



# The Grinnell Magazine

Spring 2012

**Sun Storm!**

**Global Grinnell:  
Alumni Expats  
International Students  
Study Abroad**



# Confessions of a Third Culture Kid



Photo by Ben Brewer '11

By **Biva Rajbhandari '12**, a sociology major and global development studies concentrator. She volunteers with the Marshalltown Saturday School program and is active in Grinnell's International Student Organization. She plans a global career working in education and health policy.

When people ask me where I'm from, my immediate response is "Nepal." But really, I'm from everywhere.

I was born in Uganda and lived in Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Nepal, Kazakhstan, and India while going to school with people from all over the world. At Grinnell, I identify not only as an international student but also as a third culture kid (TCK).

Sociologist Ruth Hill Useem defined third culture kids as those who have lived most of their developmental years outside their parents' cultures and have established relationships with the various countries they have lived in. The "third culture" is a shared or interstitial way of life that TCKs develop as they move from their first cultures (that of their parents) to host cultures (a country or countries they live in). The "third culture" challenges the traditional norms of home, leaving a complex answer to the simple question: Where are you from?

Nepal is the closest I have to a permanent home, as my family frequently traveled back there during my school vacations. I was brought up speaking Nepali and my parents, both Nepalese, remind me constantly of "our Nepali values." Many people question how Nepali I am after living abroad for so long, but I have proudly said "I am Nepalese" for years – because if I was not from Nepal, then where was I from? The thought of not being able to point to one place on the map and say "I come from here" frightened me.

So I clung to the idea of Nepal as home until two years ago, when I visited my parents in Korea where they had recently moved. I thought I would miss Nepal, but I forgot all about it after spending time with my parents exploring a new city, eating homemade food, and catching up on the past year. That summer, I learned

that home is not so much about where you are but rather whom you're with.

At Grinnell, as a sociology major, I have also learned that home can be how I see the world, how I interact with people, and how I bridge cultures. As Gloria Anzaldúa writes in her book *Borderlands*: "I am a turtle, wherever I go I carry 'home' on my back."

That realization did not always come easily. When I took Contemporary Sociological Theory, I initially struggled to understand how the theories of Western, white, male scholars applied to me and to the diverse cultures in which I had grown up. **Kesho Scott**, associate professor of American studies and sociology, showed me that sociology was a way of seeing the world – and encouraged me to test sociological theory against my own life experience. I began to compare the stories of people I had met from all corners of the world and my own experiences being part of different cultures with the sociological theories we were learning to better understand both myself and the theories – and in some cases to challenge what we were being taught. This example is one of the various ways I learned to bridge the distinct worlds I live in and is an essential part of my identity as a third culture kid.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to travel and hope I continue to carry my "home" wherever I go and, as a sociologist, help people find theirs. If I define "home" as a place where I lived for more than six months, then my home for the past four years has been Grinnell, Iowa, where I am not only surrounded by cornfields but also by a family that makes me proud to say: "I am Grinnellian."

*The thought of not being able  
to point to one place on the map  
and say "I come from here"  
frightened me.*



**Kaitlin Alsofrom '10**  
in Varanasi, India, during  
Chhath, a Bihar festival.

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by Doug McInnis

Solar storms could devastate much of the developed world, says NASA Distinguished Service Medalist Richard Fisher '61. He's not kidding!

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by Otto Mayr '82

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by Suzanne Kelsey

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William Parsons '62 was a basketball star in the Polish leagues while studying abroad in 1960-61. The Poles never forgot him.

Let us know your experience or views on international education at Grinnell College – or on any other Grinnell-related subject.  
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# The Grinnell Magazine

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#### Office of Communications

Vice-president for Communications

Jim Resiche

[reischej@grinnell.edu](mailto:reischej@grinnell.edu)

#### Editor

Dan Weeks '80

[weeksdan@grinnell.edu](mailto:weeksdan@grinnell.edu)

#### Art Director / Designer

Jim Powers

[powersj@grinnell.edu](mailto:powersj@grinnell.edu)

#### Senior Contributing Writers

Richard Cleaver '75

Cindy Deppe

#### Classnotes Editor

Bonnie Primley

[classnotes@grinnell.edu](mailto:classnotes@grinnell.edu)

#### Editorial Assistant

Mona Ghadiri '11

#### Contributing Photographer

Ben Brewer '11

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Send address changes to:

*The Grinnell Magazine*

1026 Park Street

Grinnell, IA 50112

FAX: 641-269-3408

Email: [alumni@grinnell.edu](mailto:alumni@grinnell.edu)

#### Mission Statement

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

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#### World Wide Web

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#### On the cover:

This ultraviolet, close-up view of a solar flare was taken by NASA's Solar Dynamic Observatory. Arcing loops of glowing particles trace the paths of magnetic field lines as the sun's magnetic forces connect, break, and reconnect. More severe solar storms could significantly disrupt life on earth, says Richard Fisher '61.

Credit: NASA/Goddard/SDO



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## EDITORNOTES

### *At Home in the World*

A tremendous sense of belonging.

That's a pretty good definition of "home." It's one we hear over and over again from Grinnell students. Some voice it the moment they arrive on campus. **Karinou Mbaka-Boyer '14** was still a block away when the feeling hit him. And he came from Swaziland, Africa (see "We Will Take Care of Him," page 29).

That feeling of belonging is the first of three epiphanies that typically accompany a Grinnell education:

- "I can be at home *here*, in a new place, with a diverse group of people I just met."
- "I can be at home *in many places*, experiencing disciplines, subjects, people, places, cultures, and modes of thought and expression that were initially foreign to me."
- "I can be at home *exploring the world*, finding my unique place in it and contribution to it."

For Grinnellians, "global" doesn't just mean "international." It means "macro": the most inclusive view. The picture in which everyone belongs.

It's no wonder, then, that when people ask **Maggie Panova '12**, from Sofia, Bulgaria "Why Iowa, and why did you stay?" she tells them, "Grinnell showed me the world" (see "Grinnell's International Students," page 24).

How — and in what way — did Grinnell show *you* the world?

— Dan Weeks '80, editor  
[magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu)  
[www.grinnell.edu/magazine](http://www.grinnell.edu/magazine)

## Wanted

### Expatriates

Help keep your contact information current at [www.grinnell.edu/updatesmyinfo](http://www.grinnell.edu/updatesmyinfo) so the College can update you with opportunities to meet traveling Grinnell faculty, staff, and students. To contact the College about your ideas for Grinnell-related events in your area, email [reply@grinnell.edu](mailto:reply@grinnell.edu).

### Foreign policy workers

If you're a Grinnell alum and work in foreign policy for the U.S. government, another foreign-policy agency, or a private or nonprofit organization, Grinnell in Foreign Policy invites you to join a new professional network. For more information, email [grinnell.in.foreign.policy@gmail.com](mailto:grinnell.in.foreign.policy@gmail.com).

### Humanists and friends

This summer, *The Grinnell Magazine* will publish a special themed issue on the humanities. We need testimony from all Grinnellians, regardless of major, on how humanities study influenced your further education, life, and career. We'd also like to hear the same from those who took Humanities 101. Email [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).



*I remember nothing but good stuff  
about the academic/intellectual atmosphere.  
Everybody was there because  
they were excited about ideas.*

—Hank Stratton '78

## LETTERS

### Activist or fundraiser?

Readers first exposed to Morris Dees via his uplifting remarks about civil rights in “The Grinnell Prize” (Winter 2011 issue) may be surprised to learn that Dees is a “con man and fraud,” to quote Atlanta civil rights attorney Stephen Bright (see [www.harpers.org/archive/2007/11/hbc-90001573](http://www.harpers.org/archive/2007/11/hbc-90001573)). Dees, who founded the Southern Poverty Law Center, is actually in the business of fundraising by terrifying gullible liberals into thinking that the whole country is about to be deluged by a tsunami of racism and hate. (See “The Church of Morris Dees” by Ken Silverstein from the November 2000 *Harper's Magazine*, available online at <http://harpers.org/media/slideshow/annot/2000-11/>.)

The powers at Grinnell should be ashamed of themselves for having provided Dees with their platform.

— Paul Nachman '70  
Bozeman, Mont.

### Grinnell Soul

Re: “The Grinnell Soul” article: To me, egalitarianism was the defining mark of Grinnell. As soon as I arrived I felt welcomed. I recall an excitingly level-field social community, where traditional social institutions were withheld to allow students to cobble together their own. I felt social life on campus was largely groups of three to five close friends, and that Grinnell went a little too far in leaving us alone emotionally — but I think the 1970s, back-off-the-paternalist-in-loco-parentis role was the cause of this.

I remember nothing but good stuff about the academic/intellectual atmosphere. Everybody was there because they were excited about ideas, about how their world was being rearranged by what they were finding out in classes, and they were not ashamed to gush about that in the dining hall. I loved that spirit. Now *that* is passion for learning.

— Hank Stratton '78  
Portland, Ore.

### Apocalypse now!

I love the Winter 2011 issue. The article “A Liberal Education” feels almost apocalyptic. Thanks for the good work.

— Mary Beth Roska '75  
Bloomington, Ind.

### A posy for Emily

Emily Mester '14 writes in the Winter 2011 issue (“Things I Need to Worry About,” inside front cover) of the joys and fears of actually BEING a student, the fun and anxiety of the Grinnell experience. What I want to focus on is that she termed herself a “girl.”

In 1964, Cal Carfrae '68 and I, et al, ripped out the electrical wiring in the Langan Hall basement in an abortive attempt to trigger an early Spring Riot (Do they still have those?). Our colleagues smashed a piano to splinters and wire to see how

fast they could pass the pieces through a tennis-racket-sized wooden frame. (The donating lady thought it was to be used for group singing.)

Were we irresponsible miscreants? Yes. We were surely BOYS and not men. I cherish those days.

Emily, thanks for reminding us that the Grinnell experience includes silly joys and fears of boys and girls.

I flinched midway through Emily's article, fearing the point would be to save a clubbed baby seal or release a gnu from the Bronx zoo. Nary a mention, thank God.

So Emily, thanks for reaffirming the simple treasure of being a Grinnell student. Please stay a girl until graduation.

Then become a woman and release a gnu or two.

— Bob Swortwood '68  
Riverside, Calif.

*Were we irresponsible  
miscreants? Yes.  
We were surely BOYS  
and not men.  
I cherish those days.  
—Bob Swortwood '68*

## Knee-jerk nationalism

Every time someone considers the plight of the Palestinian people, the drumbeat of partisan defense of Israel against any and all criticism cranks up. The pro-Israel crowd thinks there's only one way. Their way.

My parents, who barely managed to escape from Nazi Germany in 1939, drew different lessons from the Shoah: that knee-jerk nationalism is always a dangerous thing, and that returning evil for evil is not the mark of wisdom. I am gratified to have been able to pass those lessons on to my sons, one of whom is a proud recent graduate of Grinnell. Please keep up the good work.

— *Evan Fales*  
*Iowa City, Iowa*

## More hard facts

Responding to the essay "Grinnellians examine Zionism ..." (Fall 2011) by **Erica Seltzer-Schultz '12** and **Michael Goldfien '12**, letter writers **Hal Goldberg '60** and Alan Ravitz support Israel's hard line against Palestinians. Though the writers identify correctly the danger posed by Islamic fundamentalists and some Palestinians' denial of Israel's right to exist, they err in painting all Palestinians with the same broad brush. And they identify only *some* of the cold, hard facts that apply to the history of Zionism in Israel/Palestine.

In addition to those cited, it is also fact that:

- Israel's founders used aggressive and sometimes inhumane tactics in forcing Palestinians from homes and land that their families had occupied for centuries.
- Israel continues to appropriate large swaths of land inside the borders

established after the 1967 war, land that has been understood for decades to belong to the future state of Palestine.

- Palestinians are routinely evicted from their homes with no compensation and are discriminated against and harassed by Israel and Israelis in ways very similar to those Jews have repeatedly experienced.

Some Palestinians do assert that Israel has no right to exist. But it is my perception from conversations I have had with Palestinians in the West Bank that the vast majority are more than willing to concede Israel's right to exist. In return, they want to be treated with dignity — a contiguous, defined homeland; control of their water; and economic freedom.

My Grinnell education pushed me to look at the whole picture and to gather all the facts before drawing conclusions, rather than only facts to support what I believed. It was a hard lesson, and one I have to relearn from time to time.

That lesson applies here. We must understand there are *two* legitimate, painful stories in this conflict, not just one. Only when both are given legitimacy will we be able to lay the foundation for something new to happen in the region. And we will have learned that in order to see the whole picture we sometimes have to start by looking at parts we don't like and don't want to see.

— *Kathy McLaughlin Drinkard '73*  
*Springfield, Va.*

My parents, who barely  
managed to escape  
from Nazi Germany  
in 1939, drew a  
different lesson from  
the Shoah: that knee-jerk  
nationalism is always  
a dangerous thing.

—Evan Fales

### “-inian,” not “-ine”

“The Grinnell Prize” [Winter 2011 issue] states, “Encounter was formed to allow people on both sides of the Palestine-Israel conflict...” “Palestine” is incorrect. The world has not yet recognized it as a state or country. Melissa Weintraub used the term “Israeli-Palestinian conflict” in her speech.

—Elise Greenberg  
Dallas, Tx.

Greenberg and Weintraub are correct.  
We regret the error. —Ed.

### Spot on

Houston Dougharty’s “Self-Governance” in the Winter 2011 issue was spot on. The principles of responsibility and accountability that I learned at Grinnell will shape the way I live for the rest of my life. For that, I’m very thankful. Grinnell gave me — and is giving current students — the opportunity to explore and grow individually which, as Houston said, “can be a great tool for creating a positive campus experience and teaching critical life skills.” Thank you, Houston, for sharing how Grinnell has built such a strong community using self-governance.

— Dave Arseneault '09  
Interim Men’s Basketball Coach

### Ethically made meat?

In the Winter 2011 article “Meet Your Meat,” Devora Kimelman-Block '93 would like to portray her kosher slaughterhouse as a place for “ethically made meat.” However, some of Kol Foods’ products use Temple Grandin’s more humane slaughter techniques; their South American beef does not. If ethics were really important to Kol Foods, they would stop importing South American beef altogether.

— Hal Goldberg '60  
Laguna Woods, Calif.

### Vonnegut on steroids

Please do an article on Richard Tillotson '66 and his new book, *Acts of God While on Vacation*. Rick writes like Vonnegut on steroids, or what one would get if one put Vonnegut and Carl Sagan in a blender and poured the mixture out onto a sheet of American magical realism.

— Hal Holbrook '66  
Salt Lake City, Utah

We published a brief mention of Tillotson’s book on Page 36 of the Spring 2011 issue, but Holbrook’s description of it is so good we couldn’t resist sharing it here, as well. — Ed.

**The Grinnell Magazine welcomes letters from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to the College. All letters should include the author’s name and address. Anonymous letters will be discarded. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, and style. Address correspondence to: The Grinnell Magazine, Office of Communications, Grinnell College, Grinnell IA 50112-1690, or send email to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).**

# Can China Save the World?

**China is rushing to adopt high-consumptive Western lifestyles. Will its huge new consumer market save the world economy – or finish off the global ecosystem?**



Photo by Oliver Haste

By **Karl Gerth '88**, who received his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University in 2000 and teaches Chinese history at the University of Oxford. His latest book is *As China Goes, So Goes the World: How Chinese Consumers Are Transforming Everything* (sample chapter: [www.aschinagoes.com](http://www.aschinagoes.com)). This essay is based on a Scholars' Convocation he presented on at Grinnell College Sept. 29, 2011.

**"Explorations," a regular feature, brings you the views, opinions, and insights of Grinnell College community members.**

Twenty-five years ago, as a Grinnell College third-year, I spent a year studying in China. The following year, I delayed graduating with my class and took a leave for an additional year of travel throughout China. I've returned to China nearly every year since.

I've seen that Chinese consumers are having a global effect – on both the economy and the planet. Everyone from Western governments (including both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations) to multinational corporations to the Chinese government itself are pushing members of China's burgeoning middle class to stop saving 40 to 50 percent of their incomes and act more like Americans, who save close to nothing. The goal: to create Chinese consumers who can replace tapped-out American and Western European consumers as drivers of global economic growth.

In doing so, China has become a cautionary tale for those who believe the magic of the unregulated market can solve all problems.

For instance, China went from having no private cars a few decades ago to being the largest manufacturer and consumer of private cars, surpassing the United States. How did that happen? Why didn't China become the first post-oil society? The Chinese knew the dangers. They didn't have cars, a dependency on foreign oil, or dangerous levels of air pollution then. So why did they elect to create a demand for the automobile?

Social pressure was part of it. Many Chinese apartments come with parking spots. A Chinese friend of mine told me the pressure on him from neighbors to buy a car was tremendous. As his parking spot sat empty, he got uncomfortable questions about his family finances. His lack of a car implied penury, not eco-consciousness.

Nor is China's embrace of cars simply a case of "deregulation" – allowing the market to work its magic. There were innumerable government policies involved that pushed people into cars. Buildings don't collapse and turn to asphalt all on their own. People do not voluntarily get up and leave places where they have lived for decades – if not generations – for no good reason. The state pushed people out of their homes and created those roads. The center of Chinese cities used to be mixed-use, dominated by state-owned enterprises with their own housing, hospitals, and schools. These have been replaced by monocultures of gleaming office

skyscrapers and the pushing of people who formerly lived in city centers to the outskirts, creating the need to commute. And the state directed state-owned banks to lend people money for cars.

Why? Because China saw that in the few years it had before it gained full World Trade Organization membership it could either create a competitive car industry or forever lose the domestic car market to foreign companies. China needed to create the desire for cars among consumers to create the Chinese car industry, to keep the money spent on cars in the country, and to move up the value chain in what it exported.

The result is traffic jams, pollution, and dependence on oil. China now imports more than 50 percent of its crude, which analysts say is where over-dependence on imported energy begins. At that point, governments are more likely to do nasty stuff to maintain access to that oil.

But the story of cars in China doesn't end there. China is now doing unto the rest of the world what was done unto it. China wants Chinese consumers to consume our stuff and the rest of the world to buy Chinese cars. In doing so, it has created environmental consequences that are nightmarish to contemplate, including some of the worst pollution in the world.

The environmental impact is pretty grim. And the Chinese don't have to become like us – to "catch up" – to do real damage. All they need to do is to move slightly in our direction.

I've asked Chinese business and political leaders if they were aware of the consequences of their policies, and they told me that all economies start with energy-intensive, labor-intensive, bottom-of-the-economic-chain activities and then move up. Witness Los Angeles in the 1950s versus now or Taipei in the 1980s versus now. The message was: Don't worry, this is a transitional and necessary evil. As we move up to a service economy, the smog will magically disappear. And it may migrate to the next China, just as so many of the byproducts of American consumerism migrated to China. But, as they further entrench an economy dependent on mass consumption, when I ask them about the impact of all the carbon they're burning on climate change, they throw up their hands. They're playing roulette with the planet, just as we have been.

## CAMPUS NOTES

### It's All Greek to Him

*Gerald LaLonde is awarded a prestigious Mellon Emeritus Fellowship*

Gerald LaLonde, professor emeritus of classics, has been awarded a prestigious Mellon Emeritus Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to complete a book project on the worship of Greek goddess Athena.

