



the grinnell magazine

ROOTED IN
CONNECTION

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A Message from President Anne F. Harris

Curators, Communicators, and Global Learners

Sometimes, the deep truth of a word is found in the changes of its meaning over time. Such is the case with “curate,” which originated in Latin meaning to care for or heal, evolved to mean caretaker of souls in medieval Latin, and settled into its association with museums and exhibits only in the modern period, first in the care for private libraries in the 17th century, and then with the birth of the museum as an institution in the 18th century. You will read about multiple curations in this issue of our magazine: of art, of knowledge, of experiences — at the core of each are the ways that Grinnellians care for each other and the world, in all the ways that make our wondrous College matter and endure.

In this issue, you will learn how Grinnell College Trustee **Keith Jantzen '80** and his husband **Scott Beth** generously opened doors for students, inviting them into a firsthand dialogue with their incredible collection of art photography, culminating with “Rhizomatic Intimacies,” a student-curated exhibition at the Grinnell College Museum of Art. The dozen students in Professor **Michael Mackenzie's** Exhibition Seminar learned collaboration, research skills, and both the practical and aesthetic aspects of working with collectors and designing an exhibition as curators.

You will also learn about and from nine Grinnellians who have found a career in science communications, as journalists, advocates, creators, and representatives of some of the nation's top research universities. In a



time in which scientific advances can be misunderstood by the public, this group of explainers seeks to provide accurate, engaging information that inspires their audiences to learn more and act on what they learn. Bringing what **Henry Reich '09** calls “explanatory innovation” to critical science topics, these alums credit their Grinnell education with sparking their passion for connecting facts and ideas in ways that foster understanding (and yes, they ask hard questions).

Tony Dalsimer '57 was present at key moments that defined multiple African nations

as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. His deep love and respect of the continent and its many rich cultures developed over a lifelong career inspired him to support a new generation of students who are intent on understanding people, cultures, landscapes, and ecosystems that are very different from those they know. Dalsimer's exceptional gift to the College removes barriers for students seeking global study, expanding their horizons and making it possible for them to gain firsthand knowledge through experience.

To curate, at its core, means to care for; to curate art, knowledge, and experiences are some of the powerful ways that Grinnellians exist in the world, inspiring and supporting today's students as they follow their own curiosity inspired by a community of passionate and driven individuals. They, like you have, will go forth to do the work that makes a positive impact in a fraught and wondrous world.



ALUMNI HONORS

Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

During Reunion 2026, retired trustee **Susan Holden McCurry '71** received Grinnell's Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, honoring a lifetime of commitment to philanthropy, volunteer leadership, and deep engagement with alumni. McCurry — pictured above (center) with President **Anne F. Harris** (left) and Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations **Bernadine Douglas** (right) — played a pivotal role in launching and expanding the Global Learning Program.



REUNION 2026

A History-Making Reunion

Grinnell's 146th annual Alumni Reunion brought more than 1,500 Grinnellians together, making it the largest Reunion gathering in the College's history. Attendees represented 52 different classes, from 1956 to 2022, and came from 45 states, Washington, D.C., and 13 foreign countries. Visit alumni.grinnell.edu/recap2026 to view lots of great photos and to learn more about this year's Reunion participants and honorees.

Alumni Award Recipients Honored at Reunion

As part of the Alumni Assembly gathering held during Reunion, 15 exceptional Grinnellians who embody Grinnell College's mission of lifetime learning and service received Alumni Awards. The honorees were **Robert C. Musser '62**, **Carolyn Canfield '71**, **Nancy Mills '72**, **Russell W. Damtoft '76**, **Robert Gehorsam '76**, **David Ten Eyck '76**, **Barb Cardell '86**, **Robert Quashie '86**, **Althea Ricketts '86**, **Christyne Lawson '87**, **Julia Gage '96**, **Marcos Ortega '97**, **Meredith Hellmer '01**, **Cassandra M.L. Miller '16**, and **Langston Thomas '20**. Read profiles of the honorees at alumni.grinnell.edu/awards/2026-alumni-award-recipients.

ACADEMICS



Grinnellians Prepare for Fulbright Grant Years

Six recent graduates and alumni were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Program grants for Fulbright English teaching assistantships in 2026-27.

The Grinnellians who were selected are **Jamuna Corsaro '26** (Taiwan), **Margaret Morey '25** (Argentina), **Lily Piede '26** (France), **Jeremy Roberts-Kleban '26** (Kyrgyzstan), **Skylar Thomas '26** (Spain), and **Isabel Voinescu '26** (Spain).



Truman Scholars Fellow

In April, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awarded a prestigious Truman Scholars fellowship to **Tatum Watkins '27**.

She is one of only 55 new Truman Scholars selected nationwide from among 781 candidates. Watkins, a political science major with concentrations in policy studies and science, medicine, and society, will use the scholarship to support future graduate studies and a career in environmental law.



Student Selected as Key into Public Service Scholar

Anne Wilber '27 has been named a 2026 Key into Public Service Scholar by The Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Wilber, who is majoring in economics with a concentration in policy studies, is one of just 20 students selected nationwide from nearly 800 applicants for the highly competitive program and undergraduate scholarship. Wilber plans to pursue a Ph.D. in economics and build a career in economic and policy research centered on community advocacy.



GRANT AWARDS

Sherman Fairchild Foundation Grant

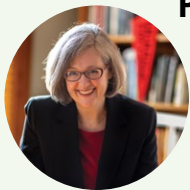
The Sherman Fairchild Foundation has awarded the College a \$600,000 grant to launch a four-year initiative that will expand the integration of technology throughout the College's arts curricula. The competitive award will support new courses, faculty development, visiting artists, student research, collaborative teaching, and the outfitting of a new intermedia space within the Film and Media Studies Center on Broad Street. The initiative will be directed by faculty members **Craig Quintero** (theatre) during its first year and **Nicky Tavares** (film and media studies) during its second year.



Faculty Awarded Housing Study Grant

Faculty members **Andrea Hall**, **Logan Lee**, and **Tamara McGavock** (economics), and **Karla Erickson** (sociology), have been awarded a \$311,000 grant from the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation to research the impact of emergency rental assistance on low-income households across Central Iowa. The project also will create hands-on research opportunities for Grinnell students, who will contribute as undergraduate research assistants throughout the study.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



President Harris Honored for Helping Shape Higher Education

President **Anne F. Harris** was among a distinguished group of leaders in higher education recognized by EDU Ledger in its 15th annual Women's History Month special report published in March. The report recognized women who are advancing institutional excellence by addressing some of the academy's most complex challenges and making a meaningful impact within their institutions and communities.

Gifts Support Elementary School Campaign

In June, Grinnell College and the Grinnell Mutual Group Foundation announced lead gifts in support of a campaign benefiting the new Grinnell-Newburg Elementary School project at Ahrens Park. The College pledged \$250,000, while the Grinnell Mutual Group Foundation committed \$225,000 toward the campaign. The gifts, which will help support important elements of the new school project, including an accessible playground and outfitting the school gymnasium, reflect a shared commitment to investing in local families and future generations.



Social Innovator in Residence

Antionette Priscilla, a nationally recognized leader in equity-centered design, will serve as the College's Social Innovator in Residence for 2026. She is the founder, president, and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab and co-founder of the Institute of Equitable Design and Justice. Her fall residency will focus on trust, community agency, and sustainable systems change.

Power Partnership Improves Sustainability

A solar-power partnership between Grinnell College, local power company Alliant Energy, the Ahrens Family Foundation, the Mayflower Community, and the City of Grinnell became operational recently, generating 3.15 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year for the College. Approximately 75% of the College's energy now comes from renewable sources.

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





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A unique partnership among students, collectors, faculty, and museum staff transformed classroom learning into a public exhibition — and created a network of relationships that continues to grow.

by Tim Schmitt



Above: Katherine Walker-Spencer '26 discusses the "Rhizomatic Intimacies" exhibit with Trustee Bruce Koff '75 during the exhibit's opening in January.

Left: Katherine Walker-Spencer (left) and Vivian Finch '26 (right) were among the 12 students who worked on developing the public exhibition.



When **Ella Barnett '27** thinks about “Rhizomatic Intimacies,” the spring 2026 exhibition built around the photography collection of Grinnell College Trustee **Keith Jantzen '80** and his husband, **Scott Beth**, her first memory is not of the finished galleries at the Grinnell College Museum of Art.

Instead, she remembers a table covered with photographs and a room full of classmates trying to make sense of them.

The 12 students in the exhibition seminar class taught by Professor of Art History **Michael “Mac” Mackenzie** spent hours arranging and rearranging printed images, testing combinations, debating ideas, and searching for connections between works that, at first glance, seemed unrelated. In the process, they were also discovering how to work together.

“There was one day when we basically came up with all of the major groupings for the exhibit,” Barnett recalls. “We all had all the photographs printed out, and we were moving them around, trying out different combinations. We all really cared about this exhibit and had a lot of different ideas about it, but everyone wanted to be respectful and make this a collaborative effort.”

That afternoon around the table became a microcosm of the project itself. “Rhizomatic Intimacies” was never simply about hanging photographs on a museum wall. It was about building relationships — between artworks, between disciplines, and between the people who brought the exhibition to life.

Over the course of a semester, students traveled to California, stepped inside a private art collection, met gallery owners and museum professionals, debated curatorial decisions, wrote exhibition texts and catalog essays, and worked alongside museum staff to create a public exhibition from Jantzen and Beth’s collection. The result was more than a class assignment. It was a vivid example of the collaborative, experiential learning that defines a Grinnell education.

A COLLECTION BECOMES A CLASSROOM

The project began several years ago, when Mackenzie visited Jantzen’s and Beth’s home in California and realized the possibilities hidden within the couple’s collection.

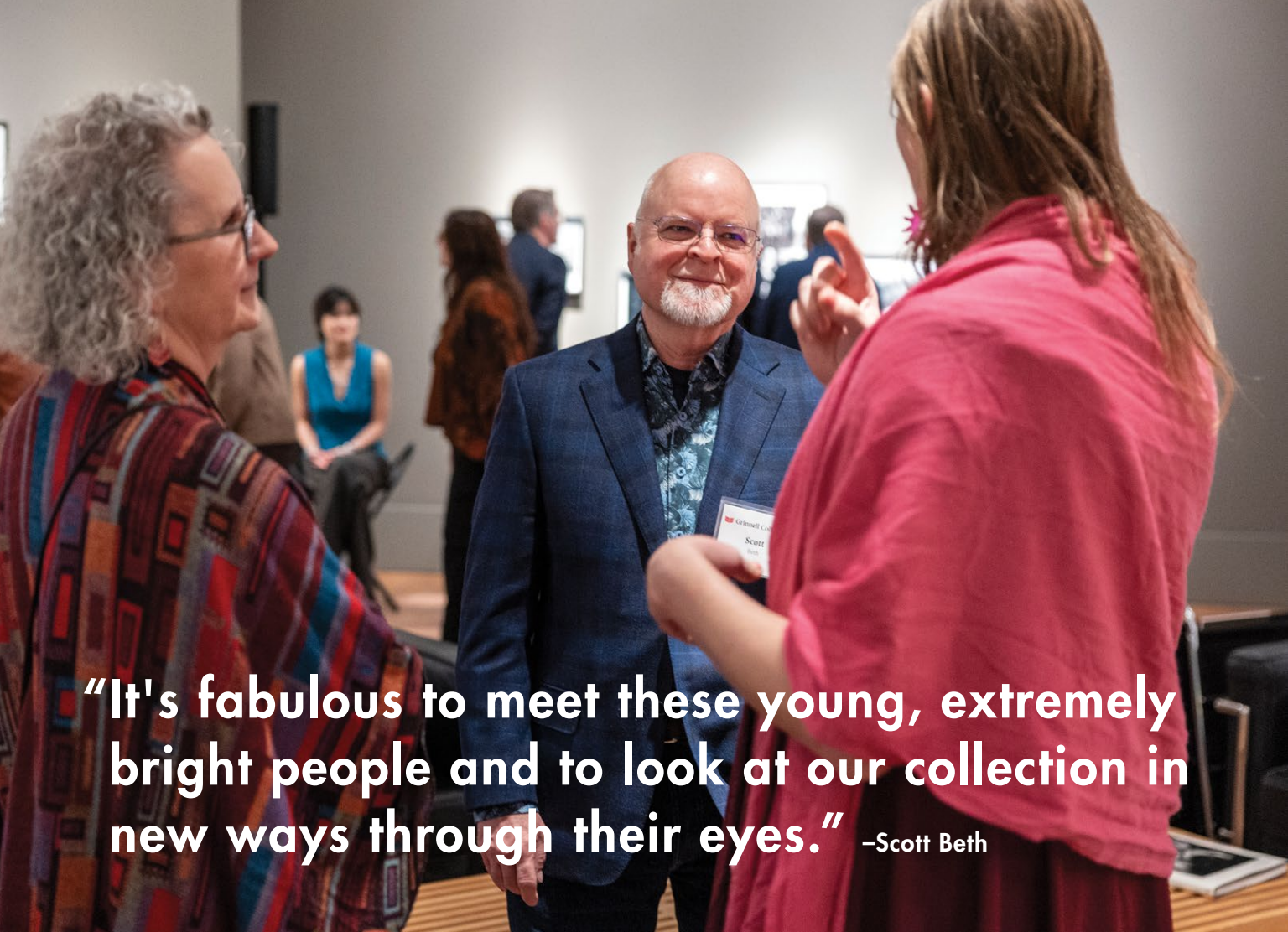
“The collection was so rich in possibilities,” Mackenzie says, “and the opportunity to work directly with collectors and with donors to the museum’s



Left: Princess Alexander '26, GCMoA Director of Exhibition Design Milton Severe, and Professor Michael Mackenzie at the exhibition opening. Right: Keith Jantzen '80 and President Anne F. Harris at the January opening of the “Rhizomatic Intimacies” exhibition.



