The Essence of Inquiry

Grinnell students engaged in research make serious contributions to bodies of knowledge while shaping their own futures.
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Kevin Cannon ’02 has always wanted to be a neuroscientist because he’s fascinated by this great mystery that sits between our ears.

Denton Ketels has never dirtied a test tube, but he has conducted thousands of hours of interviews.

Luke Saunders ’12 tries to get a Hitchcock reference in every story he writes.

Ed Senn ’79 takes every opportunity to wear a kilt and talk about Grinnell.

Multicareerist Anne Stein ’84 is an Evanston, Ill.-based journalist who has bike raced, coached triathlon, and currently teaches martial arts to law enforcement and personal safety to the general public.
Letters

Georgia Dentel’s integral role
I was the SGA [Student Government Association] social coordinator my senior year starting in the fall of 1976. Pat Irwin ’77 and the late Dan Hexter ’77 were concert chairmen, and we managed a robust budget of $37,500 for the year to book bands for South Lounge parties, cultural weekends, and in Roberts Theatre. Georgia Dentel was an absolute genius at stretching that budget and getting acts at incredible prices. If Dan and Pat wanted a band, Georgia would not only book that concert for Grinnell, she would create a mini-tour for the band at two other colleges, get a reduced price for us, and of course mandate that our show would be on Saturday night. Her strategy for booking groups when they were on the cusp of stardom was legendary, and her network of former Grinnell students in the business, agents, and people she charmed provided her edge.

But that is not even half of the story. I spent hours and hours on the phone with Georgia discussing politics, classes, music, and my family. She remembered every detail, and at graduation time I met with us in person but finally agreed on her terms, sitting behind the wheel in her vintage 1964 Ford Falcon for a fast getaway.

Could someone compile a chronology of everyone Georgia Dentel brought to Grinnell and publish it in the magazine? I loved the story about her, although my faith in humanity took another hit when I learned she was almost fired once and was reduced to part-time once.

Liz Rosen Kroin ’80, Blue Ash, Ohio

The warm-up band
I enjoyed the Bob Greenberg ’80 memory in the “Prompted” section of your Winter 2015 Grinnell Magazine edition about The Police playing in the old Darby as the “hottest band in New Wave” at that time. Little remembered is that The Police that night were a mere warm-up band for another New Wave band, Ultravox, a band still in place today. Great times!

– Mark McAllister ’83, Johnston, Iowa

Iowa caucuses
As a political junkie, I was excited to read the article in the [Winter 2015] magazine about the development of the Iowa caucuses as a force to be reckoned with and the participation by Grinnellians in them over the years. I remember being encouraged to attend the 1984 caucus by my political science professor and delighted in seeing democracy in action, as well as several of my instructors all gravitating toward the candidates I had hunches they would.

The magazine article seemed to focus preponderantly on Republican candidates and activists, which seemed a mite strange to me, as I recall the campus, even during the Reagan landslide reelection year, as being overwhelmingly Democratic. I realize that such was not always the case, and it warmed my heart to see President Jimmy Carter adorning the cover of the magazine, and to my recollection much of the recent political history of the scarlet and black has been solidly blue. Were there no alumni actively involved in Democratic politics? I shouldered to think of the Grinnell Left as abandoning its verve.

From the time they arrive on campus, Grinnell students gain a sense of becoming “alumni in residence.” As they become part of a deeply connected intellectual and professional network, they also find that this connectivity involves sharing their time, talent, treasure, and ties in their home communities, with other members of the Grinnell community, and with the College. They learn firsthand that strengthening commitments among people who represent the future of our alumni programming is healthy for the College and fundamental to what it means to be a Grinnellian.

Engaging Students

Embracing philanthropy
As part of the educational experience helps students connect their learning to the careers they want to pursue and the lives they want to lead. It uplifts our values and prepares students to be philanthropically effective in a changing world.

Just as our Office of Development and Alumni Relations engages alumni in the life and work of the College, we have established ambitious goals to more effectively build relationships with current students. Students are helping to fuel the development of programs that encourage peers to demonstrate College affinity while preparing them to stay engaged after graduation.

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We felt this commitment in 2014 by adding to our staff an assistant director of student programs — a position dedicated to both building new programs and strengthening others that visionary alumni previously helped establish. Our professionals are partnering with a group of student leaders who comprise the Student Alumni Council and whose guidance established activities such as I Heart GC Week. These students invest personally and creatively to build philanthropic awareness and skills for future engagement with their peers.

We are especially proud that this nascent program has already been recognized by our peers in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Last August, leadership from the Student Alumni Council and the Senior Class Gift Committee traveled to the CASE Conference in Washington, D.C. The trip was made possible by a gift from Barry Ziga ’73 and Jodie Levin-Epstein ’72. In addition to receiving an honorable mention award for National Philanthropy Week, the students benchmarked their philanthropy education program against their peers and had the opportunity to network with advancement professionals from across the country.

Our vision of achieving Grinnell’s enduring mission in unpredictable times is enhanced by our ability to connect with alumni at all levels. Whether we are helping to facilitate the effectiveness of future class fund directors or planting the seeds of networking opportunities throughout the global Grinnell network, we anticipate that this new student-focused approach will help guide the student-to-alumni transition.

As giving by Grinnell’s young alumni trends upward, we hope to see more young alumni stepping up in volunteer roles and larger numbers of alumni attending reunions. On campus, we are elevating the importance of giving back and paying forward as an essential component of what it means to be part of the Grinnell family. That is a trend that will benefit all Grinnellians, present and future.

– Shane Jacobson, vice president for development and alumni relations

Strategy Session

Economic impact
By 2025, Grinnell’s research and creativity programs will impact $100 million in economic activity. We will invest in the academic programs, comprehensive facilities, and intellectual community that make this possible.

Alumni trends
The College estimates that the number of alumni citizens will total 12,000 by 2025. We will work with the Student Alumni Council to cultivate leadership and the engagement of alumni citizens.

Alumni giving
Grinnellians will give $10 million annually to the College by 2025. We will strengthen alumni giving programs through the Student Alumni Council.

Grinnell’s story
Grinnell College is a vital partner in its community, and we will share our story with the world.

Campaigns
We will launch the 2017–2025 capital campaign to support our strategic initiatives.

Next steps
We will activate the first year of our strategy. We will also identify and respond to opportunities that arise during this time.
Teaching for Fun

Ignite Program brings children to campus to be college students for a day

Since fall 2014, nearly 150 Grinnell College students have volunteered to teach workshops on campus to children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

“I hope they discover something about teaching they didn’t know,” says Ashley Schaefer, Ignite Program coordinator and Lawrence S. Pidgeon Director of the Careers in Education Professions Program.

The Ignite Program began in the 2014–15 school year, offering classes on three different Saturdays last year — in November, February, and April. Attendance averaged 175 students for each day. For the first class in November 2014, they expected about 80 children but had 198 attend.

In November last year, 256 children from Grinnell and the surrounding area participated. Classes included Dive into Archaeology, Iron Chef Grinnell, and Act Out Your Imagination in Improv 101. Children may take two different classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and have lunch on campus.

Classes are taught by teams of two or three College student volunteers. These volunteers, dubbed "teacher scholars," write a course proposal that includes a brief description and lesson plan. About half the teacher scholars are in the education program.

Schaefer meets with each team to review lesson plans. She emphasizes that the nearly 2-hour class isn’t a lecture and discussion. "It’s a workshop," she says. "If you’re doing something with chocolate, the kids will expect to eat some chocolate."

Cassandra Miller ’16, a biology major from Las Vegas, N.M., developed and taught Fun with Fungi last year for third and fourth graders. She chose that topic because she was taking a fungal biology course that she loved with Kathy Jacobson, associate professor of biology.

In November 2015 Miller adapted her class for first and second graders. "I wanted to see what would happen," she says. Her favorite part is trying to make the science accessible to young children.

One of the activities, "fungal detective," involved using microscopes and dried specimens.

It was the first time many of these children had used a microscope. They could see the gills, pores, and teeth of their specimen. "They appreciate mushrooms more," Miller says.

Offered free of charge, the Ignite Program is sponsored by local philanthropists Helen Redmond and Pete Brownell, the College’s Office of Community Enhancement and Engagement, and the Careers in Education Professions Program.

The program was modeled on other colleges’ programs that bring high school students to campus for a day to experience classes. Schaefer wanted to start with the young kids. "The number of opportunities for academics for little kids was small," she says. "This is the only opportunity for our students to teach elementary school students."

In April the program is expanding to high school students. Even though Miller doesn’t intend to become a K–12 teacher, she’ll participate again. "I think education will always play a role in my future," she says.

Schaefer meets with each teacher scholar to review student participation and to get feedback on the program. "It was the first time many of these children had used a microscope. They could see the gills, pores, and teeth of their specimen. "They appreciate mushrooms more," Miller says.

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Second Annual Grinnell Lecture

Conceptualizing Human Interaction Through the Lens of Collective-Action Problems

Bill Ferguson ’75, Gertrude B. Austin Professor of Economics, gave the second annual Grinnell Lecture to his fellow faculty members Feb. 5. Collective-action problems arise whenever individuals pursuing their own interests cause undesirable outcomes for a group. This relatively simple notion applies to a huge array of problems, Ferguson says.

Large-scale examples are global climate change and the war in Syria, while a small-scale example is who does the cooking in a household. "Collective-action problems can focus our thoughts on social, political, and economic interactions that are extraordinarily complicated," he says. "If we can separate the important pieces from the details, they might help us theorize about these problems, generate hypotheses, and test the hypotheses with data."

Bachelor of Arts Exhibition (BAX)

April 8–May 1, 2016

Bachelor of Arts Exhibition (BAX) features work by third- and fourth-year art students, both those majoring in art and students in other majors who work intensively in studio. With support from the Faulconer Gallery staff, students manage all the exhibition details — from the submission of proposals to the selection of a juror to the installation and awarding of prizes.

Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College Art Collection

All Hands on Deck

May 13–June 19, 2016

St. Louis artist Damon Davis created seven powerful prints entitled All Hands on Deck in response to recent events in Ferguson, Mo., and elsewhere. The oversized prints, created at Wildwood Press, feature the raised hands of individuals old and young, black, white, and brown. Faulconer Gallery purchased the prints in honor of Vernon E. Faulconer ’61. The exhibition features these and other recent acquisitions from the College’s art collection.

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Students travel to San Francisco to put their learning in context

During Grinnell’s weeklong fall break, 11 students in Opera, Politics, and Society in Modern Europe left the classroom for San Francisco with Kelly Maynard, assistant professor of history, to gain an up-close look at how politics and culture influence the development of modern opera.

The idea for the trip began years earlier, when Maynard met Craig Henderson ’63, an opera enthusiast and Grinnell College trustee, on the ride back from the interview for her position at Grinnell. Discovering their shared interest in the world of opera and its importance as a contemporary parallel to the society they study, Maynard decided to pitch the idea of a class trip to San Francisco.

