eagan ’98 Anderson and their children, and Josie Gervetti ’10. The ceremony was also attended by family and friends (including far too many Grinnellians to mention individually) who were able to watch the ceremony online with only minor technical difficulties. Other than random park-goers who stopped to enjoy the show, only Grinnellians and their families attended the event.

The couple rode their bicycles to the park for the ceremony. The bride wore a cycling jersey and skirt with a veil attached to her visor. The groom wore a tuxedo T-shirt and shorts, along with a top hat that, unfortunately, did not fit under his bike helmet. Most of those attending also brought their bicycles. Following the ceremony, the group formed a bicycle parade and rode to their lunch destination.

Scott Samuelson ’95

Adhikaar Means Rights

Understanding the needs of the Nepali people

Long before the devastating April 2015 earthquake shook her home country, Lina Ranjit ’70 knew the depth and range of needs of the Nepali people. In 2005, she co-founded Adhikaar, a nonprofit organization dedicated to human rights and social justice issues faced by more than 40,000 Nepali immigrants in New York City.

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

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

The traffic also increased because of Adhikaar’s quick action to gain temporary protected status for Nepalis who were trying to immigrate, so they could use available services to also assist family members still in their native land.

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

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

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

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

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

Ranjit earned a master’s degree in public administration from Princeton University after graduating from Grinnell with an economics major and global development studies concentration. Before founding Adhikaar, she worked with Asian and South Asian communities in Washington, D.C. “Grinnell has played an important role in Adhikaar,” Ranjit says, recalling that a $500 check from economics professor Mark Montgomery in 2005 “meant that we could stop talking about creating an organization and actually do it.”

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

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

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

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“ ”

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

~ Cindy Deppe
2000s

2000

Susanna Drake ’00

Susanna Drake received tenure at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. Drake teaches in the religious studies department; her research interests include early Christian and Jewish relations, gender and sexuality in late antiquity, and biblical interpretation in art and text.

2001

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

2006

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

Lorin Distler and Christena McIntyre Austin announced the birth of their second and third children, two daughters, Harriet Marvel Austin and Eliza Brier Austin, on June 29, 2015. They join big brother Julian Austin as future Grinnellians. Paternal grandparents are Edwin Austin ’82 and Julie Austin ’92; uncles are Trevor Austin ’09, Scott McIntyre ’09, and Toby Austin ’14.

2007

Jacqueline Veron and Kyle Krueger announced the birth of their first child, a son, Theodore Donald Redmond, April 10, 2015.

2008

Karlie Earley and Scott McIntyre ’09 announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Kate Kearney, April 21, 2015.

2014

Jennifer Moll ’02, John Bell ’08, Joe Benson ’03, and John Aerni-Flessner announced the birth of their first child, a son, John Aerni-Flessner, Dec. 24, 2014.

2015

Tobias Loddengaard ’76, a freelance and unemployed 21-foot-long loaf of bread in a wrapper that an actor had to be able to carry off a semitrailer — it had wheels. Before accepting the position with the museum in St. Paul, Minn., Loddengaard did a lot of freelance work in television. “It was working well enough,” he says. “I got by. Sometimes the line between freelance and unemployed is really, really thin.”

Museum work presents not only steady work and new creative challenges but an opportunity for lifelong learning. “The concept that science literacy is an essential part of citizenship is key to what we do here,” Loddengaard says.

— Michele Regenold ’89
The Fantastic Job She Never Dreamed Of
Making a difference in people’s lives with a goal of surviving her career

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

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

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

She applied to the Minneapolis Fire Department and was hired in 2003.

“As a woman in a male-dominated field, York says that being female is always on the radar. “I feel accepted within the department,” she says.

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

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

“Something that’s really interesting is this idea of applying science to what we know,” she says.

“We know that you can go in the front door and put water on the fire and the fire will go out. We used to break out windows, and when you break out windows you let the hot air out, but you also let oxygen in. We’re doing that stuff strategically with science in mind so we can be effective with saving lives and not getting ourselves in trouble.”

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

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

— Michele Regnold ’89

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

1930s


1940s
Dorothy Palmer Hullett ’40, Chino Valley, Ariz., May 31, 2015. Dorothy loved music and passed that love of music on to her children and grandchildren. Before any Christmas presents could be opened, the attendees each shared an instrumental or vocal solo.

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

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


Marjorie Challs Voiers ’44, Austin, Texas, June 13, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell College, she earned a master’s in music and, later, a certification in early childhood special education, both from University of Texas at Austin. She worked for many years as a music teacher at Texas School for the Blind and various other elementary schools. She is remembered for her sharp wit, endless energy, and dedication to her community.


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


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

1950s
Emmett S. Goff ’50, Oxnard, Calif., July 26, 2016. Survivors include her husband, David Baumgartner ’52.


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


James R. Bondé ’54, Glen Ellyn, Ill., March 10, 2015.


Robert E. Hays ’55, Chico, Iowa, May 9, 2015.


Matilda Surridge Dunlop ’56, Chino Valley, Ariz., Aug. 20, 2015. She volunteered in the children’s ministry at her church and the kids she was privileged to know. She helped foster kids through her role as a court-appointed special advocate, in addition to supporting unwed mothers and local prison ministries.

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


In Memoriam

An Unconventional Life

Appreciating the Grinnell experience from a distance

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

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

I left Grinnell after two years, for several reasons. I found the student body to be a bit too neurotically obsessive for me, and there was a paucity of class offerings. More immediately, I had fallen in love with a rather infamous rebel. It was the first ‘70s, in a period of unrest, and I was a born rebel.

In Grinnell, Richard was assistant dean for scholarly communication at University of Kansas Libraries, after a decade at Grinnell College, and a B.A. in anthropology from Grinnell College at the age of 37. Marie was committed to her education. He earned various degrees, including an R.N. degree from Presbyterian St. Luke’s, a B.S.N. from Grandview College, and a B.A. in anthropology from Grinnell College.

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

Under his leadership, the College received an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries and American Library Association in 2011. Before coming to Grinnell, Richard was assistant dean for scholarly communication at University of Kansas Libraries, after a decade at University of Connecticut Libraries. He also served at the Essex Institute and American Antiquarian Society. He was born and raised in Asheville, N.C.

Grinnell experience opened my eyes to my abilities, and to the world. I sit here in Costa Rica, loving my life, struggling to become fluent in Spanish — why did I take French? — wondering what will come next.

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

I had business aptitude, honed in me by my father and his cronies, who taught me how to work a room to a wound up executive from Los Angeles baring his soul, telling me to a wound up executive from Los Angeles baring his soul, telling me there had to be something more; days spent tutoring Native American kids, attending truculent beer-drinking, reading Huck Finn to tough native boys as they lay on couches around me; homeschooling my own kids, standing in front of a white board, them in their pajamas, giving them spelling words like “plebian” and “proletariat” as we all giggled — these are the things that have mattered, the things that make up the kaleidoscope of my life. And in a very real way, I have Grinnell to thank for this. My life. My education.

IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD FYFFE, LIBRARIAN OF THE COLLEGE

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

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

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

He held the position of librarian of the college for 38 years, for several reasons. I found there was a paucity of class offerings. More immediately, I had fallen in love with a rather infamous rebel. It was the first time in my life that I had been intellectually challenged, and I shall be forever grateful for that. At the time, we were all indoctrinated to the “Grinnell Experience,” the idea that people in the world would value us for our amazing liberal arts education.

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That’s So Grinnellian

Sun bursts through the leaves near Rose Hall on East Campus

Photo by Justin Hayworth
Iowa View

Goodnow Hall tower

Photo by Justin Hayworth