Dorothea Qin '26 (seated) discusses the "Rhizomatic Intimacies" exhibit with Trustee Karni Mattson '97



"It's fabulous to meet these young, extremely bright people and to look at our collection in new ways through their eyes." —Scott Beth

collection seemed like such a great chance for students to learn about the social and emotional bonds, the community, and the networks that artworks are a part of."

When Mackenzie proposed building an exhibition seminar around the collection, Jantzen and Beth didn't hesitate.

"When Mac approached us and said, 'I'm going to have a seminar where students focus on a collection and then create an exhibition — would you be willing to lend your collection for that?'" Jantzen recalls. "We said, 'Absolutely.'"

For the couple, the idea embodied the kind of learning they have long supported at Grinnell.

"We felt like we were accomplishing multiple things," Beth says. "It's really great to share our art, and the academic programming — being able to meet with

students and connect with them and be part of this seminar — was so fulfilling. It kind of checked all the boxes for us."

Their involvement extended well beyond lending the photographs. They helped fund student travel, welcomed the class into their home, arranged visits to galleries and museums, and shared the personal stories behind works they had spent decades collecting.

SEEING ART THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE'S EYES

Before the semester officially began, students traveled to California to experience the collection in the place where it actually lived, in Jantzen's and Beth's San Francisco home.

Rather than encountering the photographs in a gallery or a textbook, students found them integrated into everyday life.



Opposite: GCMoA Director Susan Bailey with Scott Beth (center) and Jocelyn Krueger, GCMoA collections manager and registrar.

Left: Keith Jantzen, Katherine Walker-Spencer (seated), and Trustee Kristin Stout '89 discuss the exhibit opening.

Below: Dorothea Qin (left), President Anne F. Harris, and Keith Jantzen discuss the exhibit made possible by close collaboration between students, faculty, alumni, trustees, and friends of the College.



For **Neva Zamil '27**, that setting changed everything.

"It was a very special experience to be trusted in that way," Zamil says. "In many art settings there is a sense of distance. We're not allowed to get that close to the artwork. But it's so different when you're in a situation where people are living with it, where it is part of their daily lives. Our first exposure to these works was not in an academic setting, it was on their walls and on their dining table."

That experience helped shape the exhibition's central theme: intimacy.

Princess Alexander '25, another student in Mackenzie's class, remembers noticing details that might have escaped them in a traditional museum setting.

"We got to see how they displayed the works," she says. "For example, they had mirrors positioned

in front of some portraits, and we became interested in the idea of reflection. When we designed our exhibition, we wanted certain images to face one another, and that idea came directly from seeing how they displayed works in their own space."

The trip also introduced students to the many careers that support the arts. Visits to San Francisco's Fraenkel Gallery and conversations with curators, gallery staff, and collectors opened a window into a professional world many had never considered.

"The amount of different people in the art world that we got to meet was really valuable," Barnett says. "Not just museum professionals, but people working in galleries, people working in more private collections — facets of the art world that aren't always as immediately visible."

For Jantzen, those experiences represent the very best of a Grinnell education.

"This is a kind of experiential learning that I think is just unsurpassed," he says.

LEARNING TO CURATE AND COLLABORATE

Although Mackenzie created the framework for the seminar, the students themselves shaped the exhibition.

"All of the choices — the 38 photographs that were used in that exhibit — those were all specifically chosen by the students," Jantzen says.

Reaching those decisions required patience and compromise. Every student arrived with strong ideas and different perspectives.



Above: Princess Alexander '26 (seated) speaks with guests at the opening of the exhibit showcasing the photography collection of Keith Jantzen and Scott Beth.

Opposite: Katherine Walker-Spencer (seated) speaks with retired Trustee Kimberly Kuncl '87 (standing).

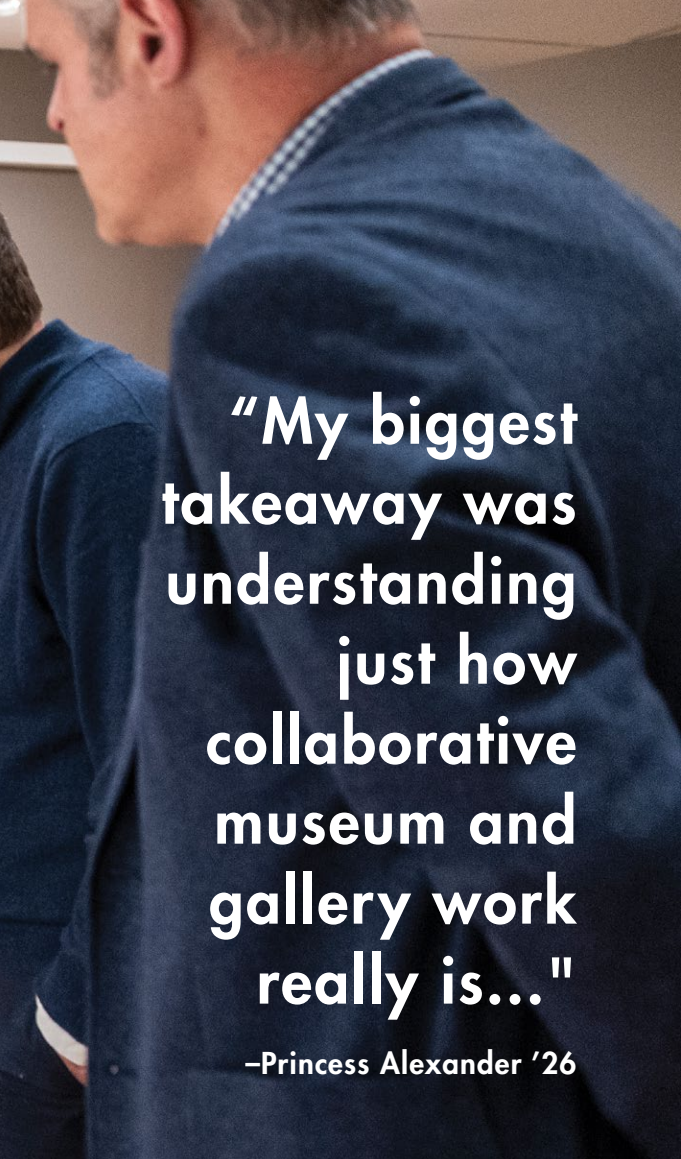
Eventually, the students stopped waiting for the professor to provide the answer and built one together.

"My favorite thing that happened in the class," Mackenzie says, "was when, while I was trying to push them toward a certain decision-making process, they got frustrated and met on their own one day and came up with a whole conceptual framework — and even a title.

"That combination of the ideas of a rhizome and of intimacy came from them," he adds. "That's a teacher's dream."

In botany, a rhizome is an underground root system connecting plants that may appear separate above the surface. The students embraced the idea as a way of thinking about the hidden relationships among artworks — and among the people creating the exhibition itself.

"We defined rhizome as essentially nonhierarchical," Zamil says. "Something you can approach from any angle."



"My biggest
takeaway was
understanding
just how
collaborative
museum and
gallery work
really is..."

—Princess Alexander '26

BEHIND THE MUSEUM WALLS

As the exhibition developed, students discovered that curating involves much more than selecting art.

They worked alongside museum staff, exhibition designers, registrars, editors, and publications specialists, learning firsthand how many people contribute to bringing an exhibition to life.

"It became a wonderful collaboration between the students and museum staff, with the students really taking the lead," says **Susan Baley**, director of the Grinnell College Museum of Art.

Alexander recalls working directly with GCMoA's Director of Exhibition Design **Milton Severe** to translate the class' ideas into the physical realities of the gallery.

"He brought expertise about accessibility, viewing

heights, spatial constraints, and visitor flow," she says. "We had to give up some of our creative freedom because he understood what would actually work in the space."

The experience changed the way she thought about museums.

"My biggest takeaway was understanding just how collaborative museum and gallery work really is, and how much happens behind the scenes."

Students also encountered the practical complexities that visitors are rarely aware of — image rights, permissions, catalog production, and installation logistics.

"People often assume that because Keith and Scott own the photographs, they automatically have the right to reproduce them," Baley says. "That's not the case."





"The opportunity to work directly with collectors and with donors (allowed) students to learn about the social and emotional bonds, the community, and the networks that artworks are a part of."

—Michael Mackenzie

Daniel Strong, GCMoA associate director and curator of exhibitions, and Professor Michael Mackenzie (right) talk during the exhibition's opening in January.



Left: Sugi Lucas '26 speaks with Trustee Christina Cutlip '83 and Keith Jantzen.

Below: Kiele Calhoun '26, Bruce Koff, and Katherine Walker-Spencer discuss the photo collection during the exhibit opening.



THE GRINNELL DIFFERENCE

The partnership and intense collaboration throughout the process of creating the exhibit had a lasting impact on everyone involved.

For Jantzen and Beth, seeing students engage so deeply with the collection revealed new perspectives on works they had lived with for years.

“The level of engagement and insight that they’ve shown is really astonishing,” Jantzen says. “It was very eye-opening to us to have other people look at what we’ve collected in a very focused way.”

Baley saw the same thing happen. “Some of the pairings the students created surprised Keith and Scott,” she says. “They would say, ‘I never thought about those works together in that way.’”

For Beth, that exchange became one of the project’s greatest rewards.

“It’s fabulous to meet these young, extremely bright people and to look at our collection in new ways through their eyes.”

The students describe the experience in much the same way.

“It gave a lot of autonomy to student voice in the process,” Zamil says.

Barnett believes opportunities like this are rare.

“This is an incredible opportunity that I don’t think many colleges would be able to offer,” she says, pointing to the chance to travel, collaborate, and learn directly from collectors and professionals.

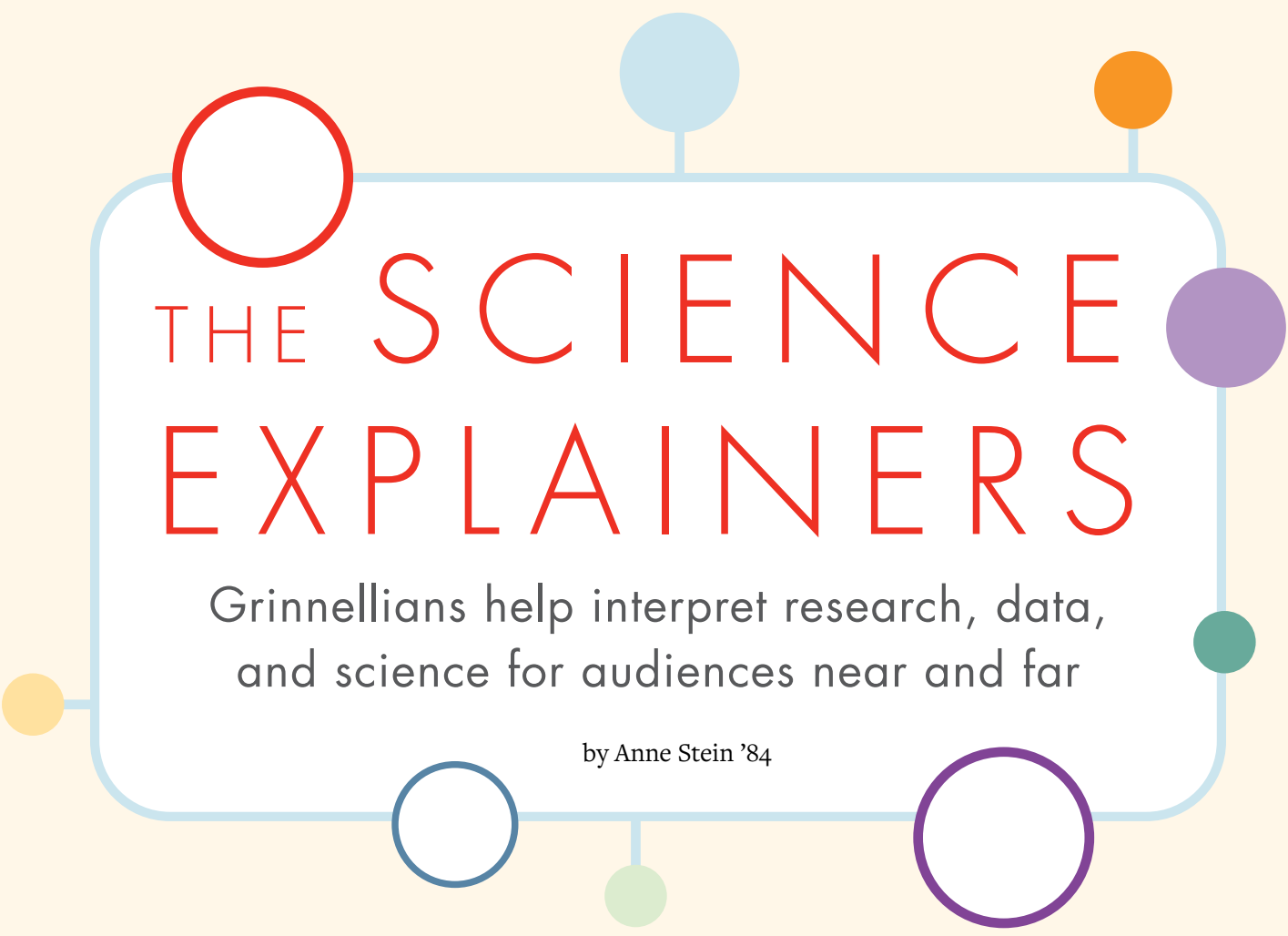
And for Alexander, the project reinforced what makes Grinnell distinctive.

