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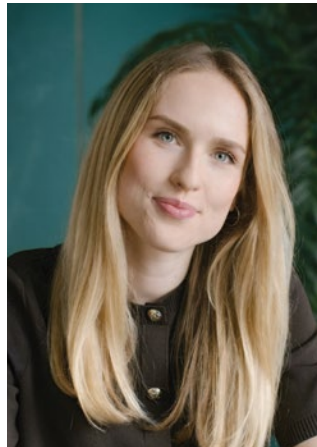


GRINNELL WOMEN WORKING TO POWER
POSITIVE CHANGE



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Grinnell Women Working to Power Positive Change

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Welcome Home, Grinnell Alumni

The two-story house at 1527 Broad has had College ties for 125 years, but its latest incarnation may be its best yet, as it begins a new life as a place for alumni to get together, talk, and share experiences that are unique to Grinnellians.

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Shaping the Future of Environmental Studies at Grinnell

Jennifer Honeycutt '91 has dedicated her highly successful career to ensuring the planet has clean water. Now, she has made a significant gift toward creating an endowed chair in environmental studies and catalyzing the next generation of Grinnell environmental leaders.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Message from President Anne F. Harris

Going Forth and Coming Home

At Commencement each spring, I have the honor of giving the charge to the graduating class. It's a moment of unmitigated joy, just before graduates throw their caps into the air. At the end of the charge, I call for each one of them to "Go Forth Grinnellian!" And you do! With each opportunity to meet alums in Grinnell and around the globe, I learn about inspiring alums who are doing amazing things to shape communities and experiences. I also learn how many of you remember this small college in Iowa as someplace you have considered home. And I am deeply glad that you are in this world, one that needs the brilliance, care, and resolve that Grinnellians bring.

As you review this issue, you'll learn about four brilliant women whose Grinnell education has led them to leadership positions in the field of venture capital. **Maggie Bian '09**, **Andrea Brennan '04**, **Saule Keliaskaite '23**, and **Grisel Hernandez '17** are working to shape the world by supporting bold ideas, stewarding assets to support a mission, and immersing themselves in emerging industries and technologies to provide expert advice.

Coming home, you'll get an inside look at the Hannah Alumni House, named for **Mary Emily Hannah '58**, and supported by other generous alums. I have sought a place where alums could be honored and cherished, where they could gather and experience how much they mean to our students, faculty, and staff at the College, indeed how much they have shaped our beloved College. This beautiful restoration of the home built by **Jesse and Maude Fellows 1901**, located on Broad Street, provides meeting spaces, gathering places, and guest rooms that warmly welcome alums back to Grinnell. I hope that you'll come back to see it during Reunion!

Coming "full circle," you'll learn how **Jennifer (Hooper) Honeycutt '91** followed an interest sparked by her first-year tutorial to build a career dedicated to safeguarding clean water for the planet. Today, she is the president and chief executive officer of Veralto, a multinational company dedicated to safeguarding this vital resource. Here in Grinnell, her extraordinary gift is jump-starting an effort to create an endowed chair in environmental studies, which will help the College recruit and retain extraordinary faculty like Jennifer's



tutorial professor, the late Professor Emeritus of Chemistry **Luther Erickson**.

As we prepare for Commencement and gather for Reunion, I invite each of you to think on — and maybe even thank! — the Grinnellian who continues to inspire you. **Chase Strangio '04, DL '18**, who generously accepted the Class of 2026's invitation to be this year's Commencement speaker, is a vibrant example. Throughout his career and in his groundbreaking legal work as co-director of the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBTQ and HIV Project, he has made a positive and generative impact.

It is such a joy and a privilege to learn about you and from you and to reflect on how this extraordinary College has been a part of your lives. Your presence on campus and in the world fills your fellow Grinnellians — and the College itself — with renewed and replenished resolve for the worthwhile work of championing human dignity and the common good. 📖

QUINTESSENTIAL GRINNELL



COMMENCEMENT

Chase Strangio Will Deliver Commencement Address

American Civil Liberties Union attorney and LGBTQ advocate **Chase Strangio '04, DL '18**, will deliver the 2026 Grinnell College Commencement address during ceremonies at 10 a.m., on Monday, May 18.



Strangio is co-director of the LGBTQ & HIV Project for the ACLU. He has spent the last 20 years advocating for the rights of LGBTQ people in and out of the courtroom and has been on the legal teams defending LGBTQ rights before the Supreme Court five times over the past 11 years. In 2024, Strangio became the first openly transgender lawyer to argue before the Supreme Court.

Those who cannot attend in person can view the Commencement Livestream online at grinnell.edu/livestream.



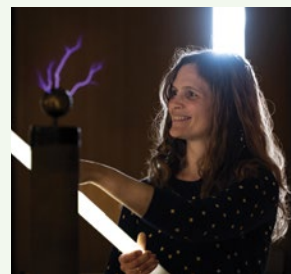
FACULTY RECOGNITION

Celebrating the Installation of Four Endowed Professors

Four distinguished faculty were appointed to endowed positions — one of the highest honors the College can award to members of its faculty — in February. The honored faculty members are Professor of Sociology **Karla Erickson**, the Rosenfield Professor of Social Studies; Professor of French and Arabic **David Harrison**, installed as one of Grinnell's two Orville and Mary Patterson Rount Professors in Literature; Professor of Biology **Vida Praitis**, the Rosenthal Professor of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and Professor of African Diaspora Studies **John Thabiti Willis**, the inaugural Kesho Scott Endowed Chair in African Diaspora Studies.

Physics Professor Wins Scialog Award

Associate Professor of Physics **Charlotte Christensen** is part of a team that has received a \$198,000 Scialog award from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement. Christensen's team, which includes scientists from Amherst College and Rutgers University, is focused on detecting and understanding dwarf galaxies in low-density areas of space known as "cosmic voids."



ACADEMICS

Grinnell Named a Top Producer of Fulbright U.S. Students



Grinnell College has received national recognition as one of the nation's top-producing colleges and universities for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, based on the number of Grinnellians selected. Three Grinnell recipients were named for 2025-26 Fulbright English teaching assistantships. **Nora Kohnhorst '25** is teaching in Germany, **Zachary Walsh '25** is in Costa Rica, and **Zoe Zallek '25** is in Latvia.

Two Grinnell Students Awarded Watson Fellowships

Rachel L. Rudacille '26 and **Shabab M. Kabir '26** have been awarded prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowships for 2026-27, which includes a \$40,000 stipend. With the announcement of this year's recipients, 88 Grinnell students have been named Watson Fellows. Rudacille's project will explore what allows communities to effectively organize for climate action and Kabir's project will center on sonic materiality.



Student Selected for Goldwater Scholarship



Sebastian Corry '27 is one of 454 students nationwide selected this year for a Goldwater Scholarship. The award provides scholars with financial assistance for undergraduate tuition and helps them develop networking connections as they prepare for graduate school. Corry, a mathematics major from Appleton, Wisconsin, plans to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics and a career in academia.

Find the latest Grinnellian news and stories online at grinnell.edu/news.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chamber Recognizes College's Community Collaborations and Positive Impact

The Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce has presented a GrinnTogether award to the



College in honor of initiatives, such as the Katherine Howell Weingart '61 Civic Innovation Pavilion, which serves as a public-facing gathering space for campus and community. The award also recognized the College's annual economic impact of more than \$200 million. President **Anne F. Harris** accepted the award on behalf of the College.

College Pledges to Support Upgrades at UnityPoint Health

Grinnell College has pledged \$55,000 to support safety upgrades for Grinnell Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department. Grinnell Mutual also made a \$50,000 commitment toward the effort. The funding will support enhanced safety measures to ensure the well-being of both patients and team members.



GRINNELL
WOMEN
WORKING
TO POWER
POSITIVE
CHANGE





How four Grinnell alums are blazing new trails in the finance world

by Anne Stein '84

In the high-stakes, innovation-driven world of venture capital (VC) and private investing, a cohort of Grinnell women graduates are bringing new perspectives across the spectrums of business and finance. Their work around the globe is changing practices in fields from startups and AI to institutional investing and global intelligence.

From Shanghai and San Francisco to Chicago and Boston, these alumnae represent an exciting and untold story: how business leaders with a liberal arts education foundation — paired with curiosity, drive, and a desire for positive change for the common good — are powering new models of investment, research, and entrepreneurial vision.

MAGGIE BIAN

Partner and Chief Operating Officer of HOPU Investments, COO at Arm China

Shanghai, China

She's often both the only woman in the boardroom and one of the youngest at the table. Fifteen years into her career, **Maggie Bian '09** is a partner and chief operating officer at HOPU Investments, one of Asia's largest private equity firms.

Based in Shanghai, her duties focus on people rather than numbers. She oversees human resources, investor relations, portfolio management, public relations, facility management, and technology.

She's also COO at Arm China, a joint venture between Arm Global (the world's leading intellectual property company) and investors led by HOPU Investments, overseeing business operations and building relationships with key investors and stakeholders. Bian is frequently "seconded" onto companies that HOPU invests in; it's a temporary assignment working with CEOs of HOPU's portfolio companies.

An independent major in economic development and East Asian history, Bian didn't have a career in mind at Grinnell. "I'm a first-generation college student (from Shanghai) so I didn't get a lot of college advice," she says, though her parents were entrepreneurs and their work ethic and drive clearly influenced her. "I was always ambitious, and once I have a job in place, I ask how I can make the most out of it."

Following graduation, she earned a master's in regional East Asian studies at Harvard University, figuring she'd return to Asia and work. A summer internship with several U.S.-based NGOs, including the Nature Conservancy, changed her mind, and she hoped that staying in the U.S. and working for a nonprofit would be her path.

Unfortunately, her visa status wouldn't allow it, but a Harvard recruiting event yielded several job offers, including one from investment firm Sanford Bernstein in Hong Kong.

"My first job was very foundational, as an equity research associate," Bian says. "I read financial statements and wrote reports, which is important training." But she didn't particularly enjoy it. Bian asked for more work in other areas throughout the company. She worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week for the first five years of her career, learning and doing whatever she could.

"I started my career on the investment side — most people think that's the fancier side, the main job of VC, formulating investment strategy and doing deals, but I quickly realized it wasn't my passion. So I switched my focus, getting into a sales role three years into the job, which pivoted me more to the people side," she explains.

After four years she moved on to Hillhouse Capital, one of the largest asset managers in Asia. She started as chief talent officer and eventually became executive director, primarily responsible for portfolio management, human resources, and investor relations. She went on to the managing director's position at YF Capital before moving on to HOPU, where she has worked for the past two years.

"My experience has been learning while doing, then reflecting on what can be done better — and having good support people," says Bian. "I sort through hundreds of things daily and indecisiveness isn't helpful, so early on I decided I'd make decisions to start the ball rolling."

"I always tell people that my role in the private sector is a place where you can make a difference," she says, citing Hillhouse Capital's landmark investment in BeiGene, a biotech company that's developed effective and low-cost oncology drugs.

"You are investing money in companies that are changing the world, and you're supporting entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams."





ANDREA BRENNEN

Senior Vice President of Applied Research, IQT (In-Q-Tel)

Boston, Massachusetts

Andrea Brennen '04 didn't have an iota of interest in finance or venture capital during her college career. "I was just trying to get the most out of Grinnell," says Brennen.