Henderson was impressed with the students’ discussions and pitched the idea of a class trip to San Francisco. While it took time for Maynard to work out the details of how the students could receive funding for the trip, she finally decided to take Henderson up on his suggestion. He generously offered up his home and his opera contacts to make sure that the students had an unforgettable experience.

Everyone they met in San Francisco was impressed with their intellectual sophistication and seemed to derive the same pleasure from the association that I did,” Henderson says, “I hope we can do it again next year.”

Students spoke with opera singers, met with opera critics, and got exclusive backstage glimpses into set design and media suites. They also saw two live opera productions at the San Francisco Conservatory and the San Francisco Opera House, The Magic Flute and Lucia di Lammermoor.

“You can read about how people used to make sets or how people designed opera houses centuries ago, but you can’t get a real feel for it without seeing how everything operates with your own eyes,” says Austin Schilling ’17.

“We got to see firsthand that the history we’re studying in class is alive and functioning today, and is still as rich and complex as it was 200 years ago,” says Elizabeth Allen ’16.

What students didn’t expect was the opportunity to meet with David Gockley, general director of the San Francisco Opera, during one of their tours. With half a semester of in-class study and a rigorous week of immersion in the world of opera under their belts, students were prepared to ask Gockley questions that helped them to discover the modern correspondences to what they learned in class.

“I was so proud of the students; I could tell they surprised him with the quality of their questions,” says Maynard. “He really had to think about his answers, and they walked away with all these fantastic contemporary parallels that we could map back onto the content of the class.”

Through learning about the many complicated components that go into an opera production, these students discovered aspects of opera that they had never expected to be interested in. Allen even discovered an area that may turn into a topic of future research — the way globalization and art collide in modern opera.

“I think my biggest take-away from this experience is that you need to look at things from many different angles.” — Sam Hengst ’18

For Love of Opera

“The Magic Flute, which is an 18th-century Viennese opera, translated into English in the 21st century by David Gockley, using set design that includes the aesthetics of contemporary Japanese ceramics ... it’s something global and contemporary, but still rooted in the past,” Allen says. “Seeing that was a really pivotal experience for me, and I realized that that’s the way I want to look at things in the future.”

“I think my biggest take-away from this experience is that you need to look at things from many different angles,” says Sam Hengst ’18. “When we do readings, we’re so used to just thinking about things in one way, but on this trip we saw that the world of opera is complex, from the actors and singers to set design and the use of technology. It’s a network, and we couldn’t have gotten such a great understanding of that from just reading about it.” — Elise Hadden ’14

Bakopoulos Receives 2016 NEA Fellowship

His second fellowship, this time for creative nonfiction

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded individual creative writing fellowships of $25,000 each to 37 fiction and creative nonfiction writers, including Dean Bakopoulos, writer-in-residence at Grinnell College.

The NEA selected Bakopoulos from among 1,763 eligible applicants evaluated by 23 readers and panelists. This is his second NEA fellowship, a rare accomplishment. Fellows must wait 10 years before applying for a second fellowship. Bakopoulos won an award for fiction in 2006; the 2016 award is for creative nonfiction.

“I’m so grateful to the NEA for recognizing my work for a second time,” Bakopoulos says. “This is an important boost for me on many levels, not just financially, but also emotionally. I’m finishing a difficult and somewhat perplexing book, and this fellowship has given me the courage to keep working, to finish the manuscript I was very close to throwing away.

“The nonfiction manuscript, titled Undoings, is a book-length meditation on the way things fall apart, and how we, as individuals, as families, as artists, often become undone by our own obsessions and our own pasts. I wrestle with many demons and blessings in that book: marriage, divorce, and parenthood; my own family’s history as war refugees and the long shadows cast by war trauma; as well as everything from country music to fast food to the role of religion in clinical depression. Right now, it’s a mess of a book, and this fellowship gives me the time to give it the focus it needs.”

Bakopoulos, who teaches fiction and creative nonfiction courses at Grinnell, is the author of three novels — Please Don’t Come Back from the Moon, My American Unhappiness, and Summerlong. The film version of his first novel, co-written by Bakopoulos, wrapped shooting in January and stars James Franco, Rashida Jones, and Jeffrey Wahlberg. The film version of Summerlong, also adapted by Bakopoulos, is in the works. In addition to his two NEA awards, Bakopoulos is the recipient of a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship.

I’m so grateful to the NEA for recognizing my work for a second time.”

— Bakopoulos, writer-in-residence at Grinnell College

— Lisa Lacher, summer 2016
Grinnell Takes Student Well-Being to the Next Level

Students engage deeply with active bystanderism on campus

In the midst of the national outcry about student safety on college campuses, concern about alcohol, drugs, and sexual assault is central to many conversations surrounding student well-being. While it’s clear that students on every campus are facing these issues, it can be difficult, from the outside, to see what steps are being taken to increase student safety. What is Grinnell doing to address these problems? One of the most promising answers, according to Jen Jacobsen ’95, wellness director, lies in the College’s active bystander training.

“Active bystanderism is an opportunity to empower people to interrupt a situation that looks like it might be harmful, find out if they can change the direction of that situation,” says Jacobsen.

This intervention can be as simple as offering to walk someone home from a party if they seem like they’ve had too much to drink. But direct intervention isn’t the only thing active bystander training encourages. Students learn about campus resources they can turn to in case they feel uncomfortable or unsure of how to deal with these kinds of situations and are unsure of how to help — for instance, how to talk to a friend who’s obsessing over a final paper about taking it easy and making time for wellness. Another common concern is how to act when seeing someone who is drunk leaving a party to “hook up” if it seems like he or she might not be safe or able to give consent. Understanding that students are dealing with these kinds of situations and are unsure of how to navigate them helps Jacobsen tap into what really matters to students.

“The greatest learning comes from that discussion where the students talk among themselves about what scenarios they’ve encountered, what they have seen, what they think someone should do,” Jacobsen says. “It also gives me a good pulse on what’s actually relevant and happening on campus.”

Grinnell students are eager to learn how they can be active bystanders in their community, likely due to the self-governance ethic of campus culture. When asked whether they would like information on how to help others in distress on campus, 83 percent of Grinnell students responded that they would, compared to only 56 percent of the national undergraduate population. Furthermore, 96.7 percent of Grinnell students see active bystanderism as important to the success of self-governance.

Colton Silvia ’17 has been so involved in active bystander training on campus that he presented alongside Jacobsen at the Heartland Safety Summit last November. His knowledge and confidence impressed many of the student affairs and violence prevention professionals from other schools who attended the conference, and Silvia walked away with some important takeaways as well.

“The thing that really stuck with me was the importance of being intentional about how you reach certain communities, because it’s not a one-size-fits-all kind of thing,” Silvia says. “The experience spurred me to keep pushing to revive the group Real Men, because men teaching men about gender-based violence has proved to be really effective.”

Student organizations like Real Men target specific groups on campus to provide them with training and role models that will most effectively teach and inspire them to participate in harm reduction on campus. Jacobsen, who is also assistant track and field coach, has developed training sessions that provide targeted examples to athletic teams, who have been campus leaders in engaging in active bystander workshops. Grinnell, faculty, and other groups on campus to make sure that the training has the biggest possible impact.

Taylor Watts ’16, a French and anthropology major, recently received second prize in the 2015 France on Campus Award competition, sponsored by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

“The France on Campus Award competition is open to all U.S. colleges and universities, so Watts’ second prize is proof of the strength and creativity of her proposal,” says David Harrison, professor of French.

Applications for the France on Campus Award were evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrated interest in expanding the reach of France and French culture on campus.
- Originality and creativity of the project.
- Potential to reach a broad audience, including university students, professors, and other organizations on campus and beyond.

Watts’ proposal, “A Choreographic Exploration of the ‘commerce triangulaire,’” combines her study of dance with her study of French literature. The choreographic piece is inspired by, and set to, a series of texts in French that discuss the impact of slavery on the Caribbean.

“Subjects such as these need to be brought to light because they continue to affect the world today,” Watts says. “I believe knowledge and understanding are the only ways to move forward.”

To design and develop the choreography for her proposal, Watts is completing a Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) under the direction of Celeste Miller, assistant professor of theatre and dance.

“Taylor’s Choreographic Exploration is a rich example of how dance, because of the undeniability of the body, can be a powerful and visceral use of the arts to examine complex and difficult issues,” Miller says. “It is a choreographed embodiment drawn from research into both her topic and the aesthetic of the art form of dance.”

Watts’ project draws from her off-campus study experience in Nantes, France, once one of the most important slave-trading ports in Western Europe. The methods she is using for her choreographic approach began with a summer MAP in Atlanta, also directed by Miller, working with theatre and dance companies whose work addresses social justice issues.

Watts studied Nantes’ role in the French slave trade, then took a seminar at Grinnell about French Caribbean literature from Gwenola Caradec, assistant professor of French. The works read in this seminar inspired Watts to transform the words into movement with a cast of Grinnell students.

Watts says she was inspired by the campus visit of choreographer Olivier Tarpaga, hosted last winter by Miller. Tarpaga, from Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in West Africa, incorporates historical speeches and other spoken words into his choreography to explore the history of decolonization in Africa.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, in partnership with Kickstarter and OrgSync, have established the France on Campus Award, under the patronage of film director Wes Anderson, to discover, celebrate, and support initiatives that explore France in new and creative ways.

Watts will perform her work at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, in Flanagan Studio Theatre in the Buckingham Center for the Arts. As part of her award, she also will receive mentoring from the French Embassy and from Kickstarter to raise funds that will enable her to perform the work on other U.S. college campuses.
Artists and Scholars

Thomas Rayfiel ’80 published his seventh novel this spring. Genius (TriQuarterly/ Northwestern University Press, 2016) is about a young woman whose IQ is off the charts but whose sexuality is still firmly in the closet. Illness forces her return to small-town Arkansas, where she must confront the issues that sent her fleeing in the first place.

Looking at a Broad

Looking at a Broad, a choreo-poetic solo performance piece by Rebecca Mwase ’07, was performed November 2015 at the Theatre of St. Claude in New Orleans through Broken Habit Productions. The performance was a stimulating synthesis of lyrical text and dynamic movement layered with visual and media installation; it invited audiences to question, witness, and engage the multiple oppressions, expectations, and constructions of race, gender, and sexuality faced by black women living in the United States.

Song for a Summer Night: A Lullaby


Scholarly and professional publications

Jonathan Kolber ’75 wrote A Celebration Society (Inciti Publishing, 2015), which addresses the accelerating automation that threatens to displace multitudes of workers and disrupt societies. Though this problem is increasingly recognized and discussed in the media, the proposed solutions of a universal basic income and massive retraining programs are insufficient to the forthcoming need. Instead, Kolber proposes a completely new solution based on a societal design that can be modeled and tested on a local basis within a decade or so. The design is grounded in historical societies, advanced technologies, and cutting-edge research fused into a new paradigm.