“I just feel very thankful,” she says. “Grinnell really is a hidden gem. You don’t necessarily expect all the opportunities and experiences that you’ll have.”

Long after the exhibition came down, what remains are the connections it created. Visitors to “Rhizomatic Intimacies” encountered photographs linked through unexpected relationships. Behind those walls, however, was an even larger network connecting students, faculty, alumni, collectors, museum professionals, and donors.

Like the rhizomes that inspired the exhibition’s title, those connections, while not always visible, are what continues to allow ideas and people to flourish and grow together.

“Curating Connection,” a short video featuring several of the student curators, Keith Jantzen, Scott Beth, and others involved in making this special exhibition possible, shares more about their experiences. Visit grinnell.edu/curating-connection to view the video online.



THE SCIENCE EXPLAINERS

Grinnellians help interpret research, data, and science for audiences near and far

by Anne Stein '84

A growing number of Grinnell alums are applying their love of science to careers as science communicators. Their efforts to accurately convey complex topics and highlight why research matters is especially critical now, as the value of scientific research is under heightened scrutiny.

From radio and print reporters to experts on data, philanthropy, and media relations, most of these Grinnellians have advanced degrees in science writing and/or the sciences.

Meet the alums who agreed to share their thoughts on what they love about their jobs, why their work is important, the impact of the current policy climate on their work, and how Grinnell helped prepare them for what they do.

Geoff Brumfiel '00, National Public Radio editor and correspondent

Aaron Scott '03, Oregon Public Broadcasting editor and producer

Henry Reich '09, YouTube Creator: MinutePhysics, MinuteEarth, MinuteFood, What If?

Alex Reich '11, Yale Planetary Solutions director of research and impact

Quinton Banks '13, Science Philanthropy Alliance philanthropic advisor

Jonathan Gilmour '19, The Impact Project cofounder

Vishva Nalamalapu '20, University of Washington Medicine media relations specialist

Anika Jane Beamer '22, Inside Climate News reporter

Emma Stefanacci '22: Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Sciences communications specialist

"Every day I learn something new. To me, that's the heart of science journalism."



Aaron Scott

"I really enjoy being able to communicate the importance of what's happening in science to someone who doesn't have science training. And I enjoy being in a position where I can consistently learn about something new."

Quinton Banks



"I get to be curious and follow that curiosity. And I very much enjoy collaborating with other people. We're striving to make up new ways of explaining science that are more accurate, more understandable, and evocative — it's explanatory innovation."



Henry Reich

What do you love about your job?

Anika Jane Beamer



"I love that I get to be a constant student. My job is to learn as much as possible about a topic, then distill it and make it interesting to others. Every day is different."



Jonathan Gilmour

"I've been drawn to what feels like the most important problems of the day. I feel fortunate to put my energy into working with other folks to address some of the biggest problems we are facing as a society."

Geoff Brumfiel



"The different people I get to talk to, going to interesting places, dealing with the issues of the day, and thinking about them critically. I've loved this job since I figured out it existed."

"Truth and honest skepticism are how humanity makes progress. There's also joy in understanding complex and tricky things."

Henry Reich



"The climate crisis affects everyone, but we're in such a polarized landscape. It's important to draw as many communities as possible into the conversation."

Anika Jane Beamer



"A lot of people are getting more of their information from social media than from established news sources. I think information will become less reliable, in part because of AI and in part because of people being paid to promote things. There has to be a return to official, independent journalism if you want to know what's going on."

Geoff Brumfiel



Why is your work

Quinton Banks



"Philanthropy currently contributes about 20% of funding to biomedical research, and a lot of people providing that funding do not have scientific training. We serve as liaisons to help donors better understand the fields they are interested in and help them invest in or make gifts that will be beneficial to the biomedical space."

Alex Reich



"I help move scientific research toward action to address climate change, restore ecosystems, and ensure communities and society thrive. That takes collaborating across Yale and with partners to create new pathways to fund, implement, and communicate about impact-oriented work."

"People need better data to make informed decisions. In 2020, I volunteered at The COVID Tracking Project at *The Atlantic*, and we became the go-to source for pandemic data because the CDC dropped the ball. I have brought that same spirit to all my work since, working to provide the public with the best data possible — from data center water use to impacts of policy change to federal environmental data targeted by this administration."

Jonathan Gilmour



"Science communication has to be engaging and accessible; that allows people to learn more and helps them advocate for better policies in health and the environment. If the public knows the science, they'll be more compelled to advocate for policies that improve their lives."

Vishva Nalamalapu



important?

Emma Stefanacci



"Science is awesome and it's meant to benefit the world. So many people who don't actively interact with it don't know or understand it. I want to expose science to people who aren't doing it. Also, so much of science in the U.S. is publicly funded, so we need to communicate about the work that's coming from public funds."

Aaron Scott



"I most delight in sharing stories that help people understand their world better and encounter every day with a little more curiosity and wonder. But also important is reporting on the negative ways humans are affecting the world and what we can do to slow down climate change and restore environmental degradation before things get even worse."

We've had multiple stories fall apart because federal agencies say that scientists can't talk to us. There's a lot of fear within agencies doing science research because the administration is antagonistic.

Aaron Scott



"Increasingly, there are data gaps, and in some cases, that's deliberate. I started impact tracking work in early 2025, in response to DOGE and unprecedented changes in the federal government. As the Trump administration is doing its best to push an anti-science, anti-climate, vaccine-skeptical agenda (among other issues), it is more and more important for us to find ways to communicate clearly and compellingly in a fractured and polluted information environment."

Jonathan Gilmour



How has the current policy communication?

Vishva Nalamalapu



"Especially since the current administration cut a lot of research funding, that has also cut science communication and science. There's less to write about, and people are more cautious about what they say because they're scared about funding. It creates a less open and more risk-averse science community."

Henry Reich



"There's less grant money available for science communication, and we've encountered the issue where scientists are essentially under gag orders if they've received federal funding. Some people aren't willing, able, or allowed to talk, and that's concerning and problematic."

"We live in a time of fractured realities. People are getting their information from a lot of different sources, often reinforcing their worldviews, so it makes it very hard to reach a consensus on what's going on. And there are communities on so many different sides of the issues — COVID vaccines and climate change, for example — that get so angry. It's spicy out there!"

Geoff Brumfiel



"Many scientific issues, along with science itself, have been polarized. That makes science communication more challenging. But the issues aren't going away, so we need to keep communicating, as well as defending research, evidence-based decision-making, and many fundamental freedoms that are also being eroded."

Alex Reich



climate impacted science

Quinton Banks



"We're seeing a lot more interest from philanthropists who want to step in and donate to science. On the other hand, keeping on top of new policy changes and any kind of misinformation that's being put out is very challenging."

Anika Jane Beamer



"It's really easy to anger people right now. I struggle with the fact that my work will spark discontentment as much as it sparks conversation. I see my work as contributing to the greater good, but not everyone's happy with it."

"Grinnell prepared me to have a good understanding of the process of scientific research. That's been really helpful in writing about any type of research and reading science papers critically." *Biology major.*



Vishva Nalamalapu

"A liberal arts education that's science-focused was the perfect preparation. It made me scientifically literate, taught me how to learn and ask good questions of experts, and also taught me how to package that information and find new ways to share it and think about it. It's critical thinking at work." *Biology and Spanish double major.*

Anika Jane Beamer



"I've spent my career talking to the best physicists on the planet, and that is thanks to Grinnell. It was only because I was at a small liberal arts school that I could go to a physics professor every week and get support throughout my training. And the English department was top-notch and really taught students how to write." *Physics and English double major.*

Geoff Brumfiel



How did Grinnell prepare

Quinton Banks



"Grinnell brought people from all over the world into a small space, and that got me comfortable speaking with all types of people. Academically, you're expected to problem-solve and figure things out for yourself, which is what we do every day. You have to be okay with making mistakes and iterating on them." *Psychology major with a neuroscience concentration.*

Alex Reich



"At Grinnell, I learned how to make connections between things that may not seem connected, and I was supported to pursue a broad range of interests. These experiences taught me how to engage with, and communicate about, many complex topics at once, which is what I do in my job today; the program I manage funds dozens of wildly different projects. But more importantly, Grinnell led me to prioritize a life oriented toward social impact and the common good." *Biology major.*

"I entered Grinnell thinking I wanted to do astrophysics, then I realized that doing scientific research isn't what got me excited. It was talking to people about what I was learning that I loved. Grinnell allowed me to explore other options, be curious, and see the network that connects different ideas. The breadth and interdisciplinary nature help me connect science research to the people it's meant to benefit." *Math major with a linguistics concentration.*

Emma Stefanacci



"I got to engage in science and did lots of creative writing. In retrospect, the most important thing for my career and life was my first year tutorial with **Elizabeth Dobbs**. She taught me how to write in a way that I still teach my employees. Grinnell allowed me to pursue music and writing and science and gave me the freedom to pursue film/video-making. Those are all day-to-day parts of my job." *Math and physics double major.*

Henry Reich



you for your career?

Jonathan Gilmour



"I came to Grinnell with an interest in and commitment to social justice, and my classes, conversations with fellow students, and the speaker series all helped me develop that. My computer science degree helped me with the data and coding skills I've relied on to do this work." *Computer science major.*

Aaron Scott



"Grinnell taught me to embrace the world with curiosity and a critical gaze — to seek out new things and think deeply and critically about them — across a wide range of topics." *Religious studies major.*

Want to know what sources these science communicators trust for reliable science news? Visit grinnell.edu/magazine for a list of their recommendations.

A LIFE IN
AFRICA,
A LEGACY AT
GRINNELL

After a career spent navigating some of Africa's most consequential moments, Tony Dalsimer is helping Grinnell students discover the continent for themselves.

by Tim Schmitt

Tony Dalsimer '57 likes to describe himself simply.

"I'm not much of an orator," he says.

"I'm more of an action person in my day-to-day life, and my assignments in Africa were certainly the same."

It's an honest assessment from someone whose career in the U.S. Foreign Service placed him at the center of some of the most turbulent moments in modern African history. Over four decades, Dalsimer served at American embassies across the continent, helping navigate political upheaval, humanitarian crises, and the uncertain early years of newly independent nations.

Today, his focus is no longer on diplomacy but on education. Through the Anthony S. Dalsimer Fund for the Study of Africa, he is ensuring that Grinnell students can engage directly with the people, cultures, and histories that shaped his own life.

What began years ago as a planned estate gift has now been transformed through a major lifetime contribution of more than \$4 million, allowing Dalsimer to see the impact of his generosity while he is still able to follow the journeys of the students it supports.

For him, the goal is straightforward.

"I feel Africa is a part of the world that should be better known," he says. "It has a lot of potential, and

it has people who can develop it and improve their connections with the rest of the world. Whatever can be done to keep Africa in the consciousness of Americans is worth doing."

DRAWN TO A CHANGING CONTINENT

Dalsimer's interest in Africa developed alongside that of the United States in the early 1960s. As former British and French colonies gained independence, President John F. Kennedy's administration encouraged Americans to become involved in the development of these new nations.

"President Kennedy and the State Department were calling for volunteers, looking for people interested in going to Africa to work," Dalsimer recalls. "And that captured my imagination."

A second influence came through his wife, Scotty, whose work at the African American Institute introduced him to African diplomats and visitors in Washington, D.C. "Because of her job, I got to meet a fair number of African visitors and African diplomats who were assigned to Washington," he says.

Those experiences launched a career that would take him to countries including Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Mali, Northern Somalia, and Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). His service often unfolded against the backdrop of coups, civil unrest, and struggles for self-determination.



Left: Tony Dalsimer displays some of the artwork and keepsakes he collected while serving in Africa during his long career with the U.S. Foreign Service.



“Whatever can be done to keep Africa in the consciousness of Americans is worth doing.”

—Tony Dalsimer

One assignment stands above the rest. While serving as deputy chief of mission in N'Djamena, Chad, in 1979, rival rebel armies entered the capital and plunged the city into chaos. With the U.S. embassy damaged by fighting and communications reduced to a single hour each day via shortwave radio, Dalsimer found himself responsible for getting roughly 80 to 90 Americans to safety.

