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Congratulations Mid-Year Graduates!

Lu (Maggie) Bian majored in East Asian Development. A best memory of Grinnell was winning "100 Projects for Peace" and spending 10 weeks in Tibet doing something meaningful for the local community. Her advice to first year students: “Enjoy your first summer break without planning [for] internships or jobs... it’s the only break you can really relax.” She will work in the Trade & Investment Section of the Delegation of the European Commission in China, and hopes to go to graduate school for a Master's degree in East Asian Studies.

Jose Bonnin Cadogan is from Asuncion, Paraguay, and he double-majored in Computer Science and Mathematics. He is planning to attend graduate school in Computer Science in the fall.

Halima Ilyas came to Grinnell from Punjab, Pakistan. She double-majored in Mathematics and Economics. Among her best memories are the ‘Kum & Go’ runs in the middle of all-nighters! :-) She is taking a little time off, and then will either teach at home in Pakistan or go to grad school.

Ha Na Park was born in Seoul, Korea but currently lives in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. She double-majored in Spanish and Sociology. She offered two bits of advice to first years… “Good planning is the key to success at Grinnell and beyond... and always build and maintain your peer support group!” Ha Na is applying to graduate schools and will be working next year in Seattle, Washington.

Ning-Shiuane Lee (Nicole) is from Taiwan, and majored in Chemistry. Among her favorite memories are cooking with friends and inviting more friends to eat. Advice to first years: “Don’t miss the local farmer's market! You must visit at least once before you leave Grinnell!” Upon graduation, Nicole will be a post baccalaureate research assistant at Grinnell for Prof. Marzluff...and then hopes to pursue a PhD program in Chemistry.

Good News for International Education!

The Institute of International Education (IIE) just released the newest 2008 Open Doors statistics regarding international students in the U.S. (up 7%) and U.S. students studying abroad (up 8%). This is GREAT news - for students, for universities and for the USA!

Visit the Open Doors website, http://opendoors.iienetwork.org, to learn more. The site provides statistics on student mobility, as well as background information to help explain the trends. Open Doors is supported by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
President Russell K. Osgood has served in Grinnell College as the 12th president since 1998. But he is not just the president of our college; he is also a professor and a mentor, who motivates you to reach your goals. As you might expect, he is a very busy person; taking a glance at his planner managed by Secretary of the College Susan Schoen gives you only a cursory idea of what his packed schedule is like. Nonetheless, President Osgood kindly took his time off for an interview with our newsletter sharing his thoughts about the significance of international students in Grinnell College.

Question: Either in school or in your career, how have international students impacted your life?
President Osgood: When I went to Yale Law School, there was a program for international students, so they made up about 10% of the student body, which is very similar to here. So that was the first time when I began to realize the impact of international students. In law school classes, the presence of international students adds a tremendous dimension, because there are people who have had basic legal education in another country. So I thought it was one of the most exciting things about my law school experience having roughly 10% of students come from all over the world.

Question: How do you think international students affect Grinnell and why do you think they are important here?
President Osgood: I think having international students here gives the college a flavor of the world. They are also a key component of academic and student life because you have a significant number of non-American students in classes. Also I think international students add quality to the student body and give diverse perspectives.

Question: Without getting into too much details about the recruiting process, do you have thoughts or plans that relate to supporting the growth of Grinnell’s international student enrollment?
President Osgood: Currently we have around 9 to 13% of international students, depending on the class size, but I think we need to settle our financial aid policies for them. My own goal is not so much focused on the number of international students but that for every international student who comes here, we would meet his/her full demonstrated need.

Question: When prospective international students see “Grinnell College”, what do you want them to see/think? What about for international student graduates?
President Osgood: First, for prospective international students, I want them to think that this is a great place to go to college and that we are academically excellent. Second, I want them to feel that they are welcomed here. I want them to know that it’s not just us accepting their admissions, but that we are thrilled to have them; they add a lot of the flavor that is unique to this place. For international student graduates, I hope they view their stay here as the four best years of their lives and that it launched them on a path for greater success.

Question: Any last words/comments for international students here in Grinnell? What do you want them to achieve upon graduation from Grinnell College?
President Osgood: I have the same exact hopes for domestic and international students as well: I want all of you to do incredibly well on life and to be happy.
Advice from the Career Development Office

from Mike Caldwell, Assistant Director of Career Development for Internships

Searching for a job in the US may differ from the generally accepted process in other countries. The following tips identify some general expectations. Use them to navigate your search. Questions? Visit the CDO website for additional resources or call #4940 to schedule an appointment with any of our own career counselors.