More books


Ron Goodenow ’63 wrote “Service Across Cultures: A Case of the Emerging Role of Communication Technology in Rotary International,” in Elizabeth Christopher’s International Management and Intercultural Communication (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

Alina Borger-Germann ’99’s chapbook of poems, Tuesday’s Children (Hermeneutic Chaos Press, 2015), was released in December.
Artists and Scholars

All Pilgrim

Stephanie Ford ’95, who studied art at Grinnell, has published a collection of poetry, All Pilgrim (Four Way Books, 2015).

Carnival in the Countryside: The Making of the Iowa State Fair

Chris Rasmussen ’82 has written a history of one of Iowa’s premier events, the Iowa State Fair. Carnival in the Countryside: The Making of the Iowa State Fair (University of Iowa Press, 2015) explores the tension between entertainment and agriculture, going back to the fair’s founding in the mid-1800s.

Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China’s Era of High Socialism

Matthew D. Johnson, assistant professor of history and chair of East Asian studies, and Jeremy Brown, associate professor of history at Simon Fraser University, have edited Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China’s Era of High Socialism (Harvard University Press, 2015). The Maoist state’s dominance over Chinese society, achieved through such watersheds as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, is well known. Maoism at the Grassroots reexamines this period of transformation and upheaval from a new perspective, one that challenges the standard state-centered view. Bringing together scholars from China, Europe, North America, and Taiwan, this volume marshals new research to reveal a stunning diversity of individual viewpoints and local experiences during China’s years of high socialism.

Quote Board

“Right now, this country needs all the brainpower we can find. We need leaders with different experiences and points of view. And we don’t think students’ ability to get a first-rate college education and contribute to society should be limited by their family resources.”

– President Raynard S. Kington in “Grinnell Shows What It Takes for an Elite Private College to Be Socioeconomically Diverse,” The Hechinger Report, Dec. 9, 2015

“I’ve lately started singing Adele’s ‘Hello’ at my emails to that one person who never emails me back.”

– Rachel Schneppe, associate director for academic technology, Twitter

“It’s crazy, these people [David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson] are sort of icons to you — these heroes — and then for three days they’re just your co-workers. Then you leave and months go by and you go back to viewing them as icons and idols.”

– Kumail Nanjiani ’01 on guest starring in an episode of The X-Files in “Kumail Nanjiani Wants to Believe,” Mother Jones, January/February 2016

“Day in the life of a Grinnellian: donate blood, debate with hateful protesters visiting campus, vote in city election, see @HillaryforIA.”

– Emma Lange ’16, Twitter
Longtime Grinnell athletics director prepares for new role in the fall

For the first 20 of his 28 years at Grinnell, he was head football coach. He has also coached golf and baseball, and he is an associate professor of physical education. For the past eight years, Wallace has served as director of athletics and recreation.

Wallace is currently developing a new approach to recruiting student-athletes at Grinnell. He is laying the groundwork for a five-year senior faculty project that will begin after he retires as athletics director this fall and becomes coordinator of student-athlete recruitment for the Office of Admission. We asked him about his plans:

Is this a new role?
It absolutely is a new role. I tested the waters last fall. I did some of my high school visits at that time and scheduled meetings with athletics directors at high schools in Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

How did you come up with this idea?
I felt like we needed to get our name out there, because a lot of schools I visited knew of Amherst, or maybe Oberlin or Pomona, but we weren’t necessarily in that same conversation. My hope is that when somebody is looking at one of those schools, either the athletic director or a coach will say, “If you’re looking at those schools, you ought to look at Grinnell.”

So, you are giving schools the tools to point students to Grinnell?
Exactly right. And as you go through the process, you learn a little more each time you go to the school. One of the things I tried to do at all of the schools was not only to visit the AD [athletics director], but also to stop in and introduce myself to people in the counseling office.

Where do you recruit?
It’s interesting. We really don’t have very many of what you would call feeder schools. The whole key is name recognition. We want to be in the same conversation for student-athletes whether they’re looking at a NESCAC [New England Small College Athletic Conference] school or they’re looking at an Ivy school.

Are there NCAA rules specific to this kind of role?
Once students become juniors in high school, you can have direct contact with them. That’s not always been the case. Now, juniors can actually come to your campus to visit in the spring of their junior year.

By invitation or on their own?
Either way, but in most cases it would probably be by invitation from the coach. I think it’s a good thing simply because schools like Grinnell are really working hard to get early-decision students, and you can’t get early-decision students unless you’ve made contact sometime during their junior year.

How does this dovetail with other recruiting efforts?
Many of our coaches are going to academic elite camps and showcases where junior athletes are participating. A lot of times there is academic information available to coaches who attend those. As soon as we get that information, we bring it back and put it into our system, which automatically takes it to the admission office so students will start receiving information from Grinnell College, as well as from our athletics program.

Does Grinnell actively recruit students who are pursuing Division I athletic programs?
We send our coaches to some of the Ivy League camps, because if there are 150 kids at an Ivy League camp, that Ivy school may sign two of those. That leaves 148 of them who are looking for someplace to go.

A lot of our coaches in team sports are getting YouTube videos of junior athletes whether they have put together themselves or that show game highlights. Coaches are getting a pretty good look at the potential of student-athletes in competition.

The recruiting of student-athletes has always been intense, but it takes up so much of our coaches’ time and energy now that they are working as hard or harder during the recruiting process as they do during the coaching of their actual sport. Recruiting never stops for us.

How else is the recruiting process different for a Division III school? Division I and Division II have a national signing date the first week of February, so they have their class at that time. We’re recruiting all the way up to May 1, when students have to declare what schools they are going to attend. If we’re only working on seniors at that point, then we’re not doing justice to the next year’s class. So we’ve got to have a plan to address this year’s class and also a way to monitor and communicate with next year’s class.

Have student-athletes changed over the years?
I think student-athletes are the same, but there is more information available to them than ever before. For example, the Midwest Conference was one of the first Division III conferences to require webcasting of home contests in football, basketball, and volleyball. That’s been a big recruiting tool.

We do webcasting now for almost all of our contests, so I can assure parents that they’re not going to have to miss a home contest or an away conference contest. It’s a big plus, even for prospective students who are able to watch and say, “I think I can play there,” or “I can see that guy’s graduating so that position’s open next year.”

Final thoughts on your new endeavor?
I’m just very excited about it. I’ve had some very good responses. I think it’s a good opportunity for us to get the type of student-athlete that we want at Grinnell College.

It’s a way to get the brand in front of more people so that more coaches will say to students, “You could probably play at Grinnell. Have you thought about that?”
Then and Now

Class Size
1956 vs. 2016
Right Livelihoods

Grinnell career changers find success when they follow their callings

by Anne Stein ’84

Changing your career can be challenging or exhilarating, for many people, much too scary to contemplate. We may feel stuck or unwilling to change because of finances or geography. We’re too afraid to start over and tackle what’s unfamiliar or unknown. Or our job is so much a part of our identity that it seems impossible to consider anything else.

“Those who do change are courageous,” says nationally recognized career coach Kathy Caprino. “They understand that in order to stretch and be happy, they have to be afraid. They also have to have goals they believe can be achieved.”

Smart career changers, she says, should follow a five-point plan: 1) Start with an honest and significant consideration of who you are. Caprino’s clients fill out a 11-page questionnaire to begin the process. “You have to dive deep and think about the talents you have, your biggest dreams, what form those dreams could take — who you really are. You really need to peel back the layers.” 2) Look at the patterns in your life that make you unhappy. Jumping from one career to the next won’t erase unresolved issues. If you don’t tackle those issues (I’m never paid enough, I can’t get along with my boss) they will follow you to the next job. 3) Create a vision, a burning desire to do something new. 4) Immerse yourself in this new (potential) profession. Spend as much time as possible volunteering, intern ing and interviewing with professionals in the field. Decide if you want it to be a hobby or a job. 5) Develop a plan with goals to reach. Involve mentors, sponsors, or others who will keep you accountable.

The five Grinnellians here made changes that significantly transformed their identities and more importantly, their quality of life. The switch from one career to another wasn’t easy and took years of study and practice, either formal or informal. But for each of them, life is richer and more satisfying for the change.
Phil Dworkin-Cantor ’86

In the weeks following 9/11, the streets of downtown Chicago, like those in most American cities, were eerily quiet, giving Phil Dworkin-Cantor time to reflect on his life.

On Sept. 6 of that week, he and his wife’s twin girls were born two months premature. After airplanes struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the editor at Dworkin-Cantor’s video production company fled Chicago, leaving him to handle hundreds of hours of footage on his own. Sitting in an editing suite until midnight most nights, then walking on deserted streets to visit his babies in the intensive care unit, Dworkin-Cantor began reconsidering his future.

The videos he made for nonprofits such asChicago’s Field Museum, on Sue the Tyrannosaurus rex, were rewarding. The videos showing sales people how to demonstrate pointless new kitchen gadgets were not.

“I cared more about the future because I had these tiny babies and I wanted to do something more valuable — because who knew how long we’d be here? I wanted to make an impact.”

Heath divides the workweek into chunks. Sundays and Mondays (and Tuesdays, when he is preaching) are ministry days. Wednesday through Friday are law days. “It’s a fairly progressive congregation that welcomes LGBT folks,” Heath says of the left-leaning Disciples of Christ. “Part of why I was able to continue was the support I received.”

He’s also politically active, working on issues from abolishing the state’s death penalty. “There aren’t many like me on the right side (politically).”

For years, Mike McCubbin, former captain and MVP of the Grinnell men’s basketball team, dreamed of being a college basketball coach.

Soon after graduating he began what he calls his coaching quest, working as a volunteer assistant at Division I St. John’s College (New York) and working “a bunch of part-time jobs to support my coaching habit.”

The hard work paid off, and after three years he was hired by the legendary Stan Van Gundy — currently head coach of the NBA’s Detroit Pistons — as an assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. After that McCubbin moved up the coaching ladder, first landing a full-time assistant’s job at Siena, then the head coach of the NBA’s Detroit Pistons — as an assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. For years, Mike McCubbin, former captain and MVP of the Grinnell men’s basketball team, dreamed of being a college basketball coach.

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But being a successful coach at that level, besides the high stress and constant risk of getting fired, meant 15-hour-plus days and a lot of travel.

“I was married for a year before I quit coaching” in 2006, says McCubbin, who now trains, recruits, and mentors young financial service professionals at Charles Schwab in Lone Tree, Colo. "I was married for a year before I quit coaching” in 2006, says McCubbin, who now trains, recruits, and mentors young financial service professionals at Charles Schwab in Lone Tree, Colo. For years, Mike McCubbin, former captain and MVP of the Grinnell men’s basketball team, dreamed of being a college basketball coach.