Coordinating an emergency evacuation through a combat zone while navigating through endless bureaucratic red tape was no easy task. And when the U.S. Air Force declined to assist, Dalsimer convinced the French government to provide an airplane to get the Americans out of the country.

“The French did it,” he says, severely understating his role in the evacuation. “They were wonderful — incredibly helpful.”

The experience left a lasting impression, not because of the danger, but because of the resilience and

generosity he witnessed throughout his years on the continent.

SEEING AFRICA THROUGH NEW EYES

For Dalsimer, one of the greatest lessons Africa offers is perspective.

“The most striking thing is how extremely different things are in Africa compared to the United States,” he says. “One thing that impressed me in most countries where I lived was that people were happy.”

Recalling his first assignment in what is now Burkina Faso, he adds, “The people there were wonderful. They really didn’t have much, but most were subsistence farmers, and they usually had some surplus grain crops like millet and sorghum to sell in the markets. The society was cohesive, and as far as I could tell, people were content.”

His personal experiences with the land and



Liv Larsen '26 (center) on campus with her parents, Leif Larsen '88 (left) and Sasha Aslanian '90 (right).

people of Africa led to his conviction that there is no substitute for experiencing another culture firsthand, which ultimately inspired his philanthropic efforts.

When Dalsimer retired from the Foreign Service in 1997, an unexpected lump-sum pension payment gave him the opportunity to do something meaningful.

"There really wasn't anything I wanted to do with it here in the States," he says. "So, I decided I would set up a fund for the study of Africa with Grinnell."

OPENING DOORS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Today, the Anthony S. Dalsimer Fund for the Study of Africa helps Grinnell students pursue study abroad and other immersive learning experiences connected to the African continent.

"Tony Dalsimer's distinguished career in foreign service — and his post-retirement engagement working at the National Archives; teaching courses in African history, government and politics, and international relations; and volunteering in his community — are a testament to his commitment to serving the common good," President **Anne F. Harris** says. "The remarkable generosity he has shown by creating the Anthony S. Dalsimer Fund for the Study of Africa ensures that

future students can have extraordinary opportunities to experience Africa for themselves in ways that will indelibly shape their lives and how they live Grinnellian. We are grateful both for Tony's example of a life well lived and for his philanthropic support of future Grinnellians."

The impact of that support can be seen in the experience of **Liv Larsen '26**, a recent English and film and media studies graduate who spent a semester studying at the University of Cape Town through IES Abroad.

Larsen considered several destinations before deciding on South Africa. "I was attracted to Cape Town because of the climate and beach, the mountains, but also the music and the arts and the people there," she says.

The financial support she received was essential in making the experience possible.

"Studying abroad in general can be difficult because there are so many costs added on," she says. "A flight just to get there can be very expensive, plus I was living in an apartment and the cost of rent, food, and all the little things add up.

But the Dalsimer Fund coupled with institutional support made the dream achievable for Larsen,



Liv Larsen in the lush landscape near Cape Town, South Africa, during her senior year fall semester.



Above: Innocentia "Zee" Cele and Sasha Aslanian in Cape Town in November 2025.

Below: Cele and Aslanian (center) in South Africa with their daughters, Mbali, left, and Liv, right.



“Living in Cape Town for five months is something had that opportunity was incredible.” –Liv Larsen

she says. “Living in Cape Town for five months is something I doubt I’ll ever be able to do again, and to have had that opportunity was incredible.”

Larsen deliberately chose a direct enrollment program so she could learn alongside South African students rather than remain in a cohort of visiting Americans. In classes on literature, history, and photography, she encountered new perspectives that reshaped her education.

“It was interesting to see the differences in how something like that was taught in the States versus in Cape Town,” she says. “It was also very interesting to hear the domestic students’ perspective.”

Outside the classroom, she found equal value in everyday experiences: climbing Table Mountain, joining the University of Cape Town’s mountain club, and

traveling with classmates across the region.

“Seeing elephants and giraffes and all of these animals in the wild was very surreal,” she says. “And to do that all while in the company of fun and interesting people and to get closer through that experience was really incredible.”

THE VALUE OF GOING ABROAD

Larsen believes study abroad offers something that cannot easily be recreated later in life.

“I just think it’s an incredible privilege to be able to pick a country anywhere in the globe and live there for four to five months,” she says. “To learn about those things from the people who’ve actually produced them or come from those cultures or countries, I just felt like that rounded out my experience.”



I doubt I'll ever be able to do again, and to have

Her mother, **Sasha Aslanian '90**, understands that feeling. A French major who studied abroad in Paris, Aslanian traveled to South Africa to visit Larsen and reunite with her own first-year Grinnell roommate from Johannesburg, **Innocentia Cele '90**, after 35 years.

"I felt like my world expanded, and I had a better sense of my place in the world," Aslanian says of her own experience abroad. "How interconnected we are. How much smaller the world is than we really think it is."

She also points to the importance of donor support in making those opportunities accessible.

"One of the things that I think is really extraordinary that Grinnell is able to do is that the financial aid that students receive follows them on study abroad," she says.

That commitment is reflected across the College.

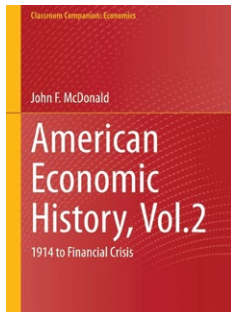
More than 50 percent of Grinnell students participate in semester- or year-long off-campus study experiences, and students receiving institutional financial aid can generally apply that aid to approved study-away programs.

For Dalsimer, those opportunities are exactly the point. His hope is not simply that students travel, but that they encounter Africa on its own terms and return with a richer understanding of a part of the world that too often goes overlooked.

After a lifetime spent building bridges between nations, he now wants to help a new generation of Grinnellians build bridges of their own.

And, true to the way he has always approached life, he's not just talking, but taking action to make it happen.

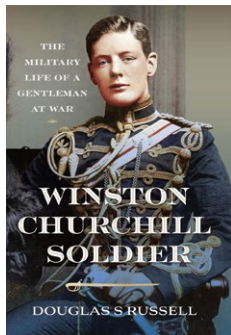
AUTHORS AND ARTISTS



American Economic History, Vol. 2: 1914 to Financial Crisis

John McDonald '65, Springer, May 2026

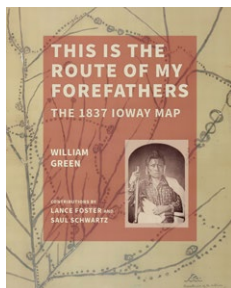
McDonald's 15th book is part of The Classroom Companion Economics series. This volume covers the period from World War I and the founding of the Federal Reserve to the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and explores major macroeconomic theories, policy shifts, and social transformations while providing an insightful foundation for understanding America's modern economic evolution. McDonald is an emeritus professor of economics at the University of Illinois Chicago, and the emeritus Gerald W. Fogelson Distinguished Professor of Real Estate at Roosevelt University, Chicago.



Winston Churchill as a Soldier: The Military Life of a Gentleman at War

Douglas Russell '71, Pen and Sword, December 2025

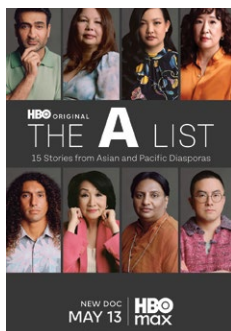
The first full-length, fully researched biography of Churchill's military career explores how his early years in the British Army shaped his eventual path into politics and statecraft. As a young man Churchill set out to become a hero, to make a name for himself and so make possible a life of politics and statesmanship. Using a range of sources, including previously unpublished photographs and detailed maps, this work brings to life Churchill's motives, abilities, experiences, successes and failures, and his unswerving sense of destiny. Russell, who served in the U.S. Army in military intelligence, is a retired judge of the Iowa District Court. He also is the author of *The Orders, Decorations and Medals of Sir Winston Churchill*.



This Is the Route of My Forefathers: The 1837 Ioway Map

Bill Green '74, University of Iowa Press, February 2026

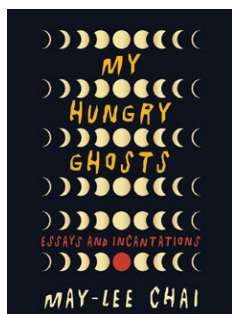
Green elevates the understudied history of the Ioways, for whom the state is named, by synthesizing oral traditions, written records, and archaeological data to decode an 1837 map drafted by Ioway leaders to depict tribal history and defend tribal land claims at the height of the Indian removal era. The Ioway map, which covers 270,000 square miles and depicts 200 years of Ioway residence throughout Iowa and surrounding states, offers insight into Ioway political and diplomatic strategies, relationships with neighboring nations, and how the Ioways resisted and negotiated amid dispossession. Green, who was director of the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, currently volunteers at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology in Santa Fe.



The A List: 15 Stories from Asian and Pacific Diasporas

Johanna Giebelhaus '96 (film editor) and **Kumail Nanjiani '01** (cast member), HBO documentary, May 2026

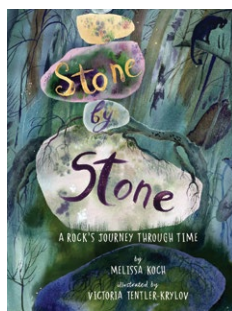
"The A List" presents a tapestry of personal vignettes from across the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in America. The 15-member cast includes Nanjiani, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Sandra Oh, Bowen Yang, and Connie Chung. The feature film premiered at DOC NYC Film Festival and opened CAAMFest 2026 in San Francisco and continues to screen at other film festivals.



My Hungry Ghosts: Essays and Incantations

May-lee Chai '89, Blair, September 2026

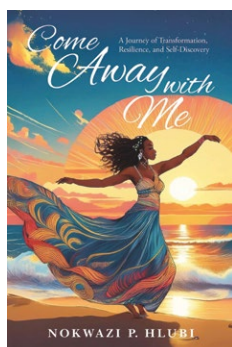
Award-winning author Chai's new collection of essays explores the intersection of world history and her own. Drawing upon the traditional Chinese Daoist and Buddhist concept of hungry ghosts (spirits that are caught between realms forgot by their descendants and separated from their ancestors), she writes about personal hauntings, the people, histories, ancestors, and family members who continue to touch her life. She also explores Chinese traditions and spiritual practices, showing a path forward for activism and healing. Chai, who majored in French with a concentration in Chinese studies at Grinnell, notes that several of the essays draw upon her experiences as a Grinnell-Nanjing fellow during 1989-90. Chai is the author of 12 books of fiction, nonfiction, and translation, including *Tomorrow in Shanghai & Other Stories*, which was a New York Times Editors' Choice and was longlisted for The Story Prize.



Stone By Stone: A Rock's Journey Through Time

Melissa Koch '90, Holiday House, August 2026

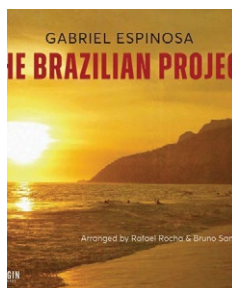
Koch's latest children's book takes readers on a journey through the world's stone structures, beginning with a dynamic view of Earth's rock cycle before delving into the many ways humans have used stones across history. From ancient cairns to castles, from the Great Wall of China to Maya cities, Koch explores stone structures to reveal how geology, engineering, and human history connect. Koch's nonfiction books for children and their teachers focus on making science and social justice personal and valuable to readers.



Come Away With Me: A Journey of Transformation, Resilience, and Self-Discovery

Nokwazi Hlubi '99, Yes! Publishing, November 2025

In this debut work, Hlubi reflects on pivotal moments that have shaped her life and identity, including her journey from the bustling streets of Johannesburg to Grinnell, as she navigated cultural contrasts, personal struggles, and moments of pure wonder. Her memoir speaks with heartfelt honesty and keen insight about stepping into the unknown, embracing change, and forging one's own path in order to discover a deeper understanding of identity, resilience, and the power of transformation. Hlubi currently lives in Johannesburg.



The Brazilian Project

Gabriel Espinosa, Origin Records, May 2026

Bassist and composer Espinosa directs the College's Latin American Ensemble and has been a member of the Grinnell faculty for more than two decades. His newest album highlights his versatility as both a performer and bandleader. It was recorded in Brazil and blends elements of samba, bossa nova, and jazz with Espinosa's own compositional voice. The online music magazine Paris-Move praised the album's warmth, calling it a compelling addition to Espinosa's body of work.

ALUMNI PROFILE RACHEL WEISS

For **Rachel Weiss '98**, Judaism has always been central to her identity.

"My parents love telling the story of me asking to go to Hebrew school when I was 8 years old," she says. Prior to this, her Jewish family had not been particularly religious, but soon after, they joined the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Illinois, where Weiss not only had her Bat Mitzvah, but years later was married to **Julia Tauber '95**.

Weiss began her career at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the LGBTQ synagogue in New York City, where she served as associate rabbi and developed a family education program. When the opportunity arose to return to the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in 2016, Weiss was thrilled. "I love the idea of coming full circle, so it was a no-brainer," she says.

