

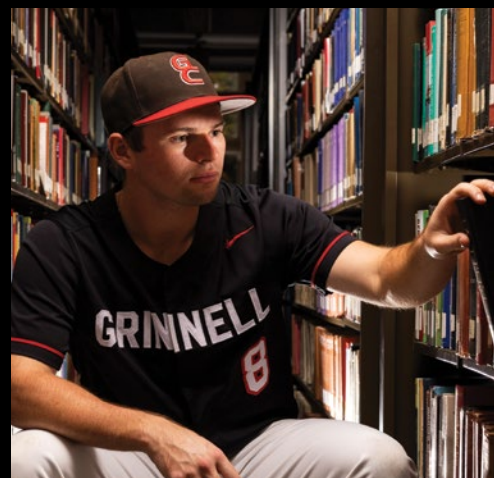
# the grinnell magazine

Fall 2025



**WINNING:**

HOW  
GRINNELL  
STUDENT-  
ATHLETES  
FIND  
SUCCESS



## FEATURES



### 6 Winning: How Grinnell Student-Athletes Find Success

Grinnell student-athletes work hard to win both in the classroom and in competition. Meet a few of the student-athletes who, in addition to taking on the rigorous academics of a nationally ranked liberal arts college, are competing in DIII athletics.

by Emma Stefanacci '22



### 14 A Passion for Learning Drives Grinnell's New Dean, Ruth Feingold

Ruth Feingold brought her love for small, intimate, personalized educational settings to Grinnell College in her role as the new vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College. Education, she says, is our best hope for making the world a better place.

by Jacqueline Hartling Stolze

### 20 Finding Her Frequency

From her days as a KDIC disc jockey to her role as the CEO of an artist development, marketing, strategy, and operations company serving some of the today's biggest musical artists, Cameo Carlson '93 has always been driven by her love of music.

by Tim Schmitt





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## The Grinnell Magazine

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### Mission Statement

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### POSTMASTER

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### A Message from President Anne F. Harris

## Believing in Grinnell College

I believe in Grinnellians — smart, curious, creative people who have the mettle and moxie to live their passions and create new pathways and partnerships throughout their lives. In these pages, you will read about individuals who inspire collaboration and resolve in what it means to believe in this College and the amazing alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends who make it happen.

Individuals like 1968 graduates **Janet Deyo Pugh** and **Tom Pugh**, who have given back to Grinnell almost every year since they graduated, embodying 57 years of hope and belief, and who have cherished their curiosity throughout their lives and the turns in their careers.

Grinnell alums like **Cameo Carlson '93**, who invented her own dream job and now capitalizes on new technologies and trends in the music industry to benefit musical artists and champion access and equity, charting a path for herself and others, and shaping an industry.

I believe in Grinnell because of my interactions on campus with individuals who are committed to the success of their peers, as are our student-athletes, whose daily lives you will learn more about in these pages (and see incredible photographs!). They speak eloquently about their rewarding academic journeys, their connection to their teams, and their pride in representing the College in

competition.

I believe in Grinnell because of our steadfast commitment to free inquiry and the open exchange of ideas. The College upheld the “four essential freedoms” of a college or university for more than a century before they were defined by Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter in his concurrent opinion to the 1957 landmark Supreme Court case *Sweezy*

*v. New Hampshire*. Grinnell has and will continue “to determine for itself on academic grounds who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and who may be admitted to study.”

These freedoms have a dynamic champion in **Ruth P. Feingold**, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, whom you will meet in this issue. As she states, “education is the single best way we have of changing the world.” She inspires me to see the collective work of all Grinnellians in shaping change in our world.

I hope that the people you discover and come to know better in these pages will foster your belief in Grinnell and in all those who live and safeguard its mission inspired by you and your experiences here. As Janet Pugh said, “What I learned [at Grinnell] back then makes me who I am.”

Thank you for all that you do for this remarkable College. 📖







## Hannah Alumni House Opening

Work on a place specially designed to welcome alumni back to Grinnell wrapped up this fall and has transformed a 107-year-old property located at 1527 Broad Street into the Hannah Alumni House. The house is named in honor of **M.E. Hannah '58, DL '82**, who helped make extensive renovations possible through a \$1 million gift to the College. A dedication, ribbon-cutting, and community open house were held Nov. 6 to celebrate. The house will open for meetings, events, and guest room reservations in the new year. Read more about the Hannah House at [alumni.grinnell.edu/news/hannah-alumni-house-dedication](https://alumni.grinnell.edu/news/hannah-alumni-house-dedication) and view a photo essay of the house at [grinnell.edu/hannahphotos](https://grinnell.edu/hannahphotos).



## ALUMNI COMMUNITY BUILDING

### Black Alumni Weekend

The Grinnell Black Alumni Network (GBAN) hosted a powerful weekend of connection and community in October, as attendees celebrated Black excellence. The weekend's theme, "Rooted in Excellence: Reawakening Our Legacy, Rebuilding Our Community," honored Grinnell's collective history and the future Grinnellians are shaping together. About 45 alums returned for the weekend and were joined by around 70 Grinnell students, faculty, and staff members. Events included a commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the dedication of Renfrow Hall and a cookout that gave alumni a chance to build community with students. Read more about Black Alumni Weekend at [grinnell.edu/rooted-excellence](https://grinnell.edu/rooted-excellence).





## PHILANTHROPY

### Alumni Couple's Philanthropy Supports Student Health and Wellness

**Scott Shepherd** and **Laura Cleveland Shepherd** have made a transformative gift of \$1 million to Grinnell College in support of student health and wellness services. The Shepherds, who are both members of the class of 1982, were impressed by the range of services available to students through Grinnell's student health and wellness program (SHAW). Their gift will support students' physical, mental, and holistic wellness and help SHAW staff keep pace with students' changing needs and increased demand for services. Last academic year, more than 1,000 students visited SHAW for medical care, more than 500 accessed mental health services, and more than 500 used other health and wellness services. Since they graduated, the Shepherds have maintained a close relationship with Grinnell, one marked by volunteerism and consistent philanthropic support. Scott is the immediate past president of the Alumni Council, while Laura has served as the class of 1982 class agent for many years. They also regularly return to campus to participate in the annual Alumni Care Package program.

## GRANTS

### Mellon Mays Fellowship Grant Renewed

The Mellon Mays Foundation has renewed a grant in support of Grinnell's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program. The \$99,000 grant renewal will help the College to continue its support of MMUF students with stipends, travel and research funding, faculty mentoring, and other assistance to help them pursue academic careers.

### Professor Lindgren Receives NIH Grant

**Clark Lindgren**, Patricia A. Johnson Professor of Neuroscience, has been awarded a \$515,078 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support his research into understanding how neurons and muscle cells communicate and adapt to change in response to both normal physiological changes and disease-related disruptions. The work serves as a mentorship model for undergraduate research and provides for an advanced student who previously conducted a Mentored Advanced Project with Lindgren to continue working in his lab while supporting new researchers.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### NSF Awards Grinnell Grant to Help Expand Innovation Partnerships

The National Science Foundation has awarded the College a \$400,000 grant to strengthen Grinnell's ability to connect faculty and students with industry, nonprofit, and public sector partners, while advancing research and teaching across disciplines. The grant will help develop a coordinated "front door" for external partnerships by bringing together College offices and programs that already engage with outside collaborators. They will work to strengthen outreach to partners and help faculty and students maximize engagement opportunities in Iowa and beyond.



## ACADEMICS

### Grinnell College Earns Recognition for Strong National Rankings

Recent national rankings for Grinnell reflect the College's steady improvement in areas that matter most to students and families: academic quality, value, and social mobility. Grinnell advanced in several areas in the 2025–26 *U.S. News & World Report*, including moving up six places to be ranked #13 overall among national liberal arts colleges. The 2025 *Washington Monthly* college ratings ranked Grinnell #25 among liberal arts colleges; a move upward of 11 places.

### Campus Welcomes New Students and Faculty

This fall 421 new students from 37 U.S. states and 27 countries began their Grinnellian academic journeys. Collectively, the students in the class of 2029 speak 46 languages. Before arriving on

campus, these new students were active leaders and volunteers: 71% engaged in community service, 67% participated in varsity or club athletics, and 61% pursued work, internships, or career experiences. They were joined by 27 new faculty members working and teaching in 20 different academic fields.

#### CLASS OF 2029 MEMBERS:

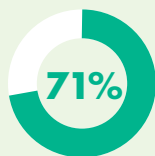


come from **37** states, Washington, D.C., and **27** countries

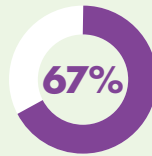


speak **46** languages

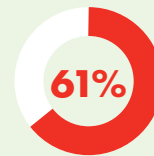
#### DURING HIGH SCHOOL, THEY ENGAGED IN:



community service



varsity or club athletics



work, internships, or career experiences

## LEADERSHIP

### New Board of Trustees Chair Elected

**Sheryl Walter '78** is the new chair of the Grinnell College Board of Trustees.



She has served on the board since 2017. A student-athlete who lettered in field hockey and volleyball during her time at Grinnell, Walter earned her bachelor's with honors in history. She went on to earn a JD with honors from the University of Minnesota and an MPA from the

Harvard Kennedy School. Her professional legal career spans all three branches of the federal government. Walter succeeds **Michael Kahn '74**, who served as chair from 2021–25.

### Grinnell Board Welcomes New Trustees

Four new members have been elected to the Grinnell College Board of Trustees; they are **Jeff Greenberg '80**, **Melinda Lopes '85**, **Karmi Anna J. Mattson '97**, and **Saumil Parikh '99**. All trustees are elected by the full board and serve a term of four

years; each trustee is eligible for re-election for three additional consecutive, full terms.

### President Harris Named Board of Directors Chair for ACM Consortium

President **Anne F. Harris** has begun a yearlong term of service as chair of the board of directors for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. ACM is a consortium of 14 colleges that uses their association to conduct joint initiatives to champion accessible, equitable, and transformative liberal arts education.





# WINNING:

by Emma Stefanacci '22







# HOW GRINNELL STUDENT-ATHLETES FIND SUCCESS





**E**very Grinnellian's journey — guided by their background, area of study, and post-graduation goals — is remarkable in its own way. For the one out of every four Grinnell students who choose to participate in varsity athletics, their time on campus is further shaped by the commitment they have made to continually strive for the highest levels of learning and development, both in the classroom and in athletic competition.

An immense amount of work goes into being a high-level collegiate athlete and to being a member of a winning team playing in competitive Division III conferences. But it's work student-athletes gladly do so that they can excel in the sports they love while preparing for a purposeful life and career.

Make no mistake, Grinnell student-athletes work hard to win. But most have a nuanced perspective about defining winning on their own terms. And along the way,

they often discover that success as a student-athlete is also about experiences that create a unique bond with their teammates and strong sense of community.

Here's a look at seven Grinnell student-athletes who, in addition to taking on the rigorous academics of a nationally ranked liberal arts college, are competing in DIII athletics.

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Many student-athletes choose to attend Grinnell specifically because they can continue playing their sport while getting a quality education. **Strahinja Nikolic '27**, an international student from Serbia, says, "I wanted to get the best education combined with basketball. I wanted to find the perfect balance between the two."