With a double major in mathematics and studio art, Brennen particularly enjoyed sculpting and theoretical math. She put the two together, thinking architecture would be a great career, and earned a Master of Architecture in Architectural Design from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2009. It turned out that studying architecture was more appealing than practicing it for Brennen. She also graduated from MIT when few companies were hiring.

Brennen traveled and worked overseas for a year, then returned home. She eventually started her own small design consulting company based on her math and architecture skills and started getting contracts. Then she joined the technical staff at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, where she worked for four years.

"I did a lot of work at MIT's Media Lab, and I noticed that startup companies spinning out of MIT were building what we'd now call data science tools, software to basically process and analyze really large amounts of data." But there were no designers involved in these projects.

"I thought, if you're going to build a software product to process data and present the insights to a person who's not a computer scientist or statistician, you have to think about how to design the data that's represented, to have better visuals to make sense of it. It gives you a way to see, at a glance, what the big picture is."

A few years later she was recruited by In-Q-Tel (IQT), a not-for-profit global investment firm that works with government agencies across the national security community.

Her initial job at IQT included technical vetting for startups building visualization tools. She would sit in on pitches and help the investment team get a sense of which products would work or were better than other products, for example. "A lot of that job was asking questions and thinking critically, because the company is trying to sell an idea that they want you to invest in. It was a good use of my liberal arts background."

Now a seasoned technical expert in visual analysis and human-AI interaction, she manages her company's applied research team, working with computer science, AI, and security experts.

"My path is the most accidental and random way into venture capital," says Brennen, now in her 11th year at IQT.

Today, she says, "I sit in this unique position where I talk to startup companies and constantly learn about new technologies. And I talk to people within the government to understand what they are doing and what are their challenges."

"I find the work really rewarding," says Brennen. "It's fascinating to have a front-row seat to what's going on in these two very different worlds. There's so much innovation in the venture ecosystem, and it's an amazing mechanism for funding cutting-edge research."

SAULE KELIAUSKAITE

Investment Associate, UCSF Foundation Investment Company

San Francisco, California

If there's an investment specialist who has been thoroughly trained in her field by Grinnell, it's **Saule Keliauskaite '23**.

"When I came to Grinnell, the world opened up," says the Vilnius, Lithuania, native. "I could do economics, take my math classes and computer science, but I could also study art history and get a better understanding of Greek literature."

She joined the campus investment club, Pioneer Capital Investments, her first year. "I didn't have much background in investing, but I found a community that wanted to understand companies, business owners, and entrepreneurs."

At UCSF Foundation Investment Company, Keliauskaite has helped manage the endowment across public and private markets since 2025. She says her most important role is executing due diligence and evaluation of managers and opportunities. "I believe that while data is essential, the primary driver of success is the resilience and conviction of the people involved."

Prior to UCSF, she was an endowment investment analyst for the Grinnell College Investment Office in Boston. "Moving to UCSF felt like a natural progression, allowing me to apply a mission-driven model to a larger institutional scale."

"I trace my interest in finance back to the campus investment club and learning about people like (Berkshire Hathaway's) Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger and finding other people who were interested in learning together," she says. The group analyzed companies and discussed why they'd be good investments, but her favorite part of the presentations focused on behavioral economics.

"Let's say you see a lot of people in VC trying to get

in on a hot deal. You need to ask, why is it happening and then, are you participating because you're fearful of missing out, or is it actually a good opportunity? It can be about not doing what the herd mentality is doing."

As a student, Keliauskaite had a summer internship at a Lithuanian VC firm focused on clean energy investments. She spent her third year studying at the London School of Economics and getting into pitch competitions.

"I met people who were creating interesting things, and they all had this conviction about their venture," she says. "Ultimately you are investing in people who are entrepreneurs and learning what kind of hardships they go through, their thinking, the teams they assemble, and the people they're trying to convince to go on this journey with them."

Later, Keliauskaite and other investment club members traveled to a Harvard investment conference, where they met the Grinnell endowment team. Those connections led to her first job.

"I learned so much working with them. As a student, you have a lot of academic exposure but it's not the same as being in the room and learning from people doing some of the best work in the world. I don't even have the words to express how formative that was, and how it put me on this path."

Now in San Francisco, Keliauskaite says, "While my role involves managing a complex endowment, my personal 'North Star' is identifying top-tier talent and understanding the psychology behind high-performance teams."

Ultimately, she says whether it be at Grinnell or UCSF, "there are institutional needs, and you want to make sure that the endowment is there forever to support that institution and its students."





GRISEL HERNANDEZ

Senior Associate, Chingona Ventures

Chicago, Illinois

There were a number of “aha” moments that led **Grisel Hernandez** ’17 to the world of early-stage venture capital. A first-generation college student from Chicago, she originally wanted to delve into Spanish literature and Latin American history at Grinnell. “I really liked magical realism,” she says. “But I was also curious about other disciplines.”

A few weeks after starting ECON 101 with Professor of Economics **Bradley Graham**, she decided that economics would be her major. “I was really drawn to game theory, economic development, and how economics intertwined with other disciplines.”

She also focused on political science with her advisor, Professor Emerita of Political Science **Eliza Willis**, and on Latin American studies with Associate Professor **J. Pablo Silva**.

Several experiences during her Grinnell years piqued her initial interest in how society allocates resources. “I had an internship in Chicago with a nonprofit advocating for immigrants’ housing rights and supporting social impact tourism in Mexico and Cuba.” Hernandez liked what they were working toward, but it was painful to see the organization so financially constrained.

She studied abroad for one semester at the University of Buenos Aires. “There were lots of protests due to higher education budget cuts and again I thought, ‘Who’s sitting at these decision-making tables, and what would it look like to have someone else there?’”

But she didn’t think too much about a career until after graduation. “In my first role outside of college (researching financial market data) I began to see capital allocation as one of the ways societies decide what gets built and who gets supported.”

A Grinnell connection led to an interview with a

chief investment officer of an institution managing public and private market investments. “I worked with a team making investments in private market funds, and that’s where I started learning more about investing. Within that, venture was the most interesting asset class to me, and I eventually decided to join an emerging fund making early-stage investments.”

At the same time, Hernandez learned as much as she could about VC, identifying industry leaders and teaching herself the financial aspects of the role. She completed a venture fellowship with Chicago:Blend, becoming their first fellow to land a role in venture capital. She now serves on their Alumni Board and helps emerging talent land roles in the industry.

She landed a job nearly four years ago at Chicago-based Chingona Ventures, a small, female-led firm that specializes in idea-stage startups.

Hernandez also started a learning and upskilling community nearly a year ago called AI for Investors, which has almost 500 members. Once a month, they gather to share how they incorporate AI in their day-to-day work as non-technical people in a show-and-tell type style.

“I spend a lot of time thinking about how knowledge workers will be impacted by AI,” Hernandez says. She gave a talk at Chicago Tech Week last year, with predictions about how AI will change and reshape the way that we work.

“I think what I find interesting about early-stage venture is that these firms make big bets on bold ideas that can reshape everyday life. Those investment decision-makers at the earliest stage are the ones deciding which ideas and products get funded,” Hernandez says. “That really aligns with my interest of seeing how capital is allocated.” 📖



WELCOME HOME, GRINNELL ALUMNI

Hannah Alumni House offers a place to stay, meet, and celebrate

by Anne Stein '84



Hannah Alumni House

Mary Emily Hannah '58 Alumni House



1527 Broad Street

Built in 1901, the renovated Hannah Alumni House stands ready to host visiting Grinnell alums, with guest and meeting rooms and large outdoor spaces for gatherings.

Across the street from Merrill Park and just around the corner from the north side of campus, a newly renovated historic home on Broad Street stands ready to host alumni.

Dedicated late last year, Hannah Alumni House will serve as the College's first central meeting space for Grinnell alumni. Filled with photos, artifacts, and other objects that span College history, the two-story house at 1527 Broad is designed to both welcome and celebrate alumni.

It features four guest rooms available for overnight stays, two meeting rooms, a sunporch, kitchen, and two lounges. Outdoor spaces and gardens are also available for parties and celebrations.

"From language houses to the Black Cultural Center, the College has a longstanding history of creating spaces that support and foster belonging," says **Bernadine Douglas**, vice president of development and alumni

relations. "For many alums, this happens every summer when they return to campus for Reunion, and now with the Hannah Alumni House, alums have their space. It's a tribute to their shared experiences, and a place we hope Grinnellians gather often throughout the year."

The house has long been connected to the College. Built by **Jesse and Maude Fellows**, both class of 1901, it was the site for numerous events hosted by the couple for Grinnell's faculty, students, and alumni. The house also served as a dormitory in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and much of the original Craftsman-style interior, featuring leaded glass bookcases, stained glass doors, and crafted oak woodwork, remains throughout the home.

When President **Anne F. Harris** learned that the home was for sale, she knew she had found a place to honor Grinnell alumni. It was purchased by the College in 2022 and named after **M.E. (Mary Emily) Hannah '58, DL '82**, an education trailblazer whose \$1 million gift to Grinnell helped make the renovations possible (see sidebar for her biography).

Several guest rooms and other spaces have been sponsored and named by alumni donors including **Rachel Bly '93**, who has a personal connection to the house.

Bly's late husband, Bob, enjoyed visiting the home as a boy, when it was occupied by family members in the 1950s and '60s. Bob's grandfather, A.B. (Alfred Byron) Hamilton (known as "Daddy Babe" to his grandkids), started an insurance agency in town. A.B.'s sister, Pearl Hamilton Nollen (who was the sister-in-law of Grinnell's sixth president, **John Nollen**), bought the house to be closer to family, and was joined by A.B. and his sister-in-law, Blanche.

"So it was Daddy Babe, Aunt Pearl, and Aunt Blanche, and all the kids would go to Grandpa's house on weekends for pancakes, popcorn, and to play tag and other games," says Bly.

"The house was so meaningful to Bob and held so many memories, so when the College decided to buy it and fix it up, it just seemed like a really fitting way to honor both the College and Bob."



Rachel Bly '93, President Anne F. Harris, and Bernadine Douglas, vice president of development and alumni relations (left to right) at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Hannah Alumni House this past November.



TOP LEFT: The Hannah Alumni House features comfortable meeting spaces and lounges where alums can gather for a little work or relaxation. TOP RIGHT: Guests tour the Metzler Family Lounge during the November dedication. LEFT: Nino Parker '07, director of affinity and regional programs, visits with Retired Trustee Anne Campbell Spence '66. RIGHT: Professor Emeritus of Economics Jack Mutti talks to Alumni Council member Suha Gillani '16. LOWER LEFT: A small ensemble of student musicians entertained guest touring downstairs during the November dedication. LOWER RIGHT: The light, bright first-floor sunporch has been named the Alumni Meeting Room.



WHO WAS M.E. HANNAH?



M.E. (Mary Emily) Hannah was the first female vice chancellor in the history of the Minnesota State University System. She moved on to the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire in 1980 as chancellor and acting vice president, becoming the first woman to head a public four-year campus in the state of Wisconsin. She then served from 1984–1993 as the vice

chancellor of academic policy and procedure at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education until her retirement.

As a Grinnell student, Hannah was president of women's government. She was also on the staff of the yearbook and the radio station.

"In retrospect, I think my most significant mentors were Dean **Evelyn Gardner**, President **Howard Bowen**, and Professor **Al Jones '50**," Hannah wrote in retrospective for the class of 1958's 50th reunion in 2008. "Each one gave me ambition — Gardner to take myself seriously, Bowen to speak up when I had something to say, and Jones to be a careful listener, reader, and writer."