Participatory leadership is an element of Reconstructionist congregations, so the rabbi is not the only authority and is more often part of a collaborative process. This means that there are many voices at the table, and transparency in communication is crucial. "We do a lot of social justice work, and much of it is led by the congregants," Weiss says.

The congregation has come up with many innovative experiences from a revitalization of their Jewish learning program that included moving it to Saturday morning to figuring out multiaccess programming during the pandemic – something they've kept since to continue providing more accessibility and inclusion.

"Everyone is welcome, and we have worked really hard to keep our wide tent open," Weiss says.

by Melanie Drake '92



Rachel Weiss '98 (left) and **Julia Tauber '95** (right), with their daughters, **Hannah '30** (second from left) and Norah.

1940s

1947

Mary Kinnaird Peterson celebrated her 100th birthday on April 10.

1949

William W. Bliss celebrated his 100th birthday on April 15.

1950s

1950

Ron Lavender celebrated his 100th birthday on June 16.

Michael J. Mattioli celebrated his 100th birthday on March 30.

1951

Andrew Billingsley celebrated his 100th birthday on March 20.

1954

Ron Davis recently independently published a scientific memoir, *An Ecologist's World: Seashores, Forests, Lakes, Mountaintops, Peatlands, and Prehistoric Landscapes*, which blends science, travel, and reflection — charting a path from childhood curiosity in Brooklyn to groundbreaking field biology stories in Maine, Costa Rica, Nepal, and beyond. His journey captures both the thrill of fieldwork and the intellectual beauty of environmental science, offering an inside view of the scientific process itself.

1960s

1961

Jack Swenson and several other Grinnell alumni from the Toronto area gathered for a special tour of Canada's largest and most prestigious museum, the Royal Ontario Museum. The tour was directed by **Sarah Fee '86**, the museum's senior curator for global fashion and textiles, who also holds an appointment at the University of Toronto. Following the tour, the group enjoyed dinner together at a neighborhood pub.



Grinnell alums gathered for the museum tour: front row (l-r), **Jack Swenson '61**, **Pam Dryden Rogacki '64**, and **Sadish Dhakal '11**; middle row (l-r), **Suha Gilliani '16**, **Sarah Fee '86**, and **Sunanda Vaidheesh '12**; back row, **Deanna L. Bickford '88**.

1966

Nancy Self Lindisfarne, who sadly passed away in November 2025 (see "In Memoriam" entry, page 47), co-authored *The Piruzai of Afghanistan: A Visual Ethnography*, published by White Horse Press in 2025. The Piruzai are farmers in northern Afghanistan, where Lindisfarne spent a year doing anthropological fieldwork in the early 1970s. To read an excerpt, view selected photographs, and order a copy of the book, visit the blog that Lindisfarne shared with her partner, Jonathan Neale, at annebonnypirate.org.

George Moose (pictured right) was awarded the 2026 Foreign Service Cup by DACOR, an organization of foreign affairs professionals founded in 1952. The award goes to a retired foreign service officer who had a distinguished career and has made significant post-retirement contributions to the broad field encompassed by the term "foreign affairs."



Robert Van Order received the 2026 John M. Quigley Medal from the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association in recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of real estate and urban economics. Van Order is the Oliver Carr Chair in Real Estate and professor of finance and economics at George Washington University.

1969

Lilah Morton Pengra was awarded the Jay D. Smith Literary Award by the Little Big Horn Associates for her book, *Isaiah Dorman: Interpreting the Evidence*, published in 2016. Pengra spent more than 15 years researching the myths, mysteries, and misinformation that obscured the true story of Isaiah Dorman, the only African American to die at Custer's famous last stand on the Little Bighorn River in 1876. Pengra received the award at the Little Big Horn Associates' annual conference, which marked 150 years since the Battle of the Little Big Horn, also known as the Battle of Greasy Grass.

1970s

1973

Michelle Huneven recently returned to her hometown of Altadena, California, for a conversation about her June 2025 book, *Bug Hollow*, which was dedicated to the town.

1980s

1980

Nathaniel Borenstein, DS '13, has embarked on a new career as a speaker and influencer, based on the ideas in his new book, *The Spirit of a Cyborg*. Read more on his website, nathanielborenstein.com.



F. Hudson Miller was elected president of the Motion Picture Editors Guild in January.

1984

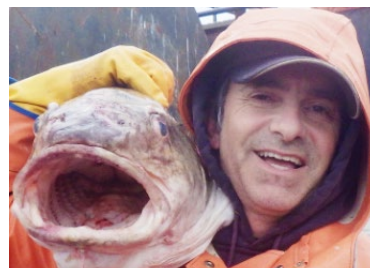
Anne Bordonaro, a senior federal policy advisor at the Vermont Agency of Education, had an article, "Teaching Hard History: Instructional Lessons for American Educators from Israeli and Palestinian Educators," published in the international journal *The Social Studies*. The article, which is available through open access on the journal site, examines instructional practices and student learning in an integrated Jewish-Palestinian school in Israel that began teaching both Zionist and Palestinian narratives of their shared national history. Bordonaro suggests that a "dual-narrative" instructional approach can provide guidance for educators seeking to teach both empathy and critical thinking regarding difficult national history topics.



Jennifer Loehlin and **Michael Mashl** were married on April 11 in Austin, Texas.

1986

Mark Zimmerman has retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) after 34 years. His federal service included roughly 50 research cruises, typically on chartered fishing boats, and totaled almost 1,000 days at sea. Much of his work was focused on studying groundfish populations and their seafloor habitats off the U.S. west coast and Alaska.



1988

Kate Stoff Hogg was ordained deacon for the Episcopal Church-Diocese of Iowa on April 11. Grinnellians in attendance included **Katy Kramer Lee '82** and **Aileen Chang-Matus '85**.

1990s

1990

Cathy Smith was a recipient of the 2025 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship. K-12 teachers are selected because of their skills as leaders and agents for positive change and their ability to inspire love of learning. Smith teaches in Bayfield, Wisconsin, near Lake Superior.

1991

Megan Bryant has joined the Neon Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada, as chief collections officer. Her previous position with the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas ended in November after a nearly 30-year tenure.



Erika Krouse was selected as the 2026 recipient of the Joyce Carol Oates Prize by New Literary Project. The prize honors a mid-career fiction writer “of national consequence” and comes with a \$50,000 award that serves not only as testament to Krouse’s impressive literary accomplishments, but also as encouragement and support for work to come. Krouse is the author of four books of fiction and nonfiction, including her most

ALUMNI PROFILE JON RICHARDSON AND LEDA HOFFMANN



While **Jon Richardson '10** and **Leda Hoffmann '09** have been friends since Richardson’s first year at Grinnell College, most of their post-graduate friendship had been limited to liking each other’s Facebook posts.

That all changed in August 2021 when Richardson sent Hoffmann a message: “Hey, would you like to read my musical?”

Although Hoffmann ribs Richardson for reaching out early into his writing, the pair has come a long way since Hoffmann directed Richardson as a student in the dystopian musical *Urinetown* during a run at the Harris Center two decades ago.

Richardson’s musical, *The Jack of Hearts Club*, premiered last fall and sold out its run at the Provincetown Theater in Provincetown, Massachusetts, before opening night. It received rave reviews, won Broadway World Boston’s Best New Musical award earlier this year, and was remounted in mid-July for a run through mid-September.

In addition to reading the musical, Hoffmann attended a staged reading, directed workshops for the production in New York City and Provincetown, and ultimately directed the completed piece. Broadway World Boston was enamored with her work, awarding her the prize for Best Direction of a Musical.

Richardson’s musical is set inside The Jack of Hearts Club, a fictional Provincetown cabaret, at the end of the summer in 1963. On a typical night at the cabaret, it’s one of the few places where queer characters can openly be themselves.

“Leda and I are both queer history nerds and being able to tell the story about these queer people in a time before Stonewall was a mission-driven piece of the puzzle,” Richardson says.

by Joe Engleman '14

ALUMNI PROFILE REGINA LOGAN



As the Center for Tech and Civic Life's organizing manager, Regina Logan's job is to help election administrators make the case for the resources they need to ensure free, fair, and secure elections.

The 2020 Grinnell grad also helps local election officials communicate their expertise to legislators as a reminder that when they write policy, it's election officials who will be tasked with implementing it flawlessly.

"Local election officials are working with very few resources, under intense scrutiny, and with no room for error," Logan says. "They go above and beyond: They stay late, bring duct tape from home in case something breaks, and are the emotional support for volunteer poll

workers who aren't used to receiving threats. They believe so much in this work because they know how important it is to our democracy and our communities."

Last summer, while in Iowa for the state auditors convention, Logan returned to campus for the first time since COVID-19 upended her final semester of college. While here, she reconnected with Associate Professor of Political Science **Peter Hanson**.

"I admire his academic expertise, and he knew me back when I had a lot more hope about the world," she says. "Chatting with him about how he's processing the state of American politics restored my heart and hope."

by Joe Engleman '14

recent, *Save Me, Stranger* (Flatiron Books), a collection of short stories which was longlisted for The Story Prize. She is a two-time winner of the Edgar Award, and her memoir, *Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigation*, was a New York Times Editors' Choice. The Joyce Carol Oates Prize was announced in May, after consideration of a longlist of 28 nationally recognized authors. Krouse is the 11th recipient of the prestigious literary award.

1992

Frank Douma received the Richard P. Braun Distinguished Service Award from the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota in May. The honor recognizes Douma's roughly 30 years of transportation policy research at UMN's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Douma credits the start of his interest in a transportation career to Rosenfield Professor of Political Science **Wayne Moyer**, who took him and **Alla Zaprudsky**, **Kristina Koch**, **Sean O'Brien**, **Daniel Bliss**, and **Sean Murray** (all '92) and a few others to Kent, England, to study the impact of the Channel Tunnel in the summer of 1991.



1994

Alice Ostdiek has rejoined Seattle-based Foster Garvey law firm as principal in the public finance and municipal government practice.

1998

Emily Reagh Harris recently joined Dentons, a global law firm, as a registered patent attorney.

1999

Brian Vicente received a Lifetime Achievement Award at Toronto's Grow Up Conference in June for his work as a global architect of cannabis legalization. As a lead drafter of Colorado's historic Amendment 64, he played a pivotal role in making Colorado one of the first jurisdictions in the world to legalize adult-use cannabis.

2000s

2001

Theresa Duncan recently joined African Parks Foundation of America as their new chief development officer. African Parks protects and restores Africa's most important wild places, in partnership with governments and communities.

2004

Lauren M. Hoyer was selected to serve on the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Section on Labor and Employment Law. The group focuses on promoting a more thorough understanding of the legal problems encountered in the field of labor and employment. Hoyer is a labor and employee benefits attorney with Willig, Williams & Davidson.

2005

Elissa Staley and **Jessica Ward Waymouth '04** were members of the Leadership Center of Arlington's LEAD Class of 2026. Each year, the program brings together a small cohort of experienced leaders from across industries who are committed to strengthening Arlington and the greater Washington, D.C. region. Staley serves as director of events and activations at the National Landing Business Improvement District. Waymouth is a managing consultant at FMP, LLC, a small, women-owned consulting firm based in the D.C. area. An additional Grinnell connection exists with the



LEAD program's operations director, **Brenda Nardone**, who is a Grinnell parent to **Natalie Nardone '27**.

Grinnell connections selfie (l-r): **Elissa Staley '05**, **Jessica Ward Waymouth '04**, and **Brenda Nardone P'27**.



Amber Watson writes that she and several women's basketball alums had a great time getting together this past June in the Madison, Wisconsin, area. Grinnell alumni women's basketball players who gathered for the mini reunion included **Tai Duncan Atteberry '04**, **Marie Lister '03**, **Katy Bowen-Mackins '06**, **Anna Veit-Carter '05**, **Amber Watson '05**, **Emily (Kolbe) Coopridier '07**, **Lauren (Meredith) Byrne '06**, **Maddy (Raimondo) Craig '08**, and **Lindsay (Peter) Bengel '05**. Others in attendance included **Kevin Byrne '06** (Lauren); Grinnell Deputy Director of Athletics **Ben Coopridier** (Emily), and Chris Craig (Maddy), and extended family members who joined in the fun.

2006

Lauren Meredith Byrne has completed her Doctor of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her dissertation was titled, "State Regulation of Music Therapy and Its Impact on Music Therapy Workforce Supply."

2008

E. Clare Patterson received her MD and matched into emergency medicine this spring and has been accepted into an emergency medicine residency in Flint, Michigan.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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

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2009

Young-Eun Park and **Nick Sparr** welcomed their first child and future Grinnellian, Evelyn Yebin Sparr, on May 5. Her feline brother, Rococo, is begrudgingly adjusting to the new family member.

2010s

2010

Stephanie Goggin and husband Rob Kolander welcomed son Colt William Kolander in March.

Nathaniel Toop is an attending neurosurgeon with Norton Health Neuroscience Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, specializing in spine surgery and neurosurgery.

2011

Cy Mistry and wife Kelsey Tarpinian welcomed their first child, Lola Mehrose Mistry, on April 30. Lola joins a family with deep Grinnell connections, including grandfather **Bomi Mistry '84** and uncle **Eric Mistry '14**. Great-grandfather **Luther Erickson**, who passed away in 2023, served as a professor of chemistry for 41 years before retiring in 2003. Great-grandmother **Jenny Erickson**, who was named an honorary member of the class of 1980, was director of the Forum for 20 years before retiring in 1997.