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“When you’re single you’re willing to do what it takes, like making calls until 10 or 11 at night four nights a week. That’s sustainable,” recalls McCubbin, who lives in suburban Denver. Even driving a van full of college kids to a tournament Christmas week seemed doable. But not if he wanted to spend significant time with his wife and own kids.

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Spring 2016
Cardiologist to farmer and llama breeder: Carlos Mendoza ’72

Retired cardiologist Carlos Mendoza never imagined he would one day own a farm. Nor did he picture himself breeding llamas, those tall creatures with adorably fuzzy faces and (literally) spitting-mad personalities. But after 30 years in a thriving Denver cardiology practice, he has happily transitioned to a radically different life.

That lifestyle change began in 1996 when Mendoza, still practicing medicine and single with no children, grew tired of suburban living. He started looking for open space — 5 acres or so — to live on. “I wanted to get up in the morning and look outside my door and let my dogs out,” he says. But zoning laws made buying small acreages difficult; he instead found a 200-acre parcel of land north of Denver, in unincorporated Weld County. He sold his house, moved a modular home onto the property, hired a tenant farmer — who continued row crop-farming, including corn, sugar beets, and pinto beans — and commuted to his office in Denver, until retiring in 2012.

The longer Mendoza lived on his 200 acres, however, the more intrigued he became with farming. In 2000, he started farming himself, replacing the crops with perennial grass pastures, which provided hay that was baled and sold for local livestock. Mendoza would wake at 4 a.m. to get in a few hours of farming before making hospital rounds. Tasks included moving irrigation systems, feeding animals, and cutting and raking hay when the pastures were ready for baling. He would then work at night on the farm for a few hours after he returned home. “It was a huge challenge, and I like challenges,” says Mendoza, whose brother Guillermo Mendoza ’68 is also a doctor and whose late father Guillermo (Bill) Mendoza taught zoology and biology at Grinnell for 34 years.

A year after he bought the farm, Mendoza brought llamas onto the land; there are now about two dozen living there. “I had seen llamas at a bed-and-breakfast in Mendocino and thought they seemed kind of cool,” Mendoza says. “They eat our weeds and we use their manure, and we sell and show them.” Once sheared, their wool is sold for yarn and felting.

The change from cardiologist to farmer/landowner coincided with his impending retirement and the changing health care landscape, explains Mendoza. In the past few decades, the practice of medicine had become less enjoyable; doctors were losing their independence as their practices were bought out by hospitals and other corporations.

“I bought the equipment — balers, tractors, irrigation equipment, buildings, storage space — while still working as a doctor, so when I retired I didn’t have to buy anything substantial,” he says. “A friend encouraged me to invest money in the farm and that was good advice; it appreciated much faster than anything I could do in the stock market. Plus it’s my retirement career, and it makes sense to invest in your career if it’s something you want.” At 62 he was ready to leave cardiology and be his own boss again — on the farm.

Mendoza employs a full-time and a part-time worker who do the bulk of the farming, although he labors about six hours a day, doing everything from irrigation to baling hay and anything else that’s needed. The farm produces about 600 tons of grass hay a year, along with champion show llamas.

“I’d never done anything like this before,” says Mendoza, who calls himself a self-taught farmer. “My dad was a pre-med counselor at Grinnell, and he was the strongest influence I had, advising us to avoid getting bogged down intellectually in our medical career.” It was advice Mendoza took to heart.

Banker to college history professor: Georgia Mickey ’66

“I should have been in academia from the start,” says Georgia Mickey. “My mother was a high school English teacher, and my grandfather was a professor of American history at the University of Chicago.” But getting a late start hasn’t hurt Mickey’s second career. After earning her doctorate at the age of 55, she completed several postdoctoral fellowships and now, at 71, is a happily tenured associate professor of East Asian history at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona.

A former banker who spent much of her career putting together deals for clients in New York, London, and Hong Kong, Mickey graduated from Grinnell with a degree in Spanish, eventually ending up in Washington, D.C., where she became the second female associate at Booz Allen Hamilton. While her analytical skills served Mickey well, her gender didn’t. “I hit the glass ceiling in the late 1960s and moved to New York, ending up in banking and corporate finance.”

After earning an M.B.A from Columbia University to advance her career, Mickey found her niche, becoming one of the few women working in ship financing. “I really enjoyed that because it was intellectually stimulating,” she says. “I also enjoyed the customer contact. Shipping companies are generally family-owned, so you really got to know people at a very personal and professional level.”

But commercial banking changed drastically in the 1980s, and the increasingly cutthroat nature of the business turned her off. “It became more of a deal-driven, rather than a relationship-driven business, so in my mid-40s, I left.”

She worked at several small bookshops on Madison Avenue while figuring out what to do next. An ad for a master’s degree program (aimed at older students) at Columbia University’s School of General Studies caught her eye.

Mickey, who since taking a high school course on Asia and living in Hong Kong for three years had been fascinated by the region, started coursework in East Asian studies. The classes sparked the idea of becoming an academic. At 49, she enrolled full time in Columbia’s Asian studies department to earn a master’s, so she could eventually apply for the school’s doctoral program.

“I was utterly captivated,” she says of her studies. “I had a fantastic experience. She learned Chinese in her mid-50s and spent time in China researching her dissertation.
After earning her doctorate in 2004, she completed two postdoctoral fellowships, first at Stanford University’s Center for East Asian Studies and then at Columbia University. While many Ph.D.s complain that getting hired for a full-time post past age 35 is nearly impossible, Mickey found the right situation at Cal Poly and at 62 landed a position.

“I didn’t have dates in my resume, and I look younger than my actual age,” she admits. “I think the students would be horrified if they knew how old I am. But it doesn’t make a difference to me. I get along just fine with my students and that has something to do with Grinnell, because I like to give them the kind of experience I had at Grinnell.”

Cal Poly is one of the most diverse colleges in the nation, says Mickey, and she enjoys her mostly first-generation college students. “It’s really fun when you’re in a classroom and you watch their eyes light up. There’s something very magical when you realize the class is with you.”

Teaching, says Mickey, is perfect for her. “I get to do a lot of different things, from organizing a new class [to] finding images and videos, showing films, researching new topics, and engaging students in class discussions. “I like the personal interaction with colleagues and students. And teaching the students how to think is an enormous challenge, which I find fascinating.”

**Grinnell Career-Changers’ Wisdom**

“Understand why you want to change careers. Reflect on your strengths, and ask other people, like a career coach, to help with that self-reflection. Figure out when and where you did your best work and were most satisfied.”

– Mike McCubbin ’88, basketball coach turned financial business consultant

“Find the thing you feel that you’ll be satisfied with at the end of the day, the week, the month; and if you think that will fulfill your life, go for it. Once you get there, you will end up doing things you hadn’t even imagined.”

– Phil Dworkin-Cantor ’86, corporate video producer turned high school science teacher

“Talk to people who have the job you’re interested in before you make a change. People love talking about themselves. Do your research before you meet with them and go in with good questions.”

– Georgia Mickey ’66, banker turned college history professor

“Plan carefully and make sure you’re secure about cash flow and income. You don’t want to throw away a successful career and find yourself in financial trouble later. Once you decide you can financially do it, ask questions to decide if it’s something you really want to do. Why do you want to do this? Why leave one career for another? Will you be intellectually satisfied? What really turns you on?”

– Carlos Mendoza ’72, retired cardiologist turned grass hay farmer/llama breeder

“Go ahead and take the leap; you’ll find a way to make it happen.”

– Don Heath ’79, attorney and pastor

**The Essence of Inquiry**

Grinnell students engaged in research make serious contributions to bodies of knowledge while shaping their own futures

by Denton Ketels
Nartey, a biological chemistry major, shared findings from her MAP that could have major implications for health care environments where harmful bacteria pose a threat.

“Hospital-acquired infections are a big concern,” Nartey says. “If a doctor touches a door handle and then examines a patient who has an incision still healing, that’s a way for bacteria to enter into the bloodstream and spread to different organs.

“Copper is an anti-microbial agent; it kills bacteria by disrupting the outer membrane and degrading the DNA,” Nartey explains. “For this research we were hoping that with copper on surfaces like door handles, light switches, IV poles, and keyboards, we could minimize bacterial growth and hospital-acquired infections.”

Nartey collected samples for analysis at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. The hospital is partnering in infections. ”

“Hospital-acquired infections are a big concern,” Nartey says. “Being pre-med, it’s wonderful being part of this translational research where I see the direct impact of the results right away,” Nartey says.

Nartey’s MAP, mentored by Shannon Hins-Leasure, associate professor of biology, exemplifies faculty-directed research that leverages partnerships and funding for capstone-type opportunities. Nartey says having published papers as an undergraduate will help facilitate her access into a fellowship position after graduation and eventual application into an M.D./Ph.D. program.

“Queenster has become an invaluable member of our hospital research team,” Hins-Leasure says. “Her attention to detail and mastery of laboratory techniques have allowed us to expand on our initial studies and gather enough data to tell a complete story. I appreciate her strong interpersonal skills that have allowed her to work effortlessly with all types of care providers at the hospital and her vision for where to move the project next.”

Tying it all together
Josie Bircher ’16, a biochemistry and math double major, is using her math skills to help advance chemistry professor Mark Levandoski’s studies on receptors in the brain linked to nicotine addiction.

Bircher says mathematical approaches are gaining favor in biology and biochemistry due to computing power that provides fast results on multiple simultaneous calculations. Her research could ultimately help lead to drug therapies that effectively treat nicotine addiction.

“The whole point of mathematical modeling is to generate predictive power,” Bircher explains. “If a model matches with experimental data when the receptor is in the presence of one drug, then we can predict how this receptor might act in the presence of another drug, or in the presence of a different amount of drug. We can use the model to then make predictions for other cases to get a general idea of how the receptor works.”

Bircher’s work expands on what students did in previous years, and she values the continuity that’s built into the system. “I relied heavily on what people had done in the past and the final papers they wrote, so those really help in continuing the process,” Bircher says. “It’s a huge benefit of the structure of the MAP.”

Comparing samples to those from her stainless steel control, Nartey documented a significant decrease in bacterial growth for the copper alloys. She is continuing her MAP this semester to test further for resistant bacteria and to sequence for genus and species.

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Nartey collected samples for analysis at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. The hospital is partnering in infections. Each MAP proposal is “essentially proof that you’ve put a lot of work into it and that the project is well thought out,” Bircher says. “It’s also a justification of the research question, how it’s relevant to previous work, what you plan to contribute to the field, and how it relates to your previous studies, because the MAP is supposed to be a culmination of all of your prior coursework in an advanced level.”

Bircher attributes the success of her current MAP to what she has learned in her math classes and sees the research process as intrinsically valuable regardless of what a student might choose as a career direction.