Raised much closer to Grinnell, **Keely Ballenger-Hudson '28** of Des Moines didn't consider Grinnell until her senior year, when her high school swim coach



**"I wanted to get the best education combined with basketball. I wanted to find the perfect balance between the two."**

— Strahinja Nikolic '27

Strahinja Nikolic '27  
(middle) in his Philosophy  
of Mind course.







Kavya Keshav '26 competing against Iowa Central Community College on the Grinnell College Golf Course.



**"I think a lot of us came here because we have the flexibility to study what we want."**

– Kavya Keshav '26

suggested it might be a good fit. Originally, she was opposed to living in a smaller town, but she changed her mind after a campus tour. She says, "Grinnell was actually the only school I applied to. On the tour, we watched a swim meet, and I could just tell that I would connect with the community. I went home and immediately opened the application."

**Jonathan Gaynor '26** had a less direct route to Grinnell. He was planning on attending school in Florida, where he grew up, when he was recruited to play baseball for Penn State Fayette. Two years later, when his younger brother was recruited to Grinnell, he jumped at the opportunity to play together again. "So I applied for a transfer and got accepted, and next thing I knew, I'm over here. I was so excited to play with my brother, Jacob," he says.

## AN EXCEPTIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

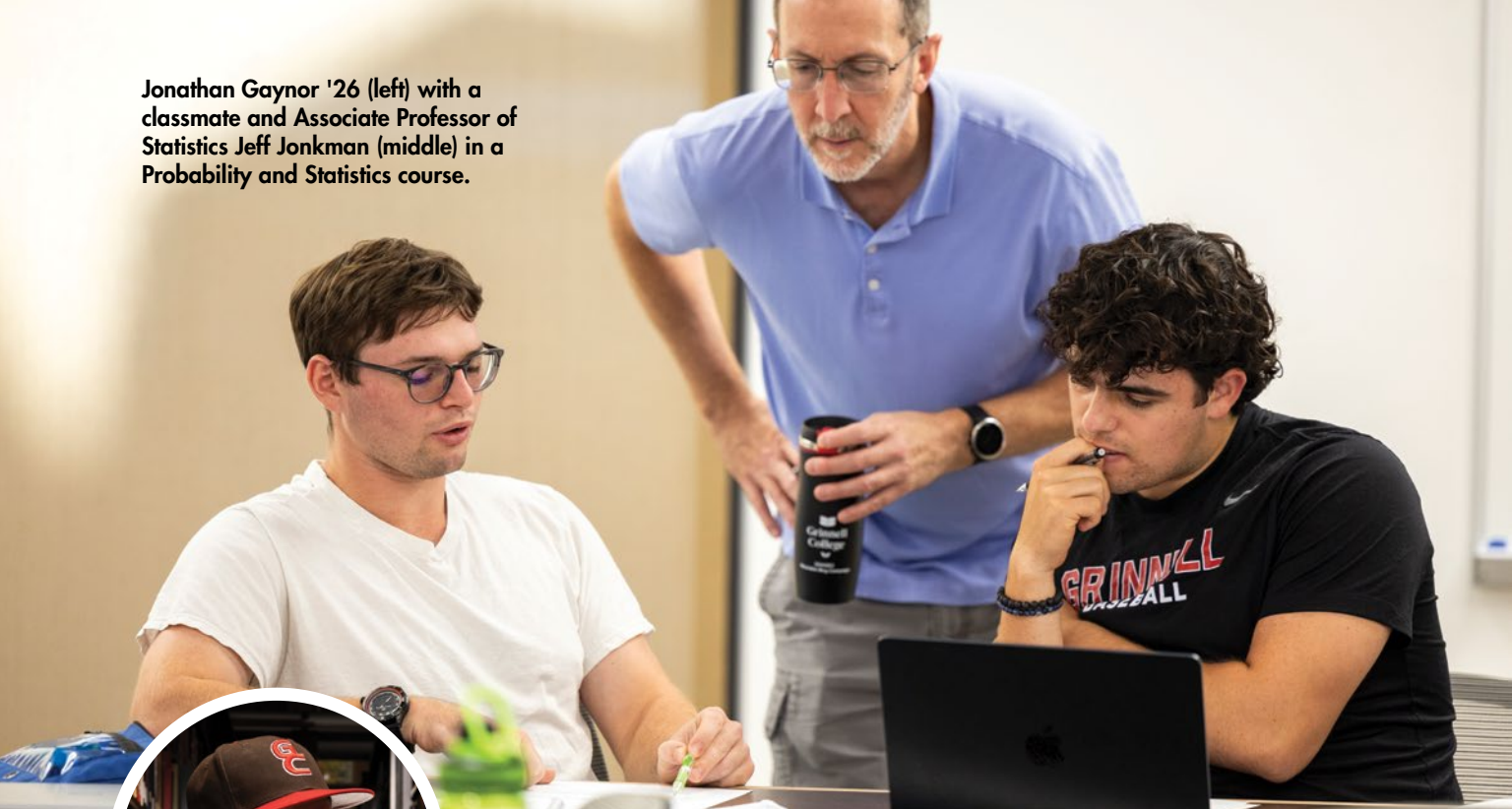
Unlike some larger schools where athletes may feel pressure to prioritize sports over academics,

Grinnell strikes a balance between the two. Many coaches also have a faculty role, most often within the Department of Physical Education. Currently, 17 of the 20 head coaches have both coaching and faculty appointments, which can bring additional perspective when they remind players that they are students first, and schedules need to accommodate coursework, homework, practices, and competition.

Grinnell athletes also don't have to limit their studies to their specific majors. **Kavya Keshav '26**, an international student from Singapore who plays on Grinnell's women's golf team, explains, "I think a lot of us came here because we have the flexibility to study what we want."

Student-athletes really do study the entire gamut of academics at Grinnell. For example, **Nikolic** is a philosophy major. **Juniper Schwartzman '27**, a javelin thrower on the track and field team, is a physics major with an environmental studies concentration. And **Ballenger-Hudson** intends to double major in psychology and gender, women's, and sexuality studies.

Jonathan Gaynor '26 (left) with a classmate and Associate Professor of Statistics Jeff Jonkman (middle) in a Probability and Statistics course.



**“It does get hard, especially in season when you have games and practices on top of classes and it just starts piling up. It can be a real struggle.”**

– Jonathan Gaynor '26

Because there is support for academic excellence, athletes also have room for academic exploration, including double majors. Volleyball player **Gabby Choy '26** studies both biochemistry and studio art. She says she feels she can do both a STEM-focused major that might lead to a healthcare career and her “fun major” so she can work creatively and take classes like experimental ceramics.

Other student-athletes come to Grinnell not knowing for certain what they want to study and appreciate that they have the chance to figure it out. Gaynor says he was always interested in STEM but took an anthropology class that he loved. He’s now taken more humanities and social studies classes than he expected.

## **BALL (AND JAVELIN AND SWIM) IS LIFE**

Most of these students started participating in their sport when they were in elementary school. The depth and importance of their relationship with their sport

makes participating in varsity athletics an even more meaningful part of their Grinnell experience.

Nikolic says, “I wanted a good school, but I’m glad I’m on the team and can actually do what I love.” Such love often drives student-athletes, who can’t imagine not being involved in their sport. For them, honing their athletic skills has been as key a part of their education as writing code, conducting titrations, or comparing theories of societal structures. They simply have to work hard to make it all possible.

Nikolic notes that the high-tempo, high-scoring style played by the men’s basketball team is another part of what drew him to Grinnell. “I was definitely interested in being part of something like that. I wanted to test it out and see how I fit into it. Every practice, I learn something new and get better,” he says.

Not every Grinnell student-athlete has a lifelong relationship with their sport, such as Nikolic has had. Some have embraced sports later in life as a way to

help them to expand their abilities and try new things. Grinnell student-athletes are constantly learning, exploring, and pushing themselves to succeed.

**Michael Olufade '28**, who didn't begin playing football until high school, started on Grinnell's defensive line and now plays offensive tackle. Similarly, Choy was recruited as a setter for the volleyball team but has since moved to the back line as a defensive specialist. And Schwartzman had never thrown javelin until coming to Grinnell because it was not offered in the state where she grew up.

## FINDING BALANCE

Student-athletes say the benefits of their dual roles still come with some challenges, like striking a balance between academics and athletics. Missing classes for games, completing assignments while training multiple hours a day, and not having all their weekends free can be tricky and require a conscious effort to balance

schoolwork and athletics. Gaynor says, "It does get hard, especially in season when you have games and practices on top of classes and it just starts piling up. It can be a real struggle."

They also recognize that such challenges create opportunities to build new skills for life that can be essential to success after Grinnell. Olufade explains, "I always had this idea that struggle makes a person stronger. So, when I struggled with my schedule having two majors and football, it made me great at time management, and now in the off season I have so much free time."

Likewise, Schwartzman says, "It is hard at times to balance everything. However, I believe that having a packed schedule forces me to be organized and plan accordingly so I can succeed as an athlete as well as in the classroom. This may mean doing homework on the bus, waking up earlier to do work, or starting assignments as soon as they are given. But we all figure out a way to get it done."



**"I believe that having a packed schedule forces me to be organized and plan accordingly so I can succeed as an athlete as well as in the classroom."**

— Juniper Schwartzman '27

Juniper Schwartzman '27 competing in javelin at the Dick Young Invitational held at Grinnell College.





Student-athletes make a special effort to get involved in extra- and co-curriculars on campus beyond their teams. In addition to throwing javelin, Schwartzman plays on the women's basketball team, works as a grader/tutor, and takes French horn lessons. Keshav acts as the student-athlete mentor for her team, is a part of the Economics Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC), and she makes time to take part in her friends' many activities. Ballenger-Hudson works as a lifeguard, has an off-campus job, and runs a mental health club.

## CREDIT COLLEGE RESOURCES WITH AN ASSIST

Juggling so many activities requires impressive life and well-being skills, and students often find it useful to tap into campus resources for help.

In 2018, Athletics began a partnership with the College's Student Health and Wellness service and University of Iowa psychology doctorate counselors to support student-athletes' mental and emotional well-being. Thanks to a recent \$250,000 gift from **Austin Simmons '90** and his wife, Kelly, there is now additional funding to hire a sports psychologist so this type of dedicated support can continue.



**"I always had this idea that struggle makes a person stronger. So, when I struggled with my schedule having two majors and football, it made me great at time management, and now in the off season I have so much free time."**

– Michael Olufade '28



**"There's always someone to talk to who cares about you. I'm so grateful for all the connections I've made on the team."**

– Keely Ballenger-Hudson '28

Student-athletes also can call on two dedicated strength and conditioning coaches to help them reduce injuries, maximize performance, and stay healthy. In addition to physical training, these coaches help students build good habits, positive mindsets, and a foundation that supports them not only in athletics, but in their lives beyond college.

The Center for Careers, Life, and Service and the Academic Success Center offer many learning and life resources that all students can use. The support of both professors and coaches is also crucial for student-athletes. For instance, professors may help athletes reschedule assignments around competitions, and coaches encourage students to prioritize schoolwork.

Ultimately, the team itself acts as a support system. Because they face many of the same challenges, they know how to support each other. Frequently, teammates will study together in a classroom after practice or will share internet hotspots on the bus so they can all get their homework done.

## ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

The community of the team is a huge part of what makes the student-athlete experience special. Ballenger-Hudson says, "It's so nice always having someone to sit with at meals. There's always someone to talk to who cares about you. I'm so grateful for all the connections I've made on the team."



**Gabby Choy '26 in her Advanced Studio: Contemporary Practices ceramics course.**



**“Being a student-athlete feels like being part of a big community, and that’s really special.”**

– Gabby Choy '26

Choy concurs. “We’re all just like a great group who are passionate, ambitious, and supportive. We lift each other up, whether it’s in a game or with our studies. I love that I get to hang out with them every day.”

Gaynor says that he thought it might be hard to connect with the team as a transfer student, but everyone was very welcoming. “They’re a bunch of caring guys, and after a few months, it was like I had always been part of the team,” he says.

Much of this sense of close-knit community comes from being part of a residential campus. “I think living here helps the team a lot because we’re going through experiences together. Not only basketball, but road trips, getting food off campus, or doing homework can help with the connection on the court as well,” Nikolic says.

Many favorite moments come when the connection between teammates flows naturally. Students share how fun bus rides can be (when they aren’t doing

homework) because they get to hang out and be silly with their team. Olufade remembers one time when the bus broke down and the team played jokes on each other while stranded at a gas station.

When asked about some of her favorite memories, Keshav says, “We did well at Nationals last May, and that was awesome, but in general it’s about spending time with the team. Everyone gets along, so we do a lot of things outside of golf, too, and that is what’s the most fun.”

The different teams also support each other, especially for home competitions. It’s not uncommon for a majority of the fans in attendance to be other student-athletes.

Choy says, “Being a student-athlete feels like being part of a big community, and that’s really special.” 🍷



A portrait of Ruth Feingold, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a black patterned cardigan over an orange top. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green trees and a brick building.

# A PASSION FOR LEARNING DRIVES GRINNELL'S NEW DEAN, RUTH FEINGOLD

Education is 'my own particular mission,' Feingold says.

by Jacqueline Hartling Stolze





**A**fter her interview for the position of dean at Grinnell College, **Ruth Feingold** found herself with a few hours to fill. She used her time to explore the campus on her own, poking into buildings and people-watching.

In the Humanities and Social Studies Center (HSSC), she treated herself to a coffee from the Global Café and then began to check out the space, starting in the atrium. A nearby alcove filled with ornate, old-fashioned mailboxes caught her attention, and she wandered in.

It was like a portal to the past. Every day for generations, Grinnell students visited these mailboxes in the College post office in Carnegie Hall. When they turned the key and swung open the little gold door, they were sometimes rewarded with a letter from home or from a faraway friend.

Today, the mailboxes have been preserved as a bit of College history that also honors donors to the HSSC renovation project. Opening a mailbox today reveals a donor's story or the story of someone they wish to honor.

Feingold was charmed. "I love how interactive it is. I love the way that it tells students a story about the people for whom Grinnell has been important and the ways they want to give back," she says.

## WELCOME TO GRINNELL

The stories behind the mailbox doors resonated with Feingold, who is quite clear about her own objectives. "I am massively mission-oriented," she says. "I believe that education is the single best way we have of changing the world, and I think I can help with that mission. That's really what keeps me motivated."

President **Anne F. Harris** says she is honored and delighted to welcome Feingold to Grinnell College. “Grinnell College is most fortunate in Dean Feingold’s presence in our community and in her passion for our mission,” Harris says. “I am looking forward to collaborating with her as we continue to empower educational excellence and its transformative connections to the world.”

As Grinnell’s new vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College, Feingold is excited to be part of a community dedicated to higher education. She grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where her father was a professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, and her mother was a biostatistician.

“My father was a pretty important role model. He had a very strong service orientation,” Feingold says. “He really worked to take his academic skills to try and make the world a better place.”

Despite growing up in the shadow of a large university, Feingold chose a small liberal arts college, Oberlin, for her undergraduate education.

“I have always loved small schools,” she says. “I have spent a lifetime being a geeky kid who loved school. I developed, in particular, a love for small, intimate, personalized educational settings where I could explore a multitude of interests. And as I got older, I realized what that meant was the liberal arts.”

## FINDING HER PASSION(S)

As a first-year student at Oberlin, Feingold arrived planning to take a class from every department, which turned out to be impossible. After choosing to major in psychobiology (now neuroscience), Feingold participated in a third-year study abroad program in London. There, she studied history, literature, and music history, and enjoyed immensely the chance to

work with a small group of peers in an interdisciplinary context. When she arrived back at Oberlin, Feingold changed her major, first to an individually designed major in British Studies and then to English.

Feingold’s only regret was that in choosing one focus, she was closing the door on so many others that were also interesting to her. “It isn’t that, oh, I really wish I’d become a biologist. It’s oh, I wish I could be a biologist and a literary critic and an artist and be superb at all of them, which of course, you can’t,” she says.

Feingold graduated from Oberlin with a major in English and a minor in history. She chose the University of Chicago for her graduate studies, where she earned master’s and doctoral degrees in English language and literature.

Feingold developed scholarly interests in postcolonial and contemporary British literature; her work in this area has gained widespread respect from her peers. Feingold’s wide-ranging interests, including the interconnections of space, place, and gender in the context of empire and its aftermath, have shaped her


**“Grinnell College is most fortunate in Dean Feingold’s presence in our community and in her passion for our mission.”**

—ANNE F. HARRIS







A photograph of Dean Ruth Feingold, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a colorful patterned shawl over a dark top. She is standing at a podium, holding a microphone in her right hand and a pink sheet of paper in her left. She is addressing a group of people whose backs are to the camera in the foreground. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Dean Ruth Feingold makes a Community Friday presentation about “Life Lessons in the Liberal Arts” during an on-campus gathering at the start of the fall semester in August.

research and teaching; she nurtures a particular interest in children’s literature and the literature of travel.

## A SHINING EXEMPLAR

Feingold comes to Grinnell from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where she served as dean. She’s delighted with her new position at Grinnell College, which she calls “a shining exemplar of the kind of work that can be done.” Feingold loves how Grinnell fosters an interest in learning for its own sake, and she appreciates the people who are drawn to study and work at institutions like Grinnell.

As dean, Feingold says her first responsibility is to the students and making sure they get the education they come here for. “That is a group enterprise. We are

all engaged in that,” she says.

To spend more time with students, Feingold will teach the First-Year Experience class in spring 2026. This six-session, half-credit course helps first-year students develop skills to support their success at Grinnell and beyond. She’s hoping to teach other classes in the future as well. “I do think the best way to get to know something about the students who are my clients, if you will, as well as my faculty colleagues, is to be in the classroom,” she says.

Feingold also feels responsible to the faculty and staff. She is aware that the decisions she makes and the policies she enacts affect the daily lives of people across campus.

“I have a lot of power for good and for ill to

make things work well, and I take that seriously,” Feingold says.

Finally, Feingold feels a strong sense of accountability to the institution and the Grinnellians who are here now, those who have been here in the past, and those who will be here in the future.

## MAKING POSITIVE CHANGE

Feingold says that she particularly enjoys finding community with others who share her desire to contribute to the common good. She’s discovered that many alumni want to make that kind of difference and have a vision for how higher education can help do that. “I love meeting with people who love the institution, who care about education, who care about students.”

She adds, “What’s really fun is talking to them, learning about their lives, learning about the difference that the College has made in their lives and what they’ve done since, and what they care about,” Feingold says.

And sometimes, she adds, it’s possible to translate those passions into volunteer engagement or gifts supporting programs and resources on campus for today’s students.

“It’s giving people the opportunity to give back in a way that is really meaningful to them,” Feingold says. “Who doesn’t want to be able to make a positive change in the world?”

## BOOKS, DOGS, AND WALKING

Feingold and her partner, Jeff, can often be seen walking their two dogs, Pingo and Kiwi, on campus.

Feingold knows that many students miss their own pets at home, and her dogs are happy to provide a little pet therapy to anyone who needs it.

Walking is Feingold’s preferred method of transportation and recreation, and she recently completed a walking tour of Wales. She and a friend covered 10 to 12 miles a day over rough terrain, gaining about 3,000 feet in elevation each day. It was much more difficult than she’d expected, but even so,

Feingold says she is looking forward to the next tour — location to be determined.

Not surprisingly for an English major, Feingold is an avid reader. Although work keeps her busy, Feingold always makes time to read for pleasure. She made a vow to set aside time to read after her first year as an assistant professor. She was teaching three classes each semester and found herself busier than she had ever been before.

“I got to the end of the year and realized that I had not read a single book all year except the ones I was teaching,” Feingold says. “I was starved for pleasure reading. I read a book a day for two weeks and decided that I was never going to do that to myself again.”

## A FUTURE OF GOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Feingold has assumed the role of dean at Grinnell College with dedication, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of purpose. “Education is my own particular mission, the way I want to contribute to making the world a better place,” she says. 📖

**“I love meeting with people who love the institution, who care about education, who care about students.”**

—RUTH FEINGOLD



# FINDING



**mTheory Nashville**  
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# HER FREQUENCY

**Cameo Carlson's path from KDIC DJ to mtheory CEO mirrors the evolution of the music industry itself: uncharted, dynamic, and always changing.**

by Tim Schmitt

**W**hen **Cameo Carlson '93** moved into her dorm room at Grinnell College in the early 1990s, her father helped by carrying seven milk crates of CDs up the stairs of Younker Hall. Those seven crates were a vivid symbol of her passion: she brought her music with her and, as she would later discover, music would carry her through her Grinnell years and into an unexpected career.

Today, Carlson is a music industry executive and CEO of mtheory, an artist development, marketing, and strategy firm that supports more than 25 managers and over 100 artists around the world.

Despite her passion for music, as a first-generation student and political science major who transferred to Grinnell in her second year, Carlson did not arrive with a blueprint for a career in the music business.

"I didn't know you could do jobs like this," she says.

"I always loved music, and my parents were really into it so I grew up appreciating all kinds of music, but I didn't know that it was something I could get into, and I didn't even know that I wanted to work in the field."

Still, Carlson's love of music led her down a path that would shape her professional life and help her forge a career that she never anticipated. In her first year at Grinnell, she found the campus radio station, KDIC, and landed a show, "Music to Solve Your Rubik's Cube," which focused on '80s alternative music. She also DJed parties at the Harris Center on weekends and devoured every concert she could attend. But she did not yet see how that passion could become a profession.

"I just loved it," she says. "I was just obsessed with music and worked several jobs and would spend my money buying music and buying tickets and trying to see as many shows as I could."

Those experiences laid the groundwork for her future. “Our job in music now is really about connections,” she says. “People still want to connect over songs, over lyrics — those are the things that help them get through hard times or celebrate the good ones. Music is universal; you can carry it anywhere.”

## DISCOVERING A CAREER PATH

After graduating in 1993, Carlson briefly considered a path in public policy and planned to pursue a graduate degree in Washington, D.C. It just didn’t feel right, though, so she followed her instincts and joined her best friend in a move to Seattle. There, she worked in retail and immersed herself in the local music scene.

“I was in Seattle and so there was just all this amazing music going on around me,” she recalls. “But I was working at the mall at a clothing store, and I went broke, so I had to move back home to Joplin, Missouri.”

That move turned out to be pivotal. Carlson landed a part-time job at a small AM radio station, airing church services and spinning country songs she barely knew.