2013

Claire M. Williams joined Winthrop & Weinstine, a law firm of more than 185 attorneys in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in April as a shareholder in the Energy and Environmental practice.

2014

Adam Conn and **Zoe Cronin** were married Feb. 8, 2025, in Oakland, California, and welcomed their first child, Mordecai Joseph, on Jan. 26.

Erik Dixon-Anderson and Melissa Ann Busch of Yardley, Pennsylvania, married Oct. 18, 2025. The ceremony was conducted in Mercer County Park in West Windsor, New Jersey, and was officiated by **Dan Ehrlich '14**. Erik's groomsmen were all Grinnellians: **Eric Streed '14**, **Benyamin Elias '15**, **Mike Korte '15**, **Thomas Robinson '16**, **Ian Dixon-Anderson '17**, and **Kyle Dixon-Anderson '21**. Other Grinnellians in attendance included **Gene Dixon-Anderson '83** (father of the groom), **Lynn Dixon-Anderson '84** (mother of the groom), **Joe Lohman '14**, **Kristina de la Torre '14**, **Carter Wiese '14**, **Evan Ma '14**, **Giovanni Danforth '15**, **Joey Kathan '15**, **Jacob Salzman '15**, and **Matt Dole '16**.



Brent C. Soloway and Jeanett Jansen celebrated their marriage in September 2025 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the presence of family and friends including **Ian Gold '13**, **Pooj Padmaraj '13**, **Laura Huerta-Castro '14**, **Aaron Lapkin '15**, **Mary Zeng '15**, and **Jesse Romo '16**. The couple met in the Peace Corps in Myanmar and served

together in Paipa, Colombia (where they were married privately in 2023) and the Dominican Republic. They live in Santa Fe and welcome hearing from Brent's Grinnell classmates and friends.



2016

Sophie Neems, Peggy Barlett '69, and Andrea Rissing '09 represent three eras of Grinnell alumnae anthropologists with an interest in agriculture. Recently, they met at the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society conference in Burlington, Vermont. Their Grinnell connections run even deeper: Bartlett served as Rissing's graduate advisor at Emory University, and now Rissing is serving as Neem's advisor at Arizona State University. All three share another Grinnell connection by way of Rosenfield Professor in Social Science **Jon Andelson '70**. Bartlett and Andelson were classmates at Grinnell, and both Rissing and Neems were advised by Andelson, who encouraged them to go on for graduate studies.

2017

Ian Dixon-Anderson received his Ph.D. in Marine Sciences in August 2025, from the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. His published Ph.D. thesis is titled "Characterising the Adaptability of

Fellaster Zelandiae to Future Ocean Conditions: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach."



Proud family members at the graduation (l-r): **Erik Dixon-Anderson '14, Ian Dixon-Anderson '17, and Kyle Dixon-Anderson '21**.

2019

Mark Duncan accepted a new position as a research and instruction librarian at the University of South Carolina.

2020s

2021

Kyle Dixon-Anderson received his Ph.D. in material science and engineering from Iowa State University in May. His published thesis is titled, "Novel Spin Phenomena in Lanthanide Containing Materials." The ceremony was well attended by Dixon-Anderson family members.



Family members celebrating Kyle's graduation included (l-r): **Ian Dixon-Anderson '17, Gene Dixon-Anderson '83, Kyle Dixon-Anderson '21, Lynn Dixon-Anderson '83, and Erik Dixon-Anderson '14**.

Rachel Hinkley of Bainbridge, New York, and **Luke Tepen** of Carrollton, Illinois, married Oct. 25, 2025, in their hometown of St. Louis. The couple met when Hinkley lived in St. Louis while taking a semester off from Grinnell during the pandemic.



Grinnellians (and partners) pictured at the Hinkley-Tepen wedding (l-r): **Kyle Sample (Bryce), Caroline Foshee (Joe), Joe Beggs '20, Bryce Lew '19, Kate Smith '21, Rachel Hinkley Tepen '21, Katelyn Mehlhaus '22, Alexa Dolinko '22, and Scott Lew '22**.

2022

Claire Kopachik graduated from Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine in May and will begin residency training in psychiatry at the University of Michigan this summer.

ALUMNI EVENTS | Summer Picnics



Washington, D.C.

This year, 30 summer picnic events celebrated the bonds that make Grinnell's alumni community so special. The Washington, D.C., area picnic (above), kicked off the season in June at Virginia Highlands Park, launching a summer of connection that spanned the country.



Charlotte, North Carolina

Grinnellians from Charlotte and the surrounding Piedmont region reconnected and celebrated all things Grinnell at the Seoul Food Meat Company in July.



Cincinnati, Ohio

Judy McCormick '57, left, visited with John Palinski '01 during a get-together held at Third Eye Brewing Company in July.

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:

Randall C. Morgan Jr. '65, DS '92, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, April 18.

Moses Lee '79, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois, April 10.

Nancy Radermecher '83, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota, April 17.

Daniel Baskes '87, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, March 5.

John Fuson '93, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, Maryland, April 17.

Amy Henderson '94, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, Maryland, April 17.

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 Chaney '05.

H. Joye Inglis Brown '50, Aug. 4, 2025, Calgary, Canada. Joye was a kindergarten teacher and an active member of St. Andrew's United Church, Ploughshares, and P.E.O. She enjoyed singing in church choirs and the Calgary Women's Chorus. Her alum siblings, *Richard Inglis '42* and *Ervine "Pete" Inglis '43*, preceded her in death. Survivors include four daughters.

Robert J. Petersen '50, Feb. 9, 2026, Provo, Utah. After earning his degree in zoology and chemistry, Robert studied medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. During this time he married Bernice Dorothy Daly. He served as a physician in the U.S. Air Force, then moved to Provo to practice as an ear, nose, and throat doctor for 36 years. He was a prolific reader and loved music and walking. After retiring, he and Bernice served missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tonga, the Dominican Republic, and New Zealand. Survivors include six children.

Harry W. Barnes '51, May 21, 2025, North Aurora, Illinois. Harry taught, coached, and volunteered in the Elgin Public School system for more than 40 years. He also served as a City of Elgin council member and was an early advocate for equal and fair housing rights. He created and ran the Elgin Dwellings Association to help lower-income families with housing. Harry enjoyed gardening as well as competing in tennis, billiards, table tennis, handball, racquetball,

and croquet. His wife, Donna Mae Meinzer, died in 2024. Survivors include a son.

Wendell K. Downing '52, May 20, 2026, Des Moines, Iowa. Wendell attended Grinnell and the University of Iowa, receiving his medical degree in 1955. While working as an intern in Detroit, he met Joyce MacPherson, a nurse, and they married in 1956. Wendell served a two-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, then completed a colorectal surgical residency. Wendell and Joyce moved to Des Moines in 1965. He was the first board-certified colorectal surgeon in the state and worked as a solo practitioner for 32 years. Wendell served as the president of the Polk County Medical Society and of the Iowa chapter of the American Cancer Society. He was a member of both the Des Moines Golf and Country Club and Plymouth Congregational Church for more than 60 years. Wendell and Joyce traveled extensively. He was preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include his two daughters.

Mary Fujioka Matayoshi '52, March 15, 2025, Honolulu, Hawaii. After she graduated from Grinnell, Mary earned a master's in education administration from the University of Hawaii. Her career spanned 45 years and included teaching in public schools; Peace Corps administration; creating and serving as director of the Center for Continuing Education and Community Service at the University of Hawaii at Hilo; heading the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services; and leading the nonprofit Volunteer Resource Center of Hawaii. Mary served on several nonprofit boards and received numerous accolades,

including the Lifetime Award from the Network of Volunteer Leaders. She was predeceased by her husband, Herbert Matayoshi, who served as Big Island mayor for 10 years (1974-84). Mary assisted him in many community events during his tenure. Survivors include her four children.

Margaret Bell Schaller '52, Jan. 18, 2025, Bloomington, Minnesota. Margy married G. Mahlon "Mal" Schaller in 1952, and they had two children. Margy was an active volunteer at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Sheltering Arms School, and the Gilfillan Center, and was committed to helping Cambodian families resettle in the Twin Cities. Margy and Mal enjoyed leading groups on barge trips through Europe and travels to Greece, England, Scotland, and Australia. Summers were spent at their lake cottage in Wisconsin. Margy was an avid tennis player. Mahlon passed away in 1994. Survivors include Margy's son and daughter.

Anna Marie Sandahl Trueman '52, March 23, 2025, Little Rock, Arkansas. Anna Marie married Leo Zeitlmann in 1985. He passed away in 2003. She married Richard Trueman in 2006, and he passed away in 2015. Anna Marie was active in the Christian Science Church and served as a reading room librarian for several years. She was a member of P.E.O. and served as president for two terms. She moved to Little Rock to be closer to family. As a lifelong Christian Scientist, she joined the church in Sherwood and enjoyed attending Sunday services for several years. Anna Marie found joy in birdwatching, flowers, and reading. Survivors include her two daughters.

Louise Kline Juska '53, March 20, 2026, Richboro, Pennsylvania. After attending Grinnell, Louise taught kindergarten and first grade in private schools. She later worked for the Centennial School District and Burpee Seeds. She volunteered as a reading tutor and driving safety course instructor, and for the National Giving Alliance and Tyler State Park. She was an avid walker. Louise was married to the late Frank Juska Jr. for more than 40 years, and they raised a family of four.

Walter "Gibby" G. Vartan '54, Feb. 8, 2026, Glenview, Illinois. Gibby was commissioned as a pilot in 1954. He attended Carnegie Institute of Technology to pursue an advanced degree in management, earned his Air Force wings, and flew the B-47 nuclear bomber in the Strategic Air Command. The family business drew him back to Chicago, where he served as CEO of Lake Shore Imaging and senior VP of Rider Dickerson printing. As an active member of the Air Force Reserve, he worked his way up the ranks to include commanding the base at O'Hare. He was promoted to Brigadier General and augmented the Pentagon staff for eight years before retiring in 1989. His volunteer leadership positions included serving as president of the national Reserve Officers Association and international secretary general of NATO's Reserve Officers Confederation. He attained the rank of Knight Grand Croix in the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. Gibby was commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club, president of the Chicago Yacht Club Foundation, and commodore of the Chicago Yachting Association. He was a member of the Knights

of Vartan and St. James Armenian Church. He enjoyed sports and travel. Survivors include his wife, Jane; four daughters; eight grandchildren; and his sister, *Juraine Vartan '59*.

Sydney Marshall Winstrom '54, April 15, 2026, Omaha, Nebraska. Sydney graduated with a degree in education. In 1956, she married *Willis "Bill" Winstrom '54* and they had two children. She devoted herself to her family and was deeply engaged in her community. She was active in the Junior League of Omaha, the Omaha Symphony, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Morning Star Lutheran Church, and served as a Camp Fire Girls leader. She enjoyed Bible study, bridge club, investment club, pop concerts, musicals, sewing, walking, and travel. Sydney was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include her children.

Harry "Bud" C. Crowl '55, March 9, 2026, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Bud loved sports and played basketball in college. He met his wife of 68 years, *Anne Beuckman Crowl '57*, at Grinnell. They married in 1957. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Bud worked as a realtor with his father and younger brother at the Harry C. Crowl Company. Bud and Anne had three children, including *Amy Crowl-Kinney '90*, and six grandchildren. Bud deeply loved his family and the Council Bluffs community. He served in numerous local organizations, including Grace Presbyterian Church, Calvin Crest Presbyterian Church Camp, Council Bluffs YMCA, and the Council Bluffs Board of Realtors. Bud also was a frequent attendee at Grinnell alumni events. Bud's late siblings, *Doris Crowl Kirhofer '47* and *Richard Crowl '57*, were also Grinnellians. Survivors include his wife and children.

Dean F. Martin '55, April 14, 2026, Humble, Texas. Dean graduated from Grinnell with honors, then earned his doctorate at Pennsylvania State University. He became a faculty member at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before joining the faculty of the University of South Florida in 1964. He helped found the USF graduate program in chemistry and also the program in oceanography. He was granted emeritus status in 2006. He co-authored over 500 publications, including six books. He and his wife, *Barbara Bursa Martin '56*, edited *Florida Scientist*, the quarterly journal of the Florida Academy of Science, for 27 years. His honors included a National Academy of Inventors Fellow award and a Grinnell College Alumni Award. Dean served Grinnell as a GRASP volunteer, class fund director (1984-2023), member of the Alumni Council, and as Honorary Marshal at the 2005 Commencement ceremony. He was a frequent attendee at College events. Dean and Barbara shared a strong commitment to philanthropy that included establishing six endowments at the College. Dean was preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include a daughter and five sons, including his son *Eric Martin '91*.

Thomas R. Newcomm '55, May 18, 2026, Miami. After graduating from Grinnell, Tom served in the U.S. Army. He later went on to earn a degree in elementary education at the University of Northern Iowa. For many decades he taught in both Iowa and Florida schools. He received a master's in education leadership at the University of Miami, and he continued to teach young children while serving as

an assistant principal. Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Maria; three daughters; and a son.