“As I’m planning on being a researcher, it’s been perfectly aligned with what I want to do in the future, but I think that your final goal doesn’t have to be research to do a MAP and to be involved in the research process,” Bircher says. “I think it really helps tie together everything you do in classes, and experiencing this type of research firsthand instead of just reading about it is largely beneficial.”

Levandoski says the value of research to an undergraduate education cannot be overstated, even beyond the fact that students involved in research often

Translating new knowledge
Queenster Nartey ’16 earned “outstanding presentation” honors at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Seattle last November.

“There were huge research institutions represented in divisions like neuroscience, math, cell biology, microbiology,” Nartey says. “The judges that came to hear about my research were like, ‘This all took place at Grinnell? Yep, this happened at a small, rural liberal arts college in Iowa. They were really amazed.”

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The success of that project earned them both an invitation from Jackie Brown, professor of biology, to do a MAP in summer 2015 on Big Island, Hawaii. Both students accepted, and by mid-May they were planning preliminary field studies to help Brown and Idelle Cooper ’01, assistant professor of biology at James Madison University in Virginia, find out why some female damselflies are red and others are green.

“I was looking at a behavioral biology aspect because we wanted to see if the females were evolving this color dimorphism because of sexual selection,” Rasmussen says. For two months, she and other researchers stalked damselflies at various sites near Nazelau, the southernmost town in the United States. “Our main hypothesis was ecological selection, so I was testing the alternative,” Rasmussen says. Her findings indicated that sexual selection was minimal. “What we saw goes along with what Professor Brown and Professor Cooper on two different projects has highlighted for me both their talents and the value of our research-based curriculum in preparing students for meaningful participation in research.

“Each has built on their particular experience with the ant project, but in a completely new setting,” Brown says. “We’ll be working hard together during their senior year to submit these results for publication.”

Rasmussen says the collaborative research processes have made her feel "more prepared for going to graduate school in biology, if that’s the route I decide to take. Going through the planning stage, executing it, and then summarizing it is, I think, applicable to any career field.”

As an undergraduate, Rasmussen says, it is satisfying to do work that adds knowledge to a field. “It’s pretty exciting to find that in a textbook or a syllabus.”

Brown, who along with Cooper received National Science Foundation funding for the damselfly project, says, “Working with Edward and Rebecca on two different projects has highlighted for me both their talents and the value of our research-based curriculum in preparing students for meaningful participation in research.

“Students gain independence and confidence as they work to figure things out for themselves, drawing on their previous experiences.”

“By its integrative nature, a research experience affords students some opportunities for growth that are rarely possible in regular coursework,” Levandoski says. “Students gain independence and confidence as they work to figure things out for themselves, drawing on their previous experiences.

“Some of my most rewarding interactions with research students have come from observing their ‘Eureka!’ moments — not about the science itself, but about the discovery of their passion for it. You can’t put ‘Eureka!’ moments — not about the science itself, but about the discovery of their passion for it. You can’t put

“Two summers ago, that in a textbook or a syllabus.”

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Hysh tested for chemical properties related to the color morphs. "In the ant project I looked at their particular hydrocarbons, and in this one I looked at antioxidant chemicals to see that potentially helped protect damselflies against UV radiation depending on the elevation,“ Hysh says.

Hysh’s early findings contradicted expectations that red pigment signals protection from UV stress. He found that the redder the damselfly, the lower its antioxidant capability. “We have a couple of theories as to why that might be so,” Hysh says. “It’s still pretty open-ended and we’re continuing to work on it.”

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— Rebecca Rasmussen ’16, biology

things that could seriously contribute or that turn out to be an unusual finding that is worth reporting,” she says. “I was originally interested in doing biological field research,” Hsieh says of his MAP experience, “and these opportunities gave me a lot of experience in what I would expect to do if I were to continue in that vein.”

Even fieldwork has its perks, and because damselfly research is highly weather dependent, the research team used rainy days to seek out diversions that included Hawaii’s mix of Asian cuisine, volcanoes, and black sand beaches.

“One morning it was raining, so we went to a beautiful beach for snorkeling,” Hsieh says. “We swam with sea turtles, and then farther out we found a giant pod of 30-plus dolphins.

“We were swimming with dolphins,” Hsieh says. “It was one of the coolest experiences of my life. And it was on my 21st birthday. It was awesome.”

What is a Mentored Advanced Project?

- Requires student initiative in shaping every phase of project.
- Mentored by one or more faculty members.
- Capstone experience; represents culmination of preparatory work.
- Stipend supported; equivalent to a full-time job for the period of the project.
- May include travel to another location for an extended period of time.
- Aims to produce results that merit presentation to wider scholarly world.

For a detailed look at MAPs, see www.grinnell.edu/academics/arc/academic-affairs/map

“Some of my most rewarding interactions with research students have come from observing their ‘Eureka!’ moments — not about the science itself, but about the discovery of their passion for it. You can’t put that in a textbook or a syllabus.”

— Mark Levandoski, professor of chemistry

Giving Chance Encounter

How helping a couple on a train led Wilfried Prewo ’70 to Grinnell

by Luke Saunders ’12

It started with strangers on a train — very seldom does one get to say that anymore. The year was 1964, and it was this chance encounter that led to Wilfried Prewo ’70’s Grinnell experience, which changed his life and made his recent and future gifts to the College possible.

Bill and Jean Cramer — a couple from Overland Park, Kan., with no real connection to Grinnell — found themselves on the wrong train after visiting a friend in Germany. Prewo, a teenagers then, helped them find their way to a train that would take them to Paris, their intended destination. They exchanged contact information, but it seemed unlikely their paths would cross again.

In the next few years, Prewo completed high school and his compulsory military service in Germany and began studying economics at the University of Frankfurt. He daily found himself in lecture halls filled with as many as 800 students. A small class had 300.

In the summer of 1969, Prewo was in the United States and because he had corresponded with the Cramers since they first met, he decided to take them up on their invitation. While visiting he told them about his university experience, his dissatisfaction with the school and his compulsory military service in Germany. “I never knew an academic experience like Grinnell existed,” he says. “It was like the garden of Eden and nirvana.” Before coming to Grinnell, he had never seen an open-stack library. At his former university, “you could sit there and listen, but the learning was limited because there was no back and forth,” he says. At Grinnell, he says, “I could learn so easily.”

After one year at Grinnell, he graduated and pursued a Ph.D. in economics from Johns Hopkins University.

In the years since he received his doctorate, Prewo taught at the University of Texas at Austin and then returned to Germany. In 1985 he became chief executive of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Hannover. He held that position until he retired in 2012.

Prewo could teach a master class on ways to give. Ever the economist, he chose the three modes that made the most sense for his financial situation: a bequest from an existing family trust, a gift of stock to establish a charitable remainder unitrust managed by Grinnell College, and a cash gift. The bequest and the cash gift will establish a pair of scholarships, one honoring the Cramers and the other honoring his parents. He chose to honor his parents because of the importance they placed on education. He honors the Cramers because they recognized the value of the education he was offered and generously removed the financial obstacle that stood in his way.

Web extra:
Research experience adds value to internship.

For a detailed look at MAPs, see www.grinnell.edu/academics/arc/academic-affairs/map

Wilfried Prewo ‘70

Prewo’s experience at Grinnell was a profound one. The culture was vastly different from that of his university in Germany. “I never knew an academic experience like Grinnell existed,” he says. “It was like the garden of Eden and nirvana.” Before coming to Grinnell, he had never seen an open-stack library. At his former university, “you could sit there and listen, but the learning was limited because there was no back and forth,” he says. At Grinnell, he says, “I could learn so easily.” After one year at Grinnell, he graduated and pursued a Ph.D. in economics from Johns Hopkins University.

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An Unconventional Coach

Soccer was not a very popular sport when I arrived at Grinnell, and I was not a very good soccer player, so it seemed like a perfect fit. I joined the team as a sophomore and played for three unremarkable seasons, certainly not a highlight of my lifetime athletic achievements and worthy of mention for only one reason. I was coached by Charlie Fishman.

Coach Fishman was unconventional. Soccer was not a sport he was very familiar with, and his training methods and strategies were unlike anything any of us had ever experienced. But his philosophies were intriguing, infectious, hard to follow until you followed them, somehow more real than the usual drill or banal clichés. Now 40 years later I think of him often as I coach my small group of middle school athletes. My kids don’t prance and pose when they win, because winning is what they expect if they do what we have practiced. Coach taught me that. We live on the grass and visualize our upcoming successes, just as our Grinnell soccer team did in a dark room in the 1970s, and we are successful. I owe everything I am as a coach to John Pittsch.

LARRY PISTRANG ’80, Princeton, Mass.

 Sense of Community

In spring 1968, I was trying to decide where I would transfer for my sophomore year of college. I had a Grinnell acceptance but had spoken to exactly one Grinnell alum and never seen the place.

As the deadline for a decision approached, I was invited to a Grinnell alumni event near my home in Maryland. Dean of the College Joseph Wall ’41 spoke and then opened the floor for questions and comments. A woman stood up and said she had not attended Grinnell but her son Joe was an alum. She wanted us to know that he was doing his medical residency in Pittsburgh and was doing just fine. And she sat down.

If Grinnell is the kind of community where Joe’s mother had become a part of it, it was probably the place for me. Thank you, Joe and your mother, whoever and wherever you are.


Promised Friends for Life

During my first semester (spring 1952) at Grinnell College, my lengthy friendship with Charlie Anderson ’55 was launched. For two years we were roommates in South Younker. Charlie’s main focus and mine was on academics. Later, while being bell-ringers with our South Younker buddies and double dates with coeds from South Campus helped us maintain a sense of balance.

Grinnell College days were followed by Johns Hopkins days where Charlie pursued a Ph.D. in political science. Next was Charlie’s lengthy tenure in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. For a decade visits between Charlie and me were out of the question.

That changed in 1967 when I accepted a position in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa, Madison, Wis., and Iowa City, Iowa, weren’t distant cities. During our visits we rehearsed old jokes and discussed academic issues and prevailing national problems. I was saddened to learn that Charlie died of cancer in 2013 (I remain in touch with his wife, Susan Anderson ’55).

Charlie’s engaging mind, sense of humor, and natural friendliness convince me that truly I’ve been enriched for having known Charles W. Anderson.

— J. Kenneth Kunz ’56, Iowa City, Iowa

Prompt for Summer 2016

There’s a vibe — a sense of coming home — that many Grinnelliants feel when they come to Grinnell as students. How/when did you know Grinnell was “home” for you?

Submit up to 200 words by April 29, 2016, to magazine@grinnell.edu with “home” in the subject line. If we publish your story, we’ll send you a special T-shirt.
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The Grinnell Magazine

Spring 2016 35

Classnotes

1950s

1955

Dean Martin ’55

Dean Martin will be inducted as an NAI Fellow at the National Academy of Inventors’ fellow induction ceremony on April 15, 2016, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Va.