LaLonde is the first Grinnell faculty member to receive the fellowship, which is awarded by invitation only to outstanding retired faculty who remain active in their fields. He studies the archaeological exploration of the agora of Athens and surrounding neighborhoods – some of the ancient world's most important public spaces. He has published two books on buildings and monuments in the agora. His current book project focuses on the history of the religious cult Athena Itonia and the motives, circumstances, and interrelationships among Greek cults.

The Mellon fellowship supports six months of research at libraries, archaeological sites, and museums in Greece, including work at the American School of



Photo by Amy Henderson '94

**Gerald LaLonde**

Classical Studies in Athens, where LaLonde is a fellow.

“My foreign academic experiences have been a chain of fortunate causes and effects. As a grad student I was given funding to excavate for two summers in the agora. Those discoveries and publications were key to my appointment at Grinnell and the College's funding of faculty

research, which allowed me to return to Greece from time to time to continue my work,” LaLonde says.

From that scholarship and teaching came more study abroad with Grinnell students, faculty, and alumni in Greece, Italy, and Britain. “I had the good fortune to teach on the Grinnell-in-London program four times and as a faculty lecturer on three alumni tours to Greece and one to Italy and Sicily,” he says. “I have also played that role on a number of Smithsonian Institution and National Geographic Society tours; and finally, at age 70, I led the American School's summer school,” which he recalls as the “Homeric Odyssey” of summer schools.

“My own formal schooling in classics was for a long time all books and imagination. I had never taken a course in archaeology or been east of Spokane, Washington, when in 1966 my mentor got funds for me to go to Greece and excavate in Athens. The physical and cultural world that this experience

joined to my reading and study deeply affected my teaching [and] was the impetus for my research and a great enrichment to my personal and intellectual life,” recalls the early proponent of Grinnell's study-abroad program.

“Study tours are not cheap, especially when they require extra student financial aid, but they are what Grinnell has historically and rightly been about. Without that experience I do not imagine that my professional and intellectual life would have been as productive and rewarding,” he concludes.

At his retirement in 2011, LaLonde's colleagues honored his four decades of teaching and service by establishing the LaLonde Fellowship in Classics for qualified Grinnell students who want to study the sites of classical antiquity, but cannot cover the costs. To make a gift to this fellowship or to submit a story or memory of LaLonde:

[www.grinnell.edu/academic/classics/honor-jerry-lalonde](http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/classics/honor-jerry-lalonde)

– Cindy Deppe

## Welcome!

### *New vice-president for enrollment*

**Joseph P. Bagnoli, Jr.** joined the Grinnell staff in late February as vice-president for enrollment and dean of admission and financial aid. He will lead the College's strategic recruitment efforts. Bagnoli served as dean of enrollment and academic services at his alma mater, Berea College in Berea, Ky. Berea is recognized for its abolitionist founding as the first interracial, coeducational college in the South and for its unique student labor program in which all students participate to earn a tuition-free education.

"Joe's impressive record of service at Berea, both personally and professionally, demonstrates high-level commitment to the goal of strategically enrolling a diverse student body, while balancing challenging demographics and economic times. He shares Grinnell's drive for social good and academic excellence, and our desire to extend educational opportunities to disadvantaged college-bound students," says Grinnell College President **Raynard S. Kington**.

"Grinnell's history of social action and its reputation as a leader in access to higher education among elite liberal arts colleges compelled me

to pursue this position," Bagnoli says. "I believe Grinnell can play an increasingly important role in the diversification of higher education nationally by acting upon its own convictions, and I look forward to engaging in that work."

Bagnoli holds a master's degree in student personnel services from Eastern Kentucky University and is completing his Ph.D. in educational policy studies and evaluation at the University of Kentucky. He is the second member of his family on the Grinnell campus; he joins daughter **Lilianna Bagnoli '15**.



**Joseph P. Bagnoli, Jr.**

—Cindy Deppe

## Strategic Plan Update

### *The working groups weigh in*

During Fall 2011, after poring over hundreds of ideas and suggestions offered by the Grinnell College community, the strategic planning working groups developed the following material for consideration by the strategic plan steering committee. The committee will draw from this list to develop strategic themes and further develop a subset of ideas that will be pursued in the strategic plan.

#### **Alumni Engagement:**

Engage alumni with one another, with faculty, and with students through:

- **Intellectual exploration** via alumni travel, classes, on-campus gatherings, gatherings in alumni hubs, and virtual gatherings.
- **Mentoring** in College admission; a career/postgraduate advisory program; a virtual space that connects alumni to other alumni, students, and faculty by field of study, career, location, and interests.
- **Service**, with service travel, a database of service opportunities open to alumni, students, and faculty.

- **Social events** celebrating alumni achievements; creating virtual space that can be easily used by alumni to connect to one another, faculty, staff, and students; encouraging alumni to retire to the town of Grinnell and re-engage with the College as mentors, students, and advisers.

#### **Distinctiveness:**

Emphasize the College's uniqueness by:

- **Articulating Grinnell's distinctive combination** of an individually advised curriculum, need-blind admission/meeting demonstrated need, and commitment to social justice

in the College's internal and external communications. (Additional distinctive elements include a high student responsibility for their undergraduate experience, and substantial individual freedom for both students and faculty; a rich, supportive, and collaborative learning environment; a commitment to applying knowledge to the common good; diversity and global understanding; uncommon resources; and a rural Iowa location.)

- **Encouraging and supporting faculty to raise the College's profile** through endowed chairs; awards for faculty teaching, service, research, and conference invitations; differential pay based on achievement; encouragement to seek national recognition and posts; and competitive pay.

#### **Enrollment:**

Improve the quantity and quality of admission applicants by:

- **Reevaluating** and reforming the applicant scoring system.
- **Using merit aid** strategically.
- **Yielding students** at a uniform percentage regardless of need.
- **Pricing** a Grinnell education strategically.
- **Communicating authentically** about the College's values and mission.

#### **Postgraduate Success:**

Help students and alumni achieve postgraduation success by:

- **Centralizing information about campus employment** so students can better choose campus employment related to their career interests.
- **Better coordinating of extracurricular experiences** with career interests.
- **Helping students plan for the future** through retreats, portfolio and planning exercises, and problem-solving activities.

## Application Avalanche

*Fifty percent more applicants make for a highly competitive class*

Applications to Grinnell College increased more than 50 percent for the class of 2016, compared to last fall's entering class. Grinnell received more than 4,500 applications – the highest number ever. **Doug Badger**, director of admission, says the applicant pool also shows strong diversity; more than one-fourth of the applicants are students of color.

“We have applications from every state and more than 100 countries. Every region of the United States had an increase over last year and exceeded this year's application goals,” Badger says. “This is all exceptionally good news for the College, because it represents the size and quality of applicant pool that we hoped to attract.”

Badger cites a stronger prospect pool; a new marketing campaign; a new strategic focus on admission travel; moving the application deadline from the Jan. 2 of recent years to Jan. 15 (more in line with the College's Midwestern peers); and quick, personal response by admission staff and current Grinnell students for this year's success.

The staff of 18 is now finishing the painstaking process of making individual admission decisions. Prospective students who applied under early decision were notified in December and January; those who applied under regular decision will be notified in late March.

“The increase in applications – which includes about 1,000 more domestic applicants than last year – will have a substantial effect on selectivity,” Badger says. “This will likely be the most difficult year ever to be admitted to Grinnell College.”

– Cindy Deppe



**Doug Badger**

- **Developing relationships** with those alumni, parents, and employers who can help students with postgraduate options.
- **Creating an integrated collection of resources** for postgraduate success that spans internships, campus employment, service, fellowship, study abroad, externships, and career counseling.

### Teaching and Learning:

Continue to refine and develop the College's world-class academic offerings by:

- **Increasing curricular flexibility and diversity** to support diverse times, forms, and places of learning that are responsive to content.
- **Championing a free exchange of ideas** as a central and more visible part of a Grinnell education.

- **Deliberately broadening** the liberal arts education via an honors program and stronger advising.
- **Fostering extra-disciplinary faculty work** that frees faculty from departmental limitations and appointing extra-disciplinary “liberal arts professors.”
- **Developing continuous faculty training in teaching** via “teaching development” courses, a center for teaching and learning, more support for teaching and assessing communication, digital literacy, information literacy and quantitative reasoning skills, and by defining excellence and assessing outcomes.
- **Using time more effectively.** Many ideas have been suggested here, including the following: accelerating faculty-leave schedules, hiring more support people, limiting the size and number of faculty committees and streamlining

committee work, reducing teaching loads to 2:2, reducing early-career faculty teaching loads, changing the academic year schedule to spread courses over more semesters.

- **Creating “integrative learning environments”** with more collaboration between classroom, cocurricular, library, ARCs, and residence halls, and by combining practical and theoretical learning in the tutorial.
- **Better preparing students** with programs that run from junior high to second-year students, including summer, online, and residential programs.
- **Cultivating leadership in students.**
- **Addressing workload concerns of faculty and students** and matching faculty incentives and rewards such as leaves, course releases, and pay to the desired balance of teaching, research, and service.

The strategic planning steering committee is now drafting strategies that encompass much of the above material. In February, working groups reviewed and contributed to the articulation of these strategies. That will in turn guide the steering committee's further development of the plan. The next strategic plan update will share these strategies with the College community.

### Questions? Comments?

Please visit [www.grinnell.edu/offices/institutionalplanning/strategicplanning](http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/institutionalplanning/strategicplanning) for more updates and information or to submit comments. If you have any questions or comments regarding the strategic planning process, email [sp@grinnell.edu](mailto:sp@grinnell.edu).



## Exhibit: American Qur'an

At the Faulconer Gallery

American Qur'an, an exhibit in the College's Faulconer Gallery Jan. 27 – March 18, 2012, illustrates an English translation of the Qur'an (often rendered "Koran"). Artist Sandow Birk combines hand-lettered text with images from American life. Coupled with the exhibit were a series of panel discussions on issues such as Muslims in Iowa, "The Qur'an in America" (a student roundtable) and a discussion on "Visualizing Islamophobia" by Max Leung, postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in sociology.

"I was struck by the similarity of Islamic values and stories to our own," says Hannah Bauman '13. "Adam is Adam. Moses is Moses. Plus, I liked the East-L.A.-graffiti lettering style he wrote the verses in. Birk shows beauty in places we don't expect to find it."

—Mona Ghadiri '11

## The Korea-in-Grinnell Program

Korea has emerged as a major international player. Grinnell is forging connections.

### Lectures:

- Byung-Il Choi, professor of international trade and negotiations at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, taught a three-week course on international trade negotiations at the College during the Fall 2011 semester.
- Han Duk-Soo, South Korean ambassador to the United States, spoke to a packed house in Rosenfield 101 on Korea-U.S. relations in the 21st century last September. The ambassador spent the day on campus, touring, consulting with President Raynard S. Kington, and meeting with Korean students and faculty.



Kihwan Kim '57

Waseda visiting instructor in Japanese, and musicologist Jee-weon Cha, assistant professor of music.

### Faculty and Students:

- Seven Korean students currently study at Grinnell.
- Two Koreans teach at the College: Hyunjung Kim,

### Language Study:

- Korean is offered for the first time this year as part of the Alternative Language Study Option program.
- Ten students have taken Korean; more have expressed future interest.

### Internships:

These four students interned in Korea last summer:

- Sammy Huang '13, at Doosan Corp.
- Ghaeun "Christa" Lee '12, at the Seoul office of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and at Prudential Life Insurance Co. of Korea.
- Justin Wedell '12, at Gyeonggi Welfare Foundation, a public think tank.
- Sunghyun Yoo '13, at Kim & Chang law firm and at Doosan Corp.

All are economics majors except Wedell, who is a political science major.

### Programming Plans:

- An exchange: Plans are underway to partner with Ewha Womans University. Assistant Professor Matthew Johnson, who teaches East Asian history, will travel to Korea this summer to explore further connections with

Ewha and other Korean universities.

- An off-campus study option: David Harrison, associate professor of French and director of the Center for International Studies, says, "Korea is in a great location. Much as Grinnell-in-London gives students ready access to Europe, Seoul gives students access to eastern Asia."

Grinnell College trustee Kihwan Kim '57 has spearheaded many of these efforts. He has served as Korea's vice minister of trade and industry, chief economic policy coordinator and trade negotiator, and chief delegate to the North-South Inter-Korea Economic Talks. Now he chairs the Seoul Financial Forum and is a distinguished visiting scholar at Korea Development Institute. In May 2000, Kim received an honorary doctorate from Grinnell. He joined the Grinnell board in 2003.

—Richard Cleaver '75

## More Arabic!

*A new visiting instructor helps meet student demand.*

Assistant Professor **Mervat Youssef** is currently the only teacher of Arabic on campus, and the language is increasingly popular. She's about to get some help; beginning in fall 2012, a visiting instructor from the American University in Cairo (AUC) Arabic Language Institute — the largest corps of full-time professional Arabic language teachers in the world — will teach one four- or five-credit course in modern standard Arabic each semester, and one one- or two-credit course in Egyptian colloquial Arabic.

"This is a good opportunity to have more offerings for our students and a great opportunity for the AUC fellows to teach the quality of students we have here," Youssef says. "Both sides gain."

—Richard Cleaver '75



Photo by Ben Brewer '11

## A Global College

*Grinnell offers a window on the world. Let us count some ways.*

### 1. International scholars

include:

- **Regular faculty**, some of whom hail from such diverse places as Iraq, India, Germany, Korea, and Australia.
- **Visiting international scholars** who share their expertise for a few weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Many are invited by one of three programs:
  - **Heath professorships** are nominated by Grinnell faculty. Historian Arnold Toynbee and poet Stephen Spender, both British, are among the best known.
  - **Noyce visiting professorships** bring international scientists to campus. These have included Canadian Richard

Guy, a mathematician; Ireland's David Fegan, an astrophysicist; and Spaniard Luis Fermín Capitán Vallvey, an analytical chemist.

- **International visiting fellows**, a program of the Center for International Studies, features short visits by international scholars; Byung-Il Choi, *opposite*, is an example.

### 2. Exchange programs

bring faculty, researchers, and recent graduates to Grinnell and send Grinnell faculty and students abroad. Partners include:

- Nanjing University, China
- Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
- Waseda University, Japan
- American University, Egypt

### 3. The curriculum

provides global study through:

- **Departments** of languages, literatures and cultures, including:
  - Chinese and Japanese
  - Classics
  - French and Arabic
  - German
  - Spanish
  - Russian
- **Regional concentrations** in:
  - East Asian studies
  - Latin American studies
  - Russian, Central, and East European studies
  - Western European studies.
- **Themed concentrations** in:
  - environmental studies
  - global development studies
  - policy studies
  - technology studies
- **Independent majors.** In the past 10 years, 28 graduates have designed their own majors in international relations or related topics.

### 4. Fellowships and scholarships

endowed by alumni, parents, and friends which help international students study at Grinnell and Grinnell students study abroad. They include the:

- Merle Fischlowitz '53 International Student Travel Fellowship
- Class of 1942 Leadership Grants
- Roger H. Slugg '40 Scholarship
- Desa Pavlu Hess '53 Memorial Scholarship
- Atsuhito Nakata '93 Memorial Scholarship
- Elaine D. Smith '46 Scholarship
- Lan-Chang Fellowships

For more information or to contribute to any of the above fellowship or scholarship programs, call 641-269-3200 or email [stewardship@grinnell.edu](mailto:stewardship@grinnell.edu).

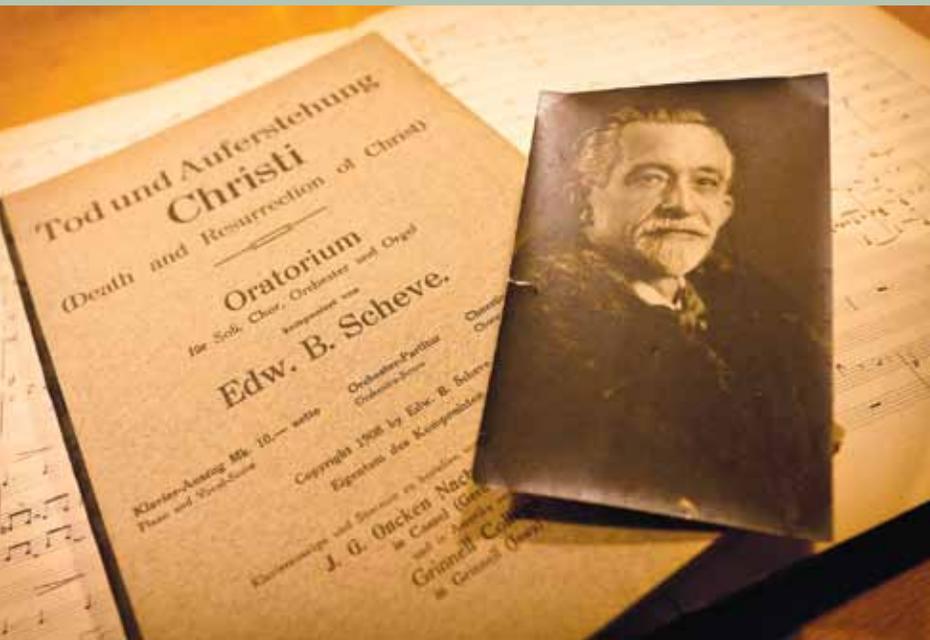


Photo by Ben Brewer '11

## He Struck a Chord

*Ressurrecting a beloved Grinnellian's lost oratorio – in Moscow*

Edward Scheve, professor of music from 1906 to 1924, wasn't famous, but his "Death and Resurrection of Christ" for choir and orchestra made it around the globe just the same. Founder of the Grinnell Oratorio Society, Scheve debuted the piece with them in 1906 in Herrick Chapel. A contemporary critic called it "an oratorio of the highest honor." At Grinnell, he was known as a skilled organist, teacher, director, and composer.

Scheve died in 1924, but a group of Russian Baptists in Moscow has kept his music alive. For more than 30 years, they've performed the Scheve oratorio at Easter, using an old and incomplete copy of the score. Recently, they requested the lost orchestral parts for the piece from Professor of Music **John Rommereim**. "Grinnell owns the only copy of the original handwritten manuscripts," he says. "It's missing a few parts, but we hope to be able to work with them to restore it – and in the future, maybe even to perform the piece with them."

–Mona Ghadiri '11

## Grinnell-in-London

*The College's first study-abroad program remains its most popular.*

Grinnell-in-London was born in 1974, the brainchild of **Douglas Caulkins**, now professor emeritus of anthropology, and **Vic Verrette**, now professor emeritus of French.

"In 1972–73, Vic and I lamented that Grinnell had

no off-campus program of its own, which meant that we had few opportunities to internationalize teaching and learning opportunities for our students and faculty," Caulkins recalls. "Students went abroad to

be taught by someone else; faculty went abroad [under Associated Colleges of the Midwest programs] to teach mainly non-Grinnell students. We decided that a program in London, the most important metropolitan

city in the world, would be the best choice, since it would accommodate the scholarly interests of the greatest number of faculty and students."

The program's structure has remained essentially the same: a 10-week first phase of courses taught by both London-based adjunct faculty and Grinnell-based faculty (classes meet Monday through Thursday to leave long weekends for traveling); and a five-week second phase that allows students to focus on research projects or, since 1992, internships that have included everything from laboring in a soup kitchen to working for Tony Blair before he became Prime Minister.

