the Rock and Roll and Beyond
Georgia Dentel, the woman who put Grinnell College on the musical map
Empowering prisoners

I personally have been very much impacted by the criminal justice system in the United States. So I was very pleased to read the “Liberal Arts in Prison” article in the Summer 2015 Grinnell Magazine. I’m impressed to find out that Grinnell staff and students have been interested in being involved with inmates in Iowa prisons and have helped those inmates find something to work toward and some hope for themselves. I’m also pleased to hear that the volunteers who helped with the program allowed their experiences to tutor them and inform their own lives.

For the past 10 years, I have been a facilitator and a part of a group called Developing a Positive Attitude at San Quentin State Prison here in northern California. The group is modeled on Jerry Jampolsky’s teachings of attitudinal healing. The men who put in the work realize that they have a choice about how they think, act, and respond; their peace of mind and way of being is greatly impacted by this program, and the group members who have been paroled from San Quentin are, to a man, living productive, happy, and healthy lives.

There are also many college programs offered in San Quentin that pave the way for these men to return to society as people who contribute and make a difference. Many of the men in my group have been incarcerated for decades. One such man is a biker, heavily tattooed, and is only recently expressing emotions other than hate. He often stops me after group to discuss his newest passion, physics, and his fascination with string theory. Thanks to my Grinnell education, I at least have some idea of what he is talking about and how exhilarating it is to have the opportunity to learn.

Keep it up!

– Holly Hoebel Bacuzzi ’66, Sausalito, Calif.

And the victims?

I really enjoyed the article on liberal arts in prison (Summer 2015). Could you, though, publish an article in your next edition on how Grinnell’s students and faculty show their social activism by offering courses to the victims of those incarcerated at the Newton Correctional Facility?

– Rich Bohm ’86, Tega Cay, S.C.

Attention-grabbing alligator

Although the cover for the summer Grinnell Magazine is spectacular, the photo which truly caught and held my attention was the alligator lying on the ground. I think most will recall the tune they used to sing, with or without provocation, on weekend evenings in the Haines Hall lounge.

– Dana Boone, Kingsley, Iowa

Ode to the Haines Hall Hellers

Your story about the Read residents who kept their friendship alive via a round-robin letter (Spring 2015) inspired me to recall another gang of devoted Grinnell buddies who lived in Haines Hall when it was still exclusively a women’s residence. They called themselves the Haines Hall Hellers, and though they were graduated in 1949, they still manage to keep in touch, albeit by less formal means. The modern-day Hellers exchange Christmas cards and meet occasionally when the opportunity permits, and I think most will recall the tune they used to sing, with or without provocation, on weekend evenings in the Haines Hall lounge.

– Holly Hoebel Bacuzzi ’66, Sausalito, Calif.

Appreciation from fellow veteran

As a 1956 grad whose first career was in the U.S. Air Force, I was pleased to read Lt. Col. Gail Fisher ’84’s explanation of why she joined the Army. It was certainly a very different set of circumstances from those I experienced yet the outcomes seem to me to be very similar.

Like Gail, my Grinnell education firmly convinced me that peace was a major human goal. However, this was only a few short years after World War II and Korea and our view of keeping the peace was a major human goal. In fact, we males still had a “military obligation,” and many of my classmates were drafted to fulfill that obligation. I and several others received our commissions as second lieutenants in the Air Force as a result of our time in AFROTC at Grinnell.

Like Lt. Col. Fisher, I have found that all who wore the uniform hate war and were in the profession to keep it from happening. And, this was never more the case than when we sat across the table from a Congressional committee that didn’t have the same ideas we had about how to get the job done.

I join Lt. Col. Fisher in her pride at being an American warrior, and with many others, thank her for her service.

– Don Cassidy ’56 (Col., USAF Ret.), Aurora, Ill.

Correction

In the Summer 2015 Grinnell Magazine, an article about the Read residents who kept their friendship alive via a round-robin letter (Spring 2015) inspired one reader to recall another gang of devoted Grinnell buddies who lived in Haines Hall when it was still exclusively a women’s residence. They called themselves the Haines Hall Hellers, and though they were graduated in 1949, they still manage to keep in touch, albeit by less formal means.

The modern-day Hellers exchange Christmas cards and meet occasionally when the opportunity permits, and I think most will recall the tune they used to sing, with or without provocation, on weekend evenings in the Haines Hall lounge.

– Rich Bohm ’86, Tega Cay, S.C.
At first glance, this issue of The Grinnell Magazine looks very different — intentionally so. Some of the feedback from last spring’s alumni communications survey suggested that we reduce the magazine’s trim size and use less fancy paper, so we did. The trim size is an industry standard 8 inches by 10.5 inches. The uncoated paper stock uses the same amount of recycled postconsumer waste — 10 percent — as the glossy paper did and costs about the same.