In the United States
The job search may be a lengthy process. You will need to utilize a variety of resources for your search:
- CDO resources
- Websites
- Networking
Most US jobs are posted online and include an online application process. You may be asked to submit both a resume and an application.

Resumes
- They are the preferred application documents for most non-academic positions. (not Curriculum Vitae - CV). Resumes are concise documents that highlight education, work experience, and skills.
- Formatting preferences for resumes may vary by company or field in the US. Your resume should be targeted for each specific employer.
- Personal information (photographs, family details, date of birth, and marital status) are not included on the resume.

Thoroughly research the company or organization prior to an interview!

In an Interview
- Business attire and a polished appearance are necessary for almost all interview situations.
- Consistent eye contact is important for interviews and business communication.
- Use clear, concise, and confident responses to discuss your skills and experience with potential employers.
- Punctuality is crucial for interviews and meetings with potential employers. Arriving late for an interview can immediately eliminate job prospects.

Thinking about a summer internship? You need to know the facts!
We’ll hold our third OISA / CDO Internship Information Session (for F-1 students) right after break...

Watch our “Weekly E-mail Updates” for time, date, location!

*The session will include a power point presentation with basic info about Grinnellink, Grant Funding, & Curricular or Optional Practical Training authorization. For anyone who wants to stick around, we’ll also view the informational video from SEO: Sponsors for Educational Opportunity!
The Office of International Student Affairs works to support students from all over the world during their stay at Grinnell. Our work ranges from immigration regulations and tax support to academic trouble shooting, cultural programming, community outreach...etc. We also work hard to develop individual relationships with students because we know it is hard to be far away from friends, family, and the familiarity of life at home. When tragedy strikes—from the earthquake in China or the floods in Myanmar, to the recent events in Mumbai—our hearts become heavy. We are not always sure, exactly, how best to offer support. A simple email of concern seems quite insufficient… none the less, we hope that you view us as a resource, a source of support, and if nothing else—a shoulder to cry on from time to time.

- Karen, Brenda, Hanna, & Jennifer

Carnage in Mumbai… a personal diary of events
From Anuraag Bhadana ‘11
November 26th, 2008:

2:05pm – leaving French Class. Two missed calls from Shivani. I’ll call her back later; too busy celebrating the fact that Thanksgiving break has officially started for me.

2:21 pm – In PEC, playing tennis with Ryan. More calls from Shivani and Gaurav that I miss, followed by a text from Gaurav which read, “Just wanted to check whether your family is ok after the blasts.”

2:23 pm – Bomb blasts in India again? I’m used to hearing that now. I call up Gaurav anyway – “what bomb blasts?” – “the ones in Mumbai today, are your parents fine?” – “Yeah my family is probably ok, thanks for checking”. It’s probably 4 am in India right now. I’ll call home tomorrow.

2:28 pm – I feel bad for making Ryan wait, I hit a few balls with him but then I realize that this is probably serious enough for me to call my parents and find out what’s happening, even though they’re obviously asleep. I dial Mom. It rings all the way but no answer. Must be sleeping. Tries again. This time she picks up. She sounds wide-awake and worried. They’re alright <phew!>. She says she’ll call back and hangs up.

2:31 pm – Parents call back. They’ve been up all night following the news. No one else they know of has been affected directly, yet. 8 places were targeted. Two of the city’s premier hotels have been put under siege with a hostage situation unfolding as we spoke. Gunmen indiscriminately fired at people at other locations. The whole city is at a standstill, no one’s going to work tomorrow, schools, banks, shops, everything will remain shut. The roads are quiet, with only a few daring to step out. A city of 20 million has been literally taken over by terrorists.

2:38 pm – Slightly shocked, but knowing that everyone’s ok, I return to my routine thrashing at the hands of Ryan. I ignorantly play for another hour.

3:15 – 3:45 pm – Slowly begin thinking of what’s happening back home. Why do I feel that incidents like these are normal? Have I grown to accept terrorism? No, this shouldn’t be normal.
3:50 pm – Walking back to Lazier and a bit worried now. What if some of my friends are in one of those hotels? I ignore that fact that AT&T is charging me ridiculous amounts for international calls and go ahead and call some of them up. A few of them are asleep, some of them are scared, but most importantly, all of them are ok. One of them informs me that Café Leopold, the restaurant where I had celebrated my last birthday in India, was attacked. Grenade explosion, 7 dead.

3:52 pm – In Lazier, walking fast to get to my room ASAP. I slowly begin to realize the enormity of the situation. People like me go to places like Café Leo’s all the time to hang out with friends. We never really worry about which restaurant is likely to get attacked by terrorists while deciding where to grab lunch. What if the terrorists pushed back their plans by a month? I could’ve borne the brunt of terrorism. That’s something I had never thought of – the possibility of experiencing terrorism first-hand.