–Richard Cleaver '75

**Professor of history emeritus George Drake '57 and students in the Grinnell-In-London program pause in front of London Tower Bridge on a field trip in 2004.**



Courtesy of Grinnell College Center for International Studies

## Grinnellians Talk Money

Plus “How an English and Philosophy Major Landed a Job in Finance”



**John Chambers '77**

Grinnell College's Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights sponsored a Feb. 21-23 symposium on the global financial crisis, with opening and closing speeches by two noted Grinnellians.

**John Chambers '77**, managing director of Standard & Poor's and chair of its sovereign rating committee, reflected on the crisis in the European Union with “Dislocations in the Euroarea: A Fiscal or External Problem?” He also spoke to interested students about “How an English and Philosophy Major Landed a Job in Finance.”

Mark Copelovitch, assistant professor of political science and public affairs at the University of Wisconsin, addressed “Picking Up (and Rearranging) the Pieces: Global Financial Governance after the Great Recession.”



**Elizabeth Stromberg Laderman '80**

A screening of *Inside Job*, an Academy Award-winning documentary about the 2008 global economic crisis with interviews from financial insiders in the United States, China, England, France, Iceland, and Singapore, was co-sponsored by the campus Cultural Films Committee.

*The Washington Post* business and economics columnist Steven Pearlstein delivered a Scholars' Convocation, “The Crisis Is Over; Now Comes the Hard Part.” Pearlstein received the Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for commentary that anticipated and interpreted the recession. He is also the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University.

Federal Reserve economist **Elizabeth Stromberg Laderman '80**, closed the symposium with “The Financial Crisis and Lending in Low-Income Neighborhoods.”

## Donna Vinter's 30-Year Semester Abroad

London site director has mentored generations of students

Many Grinnell-in-London alumni wish they could have extended their London sojourn into a career. Well, someone did: **Donna Vinter**, adjunct professor of English, studied medieval English drama in the British Library in London as a graduate student and has been Grinnell-in-London's resident site director since 1982.

Vinter first taught for Grinnell-in-London in 1980 and in 1982 was recommended as resident director by her predecessor, **Harold Lee**, who described her as “a brilliant teacher [and] mentor.”

“A study-abroad program should energize and extend students' imaginations of the ‘other’ and bring their discipline alive in new contexts,” Vinter says. “I think Grinnell-in-London is one of an elite few programs that successfully integrate study and travel. Our cocurricular activities are carefully and thoughtfully embedded into the coursework.”



**Donna Vinter**

Vinter teaches Shakespeare and modern Irish literature and shares oversight for internships with a visiting Grinnell faculty member. She also serves as liaison with faculty and departments in Grinnell and deals with British immigration and tax authorities, budgets, hiring adjunct faculty and administrative assistants, field trip and travel logistics, housing, and student personal emergencies.

“I'm a one-man band,” she says.  
— **Richard Cleaver '75**  
Grinnell-in-London begaGrin in

## Not for Grinnellians Only

7,000 visitors use College facilities throughout the year

With summer fast approaching, you'd think the College's facilities would be looking forward to a rest. Not so!

Last year, almost 7,000 guests spent a total of 59 days on campus during academic breaks, taking part in a wide variety of multiday activities and one-day events. These included meetings, summer athletic camps, academic and business summits, youth conferences, weddings, and receptions.

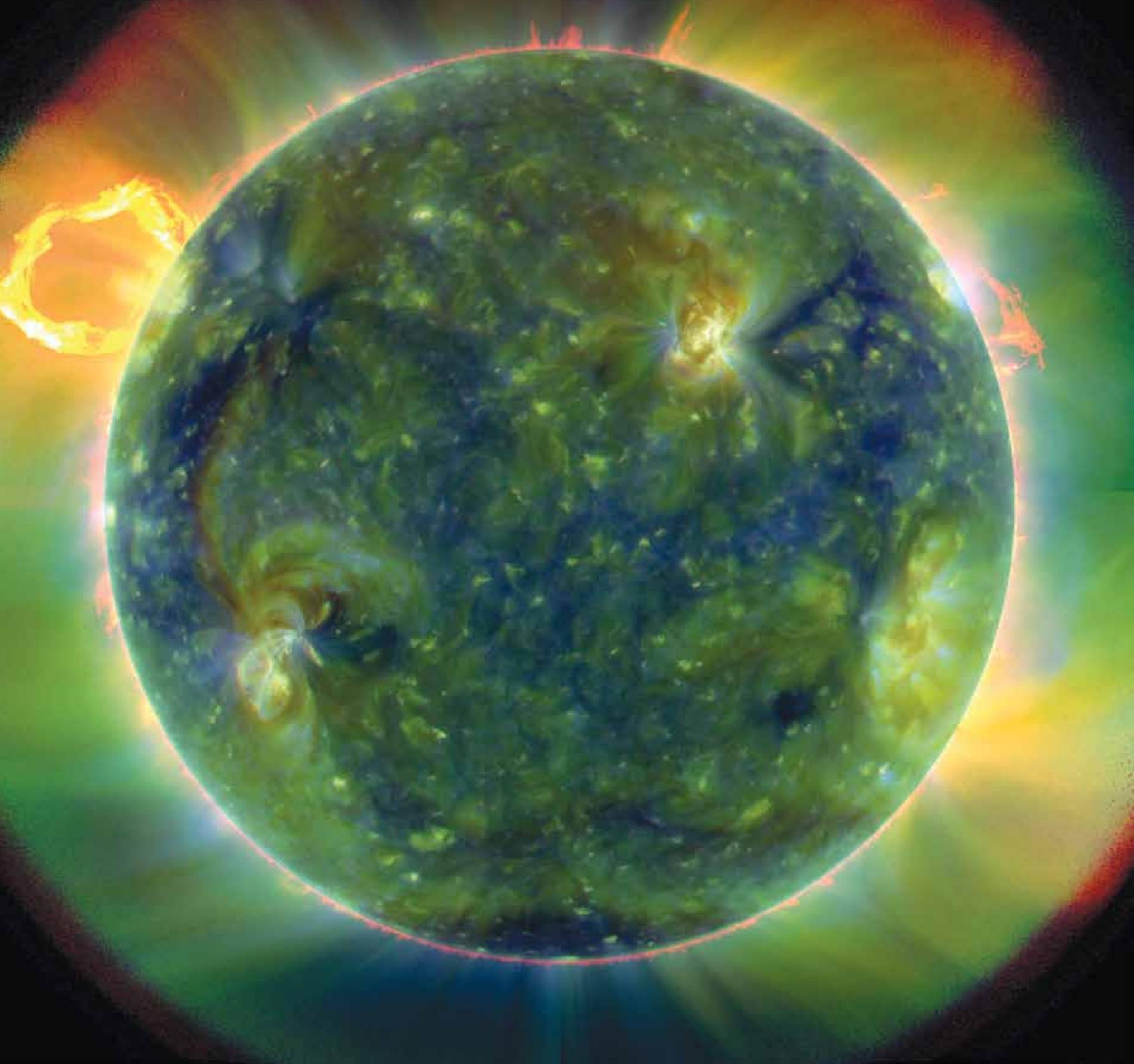
“The number of visitors has nearly doubled in the past six years,” says **Rachel Bly '93**, director of conference operations and events. “People are discovering that the College offers a great combination of distinctive venues and meeting spaces, award-winning food, state-of-the-art athletic facilities, comprehensive technology, and a knowledgeable, attentive staff,” she says.

For more information, call 641-269-3178 or email [conferences@grinnell.edu](mailto:conferences@grinnell.edu)



**The Pavillion, a meeting and dining space in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center**

# SUN STORM!



**Richard Fisher '61** hasn't exactly predicted an apocalypse.

But if his worst fears come to pass, it might be the closest thing to one most of us will experience — and it could be coming to your electrical grid soon.

by **Doug McInnis**

**Richard Fisher '61** took his first photo of the sun in November 1960, standing on MacEachron Field and looking through an antique telescope loaned to him by physics professor **Grant O. Gale**. Fisher happened to capture a powerful solar storm in progress and was fascinated. "I've got to know more about this," he wrote in his journal.

It wasn't an idle wish. That snapshot "unfolded a path that, for me, ranged over mountaintop observatories, solar eclipse expeditions, Apollo-Skylab missions, space shuttle scientific payloads, and a score of scientific space flight missions," Fisher says.

His first stop after Grinnell was at the University of Colorado for a Ph.D. in astrophysics, then to a long NASA career capped by the directorship of that organization's heliophysics division. On Sept. 29, 2011, in a ceremony at NASA headquarters, he was awarded the NASA Distinguished Service Medal — the organization's highest honor — for contributions "representing substantial progress to the NASA mission in the interest of the United States." He also has won NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal, and — twice — its Exceptional Service Medal. Fisher's greatest contributions are to heliophysics, which he describes as "the study of a magnetic variable star — our sun — and how it drives the planets of our solar system, including the Earth, and organizes interplanetary space."

This wide view of the sun encompasses space sciences, computer modeling, and mathematics. Fisher's work included developing the fleet of orbiting spacecraft that have both furthered solar science and provided Earth with advanced warning of solar storms. Now he holds the position of scientist emeritus at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, and remains one of the world's foremost authorities on the study of the sun.

Today Fisher — and anyone else, via NASA's website — can see the object that centers our galaxy through the

high-tech eyes of 27 satellites designed to study the star and help Earthlings understand when solar storms threaten. These are storms that could severely cripple large parts of the industrial world by causing huge, long-lasting power

blackouts, knocking out satellites we depend on for communications and navigation, and potentially reducing life in developed nations to chaos that could last for years.

Such solar storms aren't new, Fisher says. In 1859, telegraph operators were amazed when their telegraph papers burst into flames and they got an electric shock from their telegraph keys. In 1989, 6 million people in Quebec lost electric power for nine hours. In both cases, massive solar storms sent protons blasting to Earth, raising havoc with just about everything electrical.

Solar storms can happen "anytime, like earthquakes," Fisher says, but tend to reach peak intensity at the end of a cycle. "The fall of 2011 has seen the onset

of increasing frequency of solar activity as the 22-year solar magnetic cycle proceeds toward a new sun-spot maximum," he says. And sunspot maximum is where the danger is.

By and large, the Earth's magnetic field diffuses the worst of these storms. But for reasons that aren't well understood, the protective force of the magnetic field doesn't always work, and the storms strike Earth with devastating power. This happened in 1859 and again in 1921, periods during which we lived in a largely low-tech world.

This time, electric power could go off and stay off — perhaps for months — over large portions of the industrialized world, Fisher says. Everything that depends on electricity would shut down, instantly crippling a world more reliant than ever on the electric grid and a plethora of high-tech gadgets.

"If you wake up and your power is down, you can cope for a day," Fisher says. "And I suspect you could get along for a week. But if it goes on for 100 days, it would be like Hurricane Katrina."

"A loss of power could lead to a cascade of operational failures that could leave society and the global economy severely disabled."

— **Lloyd's of London**

**Facing page:**

An extreme ultraviolet image of the sun taken by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory satellite. Reds show relatively cool areas, blues and greens are hotter. Images such as this help scientists predict solar storms. Credit: NASA/GSFC/AIA

Or worse, because the damage could be almost global in scope. The impact of a complete power loss would ripple throughout the national and global economic system. Without power, factories and offices would shutter. Paychecks would stop. For example, “As people in the United States lose their jobs, they wouldn’t be spending money, and that would impact other countries where the things we buy are made,” says **Heidi Shierholz ’94**, a labor-market economist at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

As businesses closed and workers were furloughed, the problems would multiply. “A one-percent decline in gross domestic product translates into an almost one-percent rise in unemployment,” Shierholz says. “Declines in the labor market would put downward pressure on prices, so housing prices might drop further.”

But a declining GDP and rising unemployment would likely be dwarfed by more immediate problems, such as lack of such basics as heat, light, fuel, water, refrigeration, and

sewage treatment. The toll on humanity could be enormous. Furnaces wouldn’t run. Electric-powered sewage systems would back up. Food would rot in homes and supermarkets. GPS navigation wouldn’t work, which is a big deal if you’re trying to land a GPS-guided aircraft in low visibility.

So why aren’t we all panicking?

That’s a good question, and one with no good answer. Partly, perhaps, because the potential danger is unknown to much of the public, although last year the chief science advisers to U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron took the issue to the op-ed page of *The New York Times*. They warned that damages in the United States could hit \$2 trillion in the first year — and that it could take four to 10 years to recover from a storm.

In a way, the situation parallels New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina drowned the city. The city fathers and the Army Corps of Engineers knew the flood control system *could* catastrophically fail, but it never had, so we as a nation didn’t fix it.

## Richard Fisher ’61

The man  
behind the forecast

Richard Fisher arrived at Grinnell as a precocious teenager who had done so well on his National Merit exams that Grinnell admitted him after his junior year of high school. Fisher repeated the performance, speeding through Grinnell in three years. He left with a Phi Beta Kappa key and an education that would shape his career.

He received superb training in science, learning not only theory but how to build basic scientific instruments and operate the power tools needed to make them. These skills paid rich dividends at NASA, where theory and practicality conjoin daily.

Fisher benefited from the humanities as well — in particular from a course on Greek history taught by **Richard Westfall**, a science historian who went on to write a celebrated biography of Sir Isaac Newton. The course focused in part on Homer’s *Iliad*, which Westfall used as a vehicle to help students understand human motivation and behavior. That knowledge was invaluable when Fisher became a NASA administrator trying

to convince key legislators to fund his projects. “I learned how to work the system,” Fisher says.

Outside the classroom, he ran on Grinnell’s varsity cross country team under coach **Dick Young**, a taskmaster who won championships. “Dick taught me that in the big time, life is an indoor-outdoor, 365-days-a-year, all-body contact sport,” Fisher says. “If you don’t like that, you shouldn’t be in it.” That advice also proved invaluable in Washington, where toughness is a key to success.

During his first year at Grinnell, **William C. Oelke ’28** loaned Fisher a concave grating spectrograph and encouraged him to develop photographic and spectroscopic diagnostic skills that were vital to astrophysical practice at that time. This experience propelled Fisher into later experimental activities.

But the pivotal point in Fisher’s education occurred when physics professor **Grant O. Gale** loaned him that telescope he used to take his first photo of a solar active region.



Richard Fisher 61

In some ways, it launched a curiosity that had as much power as another one of Gale’s early acts: giving one of the world’s first transistors to **Robert Noyce ’49**, who became the co-founder of Intel Corp. and co-inventor of the silicon chip.

Noyce is better known — at present. But Fisher’s pioneering work in heliophysics and the elaborate solar-weather detection system he’s helped develop may soon prove to have a greater import than most of us would ever have imagined.

Fisher wants to be sure we don't repeat that disaster scenario on a worldwide scale. The first thing we need, he believes, is accurate information about the sun that can help us understand solar storms and plan for their occurrences.

That depends on good information of the kind provided by the advanced-warning system Fisher helped design. With notice, operators of electric grids, satellite networks, and other systems can take evasive action, although how much they can do to prevent catastrophic damage isn't known for certain.

Fisher wants us to prepare now by planning and funding a replacement fleet of sun-studying satellites. "I'd say we have about 10 years left," he says. "Now is the time to think about this. The size of the national investment in solar-storm detection is pretty big — and you don't order new spacecraft like you order pizza. It takes years and some fraction of a billion dollars to send one up. We're essentially living off aging assets." ■

## NOT Just the Facts, Ma'am

### Science education at Grinnell

More than 50 years ago, **Richard Fisher '61** learned to be a scientist by practicing his craft as a Grinnell undergraduate. With the help of his teachers, he built basic scientific instruments and used them to study the sun.

Grinnell still believes in the hands-on approach, and has begun to make it an even bigger part of its curriculum. Biology 150, the redesigned introductory biology course, is a case in point. Legions of college and university graduates recall intro biology as a course in which teachers talked and students took notes, often in a packed lecture hall.

Grinnell's Biology 150 curriculum has turned that approach on its head. It requires each student to design his or her own scientific investigations, much as Fisher did when he photographed the sun. "Instead of expecting all students to learn exactly the same list of biological facts, we expect all students to practice the same skills while investigating interesting biological questions," biology faculty members wrote. "It's not that facts are unimportant. [But] research shows that people are more likely to remember facts, understand concepts, and apply them to new situations when they use them."



## Brace Yourself!

### Lloyd's assesses the potential damage

In a worst-case scenario, solar storms would inflict a long-term shutdown of the electric grid, disrupt GPS signals, and bombard Earth with potentially damaging particles and radiation. And from those three things would flow a host of ills. Here's a breakdown on what to expect, based on assessments from NASA and Lloyd's of London, the famed insurance syndicate:

- Disruption of GPS systems needed for air and sea navigation.
- Rising high-altitude radiation levels that could affect airline flight crews and frequent fliers.
- Shutdowns of electric-powered systems, including water and sewer.
- Failure of refrigeration systems in homes, supermarkets, and food warehouses.
- Hospital power failures as backup power units run out of fuel.
- Disruption of cell phone and wireless Internet networks.
- Disruption of global stock exchanges from damage to GPS systems, which generate precise time-stamping for stock trades.
- Disruption of electronic cash transfers.
- Pipeline damage from the corrosive effects of space weather.
- Disruption of railroad signal settings.



# Grinnell Expats

WHY WON'T WE COME HOME?

*Grinnell has a way of making you see the world from a different perspective.*

*Some of us make that a more-or-less permanent life choice.*



**Otto Mayr '82  
is a journalist  
in Berlin.**

by **Otto Mayr '82**

Why would someone with a Grinnell diploma choose to leave The Greatest Country on Earth?

I recently asked that question of about 20 of my fellow expatriate Grinnell alumni. Their reasons are the same as those that draw many foreign nationals to the United States: opportunity; adventure; a taste for the exotic; an attractive social, cultural, or political climate — even simple wanderlust.

Some Grinnell expats say Grinnell study-abroad programs, postgraduate fellowships, international-student friends and roommates, language and cultural studies, or international service work after graduation either piqued or confirmed their interest in living abroad. Others credit careers. Still others, like me, simply feel at home in our chosen countries.

My mother grew up in Buffalo, New York, during the Depression; my father left Germany after World War II. I spent most of my childhood in the United States, except for three years in the mid-1960s, when we lived near Munich and I learned German while attending grade school in Bavaria. My parents were in Munich again in the 1980s, and I happened to visit them in November 1989, just after the Berlin Wall had opened. I was working as a newspaper reporter at the time and decided to seek my fortune as a freelance journalist in reunited Berlin. Today I consider Berlin home. It's affordable, fun, and safe. I'm fascinated by the history that has left its mark on every street and building. I love the *biergarten* down the street and

the trattoria around the corner, the bike lanes and public transportation, the health-care system. It's simply the right place for me.