Larissa Stalup, our staff graphic designer and the magazine’s new art director, created the design using the fonts and colors recommended by Crane MetaMarketing, the firm the College hired to help craft the magazine’s new art director, created the design

Some of the content changes are modifications, Michael Kahn ’74, who’s mentored many Grinnell College interns at TIAA-CREF since 2000 (Page 28).

Another new department is this one, “Strategy Session.” In future issues, President Raynard S. Kington and members of his senior staff will write this column to help explain Grinnell’s vision and strategy across all areas of campus.

Some of the content changes are modifications to existing sections. For example, “In Memoriam” now includes short obituaries whenever possible rather than bare facts.

What hasn’t changed is our interest in telling compelling stories about Grinnellians from all walks of life.

Brian Vicente ’99 was at the forefront of Colorado’s legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use. He explains how his work came about in a Q&A with staff writer Denton Ketels (Page 18).

Ketels also tells the story of Michael Kahn ’74, who’s mentored many Grinnell College interns at TIAA-CREF since 2000 (Page 28).

Last spring I had the privilege of interviewing a campus legend — Georgia Dentel, the woman who brought Bruce Springsteen to campus, among many others (Page 22).

We are always looking for compelling story ideas — quirky or straightforward, serious or funny. Please send your ideas as well as your feedback on this new design to magazine@grinnell.edu.

— Michele Regenold ’89, editor

After making the request for assistance, the College learned from media that a number of Grinnell students had filed a Title IX complaint with OCR. A local attorney working with the complainants acknowledged that neither the filing of the complaint, nor the complaint itself had been shared with the College. OCR publicly “commenced” Grinnell College for its commitment to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn in an environment free from sexual violence, but later declined to provide technical assistance in light of the pending complaint.

The College continues to proactively develop its sexual respect policies to ensure that its practices are trauma-informed, prompt and equitable, and fair. Recent enhancements include engaging an outside adjudicator, former Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, as well as outside investigators on an as-needed basis. In addition, the College has developed a Title IX training program that has become a national model. Throughout all of its efforts, Grinnell students have been deeply involved in prevention and response work.

The College maintains a Title IX Task Force that directs its resources toward preventing sexual misconduct and responding to student reports. Each member of the task force has a focused area of responsibility:

• Angela Voo (chief of staff and Title IX coordinator), oversight of all Title IX matters.
• Sarah Moschenroth (dean of students), conduct process and will continue to seek improvements that tend to the needs of our community. We support the rights of all of our students to file a civil rights complaint, and we will continue to provide support and care for all of our community members.

Grinnell’s sexual respect policy resources can be found at www.grinnell.edu/sexualrespect.

— Elise Hadden ’74

In July 2015, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) informed Grinnell College that it was opening an investigation into a Title IX complaint filed against the College. The complaint, which was not shared with the College by OCR, addresses the College’s response to cases of reported sexual assault and retaliation. OCR also informed the College that “opening the allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits.” College administrators said they welcome this review and will collaborate with OCR to assure that the College’s Title IX policies and procedures are as effective as possible.

Last spring, President Raynard S. Kington requested that OCR provide the College with technical assistance under Title IX after being unable to comment on media coverage of student allegations dating back to 2012. Kington noted that the College had made significant improvements in policies and process following new guidance from OCR in April 2011 and sought review by OCR as a neutral and impartial fact-finder.

Our work should not be judged in the court of public opinion based on incomplete information, but by those responsible for oversight of Title IX, based on comprehensive campus landscaping

The ARH and Carnegie renovations, a new admission/visitor center, and a landscaping plan are underway

ARH/Carnegie renovations, a new admission/visitor center, and a landscaping plan are underway

Architects Selected for Campus Projects
ARH/Carnegie renovations, a new admission/visitor center, and a landscaping plan are underway

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Chief IT Officer Named

New position oversees academic and administrative information technology services and support

Dave Robinson was named the College’s chief information technology officer in August. In this newly created position, Robinson will have broad responsibility for academic and administrative information technology support and services.

“He is articulate, engaging, and approachable and has a genuine desire to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students in our liberal arts setting,” says President Raynard S. Kington.

“He understands faculty research and is eager to find ways to involve students in ITS that have value and meaning to the students as well as the institution.”

Formerly director of computing and telecommunications at the University of Pittsburgh at the Greensburg and Oakland, Pa., main campuses, Robinson ushered in upgrades to network infrastructure and wireless systems and introduced a technology governance model. He also taught courses in computer science and engineering at the two campuses.

“I’m thrilled to be joining the Grinnell community, and I’m excited to meet everyone and to begin contributing to the mission of the College,” Robinson says.