3:54 pm – In dorm, on BBCnews.com. “BREAKING NEWS: CARNAGE IN MUMBAI”. Attached is a picture of the iconic Taj Hotel on fire. I read the comprehensive coverage and sit there, shocked. Images of blood-splattered railway platforms & heavy police blockades are flashing through my mind.

4:45 pm – More texts from friends. I’ve spent close to an hour on my laptop, in the same armchair, in the same position with eyes wide open. Another update from home.

5:40 pm – Completely forgot about eating dinner. I’m too engrossed in following the current situation. Rush to dinner. Wolf down food. Rush back to dorm and flip laptop cover open.

8 pm – More than 2 straight hours of viewing news bulletins online and trying to gather information from friends and family.

Midnight – More are reported dead. The Taj Hotel, a historical landmark and icon of Mumbai, burns through the night causing severe damage. I don’t feel like sleeping, who would when their hometown is going through something like this? 2 days later – Rescue operation finally ends. 188 dead, 293 injured and more than a billion people affected. I’m too preoccupied to realize that thanksgiving break is nearly over.

This incident came out of the blue for me. All semester long I’ve been living in a shell, not maintaining much contact with people outside of Grinnell or thinking about the world beyond. While I’m very satisfied with the life I lead here, I’ve vowed never to become so consumed in my daily activities out here that I’m oblivious to what’s happening around me. It took a cruel act of terrorism on my home turf to liberate me from the confines of the Grinnell bubble, let’s hope your awakening doesn’t come in the same manner.

-Sincerely, Anuraag

Diwali and UNICEF Collaborate  From Sneha Saigal ‘11

This semester, the first ever UNICEF group on campus collaborated with the South Asia Festivals Group to celebrate Diwali, the ‘Festival of Lights.’ The successful event raised over $800, to be donated to the National UNICEF Fund. The gift will go to support children who have been victims of child labor abuses—children who have been harmed through the hazardous task of making the very fireworks that are used to celebrate this national holiday.

Photo from Adnan Fakir
We’re THANKFUL for Host Family/Student Friendships!

As participants in the Grinnell College Host Family program, Rick and Sue Ramsey shared their Thanksgiving meal with their student, Hay Mahn Htun (Myanmar), and friends Charity Anna Porotesano (American Samoa) and Fatemeh Elahi (Iran). With their son Jim’s family out of town this year for Thanksgiving, Rick and Sue were most grateful to have these Grinnell College international students at their table! Sue thought she and Rick would be eating leftovers for days, but when offered food to take back to their dorm, the girls practically begged for the sweet potato casserole, orzo salad, some turkey and didn’t turn down half a pumpkin pie. The girls were great help in the kitchen preparing and serving salads, water, clearing the table, washing and drying dishes. Following the meal, several rounds of the board game "Clue" were enjoyed. Summing it up, Hay Mahn said, "The meal was really great, and the board game was interesting and new. Thank you for making my first Thanksgiving experience wonderful!"

Rick & Sue Ramsey, with Hay Mahn and Charity
*Fatemeh not pictured.

Julia, Maha, Liting, Aru and Laura were among guests for Thanksgiving with Kamal Hammouda and Laura Fendt.

Yusheng and Tianshun celebrated Thanksgiving with John and Susan McIntyre.

Joo-Hyun, Nadine and Kene celebrated Thanksgiving with Dixie and Doug Hansen.
WINTER BREAK TIPS & PLANS...

SIGN UP IN OISA by noon on MONDAY DEC 22:
- **Jordan Creek Mall**, Sat, Dec. 27—Leave at 10 am, return around 5 pm.
- **Dinner at the Edwards’** Fri, Jan. 2, 6:00 pm - (want to help cook?)
- **College Night at Seven Oaks (Boone)**, Wed, Jan 7th - Skiing, Tubing, & Snow Boarding
  Lift tickets $17, skis $7, snowboard rental $9, We’ll cover transportation. You pay for lift, rental & dinner.
- **Community Meal** takes place each Tuesday at Davis Elem. as a cooperative College-Community event.
  OISA will provide transportation to this free meal at 5:15 pm on Tues, Jan. 6 & Jan.13.
  (want to helping cook? contact Katie Snipes: snipesk@grinnell.edu)
- **Lunch with President Osgood**, Grinnell House, Mon., Jan. 12th

MOVIE NIGHT’s hosted by Sadish Dhakal will take place every Saturday night at 10 pm in ARH 302. Let him know your film requests!