1960s

1963

Bennett Bean ’63

Bennett Bean shares: “Just back from 10 days in Israel lecturing and demonstrating, sponsored by the Association of Israel’s Decorative Arts foreign exchange program.”

1964

Dennis Maulsby’s flash fiction story “Amtrak Dream” won an honorable mention in the 2015 Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition. This annual community arts outreach program of the National Federation of American Pen Women looks for original, freshly creative, and finely crafted works that embrace creative interpretations of the statement by English poet John Keats. Read “Amtrak Dream” at www.dennismaulsby.com/blog. Quotations by Maulsby are also featured in “Voices from Vietnam: Some 40 years after the war’s end Iowans who served tell their stories,” an article featured in the January/February issue of The Iowan magazine.

1966 (50th Reunion)

James Holbrook, clinical professor of law at the University of Utah, received the inaugural Peacemaker Award and gave the inaugural Peacemaker Lecture in September in Provo, Utah. The award was created by the Brigham Young University Center for Conflict Resolution and co-sponsored by the BYU David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies. View his lecture at kennedy.byu.edu/events/the-wagon-wheel/.

1968

Chuck Connelly ’68

Chuck Connelly received the University of Iowa’s Michael J. Brody Award for Faculty Excellence in Service on Oct. 6, 2015 at the University of Iowa’s annual Faculty and Staff Awards Banquet. The citation for the award can be found at now.uiowa.edu/2015/10/annual-celebration-honors-faculty-staff.

Amy Rosson received an Alumni Legacy Award from Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, for her work with fungi, October 2015.


1969

Carl Muller was recognized as an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2016 by the Super Lawyers rating service. Muller works at Tucker Ellis LLP.

1970s

1971

J.C. Labowitz was named one of the best lawyers in the Washington area in the 2015 issue of Washingtonian magazine. His specialty is elder law.

1972

Floyd Shottenkirk retired from music teaching in April 2015 after 29 years at Northern Michigan University. He also taught for seven years at Manchester University and for three years at Westwood High School in Mesa, Ariz., and Window High School in Window, Ariz. He and his wife Patricia have five children between them. “Since teaching for nearly 40 years does not prepare one for retirement, I occasionally wake up completely perplexed,” he writes.

1973

Irena McClain will receive the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association on April 4, 2016, at the Massachusetts Statehouse. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology and a master of fine arts in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ron Medvin once again sang with Andrea Bochelli as part of the Opera Tampa Chorus during a Feb. 11, 2016, concert at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. Medvin, a baritone, was excited as this was his second opportunity to sing with Bocelli; he was part of Bocelli’s 2012 Tampa concert.

1980s

1980 (35th Cluster Reunion)

Liane Binowitz ’80

Liane Binowitz writes: “I was recognized in the 2015 issue of Mountain States Super Lawyers, a magazine that identifies the top 5 percent of attorneys in designated specialties in the states and regions, chosen by their peers and through research of Super Lawyers, a

1981

Chris Bulbulia ’10 was a development assistant at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2012. That’s when a friend urged him to see Congressional Chorus perform its annual cabaret across town at the historic Atlas Performing Arts Center.

“I’d seen ballet and opera, I’d seen lots of shows at the Kennedy Center,” Bulbulia says. “But I saw this show and my jaw fell to the floor. I was like, whoa, what is this? There was such a range of genres — a cappella singing, bands and dancing, soloists and ensembles. It was a wonderful production.

“I fell in love with Congressional Chorus the first time I saw the cabaret,” he says. “I feel very proud to be part of the organization today.”

The Congressional Chorus and American Youth Chorus — its full name is a family of five choruses devoted to American choral music. It performs a full slate of concerts and special appearances each year in Washington, D.C., including White House and Capitol Hill occasions.

Bulbulia became a Congressional Chorus singer in 2015. He quickly transitioned to become the organization’s director of marketing, production, and development.

“We have a performance style for everyone,” he says. “You’re not going to get the same thing every time you come to a show, which really lends to a dynamic season that people enjoy.”

Far from feeling overwhelmed by his multifaceted role, Bulbulia is energized by the integration of functions he came to appreciate as a theatre major at Grinnell, as a freelance fundraiser for nonprofit groups, and as an intern and employee at the Kennedy Center.

“There is a whole other side to the arts besides being a performer,” he says. “I’ve come to understand the relationships that need to be built in order to sustain organizations. This job incorporates all of the elements that allow Congressional Chorus to be healthy.”

Bulbulia’s activities at Grinnell included two years with the Grinnell Singers. His participation with the Student Publications and Radio Committee (SPARC) gave him important insights into fundraising, allocations, and nonprofit relationships.

After graduation, his plan was to return to Washington to become an actor. He went to bartending school and worked as an overture stagehand while “doing the struggling actor thing.” The plan shifted, he says, when his postgraduate internship at the Kennedy Center refocused his attention on arts management.

“The arts are in need of people who can bolster the craft and provide good representation for artists themselves,” Bulbulia says. That includes helping artists make sound financial decisions, as well as building their marketing and technical skills for making productions and performances the best they can be. Bulbulia continues to work in support of nonprofits like Washington’s Raise Your City and Think Local First. He is a member and officer in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which is dedicated to the elevation of character and principles of friendship. He also manages events and partnerships for the city’s online music review and playlist resource, DCMusicDownload.com.

“I have strong commitment to community and to bringing people together in some sort of fellowship,” Bulbulia says. “That is why I’ve been a part of all these organizations — to help communities grow and enjoy life together.”

— Denton Ketels

ALUMNI PROFILE

CHRIS BULBULIA ’10

“Amtrak Dream” won an honorable mention in the 2015 issue of The Iowan magazine. The essay was written by Dennis Maulsby, who was featured in “Voices from Vietnam: Some 40 years after the war’s end Iowans who served tell their stories.”

Photo by Justin Hayworth

The Iowan

January/February issue of The Iowan magazine.

www.dennismaulsby.com/blog. Quotations by Maulsby are also featured in “Voices from Vietnam: Some 40 years after the war’s end Iowans who served tell their stories,” an article featured in the January/February issue of The Iowan magazine.
Adam Sterling was nominated by President Barack Obama as ambassador to the Slovak Republic. Sterling is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, class of counselor, and has been deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands, since 2013. He served concurrently as chargé d'affaires in The Hague from 2013 to 2014. Previously, he served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy for my farm in Monroe County, Iowa. My Slovak immigrant grandfather purchased this farm in 1915, so I am the third generation to own this farm.

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Scully LLP, a national insurance defense counsel at Gordon & Rees Mansukhani included in the personal injury defense/third consecutive year in which I was named in the Illinois Super. I live with my spouse John. We celebrated our 25th anniversary in September. Right now I'm calling her a humanitarian. “She said we're making life better for other people. They're making life better for other people. The professors are the talented people. I just keep the plates spinning.”

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Bunge's idea for “bucket courses” — things people might want to learn before kicking the proverbial vessel — has manifested in a weekly series that brings educators from the College and elsewhere to adult learners at Drake Community Library. It’s open to anyone, and it’s a hot ticket. “My concerns when we started this was that we wouldn’t have enough people come to make it worthwhile, and that we’d run out of professors who were willing to teach,” Bunge says. “Now we have so many people we can’t get them in the room, and we have a list of professors who want to teach that we can’t get for the next two years.” To promote access, Bunge and her planning committee have launched a new website, grinnelleebucketcourses.org. Visitors can view the entire schedule and past classes on YouTube. Bunge directs credit for success of the bucket courses to the planning committee. “It’s the extraordinary group of people that I’ve ever seen,” she says. “They’re the talented people. The professors are the talented people. I just keep the plates spinning.”

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Joanne Bunge ’56 has a knack for building community. In Bloomington, Minn., her home for 30 years, Bunge organized churches, a hospital, and educational resources to start a Family Education Center. “It was for parents, grandparents, teachers — anyone who was involved with raising children,” Bunge says. “It was more successful than I ever imagined.”

After raising two sons and doing an array of volunteer work, Bunge returned to Grinnell in 1990 to become the College’s director of planned giving. “If it hadn’t been my alma mater, I wouldn’t have left Bloomington,” Bunge says. “Grinnell College did something I had to do.”

Bunge sold the idea to leadership at the College, the GRMC, and the Mayflower Community. More entities jumped in, and the seven-member Community Education Council (CEC) was born in 2007. “People say you should have a vision in your mind of what a project is going to be, where it’s going to go, and what you expect to accomplish,” Bunge says. “That is so far from what’s happened to me in anything I’ve done. I just get this notion for something, and next thing I know I have a tiger by the tail.”

The CEC’s first project culminated in a book titled Our War, edited by George Drake ’56, former CEC planning committee member and former Grinnell College president. It documented the riveting personal accounts of area World War II veterans who served in the European and Pacific theaters.
1990
Karen Glenneimer is a conservation ecologist with the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, where she helps restore habitat in the forest preserves surrounding the city.

Katherine Page ’90
Katherine Page has been promoted to partner at Perkins Coie’s commercial litigation practice in the Seattle office.

1992
Josh Burke co-chaired the 137th annual meeting of the International Trademark Association, the global association of trademark owners and professionals dedicated to supporting trademarks and related intellectual property. This year’s meeting, held over the course of five days at the San Diego Convention Center, was the largest in the association’s history, with 10,000 attorneys, paralegals, and other trademark professionals attending.

1993
Brett Fechheimer and Stephen Asche were married on Dec. 12, 2015 in Minneapolis. Attending were Laura Wiseman and Marian Saksena Hatch, both from the class of 1993.

1994
Chad Finke was appointed as court executive officer and clerk of court for the Superior Court of Alameda County, Calif.

1996
Bruce Friedrich graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in December 2015, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif. He’s published several law review articles, which are available at works.bepress.com/bruce_friedrich/. He writes, “I’ve also started a new job as executive director of The Good Food Institute and co-trustee of a small venture capital firm, New Crop Capital, both of which focus on promoting culture and plant-based alternatives to animal agriculture. Websites for both will be active at the end of January. www.TheGoodFoodInstitute.org (we have a landing page, but that’s it) and www.NewCropCapital.com.”

Douglas Schenkkelberg was named executive director at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

1999
Claude Rice Hlavac and Andre Hlavac announced the birth of their child, a daughter, Lily Jane Hlavac, on Oct. 30, 2015. Lily is proud to be a Grinnell chip!

Matt Hurstman and Emily Langveg ’91 were married July 18, 2015, in Northfield, Minn. Attending were Kirk Johnson ’95; Rebecca Eilers ’96; Wyatt Garlick; Shannon Guy, Laurie Kaufman, Rick Mare, Nathaniel Reis, Ashok Vynick, all from the class of 1999; Courtney Hughan ’90, Ladonna Miot Andrade, Ned-Astholm, Shana Barbach, Mariel Britz, Adam Grath, Salvie Hanson, Emily Howard, Robin Lingis, Hillary Merriage, Ben Owen, Matt Pellowski, Etaine Ann Tenbrink, all class of 2001; Jefferson Mol and Jeanne Luss, class of 2002; and Luna Room ’03.