Hannah stayed active as an alumna, serving as Heritage (Bequest) Chair for the class of 1958 from 1993 to 2003. She was also involved with Grinnell's career development office and came back for reunions and other events. In 1979 she received an Alumni Award, and in 1982 she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Hannah passed away in 2022.

Along with her son Davis, Bly dedicated Aunt Pearl's Guest Room. Aunt Pearl's jewelry box is in a first-floor display case in the house.

Dick Metzler '65 chose to support the second-floor lounge, now known as the Metzler Family Lounge, which features a sitting area of large comfortable couches, big easy chairs, and a fireplace, along with a display case on one wall honoring the current year's Alumni Award recipients.

"It's a great space," says Metzler, who met his late wife **Dorothy "Dottie" Metzler '66** at Grinnell. "I was blown away and quite emotional when I saw our names associated with such a beautiful space. It seems so warm and inviting and a great place for people to gather."

During their college years, Dick was a chemistry major and president of Rawson Hall, while Dottie was a biology major and vice president of Cleveland Hall. The two met on a weekend Student Government Association retreat while roasting marshmallows over a bonfire and the rest, he recalls, is history.

Both Dick and Dottie helped plan their 50th class reunions, work that made it apparent to both of them that alumni needed a comfortable place near campus to gather. The new alumni house meets that need, which is one reason why Metzler, who previously established the Dottie Metzler Environmental Prairie Fund, wanted to support the new house by underwriting the lounge.

"It's a beautiful house on a nice piece of land, and a great bridge to the campus community that's just a few blocks away," says Metzler, who attended the November ribbon cutting ceremony.

"I think it will bring more connection for alumni who come back to campus for reunions or Alumni Council or football games and other sports weekends. It will be a place for alumni to get together for parties, to talk and share experiences that are unique to Grinnell alums."

Metzler envisions alums gathering in front of the fire for conversation in the namesake lounge. "As the building gets used for functions, I think Hannah House will become a central location for alumni and a real part of the College community, just like the Joe Rosenfield Center is the center of life for the student body."

For **Donna Rothenberg Savage '74**, the first-floor



During the Hannah Alumni House dedication, Development and Alumni Relations staff members gather for a group photo in one of the lounges, which features beautiful display cases filled with photos, artifacts, and other objects that span College history.

sunporch, which she named the Alumni Meeting Room, was the most fitting spot in the house to support. Savage earned a master's degree in college administration and student services in 1976, then returned to Grinnell as a resident advisor from 1981–84.

As a student, she was co-president of Norris Hall and was heavily involved in instituting the first-year tutorial system and eliminating core requirements. More recently she served on Alumni Council.

"I attended a lot of meetings at Grinnell, as a student and an RA, and I like the idea of supporting a room where alums can gather among themselves or with students, faculty, and staff," she says. "I envision that room being used as a place for people to get together formally and informally."

Savage also likes the idea of alumni having a place to build closer ties with students. "It's important for alums to meet with students — students like meeting with alums, and this will be a really comfortable place to do that."

Hannah House is "very much my idea of a typical Grinnell home — comfortable and welcoming," she

adds. "It provides a focal point for alums when we return to campus and instills pride that the College has set aside a building in our honor. And it continues the ties that bind us as members of the Grinnell College community."

"I think the house is beautiful," says Bly, who first noticed it when she was a student in the early '90s. "I love that the College has invested in a dedicated space for alumni, one that showcases artifacts and photos celebrating our history. It's a place where those stories can really be seen and appreciated."

"This will be a space where alums can gather, celebrate, and have fun, not just at Reunion but at other times too, like a 'friends' weekend' or even a wedding in the back garden," she says. "It will be a wonderful place to build new memories." 📖

For Your Information

To learn more about supporting Hannah Alumni House or naming a room, contact Susan Kriegel, kriegels@grinnell.edu, 866-850-1846. For Hannah House room reservations or to reserve an event or meeting space, contact Jenelle Veit, calendar@grinnell.edu, 641-269-3178.



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT GRINNELL

**Alumna's gift will help teach the next generation of
environmental changemakers**

by Jeremy Shapiro

There's a certain "full circle" aptness to **Jennifer (Hooper) Honeycutt '91** dedicating her career to ensuring the planet has clean water. After all, the title of her first-year Grinnell College tutorial taught by **Luther Erickson** was called *Wherever There's Water*.

Honeycutt is the president and CEO of Veralto, a multinational public company dedicated to "Safeguarding the World's Most Vital Resources."™

"In a world that's continually under duress and becoming increasingly fractured and polarized, we take pride in what we do," Honeycutt says. "There's no group of people that doesn't need clean water, safe food, and trusted essential goods. We feel strongly about our purpose."

The ties between Honeycutt, water, and Grinnell College run deep. That's even more true now that she has made a \$750,000 gift to jump-start an effort to create a new endowed chair in environmental studies.

"I thank Grinnell so much for shaping my approach to the world around me," Honeycutt says. "It was important for me to find a way to give back and contribute toward a more sustainable future. Environmental studies made sense and is part and parcel with what we're doing at Veralto to protect our natural resources."

Establishing an endowed faculty chair in environmental studies will enhance Grinnell in ways that will resonate for generations to come, says **Ruth Feingold**, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College.

“Endowed chairs allow us to lift up the faculty role, collectively, and to celebrate the many ways that the complex work of teaching, scholarship, and community service is manifested throughout our faculty,” she says. “It also allows us to recognize faculty members who contribute their expertise, passion, and manifest dedication to Grinnell’s mission. I’m delighted Jennifer is spurring on the creation of a new endowed chair and thank her for this valuable contribution to our environmental studies program.”

Grinnell College offers an environmental studies concentration where students explore the many issues posed by the relationship between humans and the natural environment. About 30 students are currently taking part.

“Jennifer’s gift comes at a pivotal time,” says **Andrew Graham**, professor of chemistry who teaches several environmental studies courses. “I take her gift

as an expression of her gratitude for the experience she had as a student, her belief in the strength of the existing environmental studies program, as well as looking to the future and envisioning what environmental studies at Grinnell can be.”

Peter Jacobson, biology professor and chair of environmental studies, says the environmental studies concentration has been around for decades and has served students well. He is excited about the next chapter of the program, which will include incorporating more humanities elements and allow for greater use of the Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA).

“When we’re teaching courses that have an interdisciplinary bent, we articulate that while science is great, the reality is it only takes us a third of the way to the solution,” Jacobson says. “The ability to engage and have conversations across disciplines is critical for students’ professional development but also critical

Sea-Bird Scientific creates instruments for ocean research and environmental monitoring, used by scientists around the world. The data collected helps inform policies to protect oceans and address climate change.





ABOVE: A cornerstone of Veralto’s culture is the concept of *Kaizen*, a week-long event that brings together a cross-functional team to solve a problem or improve a process. Honeycutt and other senior leaders join Kaizens annually during “CEO Kaizen Week,” to roll up their sleeves and work side by side with associates at all levels. Honeycutt says that it is always one of her favorite weeks of the year. **BELOW:** Hach, Veralto’s largest operating company, creates products for testing and monitoring water quality, helping to ensure 3.4 billion people have safe drinking water every day.

in facing the realities of these challenges. Within all these pieces that we are trying to integrate, Jennifer’s support is really meaningful to the momentum for getting it all done.”

In 2019, Honeycutt was among a sizable group of donors that established the Luther and Jenny Erickson Professorship. **Luther Erickson** was not only Jennifer’s advisor, but he also advised her dad, **Philip Hooper ’69**, when Hooper was a Grinnell student. And when Jennifer’s younger sister, **Joanna Rogers ’96**, attended Grinnell, Erickson also was her advisor. “Luther had a long history of supporting the academic journeys of my family.”

Honeycutt majored in French and chemistry. She started her career as an analytical research chemist, doing chemical method development for drinking water and wastewater analysis at Hach Company in Colorado.

“I thought I had died and gone to heaven because



Veralto

Fueling the Future



"It was important for me to find a way to give back and contribute toward a more sustainable future. Environmental studies made sense and is part and parcel with what we're doing at Veralto to protect our natural resources."

– JENNIFER (HOOPER) HONEYCUTT '91



two weeks after graduating in 1991, I bought a car, got a dog, and rented a house,” she recalls. “Nine months in, I realized not only was life pretty lonely amongst the glassware, but I wasn’t a particularly gifted chemist. So, I started volunteering for project management leadership roles within R&D (research and development).”

Honeycutt joined Danaher Corp. in 2000 and began a process of learning about various divisions of the health care company. She focused on the water quality, sensors and controls, product identification, life sciences, and genomic medicines segments of the company, and what she could do to provide leadership to those areas. She spent eight years building Danaher’s life sciences and genomic medicines platform, and five as an executive vice president.

When Danaher decided to spin off its environmental and applied solutions business into what would become Veralto, Honeycutt was tapped as its leader, and the company was launched on the New York Stock Exchange in October 2023.



LEFT: Each year, Veralto leaders gather for a Leadership Conference to share strategic initiatives and exchange lessons learned. At the 2025 conference, Honeycutt kicked off the event under the theme “Fueling the Future.” **ABOVE:** Videojet, the largest company in Veralto’s Product Quality and Innovation segment, produces industrial coding, marking, and printing systems for data such as expiration dates, batch codes, and bar codes for food, pharmaceuticals, and other essential goods, helping ensure product quality.



“We’re building momentum as a public company,” Honeycutt says. “The spin has been fun in terms of crafting the company culture and standing up Veralto’s identity. About 60 percent of the business is in water quality, where we provide water analytics and water treatment solutions. We sell to municipalities and industrial water users throughout the world. The other 40 percent is in product quality and innovation, where we focus on compliant packaging, food safety, and traceability for consumer packaged goods.”

Honeycutt returned to campus in October to speak with students in the Learning from Alumni class and meet with Jacobson and Graham. Making a gift toward an endowed faculty position reminded her of her incredible professors at Grinnell.

ABOVE: Students currently can get involved in a wide range of hands-on environmental activities. Jennifer Honeycutt’s gift will help to take their academic environmental studies options to a new level. BELOW: One of the largest and fastest-growing specialty chemical companies, ChemTreat is dedicated to industrial water and process treatment throughout North and South America. OPPOSITE: In October 2023, Honeycutt and other senior leaders at Veralto rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange to launch Veralto as a standalone company.





“In addition to Luther Erickson, **David Campbell** was influential. I took a couple of trips to the Amazon with him to study the importance of biodiversity,” she says. “**Kesho Scott** helped me understand the human condition of underrepresented populations, balance of power, and the ways in which society either works or doesn’t. **Leslie Lyons** (who holds the Luther and Jenny Erickson Professorship) and **Lee Sharpe** gave me my love of instrumental analysis and all things ‘cool’ in the lab. I’ve always said we need more liberal arts folks in business who bring the combination of critical thinking skills and intellectual curiosity to understand interrelated systems and make sense of the world around them. It’s easy to get out of bed in the morning when you are trying to save the planet, but it is complex work.”

Honeycutt is hopeful other Grinnellians will

consider joining her effort to support the endowed chair position.