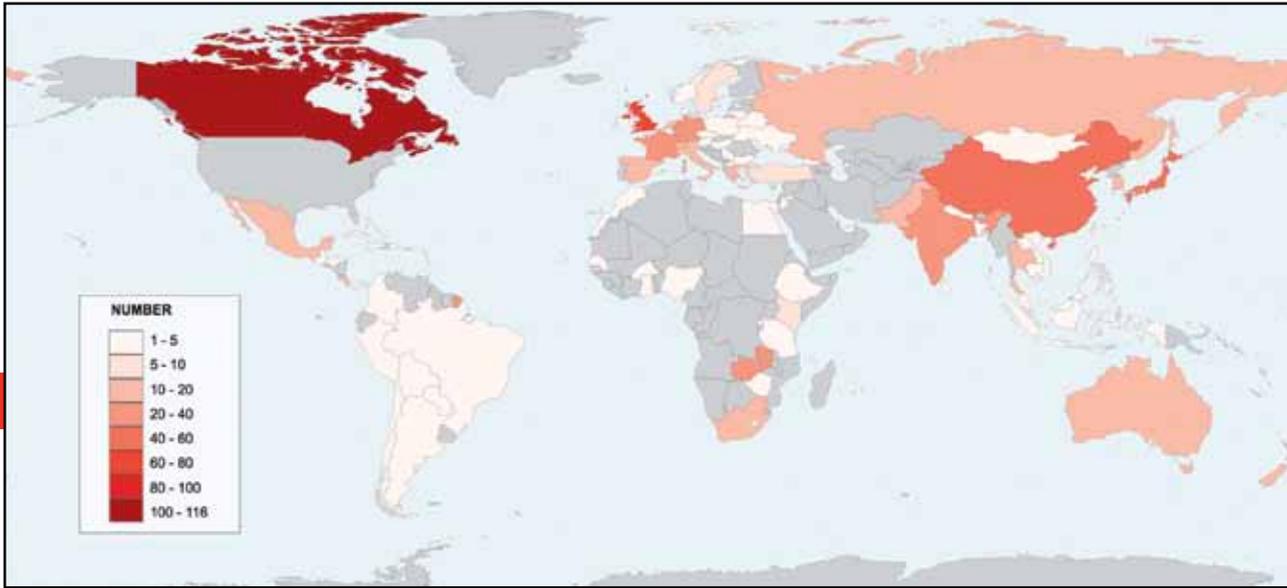
I'm not alone: The College knows of 774 graduates and former students — including 324 foreign nationals — who live abroad. Some of us expect to return to the United States someday; others have left for good. Most temporary expats seem to be drawn abroad by careers. Of the approximately 430 expats who have told the College what they do professionally, more than half are in business (about 120) or are educators (100). Permanent expats often describe a gradual or even accidental process that led to settling outside the United States, followed by a love of place that's kept them there. But all of us have compelling and sometimes highly individual reasons to live where we now do. Here — in order of ascending class years — is a more-or-less random sampling of expats and their reasons for living abroad.

## **An exciting life**

**Carl George '42** graduated early and joined the Marine Corps in January 1942. He spent several years guarding President Roosevelt at what is now Camp David. He ended the war as captain of the marine detachment on the cruiser *Nashville*, which was sent to Shanghai, where George met his future (second) wife, a French woman who had been stranded in China during the war. While there he developed a taste for Asia and expat living.

After his discharge in 1946, George returned home to Chicago, married, and found a job working for Standard

## Where Grinnell expats live



Ben Brewer '11

Expats live in 89 countries, led by Canada (116 Grinnellians) to Britain (70), China, Japan, India, Germany, France, Australia, Russia, South Africa — even (far down the list) Bahrain, Belize, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Laos, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe.

Brands. But soon one of his wife's friends visited from Shanghai and suggested that George come work for his employer in Asia.

"The prospect of working for an American company in the Far East was certainly much more glamorous than working for Standard Brands in Chicago," George says. His wife was also eager to return to Asia. During the next 40 years he also lived in Manila, Singapore, Japan, Germany, France, England, Hawaii and the United States. Today George, 91, lives in England with his third wife.

### Warm weather

**Martha Grodzins Butt '64** is one of nine Grinnellians who live in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. She came on a Grinnell Fifth Year Travel Service Scholarship, a precursor to the Grinnell Corps [See "A World of their Own," page 30] to teach English. There she met and married John Butt in 1965. In the mid-1970s they spent a year in Bangkok, then returned to Thailand in 1986 to work at Payap University, a private Christian university in Chiang Mai. In 1990, while back in Minnesota on assignment with the Presbyterian Church, two back-to-back snowstorms persuaded them to move to Thailand permanently. Now retired, Martha serves as senior adviser to the president for institutional advancement and helps coordinate the Grinnell Corps program at Payap University, Grinnell's partner institution. "Our retirement funds go much further here," she says. "Health care is accessible, excellent, and reasonably priced." In 2004, the Butts invited Martha's mother to live with them in Thailand when she was 94 years old. Martha's mother lived



**Carl George '42** is retired in Lincolnshire, England.

Tom Kerr '81 lives and works in Bangkok; here he's visiting Kathmandu with his sister Ginny.



with them until she was a month short of 98. “She loved her time here even though she had never lived overseas before,” Martha says. “We were able to have wonderful 24-hour care for her at a fraction of the cost of American care, plus she could walk outside year-round and did not have to face the cold, snowy winters of Chicago.”

### The draft

**Doug Super '69** is one of 41 of the 116 Grinnellians who graduated between 1963 and 1971 – the Vietnam War years – now living in Canada. Not all went there to avoid the war. But Super, from Quincy, Ill., found himself in the draft lottery while studying at Grinnell. After graduation, he concentrated on getting into graduate school as quickly as possible. After a year at the University of Washington, he accepted a job at Simon Fraser University near Vancouver. His wife, **Marilyn Miller Super '69**, joined him there, and he remains in touch with two other classmates who moved for similar reasons and remain in Canada. Super says he and Marilyn always intended to return to the United States, but somehow it never happened. “We are very grateful to Canada and Canadian society. We all like it here,” he says.

### A calling

**Tom Kerr '81** was “totally smitten” with India during a six-month trip soon after college and decided to study architecture so he could go to India to help build housing with the poor. He did, from 1990 to 1996. “These were an incredible few years for me, working and living in India,

doing exactly what I wanted to do. Even earning a monthly salary of about \$100 was part of the adventure,” he says. But after a “mysterious kerfuffle” over his Indian visa 15 years ago, he ended up in Thailand.

Now he works in Bangkok for the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a regional network of grass-roots community organizations, NGOs, and professionals involved with urban poor development processes in Asian cities. And he loves it. He lives in “a beautiful Thai-style house in a big, overgrown tropical garden that’s part Josef Conrad and part Addams family – full of snakes and frogs and jasmine and banyan trees,” and doesn’t think much about when, or whether, he’ll move back to the United States.

### A bond

**Mike Borns '82**, an English major, took advantage of the Israeli government’s “right-of-return” policy to take Israeli citizenship and move to the country in 1988 to learn more about Hebrew culture and language. In 1996, Robert Aumann, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 2005, hired Borns to edit his collected papers. Today Borns works as editor at the Center for the Study of Rationality, which Aumann co-founded. He has an Israeli family. “I’ll likely stay put, come what may,” Borns says. “Partly because of the bond I’ve developed with the people and the land. Partly because so much time has passed since I left the United States. I’d feel like a foreigner there.”

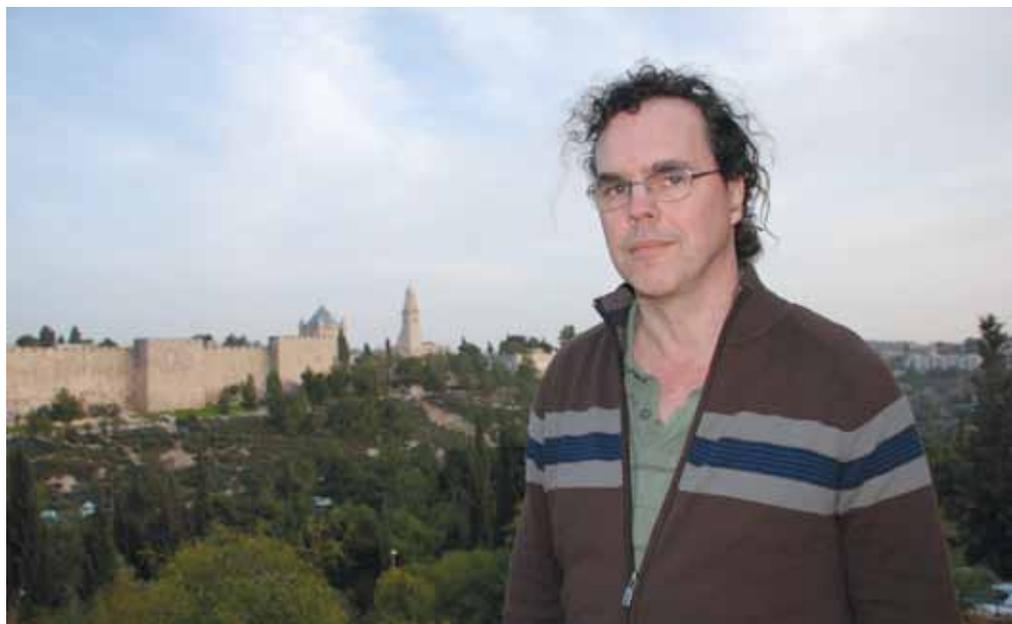


## A great city

**Ann Cody White '82** also majored in English at Grinnell. She took the foreign service exam in the early 1990s, landed in Guangzhou (previously known in the West as Canton), China, with the U.S. State Department, where she was a diplomat doing both consular and economic work there and later at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong. She gave up her foreign service career in 2002 when the state department assigned her to Berne, Switzerland. White says she and her British husband decided they would rather stay in Hong Kong and raise their family there. "Hong Kong is a great city," White says. "It's got a buzz. I can speak the language. We can get anything we really want. Hong Kong, China, and Asia are nonstop stimulating. I love living with diversity. We spend more time on planes than we want, but we just deal with it."

## A family

**Allison Mathews '86** joined the Peace Corps expecting to put her French degree to use in Francophone Africa. Instead, she wound up in Sri Lanka, married a British man, and moved to England. Today they live in Glasgow, Scotland, and have no plans to return to the United States. "I never in my wildest dreams thought I would end up living outside the United States," she writes, adding that that



she does miss "the culture I grew up with and that instant rapport with Americans, and especially Grinnell types. But I'm happy here in the U.K. I'm raising my family here, and we have a lot of fun. I certainly don't think I could adjust to the crazy working hours one is expected to do in the States!"

**Mike Borns '82**  
is an editor in  
Jerusalem.



**Ann Cody White '82,**  
on a hike to an  
abandoned villiage  
in rural Hong Kong.



**Above:**  
**Carl Thelin '90**  
takes a break from  
his work as a film  
producer in Shanghai.

**Right:**  
**Todd Foreman '95,**  
a labor politician,  
campaigning in  
London.

### A career

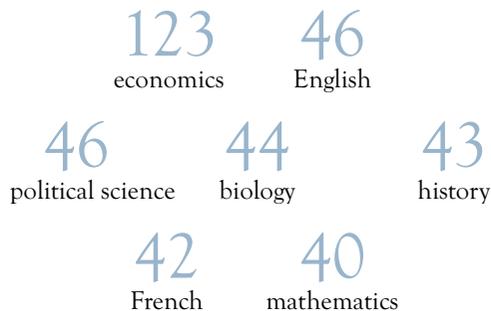
**Mike Harman '87** is president of the Colombia operations of a multinational brewing company and lives in Bogota. Harman's math major and concentration in Russian and eastern European studies opened the door to a decade of work for companies and joint ventures, opening markets in the former Soviet Union. His path to Colombia includes stints in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Poland, and Panama — and Milwaukee, which initially made him nervous. "I started to feel that I may have lost my competitiveness back home, he says. "But when I got back, I

found just the opposite." He says the demands of emerging markets, especially Russia, forced him to extend his knowledge and capability. Harman will soon return to Milwaukee, where his parents live. He says they have reached an age where he wants to be closer to them and that he hopes to recover some of what he calls "quantity time" he missed with family and friends during the 20 years he was abroad. But his boss is already predicting that after a couple of years in the states, Harman will be asking to get back in the field.

### Feeling at home

**Carl Thelin '90** grew up with American parents who both taught at universities in Taiwan. A political science major at Grinnell, he has spent about 17 of his 44 years in the United States, with the rest mainly in Taiwan and China but also Britain and Slovakia. Six years ago, Thelin moved to Shanghai to work on a feature film. The film fell apart, but he made lots of contacts and liked the city, so he stayed. Today he works as an independent film producer/cameraman. "I feel more at home in China or Taiwan than any place I've lived in the U.S.," he says. "Probably 70 percent of my friends and business associates are expats, and I have all the issues that expats face — getting that next visa, dealing with international health insurance, having to travel across the Pacific to see family."

#### Most popular Grinnell expat majors





Leah Kaplan '01, on one of her travels as a development worker in Rwanda.

## Diversity and tolerance

**Todd Foreman '95** moved to London in 2001 and took British citizenship. A self-described left-wing gay man who never fit easily in the small Kansas and Kentucky towns in which he grew up, Foreman fell in love with London while studying there as an undergraduate. He spent a postgraduate year as a Thomas J. Watson fellow studying the Labour parties in New Zealand, Australia and Britain. Now he is a Labour politician who won election to a local council in 2010 and is currently running for a seat in the Greater London Assembly. "In many places it would be remarkable for an immigrant to be successful in politics, but not in London," Foreman says. "I think that I live in the most international city in the world, and the fact that I can get on in politics as an immigrant reflects London's extraordinary diversity and tolerance." "I miss the directness," of Americans, he says, but "I don't miss America's inefficient, overpriced, unfair health-care system and the mistrust of government, collectivism, and foreign ideas that many Americans have." Foreman also mentioned the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act, which makes it very difficult for him to live in the United States with his British husband. "I am certainly not going to live in a country where I would be a second-class citizen," Foreman says, "and where my relationship is not respected by the immigration laws."

## Foreign service

**Leah Kaplan '01** grew up in Denver and majored in political science. Today she works for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kigali, Rwanda. Her career so far has also taken her to Niger (with the Peace Corps after college), Liberia (with a private company), and Afghanistan (with USAID). "I fell in love with development work during Peace Corps and have wanted to be abroad ever since," Kaplan says. "The work is so interesting, and I enjoy learning about new cultures and having unique experiences." In Afghanistan she was embedded with the U.S. military and worked directly with local government leaders. In Rwanda Kaplan works with partner organizations to strengthen civil society, promote peace and reconciliation, and help government and local organizations. She expects to return to the United States at the end of her career abroad. ■

As far as we know, there are no Grinnellians living permanently in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, or Syria. If you do live in one of these countries, drop us a line at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu) and tell us what drew you to your present home and what you're up to there.





# Grinnell's International Students

*Why they're here, what they're learning, and where they're headed*

by Suzanne Kelsey    photos by Ben Brewer '11

Shortly after his arrival at Grinnell, **Shunji Ukai '12**, from Nagoya, Japan, found himself channeling **Joe Rosenfield '25**. Rosenfield's quote, "After I had been at Grinnell for three weeks, I had fallen in love with the place, and you couldn't have driven me out of here with a team of horses," graces the wall outside Spencer Grill.

"I felt exactly the same way," says Ukai, who transferred to Grinnell from Waseda University in Tokyo to study anthropology. "The thinking and writing I encountered here were mind-blowing. Keeping up requires strength, but every uneasy moment is accompanied by a welcoming acceptance by the community. That is what makes me love this place."

Ukai joins a long line of international students who chose Grinnell, beginning with **Emmanuel Von Noorden** from The Hague in 1866. Early international students, including the offspring of missionaries, were drawn by the College's abolitionist roots. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Grinnell's emphasis on Christian ethics and activism as part of the Social Gospel movement attracted students from abroad. **Sen Katayama 1892** from Japan went on from Grinnell to study at Yale University and became the co-founder of the Japan Communist Party in 1922.

Since the late 1990s, Grinnell's international student population has risen from about 5 percent to 12 percent of the student body — higher than most peer institutions and equal to the percentage of students from Iowa. While the College's reputation for social activism remains strong, what currently draws students from other countries is Grinnell's reputation in the sciences, economics, and the liberal arts, says **Jon Edwards**, associate director of admission and coordinator of international admission.

## Honeymoons and Rude Awakenings

The Grinnell adventure begins for new international students with a five-day International Pre-Orientation Program, led by upper-level domestic and international students, as well as International Student Affairs (ISA) staff. During the program, students become familiarized with the campus and town, prepare for the transition to academics, learn about regulatory matters, and meet their



local host families. Then international students merge with domestic students for the five-day New Student Orientation. All then settle into their first semester at Grinnell.

**Raghav Malik '13**, a math and physics major from New Delhi says, "I had red hearts in front of my eyes my entire first semester." He liked that Grinnell students were high achievers but did not prioritize grade-point averages over dining hall debates. He felt carefree, living in such a different environment, and he loved the first snow. "I could not walk from Noyce to my residence hall without being pelted by friends hidden behind trees with stacks of snowballs," he says.

Not all beginnings are so carefree. **Tolu Alabi '13**, a

**Above:**  
**Raghav Malik '13**

**Opposite:**  
**Shunji Ukai '12**



**Left to right:**  
**Tolu Alabi '13**  
**Nadia Hasan '12**  
**Na Chainkua**  
**"Chainky"**  
**Reindorf '14**  
**Chinar Verma '13**

**Bottom center:**  
**Wadzanai Motsi '12**

computer science major from Abuja, Nigeria, knew the food would be different. "I just didn't know it would be *that* different." She yearned for rice and yams from home.

**Nadia Hasan '12** was initially taken aback by the local culture of "niceness." The biochemistry major, born in London and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, recalls asking domestic students, "Why do you apologize when I'm sick? It's not your fault!"

"People interact differently in the United States," says **Wadzanai "Wadzi" Motsi '12**, an international studies major from Zimbabwe. "At home, if you meet someone once, you know them for the rest of your life. Here, you can meet students and they will be nice, but the next day they may not acknowledge you. I struggled with that. And then there were the humid summers and freezing winters. I found myself thinking, 'What did I get myself into?'"

ISA staff members, including **Karen Edwards**, assistant dean and director of ISA (and married to Jon Edwards) help international students acclimate, but much depends on a student's ability to adapt. "Wadzi is very active in the international community and ISO [International Student Organization] cabinet and serves as VP of academic affairs with the Student Government Association," Karen Edwards says. "She is called upon across campus to play leadership roles as a student – not just an international student."

**Na Chainkua "Chainky" Reindorf '14** from Accra, Ghana, initially resisted a fellow Ghanaian's encouragement to get involved in ISO food bazaars and cultural nights. Instead, her breakthrough came in a drawing class.

"Professor of Art **Lee Running** noticed my conservative artistic approach," Reindorf recalls. "She wanted me to be more daring and adventurous, to experiment with chaos." As Reindorf opened up as an artist ("I decided to do faces in chalk pastel – and normally





I didn't *do faces!*"), she also opened up socially. "I live and breathe art. Everything I learn in art affects me. I began to let loose, let go, let everything in. After this I started going out of my way to get involved in events on campus."

### New passions, remarkable paths

Academics Grinnell-style poses challenges for international students who are not accustomed to speaking in class. Those from track systems may have difficulty adjusting to the freedom to make their own course selections. The degree to which sources are cited can be culturally driven. "Some students who excelled as writers in high school get their first D on a paper," Karen Edwards says.

Ukai ate up the participatory style in his classes. "In Japan we study hard in high school in order to enter college," Ukai says. "But once we get in, we get easy As and Bs. Our parents bring us up culturally to have fun in college." He recalls the thrill of being required to initiate discussions in his Humanities 101 class.

"I love the system here," Hasan echoes. "I went to high school in the U.K. Every June we took our exams, but we just studied in May and slacked off the rest of the year. Ongoing assessment was new to me, but I've become disciplined. I wake up at 6:30 a.m., have breakfast, go to class, then track practice. Then I study and I'm in bed by 11 p.m."