A native of the British Isles, Robinson earned a bachelor’s in neuroscience from Cardiff University in Wales and a doctorate in pharmacology and neuroscience from the University of Cambridge in England. Robinson was also a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Iowa.

― Dana Boone

Innovators in Social Justice to Receive 2015 Grinnell Prize

Winners support children’s literature in Africa, train bilingual women for medical interpreting

This year’s winners of the Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize are working creatively to diminish the inequalities facing underrepresented populations. The winners are:

1. Deborah Ahenkorah, founder of Golden Baobab, an organization that supports the creation and distribution of culturally relevant literature by African writers and illustrators for African children. Through awards with cash prizes, workshops, and an independent publishing company, Golden Baobab seeks to remedy the underrepresentation of relatable African perspectives in children’s literature.

2. Maria Verklin, founder of the organization Found in Translation, a program that trains multilingual, low-income and homeless women for jobs in medical interpreting. This program aims not only to provide these women with the means to obtain economic security, but also equips them to address the ethnic, racial, and linguistic disparities in the health care industry.

As the largest prize for social justice awarded by any college, the $100,000 Grinnell Prize is awarded each year to leaders who create sustainable innovations in social justice.

“At the Faulconer Gallery


When the late Vernon E. Faulconer ’61 first began collecting art for his office in 1980, he encountered contemporary art by Donald Judd that made no sense to him. So he started asking questions. Those questions propelled him and his wife, Amy Hamamoto Faulconer ’59, into a passion for contemporary art.

About five years ago, the Faulconers expanded their collecting to partner with Howard and Cindy Rachofsky, also of Dallas. Together the Rachofskys and Faulconers toured art fairs, galleries, and artist studios, asking questions and getting to know artists, gallery owners, and collectors. As their collections grew, they found they needed a space to store the work, which in turn led to the creation of a space for curated exhibitions from their individual and shared collections. Known now as The Warehouse, this 18,000-square-foot space in north Dallas presents an exhibition each year that is open by appointment to school groups, students, collectors’ groups, and others interested in learning to ask their own questions. The Faulconers and Rachofskys support both a curatorial and an education staff and are committed to using their collections to broaden and deepen experiences with challenging and outstanding contemporary art.

Start by Asking Questions: Contemporary Art from the Faulconer and Rachofsky Collections includes 46 works drawn from The Warehouse. Painting, sculpture, prints, photography, and video art by artists such as Janine Antoni, Eric Fischl, Mark Grotjahn, William Kentridge, Sigmar Polke, Yinka Shonibare, Kara Walker, and others will be on view in the Faulconer Gallery. The exhibition, curated by Lesley Wright, Faulconer Gallery director, is a sampler or introduction to the collection of Amy and Vernon Faulconer and to the extensive holdings of the Rachofskys. Visit www.grinnell.edu/faulconergallery for more information. (“In Memoriam: Vernon Faulconer ’61,” see Page 46.)

At Burling Gallery


At one time prairie dominated the Iowa landscape. Now, less than 0.1 percent of the original Iowa prairie remains. Campus photographer Justin Hayworth’s macro photographs invite viewers to take a closer look at the beauty of prairie plants, celebrate the intricate aesthetics of prairie life, and teach about the unintended consequences of development.

Current Styles in African Illustration


This exhibition highlights a diverse selection of some of the best talents in children’s illustration in Africa. It showcases current and distinctive styles coming from various regions on the continent. The illustrations are submissions to the inaugural Golden Baobab Prize for African Illustrators. Golden Baobab founder Deborah Ahenkorah is a recipient of the 2015 Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize.
Campus News

Reading, Writing, Remembering

Wall Service Awards go to projects in New York City, Minneapolis, and Hudson, N.Y.

by Elise Hadden ’14

Tracy Huling ’77 and Brian Buckley ’14, Alvin Irby ’07, and Bryan Boyce ’08 are the winners of this year’s Joseph F. Wall ’41 Sesquicentennial Service Awards.

Huling and Buckley will use the award to support their organization, the Prison Public Memory Project (PPMP). In its pilot site in Hudson, N.Y., the program works with community members and collaborating scholars and artists to discover, preserve, interpret, and present the rich and complex history of the prison there, honor the memories of former prisoners and prison workers, and use the past to imagine a new future for the town when its historic prison closes. Funds from the award will be used to 1) fortify the program already in place in Hudson, developing a permanent site of prison memory there, organized and directed by Buckley and 2) support the PPMP’s founder, Huling, as she expands the reach of the organization to other rural prison communities in the United States.

Irby, who lives in New York City, will use his award to expand his Barbershop Books program, which places child-friendly reading spaces in barbershops. The program will improve black boys’ access to engaging books and increase the amount of time they read for fun. Creating reading spaces in 20 additional barbershops will enable Barbershop Books to reach 800 young male readers in two Brooklyn communities. By providing year-round access to culturally relevant, age-appropriate, gender-responsive children’s books in a traditionally male space, Irby hopes to help young black boys identify as readers.