PAINT QUILT PANELS!  Come help paint in Bucksbaum on Jan 6, 2—4 pm.  Barn quilts are 8 x 8 foot wood panels with quilt designs painted on them.  They’ll be installed around Poweshiek County to promote barn preservation & cultural tourism!  It’s easy painting—and a lot of fun! contact Tilly Woodward at Woodward@grinnell.edu

PEOPLE RIDES WALMART SHUTTLES
Mondays (Dec. 22 & 29, Jan. 5 & 12) 12:00pm Pick up (9th/East St, Rose Hall) -- 1:15pm Wal-Mart pick up
Fridays (Jan 2, 9, & 16) 12:00pm Pick up (9th/East St, Rose Hall) -- 1:15pm Wal-Mart pick up
*$2 round trip, purchase tickets at Safety & Security (M-F, 7:30am-3:30pm) or in the Grill. *Campus Security 269-4600.

COOKING TIPS...
- Cook together with others-- you can each prepare one dish for the meal and enjoy some fellowship in the process.
- It's okay to make breakfast for dinner-- eggs and pancakes with fruit make a fairly balanced meal.
- Offer to cook a traditional meal for your host family. You may have to improvise, but that's part of the fun.
- Double recipes when you can so you can get multiple meals out of the one night of cooking.
- Mom was right-- eat your vegetables! Your best bet are ones that are close to being in-season, such as butternut squash, acorn squash, and root vegetables such as turnips, parsnips, rutabagas, and potatoes.
- To minimize preparation time and clean-up, try one-dish meals such as a hearty soup, chili, or a casserole.
- Check the wellness site for easy recipes that you can cook in dorm kitchens: www.grinnell.edu/Athletics/wellness/

CHRISTMAS EVE (Dec. 24) Local churches welcome visitors on Christmas Eve regardless of religious beliefs.
- **St John’s Lutheran** (1224 East Street)  Candlelight service at 7 pm
- **Grinnell Christian Church** (1331 Hobart) service at 6 pm
- **St. Paul’s Episcopal** (1026 State St, across 6th Ave. from Burling) Lessons, carols and communion at 7 pm
- **Grinnell United Methodist**: - Candle and Carol worship at 6pm; Candle, Carol and Communion at 9pm
  *NOTE: on Dec. 25th, noon, GUMC hosts a community Christmas Dinner. RSVP by Dec. 17 to 236-3757.
- **Saints Ephrem and Macrina Orthodox Mission** (1226 Broad) Traditional Russian-style Christmas Vigil at 11:00 p.m. (this lasts about two hours, followed by an equally traditional breaking of the pre-Christmas fast.)
- **United Church of Christ**, 4th & Broad, 6pm Family Service, 11pm. Traditional Candlelight Service (1 hr)
- **First Baptist Church** (925 East ) Traditional carols, lessons and candlelight service at 8 pm
- **Calvary Baptist Church** (1625 Penrose Ave.) Candle light carols, special music and readings at 6 pm
- **St. Mary's Catholic Church** (1002 Broad) Christmas Eve Mass at 4 pm, 6:30 pm, & Midnight
- **First Presbyterian Church**, (brick church across 6th Ave from Burling Library) Christmas eve service at 7 pm
- **Sheridan United Methodist** (1/2 mile west of US Hwy 63, on 320th Avenue, 7 miles north of US Hwy 6, 7 pm service of lessons, carols & candlelight. (This is a country church in an idyllic setting)
- **First Friends Church** (Hwy146S. & 400thAve) Candlelight service at 5:30 pm *Live Nativity Dec 13-14, 6-8:30pm.
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<th>ATHLETIC FACILITIES over break...</th>
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<td>PEC Cage: 269-3834; PEC Pool: 269-4260; Fitness Center: 269-3829</td>
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<td>Dec 22, 23; Jan 2; Jan 5 thru 9; &amp; Jan 12 thru 16:</td>
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<td>PEC / Gym: 6am – 9am; Pool: 8am – 9am &amp; 11am – 1pm; Fitness Center: 6am - 8am; 11:30 am - 1:30 pm; 4 pm - 7 pm</td>
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<td><strong>DEADLINE:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SIGN UP for BREAK PROGRAMS</strong></td>
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<td><em>note on reverse about noon meal at Methodist Church</em></td>
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<td><strong>People Rides Walmart Shuttle, noon ($2 tickets)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Swim Meet 9am</strong> People Rides Walmart Shuttle, noon ($2 tickets)</td>
<td><strong>All Halls Open</strong></td>
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**LOCAL TAXI:**

*BURLING LIBRARY*

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**LOCAL TAXI:**

*Jewel Cab 641-236-4411*
**Winter Supplies Closet...**

The OISA was blessed with a large donation of winter gear earlier in the year (coats, hats, gloves, scarves...). Facilities Management installed a hanging rack for us, and VIOLA—*a Winter Supplies Closet*!