For **Chinar Verma '13** from Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, intellectual play has become a way of life. "At home, school stays at school; but here, academic life permeates everything you do," says the biological chemistry major. "Everything becomes a topic of raging discussion – TV shows, movies, songs. We can't read or watch anything without analyzing it. We find we can't switch Grinnell off."

Academic passions sometimes coalesce while studying abroad in a third place. **Kristina Duric '13**, a history



**Left to right:**  
**Kristina Duric '13**  
**Maggie Panova '12**  
**Fatemah Elahi '12**

and political science major from Belgrade, Serbia, took a course on ethnonational conflicts during her study in the Grinnell-in-London program. While there she decided that “this work is what I want to do in my life. Growing up during civil war in Yugoslavia, I witnessed the principles of ethnonational conflict firsthand. I’ve learned that political scientists who deal with this field usually have that kind of personal connection.”

Travel itself can become a passion. **Maggie Panova '12**, an economics major from Sofia, Bulgaria, spent her entire junior year at the London School of Economics. Panova worked with a company in New York City, traveled to Minneapolis to spend Thanksgiving with a fellow Grinnell student, and visited Mexico with another friend. “Many people ask me, ‘Why Iowa, and why did you stay?’” Panova says. “I tell them, ‘Grinnell showed me the world.’”

Some passions are sparked by cocurricular activities. For Ukai, music has been the big surprise. “I had never held an instrument in my hands, but here, they give us every opportunity to play.” With ukulele, violin, or a Latin percussion instrument in tow, he organizes jam sessions outside the dining hall in – where else? – the Joe Rosenfield Center. “When things go right, a groove comes out of nowhere. People thank us for the music as they leave the dining hall.”

### Reluctant teachers, patient ambassadors

At first, the questions can simply be annoying. **Fatemah Elahi '12**, a physics and math major from Iran who wears a traditional hijab, finds herself fielding an occasional “Do you ride around on camels?” – though, she is quick to point out, not from Grinnell students.

Motsi was surprised to have to explain why she could

speak English, but “I’ve learned to graciously answer questions rather than be snarky and say, ‘How do you not know?’”

“It can be hard, because sometimes you don’t want to be the representative for your country,” Verma says. “What if your life is so different from everybody else’s back home? I try to tread carefully and not make broad generalizations about what the majority of people in Tanzania feel.” Hassan agrees. “I tell people I know what life is like for maybe 10 percent of the people in my country. I may not know what it is like for the other 90 percent.”

Elahi’s understanding of Islam has increased because of the curiosity of her peers. “The students’ questions are knowledgeable and they challenge my beliefs. Because of them, I’ve done more research.”

Reindorf also gained a new perspective on her own country when Ghanaian James Kofi Annan, one of Grinnell’s 2011 Social Justice Prize winners, spoke on campus about his seven years as a child slave in the fishing industry. “Coming from the capital city, I wouldn’t say I was ignorant,” Reindorf says, “but it was eye-opening to listen to someone from outside the mainstream middle-class arena.”

Translating Zimbabwe has fanned Motsi’s passion for cultural comparisons. “I’m always interpreting. The topic of currency is always fun; people will say, ‘Wait, you have billion-dollar notes?’ Then I pull out our currency and explain.

“Neither side is perfect,” she adds. “I really try to remind people that there are multiple sides to a coin. I hope that’s the imprint I leave if nothing else.”

### Departure plans

Of last year’s 35 international graduates, 12 are working in the United States, 13 are enrolled in graduate study in the United States, and 10 have left the country to pursue work



States so he can teach in higher education, although he'll first return to Japan to work in a nonacademic environment.

Motsi also plans to head home. Two internships have given her valuable experience for work in African development: one in Chicago with the nonprofit organization Every Child is My Child and the other in Zimbabwe with World Division. "I want to spend my 20s and 30s doing grass-roots work, getting to know people's needs from their perspective, not mine," she says. Later she hopes to work in policy and administration.

Elahi, who will pursue graduate study in physics, plans to visit home this summer after being away for six years, including two years of high school study in Indiana. "I wonder if my ideologies will still be compatible with my parents'," she muses. Says Motsi, "I might not be silent when people express biases against gays and lesbians" after participating in frank discussions on campus about gender and sexuality.

During her freshman year Motsi would not have anticipated defending Iowa four years later. "Because of my host family, I've seen how open and friendly Iowans are. I was asked recently if I'd experienced racism in the U.S., but frankly I haven't, even though Iowa is predominantly white. People are curious, but it's a healthy curiosity — an 'I want to know more about you.' It turns out this was the ideal place for me to go to college." ■

or studies elsewhere. This year's graduates have similarly varied plans.

Panova's internship at a New York insurance company has helped her secure a position in investment strategy analysis in Chicago. Hassan plans to study medicine. Ukai hopes to eventually attend graduate school in the United

**Below:**  
John and  
Karen Edwards

### "We Will Take Care of Him Here"

"As we talk to prospective students, they quickly learn that Grinnell is a welcoming community," says Jon Edwards, who visited 16 countries last year recruiting students. "They want to be a part of that."

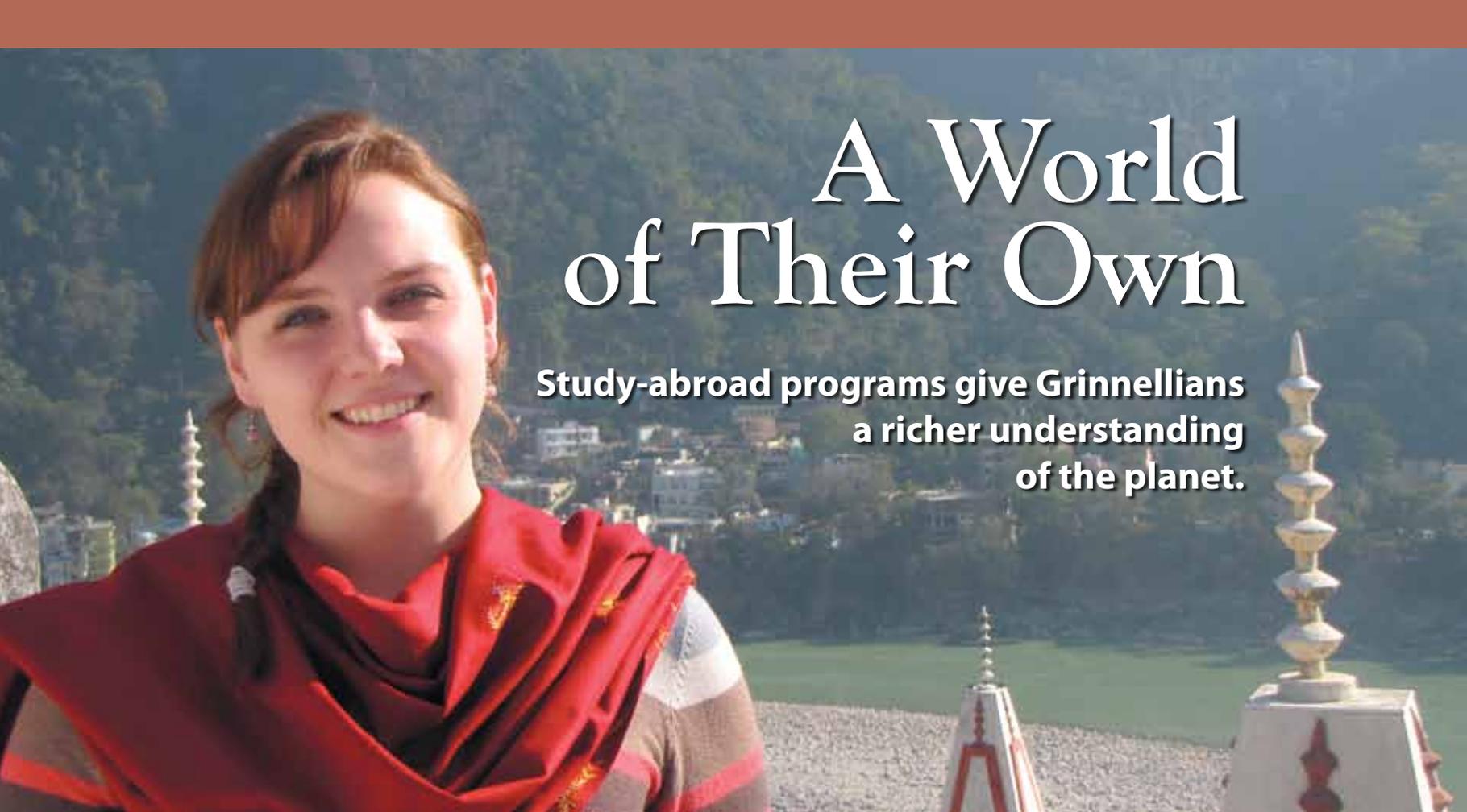
In Grinnell, an entire village has their backs. Assistant dean and director of international student affairs Karen Edwards and her staff welcome, acclimate, and advise students; so do upper-level international and domestic students and community hosts. Abraham Korhman '13, a biology major from Chicago, says "At most colleges, you have to leave campus to see the world. Here, the world comes to Grinnell." Kohrman is inspired by international students. "They've excelled to the extreme in their home countries. They have a great drive and a wealth of knowledge."

David Harrison, director of Grinnell's Center for International Studies and associate professor of French, says "Having a sizable international student population really affects the learning process."

The welcome extends beyond the College. **Karinou Mboka-Boyer '14** has lived all over Europe and Africa because of his father's work in diplomacy. The political science major, whose family is currently based in Swaziland, distinctly remembers his first moments in Grinnell. "Upon our arrival, my father and I noticed there weren't many black people here. I didn't know what to expect. We walked into a coffee shop in town. An older man came up, put his hand around my shoulder, and shook hands with my dad. He told my dad, 'Everything will be okay. We will take care of him here.'"

—Suzanne Kelsey





# A World of Their Own

Study-abroad programs give Grinnellians a richer understanding of the planet.

by Erin Peterson '98

*“The world works dramatically differently in India.”*

— Anna-Lisa Bowans '12

Anna-Lisa Bowans '12 is ambitious and articulate. An economics major and global development studies concentrator from Iowa City, Iowa, she has founded student groups and participates on a range of committees. But when she arrived in Rajasthan, India, in the summer of 2010 for the first of her two off-campus study trips to India, she was lost. “I felt like an infant, because I had to relearn how to do basic things,” she says. “Which hand do you use to eat? How do you cross a street with no crosswalks? How do you wash clothes? The world works dramatically differently in India.”

Cultural contrasts went much deeper than logistical challenges. “The average wage in Kotri Village, where I lived during my internship later that year, was about \$2.65 a day,” she says. “It put faces on, and gave stories to, people we read about in development literature in Grinnell. I drank chai with them, ate meals with them, and talked with them about their everyday lives. Living with people who make a fraction of my hourly wage taught me a lot about what I really need to be happy.”

Spending time in another country can be disorienting. But for the roughly 60 percent of Grinnell students who study off campus, it pries their worldview wide open. Students' travels challenge them to reexamine their beliefs and broaden their perspectives. It helps many of them launch their lives and careers after graduation.

## An interconnected world

Grinnell's study-abroad program has long been robust. Even 20 years ago, the College sent more than half of its students abroad. But increasing connections between countries and cultures makes international experience more important than ever. “International trade is developing apace,” says **Richard Bright**, director of off-campus study. “And understanding political and economic systems outside the United States is critical. It's hard to imagine a career of any consequence that does not have an international dimension.”

As a result, Grinnell has built an immense catalog of off-campus study programs to give students more opportunities than ever. Now, students can choose from 82 programs in 38 countries, including increasingly popular destinations in East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Language majors have always been obvious study-abroad candidates. But many of Grinnell's programs are aimed at students who haven't always had an obvious way to integrate their majors with international travel. A Costa Rica program, for example, offers biology students the chance to do research in a tropical rain forest; a comparative women's and gender studies program explores feminist and queer theory in five European countries.



## Gaining perspective

**Winnon Brunson, Jr. '10**, above, a philosophy major from St. Louis who also completed premed requirements, didn't have to travel abroad. But when he learned about the Medical Practice and Policy Program in Copenhagen, he couldn't pass up the opportunity to combine his interests. His coursework there included classes on health care in Scandinavia from a medical, humanistic, and social science perspective.

## Making It Possible

*Generous aid makes study abroad accessible.*

Grinnell's robust financial aid offerings extend to study-abroad programs as well. Students accepted into one of the 82 Grinnell-approved programs see all of their financial aid transfer to off-campus study — with the exception of work-study aid, which is converted into loans. **Neela Nandyal**, assistant director of off-campus study, says Grinnell is generally more generous than peer schools. Those often transfer aid only for college-run programs (for example, Grinnell-in-London).

"Sometimes, you can't fully understand your own culture until you experience it like an outsider," he says. "Denmark is a socialist country with a representative democracy. It's a deep contrast to U.S. society in politics, education, and lifestyle." He obtained a new perspective on politics: His study-abroad experience coincided with the 2008 U.S. presidential election, and the world's eyes were on the campaign. He says studying abroad "really opened my eyes to the role that the United States plays in global affairs."

Brunson was transformed by what he calls an "essential and life-changing" study-abroad experience. After graduation, he went on to do a Fulbright research project on the strengths and weaknesses of the Danish health-care system. He's now in Australia, where he will soon be attending Australian National University, pursuing a masters of culture, health, and medicine.

Students' travels often prompt them to reevaluate their post-Grinnell plans, says **Tim Dobe**, assistant professor of religious studies and campus adviser to four study-abroad programs in India and Sri Lanka. Even students who don't dramatically reshape their career plans retain an openness and curiosity. "Maybe they'll always look for India in the international section of *The New York Times*, or give a talk about Sikhs at the Kiwanis club, or notice, for the first time, the Ganesh statue on Grinnell's campus," he says.

For many, off-campus study encourages a dive deep into worlds they didn't realize existed. Others learn that they have never really known the world they *have* inhabited. **Corey McIntosh '00** grew up on a farm near Missouri Valley, Iowa, but was never particularly engaged in the family business. A classics major, he was thrilled to spend his junior year in Athens, where he studied the ancient world at the College Year in Athens program while living in the modern city of 3 million. He treasured his time there but missed something. "I found myself wandering around the urban sprawl for hours in search of green space and solitude away from the crush of humanity," he says. "It finally occurred to me that I was seeking what I had left back on the farm — the cool,

*"Sometimes, you can't fully understand your own culture until you experience it like an outsider."*

— **Winnon Brunson Jr. '10**

## What Divisions Do They Come From?

38%

humanities

38%

social sciences

24%

sciences

*Grinnell students studying abroad in the 2009–10 school year*

“My experience  
in India  
consolidated  
my interest  
in education,  
especially for  
women.”

— Kaitlin  
Also from '10

## Internships Abroad

*Grinnell supports students who want to work – not just study – abroad.*

Most students choose to study while they're abroad, but others head overseas to get work experience. According to **Mark Peltz**, associate dean and director of the Career Development Office (CDO), about 20 percent of the students who interned last summer did so abroad. From Ghana to Guatemala and from advertising to agriculture, students tackle a wide range of projects around the world.

The CDO is happy to help: the office provides students with a database of past internships, information about alumni overseas, and details about popular international internship programs.

There are plenty of resources available for those who want to participate in established internships, but Peltz says some of the savviest students create the gigs they want by researching international organizations and pitching themselves as a prospective intern. (Such ingenuity extends to recent graduates as well: See “The Do-It-Herself Watson,” Page 42). “Internships are growing in popularity around the globe, but they are still not as commonplace as they are in the United States,” Peltz says. “We coach students to not only find opportunities, but to *create* opportunities.”

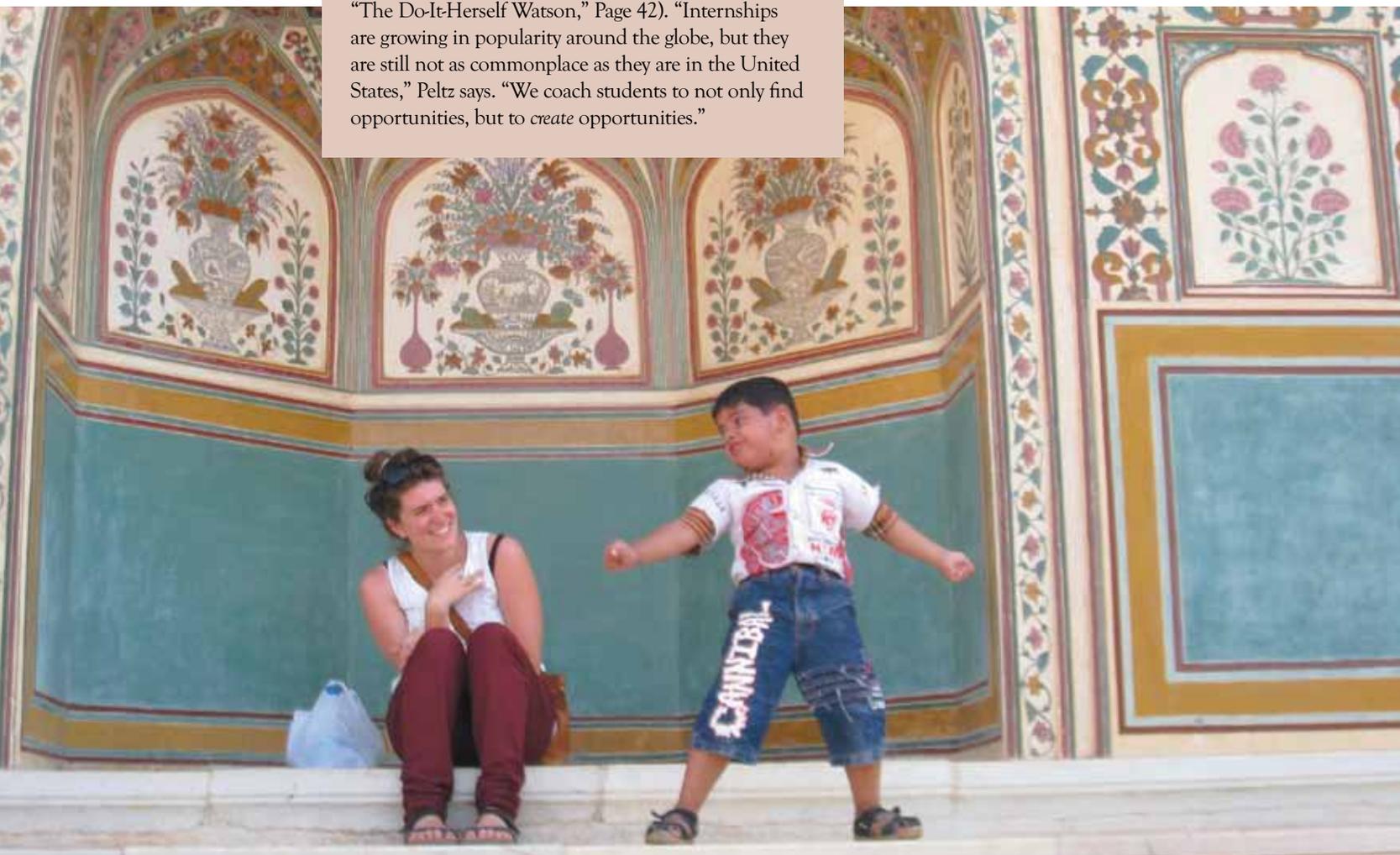
sweet scent of black dirt and the sun sinking below the horizon naturally instead of disappearing behind a concrete building an hour before dusk.”