Donald Cassiday '56, Feb. 23, 2026, Green Valley, Arizona. Don, who majored in history, was a talented football player and nationally ranked heavyweight wrestler at Grinnell. After completing ROTC, he became an officer in the U.S. Air Force, where he learned to fly the B-47 Stratojet. During his 20 years in the Air Force, he earned an MBA at the University of Colorado, graduated from and taught at the USAF War College, and served in the Pentagon. After retiring, Don took on several careers, including fundraising, serving as dean at Aurora College's business school and a vice president at Merchants National Bank, and he ran the business school at North Park University. After Don fully retired, he and his wife moved to the Tucson area, where he served as a docent at the 390th Air Museum and the Pima Air Museum and was a devoted advocate of veterans' rights. Don served as a class agent (2021-26) and class fund director (1992-2006) and was a frequent attendee at alumni events. He received an Alumni Award in 1996 and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Rosalie Yeoman Cassiday; and two daughters, including *Julie Cassiday '86*.

Sandra White Leeper '57, Jan. 2, 2025, Nevada, Iowa. Sandy attended Grinnell, then married Bob Leeper in 1955. They had two sons. She worked at the USDA Story County Farm Services Agency in Nevada until her retirement. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels and school mentorship programs. Sandy was involved in Central

Presbyterian Church activities and was a proud member of the church choir. She enjoyed travel, playing piano, visiting museums, reading, photography, collecting vintage jewelry and family heirlooms, and caring for her pet cat and dogs. Sandy was preceded in death by Bob in 2019. Survivors include her sons.

John R. Marsh '57, May 6, 2026, Bellville, Ohio. After earning his degree in psychology, John served in the U.S. Army. He enjoyed traveling around the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and eventually met his wife of almost 30 years, Sue, on a beach in Ft. Lauderdale. They married in 1969 and raised four children together. John was an entrepreneur and started many businesses in his lifetime; he owned the Ohio Toner Cartridge Company for 20 years. He also enjoyed working on his Model T, building model cars, woodworking, reading, and watching his kids play sports. Survivors include his children.

Stephen G. Michaelides '57, March 23, 2026, Cleveland, Ohio. Stephen was one of the food service industry's first true influencers; he served as editor and associate publisher of Restaurant Hospitality magazine from 1971 to 2003. His monthly editorials and feature stories highlighted issues such as the lack of female leadership and diversity in food service. Stephen also served on the advisory boards of UNLV's College of Hotel Administration, Sullivan University's Center for Hospitality Studies, Kendall College's Culinary Arts School, and the Culinary Institute of America. In 2003, he received the Crain Award for Lifetime Achievement as an editor of a business publication. Survivors

include his wife, Jeanne, and three children.

Charlotte Funk Rufer '57, July 7, 2024, Fargo, North Dakota. Charlotte met her future husband, *Richard Rufer '57*, during her junior year. She graduated with her degree in speech pathology, and they married in 1957. She became a full-time mother and homemaker when her first child was born. She volunteered at the Opportunity School, providing speech therapy for the children. She was president of the Fargo branch of Junior League, president of her chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and served on the board of directors for the Hjemkomst Center. She spent summers with family and friends on Lake Melissa and Detroit Lakes in Minnesota for 67 years. She was an avid reader and enjoyed gardening, birdwatching, scrapbooking, and traveling. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Fargo for more than 65 years. Her husband died in 2012. Survivors include her three children.

Richard R. Uebele '57, Feb. 13, 2026, Naperville, Illinois. Richard was known for his love for art and architecture, his endless capacity to teach his son about anything and everything, and his dedication to his family. He was a frequent attendee at Grinnell events. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Borer Uebele. Survivors include his son.

Samuel R. Harris '58, DHL '26, April 1, 2026, Skokie, Illinois. Sam, who was born in Poland in 1935, was one of the youngest known survivors of the Holocaust, and the heart and soul behind the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. He was just four years old

when German forces occupied his hometown. By 1942, his parents, brothers, and several sisters had been deported to Treblinka and murdered. Sam, along with two sisters, survived. In 1947, Sam arrived in New York and later was adopted by the Harris family of Northbrook, Illinois. He graduated from Grinnell, built a career, married, and became a father and grandfather. For decades, he carried his past quietly, but in the late 1970s Sam began telling his story. He authored *Sammy: Child Survivor of the Holocaust*, joined the campaign to require Holocaust education in Illinois public schools, and shared his testimony with thousands of young people. Then he helped bring the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center to life. Sam served as museum president from 2002-09. He continued serving as president emeritus and a member of the board of directors and the Survivor Speakers' Bureau. In 2014, he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Sam received a Grinnell Alumni Award in 2008 and was to be recognized with an honorary degree during the 2026 Commencement ceremony — that honor was bestowed posthumously. Sam was preceded in death by a son. Survivors include his beloved spouse, Dede, his daughter, and grandchildren.

Louise D. Howe '58, June 19, 2025, Chicago. Louise earned her degree in English and journalism before launching her career at Scott Foresman Publishing, where she was a beloved mathematics book editor. She was a proud member of Mensa, attending conventions around the country. Her passion for travel and history led her to participate in archeological digs in

Africa and Europe. She was an avid reader, spending countless hours at the Newberry Library, where she volunteered. She enjoyed exploring the city's cultural treasures, particularly the Field Museum and the Art Institute. Louise also was a frequent attendee at College events. A devout member of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago, Louise served as a deacon and was deeply involved in the church community.

George T. McJimsey '58, DHL '98, May 1, 2026, Ames, Iowa. George's academic endeavors earned him a Phi Beta Kappa key at Grinnell. He also enjoyed participating in athletics, especially basketball. He was captain of his team and was named Most Valuable Player and second team All-Midwest Conference in his senior year. After graduating with honors and a degree in history, he received a master's from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 37 years, George was an American history professor at Iowa State University, where he also served as department chair for 10 years. Over the course of his career, he published four books and edited a 50-volume set of curated Franklin D. Roosevelt papers. But nothing matched sharing his life with Sandra, whom he married in 1970, and their daughter. George joined the Democratic Party and was a dedicated member of the Story County Democratic Central Committee for many years. He enjoyed travel, life in the Ames community, his church, and volunteer activities. In 1998, Grinnell awarded George an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. He also was an Honor G member, Rosenfield Program

volunteer, and GRASP volunteer. He received an alumni award in 2013. George was predeceased by his mother, *Harriet Tilden McJimsey* '923; and his identical twin brother, *Robert "Bob" McJimsey* '58. Survivors include his wife, Sandra; their daughter; three grandchildren; a niece, *Elizabeth McJimsey Souder* '88; and a nephew, *George McJimsey* '91.

Patricia Hubbard Parham '58, March 26, 2026, Chester, Virginia. Pat attended Grinnell and Ohio State University, where she earned her degree in physical therapy. She specialized in treating children with cerebral palsy, orthopedic and neurological conditions, and genetic disorders. She mentored countless therapists and owned her own practice for many years before transitioning it to Tuckahoe Physical Therapy. She worked well into her 70s. Pat experienced love twice in her life: with her late husband, Pete Hubbard, father of their children; and later, with her late husband Oscar Parham. Survivors include her three children.

Sally Ruebel Amlie '59, Feb. 18, 2026, Humboldt, Iowa. In 1954, Sally met *Rodney Amlie* '57 at a spring dance. They married later that year. They had four children and in 1972, the family moved to Humboldt. Sally was active in the Congregational United Church of Christ and P.E.O. Sisterhood and was a committed environmentalist. Survivors include her husband of more than 71 years; four children; and 10 grandchildren, including *Laura Amlie* '11.

Ronald P. Adcock '60, March 11, 2026, Des Moines, Iowa. Ron played football at Grinnell and the University of Northern Colorado, where he received his degree in science. He later earned a master's

from Drake University. While in Colorado, Ron married Helen Elaine Smith, and they had four children. Back in Des Moines, he taught at Franklin, then joined the Roosevelt High School science department and coaching staff. In 1981, he married Dona Marie Thomas and added two children to his family. He was an assistant coach on the 1965 Boys State Basketball Champion team and head coach of the 1978 Boys State Basketball Champion team. He was inducted into the RHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. He retired from Roosevelt after 45 years as a teacher, coach, and vice principal. He enjoyed travel, sailing, motorboating, photography, and was a pilot. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Dona.

L. John Barsotti '60, Aug. 11, 2025, Riverside, Illinois. John's grandparents, who immigrated from Italy, started a family bakery business that he took over and ran for several years. He was involved in local politics, wrote a newsletter for the Villa Park community, was supervisor of Lincoln Township in Michigan, became a massage therapist, and enjoyed learning about wellness and nutrition. John and his wife, Sharon, raised five children. John was an active gardener and an avid cook. He enjoyed teaching his sons about good food, archery, chess, and "doing things the right way." Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Sharon, and his five sons.

Johanna Lenz Fusco '60, Feb. 11, 2026, Durango, Colorado. After graduating with her degree in American studies, Jo attended law school at the University of Florida and graduated at the top of her class with her J.D. in 1963. Survivors

include her husband of 49 years, Ken, a son, and two daughters.

Evelyn-Kay Votruba Moses '60, May 17, 2025, Mission Viejo, California. Evelyn met her future husband, *Lee Moses '59*, at Grinnell. They married in 1960 and enjoyed 61 years of marriage, with time spent between the Midwest and Southern California. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include her four children.

Louis A. Hieb '61, April 13, 2026, Seattle. Louis attended Grinnell (supported by a Younkers Honor Scholarship), Yale University Divinity School (M.Div.), Rutgers (MLS) and Princeton University (Ph.D.). Between 1971 and his retirement in 2004, he taught anthropology at Moorhead State University and Washington State University and worked in rare book and manuscript collections in university libraries in Arizona, New Mexico, and Washington. As an anthropologist, he specialized in the social scientific study of religion and the history of anthropological theory. He wrote or edited over 40 articles and books on the Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, and Hispanic peoples of New Mexico and Arizona. He was an avid reader and book collector. Survivors include wife of 50 years, Sharon Aller; their daughter; her two children; his first wife, Susan Browning Roberts, and their sons; and his sister, *Rena Hieb Murman '65*.

Maxine Frahm Johnson '61, April 10, 2026, Schenectady, New York. Maxine met her future husband, *Robert Johnson '61*, at Grinnell, where she earned a degree in music education. She later completed an MBA at the University of Pittsburgh. She built a distinguished career as a senior vice

president and trust officer, retiring from Bank of America in 2005. A lifelong musician, Maxine found joy in playing the flute and performed with numerous musical groups. She was deeply committed to advancing women's education, especially in the area of financial literacy. Maxine was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include Maxine's two children, including her daughter, *Brenda Johnson '85*; and her siblings, including her sister, *Allene Frahm Parish '63*.

John C. Corrough '62, March 13, 2026, Newport Beach, California. John attended Grinnell before transferring to Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned his degree in architecture, then joined the Peace Corps. After returning to the U.S., he earned a master's in urban planning from Washington University. In 1968, he married Mary Edna Fortner and they had three children. John's career highlights included serving as part of the design team for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games rowing center. He was a key contributor to the Cabrillo Marina in Los Angeles, rebuilt marinas following Hurricane Katrina, and helped complete the Balboa Peninsula Marina Park. John had a passion for sailboat racing and competed in numerous racing series, including the Newport to Ensenada, Channel Islands, and Catalina Island races. He loved traveling with his family, was an avid reader, and enjoyed films. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Mary, and his children.

William T. Kaplan '62, May 16, 2026, Joliet, Illinois. After he graduated, William received an MBA from New York University's Stern School of Business in 1963,

and a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1965. He practiced trusts and estates law for more than 50 years until he retired at the age of 84. He served as president of the Joliet Jewish Congregation and the Greater Joliet Area YMCA and advised many nonprofit boards. He provided pro bono legal counsel to Will County Habitat for Humanity, and he was a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Joliet. He also served as a GRASP volunteer for the College. William was a lifelong tennis player and twice completed the Chicago Marathon. Survivors include his sons; his partner of more than 20 years, Lisa Moral Las; and his former wife, Judith Tatel Kaplan.

Ronald C. Ochsner '62, May 12, 2026, Evanston, Illinois. Ron was a three-sport athlete at Grinnell. He attended Northwestern University School of Medicine, where he met nursing student Anne Reynolds. She would be his partner for more than 60 years. As their family grew, they eventually settled in Colorado, and Ron joined Orthopaedic Physicians of Colorado, where he built a respected career as an orthopedic surgeon practicing at Swedish and Porter Hospitals. He also volunteered at local ski areas and served as a team doctor for high school athletes. Nothing mattered more to Ron than his family, and he was a devoted father to his four daughters. His wife passed away in 2025. Survivors include his daughters.

Margaret "Marci" L. Rea '62, May 29, 2026, Hammonton, New Jersey. Marci earned her degree in chemistry at Grinnell and a Ph.D. in chemistry at Tufts University. She was a professor at Stockton State College, became business manager

for the School of Chemistry at Rutgers University, did hazardous chemical safety training, worked as a lab tech at Kessler Hospital, and then started teaching high school chemistry. She was a charter member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore in Galloway Township and was a member of the Mustard Seed Sacred Dance Guild. Survivors include her husband, Michael Hozik, and a son and daughter.