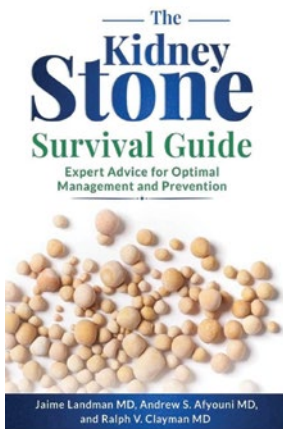
“We are facing a future that is going to be considerably constrained if we don’t find a way to solve some of these very significant challenges between humanity and industry in the face of climate change,” she says. “We can’t just save the planet; we also have to accommodate commerce and trade. We have to do both, and we have to create balance. What I would say to prospective donors is this is a fantastic opportunity to catalyze the next generation of environmental leaders.” 📖

For Your Information

Those who are interested in joining Jennifer Honeycutt in supporting environmental studies at Grinnell can contact Susan Kriegel, 641-269-4955 or kriegels@grinnell.edu, for more information.

AUTHORS AND ARTISTS

The Kidney Stone Survival Guide: Expert Advice for Optimal Management and Prevention



Ralph Clayman '69, MD, et al., Writers of the West, September 2025

The Kidney Stone Survival Guide provides a complete roadmap to understanding, treating, and preventing one of the most painful and misunderstood conditions in modern medicine, kidney stones. This guide covers cutting-edge medical research, clear

patient education, and practical lifestyle strategies. Clayman is a distinguished professor of urology and dean emeritus of the School of Medicine at the University of California, Irvine.

Hungry Oklahoma: Confronting Poverty and Food Insecurity

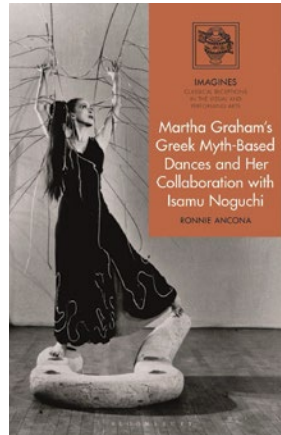
Robert Lee Maril '69, University of Oklahoma Press, March 2026



Hungry Oklahoma draws on interviews and participant-observation data, as well as census and sociological data, to document the status of poverty and low-wage workers in the state today and within historical context. Maril's work looks at the conditions and stereotypes that have entrenched poverty in the state and explores how institutions structure

and shape experiences of poverty. Maril, professor of sociology emeritus at East Carolina University, is the author of nine books.

Martha Graham's Greek Myth-Based Dances and Her Collaboration with Isamu Noguchi



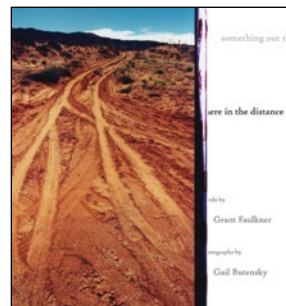
Ronnie Ancona '72, Bloomsbury Academic, January 2026

One of the greatest dancers and choreographers of recent times, Martha Graham created provocative dance interpretations of Greek myth that still resonate with contemporary audiences. *Graham's Dances* examines her collaborations with

Japanese-American set designer Isamu Noguchi and how their work can help today's artists refashion audiences' appreciation of classical antiquity. Ancona is professor emerita of classics at Hunter College.

something out there in the distance

Grant Faulkner '87 and Gail Butensky, University of New Mexico Press, January 2026

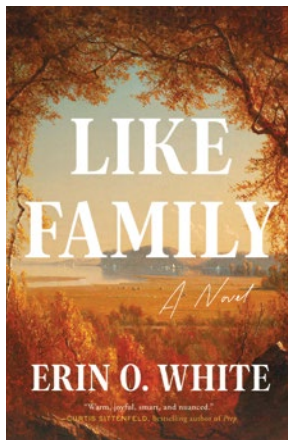


Flash-fiction master Faulkner and photographer Gail Butensky have partnered to create a funny, poignant, and heartbreaking narrative alongside edge-of-the-world photography. The book is big in emotions

while brief in words, as it tells the story of two lovers taking a reckless, searching road trip through the American West. Faulkner is the cofounder of 100 Word Story and the Flash Fiction Institute.

Like Family

Erin O’Neill White ’95, The Dial Press,
November 2025

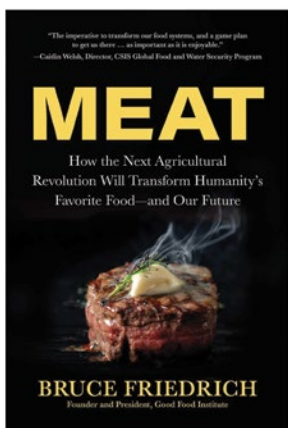


Like Family has been praised for telling the story of “a loving sprawl of busy lives, the happy and sometimes messy web of friends and children and chosen family” (*The Boston Globe*). After an unexpected death in their community, three couples are forced to confront the tensions that have long been buried beneath the surfaces of their lives in an unforgettable story

of the alchemy of love and loyalty that makes friends *Like Family*. This is White’s debut novel. She is also an essayist and the author of the memoir *Give Up For You*.

Meat: How the Next Agricultural Revolution Will Transform Humanity’s Favorite Food — and Our Future

Bruce Friedrich ’96, BenBella Books, February 2026

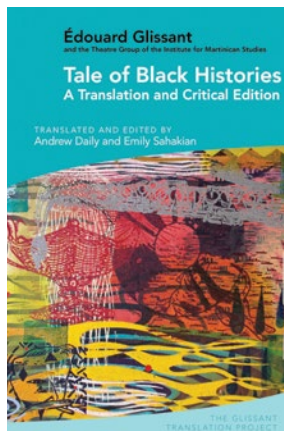


Meat makes the case that plant-based and cultivated meat can do for meat’s external costs (climate change, hunger/malnutrition, antimicrobial resistance, pandemic risk, cruelty to animals, etc.) what solar and EVs are poised to do for the impact of fossil fuels. *Meat* offers a vision of the next agricultural revolution that is

optimistic, achievable, and delicious. Friedrich is the founder and president of the Good Food Institute.

Tale of Black Histories: A Translation and Critical Edition

Emily Sahakian ’02 and Andrew Daily, Liverpool University Press, June 2025



Tale of Black Histories presents the first English-language translation of Caribbean writer Édouard Glissant’s avant-garde play *Histoire de nègre*; a tale about the histories of slavery, colonialism, anti-black violence, and the people’s resistance against these forces. It also documents the play’s complex historical and literary references,

performance history, and place in its intellectual, literary, and theatrical contexts. Sahakian is an associate professor of theatre and French at the University of Georgia.

Making Nonfiction Comics: A Guide for Graphic Narrative

Shay Mirk ’08 and Eleri Harris, Abrams ComicArts, November 2025



Award-winning graphic journalists and longtime editors of the critically acclaimed graphic journalism site *The Nib*, Mirk and Harris have compiled a field guide to graphic journalism. Mixing comics, prose, infographics, illustrations, and interviews with some of the world’s most

influential nonfiction comics creators, they introduce readers to nonfiction visual stories while articulating the standards and ethics around blending traditional journalism with the visual language of comics. Mirk also is the author of *Guantanamo Voices*.

ALUMNI PROFILE JAMES KISSANE AND EDWARD HIRSCH

A short time before the poet **Edward Hirsch '72** spoke at the University of Georgia's Poetry Festival in November, Hirsch's former English professor at Grinnell, **James Kissane '52** and his family, stopped to say hello.

Hirsch, a MacArthur Fellow, advocate for the arts and artists, and an evangelist for poetry, observed that even at age 95, Professor Kissane's wit remains as dry as ever. "I told him that back when I was a student, his jokes went so far over my head that sometimes it took me a year to realize he had made one."

Hirsch and Kissane spoke about their shared recollections of the English faculty, who played a key role in Hirsch's growth as a poet and writer, including **Carol Miller Parssinen '63**, **Sheldon Zittner**, and **Ed Moore**. "We went through each person and talked about them, one by one. I talked about what they meant to me, and he talked about his friendship with them," Hirsch says.

Kissane considers his two stints teaching Grinnell-in-London, which combines the close-knit environment of Grinnell's campus with metropolitan London, to be among his most satisfying experiences as a teacher. Another highlight was a version of the Grinnell Writers Symposium in 1986, which brought four alumni writers to campus all at the same time: Hirsch, **Amy Clampitt '41**, **Curtis Harnack '49**, and **Rebecca Hill '66**. But it's seeing former students continue to thrive that brings him the most satisfaction.

by Joe Engleman '14



1940s

1947

Taduko Inadomi celebrated her 100th birthday on Jan. 1.

1950s

1950

John "Jack" Mac Nair celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 11.

1960s

1961

Steven L. Diamond, MD, is the author of *Full Circle: A Physician's Memoir of a Life Lived with Polio*, which has been praised as "a stirring memoir" about his

ambitions, his struggles with the post-polio symptoms that crippled his career, and his life at the cutting edge of 20th-century medicine. First published in 2014, *Full Circle* is now available in paperback and Kindle editions from online book sites.

1964

Tom Phillips authored the lead article, "Destiny's Dance: My Antonia as Revelation" in the summer 2025 issue of the *Willa Cather Review*.

1965

John McDonald has a new book, *American Economic History: Earliest Americans to 1914*, published by Springer. It is part of the Classroom

Companion Economics series, available online or in hard copy.

1966

Howard Schein won 200-yard butterfly and 400-yard individual medley U.S. Masters Swimming 2025 championships in his competition age group (80-84). He also attained two Top 10 World Aquatics international rankings in his age group: 200-meter butterfly (ranked 6th) and 400-meter individual medley (ranked 7th). Schein was a member of the Grinnell swim team from 1962-66.

1970s

1970

John “Wah” Peterson, owner and founder of Doc’s Music Hall, received the Mayor’s Arts Lifetime Achievement Award from the Muncie Arts and Culture Council in recognition of his role in revitalizing downtown Muncie and fostering its arts community. He invested in creating an inclusive space for musicians and artists of all backgrounds, and his commitment inspired growth and creativity that shaped the city’s cultural landscape.

1973

AJ (Ann-Janine) Morey presented her first solo photographic exhibit, “Shelter That Is...and Is Not,” at the Hess Financial Gallery in Harrisonburg, Virginia, during November–December 2024. The exhibit featured 25 photos that tell multiple stories about old buildings located in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Morey is an emerita faculty member at James Madison University and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.



1974



Phil Frank and Sarah Bradford Frank ’75 were married in Herrick Chapel in 1975. To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, in March 2025 they took a 15-day road trip from their home in Essex, Massachusetts, traveling along the coast of Maine through New Brunswick and to the far reaches of Nova Scotia. Along the way, they spent time hiking and appreciating the natural wonders of the seacoasts, forests, waterfalls, and birds they saw.

1975

Bruce Koff was recently elected chair of the board of Rainbow Railroad based in Toronto. Inspired by the Underground Railroad, Rainbow Railroad is dedicated to assisting LGBTQI+ individuals from around the world fleeing extreme violence and persecution.

1976

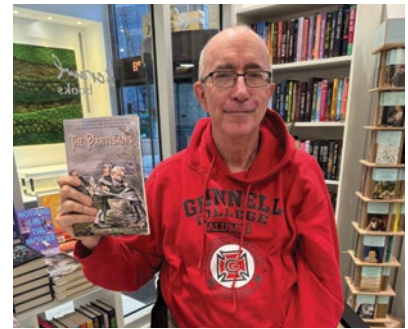
Matt Cohen was interviewed by NPR Illinois, where he discussed the history of special education laws in Illinois, challenges schools and families face, and how families of children with special needs should navigate the school system. He also shared his thoughts on the effects dismantlement of the Department of Education would have on children with disabilities.