“I knew nothing about country music,” she admits, “but I fell in love with radio. That was the first time I thought, ‘Oh, I’m actually getting paid for this. This is what I want to do.’ It made me realize that there were all these behind-the-scenes jobs in music I’d never known existed.”

## THE WILD WEST OF DIGITAL MUSIC

Carlson pursued a graduate degree in journalism from the University of Missouri–Columbia, but she found herself at another crossroads upon graduation: remain in Columbia where she was working as a clerk at an adult bookstore, take a job at a North Carolina radio station, or try something entirely new — a position at a start-up called Spinner.com in San Francisco.

“I didn’t know what the hell streaming radio was,” she laughs. “But I thought, well, San Francisco sounds fun.”

She started at Spinner in early 2000. Within a week, AOL bought the company. “It was truly the Wild



Cameo Carlson (back row, far right) and members of her first Equal Access Development program cohort.





Throwback photos of Cameo Carlson and friends Megan Aukema '93 and Elizabeth Powley '93 from her 1990s Grinnell student days.



West,” she says. “There was no way to prepare for a job like that because it didn’t exist before.”

That leap into the unknown became a pattern. Carlson went on to join Apple’s iTunes team when it was still in its infancy — a six-person startup inside one of the world’s most ambitious tech companies. She worked directly with Steve Jobs, helping to shape the platform’s editorial strategy, music catalog, and global launches.

“I joke that those were my *Forrest Gump* years,” she says. “Steve loved the music and was personally involved. He’d call in the middle of the night and say, ‘Why don’t we have the Herman’s Hermits catalog?’ and you’d have to get on a plane to London to go figure it out.”

Her time at Apple took her around the world — Tokyo, Sydney, London — and validated her path. “I was a first-generation student who had never really gone anywhere,” she says. “Then suddenly I was flying around the world because of music. That’s when my parents said, ‘OK, you’re going to be alright.’”

## CLOSER TO THE ARTISTS

After Apple, Carlson held senior digital and marketing roles at Universal Motown and Republic Records. But even amid these big names and big campaigns, she wanted to be closer to the people who made the music.

“I learned a lot at the label,” she says, “but it wasn’t always about what was best for the artist. I knew I wanted to change that.”

That opportunity came in 2017 when she joined mtheory, a company that embraced a model that allows managers to focus on what matters most: the artist.

“Managers have to be experts in everything — touring, creative, marketing, data — and that’s impossible for one person,” Carlson says. “At mtheory, we support them so they can focus on the art.”

Carlson was named CEO in 2022, and under her leadership, mtheory has expanded its reach and influence, helping shape careers across genres while creating space for more voices to be heard.



Carlson (left) with Taylor Swift and a colleague from Republic Records (right).

## CHAMPIONING ACCESS AND EQUITY

Carlson's leadership extends well beyond the difficult task of surviving the music industry into the herculean act of creating positive change. In 2022, she launched the Equal Access Development program, which provides funding, mentorship, and industry connections to managers and artists from underrepresented communities — including women, queer artists, Indigenous people, and people of color.

"After George Floyd's murder, we didn't want to just post black squares on our social media profiles," she says. "We wanted to make a real investment in changing who gets to sit at the table."

The program offers a cash stipend, structured curriculum, and direct access to executives at Apple, Spotify, labels, and agencies — opening doors that have long been closed.

Carlson also co-founded Digital Divas Nashville, mentors through the Women's Music Business Association, and serves on diversity and inclusion boards for the Academy of Country Music and the Music Business Association. In 2024, she received the Music Business Association's Presidential Award for Outstanding Executive for her contributions.

*MusicRow* magazine recently called her a "digital pioneer" for "giving a fair shot to voices the industry often sidelines."

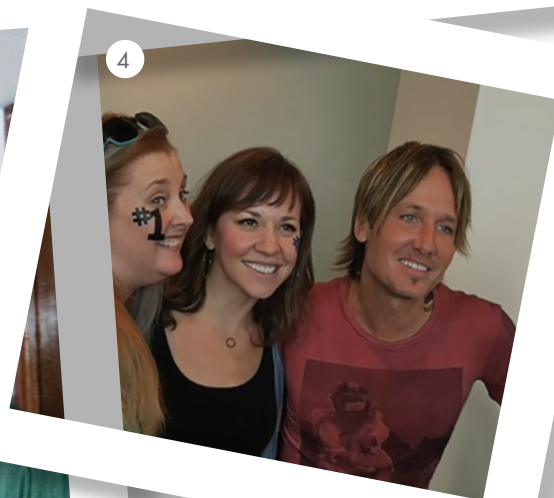
## GRINNELL ROOTS, LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

Through her long and varied career, Carlson has remained true to the values she learned and honed at Grinnell: curiosity, connection, and the courage to follow her passion. She credits Grinnell with shaping





1. Shy Carter with Carlson
2. Carlson and Tyler Childers
3. Carlson with Nelly
4. Carlson (left) and one of her colleagues with Keith Urban (right)
5. Linkin Park band members with Carlson
6. Lionel Richie and Carlson in 2021





Left: Mickey Guyton and Carlson in Washington, D.C.

Below: Bruna Foss '27 (left), Renzo Iurino '27, and Carlson during Foss' mtheory externship experience in Nashville.

Right: Carlson (left) presents a platinum album plaque to Trace Adkins (standing next to her) at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.



**“It’s inspiring to see a woman playing such a role that I want to keep pursuing my dreams.”** —BRUNA FOSS '27

her inquisitive nature, adaptability, and confidence to take chances. “All of these jobs I’ve had, I didn’t really deserve on paper,” she says. “I wasn’t qualified because they didn’t exist before I took them. But Grinnell taught me to figure things out.”

She’s stayed deeply involved with the College, serving on the Alumni Council, organizing externships, and mentoring students interested in music and media.

“I joke that there was a dark period when career outreach wasn’t great,” she says, “so I made a point of being visible. If anybody’s interested in the music industry, I’m raising my hand.”

Carlson often writes personal notes in care packages given to students through Grinnell’s Alumni Care Package project that was first launched by a group of alumni on the Everyday Class Notes (ECN) Facebook

page, inviting them to connect. One student took her up on it — meeting her in Nashville for advice. “I always tell them, ‘You are not your major,’” she says.

She’s also brought Grinnell students directly into mtheory. “I try to make sure they see all the different jobs that exist in the company,” she says. “There’s no music management major at Grinnell, but that doesn’t mean you can’t get into the music business.”

Grinnell student **Bruna Foss '27**, who studies music and economics, shadowed Carlson during an externship and later joined mtheory as a summer intern in New York. Foss, who hails from Curitiba, Brazil, is a guitarist and singer. Her video blogs, posted on TikTok, have attracted more than 360,000 followers on the platform.

“Cameo is one of a kind,” Foss says. “She understands where we’re coming from and wants to





## key role in a brutal market. She motivates me

support us. She even took us to the Grand Ole Opry and always gave us her full attention in every meeting.”

Foss says Carlson has become a role model: “It’s inspiring to see a woman playing such a key role in a brutal market. She motivates me to keep pursuing my dreams.”

### THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION, PART TWO

Carlson’s career has always intersected with technological change, the shift from physical to digital media, and from the early days of streaming music to today’s conversations about the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in music.

“I get nervous, but I get excited about new technologies,” she says. “For as much as there’s drama around AI, this feels like iTunes all over again. It’s digital revolution part two. We can’t run from it — we


just have to find the cool stuff we can do in ethical, interesting ways.”

Now leading one of the most forward-thinking companies in music, Carlson remains committed to artist-first values and to creating pathways for others, especially those who might never have pictured themselves in the music industry.

And despite her success, she’s still the same music-obsessed Grinnellian at heart. Asked about her favorite concert of all time, she paused to consider the thousands of moments she’s experienced over the years. “I got to see a tribute to Nelson Mandela in London after he was released from prison — Peter Gabriel and others. It was once-in-a-lifetime. But really, there have been so many amazing shows. I just love being where the music is.” 📖



## THEN AND NOW

A photograph of a Grinnell football team celebrating on a field. The players are wearing black jerseys with red and white stripes on the sleeves. One player in the center has the number 65 on his jersey. Another player on the left has the number 41. A player in the foreground has the number 70. They are all cheering with their arms raised. In the background, there is a goalpost and a sign that says "GRINNELL".

More than 130 years ago, Grinnell's third president, George Gates, spoke about the important role of sports in developing a sound body and a disciplined mind as part of a comprehensive education. Today, 20 varsity teams competing in men's and women's athletics continue to build on that legacy.

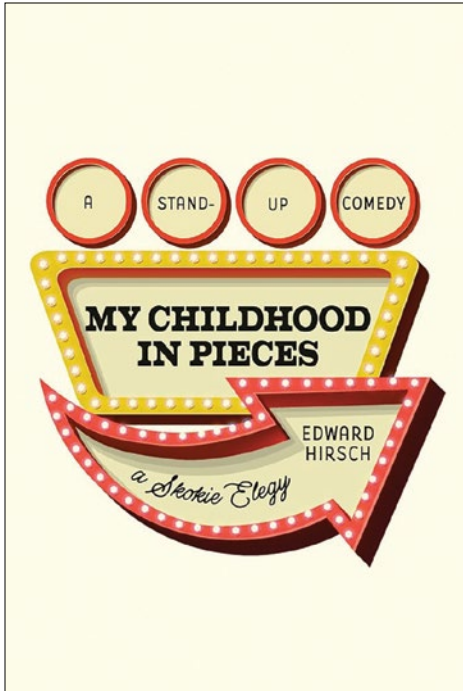




1894 vs. 2025







## *My Childhood in Pieces: A Stand-Up Comedy, a Skokie Elegy*

**Edward Hirsch '72**, Knopf, June 2025

Award-winning poet and MacArthur Fellow Edward Hirsch writes about his life as part of an aspiring middle-class Jewish family whose values and wit were the forge of a poet's coming-of-age. This pithy, poignant memoir immortalizes a bygone world in a colorful mosaic of vignettes, jokes, and reflections. The Jewish community of Hirsch's youth is vividly evoked in characters including his father, "Old Testament" mother, and a boisterous host of wily, wisecracking family and friends. *My Childhood in Pieces* has been praised as, "affectionate, deadpan, and exuberant, steeped in Yiddishkeit and Midwestern practicality." Grinnellians will especially appreciate Hirsch's recollections of Grinnell and the late **John Pfitsch**. Hirsch has published 10 books of poetry and eight books of prose and has been honored with numerous prizes, including the National Book Critics Circle Award and the National Jewish Book Award. This summer, *The New Yorker* named *My Childhood in Pieces* one of "The Best Books of the Year So Far." Since 2003, Hirsch has been president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

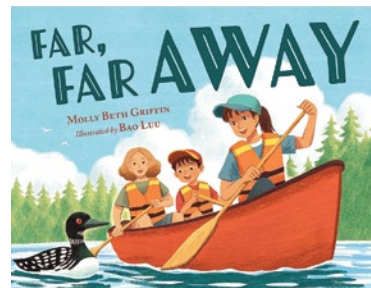
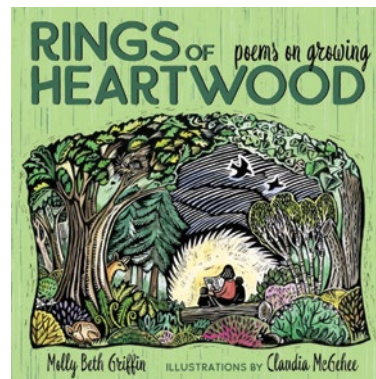
## *Rings of Heartwood*

**Molly Beth Griffin '05**, illustrator Claudia McGehee, Minnesota Historical Society Press, March 2025

## *Far, Far Away*

**Molly Beth Griffin '05**, illustrator Bao Luu, Charlesbridge, April 2025

Two new picture books by Griffin were published this spring: *Rings of Heartwood* includes poems about woodland, wetland, and prairie dwellers exploring different kinds of growth. It encourages readers of all ages to appreciate change and feel kinship with the natural world. *Far, Far Away* reminds young readers of nature's beauty and provides them with a better appreciation for the challenges and rewards that come with being in the outdoors.