McIntosh ultimately returned to his family farm and says his time and experiences in his Athens, though enjoyable, were the turning point in his life. He couldn't be happier with his decision.

Students are changed by their off-campus experiences in unexpected and profound ways, says **Neela Nandyal**, assistant director of off-campus study, and few can understand how those changes will affect them beforehand. “Students learn to be independent, and they learn to navigate new social systems,” she says. “Off-campus study is a period of intense emotional growth.”

## Integrating experiences

Students who study abroad often build their experiences into campus life after they return, perhaps by living in language houses or participating in extracurricular activities linked to their time abroad.



Many pursue deeper academic study. For example, some students who studied at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Dehli have continued their academic work on South Asia in Mentored Advanced Projects (MAPs) their senior year with **Tanika Sarkar**, a world-class historian from Nehru who is a visiting professor at Grinnell. Dobe says bringing international professors to campus can “help students close the loop – bring the experience back to Grinnell, so they can do further work.”

MAPs are common. **Kaitlin Alsofrom '10**, *opposite*, studied in India for seven months in 2009; while there she did a case study of elected women representatives in Haryana, which she turned into a MAP when she returned to Grinnell. Her international experience fostered a desire to work in education; she’s now a Teach for America volunteer in Chicago and looks forward to returning to international work in the future.

Bowans, meanwhile, started Hindi Chai Time, a campus group that meets weekly to talk in Hindi about South Asian topics. She’s also helping the off-campus study office seek new ways to reintegrate off-campus study experiences at Grinnell. In the fall, the office organized an off-campus study fair so that recent study-abroad participants could share their perspectives with those who were considering going.

Often, students find their experiences so compelling that they seek ways to return abroad after they leave Grinnell. **Doug Cutchins '93** traveled to Zimbabwe his junior year. The experience gave him “the gumption,” he says, to consider traveling abroad after graduation. He spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Suriname. Now Grinnell College’s director of social commitment, Cutchins helps students find their own postgraduation opportunities abroad.

There are many outside options for such travels, from the Peace Corps to Watson and Fulbright fellowships to the College’s own Grinnell Corps, a remarkable program that offers one-year service opportunities to 10 students in one of four international and two domestic locations. Such postgraduation financial support from a college is rare; Cutchins says it highlights a real commitment to providing international experiences. “It would be easy to tell students just to fill out a Peace Corps application,” he says. “But Grinnell is willing to put real money behind it so that even graduates have these opportunities.”

There are significant long-term benefits for students who study abroad – they gain perspective that will help them in their working lives, they have a clearer understanding of their own culture and values, and they often discover independence and self-knowledge that helps them succeed. “A great study-abroad experience is more than just a few stories and some cool pictures,” Dobe says. “It raises students’ consciousness of their interconnection globally, politically, socially, and culturally. And it remains with them for the rest of their lives.” ■

## America from Abroad

*What does it feel like when studying abroad takes you to the United States?*



Photo by Ben Brewer '11

**Wendy Ren '13** thought she knew what to expect when she arrived in Grinnell. After all, the Nanjing, China, native had been visiting U.S. cities such as New York since third grade.

“I thought every part of the United States was like New York or California,” she recalls. “But Grinnell was different. Nobody was on the street. I didn’t think

there was anything to do. I thought about hopping on a plane to go back home.”

She resisted the urge, and soon she felt at home in Grinnell. She made friends with both international and U.S. students and challenged herself in tough classes, including a demanding tutorial with **George Drake**, former Grinnell president and history professor emeritus. She even joined the belly-dancing club.

So when she decided to do the Grinnell-in-Washington off-campus study program, she expected to return to more familiar territory. But she soon discovered that the College and the capitol were worlds apart.

While there, she had a four-day-a-week internship with the Environmental Law Institute and three four-credit classes. She was able to handle the academic component, but she found the internship to be surprisingly challenging. “Working in an office eight hours a day is exhausting,” she admits. “You have to like the work very much, and be truly committed.” She also found professional dress to be jarring after years of Grinnell’s casual attire.

And although Iowa offered its own political crucible during the Republican caucuses, Washington was a different experience entirely. “People constantly talk about politics in D.C.,” she says. “Reading the newspaper every day was crucial.”

Grinnell and Washington, D.C., may both be deeply American, but Ren now has a much richer understanding of America. “I have truly broadened my horizons,” she says.

## Where Do Students Go for Their Study-Abroad Experience?

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Africa

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Australia

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East Asia

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South Asia

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Grinnell-in-London

795

Europe and Russia

232

Latin America and the Caribbean

35

Middle East

*Students studying abroad from Fall 2000 through Spring 2010*

## Newspaper Excerpt

# “American Bill”



**William Parsons '62** had a brief, unsought, but locally legendary career as a basketball star in the Polish leagues while an exchange student in Cracow, Poland, in 1960–61. A history major who went on to teach history and Russian studies at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., for 40 years, Parsons recently sent us a clipping of an article by writer Marek Bartosik in the July 1, 2011 edition of

*Polska Gazeta Krakowska, a Cracow daily newspaper. Parsons writes, “I have not always translated literally the Polish text, either because the interviewer had misunderstood what I had said, or because it was necessary to add a bit of further information so that readers in English would understand. Marek the interviewer actually made me sound better in Polish than I am. I had to look up one or two words in Polish from my quotes so that I would know what I said.” In addition, we’ve edited the piece for style and to fit this space, but hope it retains much of its original charm. The clipping photo captions read: “William Parsons on the main square in Krakow in 1961” and “William today.” And for clarification, it’s usually Cracow in English; Krakow in Poland. The basketball team was called Cracovia.*

## AMERICAN BILL IS AGAIN IN KRAKOW

After 50 years, William Parsons, the first American to play basketball in the Polish leagues, returns to visit Krakow. The basketball players of the then second-division Cracovia team were able to win easily with him on the team, writes Marek Bartosik.

### If he’s American, he must play

A half-century ago, American basketball was the absolute model for all. From time to time university teams came to our country from the United States. They defeated our best teams with grace and without mercy. To have an American in the lineup was a prospect that one could only dream about.

“When we learned that an American was in Krakow, we were certain that he must play basketball. And it soon became clear that Bill was technically one of the best on our team,” said Richard Niemiec, at that time a basketball player for Cracovia.

In the year 1960–61, they won their matches easily, sometimes scoring more than 100 points, even before the advent of the three-point shot. The American frequently scored in double figures.

Bill was then a student at a small private college named Grinnell in the state of Iowa. Why venture behind the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War?

“I was studying Russian,” William Parsons said. “The USSR had just sent the first sputnik into orbit; and when I was in Krakow, Gagarin made his first flight into space. That inspired the imagination. I had read a little about World War II and the role of Poland in the events of the war, and I had studied the relations between Russia and Poland over the years.”

In Krakow he studied with Professor Henryk Wereszycki, a prominent specialist of 19th-century Polish history and the history of diplomacy.

“When I arrived in Poland, my luggage weighed 44 pounds. When I left I had 350 pounds, mainly books,” Parsons said with a smile.

He spent his time mostly in the university library. “In the beginning, to read one page of Polish text, it took one hour.”

“I spent only one academic year here, but if I hadn’t had this experience, I may not have received a scholarship to study at Harvard University,” he recalled. “And I might not have married a third-generation Polish girl.”

He returned 45 years later because he wanted to visit with his old Cracovia teammates, whom he found through the Internet, to once again see where the team played, and to hear the Mahler symphonies in the Church of Saint Katherine.

Before that he spent two years at Harvard University and two years at Indiana University. Then he moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where he taught Russian history and 20th-century world history at Eckerd, a small liberal arts college where his wife also taught Russian.

### Historian and negotiator

He is president of an organization in St. Petersburg that organizes an annual international folk festival. He also acts as a mediator in conflicts between the local Poles and Russians, partly because he is neither Pole nor Russian, but knows well their histories and cultural backgrounds and can communicate in their native languages.

And basketball? When he arrived in Krakow from Iowa, he was a starter for Grinnell College. When he returned he was only the sixth man on the team, but Grinnell ended first in its division.

And this year he took several refresher lessons in Polish, so that he could talk with his colleagues from the Cracovia team and recall that small but unforgettable adventure in Krakow on the Vistula River.

Have you experienced unexpected fame or notoriety while studying abroad as a Grinnell student? If so, we’d love to hear your story. Email us at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

## Submit your Classnotes to:

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### Deadlines

Summer 2012 issue: April 13, 2012

Fall 2012 issue: July 13, 2012

Winter 2012 issue: Oct. 19, 2012

# CLASSNOTES

## 1949

**Coolidge S. Wakai** was honored as a Japanese-American World War II veteran with a parade in Honolulu, Dec. 17, 2011. The parade honored members of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and the military service.

## 1959

**Robert J. Grindey** was inducted into the University of South Florida Athletics Hall of Fame, November 2011 in Tampa, Fla. He was the head coach of men's swimming from 1965 to 1978.

**Kay Borrett Nelson** and her husband, Jerry C. Nelson, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 23, 2011.

## 1960

Thomas Conner interviewed **Herbie J. Hancock** in the article, "Jazz great Herbie Hancock and the joys of machine music," *Chicago Sun-Times*, Oct. 20, 2011.

## 1962 50th Reunion

**Ann Hamilton Campbell**, mayor of Ames, Iowa, attended the general holiday reception at the White House with her son, Brian, Dec. 6, 2011.

## 1963

An article about **Ronald K. Goodenow '63**, "Goodenow on track with charity work," tracks his involvement with the North and Westborough Rotary Clubs; their charity, the Global Emergency Medicine Initiative; and his hobbies in photography and railroad riding, *Community Advocate Online*, Nov. 18, 2011.

**Craig E. McManus** and his wife Charlotte celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, February 2011.

**James B. Soble** joined the law firm of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart P.A. as a shareholder, opening a new office for the firm in Tampa, Fla., January 2012. He also chaired a program at the International Council of Shopping Centers 2011 Law Conference, fall 2011.

## 1965

**Peter D. Wallace** received a 2011 Iowa Hospital Heroes award from the Iowa Hospital Association at its 82nd annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, October 2011.

## 1969

**Peggy Barlett**, Goodrich C. White Professor of Anthropology at Emory University, Atlanta, received the inaugural Faculty Sustainability Leadership Award, which recognizes a faculty member who has championed

sustainability education and has demonstrated significant impact on individuals and on the field in general, from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, October 2011.



## Robert C. Mack '66

Preservation architect **Robert C. Mack**, above left, in yellow shirt, and his firm McDonald and Mack Architects Ltd. won the American Institute of Architects-Minnesota 2011 Firm Award on Dec. 2, 2011. He says: "What we do isn't flashy, but the fundamental joy of poking around old buildings and trying to understand their cultural and architectural history has never waned, nor has that thrill of ... figuring out how to make them viable for modern life. We're equal parts architects, detectives, and storytellers."

## Their Place in the World

*A Grinnellian couple made a second career of serving and volunteering abroad.*

When **Ed Fox '39** took over his father's Des Moines, Iowa, livestock and poultry feed business shortly after he graduated from Grinnell College, the weighty responsibility could have tethered him to Iowa. Instead, the business launched a second career that took him and his wife, **Carol "Bobby" Sampson Fox '37**, to Indonesia, the Philippines, and beyond.

Ed Fox majored in chemistry and zoology and planned to become a doctor. But when his father became ill during his senior year at Grinnell, he turned his attention to the economics classes that would help him lead his father's company after he tossed his cap at graduation.

Ed Fox built a thriving business and he and Bobby raised a family, including daughter **Susan Fox McKnight '62** (married to **William P. McKnight '62**), son **Stephen E. Fox '65** (married to **Maurine King Fox '65**), and granddaughter **Carol McKnight '89**.

When Ed decided to sell his business in the early 1960s, **Frank Furbush '32** asked the Foxes if they'd be interested in going overseas — the U.S. State Department was looking for people like Ed for their work. "There were people on the [U.S.] Council of Economic Advisers who suggested to President Kennedy that he ought to get some businessmen

to run the USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] program," Ed recalls.

Ed and Bobby were intrigued by the idea of working for an organization that provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide. A few interviews later, they were told to pack their bags: Ed Fox was to be USAID's mission director for Indonesia.

He became an integral part of a team of about 800 people developing new universities in Indonesia, from agriculture schools to medical schools. Bobby Fox taught English to top Indonesian students.

As Americans, the Foxes weren't always greeted warmly wherever they went, but Bobby Fox says that once people got to know them, that changed. "I had a student who said, 'I owe you an apology,'" she says. "He said, 'In my heart, I thought you had to be arrogant, because you came from the United States. But I realized you weren't.'"

Their stint in Indonesia was only the beginning of a peripatetic life — one that took them to Thailand, Washington, D.C., the Philippines, and back to Indonesia. During their travels, they were most surprised by the similarities among people. "Traveling makes you see how small the



### Karen (Chana) Wilson '73

*Riding Fury Home* by **Karen (Chana) Wilson** is a budding feminist's view of life during the consciousness-raising early '70s. Two of the book's chapters chronicle an academic year at the College and her participation in the freedom school during the summer of 1970. Wilson is a California writer and psychotherapist. Seal Press, Berkeley, Calif., April 2012.

### 1973 40th Reunion Cluster

**Don F. Dagenais** received the Virtuoso Award for his volunteer support of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Kansas City Star*, January 2012. He is senior real estate attorney at Lathrop & Gage, Kansas City, Mo.

**Ron R. Medvin** was chosen as one of 60 members of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, to sing in a concert with Andrea Bocelli, an Italian tenor, multi-instrumentalist and classical crossover artist, at the *St. Petersburg Times* Forum, Tampa, Fla., December 2011.

**Barry H. Zigas** was appointed to the Bipartisan Policy Center's Housing Commission Washington, D.C., December 2011. The commission will draft policy recommendations that will address future housing needs of an increasingly diverse American society.

### 1974

**Amanda L. Golbeck** was honored as a 2011 Fellow of the American Statistical Association at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings, Miami Beach, Fla., August 2010. She was also elected to a member of the International Statistical Institute and is current past president of the Caucus for Women in Statistics.

### 1975

**Scott F. Mason** performed with jazz vocalist Greta Pope and her ensemble at Benny's Chop House in Chicago on New Year's Eve. Mason played bass with many other well-known jazz musicians.

### 1976

**Deborah E. Hadas** was one of three Minnesota teachers selected to receive the 2011 Harold B. Allen Award from Minnesota Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages at its fall conference, November 2011.

### 1980

**Nora J. Mann**, Massachusetts assistant attorney general, joined the board of directors of On the Rise Inc., a nonprofit day program for homeless women, December 2011.

**F. Hudson Miller** was elected to the board of directors of the Motion Picture Editors Guild at its annual installation dinner, Santa Monica, Calif., January 2012.

### Billy Strean '86

**Billy Strean**, professor of physical education and recreation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, was honored as a 2011 3M National Teaching Fellow for exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities. Strean's letter of thanks to **Jonathan Andelson**, professor of anthropology, is featured in the National Teaching Fellow's 2012 ad campaign in the Canadian news magazine *Globe & Mail*.

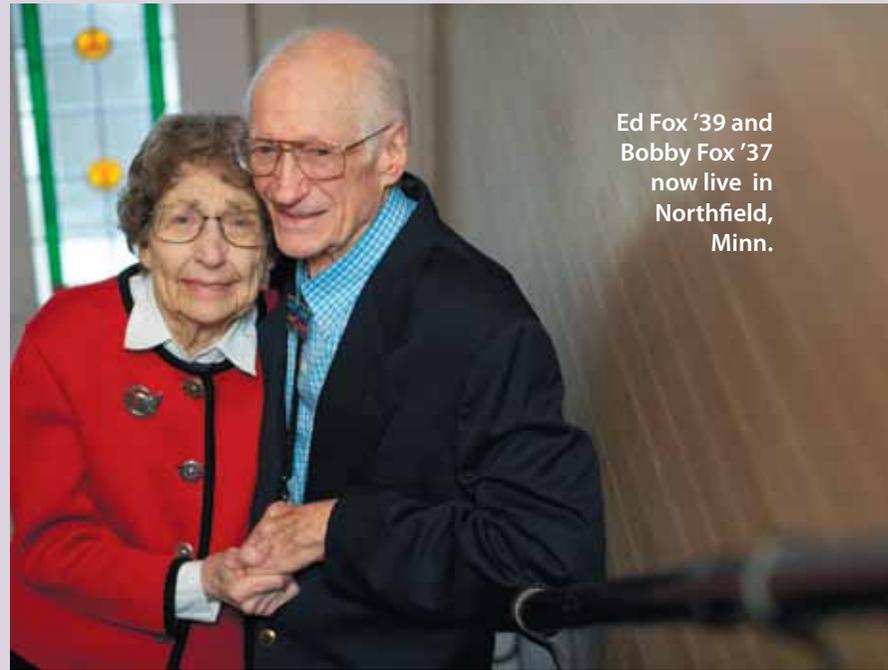


world is, and it helps you understand that people are the same the world over,” Bobby Fox says. “We all have our strengths and frailties. Getting to know other cultures helped us realize that the United States is not the only country in the world that has a good system.”

After Ed Fox retired in 1983, they continued to explore the world. He joined volunteer organizations such as the International Executive Service Corps and worked with businesses in Kuwait, Egypt, and Zambia that needed management and technology assistance. For him, the appeal was making a real difference in the lives of those who could truly benefit. “I felt I could be successful working with other countries,” he says.

Now that they’re both in their 90s, the Foxes no longer travel internationally. But since settling down in Northfield, Minn., home of Carleton College and St. Olaf College, they continue their cultural and intellectual journey. “Both colleges offer many free, public lectures and concerts, so we take advantage of them,” Bobby says. They know that no matter where you are, there’s always room to expand your horizons.

—Erin Peterson '98



Ed Fox '39 and Bobby Fox '37 now live in Northfield, Minn.

## 1981

**Rod G. Sinks** was elected to the Cupertino, Calif., City Council, November 2011. Rod also sits on the board of directors of Bay Area for Clean Environment, a nonprofit organization that encouraged him to become involved in the council race.

## 1982

**Teresa C. de Groh** received a medal of merit as a hometown hero from Jackson, Wyo., Mayor Mark Barron, December 2011. De Groh and several others were credited for saving the life of a man in cardiac arrest.

## 1983

**Anne R. Richards** was appointed university ombuds at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga., 2011. She is associate professor of English there.

## 1984

**David W. Piston** was named Louise B. McGavock Chair in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., November 2011. He continues to serve as the director of the systems biology program.

**Larry S. Sasaki** was named president of the International College of Surgeons, U.S. section, January 2012. He was appointed advisory chairman of the CHINA Laparoscopic Colectomy Work Group, September 2010. He is in private surgical practice in Shreveport, La., and was clinical assistant professor of surgery at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine at Shreveport.

## 1986

**Nori Wood Jabba** was named Business Woman of the Year for 2011 by the Redwood City, San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, February 2012. She joined DMB Associates, real estate developer of master-planned communities throughout the western United States, in 2006, and is director of community affairs for the Redwood City Saltworks project, a 1,400-acre mixed-use development proposal.