Caleb Davies was awarded the 2025 Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke Award, recognizing exceptional leadership in alternative dispute resolution in Georgia.

1980s

1980

Robert B. Mitchell is the author of *The Partisans: James G. Blaine, Roscoe Conkling, and the Politics of Rivalry and Revenge in the Gilded Age* (Edinburgh Press).



1985

Leslie Ragan published *Salmon Popping: Commercial Fishing in the Bering Sea: A Deckhand’s Journal*, which chronicles his work as a novice deckhand during the 1992 salmon season aboard the *F/V TEMPEST*.



1986

Diane Peters has been appointed the chief legal and compliance officer at Secretary of Tides, a nonprofit philanthropic network dedicated to advancing social justice by shifting resources and power to communities that have historically been denied both.

CLASS NOTES

1988

Christopher Wilde contributed a chapter, titled “From Mutiny to Community: Establishing Best Practices for Queer Zine Archives,” to *Queer Print Cultures*, published by the University of Toronto Press in January. The book’s editors, former Grinnell professors Vance Byrd and Javier Samper Vendrell, are on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. Byrd is presidential associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures; Samper Vendrell is an assistant professor of German and a core faculty member in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies program. Wilde recently celebrated 22 years as the co-founder and research coordinator for The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP).

1990s

1991

Tom Klouda’s position with the Biden administration ended in January 2025. He took a new position as senior director of legislative affairs with the American Seniors Housing Association in September 2025.

Colleen Mahar-Piersma left federal service as the acting deputy chief, Refugee Program Bureau, Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services in October 2025. Mahar-Piersma has been in the refugee resettlement field since 2002.

1992

Julianne Ehre was pleased to welcome **Herbie Hancock ’60, DFA ’72**, to the Krannert Center for Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, where she serves as assistant director for programming and engagement.



1997

Amy Scott co-directed the documentary film *Saving Etting Street*, which premiered in November 2025 at DOC NYC, the country’s largest documentary film festival. The film follows master carpenter Shelley Halstead, founder of Black Women Build–Baltimore, as she trains young Black women in carpentry, electrical work, and plumbing. They are cheered on by longtime residents as they work together to transform a rundown block of abandoned houses in West Baltimore into a vibrant community for Black women first-time homeowners. More information can be found at savingettingstreet.movie.

1998

Adrienne Enriquez married Isemail Baltaman on June 20, 2025, in Portland, Oregon.

Brooks Locke Morales became a National Board-Certified Teacher in English as a New Language–Early and Middle Childhood. She is a fourth-grade teacher in the Highlandtown neighborhood of Baltimore City.

2000s

2001

Rob Barron was elected to a seat on the Des Moines City Council representing Ward 1. He is the first Latino to serve on the council.

Sarah Harlan has started a new position as director of development

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at THRIVE Family Health & Education Center in Durham, North Carolina.

2002

Emily Westergaard was appointed to a vacancy on the Broadlawns Medical Center Board of Trustees in Des Moines, Iowa, and will run for reelection to the seat in 2026.

2003

After a year at MIT as a Knight Science Journalism Fellow, **Aaron Scott** returned to Portland to become the executive editor of the Science and the Environment Team at Oregon Public Broadcasting, where he oversees the award-winning shows *Oregon Field Guide* and *All Science. No Fiction.*

2004



Inga Jacobs-Mata was named one of the Top Agri-Food Pioneers of 2025 by the World Food Prize Foundation.

Sabrina Ross is California's first chief privacy auditor. The role involves building out the independent audit and examination function at CalPrivacy, the first U.S. agency created chiefly to protect the privacy rights of consumers.



ALUMNI PROFILE INGA JACOBS-MATA

On her first visit back to Iowa in nearly two decades last October, South African native **Inga Jacobs-Mata '04** had a few important stops to make.

First was to Des Moines to accept a prestigious award from the World Food Prize Foundation, honoring her as one of 39 visionary scientists, farmers, policy advisors, entrepreneurs, and humanitarians named to the 2025 Top Agri-food Pioneers list.

The award recognized Jacobs-Mata, who is director of water, growth and inclusion for the International Water Management Institute, for her leadership in empowering farmers and businesses across East and Southern Africa.

"We reached over 160,000 farmers, more than half women, who are now adopting climate-smart intensification and diversification in maize-based systems," she says. The project supported women and youth-led startups and enterprises to grow inclusive, climate-smart agribusiness.

Just as important as accepting that prize, however, was a daylong visit to the Grinnell College campus specifically to see her now 98-year-old 'host mum,' Doris Sundell (pictured above with Jacobs-Mata). Many international students at Grinnell are paired with local hosts in the Friends of International Students program.

"I had two very special people, (the late) Don and Doris Sundell, and I was their first host student," Jacobs-Mata says. "I used to joke with them: 'You will get many more, but remember, I'm the first and favorite.'"

by Anne Stein '84

ALUMNI PROFILE REED ROFFIS

It was mid-2022 when **Reed Roffis '18** heard a podcast about a cyclist who had biked around the world.

Roffis, who was a theatre major at Grinnell, had recently returned home to Boulder, Colorado, after spending a frustrating year in Los Angeles pursuing an acting and comedy career. Disillusioned with the industry and wondering what to do with his life, he suddenly had an answer.

"I've always enjoyed adventure stories, and it sparked my imagination," he says. "It had never crossed my mind that biking around the world was something that people did."

Roffis did some research and decided to take on the longest and hardest ride he could find: The 19,000-mile Pan-American Highway, a network of roads running from Alaska to the southern tip of Argentina.

"I felt it would be good for personal growth, and it would be an interesting story," he says.

Roffis, who made it to Colombia and will restart the trip this summer, has been documenting the trip on Instagram. "Alaska is incredible and wild. I saw reindeer and bears

and giant musk ox and moose in the Arctic, as well as massive mountains."

One night in the Yukon, he heard breathing and snorting outside his tent. Roffis stepped out in his underwear, and a black bear who'd been attracted to his food lunged. "I sprayed it and the bear retreated, but I could still hear it in the trees nearby," says Roffis.

by Anne Stein '84



2005

Sarah Legow finished an experimental short film, *The Man Cave*, which takes a bizarre childhood memory and reenacts it through a mixture of publicly sourced photos, staged scenes, and stop-motion animation. The film is in the initial stages of its film festival run, which so far includes Light Matter Film Festival,



Stuttgarter Filmwinter Festival for Expanded Media, Ridgewood Off-Kilter Film Festival, and others.

2006

Lauren Dickinson completed her Ph.D. in organizational leadership and policy development with a focus on leadership for intercultural and international education at the University of Minnesota. Dickinson's dissertation was titled: "Faculty Motivation to Engage with Intercultural Learning: An Exploratory Study."

Margaret Toomey is the managing director at Studio East in Kirkland, Washington.

2007

Arthur “Bud” Baumgartner was elected to the Ames Community School District Board of Directors.

2009

Latona Giwa contributed the chapter “Liberating Our Labor: Cooperative organizing among birth workers and beyond” in *Information, Power, and Reproductive Health*, edited by Grinnell librarian Gina Schlesselman-Tarango and published by Library Juice Press in 2025.

2010s

2012

Susannah Stengel and Jeremiah LaForge were “joyously married surrounded by two generations of Grinnellians and a lot of [2012] love” on Aug. 2, 2025, in Seattle, Washington.



Grinnellians at the Stengel-LaForge wedding included (l-r): *Bill Mogavero '12, Kelsey Nix '12, Lauren (O'Hair) Van Heeke '12, Gabby Nelson '12, Kristen Fetchko Labelle '12, Wayne Stengel '68, Susannah Stengel '12, Jeremiah LaForge, Elliot Karl '12, Grace Hazeltine '12, Justin Wedell '12, Sam Braman '12, and Chris Dorman '12.*

2013

Karen Gogins Vincent was named one of the “40 Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40” by the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association. The 40 under 40 list recognizes lawyers who have distinguished themselves in their field and have demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBTQ+ equality.

2014

Chelsie Salvatera and **Kayleigh Kresse** “celebrated with their incredibly loving Grinnellian family” when they were married on March 30, 2024, at Carmel by the Sea, California.



Grinnellian wedding guests included: *Louisa Silverman '15, Sarah Farbman '15, Joy Sales '13, Jade Denson '15, and Silvia Foster-Frau '15. Bao Ying Chen '14 attended but was not in the photo.*

2016

Rita (McCall) McBarr married Nathan McBarr on July 26, 2025, in Anchorage, Alaska. The bride's sister, *Bretta McCall '19*, and best friend, *Malachi Wickman '16*, each stood at a corner of the chuppah during the ceremony.

Grinnellians “there to tear up the dance floor” included: first row (l-r), *Emily Howe '16, Prakriti Shrestha '16, Nathan McBarr, Rita McBarr '16, Malachi Wickman '16, Helen Colliton '16, and Queenster Bobit '16. Second row (l-r), Ivy Kuhn '16, Emma Lange '16, John Gallagher '17, Noah Schlager '16, Bretta McCall '19, Ty Dewey '16, Mira Hall '16, and Shitanshu Aggarwal '11.*

2015

Miriam Clayton Erickson and her husband, Jake, welcomed son Robin Alexander Erickson on Nov. 19, 2025. Robin joins big sister Sabrina and the family's two spoiled cats.

Hayes Gardner and **Becca Richman** were married May 3, 2025, in Baltimore, Maryland.



Grinnell alums at the reception included: standing (l-r), *Julian Marx '15, Anthony LaMacchia '16, Elliot Meyer '15, Vinny Curta '19, Simo Bambi '20, Nick Curta '17, Kate Strain '16, Dylan Bartuch '15, Aaron Levin '14, Griffin Boehm '19, T.J. Goetz '14, Shannon Hautzinger '18, Teague Towner '17, Hayes Gardner '15, Rob Storricks '15, Becca Richman '15, Ryan Hautzinger '15, Elliott Czarniecki '15, Eloise Miller '15, Conor Cunningham '15, Emmett Ruff '15, Chris Marsho '14, Aaron Lapkin '15. Kneeling: *Jacob Bernholtz '17, Max Keller '14, Carolyn Silverman '17**



CLASS NOTES

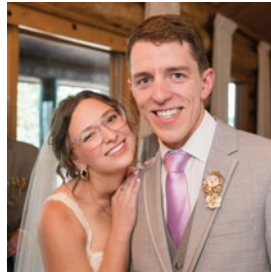
Fin Byrne, Justus Goldstein-Shirley, and Shannon Lindstrom welcomed their first child, Ira James Byrne, on Oct. 16, 2025. The family lives in Seattle, Washington.

2018
Emmet Sandberg received recognition in *Forbes*' "30 under 30" list for his media company, Mutuals Media.

2020s

2022

Mary Dillon and Tim Knight married on Aug. 16, 2025. The couple recently moved to Des Moines. Tim passed the Iowa Bar Exam last summer, and Mary is working in marketing and communications at a local agriculture marketing firm.



2023

Laura Armas-Rivas and Toby Armas-Rivas were married "on a golden fall afternoon surrounded by family and friends" on Oct. 11, 2025, in Springfield, Illinois.