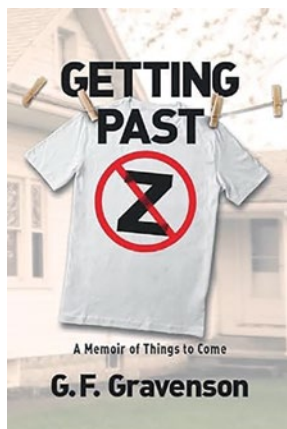




## *Getting Past Z: A Memoir of Things to Come*

**Guy Gravenson '61**, IPBooks, June 2025

The protagonist of *Getting Past Z*, Jerome Myer, is turning 90. The retired advertising executive, who is troubled by two recent deaths and his granddaughter's pending marriage, begins a memoir that starts in 2024 and takes readers through the years leading up to the wedding in the summer of 2028 and beyond. Along the way, *Getting Past Z* touches upon the growing divide the Z generation is going through over issues like guns, mental health, growing wealth disparity, AI, and extreme politics. Gravenson also is the author of *The Sweetmeat Saga*.

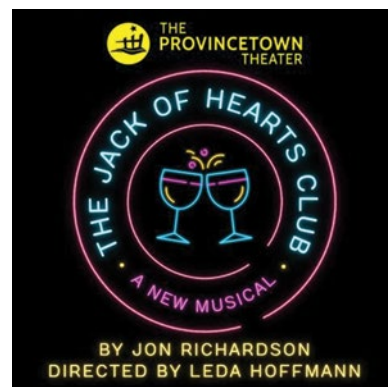


## *Insurgent Communities: How Protests Create a Filipino Diaspora*

**Sharon M. Quinsaat**, University of Chicago Press, March 2024

Associate Professor of Sociology Sharon Quinsaat's book sheds new light on how people develop collective identities in times of social upheaval. She looks to Filipinos in the United States and the Netherlands to argue that diasporas emerge through political activism and that social movements provide an essential space for addressing migrants' diverse experiences and relationships with their homeland and its history.

*Insurgent Communities* has won multiple honors from professional organizations, including the Best Scholarly Book Award from the American Sociological Association section on Global and Transnational Sociology.



## *The Jack of Hearts Club* World Premiere

**Jon Richardson '10**, Provincetown (Massachusetts) Theater, October 2025

Richardson's musical is set at summer's end in 1963, in a rag-tag gay bar in Provincetown. Praised for its "gorgeous music and heartfelt story," *Jack of Hearts* draws the audience into the lives of a close-knit band of friends, lovers, mothers, and divas. As they prepare to toast the season's end with their annual "So Long, Summer" cabaret show, the characters find themselves at significant crossroads in their lives.

## Believing in Grinnell

*Loyal annual donors since graduation, Janet Deyo Pugh and Tom Pugh support the College to spur on students with a variety of interests.*

by Jeremy Shapiro

With its individually advised curriculum and more than 500 dynamic course offerings, Grinnell College is ideal for students investigating a range of interests. That was part of the appeal for 1968 graduates **Janet Deyo Pugh** and **Tom Pugh**, who met on campus and credit Grinnell with changing their lives for the better. While Janet can't tell you exactly what she learned in her Grinnell College classes during the 1960s, she knows that they are part of her.

"What I learned back then makes me who I am," she says. "We give to Grinnell because a liberal arts education is something that I truly believe in, and even more as the years go by and I see the demands for career-oriented education."

Janet and her husband, Tom, have made gifts to the College almost every year since they graduated. Most of the couple's contributions have been to the Pioneer Fund and the Liberal Arts in Prison Program.

It's important to the Pughs to make a gift to Grinnell every month that supports the Pioneer Fund, an unrestricted fund that addresses the greatest student needs and empowers the College to respond to issues and opportunities across campus.

"To me, giving to the Pioneer Fund means that I trust the College to do what it does well, which is educate students to be useful good people in the world today," Janet says. "There are all kinds of places you could specify money, but I do believe in underwriting the day-to-day whatever needs to be done."

The Liberal Arts in Prison Program is near and dear to Janet as she volunteers with a restorative justice program in prisons near where the Pughs live in Madison, Wisconsin. Grinnell's Liberal Arts in Prison Program enrolls incarcerated students at the Newton Correctional Facility and the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in a demanding college program that offers up to 60 credits from Grinnell College.

"What the College is doing is absolutely wonderful; it's one of the best things that could happen in a prison," she says. "And I'm really proud of the College for doing that. I've been over to the facility and talked with the students over there. I'm just thrilled that

Grinnell can be counted among the colleges and universities in the country that have that kind of program."

A self-described "townie," Tom grew up in Grinnell and lived off campus as a student.

"For social purposes, all the townies were attached to Rawson Hall, and I remember we held our hall meetings during the commercial breaks of the TV show *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*," he said. "It's strange images like that that are in my memories about Grinnell until Janet and I met our senior year, whereas then my memories are much more the places we went and things we did together."

Janet went to high school in Dallas. Their family's introduction to Grinnell came when her mom found a magazine article about liberal arts colleges that were relatively affordable.

"One of the reasons I was interested in Grinnell was that they had, at the time, an area studies program," she says. "What it meant was that I chose a major, which was history, but then I was able to take classes in anthropology, political science, and economics, and I really liked having that variety of classes."

That variety still is one of the most appealing things about Grinnell to the Pughs more than a half century later, especially compared to schools like the University of Wisconsin, where Tom conducted liver cancer research in the Pathology Department and then aging research in the Department of Medicine until retirement.

"At other schools, if you're in biochemistry, you're in biochemistry," he says. "That's who your faculty people are. At Grinnell, if you're a biochemist and you go to a faculty meeting, you're talking with the Spanish professor, you're talking with the econ professor, you're talking with a sociologist, and so you are crossing those boundaries. There's this cross-fertilization of ideas where people ask, 'What are you interested in?'. I'm interested in everything. I'm curious. I want to know things. And it doesn't matter what discipline they come from."



Tom has noticed a similar theme when talking with his classmates about their lives and careers.

“In our class, students were interested in so many different things, and they almost all begin their stories by saying, ‘Well, I started out as an A, and then after about four or five years, I became B. And then, much later after the kids left the house, I became C.’ Grinnell graduates are prepared to go different directions.”

Janet can attest to this. She started out teaching in Kenya before going to graduate school in library studies. She later worked for the Wisconsin State Bureau of Labor Statistics, creating a library and providing reference services. She has also done coordination volunteer work for the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ for the past 19 years.

With a relatively short drive from Madison, the Pughs have returned to Grinnell for events and have served on committees planning class reunions. The class of 1968 remains a tight-knit group, in part because of the fiery time they experienced together as students with the Vietnam War raging and changes in society.

“That was an interesting time that we went through together,” Tom says.

The class of 1968 will join with the classes of 1969 through 1972 in a supercluster celebrating their 55th reunions during Reunion 2026 on May 28-31, 2026. 📖

Making an annual gift to Grinnell fuels students’ curiosity, ambition, and innovation. Learn more about giving options at [alumni.grinnell.edu/giving-to-grinnell](https://alumni.grinnell.edu/giving-to-grinnell).



Tom and Janet Pugh (above) and pictured below at the time of their 1968 graduation from Grinnell.





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1995–1996–1997
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## ALUMNI PROFILE DANA TANZER ULERY '59

When **Dana Tanzer Ulery** graduated from Grinnell College in 1959, there still was an expectation for women to marry, have children, and maybe work in a traditional career such as teaching or nursing.

Ulery, who was one of only three female math majors at Grinnell at the time, started off as a middle school math teacher, but quickly realized that was not the career she desired. Demoralized by the handful of job interviews she had where potential employers were more interested in her family plans than her job-related skills, Ulery soon took matters into her own hands.

"I walked the halls of Caltech (California Institute of Technology) until I found an open door," she explains. "Then I just went in and started talking." One of the men she talked with gave her a contact at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL), where she soon paid a visit and was granted an interview.

Ulery's perseverance and knowledge landed her a job as the first female engineer at NASA's JPL. She loved her work with the Deep Space Network focused on precision tracking and analysis of Goldstone antennas, which are used on lunar and planetary missions. JPL helped pave the way for the Apollo missions, including the moon landing in 1969.

**Sophia Ramalli '27** was so inspired by Ulery's story that she wanted other Grinnellians to know of her achievements. Due to Ramalli's efforts, Ulery was invited to speak to Grinnell students in February as part of the Physics Seminar Series.

by Melanie Drake '92



1972



1960

## 1940s

1946

**Marcela Saavedra de Arco** celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 3.

**Mary Pederson Gardner** celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 26.

1947

**Olga Mladkovich Gilroy** celebrated her 100th birthday on June 29.

1948

**Richard B. Cartano** celebrated his 100th birthday on July 3.

## 1970s

1971

**Patti Rounsevell** is the new chair of the AFS-USA National Council. AFS-USA's mission is to provide international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership. She has been an AFS host sibling, host parent, and volunteer.

1977

In a May interview with *NPR Illinois*, **Matt Cohen** talked about the history of special education laws in Illinois and discussed ongoing challenges faced by schools and families. Cohen shared his perspective on potential impacts of dismantling the U.S. Department of Education, particularly on students with disabilities, and offered guidance for families navigating the special education system.

1978

**Dave Chroust** is the chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's Senior Lawyers Section Council, which represents and advocates for the interests of senior lawyers in Illinois. He is also of counsel to the Chicago law firm Franco Moroney Buenik LLC.

## 1980s

1983

**Matthew Smith** and his band, Zlatne Uste, recently performed at The Town Hall in New York City. The performance was part of a benefit variety show supporting David Byrne's *Reasons to Be Cheerful*, a nonprofit online magazine that promotes positive news and solutions-oriented stories. Zlatne Uste opened the evening with "Vranjski Čoček," a traditional Balkan dance performed in 9/8 time.



1989

**Kate Furnish's** book *Joy Mastery Method: Three Steps to Let Go of Struggle and Enjoy Your Life Now* is currently available on Amazon. The book draws on her personal life experience as well as her years of work with patients.

## 1990s

1990

**David White** was appointed interim executive director of the NFL Players Association on Aug. 3.

1993

Three photographs by **Nieka K. Apell** were included in the multimedia exhibition "Strength and Grit: Celebrating the Working Class" on display this summer



in The Gallery at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Apell received her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Photographic Technology from the college in May 2024.