We offered these items to international students as winter approached. (winter is NEW to many!)

Traffic was frequent and our supplies have dwindled...

We’d love to keep the closet active—so we welcome donations from host families, faculty/staff, or students. Donations will be welcome year ‘round, so any time you are ‘clearing out closets’ feel free to bring your winter gear to the OISA!

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**Hot Cocoa Happy Hour**

*Co-Hosted by ISO and OISA*

**ISO Lounge, Friday’s at 4:15**

*January 23; January 30; & February 6*

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A note from Karen Edwards...

I’ve been in my new position at Grinnell, as Assistant Dean and Director, for almost one year. It’s been a whirlwind (perhaps more appropriate to call it a blizzard) of activity, learning, meeting people... and doing a LOT of listening and observing.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community—especially to IPOC (Pre-Orientation Leaders); ISO (International Student Organization); Host Families (and our new volunteer Coordinators, Sue, Monica & Dixie); and the many faculty and staff who I’ve been able to work with this year. The OISA Team (right) have been my ‘right hand’ - thanks for your help, creativity and teamwork!

- Karen

OISA Staff participated in Calligraphy 101—offered through the Department of Chinese & Japanese. Thanks Nohn!
As a first-year, as a returning student, or as a graduate... this is what you may very well have gone through during your stay in Grinnell College. Can you connect with a few blocks? Have you established your own “niche” (houses, hotels) in a few of them? Have you become a Grinnell-opoly winner? Do you plan to become one? Or are you on your way? Here is a part of that board game of your Grinnell College life.
ISO Food Bazaar ‘08!

Thirty-five chefs along with assistants created tasty dishes for the annual International Student Organization (ISO) Food Bazaar. Over 200 participants made for a full Harris Concert Hall on Saturday, November 8th.

Chefs created dishes which originated from their homelands around the globe - from Austria and the Czech Republic to Cambodia, Japan, and Malaysia… from Costa Rica and Jamaica to Ghana, and Zimbabwe…Yum!

Guests were allowed to choose five dishes from some thirty-seven options. Some of the most interesting meats included squid, mussels, and Mudfish. Other intriguing ingredients include soybean cakes, salsa lizano, and galangal.

The International Student Organization enjoyed bringing a little bit of their own culture to Iowa. Fun was had by all!

International Speakers Bureau @ Windsor Manor ...

"Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I will understand."

Volunteer ISB speakers represent over 15 countries around the world. This fall ISB has connected students from Egypt, Russia, and Zimbabwe with residents of Windsor Manor Senior Center. Windsor Manor is one of several venues who have partnered with ISB...

“The senior residents were delighted and very interested in hearing about these countries and they enjoyed the GC students tremendously-- we LOVE intergenerational activities and when it includes continuing education, so much the better--- there is something NEW to learn everyday, no matter what ages we are! (We adopt Grinnell College "grandchildren" any day too!)”."

- Phyllis Van Es, Life Enrichment Coordinator @ Windsor Manor

“I had a great experience as a speaker at Windsor Manor. I received a very warm welcome and my presentation eventually took a form of a friendly conversation. The residents told me about their experiences of traveling to Russia long ago when it was Soviet Union and were curious to know what it was like to live in modern Russia. They were very kind and amiable. Some of them even suggested me becoming their granddaughter, which was really sweet. After my visit to Windsor Manor I was overwhelmed with positive feelings. Beyond that, I had a chance to share my culture and I got so many wonderful moments!”

- Julia Kulikova, Russian Language Assistant

ISB is enthusiastic about helping link students with speaking engagements in the local community!

Contact us at: ISB@grinnell.edu
“This is a picture of me at Hősök tere or Heroes’ Square in Budapest! Being in Budapest this Semester in Mathematics has been a great experience. The adventure is all about meeting new interesting people, learning a lot about math, traveling around Europe and being in a city where everybody smokes and public transportation exists... reminding myself that there is a fascinating world outside Grinnell and my home country.”

Peace!
Fai

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Mosaic art is created by arranging many small pieces of colored glass, stone or other material in a collage. Our newsletter celebrates the beauty of a diverse campus and world, with a particular focus on the unique gifts and perspectives that international and US global nomad students bring to our Mosaic. It is distributed to international students, host families, and various faculty and staff. We welcome your feedback and your contributions.