The Power of Memory

In the midst of an unprecedented number of prison closures around the country, rural communities whose local economies were shaped around correctional institutions find themselves struggling with the question: If not prisons, what?

Tracy Huling ’77, founder of the Prison Public Memory Project (PPMP), helps communities cope with this difficult question. “The PPMP uses history, art, and new media technologies to tell the important stories of prisons and their people,” Huling says. “We try to use culture to change culture, helping people to grapple with dark history but also to uncover the good intentions and, sometimes, good results that come out of that history.”

By researching the history of prison communities and conducting oral history interviews, the PPMP helps local people reflect on their complicated histories and discover new ways of coming together as a community to remember their past and shape a new future.

“I see the PPMP as facilitating a process of change by engaging these communities in transition, excavating their histories, telling their stories, and honoring their memories,” says Huling. “We create forums where people can learn about and openly discuss the good and the bad.”

The Prison Public Memory Project has developed its full model in Hudson, N.Y., its pilot site. In spring 2016, PPMP will assist the community of Fort Madison, Iowa, in collecting oral histories of people who worked or were incarcerated at the old Iowa State Penitentiary site (a new prison site opened a couple of miles away in 2015). Plans are afoot to train and involve Grinnell students in the Iowa work.

Brian Buckley ’14, coordinator of the Hudson pilot project, found out about Huling’s project when she came to campus to present her documentary, Yea, In My Backyard, which analyzes the complex reasons that rural communities welcome the construction of prisons in their area.

“I had been serving as a volunteer — and later as a student coordinator — for the Liberal Arts in Prison program since my first semester at Grinnell. It was a very important passion of mine during my time at Grinnell,” says Buckley. “We believe that if the United States is going to be able to drastically scale back its prison system, it’s going to take an effort that penetrates into the areas of our country that have become dependent on prisons as job generators,” Huling says. “We need to provide safe spaces for open dialogue and healing, while still demanding accountability and acknowledging the damage done by mass incarceration in these communities.”

Huling and Buckley plan to use their 2015 Wall Service Award to help create a permanent site of memory in Hudson and to establish a national PPMP board of directors to help locate new sites, create the program for a national assistance center, and raise additional funding.

— Elzie Hadden ’14
2000

2000 (15th Cluster Reunion)
Morganqa Bailey has named one of the 2015 Top 10 LGBT Future Leaders through OUTstanding, a nonprofit professional network for LGBT individuals in England, and the Financial Times, London, Bailey is a vice president at State Street Corp. in the global human resources department. The LGBT Future Leaders category recognizes those making a significant contribution to LGBT inclusion in their company.

Chuon Wu '00
Chuon Wu has been promoted to partner within Perkin Coie’s financial transactions and restructuring practice in the Seattle office.

2001 (15th Cluster Reunion)
Pete De Kock is the new executive director of the De Moines (Iowa) Social Club. The club seeks to be an innovative arts and entertainment venue that provides a home for local artists, offers unique programming spanning all art disciplines, and brings people of every age and background together under one roof.

Rhiannon Dietze Harris and Ben Harris announced the birth of second child, second son, Elliot Alexander Harris, Aug. 28, 2015.

Nathaniel Quance and Amanda Perry '03 were married in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 9, 2015. Attending were Arey Bailey, Mark Cvancara, Dave Dalal, Sarah Dixon Gaul, Mike Hochman, Justine Lea, Susie Przybylski Lucas, Emily Marrick, Emily Ray, Kate Simonson, Matt Roberts, Megan Samuelson, Andrue Sherburne, Liz Graf Sherburne, Matt Wanner-Blankenship, Eil Whad, Jeff Zuland, all class of 2001; Anna Barlow, Colin Bernard, Rick Cerillo, Megan Latchski Czarnicki, Anne Katz, James Michael-

Vanessa Pierce '02
Vanessa Pierce and Kelly Knutsen were married at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, Colo., Aug. 8, 2015. Attending were Bill Holland '00, Christopher Thomas '00, Sarah Kogel-Smucker '01, Matt Ewing '02, and Joe Mowers '02.

Kate Michaelsen writes: “This year I moved with my family from Connecticut back to Washington. I will be working as a psychiatrist at the VA [Veterans Affairs] Hospital and as faculty at the University of Washington.”

Anne L. O’Brien and James E. Dankovich announced the birth of their second child, second daughter, Rosalie Louden Dankovich, Sept. 6, 2015.

Tony Pham has joined Coin as the head of marketing (www.onlcoin.com).

Aaron Scott writes: “At the beginning of the year, I left my arts editor gig at Portland Monthly Magazine to produce a radio show about arts and creativity called State of Wonder for Oregon Public Broadcasting. It’s been a year of firsts. I recently filled my first feature for NPR about the modernization of Shakespeare’s language; updated my first feature for Radiolab about America’s first transgender mayor (“New Stv”); covered my first international breaking news story, about the shooting in Roseburg [Ore.], for NPR, BBC, and PBS; and bought my first house with my first partner. Life is not boring.”

Courtney Slager Mueller and Chris Mueller announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Audrey Lou Mueller, April 1, 2015.

Homes Help Restore Lives
Alum’s project offers city’s homeless a path to reintegration

Cullen Davis ’94 has been called a real estate tycoon. He chuckles at the characterization. Eminently successful as a developer, owner, and property manager, Davis is living proof that doing well and doing ‘good’ are not mutually exclusive.

Davis specialty is affordable and mixed-income housing. His Chicago-based companies include UP Development LLC, and UPA LLC, a property management firm, both of which work to enhance and revitalize affordable housing in Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

One of Davis’ projects is Walnut Commons in Muncie, Ind. The $8.4 million complex is a multilayered public-private partnership that combines 44 new apartments with medical and social services for homeless and disabled individuals trying to re-enter the community as productive citizens.

“We do all kinds of affordable housing, but our big thing is permanent supportive housing,” Davis explains. “When people don’t have an address, they can’t get stabilized. What follows is a general cost to society. That’s why it makes sense for state and federal government to be involved.”

Davis cites the example of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or substance abuse issues. At Walnut Commons they can be properly enrolled in benefit programs with the help of a 501(c)(3) partner in the development that also serves as the on-site social services provider.

“Caseworkers interact directly with residents,” Davis says. “They’ll say, ‘Did you go to the doctor?’ What’s your plan to get a job?’ What’s your plan to get some education?’ It’s work on budgeting your money.”

A community medical clinic in the building adds a layer of services for diagnosing and treating conditions that could lead to life in the streets. Secured entrances, common areas, bike storage, and a secured patio with green spaces promote a stable, accessible environment.

While Walnut Commons is not a panacea for all homelessness in a city like Muncie, the impact of permanent supportive housing on community well-being is immediate.

“First thing, the touches of first responders go way down,” Davis says. “Some of our residents are responsible for many of those, and some of them have multiple aliases. If you cycle that one person through the local emergency rooms, you start adding up real societal costs, especially when they’re not covered by insurance.”

Some neighbors react to the housing with a “not in my backyard” attitude, but Davis says Muncie demonstrated a strong political will to help those facing homelessness. In a 2014 proclamation to mark groundbreaking for Walnut Commons, Muncie Mayor Dennis Tyler called permanent supportive housing “one of the most critical elements to a comprehensive strategy” for ending homelessness in the city.

“Our partner mental health facility has relationships with all the local shelters and target groups,” Davis said. “They basically hung up a sign that explained what was being done and the requirements to get in. We had 44 people before the building opened.”

Rules for living in the housing are strict, but the demand is such that there is no need to bend them for anybody. “We tell residents upfront that if you can’t paint inside the numbers, you’ll have to go someplace else,” Davis says. “We don’t let bad apples who can’t conform to the rules derogate the safe space that we’ve created.”

“We’ve found that maintaining safe space is incredibly important to operational harmony and [to] people making progress and achieving the goals they’ve set for themselves,” Davis says.

“It’s important to understand that this is permanent housing,” Davis says. “Ideally, we’d like you to come here, get stable, get a job, and get tired of the rules we put on you. But if you don’t want to leave, it’s permanent and you can stay.”

– Denton Ketels

ALUMNI PROFILE CULLEN DAVIS '94

2002

2002 (15th Cluster Reunion)
Joe Simonson and Hisako Watanabe Simonson announced the birth of their first child, a son, Takumi Lough Simonson, August 2014. “We are still waiting to see if his first word will be Japanese, English, or Python.”

2003

Mary Laura Calhoun and Kevin Bogadus announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Isabel Katherine Bogadus, July 26, 2015.

James Edwards received his Ph.D. in ethnography from the University of California, Los Angeles, on March 20, 2015.

Ruth Anderson Lang and Juan Lang announced the birth of their first child, Ana Luisa Lang, June 29, 2015.

Catherine Hall ’05 and Ami Freeberg ’10.

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Joe Bogardus announced the birth of their second child, second daughter, Rosalie Louden Bogardus, July 26, 2015.

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The Grinnell Magazine

Spring 2016

Ian Warlick ‘10 and Caitlin Short ‘12

Ian Warlick and Caitlin Short were married on the Grinnell College campus on July 25, 2015. They are now Caitlin and Ian Warlick-Short.

Janice Trang ‘15

Janice Trang has joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, serving with Providence In-Home Services in Anchorage, Alaska.

2010S

2011

Laura Cesa and Brian DeVere were married in St. Joseph, Mich., on Oct. 17, 2015. The wedding party included Anna Cesa ’07 and Perry Grabau ’11. Attending were Aaron Barker, Carrie Forrin, Tony Khud, Stephanie Northstrom, Greg York, Alex Raen, and Phil Stilten, all from the class of 2011.


2012

Rebecca Hughes Marcum and Andrew Marcum announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Nora Nancy Marcum, Oct. 28, 2015. Rebecca Marcum also received her master of education in higher education from Pennsylvania State University, August 2015.

2013

Mary Miller ‘13

Mary Miller is serving with the Jesuit Corps, working with Christian Senior Services in San Antonio.

2015

Silvia Elena Foster-Frau received the Hearst Journalism Fellowship, a two-year digital media journalism fellowship awarded to four to six aspiring journalists each year. For the first year of her fellowship, Foster-Frau will be reporting for the Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She is reporting for the Greenwich-Time newspaper in Greenwich, Conn., but will transition to The Connecticut Post in Bridgeport for the second part of her internship. She aspires to be a feature writer for The New Yorker, Harper’s Magazine, or The New York Times.