## 1994

**Jeremy Alexander** is an executive assistant at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

Grinnell College Board of Trustees member and Boston University School of Law Dean **Angela Onwuachi-Willig** was recognized with the Gertrude E. Rush Award for Exceptional Dedication to Academia by the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division on July 29.

## 1995



**Tara Shaw (left) with Valkyries head team physician Mary Apiafi Moore.**

**Tara Shaw** is a sports medicine physician for Kaiser East Bay and one of the team physicians for the new Golden State Valkyries WNBA team in San Francisco.

## 1998

**Eric Turner** recently earned his doctor of education in educational leadership from Hamline University. His dissertation, titled *Freedom, Agency, and Relevance: Finding a Path to Revolution in a Traditional Suburban High School*, was advised by **Joe Lewis '89**.

## 2000s

### 2001

**Nell Silva Bartkowiak** is assistant dean of online programs at the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse, New York.

### 2004

**Eric Blevins**, who was inducted into the Grinnell College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016, won a gold medal in 3-meter springboard diving at the World Aquatics Masters Championships held July 26–August 22 in Singapore. He also earned bronze on the 1-meter board.



# SHARE YOUR NEWS

Tell us about awards, promotions, family milestones, and more, so we can share your news in future class notes. Submissions may be edited for length, content, and style.

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PHONE: 866-850-1846

MAIL: Class Notes, Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 733 Broad St., Grinnell, IA, 50112

Class notes are published on a rolling basis in the next available issue. The magazine is published three times a year: fall (November), spring (March), and summer (July). Class notes production for each issue closes approximately eight weeks prior to publication.

**Need to update your address or contact information?**

EMAIL: [update@grinnell.edu](mailto:update@grinnell.edu)

## ALUMNI PROFILE BETTY DANDRIDGE JOHNSON '79

With two older siblings who worked as teachers, **Betty Dandridge Johnson** was already thinking about a career in education when she arrived at Grinnell College in 1975. Being assigned to a tutorial led by the late **Roberta Atwell**, professor of education, further pulled her in that direction.

Dandridge Johnson retired in July 2022 as chief academic officer for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission,

the highest level in academic affairs in that state. Since 2023, she has been an academic affairs consultant at the University of Tennessee System, Office of Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Success.

"If someone had told me at the beginning of my career that I would have had that leadership responsibility

and worked with college provosts and leaders throughout the state on student success and programs, I would have been amazed," she says.

Dandridge Johnson's most memorable Grinnell project was co-leading, with **Joyce Franklin Freshwater '79**, the first African American Alumni Reunion in 1997. For the reunion, Dandridge Johnson sent a survey to all African American alumni and, based on this information, prepared a directory listing alumni by their class, from 1937 to students graduating in 1998.

Nearly 30 years later, the Grinnell Black Alumni Network resumed what she and Freshwater had started. Grinnell's Black Alumni Weekend was held Oct. 3-5.

by Anne Stein '84



## 2006

In June, **Dan Hawley** was appointed by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to serve as a district court judge in Minnesota's Ninth Judicial District.

## 2007

**Maggie Connolly** was recently awarded the Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship for Craft in Ceramics. This highly competitive award recognizes outstanding professional artists in Tennessee who contribute to the state's cultural vitality through their work.

**Amelia Randich** has been promoted to associate professor of biology at the University of Scranton.

**Ellie Tennyson** is a federal magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the District of Delaware. She earned her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law where she was managing editor of the *Iowa Law Review*.

## 2008

**Erica Garrecht-Williams** and **Carson Smith** are pleased to announce that they became domestic partners this year and welcomed their first child, Camille Rebecca Sutherland, born in July 2025. Camille is looking forward to joining the class of 2047.





## Alumni Events



### Summer Picnics

Over the course of the summer, 1,238 Grinnellians joined in at one of the 28 Grinnell College summer picnics across the U.S. The Evanston, Illinois picnic (pictured above) on Aug. 3 took place at Lighthouse Beach and was one of three in the Chicago area. Like many of the picnics, the Grinnell camaraderie was enjoyed by alums, parents, current students, incoming students, and friends of the College.

### Grinnell Alumni Families Brunch

To cap off “We Are Family Weekend,” Grinnell alumni families joined College leaders for brunch on campus Sept. 21. Pictured at the table in the foreground (left to right)

are **Greg Nettleton '99**, **Emily Greenall '00**, **Violet Greenall Nettleton '29**, Dean of the College **Ruth Feingold**, **Laura Romero P'29**, **Trent Colbert '88**, and **Dakota Colbert '29**.



## ALUMNI PROFILE JOANNA (DEMARS) DEMING '10 AND ROBIN BARTELL '20

Since 2017, there's been a Grinnell College pennant hanging on the wall of a science classroom at Northside College Preparatory school, a selective enrollment high school on Chicago's Northwest side.

**Joanna (DeMars) Deming '10** (left) put it up when she first began teaching there. Last school year, **Robin Bartell '20** began teaching beneath it, too. Although the pair graduated a decade apart, they've come to realize they share a deep connection and commitment to taking a liberal arts approach to science, teaching, and learning.

Deming and Bartell briefly met over fall break in 2019, when Bartell made a visit to Northside, where she'd graduated from and first developed a love for science. Soon after, Deming visited Grinnell to talk with physics and education students about her experiences as a high school science teacher. That's when Bartell reconnected with Deming during a group lunch at Prairie Canary.

While Bartell's first year teaching at her former high school is one full circle journey, sharing an office and working closely with Deming has made it doubly so. Their conversations have elicited memories of Grinnell and revealed deeper commonalities.

For Bartell, there's something special when a student who never felt like science was for them realizes it can be.

"I think that connects to my experience at Grinnell," Bartell says. "Even if it's not something you're pursuing professionally, all learning experiences inform how you end up living in the world."

by Joe Engleman '14





**Alec Schierenbeck** was honored by *Crain's New York Business* in its "40 Under 40" list and was recently named general counsel to the New York City Department of City Planning.

## 2010s

### 2010

**Cara Krieg** has been named associate professor of biology and granted tenure at the University of Scranton.

### 2011

**Elizabeth "Lizzy" Montgomery Barnes**, who has worked as a forester at the Payette National Forest for the past four years, has received Silviculturist Certification from the U.S. Forest Service. Barnes lives in Idaho with her husband, Lewis Barnes, and their three daughters: Belle (8), Frances (5), and Lucinda (1).

**Nate Hoch** was named one of *Forbes's Top Next-Gen Advisors Best-in-State* (Minnesota) for 2025, a list recognizing the top financial advisors under the age of 40.

### 2012

**Madelyn Gardner** and **Michael Goldfien** welcomed their second child, Etta Goldfien, on June 15.

### 2017

**Nora Coghlan Aguirre** graduated with a master's in social work from the University of Illinois at Chicago in May.

**Hazel Batrezchavez** is the visual arts curator for the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Ben Brosseau** earned a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication from the State University of New York (SUNY).

**Bailey J. Dann** recently joined the board of trustees for the Museum of Idaho.

**Lizzie Eason** launched a podcast titled *RAW: Real Actuarial Women*, to spotlight the accomplishments of women in the male-dominated field of actuarial science.

### 2018

**Jose Alfonso Mendez** graduated with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Idaho State University in May.

**Jin Chang** recently earned a Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership studies from the University of Iowa.

### 2019

**Daria Guzzo** recently earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with a specialization in public policy analysis from the Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

**Emily Rhodes** and Aaron Mulford have married. The couple met while Emily was participating in the Grinnell-in-London program. Numerous Grinnell alumni were guests at the wedding.



Grinnellians pictured at the Rhodes-Mulford wedding (l-r): Melinda Lopes '85 (mother of the bride), Ellen Snook '85, Mary Niehaus '85, Anais Levin '19, Sanjeev Pandey '87, Emily Rhodes, Kevin Rhodes '85 (father of the bride), Rob Brooks '84, and Dan Silversmith '85.

## 2020s

### 2022

**Brady Vest** is an assistant coach for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire men's basketball team.

### 2025

**Camryn Reschke** is one of 65 Americans selected to study and work in Germany through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals program, which is now in its 42nd year.

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

**Mary “Molly” (Anderson) Andersen '44**, Aug. 17, 2025, Marion, Iowa. Molly married Richard Andersen in 1949, and they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to start a business. While she was raising her children, she was active in the PTA, Blue Birds, Boy Scouts, and 4-H, and served on the Red Cross board. She also served on the Marion Public Library board for 42 years. When she was 50, Molly became office manager for the family business. Retirement came at 70, Dick died, and later, she started to travel the world and paint watercolors. Survivors include three children.

**Donald L. Snook '49**, June 10, 2025, Oxfordshire, UK. From an Iowa farm, during WWII Don was a B-17 pilot in the UK and Morocco, becoming fascinated by the Arab world. At Grinnell thanks to the GI bill, Don completed his degree and married Katherine Cosandey '50. He became an Arabist at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and worked for the U.S. State Department in Syria and Libya and then for Esso Middle East. In 1969, Don relocated to Exxon's New York office and settled in Connecticut, joining the Unitarian Church, singing in musical groups, and exploring the forests. Don became a tree expert and spent six years as the Tree Warden of Westport. He served as class agent and developed a guide to the Grinnell College trees,

receiving a Grinnell College Alumni Award. Don is survived by three daughters, including Laura Snook '74; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Joan Nicoll Riedl '50**, Aug. 1, 2025, Knoxville, Tennessee. Joan graduated summa cum laude at Grinnell, then earned a master's in German literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She was in the first Fulbright Scholar class at the University of Vienna, where she met Norbert Franz Riedl. They married in 1955. After Bert's death in 1975, Joan supported their five children as a secretary at the University of Tennessee. She was a longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville.

**Jean Larson Butterfield '51**, Aug. 27, 2025, Lombard, Illinois. Jean was a member of the Willowbrook High School support staff from 1975-1998. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne. Survivors include two children.

**Barbara Eckstein Carothers '51**, Aug. 3, 2025, Seminole, Florida. Barbara met *Robert A. Carothers Jr.* '58 at Grinnell, and they married in 1959. She held one master's in elementary education and another in library science. After her children were older, Barbara taught elementary school for many years. She was an avid traveler and cruiser, and she loved family trips to Europe and the Caribbean. She also enjoyed playing bridge, reading, and spending time with family and friends. Barbara was a frequent attendee at Grinnell events and a generous supporter of the College. Bob predeceased her in 2000. Survivors include her two children.

**Patricia Smart Maack Ormsbee '51**, July 2, 2025, Meridian, Idaho. Pat met *Kenneth Maack '50* at Grinnell. She graduated from Northern Illinois University and married Ken in 1951. She taught elementary school before their three children were born. After her youngest finished grade school, Pat returned to teaching. For over 30 years, Pat and Ken lived in Brookfield, Wisconsin, where they were active members of the United Church of Christ. In 1993, they retired to Arkansas, where she held leadership roles in AAUW and PEO and was a member of Kirk in the Pines Presbyterian Church. Ken died in 1994. Later, she was married to Elliot Ormsbee; he died in 2010.