## 1987 25th Reunion

**Eugenia M. Corrales** was named chief executive officer of Nanosolar Inc., which prints solar cells and assembles solar panels, San Jose, Calif., January 2012. She had been Nanosolar’s executive vice president of engineering and operations.

## 1989

**Sarah Clatanoff Williams** was named 2011 National Distinguished Elementary Principal from Nebraska by the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals; she represented Nebraska at awards ceremonies in Washington, D.C., October 2012. She has been an elementary principal at McAndrew Elementary school in Ainsworth, Neb., for 18 years.

## 1991 20th Reunion Cluster

**Theodore R. Bromund** was featured in *The Heritage Foundation.org*, December 2011. He studies and writes on British foreign and security policies and Anglo-American relations as senior research fellow at the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, Washington, D.C.

## Dave Loewenstein '88

Dave Loewenstein had posters he designed for the Occupy Wall Street movement featured in *The Washington Post* Dec. 6, 2011. A muralist, writer, and printmaker based in Lawrence, Kan., Loewenstein says, “I want to create a visual language that can support and articulate ideas that are hard to articulate in words. The posters each take a piece of the movement, articulate the purpose and the ideas behind it, and carry them forward.” To see more examples of his posters and those of others: <http://occuprint.org>.





Vikki Reich '92

## Alumni Magazines Should Come with Antidepressants

*A Classnotes-inspired blog entry*

Sometimes, we take stock of our lives and end up asking questions like, “Could I be doing more with my life?” “Why did I squander all of my promise?” “Who in the hell have I become?” and “Is that cheese on my sweatshirt?” For many, conversations with our parents are the impetus for such probing self-reflection. For others, it’s our college’s alumni magazine.

I went to Grinnell College in Iowa. Despite being a tiny liberal arts college in the middle of a cornfield, it churns out overachievers at an alarming rate. Four times per year, *The Grinnell Magazine* arrives at my home and I get to read all about the marvelous accomplishments of my fellow Grinnell graduates.

Here are a few examples that will help give you a feel for the alumni class notes:

**Raven Greenpeace (class of 1974):** Raven recently built her own home made entirely of beetle dung. She is now teaching migrant farm workers to build beetle dung homes in urban environments to address issues of homelessness and sustainability. For this work, Raven received



Maureen Ness Colburn '95

Maureen Ness Colburn is a 2011 AIA-Minnesota Young Architects Award winner for exceptional leadership in service to her profession. Colburn helped found the Architecture for Humanity Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, a group that provides pro bono design solutions to humanitarian crises locally and worldwide. The application jury wrote: “Maureen has pushed an environmental agenda and taken a role of sustainability in every facet of her career.”

### 1993 20th Reunion Cluster

**Lari R. Gibbons** was promoted to director of Print Research Institute of North Texas at the University of North Texas, Denton. She also received an honorable mention at the 2011 Adobe Design Achievement Awards in Taipei, Taiwan, October 2011.

**Matthew P. Landahl** received the University of Virginia Curry School of Education Foundation’s 2011 Outstanding Principal of the Year award, October 2011. He is enrolled in the Curry School’s doctoral program in administration and supervision.

### 1994

“Luciano: All that matters,” a column by Phil Luciano about **Daurice Coaster Figgers**, discusses Figgers’ life since leaving Grinnell and her perseverance in creating a simple and loving home for her family, *pjstar.com*, powered by the *Journal Star*, Peoria, Ill., Nov. 23, 2011.

**Angela I. Onwuachi-Willig** was installed as the Charles and Marion Kierscht Professor of Law, University of Iowa Law School, Iowa City, November 2011. She joined the Iowa law faculty in 2006.

### 1996

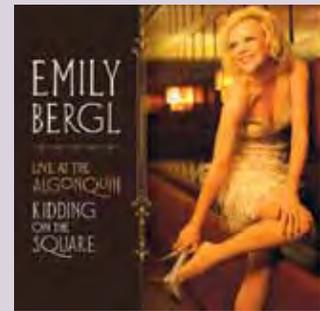
**Nichole Miras Mordini** was elected shareholder at the Davis Brown Law Firm, Des Moines, Iowa, December 2011. She joined the litigation division of the firm in 2008 in the areas of immigration, including removal/deportation, criminal law, and family law.

### 1997

**David M. Groppe** accepted a position as a postdoctoral researcher at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System’s Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Manhasset, N.Y., July 2011.

### 1998

“Helping in Haiti” is an article that discusses **Melissa C. Booker’s** recent experience in Haiti: her involvement with Habitat for Humanity, the \$5,000 she raised in contributions, and her work with other volunteers and President Carter, as well as the ongoing effort to restore Haiti, *Fairfax Station - Clifton Connection*, Fairfax, Va., Nov. 30, 2011.



Emily Bergl '97

**Emily Bergl** has a new album, *Emily Bergl Live at the Algonquin: Kidding on the Square*, featuring tunes from the cabaret show featured in the Summer 2011 issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*. She will be playing New York’s historic Cafe Carlyle May 1–12 and the Smith Center, June 8–9 in Las Vegas. Her new show is titled “NY, I Love You.” The album was released December 2011 by On the Square Productions. For more information: [www.emilybergl.net](http://www.emilybergl.net).

the Humanitarian Heroism award and was invited to garden with Michelle Obama.

**Elizabeth Armstrong (class of 1937):** Elizabeth, age 92, recently competed in her first Uber Triathlon. The event required participants to bike 100 miles uphill into a headwind, swim 10 miles across shark-infested waters and run 50 miles dragging a sled of cement blocks. She came in second place. First place went to Grinnell alumna Jamie Summers (class of 1986).

**Jacques Dupree (formerly Jack Smith, class of 1992):** Jacques recently debuted his one-man show in which he performs an original operatic composition while painting a cubist mural that explores themes of existential crises and the redemption of the human spirit. The show has received critical acclaim and he just signed a multimillion-dollar deal to write a book about his experience.

I want to start the *Alternative Grinnell Magazine* to showcase gems like these:

**Robert McMoneybags (class of 1983):** Robert recently partnered

with British Petroleum on a new product line of baby formula made from crude oil pulled from the reserves in pristine Alaska. With the money made from the deal, Robert built a new mansion featuring wall-to-wall polar bear carpeting.

**William Gadabout (class of 1969):** William recently divorced. Again. Ever the optimist, he is looking for wife number nine. Feel free to contact him through the Office of Alumni Affairs.

**Vikki Reich (class of '92):** On January 2, 2012, Vikki put on pants. Then, she blogged.

By **Vikki Reich '92**, a bored social worker by day and a mom/writer/pop culture junkie by night. This piece first appeared as a blog entry at *Aiming Low* ([aiminglow.com](http://aiminglow.com)). She writes about GLBT issues and parenting at her personal blog *Up Popped A Fox* ([uppoppedafox.com](http://uppoppedafox.com)) and her writing has also appeared at *Grace the Spot* ([gracethespot.com](http://gracethespot.com)) and *Autostraddle* ([www.autostraddle.com](http://www.autostraddle.com)). She has an inexplicable fascination with marshmallow Peeps and has used them to make two "films."

## 1999

**Petar M. Klaetsch** accepted an associate position with Sussman Shank LLP, Portland, Ore., December 2011, following his 2010 experience as a summer associate at the firm.

## 2004

**Sarah B. Labowitz** was chosen as one of Forbes' 30 under 30, *Forbes Online*, December 2011.

## 2005

**Elvis Bakaitis** has entered the master's program in library science at Queens College, Flushing, N.Y. He is also working on an educational series of comics about queer history.

**Rachael "Roxi" Copland** talks about her recent move to Vancouver, B.C.; her involvement in the Des Moines, Iowa, music scene; and the upcoming release of her first full length album, in "Aberdeen to Des Moines to Vancouver: The continuing journey of Roxi Copland," *examiner.com*, Nov. 11, 2011.

## 2007

**Daren W. Daniels** was admitted to the Massachusetts bar, November 2011. He is an environmental law student at George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C. He will participate in the honors law internship program at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., spring 2012.



### J.R. Osborn '97

**J.R. Osborn** recently edited and produced the documentary feature film *Glitter Dust: Finding Art in Dubai*. It merges animation and video to explore artistic creation in a city that combines artificiality (indoor ski slopes in the desert!) with brutal reality (massive unemployment!). Osborn taught Visual Communications at American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; he now teaches media production at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. For more information: [glitterdustfilm.com](http://glitterdustfilm.com).



### Ruth Homrighaus '98

"Writing romance [is] the ultimate combination of work-play for me," says **Ruth Homrighaus**, who publishes under the *nom de plume* Ruthie Knox. Her debut romance novel, *Ride with Me*, was released in February 2012 by Loveswept Publishing, Random House Digital, as an e-book. "If you like your heroines sassy, your heroes tortured, and your endings happy, you're in the right place," Homrighaus says about her book.



**Amy Moore Broadmoore '99 and her son, Jack Broadmoore.**

## Book Giving Day

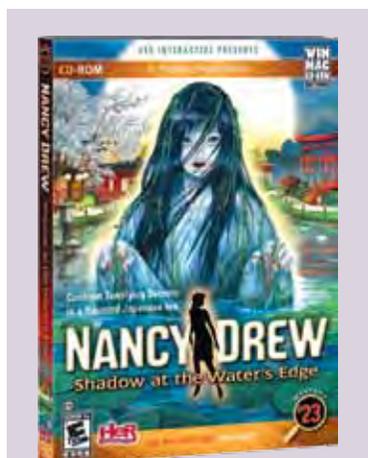
*Creating a successful international charitable event – in 10 days flat*

Last year, Jack Broadmoore, 6-year-old son of **Amy Moore Broadmoore '99**, invented a new holiday: Book Giving Day. And then what began as a Broadmoore family holiday spread to Australia, Canada, South Africa, France, India, Ireland, Japan, the Phillippines, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Jack, sad that Christmas was over, wanted an exciting holiday to celebrate in mid-February. “I told him there was already a holiday there, but to Jack, an avid book lover, Book Giving Day totally trumped Valentine’s Day,” Broadmoore says.

Then, she was in a Great Clips waiting room, “reading a horrendously bad book to my kids for the umpteenth time, when I thought, ‘This is a missed opportunity,’” recalls Broadmoore, a former air-quality program director for the Iowa Environmental Council and now a full-time mom of three children ages 2, 4, and 7. “Waiting room books must be the most-read books on the planet. What if Jack’s Book Giving Day became a holiday where people around the world secretly left *good* children’s books in waiting rooms?”

So on Feb. 4, 2012, Amy wrote a post on her children’s book blog



### Cathy Roiter '98

**Cathy Roiter** designs video games for Her Interactive, a company that creates games for girls of all ages – or anyone who enjoys Nancy Drew. “Nancy Drew: Shadow at the Water’s Edge” is a game set in Japan; players solve the mystery of a vengeful ghost. Roiter likes to educate as she entertains. “[I] sneak in math puzzles,” she says. “Anytime a player plays a game, if they haven’t learned something directly or indirectly, I didn’t do my job.”

### 2008

**Nathan A. Lindsey** took first place at the International Moot Court competition in information technology and privacy law, with teammate Christopher Omlid and coach Pamela Keller, representing the University of Kansas Law School at the competition at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, October 2011.

### Degrees

**Sarah M. Clatanoff Williams '89**, an education specialist degree, Wayne State College, Wayne, Neb., August 2011.

**Matthew E. Feurer '95**, M.D., Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, May 2011.

**Pascale E. Fisher '96**, M.A. in nursing, University of California, San Francisco, December 2010.

**Alina M. Borger-Germann '99**, M.A. in creative writing with honors, Regis University, Denver, August 2011.

**Brian K. Crabtree '05**, M.D., Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel, 2011. He is in his first year of internal medicine residency at Maine Medical Center, Portland.

**Lauren K. Dickinson '06**, M.A. in educational policy and administration with a focus on international and intercultural education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, January 2012. She is program manager for short-term study-abroad programs at the Carlson School of Management at the university.

**Michele A. Goad '07**, M.B.A., University of New Haven, West Haven, Conn., July 2011.

**Leah D. Krandel '09**, M.S.W., Tulane School of Social Work, New Orleans, December 2011. She received the Leanne Joy Knot Memorial Scholarship Award from the school.

**Erika M. Graham '10**, M.A. with distinction in medieval studies, University of York, England, September 2011.

### Marriages and Unions

*If you'd like information about holding a wedding or other celebration on the Grinnell campus, please call 641-269-3178.*

**Gail A. Piersen '90** and William Adler, Sept. 24, 2011. Attending: parents *Margery Hendrick Piersen '63* and *Joseph F. Piersen '62*, *Amy E. Bleyle '90*, *Kathryn M. Mardis '90*,



### James Dinnerville '01

**James Dinnerville** explores how store window mannequins can cross the line from advertising to folk art in his solo photography exhibition *Non People* at the Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, April 2–30, 2012. [www.beverlyartcenter.org](http://www.beverlyartcenter.org)

“Delightful Children’s Books” ([delightfulchildrensbooks.com](http://delightfulchildrensbooks.com)) about Jack’s idea. (Jack has his own children’s book blog: “Jack’s Spot” at [jackspot.wordpress.com](http://jackspot.wordpress.com).) She invited people from around the world to celebrate International Book Giving Day on Feb. 14 by giving a new, used, or borrowed book to a child for Valentine’s Day, donating children’s books to a good cause, or leaving a good book in a waiting room for children to read. “The idea was to get new, used, and borrowed books in the hands of as many kids as possible,” Broadmoore says.

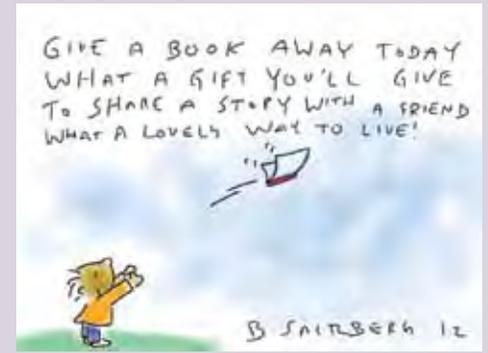
Broadmoore worked with nonprofits such as Book Aid International, Pratham Books, Pelican Post, and The Book Bus and with her fellow book bloggers internationally to invite readers to participate. The word spread further via email, Facebook, and Twitter.

In just 10 days, the idea went viral. Authors worldwide – including Judy Blume, Tomi Ungerer, Todd Parr, Clara Vulliamy, Katrina Germein, Viviane Schwarz, Barney Saltzberg, and others – lent support. Three author/illustrators created International Book Giving Day bookplates, two wrote poems, and one designed a banner for International Book Giving Day’s website.

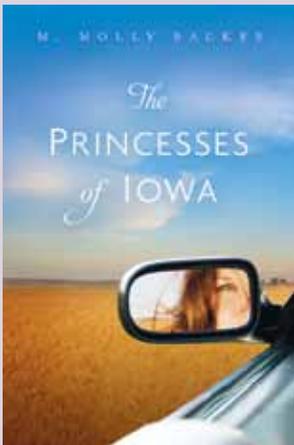
Public participation was equally broad. Teachers in Turkey organized classroom book exchanges. A South African family gave books to a school in Lesotho and invited others to help create a school library there. People gave books to children, grandchildren, and friends and donated books to after-school programs, libraries, women’s shelters, classrooms, doctors’ offices, and more.

“I hope International Book Giving Day becomes both a day of giving and a day to support and connect nonprofit organizations working internationally to ensure that all kids have access to books,” Broadmoore says.

For more information: [bookgivingday.blogspot.com](http://bookgivingday.blogspot.com)



Poem and illustration courtesy of Barney Saltzberg



### M. Molly Backes '02

*The Princesses of Iowa*, by M. Molly Backes, is a young adult novel in which a high school “It girl” finds her perfect life turned upside down in the wake of an accident. Now she must choose between living the privileged life of a princess, or owning up to her mistakes and relinquishing everything she once held dear. Backes’ literary agent is **Becca Stumpf '04** at Prospect Agency in New York. Candlewick Press, May 2012.

Thomas G. Wickersham '90, Irene P. Faass '91, Paul B. Kirby '91, Michael J. Andrade '92, Melanie S. Drake '92, and Journey E. Gosselin '92.

**Mark B. Pilder '91** and Jennifer Bluish, Oct. 31, 2011.

**Neal A. Hines '93** and Carla L. Merkow, July 20, 2011. Attending: Eric S. Carlstedt '91, Irene P. Faass '91, Journey E. Gosselin '92, S. Kristyne Robison '92, Joseph E. Zimsen '92, Toby P. Holmes '93, Nathaniel F. Reid '93, Marian Saksena Hatch '93, William J. Zuercher '93, Louis A. Madsen '94, Christine E. Kaestle '95, and Molly B. Campe '96.

**Stephanie L. Ford '95** and Charlie White, Jan. 12, 2012.

**Martha E. Miller '95** and Matt Hosch, Oct. 22, 2011. The couple have changed their names to Hoschmiller. Attending: Rebecca D. Eilers '98 and Erin S. Peterson '98.

**Allison Brummel '01** and Mike Bell, Oct. 15, 2011.

**M. Molly Backes '02** and Natalie Kossar, October 2, 2010. Cameron C. Gale '02 officiated. Attending: Sarah Dixon Gale '01, Katherine E. Herold '01, George D. Carroll '02, Emily Westergaard Hamilton '02, Mary C. Hoeschen '02, Daniel N. Itzkowitz '02, Timothy J.

Kerber '02, Nadia L. Manning '02, Christopher D. Rathjen '02, Melissa Bailey Torres '02, Alison C. Brown '03, Michael J. Olson '03, Gustavo Torres '03, Nicholas J. Wagner '03, Jancey L. Wickstrom '03, Mark H. Bourne '04, Matthew G. Schiltz '04, Brian C. Stoffel '04, and Adrienne M. Celt '06.

**Rochelle M. Gandour '02** and Eli Rood, Nov. 12, 2011. Attending: Allyson W. Goose '00, Pam A. Marks '02, Todd L. Kimball '02, Marissa L. Thompson '02, and Aaron D. Scott '03. Rachel A. “Ray” Vanek '01 played guitar at the ceremony, and Ellen S. Gallagher '03 stage-managed the event.

**Alison C. Brown '03** and **Brian C. Stoffel '04**, Aug. 20, 2011. Officiant was Per W. Olstad '99. Attending: Linda Conforti-Brown '72, Allison K. Groves '00, Leah R. Kaplan '01, John W. Palinski '01, M. Molly Backes '02, Juleah M. Berliner '02, Mary C. Hoeschen '02, Nadia L. Manning '02, Michael J. Olson '03, Nancy C. Pellowski '03, Lauren M. Wright '03, Dell Swain Villa '04, Allison Johnson Henry '04, Mark G. Henry '05, Stacie J. Kossoy '05, Matthew D. Teeters '05, and Christopher B. Villa '05.

**Elizabeth Lewis '05** and Matthew Jackson, March 12, 2010. Attending: father of the bride Paul A. Lewis '71 (now deceased).



### Henry Reich '09

“To explain general relativity, you have to go back to basics,” says **Henry Reich**, writer, illustrator, and narrator of *Minute Physics*, a series of short films about “cool physics and other sweet science.” **Nathaniel Schroeder '11** composes and performs the music. The two make one video each week. “I strive to impart understanding, not just knowledge,” says Reich. He parlayed his YouTube channel into a job at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Ontario – making more videos.