Grinnellians in attendance included *Noah Joseph '23, Lucie Greene '23, Kaitlin Michaels '23, Benjamin Taylor '23, Morell Old '23, David Platt '10, and Anne Ross '12.*

Inaugural Delegates

The following alums recently attended college and university presidential inauguration ceremonies, where they served as delegate representatives on behalf of President Anne F. Harris and Grinnell College:

Mary Otto '63, Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, Nov. 2, 2025.

Laurie Hill '66, Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 17, 2025.

Hubert Farbes '69, Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Nov. 8, 2025.

James Decker '75, Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 19, 2025.

Ed Senn '79, Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, Oct. 24, 2025.

Sara Nesler '97, University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa, Oct. 3, 2025.

Sherman Willis '01, College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska, Sept. 12, 2025.

ALUMNI EVENTS



In Conversation: Naples

On Jan. 10, alumni in Naples, Florida, attended a luncheon hosted by retired Trustee **Susan Holden McCurry '71**. Alums had a chance to meet **Ruth Feingold**, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College, as well as student-athletes from Grinnell's swimming teams who were on a training trip nearby. The luncheon was part of the In Conversation event series, which has brought College leaders to alumni events in a dozen cities this academic year.



Winter Gatherings

Around 400 Grinnellians took part in 13 Winter Gatherings across the country in January, including a great turnout in Seattle to watch the new Seattle Torrent professional women's hockey team. The game outing was organized by **Steve MacFarlane '82** and **Nancy Ying '95**. Other gatherings included restaurant and brewery get-togethers, a dessert reception, and a jazz portrait exhibit and concert.

Morocco Trip

In October, alums joined faculty experts **Will Freeman** and **Kesho Scott** on a Grinnellian Adventure study trip to the North African country of Morocco. The group is pictured with water porters, a special historical profession, outside the Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech. Several more Grinnellian Adventures trips are in the works for 2027, starting with a trip to Costa Rica in January. Check out all the excursion offerings at alumni.grinnell.edu/events/grinnellian-adventures-home.



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.

Edith Renfrow Smith '37, DHL '19, Jan. 2, 2026, Chicago. Please see tribute on page 48.

Carolyn Beall Preston '49, Jan. 4, 2026, Mesa, Arizona. Carolyn married Kenny Preston in 1946. In 1967 they moved their family to Arizona. She worked selling real estate for Brookie Coleman. Carolyn was a member of the Mesa Country Club and loved playing golf and bridge. She was predeceased by her husband.

Mildred Miller Ricke '49, Dec. 21, 2025, Granger, Iowa. Mildred attended Grinnell and the University of Colorado. She married Kelly Ricke in 1947, and they settled on the family farm in Granger, where they raised their children. She had a deep love for her grandchildren and rarely missed an opportunity to attend their activities and events. A devoted member of Emmanuel Methodist Church in Granger, Mildred loved attending church and living out her faith. She was preceded in death by her husband.

James K. Mayhew '50, Sept. 17, 2025, Indianola, Iowa. Jim attended Grinnell in fall 1946. He later graduated from Upper Iowa University, where he met Patricia Martin. They married in 1950. Jim earned a Master of Science in Zoology at the University of Wyoming in 1951. He worked for the Iowa Conservation Commission from 1953 to 1977, when he was promoted to chief of

fisheries for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He wrote or co-authored several books about fishing and waterways. He retired in 1992. Jim and Pat enjoyed travel, camping, reading, gardening, music, and following their grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities. Survivors include Jim's wife of 75 years, Pat.

Jean Taylor Ellingson '51, July 23, 2025, Broomfield, Colorado.

James A. Vickery '53, Dec. 6, 2025, Des Moines, Iowa. Jim attended Grinnell for two years before earning his degree in journalism from the University of Iowa. He served two years in the U.S. Army. Jim devoted 47 years to IMT Insurance, where he rose to president and board chair. He retired in 1995. Jim was a founding member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in West Des Moines and, more recently, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Des Moines. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Consistory, the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, the Royal Order of Jesters, as well as the Des Moines Pioneer Club, and volunteered at numerous civic organizations. He enjoyed travel, movies, musical performances, collecting art, and the St. Louis Cardinals. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, *Dorothy "Dee" (Gross) Vickery '53*, and their four children.

Joan Sidie Bentzen '54, Sept. 23, 2025, Sheridan, Wyoming. Joan attended Grinnell for one year, then transferred to Cedar Rapids Nursing School, where she completed two years of her nursing education. She married Jim Bentzen in 1952. Tragedy struck after two years of marriage,

when Jim contracted polio and was hospitalized in an iron lung. He was able to live independently with Joan's help and incredible nursing skills, as they strived to live a normal life. Joan was an active member of the Daughters of the Nile, a 50-year member of P.E.O. Chapter T, and was president in 1986. Joan enjoyed sewing, quilting, and collecting. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years. Survivors include a son and daughter.

Sara "Sally" Shirk Daniels '54, March 7, 2025, Mount Dora, Florida. After graduating, Sally moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a flight attendant for United Airlines. She continued to work for United for her entire career, but relocated to New York City in 1974, when she married John "Jack" Daniels. He died in 2021.

Marilyn L. Harrington '54, Sept. 23, 2025, Webster Groves, Missouri. Marilyn earned her degree in economics and business with honors and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her professional career included positions as corporate secretary at South Ranch Oil Company and Bitting & Company, and as administrative assistant at Washington University in St. Louis. She later worked for many years at Bryan Cave McPheeters & McRoberts LLP as a legal assistant in the litigation department. An active member of her community, Marilyn was involved in the American Chamber Chorale and the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter KR. She was a longtime member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Freda Wood Margiloff '54, Jan. 11, 2026, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Freda attended Grinnell, then earned a degree in interior design from the University of Oklahoma. During her career, she contributed to the design of 13 Marriott hotels and later thrived at Baker Furniture, championing mid-century modern style. She loved golf, skiing, horseback riding, and was a fixture at the Greenwich Polo Club. She raised three children. Later, she dedicated herself to mission work in Tanzania, founding the Tengeru Chicken Project. She is survived by her children.

Bobbe Sue Fletcher Palmer '54, Nov. 9, 2025, Pueblo, Colorado. Bobbe Sue attended Grinnell for two years, then graduated from the University of Denver. She taught junior high school English from 1954 to 1955. In 1955 she married Rev. Robert Palmer. Bobbe Sue helped in the church in various capacities and worked as a teachers' aide in the local schools. In 1982, the family moved to Juneau, Alaska, where Robert worked for the Presbytery of Alaska. Bobbe Sue enjoyed painting watercolors and writing. Robert died in 2009. Survivors include four children.

Nancy Norris Ross '56, Dec. 13, 2025, West Des Moines, Iowa. After Grinnell graduation, Nancy married *Robert S. Ross '53* and lived in Harlan, Iowa, for nearly 50 years. Nancy and Bob had three children, *Scott N. Ross '81*, *Ann Long*, and *Lynn Ross Cope*. She became the first woman to serve on Harlan's City Council in 1975, a post she held for five years. She volunteered with many organizations, including the Harlan Community Library Board; the Harlan Recycling Center, which she founded; the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission; and

the Iowa State Library Commission. She received the Harlan Chamber of Commerce's leadership award for service to the community. Over the course of more than 50 years, Nancy served Grinnell as the first Class Agent for her class, a member of the Advisory Council, and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. She worked as a Class Committee member and an Admission Representative. In 2015, Nancy received a Grinnell Alumni Award. Though she lived most of her life in a town of 5,000, she never felt confined. *The Des Moines Register*, *Life* and *Time* magazines, television, and public radio brought the world to her home, but it was really books from the public library that transported her to the world outside her small farm town.

Ray E. Shenefelt '57, July 3, 2025, Madison, Mississippi. Ray valued education and research. His roles in life included doctor, scientist, teacher, veteran, pacifist, contrarian, thinker, analyzer, and punster. He was a father of four. He loved animals and was particularly fond of helping out at the Animal Rescue Fund of Mississippi. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, *Dardanella "Dary" Smith Shenefelt '57*.

Janet Phillips Warble '57, Nov. 17, 2025, Schaumburg, Illinois. After college, Janet married *Ralph Warble*. They moved to Arlington Heights to start a family and had three children and shared 56 years together. Janet volunteered her time with PADS (a homeless shelter), as well as C.O.U.L.D. (a council on learning disabilities). She loved puzzles, bridge, and cheering on her beloved Chicago Cubs. She was preceded in death by

her husband. Survivors include her children.

Patsy (Mills) Dustin Wood '58, Oct. 20, 2025, Iowa City, Iowa. Pat and *E. Richard Dustin '58* married in 1957. She went on to earn a bachelor's in home economics (1974) and a master's in counselor education (1985) from the University of Iowa. Pat spent 25 years as an educator, first as a home economics teacher at Southeast Junior High, and later as a guidance counselor at Iowa City High School. Richard passed away in 2018. In 2020, she found new companionship with *Hansel Wood*. Survivors include her daughter, *Susan L. Dustin '88*, and a son.

Jane Tangwall Ocker '59, Dec. 20, 2024, Westwood, Massachusetts. Jane met her husband, *Donald A. Ocker '58*, at Grinnell. They married in 1958, and she completed her degree in history at the University of Michigan, where Don received his MBA. They raised their two children in Dover, Massachusetts. Jane worked as a substitute teacher and was an active volunteer in local politics, schools, scouting, and at WGBH. She was an avid traveler and an accomplished cook. In 2023, she organized a group that knitted hats for the homeless (she personally made over 100 each year). Jane was especially proud to watch her two grandchildren win at the American Collegiate Rowing Association National Championships in 2023.

Karen Krause Phillips '60, Nov. 2, 2025, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Karen majored in music at Grinnell. In 1960, she married *William Roark*, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, and they had three

children. Sadly, Bill was killed in Vietnam in 1965. In 1968, Karen met and married James Phillips. They lived as a family in Mexico City, Omaha, Montreal, New Jersey, and Connecticut. She taught private piano lessons and served as the organist and choir director in her community church. In 1996, she started working at Yale University as an academic administrative assistant. She later became the graduate registrar and devoted 20 years to supporting students and faculty until her retirement in 2016. Jim passed away in 2019. Survivors include her daughter and two sons.

William J. Siskel '60, Nov. 25, 2025. Highland Park, Illinois. Bill played an active part in the Grinnell College community throughout his life, including serving as class fund chairman starting in 1972, class committee member (2004-18), and GRASP volunteer (1998-2002). A lifelong learner, he earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago after retirement. Bill strived to maintain a balance between family, work, and Jewish life. He was an active organizer and fundraiser for Jewish causes in Israel and the U.S. He built Siskel Sales Company, representing automotive manufacturers across the Midwest, and was a dedicated employer. Survivors include his wife of 59 years and three sons.

Joan Ware Griffiths '61, Nov. 29, 2025, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Joan studied sociology at Grinnell and later earned a master's while attending Smith College and Fordham University. As a social worker, she worked in New York City at an adoption agency and later with disabled children at an agency in Cincinnati. In 1969, she married

Robert Griffiths Jr. He became a college professor, and she became a stay-at-home mother. They raised their two children in Milwaukee. Joan was a GRASP volunteer from 1998-2002. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, reading mysteries, her dogs, and spending time with her grandchildren. Survivors include her husband of 56 years and her children.