**Walter H. Flinn '52**, June 23, 2025, Laconia, New Hampshire. In 1953, Walter married his college sweetheart, *Mary Fisher '52*, and they moved to Massachusetts. In 1956, he began a 29-year career with Western Electric. He then purchased Valley Graphics, and for 17 years his company specialized in telephone directories advertising. He volunteered for numerous educational organizations, boards, youth programs, and with his church. In 1980, he received an honorary doctorate from Fitchburg State. He was a Winnepesaukee Yacht Club member for more than 30 years. Family and friends were his greatest joy. He was predeceased by Mary, his wife of 70 years. Survivors include three children.

**Robert T. Dibble '53**, July 11, 2025, Silver Spring, Maryland. At Grinnell, Robert was a “four letter man” and he was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002. He graduated from Howard University Medical School



in 1956 and practiced medicine in Washington, D.C., for 62 years. He retired from MedStar Washington Hospital Center in 2014. He was a member of many professional men's organizations. He loved the game of golf and was an avid tennis enthusiast. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and his three children.

**Margaret Schwendeman**

**Murdock '53**, Aug. 25, 2025, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Following her time at Grinnell, Margaret was an elementary teacher. After retirement, she enjoyed many activities with friends, volunteering at Alexian Brothers Hospital, and working at Hallmark part time. Margaret was a talented artist who enjoyed woodcarving in all forms, with hundreds of Christmas ornaments to her credit. She took great pride in her beautiful outdoor flower gardens. She was preceded in death by her high school sweetheart and husband of 35 years, Charles Murdock. Survivors include three children.

**Carol Vorlander Edblom '54**, Aug. 11, 2025, Shoreview, Minnesota. After attending Grinnell, Carol began her career at Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis. She married Carl Edblom in 1953; he passed away in 1955. Their infant daughter passed away the previous year. She was actively involved in the National Association of Bank Women and Financial Women International and served as president of the FWI Minnesota Chapter for a year. Carol took up scuba diving, and in 1971 became a founding member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. She retired from Norwest Bank in 1993. Carol was devoted to her faith community for over 75 years.

**Alice Ritchie Fitzcharles '54**, Apr. 28, 2025, Naples, Florida. Alice attended Grinnell for two years before transferring to the University of Wisconsin, where she earned a degree in English literature. She then earned a master's in elementary education and began teaching in Winnetka, Illinois. In 1959, Alice married David Fitzcharles; they had three children. She passed on to her children a love of music, reading, and outdoor activities. Alice obtained a Master of Social Work from the University of Kansas in 1985, which she used in her work with Kansas Action for Children, and later Healthy Beginnings in Philadelphia. She was devoted to her grandchildren. Dave passed away in 2023.

**Eleanor Howard Law '54**, Aug. 18, 2025, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Eleanor earned her degree in speech pathology from Grinnell and the University of Denver. She was a devoted PEO sister for more than 70 years, belonging to nine chapters, and also served as past president of B-COS We Care (formerly Assistance League). A passionate sports fan, she loved cheering for the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Avalanche. She will be remembered for her unconditional love, generosity, and ability to make everyone feel at home. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, David Law. Survivors include a daughter and son.

**Roger A. Meyer '54**, May 1, 2025, Bradenton, Florida. After graduation, Roger earned his medical degree from the University of Minnesota and served a tour of duty as a Flight Surgeon in the U.S. Navy. He then completed a residency in ophthalmology. In

1965, he moved to Bradenton, where he co-founded the Manatee Eye Clinic. He and 29 other physicians founded Blake Memorial Hospital in 1973. He retired in 1994. He was president of the Manatee County Medical Society in 1979, on the Board of the United Way (1988-1991), an organizing member of the Manatee County Young Republicans, and a member of Christ Episcopal Church. His first wife, Dorothy Johnson Meyer, predeceased him. Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Judith Smith Meyer; three children; and two stepchildren.

**Richard M. Turner '55**, July 9, 2025, Springfield, Missouri. Following graduation, Richard served in the U.S. Army Band, then completed a master's in English at the University of Colorado. In 1961 he, his former wife, Sarah (Fuhrman), and their two children moved to Springfield, where he took a teaching job at Southwest Missouri State College. In 1967 he earned his doctorate, then continued teaching for another 36 years. Richard led a life sustained by his love of the arts and giving to others. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his former wife, Sarah; and his wife, Louise (Funk) Turner.

**Thomas A. Baty Jr. '56**, July 1, 2025, Coralville, Iowa. After graduating, Tom served in the U.S. Army and then went on to earn one master's from Drake University and another from Iowa State University. In 1960, he married Paula Stevens. She died in 1985. Tom later married Florence (Rusty) Martin; they eventually divorced. Tom worked with the YMCA, taught, and was a guidance counselor for a time. Later, he became the educational

coordinator for Beloit of Iowa, a division of Lutheran Social Services of Iowa. From 1987-2014, he lived in Des Moines and Indianola, Iowa, where he was a real estate agent with Iowa Realty. He was preceded in death by both of his spouses. Survivors include his two children.

**James Gary Lint '56**, June 21, 2025, Kansas City, Missouri. Gary attended Grinnell, then served in the U.S. Air Force as a navigator/bombardier. He later moved to Kansas City, where he worked at TWA, St. Luke's Hospital, and Oak Park High School. He was a dedicated member of Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and Fairview Christian Church. Gary and his wife, Norma, were married for 45 years. They loved gardening and traveling. Survivors include his wife and two children.

**John B. Miller '56**, June 17, 2025, Kansas City, Missouri. Shortly after graduating, John married his college sweetheart, *Mary Ann Holthues '56*. He served in the U.S. Army before returning to Kansas City, where he began his career with Broadway Industries, the company his father founded. As president, he helped expand the company into a thriving enterprise with a home center, commercial sales division, and a luxury hardware line. John was active in Rotary International, serving as district governor and president of the Downtown Kansas City Rotary club. He held leadership roles at Second Presbyterian Church and was a Life Member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board. He also mentored international entrepreneurs. John was a frequent attendee at Grinnell events and served as a Wilson Center speaker in 2018. John and Mary Ann loved traveling, especially with

family. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Mary Ann, and three children.

**Moira Buchan Buhse '57**, June 19, 2025, Boulder, Colorado. After she graduated with her bachelor's in English, Moira obtained a master's in library science from Rosary College. She worked as a reference librarian at Downers Grove Public Library for many years before becoming head librarian at Westmont Public Library. She loved the Rocky Mountains and enjoyed hiking and spending time with her kids and grandkids at the family cabin. She was a longtime volunteer at the Morton Arboretum. She lived in Downers Grove for over 50 years with her husband of 66 years, *Howard Buhse '57*, before moving to Boulder after his death in 2023. Her three children, including her daughter, *Lucinda Buhse '82*, are among those who survive her.

**Carol Jensen Phelps '57**, May 29, 2025, Kingsley, Iowa. After two years at Grinnell, Carol transferred to Indiana University, where she completed her degree in journalism. She worked as a reporter, then women's editor, for the *Ames Daily Tribune*. She also reconnected with *Robert Phelps '56*, and they married in 1961. They had a daughter and two sons. Her life was selflessly focused on her marriage and family. Carol was a 62-year member of PEO Chapter GS. Her many interests included photography and reading, and all animals benefited from her kind heart. Carol humbly lived a faith-filled life in word and action. She was a member of Kingsley United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2022.

**Arthur H. Travers '57**, July 31, 2025, Boulder, Colorado. Arthur, who attended Grinnell and Harvard Law School, worked at a Chicago law firm before deciding to teach instead. He taught business law, contracts, and mergers at the University of Kansas. He married Judy Brean, whom he met at Harvard, and they had two daughters. They later divorced. In 1970, he moved to the University of Colorado, where he taught law until his retirement. He married Laurie Sachs in 1985. He enjoyed reading, music, movies, dogs, baseball, history, and cooking. Arthur was a member of his 50th, 55th, and 60th Reunion committees and served as a class agent (2003-22). Survivors include his wife, Laurie, and his daughters.

**David E. Steiner '57**, March 12, 2025, Apex, North Carolina. David's grandfather was *Edward Steiner* (Rand Professor of Applied Christianity, 1903-41), who is the namesake for Steiner Hall. In 1955, David embarked on a distinguished career with the U.S. Air Force, serving as a master navigator. His assignments took him across the world, and he logged over 6,000 flying hours, including 700 hours in combat. He was awarded 11 Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his Vietnam missions. After retiring from the Air Force, David taught at CU Boulder and visited high schools to share his experiences as an aviator. He was dedicated to veteran affairs and co-founded a Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Denver. David married Mary Coomes in 1961, and they had two boys. David was a frequent attendee at Grinnell events. Mary died in 2013. He also was predeceased by his brother, *Henry-York Steiner '56*, in 2019. He



is survived by his sons, including *Henry-York Steiner II '84*.

**Ruth Rosengren Kelsen '58**, July 24, 2025, Pueblo, Colorado. After attending Grinnell, Ruth studied physical therapy at the University of Iowa. She married David Kelsen, and they had two sons. After a divorce, she continued to work and raise her children as a single parent. She worked in Waterloo and Urbandale, Iowa, and later in several facilities in Door County. She retired from physical therapy, then went to school to become a massage therapist and ran a small business from her home. Ruth enjoyed knitting, baking, and playing the piano. She loved her friends and family.

**Jane Tangwall Ocker '58**, Dec. 20, 2024, Westwood, Massachusetts. Jane's survivors include her husband, *Don Ocker '57*.

**Kenneth R. Pap '59**, Aug. 22, 2025, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Ken played football while at Grinnell, where he met *Martha Jane McCarty '60*. They wed a week after his graduation and were married until her death in 2005. His career included teaching and coaching in several Iowa high schools, construction sales, and running a successful business until his retirement. Ken played golf regularly well into his 80s. He was a passionate sports fan. Ken spent the latter part of his life with Chelon Stanzel. The two shared a love of travel and hosting family holidays. Survivors include his partner, Chelon Stanzel, and his two daughters.

**J. Michael Canniffe '61**, March 29, 2025, Marblehead, Massachusetts. Michael, who was a graduate of Boston College, was a past

president of the Marblehead Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, served on the board of directors of the Marblehead Savings Bank, and was a longtime registrar of voters. He and his wife, Alicia, whom he married in 1963, were longtime parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea. They lived, raised their children, and ran their businesses, Canniffe Clothing Shop and Stowaway Sweets, in Marblehead. Michael enjoyed gathering with family and friends and was always looking forward to the next celebration. He was predeceased by Alicia, his wife of 61 years. Survivors include their five children.

**Ann Lallman Jessop '61**, May 16, 2025, Omaha, Nebraska. Ann married Norman Jessop in 1975; he preceded her in death.

**David B. Manley '61**, April 10, 2024, Rolla, Missouri. David graduated from Grinnell with a bachelor's of science, then attended the University of Kansas, earning a master's of science and a doctorate. He worked as a professor of chemical engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology for many years. In his spare time, he enjoyed backpacking, woodworking, and being an arborist. Survivors include his three children.

**Roberta Eustis Little '62**, May 31, 2025, East Lansing, Michigan. Roberta met *Timothy Little '62*, during their first week at Grinnell, and they "dated and danced their way through college together." They married in 1964. Roberta taught for a time, then after her daughter was born, she chose to be a stay-at-home mom. The family moved to East Lansing in 1971, when Tim began teaching

at Michigan State University. In 1981, she started her own business, Charter Accounting and Tax Service, which she operated for 30 years until her retirement in 2011. She and Tim were members of the Under Construction Bluegrass Band for over 20 years. Roberta enjoyed reading, genealogy, traveling, and watching sports. Above all, she loved being a wife and mother. Tim, her husband of 58 years, passed away in 2023.