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Submit your Classnotes to:

Classnotes
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
Grinnell College
Grinnell, IA 50112

866-850-1846
Email: classnotes@grinnell.edu
Website: bit.ly/32t0eB

Deadlines:
Summer 2016 Issue: April 15, 2016
Fall 2016 Issue: July 22, 2016

Jancey Wickstrom updates: “I’ve spent the past year starting up an outpatient clinic for women with eating disorders. We just had our first month in the clinic, and moved twice. I teach at University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration (social work) and absolutely love it.”

Nathan Williams is serving as a pastor at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Ken Yeung was promoted to vice president, strategy and cross-border e-commerce, at Yihaodian (yhi.com) a leading e-commerce retailer and marketplace platform in China, owned by Walmart. Yeung will drive the development and implementation of strategic plan for the company, while running its cross-border e-commerce business unit. In China, cross-border e-commerce is growing exponentially as a result of increased consumer demand for foreign brands and products. Yeung first joined Walmart at its headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., in 2006 and has been a part of its global e-commerce business since 2011.

In anticipation of the birth of their first child, Bridget Lavelle ’04 and Matthew Paul merged their family names, and are now Bridget and Matthew Pavlee. On Dec. 30, 2015, their daughter, Maeve Paul, was born.

Sabrina Ross was promoted from counsel to senior counsel at Uber in San Francisco. Ross also joined the Legal Advisory Board of Crisis Text Line, a national nonprofit organization providing free crisis intervention, in November 2015.

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Daniel Follmer and Jessica Rhoades ’07 were married in Chicago on May 9, 2015.

Leslie Boyadjian and Mike Stanton were married on Oct. 18, 2015.

Terrill Legeri and Kane Turner were married in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 12, 2015. Among those who attended for much eating, drinking and dancing to Madonna were Caroline Fieg Heberton ’78; Lisa Ott Massevinge ’03; Ursula Hill; Dana Logden; Meghan Rubin, Miriam Stanton, and Lisa Stevens, class of 2005; Eli Zigas ’06; and Renate Heberton ’06.

2006 (10th Reunion)


2008

Kirsten Aho and Jakub Kocyan were married on May 30, 2015.

Megan Goering is now an independent consultant working with Strategic Operations and Product Design, living in the Mission District of San Francisco.

Amanda Keledjian and Sean Warlick were married in Seattle, Sept. 6, 2015. They state: “We were married by Liz Gibbons ’08 with 25 Grinnellians in attendance. A lovely time was had by all.”

Holly Lustwitz Rapp completed a Ph.D. in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 2015.

Bryan Williams obtained his master’s in financial engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Management, in December 2015. In January 2016 Williams was named director of analytics at HYFN, a social advertising firm in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

Alyssa Yokota-Lewis joined Unoja Student Development Corp. in Chicago in July 2015 as a restorative justice specialist.

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Joel Henderson was awarded a master of science in computer science from the University of Texas, El Paso, in July 2015. He is employed with the Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Mary Lutwitze Rapp graduated with a master’s in science in computer science from the University of Texas, El Paso, in July 2015. She is employed with the Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

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In Memoriam

Marion McCoy Vipond ’39, Western Spring, Ill., June 24, 2015. Survivors include her daughter Marion Bennett and her husband, Mel Bennett.


Jane Barlow Stull ’49, Oak Park, Ill., Oct. 16, 2015. Jane graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in psychology and received a master’s in nursing from Case Western Reserve University in 1946. She worked as editor of Nurses Notes in New York City, a newsletter designed to keep nurses up to date on medical advancements. Nurses Notes later turned into the Report for Nurses, which she self-published for three years. Jane then worked as a geriatric nurse and realtor in Wheaton, Ill., and continued her love of long-distance swimming into her retirement.


Shirley Svenjas Spelt ’48, Shrewsbury, Wis., Nov. 4, 2015. Survivors include her stepson, Philip Spelt.

Robert A. McFarland ’49, Iowa City, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2015. Bob joined the Army straight out of high school in 1943. He was in combat in the European Theater and the Battle of the Bridge and was awarded a Bronze Star. After his discharge he attended Grinnell, where he met his wife, Shirley Miller McFarland. The two were married in 1948. Robert pursued a long career in education as a high school teacher, principal, and superintendent. In 2000, Robert was knighted in the Imperial Constantinian Military Order of St. George. Survivors include his wife.

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Spring 2016 45

In Memoriam

Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 866-850-1846 and ask for your memorial gift. D. C. Stuckis ’93, Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 29, 2015. A gifted outdoor photographer, whitewater kayaker, and lover of the wilderness, Doug is remembered for his bravery, loyalty, and adventurous spirit. After graduating from Grinnell with a degree in economics, he worked for many years as an O'Malley dealership instructor. In 2010, Doug and his wife Kate moved to Anchorage, Alaska, and devoted their time to growing their small business. Doug was an ardent supporter of pro-social and justice equality. Doug is survived by his wife and two young children, Simon and Sibila.

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IN MEMORIAM: DENNIS WAYNE HAAS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

Dennis Wayne Haas, associate professor of physics, died unexpectedly Dec. 28, 2015, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa, apparently from a cardiac event. He was 48. Originally from Sri Lanka, Sujeew came to the United States to pursue a bachelor’s degree in physics at the University of Southern California. He went on to receive his doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin, specializing in particle physics. During his time at the University of Texas, he distinguished himself among his colleagues as a brilliant mathematician and scientist and as a thoughtful and loyal friend.

After joining the Grinnell faculty in 2005, Sujeew gained a reputation among his students for both his intelligence and his willingness to engage deeply with his students’ education. He served as a mentor and inspiration to countless students, encouraging even those who previously had no interest in the sciences. He was the winner of the prestigious Cottrell College Science Award, as well as the Harris Faculty Fellowship, and he also gained an international reputation through his many published works.

Sujeew was a devoted husband and father and is remembered by all who knew him as an outstandingly kind and supportive individual. He is survived by his wife Tammy Nyden, associate professor of philosophy, and his stepsons, Jonah and Cole Bullock.

Memorial contributions can be made in Wickramasekara’s name to support financial aid for Grinnell College physics students from groups that are currently underrepresented in the field. Contributions should be sent to the Grinnell College Development and Alumni Relations office, 733 Broad St., Grinnell, IA 50112.

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The Rev. Dennis Wayne Haas, professor emeritus of religious studies and former chaplain at Grinnell College, died peacefully in Grinnell, surrounded by family, on Jan. 18, 2016, at the age of 81.

One of the College’s most beloved teachers, his areas of interest and expertise included the Hebrew Bible and Christian Scriptures. Faculty and students knew him as a generous, thoughtful, compassionate man who was devoted to issues of social justice, diversity, and peace.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Dennis received a master’s of divinity from Union Theological Seminary, N.Y., and a master’s of sacred theology from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pa. In 1959 he began his career serving as pastor at Faulkner Swamp German Reformed Church (UCC), Gilbertsville, Pa. He joined the Grinnell College faculty in 1966 and served in the dual role of professor and chaplain until his retirement in 1996. He became professor emeritus in 2003. Dennis was an active and dedicated member of Grinnell UCC Church, most recently teaching the adult Sunday School Seekers class. Among his many accomplishments, Dennis served as president of the National Association of College and University Chaplains, board member of Mid-Iowa Community Action, and on the Grinnell Affordable Housing Commission.

The son of Wayne B. and Mamie C. Haas, Dennis was born Dec. 23, 1934, in Topton, Pa. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Thoma “Tommy” Stewart Haas; his children Jonathan Haas (Deborah), David Jordan-Haas (Constance), Andrew Haas (Sarah), and Elizabeth Haas; siblings Christine Luckenbill, Richard Haas, Timothy Haas, Bonnie Haas; and five grandchildren. Dennis is preceded in death by parents Wayne and Mamie Haas of Kutztown, Pa., and siblings Larry Haas, David Haas, and Alan Haas.

Memorial gifts may be made in his honor to Southern Poverty Law Center (donate.splcenter.org) or the Mayflower Human Needs Endowment Fund (www.mayflowerhomes.com/donations).

Risk Engagement for Colleges: Grinnell Leads the Way

The typical new startup company has no duty to preserve ancient records or to fight the permanent loss of the world’s knowledge. As a college that welcomed racism, sexism, and homophobia, Grinnell faces a different challenge. We need to protect our knowledge from loss and a drive to extend the frontiers of new knowledge.

Sujeev Wickramasekara

A risk model that suits Grinnell Apart from historical anecdotes, what makes this approach right for us? For one thing, a strong tradition of academic shared governance ensures that our risk categories won’t be overly “corporate.” Designed for financial services and businesses, enterprise risk management had to be translated into academic language and culture before it could truly serve a college.

Faculty leaders at Grinnell have a strong voice, so when administrators raise the idea that it’s time to analyze risk, the faculty can see to it that risks to the mission of teaching and scholarship take priority. Keeping academic values central remains a guiding principle in Grinnell’s “purposive risk engagement” model.

As a college that welcomed diversity in admission pretty much from the beginning, Grinnell upholds diversity as a core value. A cautious attitude is common at many institutions of higher education, where administrators worry about greater diversity bringing new risks — embodied in anxieties about compliance, protests, and lawsuits.

At Grinnell we view diversity as positive and seek to identify (and then engage!) risks that threaten what we value in a diverse community. Drawing strength from our history, we look beyond the dutiful surface of compliance and adherence to rules, and honor the spirit of educational opportunity behind laws like Title IX and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), a spirit that affirms real values behind institutional choices and actions.

Grinnell is at the forefront of a new approach that colleges and universities can use to handle risk. Adapted from the enterprise risk management practiced in the corporate world, Grinnell’s model gives priority to academic values, not just the financial bottom line.

The College has a tradition of taking risks. Grinnell College in the Nineteenth Century by Joseph Wall 41 describes how the Iowa Band originally founded the College in response to “a dare tauntingly thrown at them” by a mentor they greatly respected.

When Grinnell attained national prominence in the 20th century, its rise in fortunes was also connected with risk. Trustees like Warren Buffet and Joseph Rosenfield ’25 multiplied the endowment through bold financial speculation.

They were Grinnell’s “risk-taking pioneers of the 1970s,” wrote Alan Jones ’50 in Pioneering.

More recently, the Board of Trustees took a chance by appointing a president who acknowledged having little experience with liberal arts colleges.

Raynard S. Kington arrived on campus in 2010 and asked his team of senior leaders, “What are our institutional plans and policies to manage risk?”

That early date from a new president had no easy answer. But his question spurred leaders at Grinnell to develop and share a new approach to risk — one now embraced as a model by other liberal arts colleges.

Grinnell college Leaders

Grinnell to develop and share a new approach to risk — one now embraced as a model by other liberal arts colleges.

Why is Grinnell the right place to study risk?

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That’s So Grinnellian

Students kick a soccer ball around Mac Field as the sun sets.

Photo by Justin Hayworth
Iowa View