Robert E. Hines Jr. '62, Sept. 27, 2025, Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Bob attended Grinnell and the University of Iowa, where he studied communications and political science. In 1964, he married Deborah D'Arcy. They settled in Alexandria, Minnesota, where Bob did broadcasting work for KCMT-TV. He later purchased radio station KXRA. In 1972, he married Barbara Hedine. Bob's community involvement included memberships in the Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge, Osman Temple, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce board, and the Police Civil Service Commission. In 1980, Toastmasters International awarded him its "Communication and Leadership Award" for his work in the field of chemical dependency. Crediting A.A. with saving his life, Bob made it his life's mission to get information about recovery out to the public. Bob is survived by three of his children.

Paul S. Torno '62, Jan. 5, 2026, Grinnell, Iowa. After graduating, Paul married *Sharon Hasekamp Torno '62*. He went on to earn a master's from the University of Iowa and to serve in the U.S. Air Force. Paul was a counselor and swimming coach in the Bainbridge Island (Washington) School District for more than 30

years. He was deeply involved with the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association and in advancing high school swimming throughout the state of Washington. After retiring, Paul served as a firefighter and volunteer with the U.S. Forest Service in New Mexico. He enjoyed sports, handyman projects, and cooking. Survivors include Sharon, his wife of 63 years.

Martha E. Yoak '64, Nov. 14, 2025, Iowa City, Iowa. Martha attended Grinnell, then received her bachelor's in 1967 and a master's in English education in 1976, both from the University of Iowa. Martha was a poet. She was published in the anthology *New Poet, Women*, and in several periodicals, including *Lyrical Iowa*. She also won first place in several poetry competitions. In 2002, she published a book of her poetry, *In Her Hands*. A cat lover, Martha always had a feline companion. She enjoyed being outdoors, watching animals, walking, and long bike rides. She played several musical instruments and loved singing.

Rodney S. Brown '65, Sept. 8, 2025, Wrangell, Alaska. Rod was captain of the Grinnell cross-country team and won the Midwest Conference Championship in 1963. After he earned his degree in biology, he taught English in Thessaloniki, Greece, then earned his teaching certificate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 1969, he began a 27-year career at Wrangell High School, where he taught biology, marine biology, and photography. He was recognized with an Outstanding Biology Teacher Award by the National Association of Biology Teachers (1979) and

was selected for an International Teaching Fellowship in Australia (1982). In 1987, he was honored as a Distinguished Teacher by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. He retired in 1996. Rod served two gubernatorial appointments to the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission Transboundary Panel. He was a Grinnell Alumni in the Classroom volunteer in 2021. Rod enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, reading, collecting aquatic critters from muskeg ponds, and model building. Survivors include his wife, Jean; and sons, Miles and *Jeff Brown* '93.

Stephen G. Buckles '65, Jan. 10, 2026, Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating, Steve received his PhD in economics from Vanderbilt. He married his Vanderbilt classmate, Mary Parker Harmon, in 1970. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his college teaching, including the Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (Vanderbilt), Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award (Southern Economic Association), and Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching (Vanderbilt). He also served as president of the Council for Economic Education and was an associate professor of economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He retired from Vanderbilt as professor emeritus of economics in 2023. Steve was a generous donor to Grinnell and served on his class committee from 2014-19. He was an avid traveler, sailor, and nature lover. Steve was married to his wife for 54 years, until her death in 2024.

Roger Ferris '65, Sept. 28, 2025, Des Moines, Iowa. As a student at Grinnell, Roger led the campus

Republicans; later in life, he became an unapologetic progressive. Roger loved Paris, sailing, and great conversation. More than anything, Roger loved Grinnell College. As a demonstration of his love for the College and his care for future Grinnellians, Roger gifted his estate to Grinnell College. His hope was that future Grinnellians could use his gift to develop the skills necessary to make positive change throughout the world. Roger is missed by numerous friends around the world.

John D. Harlan '65, Dec. 13, 2025, Des Moines, Iowa. John, who was a National Merit Scholar, earned his degree in political science. After college, he served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant and intelligence officer. He married in 1967 and was stationed in San Diego. He served on the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk and completed two tours in Vietnam. While in California, John earned a master's in public administration from California State University, Fullerton, and had three children. In 1987, he joined the Iowa National Guard. He married Cynthia (Haas) Harlan in 1991. John worked in sales and as an executive manager, founded his own businesses, and consulted on support for early technology platforms. He also taught economics and business management at several Iowa colleges and received multiple teaching awards. John was an avid reader and politically active. His interests included writing, chess, fitness, analyzing financial markets, and studying ancient Greek. John was proud of his Grinnell liberal arts education, and he attended his 60-year reunion last summer. Survivors include his wife, Cynthia, and his children and stepchildren.

James S. Albrecht '66, Dec. 15, 2025, Wausau, Wisconsin. After graduating, Jim received his PhD in paper chemistry from the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was the technical director of the Mosinee Paper Corporation for 20-plus years. In 1970, Jim married Carolyn Leppla and they had two daughters. In 1992, he married Lynette Gantner, who passed away in 2006. In 2011, he married Ellen Fields. Jim enjoyed music (especially at church), landscaping, gardening, and travel. He was active in biking, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, skiing, photography, and camping. Jim was a man of strong faith and a member at Bible Truth Chapel. Survivors include his wife, Ellen, and his stepdaughter and daughters.

Gail E. Birdsong '66, Sept. 19, 2025, Bountiful, Utah. After graduating, Gail completed her master's in library science at Rutgers University. In 1969, she began her career as a librarian in Baltimore and later became the library director. She found great joy in the arts, attending concerts and performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts whenever she could. She also loved the simple pleasures of walking her dogs and being outdoors.

Donald N. Laing '66, July 25, 2025, Bradenton, Florida. Donald's survivors include his spouse, *Scott Railsback* '67.

David P. Synhorst '66, Jan. 6, 2026, New Providence, New Jersey. David graduated with a degree in chemistry, then went on to earn his doctorate in medicine from the University of Iowa (UI) College of Medicine. He completed a pediatric residency at UI and at Santa Rosa Hospital, and a pediatric cardiology fellowship at UI. Over the years, David held various academic appointments, provided care to patients, participated in training pediatric residents, and engaged in research projects at several institutions. His career later transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry. He served as a group director for 25 years at Bristol Myers Squibb, working on cardiovascular drug development trials. An avid reader and devoted sports spectator, his greatest joy was time spent with his son and grandsons. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Diane, and a son.

Herbert L. Fritz '68, Dec. 2, 2025, Niceville, Florida. Herb met his future wife, *Mary Lou Koch Fritz '69*, during his sophomore year at Grinnell. They married in 1968, and moved to Davis, California, where he earned his PhD in inorganic chemistry. He did one year of postdoctoral work at Iowa State University before beginning a career with DuPont Photo Products in New Jersey and later in North Carolina. Herb and Mary had two daughters. He was a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon and an elder. Survivors include his wife.

Carolyn N. Zeman '68, Nov. 21, 2025, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Carolyn, who earned her history degree with distinction, was a loyal and active Grinnell alumna.

She wanted to become an attorney like her father but was discouraged from pursuing that path by the restrictive norms of the '60s. She went on to earn a master's from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in art therapy from Lesley University (Cambridge). Carolyn worked for many years in psychiatric care for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and was a volunteer leader of small therapy groups. She traveled extensively in North America and western Europe. She also joined archeological digs in the Southwest. Carolyn was a diehard Celtics and Patriots fan, closely followed world events, and enjoyed the cultural and intellectual scenes of Boston.

Sylvia Winston Bland '69, Oct. 13, 2025, Ottumwa, Iowa. After graduating, Sylvia earned a master's in speech and language pathology from Southern Illinois University. She worked in the Davenport AEA for over 10 years and then in Ottumwa, retiring after 42 years of service. She was a founding member of the Rock Missionary Baptist Church of Ottumwa, and taught Sunday school. While her kids were growing up, Sylvia coached their AAU basketball teams and later coached boys' basketball for Ottumwa High. Survivors include her husband, Cornel; five of their children; and her brother, *Richard Hayman '83*.

Thomas J. Lower '69, May 25, 2025, Ankeny, Iowa. A gifted athlete, Tom earned a full scholarship to Grinnell, where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He earned his medical degree from Des Moines University, then served as a captain in the U.S.

Army Medical Corps. Much of his long, respected career as a family physician was spent in Osceola, Iowa. "Doc" was a cornerstone of the community and a lifelong friend to many of his patients. He was a whiz at sports stats and facts, loved singing karaoke with friends and family, and liked to play poker at family gatherings. Tom loved to travel, particularly cruises with his wife, Ceree. Survivors include his wife; three of their sons; three daughters; and his niece, *Amanda Lower '02*.

Carolynn "Lynn" Van Dyke '69, Feb. 11, 2025, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. After Lynn graduated, she earned her PhD from Yale. She taught at Grinnell College and Case Western University, then moved to Bethlehem to teach at Lafayette College, where she was a beloved teacher from 1980–2016. She was hired as an assistant professor of English, then moved to the computer science department in 1984, where she achieved tenure, and returned to the English department in 1990. Later, she helped establish the women's, gender and sexuality studies program. In 2003, she was named the Francis A. March Professor of English, an endowed chair. After retiring, she continued to attend scholarly conferences and write papers. She served as an inaugural representative for Grinnell in 2021. Survivors include her spouse, Ann R. Carter.

Henry L. Corona '72, April 7, 2025, Glen Allen, Virginia. Henry, who was awarded a football scholarship to Grinnell, earned his degree in economics. He went on to attain an MBA in finance from the University of Southern California and a

master's in economics from UCLA. He started his financial career as an economist for Rand Corporation. He later worked as a corporate finance strategist for Lucasfilm during the years the company was making films such as "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." He also founded FinanceSur, providing financial assistance for investment banking and operational objectives for 30 years. Henry was an active volunteer in the community. Survivors include his wife, Jean, and two daughters.

Allen S. Hammond IV '72, Jan. 11, 2026, Stanford, California. After graduating, Allen earned a JD and a master's in communication at the University of Pennsylvania, where he met his wife, Linda. They shared a passion for progressive politics and were active in civil rights efforts. They had three children. Allen began his career in the Carter administration, where he was charged with launching the Minority Telecommunications Development Program and later worked at the Media Access Project. He served as general counsel at WJLA-TV and in the general counsel's offices at Satellite Business Systems and MCI. He became a professor of telecommunications law and contracts at New York Law School and, later, at Santa Clara Law School. He served for many years on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. Allen stayed active teaching fitness classes and playing pick-up basketball. He was a talented songwriter, poet, musician, artist, dance teacher to his friends, and storyteller to his children. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Linda Darling-Hammond, and their three children.

Laurie J. Hultberg '73, Sept. 17, 2025, Ithaca, New York. After graduation, Laurie spent several years in Japan teaching English and studying pottery. She then made Ithaca her home for over 40 years. She spent her career as a recreation assistant at Ithacare and Longview Senior Living Community. She also taught pottery and tai chi classes throughout the community. Laurie enjoyed walks in nature, handicrafts, storytelling, cooking, and being with friends and family. She was an active member of the First Congregational Church.

Calvin L. Emery '74, Nov. 4, 2025, Rockford, Illinois. After Cal graduated, he earned a master's in business from the University of California. He loved to travel and explore the world. He lived in Los Angeles, Dallas, London, and New York City. He retired to Rockford years later.