**Robert E. Chubrich '63**, May 28, 2025, Mesa, Arizona. Bob was a standout tight end on the Grinnell football team, also running track and playing basketball. After graduating with a degree in speech pathology, he earned a master's in speech and hearing science at Indiana University, where he also met Ronda Kay Carpenter. He went on to earn a doctorate at SUNY Buffalo. He was awarded a Fulbright research grant in 1984 and spent a year in Yugoslavia. Bob coached and cheered his kids' pursuits. He supported his church and served the Sunday school for decades. After Ronda's death, Bob married Mary Jane Fehr; although they were no longer married in 2025, they remained close. Survivors include his two daughters.

**James A. Cross '63**, May 29, 2025, Portland, Oregon. Following Grinnell, Jim earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. In 1975, he earned board certification in obstetrics and gynecology and was elected a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in 1977. Jim dedicated his career to women's health as an OB/GYN at West Hills Women's Clinic in Portland. He delivered approximately 2,300

babies during his career. He served in numerous leadership roles with the Oregon Medical Association, including as president (1992-93). He and his wife, Susan, enjoyed working together as a doctor and nurse team for 15 years before they retired. He loved playing ice hockey with friends, traveling, golfing, cooking, gardening, and entertaining. Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Susan Cross; his son, *Steven M. Cross* '90; a daughter; and two stepchildren.

**Margaret Henderson Norby** '63, April 20, 2025, Davenport, Iowa. Maggie attended Grinnell before graduating from the University of Iowa. She was employed as a speech pathologist and audiologist with public schools in Bettendorf, Iowa. Maggie is remembered for her genuine interest in others and love for animals. Her greatest love was for her family. Survivors include her two children.

**William H. Petersen** '63, June 5, 2025, Fairport, New York. After graduating from Grinnell, William earned a master's of divinity from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) and a doctorate from Graduate Theological Union. In 1963, he married *Priscilla Eide Petersen* '63. He served as dean of Bexley Hall Seminary (1983-96), and was named dean emeritus (2002), and professor emeritus when he retired in 2009. He served the church in numerous capacities as a distinguished historian, theologian, liturgist, and ecumenist in the Episcopal Church and the greater Anglican Communion. Special honors included having a private audience at the Vatican in 1989, where he received an award for extraordinary service in the Ecumenical Movement; and receiving honorary doctorates from

CDSP and from the bishop of Hong Kong. He was a member of his Grinnell 50th Reunion committee. Survivors include his wife and their two children.

**David V. Steiniche** '63, June 4, 2025, Cameron, Missouri. After he graduated from Grinnell, David earned a master's from the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate in political science from the University of Nebraska. He was a professor of political science at Missouri Western State University, where he lectured for 41 years. After retiring, David enjoyed traveling with his wife, Brenda, and spending winters in Arizona. Survivors include his wife and children.

**John R. Husted** '64, Aug. 26, 2025, Crawfordsville, Indiana. After he earned his bachelor's in psychology at Grinnell, John went on to graduate studies at DePauw University before completing his doctorate at Saint Louis University in 1968. He worked for more than 40 years as a psychologist (retiring in 2012), and for three decades he taught as a professor at the University of Minnesota at Morris (retiring in 2007). He also worked with tribal members of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in South Dakota, who made him an honorary member of the tribe. John was a marathon runner and loved classical music, movies, and reading. Survivors include his five children.

**John D. Karlsson** '64, June 18, 2025, Hope Valley, Rhode Island. John graduated from Grinnell with a degree in biology/herpetology. After a short stint in medical research, he took a position as a research marine fisheries biologist in Rhode Island, studying and laboratory rearing bay scallops.

The transplanted scallops never produced a sustaining population in the field. John's work showed a parasite explained their inability to reproduce. Later, that parasite was named for him as *Perkinsus karlssoni*. John was a self-taught banjo player and performed bluegrass and old-timey music with various groups. John and his wife owned a kennel and were recognized as AKC breeders of merit, producing many award-winning Portuguese Water Dogs. Survivors include his wife, Mary Woodcock Karlsson, and his son.

**John McCarthy** '64, May 18, 2025, Eugene, Oregon. John earned his bachelor's in physics from Grinnell, a master's of science in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma, and a doctorate in geophysical sciences from the University of Chicago. He was a professor of meteorology at the University of Oklahoma (1973-80) and the founding director of the Research Applications Program at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado (1981-94). He directed research on aviation weather hazards, focusing on microbursts and wind shear. He received the inaugural Aviation and Space Operations Weather Prize in 2017 for his lifetime achievements in mitigating aviation weather hazards. John enjoyed hiking in the mountains and international travel. He had an excellent singing voice and performed in many choirs. He also was quite spiritual. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Carole Shawver, and three children.

**Elizabeth Awbrey Roberts** '64, Apr. 23, 2025, Vernon Hills, Illinois. Elizabeth received her bachelor's in English from Grinnell, then was employed for 33 years at Vernon



Area Public Library in Lincolnshire, Illinois. She enjoyed golfing, softball, reading, and gardening. Most of all, she took pride in being a wife and mother and spending time with her family. Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Mervin Roberts, and two sons.

**Bill E. Landsberg '66**, March 7, 2025, Monument, Colorado. Bill attended Grinnell and graduated from the University of Iowa, then served in the U.S. Army. He received a JD from Creighton University in 1973. He was a deputy public defender in Colorado Springs (1973-78), then ran a successful private practice in civil litigation in Colorado Springs (1978-98). He earned a graduate certificate in public administration and became head of Pikes Peak Mental Health foundation, serving as general counsel. He retired in 2015. Bill served on boards for Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, Clean Air Campaign, Colorado Mountain Club, and Adopt-a-Village International. In 1993, he married Cynthia Jones Quicksall and adopted her two young daughters. In 1995, they welcomed the birth of a son. Bill had a private pilot's license and enjoyed travel, biking, running, mountain climbing, scuba diving, and rafting. Survivors include his wife and children.

**Terrill D. Maynard '66**, May 26, 2025, Reston, Virginia. Terry attended Grinnell, then transferred to the University of Iowa to earn his degree in political science and economics. In 1966, he joined the U.S. Navy as an officer on the USS *John W. Thomason*. Terry and Susan Marie Binney married in 1968 and had two sons. He earned a master's in international relations

at the University of Chicago and an MBA at the University of California. Terry joined the Central Intelligence Agency as an intelligence officer in 1972; he retired in 2001. He was the recipient of the CIA Intelligence Medal of Merit and Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal. After 9/11, he returned to work as the first designated head of TSA's intelligence office during its creation and integration into the new Department of Homeland Security. He retired again in 2003 to enjoy golf, poker, time at the lake, and work with the Reston Citizens Association. Survivors include his wife and sons.

**Catherine Peters Platt '66**, June 1, 2025, Fishers, Indiana. Cathy attended Grinnell, then taught school for several years. She was one of the first female Cub Scout leaders in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. After raising three children, she went back to school and got her technology sciences degree at College of DuPage and wrote a how-to book on Access databases. Cathy enjoyed staying busy with family, music, volunteering, and hosting gatherings in her home. Survivors include her husband of 17 years, John Platt.

**Michael Saeger '70**, July 18, 2025, St. Paul, Minnesota. On the same day that Mike graduated with his degree in history, he married *Mary Ellen Ruvelson '69*. He went on to earn his Juris Doctor from Northwestern University in 1973. The Saegers then moved to St. Paul, where they had two sons. He raised them himself after Mary Ellen's death in 1987. He worked for the Attorney General's Office of the State of Minnesota, the Kandiyohi County District Attorney's office,

Burlington Northern Railroad, and in his own private practice. In 2001, he earned a master's in computer science from the University of Saint Thomas. Mike enjoyed bridge, Pilates, playing the piano, and gardening. Survivors include his sons.

**John P. Czerwinski '71**, June 25, 2025, Chicago. John was married to his wife, Nancy, for 53 years. They had four children. John was a proud second-generation Master Carpenter and Gold Card recipient of the Chicago Land Carpenters Union Local #10.

**John Myron Wylie II '75**, Oct. 4, 2025, Oologah, Oklahoma. John began his journalistic career at Grinnell, where he was editor-in-chief of *The Scarlet & Black*, a correspondent for the *Des Moines Register* and United Press International, and a news director and on-air personality for KDIC radio. *The Kansas City Star* named John its first full-time energy and environment writer in 1975. He was part of the *Star* team whose coverage of the Hyatt Regency skywalk disaster won a Pulitzer Prize in 1982. In 1984, he and his wife, Faith Lubben Wylie, purchased the *Oologah Lake Leader*, a weekly newspaper, which they published until 2017. Under their leadership, it was named the state's best newspaper in its circulation category 17 times. John also wrote for many other publications including the *Tulsa Tribune*, the *Oklahoma Observer*, and *Reader's Digest*. His many journalistic awards included induction into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, the Beachy Musselman Award (Oklahoma newspapers' highest honor), and 14 first place awards from the National Newspaper

Association. He served as Oologah Chamber of Commerce president, Oologah Historical Society president, a lay leader at Oologah United Methodist Church, and as an officer for many journalistic organizations, including the Society for Professional Journalists, the Society of Environmental Journalists, and the National Newspaper Association. John was an engaged alum who served as a class agent (1995–2018), and was honored with an Alumni Award in 1985. Survivors include his wife, Faith, and their son.

**Christopher John Hampl '84**, Oct. 21, 2024, St. Paul, Minnesota. Christopher was keenly interested in family genealogy as well as Minnesota and St. Paul history. In the 1980s, Chris began working as a certified financial planner with Ameriprise, where he worked primarily with teachers. He married Colleen (Green) Hampl in 1992; she predeceased him in 2016, after 24 years of marriage.

**Casey W. Curtis '88**, Jan. 31, 2025, Tucson, Arizona. Casey earned his degree in business administration from Northern Arizona University. He went on to become a firefighter, dedicating over 30 years of his life to protecting and serving the communities of Scottsdale and Tucson. His wife, Theresa, preceded him in death.

**David H. Bundy '89**, Feb. 23, 2025, Lincoln, Nebraska. Dave, who graduated with a degree in history, worked as a journalist in several states. While at *The Bismarck Tribune* in North Dakota, he met Allison Hawes. They married in 1996 and had four children. They eventually settled in Lincoln, where he was the editor of the *Lincoln Journal Star* for the past 13 years. Dave believed that free speech and civil dialogue could coexist and worked with letter writers and local columnists to present their views. He served in his church congregation with the youth, was a Sunday school teacher, and produced the Sunday bulletin. Being a dad was one of his favorite things. Survivors include his wife and children.

### Submit an Obituary

*The Grinnell Magazine* publishes brief obituaries of alumni and other Grinnellians but does not attempt to write definitive obituaries. Submissions are welcome and may be edited for clarity, length, and style. Please share a link to an online obituary, if available. Submit to [classnotes@grinnell.edu](mailto:classnotes@grinnell.edu) or [alumni.grinnell.edu/community/classnotes](https://alumni.grinnell.edu/community/classnotes).



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