Stephen H. Umemoto '62, March 2, 2026, London, United Kingdom. As a Grinnell volunteer, Steve went to northern Thailand, where he taught English and coached basketball in Chiang Mai for a year, followed by a year teaching in the town of Nan. Later, he earned his master's in development economics at Cornell University, where he met Diane Levine, whom he married in 1966. Some years later he began his first posting with UNICEF, where he would remain for the rest of his career. Through UNICEF, Steve worked in Indonesia, Thailand (twice), the Philippines, India, Myanmar, and Pakistan, accompanied by his wife and two daughters. He continued to travel long after he retired, and he and Diane settled in London. He also was an avid photographer. Steve served as a GRASP volunteer (2004-17) and received an Alumni Award in 2002. Survivors include his wife and daughters.

Elizabeth Moses Dent '63, March 23, 2026, Modesto, California. Elizabeth graduated from Grinnell in three years, then continued her education at Reed College in Portland before moving to Modesto, where she lived an independent and quietly adventurous life. She

enjoyed a 35-year career teaching math at La Loma Junior High School. A dedicated teacher, she served as president of the Modesto Teachers Association (1974-75). She enjoyed exploring her adopted state and traveling around the country. Elizabeth remained active after retirement, contributing to a wide variety of causes. She shared her family's fascination with complex word puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, and reading. Survivors include four siblings.

Mary A. Foster '65, Feb. 11, 2026, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Stephen Fox '65, Feb. 10, 2026, West Des Moines, Iowa. Steve's late parents, *Carol "Bobby" Sampson Fox '37* and *Edwin Fox '39*, were Grinnell alums. At Grinnell, Steve met and soon married *Maurine "Bunny" King Fox '65*. He was a salesman for many years before he and Bunny bought Sugar Point Resort on Leech Lake in Minnesota, which they ran for 34 years. Survivors include his wife; a son; two grandchildren; and a sister, *Susan Fox McKnight '62*.

Richard E. Trampe '65, Feb. 18, 2026, Pensacola, Florida. After graduation, Rich returned to St. Louis, where he worked at Sigma Chemical until he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Following military service, he worked at various Midwest chemical and pharmaceutical companies, then moved to Pensacola to work at Pegasus Labs until his retirement. Rich and his wife, Pam, were members of Grace Lutheran Church in Pensacola; later, they joined Trinity Lutheran Church, where he became the head elder. Survivors include his wife of 58 years and two children.

Holly Hoebel Bacuzzi '66, May 30, 2026, Sausalito, California. After she graduated with her degree in sociology and anthropology, Holly was a social worker for the Salvation Army and then director of a workshop and residential facility for developmentally disabled adults. Later, she carved out a career as a freelance office management consultant for clients such as graphic designers, doctors, and entrepreneurs. In her free time, she facilitated a group for San Quentin prisoners and remained active with the formerly incarcerated men via weekly calls. She also rowed with an eight-person rowing team, sang with a women's choral group, and trained to become a Cornell University Ornithology Lab online bird cam moderator. She served as a class agent from 1966-71. In 2019, she was diagnosed with cancer. Her niece and stepdaughter were with her when she passed away at home.

Signe Brown Hanson '66, Feb. 15, 2026, Easton, Maryland. After graduating from Grinnell, Signe earned a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University. She then worked in public administration in the governor's office in both Madison, Wisconsin, and Trenton, New Jersey. Next, she earned her commercial driver's license and worked ferrying containers between ships and warehouses in Port Elizabeth. In one final career turn, Signe went back to school at Delaware Valley University and earned a degree in horticulture. She worked for nearly 10 years as a consultant to landscape companies in Maryland. Outside of work she became an accomplished potter, selling in galleries. In retirement, she taught English to Hispanic workers and

was appointed an *Ad Litem* helping minors in legal proceedings. She also was a strong financial supporter of clean water in Africa.

Lorinda Yeisley Langner '66, Jan. 23, 2026, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Lorinda's survivors include her three children; four grandchildren; and her partner of 32 years, Lois Inskeep.

Nancy Self Lindisfarne '66, Nov. 15, 2025, Oxford, United Kingdom. Nancy, who majored in anthropology, went on to complete master's and doctoral degrees at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She did fieldwork in Iran, research in northern Afghanistan, and later, while raising her two small sons, completed research in western Turkey. In the late 1980s, after joining SOAS as a lecturer, she did research in Syria. Nancy published widely about her fieldwork and was a popular teacher and supervisor of students. Her book *Bartered Bride* is a classic ethnography of the Piruzai people of Afghanistan. She retired early from teaching to retrain as an artist at Central St. Martins. She had several successful solo exhibitions of her paintings, prints, and photographs. She traveled extensively and was active in relation to the climate crisis and related causes.

Sheryl Wood Steele Seigneur '66, Oct. 13, 2025, St. Louis. Sherry earned her degree in history and later completed her master's in human resources management at Webster University. She built a long career in human resources at the St. Louis Regional Medical Center, Ralston-Purina, and St. Andrews Management Services, where she was corporate director of human resources. Sherry was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian

Church of Kirkwood. She was ordained a deacon in 1997 and a church elder in 2001. A devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, she cheered on her team through every season. Her lifelong love of animals, especially dogs, was a defining part of her life, and she cared deeply for every pet she welcomed into her home. Survivors include her two sons.

James L. Stephens '67, Feb. 26, 2026, Havertown, Pennsylvania. After Jim graduated with a degree in biology, he earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Temple University and went on to become a physical therapist and certified Feldenkrais practitioner. He was a beloved clinician, researcher, and professor, respected for his clinical skills and for his humor, care, and commitment. Jim loved family vacations, playing games, watching sports, reading, and gardening. He was a lifelong activist for ecological, environmental, and social justice issues. After retirement, he served as chair of the Shade Tree Commission of Haverford Township and was a member of the township environmental advisory committee. He was a member of the Green Team and other sustainability efforts at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife, Cindy, and two children.

Ralph C. Christensen '69, April 1, 2026, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Ralph loved sports, especially basketball, and he captained Grinnell's basketball team. After he earned his degree in history, Ralph attended law school for one year before serving in the U.S. Army. After his discharge he returned to earn his law degree from Dickinson School of Law. Ralph opted to use his legal expertise within small,

entrepreneurial companies instead of working for more traditional law firms. He joined JB Stevens, an advertising company, helping it to grow, positioning it for sale to Lamar Advertising. He then formed his own company. Ralph enjoyed golf, reading, and exploring towns, beaches, and golf courses along the Atlantic seaboard.

Jeffrey W. Ellis '69, April 11, 2026, Thomasville, Georgia. Jeff graduated with honors from Grinnell and from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. A board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist, he devoted close to five decades to clinical practice, teaching, and research. He held faculty positions at Rush Medical College, Northwestern University Medical School, Emory University School of Medicine, and the Medical College of Georgia. He served as chairman and chief of service for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Southeast Permanente Medical Group of Georgia and as medical director of the Emory University Family Planning Program at Grady Memorial Hospital. He was the author or editor of 18 books. Jeff also was an accomplished musician who played guitar, bass, and keyboards (at Grinnell, his band, The Wildcats, had an opportunity to open for The Shirelles). He was interested in Civil War history and was devoted to animal welfare and animal rescue organizations. In 2008, he married Joan Kautz. Survivors include his wife and a daughter and son.

J. Paul Jacobson '69, May 7, 2026, Milwaukee. Paul served as a Grinnell GRASP volunteer. Survivors include his wife, *Elinor "Ellie" Dennis Jacobson* '70, and two children.

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, and liked to play poker at family gatherings. Tom loved to travel and go on cruises with his wife, Ceree. Survivors include his wife; three sons; three daughters; a niece, *Amanda Lower* '02; and a sister, *Tish Lower* '73.

Douglas B. Fink '70, May 8, 2026, Saint Paul, Minnesota. At Grinnell, Doug competed in both golf and football. As quarterback, he distinguished himself by throwing four touchdown passes in a single game. He also competed on Grinnell's varsity golf team and was low scorer in multiple Midwest Athletic Conference matches. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1970 and earned his J.D. from the UM Law School in 1973. He spent most of his professional life as a self-employed personal injury attorney. While dedicated to his work, what mattered most to him was family, friendships, music, travel, golf, and poker. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, *Ruthena Sternberg Fink* '68, and two daughters.

Peter C. Nelson '73, Oct. 27, 2025, Reno, Nevada. After Peter graduated, he went on to earn two MBAs, one in management and finance and another in accounting,

from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He joined the U.S. Air Force, where he worked on budgets and pricing for most of the major satellite programs. He moved on to the Space and Missile Division, overseeing budgets, contracts, and financial analysis. While budget officer for expendable vehicles (rockets), he was responsible for the launch pads at Patrick Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral, and Vandenberg AFB. In 1984, he received the Air Force Commendation Medal. In retirement, he worked as a tax accountant in Reno. He loved golf, challenged himself to read and speak Spanish fluently, and was an avid reader.

Jonathon T. Frey '74, April 2, 2026, Chatham, New Jersey. After graduating, Jon moved to Minneapolis, where he met his wife, Gail; their family later moved to Chatham. Jon built a career in financial services. He loved horses and was an avid rider throughout his life. He was an enthusiastic cyclist and participated in RAGBRAI for more than 10 years. In 2013, Jon was especially proud to bring a family property, Fort Frey, back into the family. He spent countless hours researching his family's history. Jon was an expert storyteller and voracious reader, and he loved music. A lifelong and committed liberal, he cared deeply about people and about making the world a better, more just place. Survivors include his wife, Gail, and his two children.

Jane E. Love '78, Feb. 16, 2026, Fredonia, New York. Jane met her future husband, *John Hansen* '75, at Grinnell. She earned her law degree at Suffolk College in Boston

and worked as a practicing lawyer in Fredonia for 42 years. She was the first woman to be city attorney for the City of Dunkirk, then an assistant county attorney for the Chautauqua County government. She later served as an assistant social services attorney, protecting vulnerable children from abuse and neglect. She served as first assistant social services attorney from 2009 until her retirement in 2017. After retirement, she traveled widely, enjoyed attending live theater, and loved visiting the beach and family. Survivors include her husband of 45 years, John, and her two sons.

Christopher J. Sodoma '78, March 17, 2026, Orlando, Florida. After graduating, Chris earned a master's from Kent State, a doctorate at Indiana University, and then a nursing degree from Northeast Iowa Community College. He coached the Upper Iowa golf team and managed Big Rock Country Club. Ultimately, he spent the majority of his career as a nurse clinician at the Iowa Veterans' Home, notably refusing to retire when they needed him most during the COVID-19 pandemic. His life was defined by an unwavering loyalty to his family, and he adored his two sons and his stepson. Outside of family and work, Chris's greatest passion was golf. He was an avid outdoorsman and rescue dog advocate who hunted, fished, and enjoyed taking his dogs on hikes. Chris's late mother, *Elizabeth Dewey Sodoma '50*, was also a Grinnell alum. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Mirguet.

Genesio A. Zomparelli '80, May 14, 2026, Berthoud, Colorado. Geno worked for over 20 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He loved traveling and time spent in the mountains of

Colorado. He enjoyed good food and cooking meals at home and was always trying new recipes. His love for running and exercise was unparalleled. During quiet moments, he could often be found reading his Bible, catching up on politics, or watching cooking videos. Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Llewellyn Campbell-Zomparelli, and three stepdaughters.

Carolyn Dlugos Hexter '85, Feb. 17, 2025, Grinnell, Iowa. Carolyn studied at the University of Dallas, then completed her degree in art history and English at Grinnell. She earned her master's in library science from UNC-Chapel Hill, where she met her future husband, Jonathan Hexter. They married in 1988 and moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, where they started Little Bud Farm. Jon raised produce and Carolyn arranged flowers that they sold at farmer's markets, restaurants, and grocery stores. Together, they raised three children. Carolyn founded the school library at Charlottesville Catholic School and served as librarian for over a decade. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2011 and entered an early retirement. Throughout her adult life, Carolyn was an active leader in her Catholic parish communities. She cared for those with limited means by providing housing and meals, worked with people of other faiths to influence local social justice policy, and led Bible studies for adults and college students. She loved pie, the color purple, the band R.E.M., and Scotch whisky. Family and flowers were always at the center of her life. She and Jon moved to Grinnell in 2021. Survivors include her spouse and all three of her children, including her son, *Thomas "Tommy" Hexter '21*.

FORMER STAFF

Steve Langerud, May 4, 2026, Grinnell, Iowa. Steve worked in student affairs and was a former director of the College's Career Development Office. He set up an alumni network to match current students with alums in similar fields. He was named an honorary class member in 1990 and 2000. Later, he worked at the University of Iowa Law School and DePauw University before closing out his career at Mayflower Community. Steve married **Karen Veerhusen** in 1986, and they had two children. Steve was a devoted audiophile and reader, adored cooking and baking, and loved to travel. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Karen, who recently retired after many years of service as director of the College Preschool; their daughter and son; and a granddaughter.

Submit an Obituary

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