Daniel J. Ruby '74, July 28, 2025, Piedmont, California. Dan attended Grinnell and the University of Illinois. He launched his career in New York City and Boston, later becoming a key figure in the fast-developing San Francisco dot-com boom as an editor for magazines, including *MacWeek* and *NeXTWORLD*. Following his passion for Jewish genealogy, he later developed the Family History Machine website, a storytelling platform for genealogists. He was an avid puzzler, pickleball player, and die-hard Pirates fan. Survivors include his daughter.

Leslie C. Tunstall '76, Nov. 11, 2025, Accokeek, Maryland. Leslie majored in theater at Grinnell, which she credited as a deeply influential place in her life.

Following graduation, she pursued a career as a professional actress in Minneapolis and North Carolina. Later, she began a career with Bell Telephone and then Bellcore, where she worked for about 20 years. Leslie was married to Terry Gleason from 1992 to 2009, and they had a daughter. Being a mother was among Leslie's greatest joys. She also enjoyed cooking, growing flowers, and taking walks with her dog. Leslie's love of nature and being outside was a throughline of her life. She was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2014, yet she outlived every one of her doctors' longevity estimates. Leslie was a devoted, if unconventional, Christian, combining Protestant ritual with progressive theology. Survivors include her daughter.

Robin D. Meyer '79, Dec. 24, 2025, Washington, D.C. After graduating, Robin earned master's degrees from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and the U.S. Naval War College. She began her career at the Department of Justice, working on the resettlement of Cubans and Haitians who arrived during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. She also worked at the Department of Commerce on trade issues. Later she joined the Foreign Service and worked at U.S. diplomatic missions in Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Ecuador, as well as the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. At the State Department, she led offices focused on the United Nations and Central Africa. Robin received numerous awards for her work and was recognized for her "personal courage and fortitude" in her work with Cuban human right activists. Following her retirement after 34

years with the Foreign Service, Robin volunteered as a mediator at a community mediation center and with voter protection organizations. She also volunteered as a Grinnell Careers, Life, and Services mentor.

Julie B. Havelin '80, Dec. 14, 2025, Kenneth City, Florida. Julie served as a GRASP volunteer for Grinnell from 1998 to 2013.

John C. Werden Jr. '81, March 13, 2025, Carroll, Iowa. After John received his degree in economics, he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Drake University School of Law. In 1988, he married Renee Rupiper. They made their home in Carroll, where they raised their three children. John was an experienced trial lawyer and mainly practiced in life and estate planning, tax planning, trust, probate, elder law, real estate, and commercial transactions. He served as the Carroll County Attorney from 1998 until his death. John was a past president of the Iowa County Attorneys Association, a member of the Board of Governors for the Iowa Bar Association and the National District Attorney Association, and most recently was president of the Iowa State Association of Counties. He received the state of Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award in 1998. John was an avid outdoorsman, firearms expert, and craftsman. More than anything, John loved his three children and five grandchildren.

James A. D'Ambrosia '87, Oct. 28, 2025, Arvada, Colorado. Jim said what first attracted him to Grinnell College was "the look of the landscape." He enrolled at age 16, then graduated with a degree in

mathematics. He went on to earn a master's from the University of Minnesota before settling in Colorado, where he earned his doctorate. He met Mandy in Boulder; they were together for close to 31 years and had two children. He worked for a number of tech companies before retiring to raise his children and take care of his health. Jim loved road trips, reading, listening to music, building Legos, and playing board games. He is survived by his wife, Mandy, and his two children.

James J. Harris '90, Dec. 19, 2025, Tempe, Arizona. Jim majored in anthropology and history at Grinnell. After graduation, he moved to Arizona to work as an archaeologist for a time (collecting Native American pottery remained a lifelong passion). He went on to law school at Arizona State University, then joined Navajo-Hopi Legal Services in Tuba City, Arizona. After several years he moved to Tempe, where he worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender for 29 years. Jim's greatest joy was spending time with family, whether hiking, fishing, antiquing, traveling, or watching sports. Survivors include his wife, Meg Amster, and a son.

Colleen Murphy Sperber '90, Jan. 14, 2026, Colorado Springs, Colorado. After graduating, Colleen went to the University of Pittsburgh for her law degree. She then worked at a law firm in Philadelphia, where she met her husband, Brian, who was attending medical school. Colleen had a strong faith, and she met Brian at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Philadelphia. She took time away from her

profession to raise their three children, who were her "heart and soul." Later, she returned to law and worked at the firm of Sparks Willson PC. She also served as a GRASP volunteer for the College from 1998 to 2002. When Brian fell ill to cancer, she chose to step away from her practice. Six months after Brian's treatment ended, Colleen was diagnosed with her own cancer. Survivors include her husband, Brian, and their three children.

Thokozile Y. Cox '93, Dec. 27, 2025, Abingdon, Maryland. Thokozile participated in track and field during high school and played rugby while earning her degree at Grinnell. She devoted her professional life to helping others through her work in personal outreach as a laboratory liaison. Thokozile had a deep love for animals, especially her two rescue cats. Survivors include her parents, her brother, and a large extended family.

Karl G. Johnson '95, July 19, 2025, Claremont, California. Karl, who was an Honor G recipient, majored in biology. He went on to graduate studies at UC San Diego and the University of Cambridge. After postdoctoral work at Harvard Medical School, he began his career as an educator, neuroscientist, and developmental biologist at Pomona College in Claremont, where he was the inaugural chair of the school's Neuroscience Department. Karl maintained an active research lab, funded in part by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. During his almost 20-year career, he twice received Pomona's highest faculty honor, the Wig Distinguished Professor award.

Karl had met his future wife, Nancy, while in high school. They rekindled their relationship after almost 10 years apart and had two daughters. Karl enjoyed cooking with the girls and attending their recitals and competitive cheerleading events. He loved spending time in nature and traveling with his family. Survivors include his wife, Nancy James, and their two daughters.

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** or **alumni.grinnell.edu/community/classnotes**.

FACULTY

Jennifer Williams Brown, Dec. 1, 2025, Grinnell, Iowa. Professor of Music Jennifer Williams Brown was a beloved Grinnell colleague, mentor, and teacher for more than 20 years. Her interests and talents ranged from music history to musical performance, and from classical ballet to historical forms of dance. She enjoyed teaching both music majors and students who simply wanted to learn more about the art and history of music — her introductory course offerings were always popular. She also taught harpsichord lessons and directed the Collegium Musicum. She was a specialist in the history and performance of Baroque music, particularly 17th-century Italian opera. She was an active musicological consultant and coach for student and professional opera companies nationally, including Simpson College Opera and Haymarket Opera. Trained in classical ballet at the National Academy of Dance (Champaign, Illinois), she studied Baroque dance in Boston and was a specialist in historical dance from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Jennifer, who earned her master's and PhD in musicology from Cornell University, was an internationally respected academic expert whose



research focused on decoding clues in 17th-century manuscripts and printed sources, then making the results accessible through the use of modern editions. She authored many articles and made presentations at numerous national and international conferences. Her research work was awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Delmas Foundation. In 2013, she was selected as Grinnell's Frank and Roberta Furbush Faculty Scholar.



EDITH RENFROW SMITH

Groundbreaker, educator, community builder, lifelong Grinnellian

Edith Renfrow Smith '37, DHL '19, one of Grinnell College's most beloved and inspiring alums, passed away in Chicago on January 2, 2026. For over 111 years, she shared her light, wisdom, and love for people with the world.

A second-generation Black Iowan, Mrs. Renfrow Smith was born in 1914 into one of the oldest Black families in the town of Grinnell. She credited her mother, Eva Pearl Craig Renfrow, for raising her with the belief, "No one is better than you." This affirmation, combined with her mother's insistence on the importance of education, inspired all six Renfrow children to earn their undergraduate degrees during the Great Depression.

Mrs. Renfrow Smith "caught a vision" of attending

Grinnell from the Rosenwald Scholars. When she was a schoolgirl in the 1920s, her mother hosted these Black men undergraduates for Sunday dinner at the Renfrow home and they became like family. For her part, not only did Mrs. Renfrow Smith "recruit myself" to Grinnell College in 1933, she persisted as the only Black student on campus. She made institutional history when she became the College's first Black woman graduate in 1937.

After graduation, she moved to Chicago. She married Henry T. Smith in 1940, and they raised two daughters. In 1954, she began her 22-year career as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, teaching fifth and sixth graders.

When she retired as a master teacher in 1976,

“If you have an education, no one can take that education away from you.”

— Edith Renfrow Smith

Mrs. Renfrow Smith launched a 40-year “second career” as a community volunteer and leader. She was active with Goodwill and greeted visitors to the Art Institute of Chicago. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, and through her church she provided meals and rides to other elders, and cooked and delivered food to the unhoused. Her busy schedule continued long after she turned 100. She was a featured member of Northwestern University’s SuperAgers research study and was interviewed about her longevity by national media.

Although she was not one to seek out recognition, Mrs. Renfrow Smith was inducted into the Chicago Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 2009. She was deeply honored when she was enshrined in the Iowa African American Hall of Fame in 2024.

Grinnell College also took special pride in honoring her. In 2007, the Edith Renfrow Smith ’37 Student Art Gallery was named in her honor. In April 2019, **Rayyon Robinson ’19** led efforts to establish the Edith Renfrow Smith ’37 Black Women’s Library housed in the Conney M. Kimbo Black Cultural Center. At commencement in May 2019, when she was just shy of her 105th birthday, Mrs. Renfrow Smith was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. She received a standing ovation.

Mrs. Renfrow Smith is the namesake of the College’s newest and largest student residence, Renfrow Hall. In September 2024, the College and community as well as 50 members of her extended family welcomed Mrs. Renfrow Smith back to her hometown and alma mater to celebrate her life and officially dedicate Renfrow Hall. Much of the joyous spirit of the weekend can be felt in a photo essay at grinnell.edu/renfrow-photo-essay.

Mrs. Renfrow Smith was a groundbreaker who never wanted to be just the first, but the first of many. She was always a proud alumna and after her own graduation, she recruited many others to Grinnell

College, including **Alphanette White Price ’57**, **Herbie Hancock ’60**, and **Samantha Massingale Gerth ’91**. Late in her life, she was moved to know that over 700 Black women students, faculty, and staff have followed in her footsteps.

Many faculty, alumni, and students — several of whom became a part of “Team Renfrow” (2021-24) — have dedicated countless hours to researching and bringing visibility to Mrs. Renfrow Smith’s life and legacy and to preserving her remarkable story for future generations. Read more about Team Renfrow and its members, and view some of their work, at grinnell.edu/century-team-renfrow.

Over her long life, relationships remained extremely important to Mrs. Renfrow Smith. Team Renfrow founder and leader **Tamara Beauboeuf-Lafontant**, professor and Louise R. Noun ’29 Chair in Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies, and two alums who worked on Team Renfrow projects as students, **Feven Getachew ’24** and **Valeriya Woodard ’25**, became especially close to Mrs. Renfrow Smith, who grew to think of them as part of her family.

Shortly after her passing, Mrs. Renfrow Smith’s daughter, Miss Alice Frances Smith, shared a loving tribute with the town of Grinnell and the College. “A Final Journey Home” can be read online at grinnell.edu/renfrow-final-journey-home.

All who were touched by Mrs. Renfrow Smith are invited to honor her legacy. Gifts made in her memory will be collected and directed toward scholarship support, helping future generations of Grinnell College students pursue the education she so deeply valued.

Memorial gifts may be made at give.grinnell.edu/renfrowsmith or by calling the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 866-850-1846.



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