## The Do-It-Herself Watson

*Sarah Casson '11 wouldn't take no for an answer.*

An anthropology major and cross country runner from New York, **Sarah Casson '11** applied for a Watson fellowship to study interactions between people and monsoons during climate change. She didn't get it. So, she decided to create her own, self-funded fellowship. She:

- Turned up pouting in **David Campbell's** office, hoping for sympathy. The professor of biology had helped her earlier with her Watson application.
- Heard him say: "So what? Figure out a way to do it anyway!"
- Asked for help from lots of people, including Grinnellians and her family.
- Drafted a short, solid, three-paragraph email telling people what she wanted to do.
- Sent it to organizations she'd contacted in her Watson proposal, and dozens more nongovernment organizations (NGOs), academic research organizations, and others.
- Concentrated on going to places where the cost of living is low.
- Scheduled a trip to the places that invited her to come, for a two-to-three-month internship in each of three research locations.

- Boarded a plane with her backpack, ready for a year of travel.

Casson started in India, where she interviewed Himalayan farmers about how they deal with flooding and drought. "I traveled with a group of 40, crammed into a Jeep. I was the only Caucasian and the only woman," she says. Her findings will help create a policy for advising farmers how best to deal with a less-than-ideal monsoon — an increasingly likely prospect due to climate change.

Next, she traveled to Nepal with an NGO that distributes genetically modified seeds to rice farmers (a practice with which she disagrees) to see how and why such seeds are used for food security. She spent weeks walking through hot rice paddies, learning about rice farming and joking with the women farmers "in broken Hindi, Nepali, a few English words, and a whole lot of gestures," about her ignorance, says Casson, "and, for some reason, about Michael Jordan, whom they all seemed to adore."

Then she worked in Cambodia, washing, sorting, and photographing Chinese pottery shards uncovered on archaeological digs. Her goal: to help to determine a more exact date of the decline of the Angkorian society, which may have collapsed due to irregular monsoons.

**Emilia S. Garvey '06** and Errol S. Packard, Aug. 6, 2011. *Madeleine E. Garvey '12* was a bridesmaid. Attending: *Bradley Iverson-Long '05*, *Jacob L. DeBower '06*, *Cecilia M. Aker '07*, *Kelly Ann Lee Chee '07*, *M. Jenny Weber '07*, and *Renata K. Sancken '07*.

**Clinton J. Follette '11** and Renae K. Paulson, June 25, 2011.

### Births and Adoptions

**Alix Maly Marsters '91** and Kele Marsters, July 9, 2011, their sixth child, sixth daughter, Xalista Rae Marsters. Maternal grandmother is *Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61*. Maternal aunt is *Laura Maly Schmidt '87* and maternal uncle is *A. Layne Maly '90*.

**Matthew P. Landahl '93** and **Jeannette L. Payne '94**, Nov. 18, 2011, their first child, a son, Jonah Henrick Landahl.

**Danielle S. Gardner '96** and Matt Janeski, Feb. 5, 2011, their first child, a son, Eammon Crow Gardner-Janeski.

**Melanie Parson Short '95** and Gregory Short, Dec. 28, 2011, their first and second children, twins, daughter Cora Elizabeth Short and son Theo Gregory Short.

**Pascale E. Fisher '96** and Oliver H. McCrum, Sept. 23, 2011, their second child, a daughter, Rowan Margaret McCrum.

**Benjamin W. Lockeretz '99** and Hikma Abdulghani, Nov. 7, 2011, their first child, a son, Leo Phillip Lockeretz.

**Gwynne Kizer Mashon '00** and Matthew Mashon, Aug. 23, 2011, their first child, a son, Levi Benjamin Mashon.

**Tammy Baker Dann '01** and Adam J. Dann, Nov. 20, 2011, their second child, second daughter, Elsa Marie Dann.

**Catherine E. Dean '01** and Joshua Moger, their first child, a daughter, Esther Sol Dean-Moger, Sept. 26, 2011.

**Michelle R. Durand '01** and **Davin L. Remington '01**, Nov. 9, 2011, their first child, a daughter, Eleanor Remington Durand.

**Beau J. Hurtig '01** and **Ellen E. Mai '01**, July 17, their first child, a son, Henry Hurtig.

**Rachel L. Liberatore '01** and Kate Lehman, June 8, 2011, their first child, a son, Elijah Sky Lehman-Liberatore.

**Laura Marz Simmonds '01** and Keith Simmonds, June 4, 2011, their second child, a daughter, Anna Lillian Simmonds.

**Sean P. Flammer '02** and **Ruth M. Snell '02**, Oct. 5, 2011, their first child, a son, Wilson Xavier Flammer.

**Izabela Staicut Kantor '03** and Daniel Kantor, Aug. 14, 2011, their first child, a son, Chase Steven Kantor.

**Elizabeth Lewis Jackson '05** and Matthew Jackson, Sept. 16, 2010, their first child, a son, David Rand Jackson. Maternal great uncle is *Scott P. Lewis '78*.

**Brian J. Clites '05** and Justine Howe Clites, Nov. 28, 2011, their first child, a son, Liam James Clites.

### Publications, Productions, and Exhibitions

"Academics deserve more attention," by **Ronald F. Dorr '62**, *TheStateNews.com*, Nov. 3, 2011. Dorr discusses the attention paid to athletics at large universities, compares the experience of Michigan State University to that of Grinnell College, and offers suggestions for a more well-rounded coverage of events at MSU.

*Dreaming in the Classroom*, by **Philip H. King '64**, Kelly Bulkeley, and Bernard Welt, SUNY Press, May 20, 2011.

"Arms and Legs" and "Shouting Men," two poems by **Dennis D. Maulsby '64**, *High Coup Journal*, November 2011. Also, "Quantum Many Worlds," *Spillway Magazine*, December 2011.

*The Wired Photography* of **Ronald M. Cogswell '68**, a display at Cherrydale Library, Arlington, Va., Jan. 4–April 2, 2012.

*The Expressionist of Fashion*, an exhibition by **Serge Strosberg '88**, Ludwig Trossaert Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium, December 2011.

"I've visited a bunch of ongoing excavations, some in the shadows of the iconic ancient Cambodian temples," she says.

"I've met amazing people and done super interesting research," Casson says. "I've learned so much more than my intended topic.

"It can be really lonely at times," she continues. "I'm not the most outgoing person, and I stick out in a lot of places I've been. Being someone many people want to touch and talk to can be exhausting. But I am so happy that I've been able to cram in so many experiences."

Casson says her year is a great companion to a liberal arts education. "Grinnell gave me the academic groundings to join the climate-change discussion. But I didn't expect how difficult research can be. It is one thing to talk about how about problematic translators skew data, and another to be stuck with one in the middle of nowhere." She's also met up with Grinnellians in every country she's visited.

Next she'll work with a team of scientists in Ratanakiri, Cambodia, to collect cores from volcanic crater lakes to examine the effects of changes in the monsoon on Asian ecosystems. For more on Casson's adventures: [www.sarahcasson.com](http://www.sarahcasson.com)



Sarah Casson '11 in the Himalayas

*Hollow Body Deal* by Jenny's Tribe, a 72-minute, 18-track compendium based on songs of Boston-based **Jenny E. Jones '90**, Blue Pie Label, Dec. 11, 2011.

*Curating Difficult Knowledge: Violent Pasts in Public Places*, edited by **Erica T. Lehrer '91**, Cynthia Milton, and Monica Eileen Patterson, Palgrave Macmillan, Houndmills, England, Nov. 8, 2011.

Photographs of the Occupy Wall Street protests in New York by **Andrew L. Kropp '98**, *Life Magazine's 2011 Year in Pictures*, special issue. They also were included in a photography exhibition at the South Street Seaport Museum, New York, Jan. 25, 2012.

Solo art exhibition by **Ann K. Ewaskio '04**, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, N.Y., Feb. 1-25, 2012.

*Dream Factory – 100 Years of Babelsberg*, a permanent exhibit at the Potsdam, Germany, Film Museum, translated by **Evan M. Torner '04**. The accompanying photo book about Babelsberg, the oldest large-scale film studio in the world, contains essays by Michael Wedel, Chris Wahl, and Ralf Schenk, all translated by Torner.

"Vegan Criminals," by **Amy L. Levin '09**, *The Revealer*, Nov. 17, 2011. The article is about the lack of government-mandated specialized diets for inmates observing religious or worldview beliefs.

"Sexual Misconduct: A Pandemic," by **Paul F. Gagne '11**, *The Good Men Project.com*, Nov. 15, 2011.

## In Memoriam

*Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 866-850-1846.*

**W. Floyd Horton '35**, Green Valley, Ariz., Dec. 31, 2011. He is survived by his son, *Raymond D. Horton '62*.

**Elizabeth Kershner Van Allen '37**, Fulton, Ill., Nov. 5, 2011.

**Trudie Long Collins '38**, Oakland, Calif., Sept. 20, 2011.

**Barbara Blake Ide '38**, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 15, 2011.

**D. Lee Osgood Cook '39**, Littleton, Colo., Nov. 15, 2011.

**Ethel Kingdon Kast '39**, Tubac, Ariz., May 18, 2011. Survivors include her sister, *Edna Kingdon Brown '39*.

**Mary Edna Pilgrim Sherman '39**, Grinnell, Iowa, Nov. 17, 2011.

**Betty Lynch Jackson '42**, Alpharetta, Ga., Nov. 20, 2011.

**Jean Riley Kennedy Williams '42**, Amherst, N.H., Oct. 20, 2011.

**R. Dudley Conner '43**, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 6, 2011.

**Vivien Tronchetti Goodwin '46**, Centennial, Colo., Dec. 14, 2011.

**Owen W. Morgan '48**, Tempe, Ariz., Dec. 28, 2011.

**Richard B. Kallaus '49**, Chesterville, Mo., Nov. 22, 2011. He is survived by his brothers-in-law, *Robert A. Kreider '50*, and *Nelson A. Sly Jr. '54*, and sister-in-law *Helen Sunnen Sly '54*.

**Kaoru Noda '49**, Hilo, Hawaii, May 5, 2011.

**Bernard A. Beggan, Sr. '50**, Sarasota, Fla., Oct. 26, 2011. He is survived by his wife, *Patricia Elliott Beggan '50*.

## In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of longtime Grinnell College faculty member **Philip L. Kintner**, who died Jan. 1, 2012.

A World War II veteran, Kintner earned his B.A. at Wooster College and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Yale University. He joined the Grinnell faculty in 1964, chaired it in 1972, and was named Samuel R. and Marie-Louise Rosenthal Professor of Humanities in 1976. He taught in the Grinnell-in-Florence program 1989–90, was instrumental in developing Chinese studies at Grinnell, and was a steady supporter of Burling Library. In March 1991, a special history symposium was held on Early Modern Europe in Kintner's honor. He retired in 1992 but remained active in writing, reviewing, and research as professor emeritus.

At Grinnell, he taught Western European History, Medieval and Early Modern History, Medieval and Early Modern Humanities, and Historiography. His students remember his warmth, his gentle and engaging manner, his intellectual rigor, his tremendous knowledge, and his evident love for his students, for history, and for Grinnell.

In a reflection he wrote in 1996, Kintner said he became interested in history in high school as "I would soon be in the Army and wanted

to know what we were fighting for." From "unforgettable" teachers he learned "that nothing written has but one meaning, and that intelligent people can disagree heatedly on interpretations without anyone being right or wrong, and no one being hurt," he says.

Of teaching, he wrote that the three most essential things were: "One, the amount of sheer effort — work — required. ... Two, that one never knows enough. ... Three, that a certain amount of humility is essential. ... A teacher should always allow students to think they can know as much or more as their instructor, IF they are willing to pursue the topic." He wrote that the best part of teaching is "the mind-hungry students who come to college wanting to learn. ... Many of them keep in touch, and their accomplishments are like those of one's own children."

He was preceded in death by his wife **Anne Kintner**, former Grinnell College archivist; he is survived by his daughters, **Karen Kintner Bucky '82**, **Judith Kintner '85**, and **Jennifer Kintner '86**, and by five grandchildren including **Jacob Leo Kintner '14**. A memorial service will be held in Herrick Chapel April 7, 2012. For more information or to leave a remembrance: [www.grinnell.edu/kintner](http://www.grinnell.edu/kintner)

**Earl R. Peterson '50**, Hopkins, Minn., July 21, 2011.

**Harold R. Schyberg, Jr. '60**, Eugene, Ore., Aug. 6, 2011.

**Bernard Carter '51**, Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 8, 2010.

**Lillian Nell Hern '51**, Charleston, S.C., Nov. 6, 2011. Survivors include her son, *Sherman G. Boone '77*.

**Mahlon P. Brocklehurst '52**, Pinon Hills, Calif., Aug. 2, 2011.

**R. John Eickelberg '52**, Iowa City, Iowa, Nov. 12, 2011. He is survived by his grandchildren, *Arthur (Bud) Baumgartner '07*, and *Katherine (Kate) Baumgartner '11*.

**H. Irene Gordon '52**, Sidney, Iowa, Nov. 28, 2011.

**Audrey Lowe Hammer '52**, Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 28, 2011. Survivors include her husband, *David L. Hammer '51*, and brother, *Richard S. Lowe '54*.

**Norman C. Spratt '52**, Des Plaines, Ill., Oct. 26, 2011.

**Fred L. Petersen '53**, Torrance, Calif., Aug. 13, 2011.

**Robert D. Wright '53**, Western Springs, Ill., Feb. 13, 2011.

**Paul A. Barks '58**, Anoka, Minn., Dec. 16, 2011. Survivors include his wife, *Nancy Egbert Barks '59*.

**Richard L. Harlan '61**, Lakewood, Colo. Nov. 15, 2011.

**Paul D. Hokenstad '61**, Griswold, Iowa, Nov. 11, 2011. He is survived by his brother, *John W. Hokenstad '58*.

**Mary Foster Sullivan '64**, Gallatin, Mo., Dec. 1, 2011.

**Dale M. Dreyfuss '68**, Storrs Mansfield, Conn., Dec. 22, 2011.

**Jane Larson Birk '70**, Edmonds, Wash., Feb. 1, 2011.

**Janet Weber Grant '73**, Arlington Heights, Ill., March 22, 2011.

**Daniel J. Hexter '77**, Franklin, Tenn., Dec. 21, 2011.

**Timothy J. Butler '84**, Clayton, Mo., Nov. 9, 2011.

**Warren A. Morrow '99**, Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 15, 2012, of heart valve failure. He was founder and chief executive of Coopera Consulting, a Des Moines firm that helps credit unions better serve Hispanic customers; an adviser to Grinnell College's Social Entrepreneurs of Grinnell; and a guest lecturer at the College.



The Coach **Richard Young** Scholarship Fund was recently created in memory of former Grinnell College track coach Dick Young, whose passing was noted in the winter 2011 issue. To make a gift to this fund, call 1-866-850-1846.

### Errata

**Paul A. Lewis '71**, Peoria, Ill., Sept. 17, 2011. Survivors include his daughter, *Elizabeth Lewis Jackson '05*. Her name was omitted in the Winter 2011 issue.

### webextra!

Visit *The Grinnell Magazine* online at [www.grinnell.edu/magazine](http://www.grinnell.edu/magazine) (click on "Extras") to read about "Unforgettable Grinnellians" — tributes to deceased friends and family, written by their fellow Grinnellians. You can submit your own original tribute to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

# The Future of UNESCO?

*Without the United States, would the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) be greatly diminished?*

I cannot imagine a world without music, art, film, dance, theater, and books. It would be a dreary and colorless existence, with little cooperation and communication among citizens. The arts are the glue that holds us together, the cultural fabric of our lives; and they sow the seeds for inventive, universally shared experiences.

Amid today's challenging times — when creative minds will be needed to solve our collective problems — the stalled peace process between Israelis and Palestinians has taken an unlikely casualty, one that I care about deeply: UNESCO.

When Palestine was voted in as a UNESCO member by more than 100 countries in October, U.S. law required that all of [U.S.] UNESCO funding be abolished. This restricted the United States from paying its 2011 dues, which account for 22 percent of the agency's budget. Without those funds, UNESCO will be forced to slash programming and, possibly, invaluable staff positions. This law will damage the United States as well, because our country stands to lose its influence over UNESCO's work, which includes designating cultural heritage sites, promoting tolerance, protecting media freedom, and fostering creativity.

UNESCO offers literacy programs in conflict zones that help people develop critical-thinking skills necessary to fight violent extremism. Without the requisite funds, this is one of many programs that will be negatively affected. Girls in Pakistan will no longer have a UNESCO program for basic education; support for free and competitive media in Iraq, Tunisia and Egypt will be weakened; literacy education for police officers in Afghanistan will halt; training for journalists in the Arab region will be diminished.

Many Americans shrug their shoulders, while others celebrate what they believe is a comeuppance for the United Nations. I, however, strongly believe it is essential that we stay involved and engaged. UNESCO helps ensure that our world remains soulful, spirited, and full of life.

Case in point: UNESCO recently endorsed April 30 as International Jazz Day. This is an opportunity to spread the gospel of jazz, its message of peace and cooperation, and its unique American traits. Under UNESCO's banner, we plan to spearhead concerts and major educational and cultural events from New Orleans and New York to Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Moscow, Beijing, and beyond, finding common ground among uncommon allies.

Jazz has its roots in the late 19th century, when disenfranchised African slaves began to develop new forms of music. Their efforts were spontaneous, emotional and improvisational — and became the backbone of modern jazz. This music has been the

cornerstone of my career, the melodies that have shaped my life force; the sounds, tones and notes that have helped soothe and uplift millions of souls.

As a UNESCO goodwill ambassador, I have an obligation to help dispel the misinformation and ignorance about other cultures, religions, and ethnicities that stand as barriers to communication and togetherness. People need to know that we have much more in common with one another than our differences.

I am not new to UNESCO or to the politics that swirl around this United Nations agency. I began my affiliation 10 years ago, working on International Philosophy Day before President George W. Bush returned the United States to the organization in 2003. Shortly after, when first lady Laura Bush was designated honorary UNESCO ambassador for literacy, she noted that, "with UNESCO's leadership, freedom can be realized throughout the world with the promise of education for all."

Music is an essential ingredient of my life, and I am in awe of its power. In my decades of experience, I have seen how innovative thinking can achieve miracles, revolutionize lives, and positively influence communities. Music, art, science, and faith in people can make powerful changes in our humanity.

UNESCO can help promote music as a tool for building peace as well as other facets of culture, enabling distant communities to work together for the benefit of all nations.

That is why U.S. engagement in UNESCO and the United Nations must continue. This is indeed a challenging moment: Having won a seat at UNESCO, the Palestinians are eligible to join the World Intellectual Property Organization, which is responsible for protecting copyright and trademarks and fighting piracy. Palestinian leaders have expressed interest in seeking membership in the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the International Civil Aviation Association, which coordinates international airline security.

Following its current mandate, the United States would be required to stop contributing dues to those important organizations as well, which would force our country to recoil from the world. As we face challenges that threaten the very existence of humanity — changing climatic conditions, pandemics and illiteracy — solving these issues demands a concentrated effort from leaders and citizens of all nations and will require a world where people live in harmony to overcome these obstacles to our survival. During these crucial times, the work of UNESCO is needed more than ever.



**Herbie Hancock '60** is a jazz pianist and composer. He is chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and was named a goodwill ambassador to UNESCO in July 2010. This essay originally appeared in the Dec. 10, 2011 issue of *The Washington Post* and is reprinted with permission.



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## *Iowa View*



*Spring thaw?*, Ben Brewer '11