Boyce will fund his project, Cow Tipping Press, a program that teaches creative writing for adults with developmental disabilities and shares their work with a broad audience. The funding will be used to train five additional instructors in strategies for teaching diverse learners, reaching 75 students and publishing their writing for hundreds of readers in the first year. By offering an imaginative outlet, Boyce will provide a platform for people with developmental disabilities to speak for themselves in a medium that is often used to speak about them.

The Wall Service Awards were established by a group of 205 donors during the College’s 1996 sesquicentennial celebration, honoring Grinnell’s long-standing commitment to social justice and public service. Wall was a professor of history at Grinnell who inspired the ideal of social responsibility in his students. The College gives awards of $25,000 each to alumni to carry out a service project that is of tangible benefit to others. Projects may be original or supplement existing programs; they may be local, regional, national, or international in scope; and may be carried out domestically or internationally. Since 1999, more than $1 million has been awarded to 44 alumni. Applications for next year’s awards are due in June 2016.

Financial Future Update

Enrollment strategies and tuition revenue

by Michele Regenold ’89

In February 2013, the Grinnell College Board of Trustees voted to keep the College’s commitment to need-blind admission and to meeting 100 percent of domestic students’ financial need. At that same meeting, the board called for a fall 2015 review of efforts to establish financial sustainability. Trustees noted that a lack of significant progress would mean a discussion of more aggressively managing enrollment strategies or a change to an openly “need-aware” admission strategy effective with the class entering in 2017.

Last year saw a significant increase in tuition revenue. For 2015–16, Joe Bagnoi, vice president for enrollment, says, “One question we had was, ‘Can we repeat what we did last year?’”

“The short answer was yes.”

Bagnoi attributes the successful growth in part to a change in how Grinnell College markets itself. “We no longer lead with financial aid information,” he says. “We talk more about the actual experience of attending Grinnell. We don’t emphasize financial aid in terms of what makes us distinctive.”

This year, a higher percentage of students across the board accepted Grinnell’s offer of admission. Bagnoi believes two initiatives contributed to the increase. After admitted students received their financial aid awards, College staff members called each one to review the offers, answer questions, and help overcome objections to enrollment.

Another tactic was mailing a personalized postcard. “There was social media buzz about that,” Bagnoi says. “Admitted students posted about how well the College seemed to know them. Our objective was to convey to admitted students our boldly individualized approach to education, and their responses confirmed the efficacy of the cards to achieve that understanding.”

“As pleased as I am about recent increases in net student revenue,” Bagnoi continues, “the level of net revenue from students is not yet adequate to underwrite the increasing costs associated with their education.”

He and his team are examining additional initiatives. For example, what if the College were to admit a higher percentage of well-qualified international students with the resources to finance a significant share of their Grinnell education? That was one idea Bagnoi described to the trustees in June. Whatever strategy they choose, Bagnoi says, “We are seeking solutions that will allow the College to maintain its commitments to access and diversity while increasing revenue—a tricky combination of objectives to achieve.”

In their October 2015 board meeting, trustees will vote on whether to continue need-blind admission. The College will announce the results of the vote online and in the winter issue of The Grinnell Magazine.
Between 1945 and 1964, more than 6 million members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were investigated for misconduct by local party organizations and then reprimanded, demoted from full party membership, or expelled. Party leaders viewed these investigations as a form of moral education and used humiliating public hearings to discipline wrongdoers and send all Soviet citizens a message about how Communists should behave.

The High Title of a Communist
Edward Cohn

Published by Little, Brown, and Company, this middle-grade novel by Alison Wade Benjamin ’92 earned starred reviews from Kirkus and Publishers Weekly. The story centers on a science-obsessed 12-year-old girl who becomes convinced that her best friend's death was caused by a rare jellyfish sting and decides to prove it. The coming-of-age story is also about environmental destruction, ecology, the nature of hope and cruelty, family, friendship, and the scientific method.

How Communists should behave

Dennis Maulsby ’64 published his third book of poetry, Near Death/Near Life, through Prolific Press. The book strikes a meaningful and tender balance between the appreciation of life's poignant memories and the human experience of war, both as a construct and a memory. He also wrote "Little Inca Sister" in Crossing Lines, the latest anthology of the Main Street Rag Publishing Co., February 2015. Maulsby’s poem depicts an Inca ice maiden, a sacrificed bride of the Andes Mountains still waiting after 500 years on her frozen perch at 20,000 feet for the world to complete its predestined cycles. His website is www.dennismaulsby.com.

The Thing About Jellyfish

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More Books

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Cornell University Press is scheduled to release Kenton Clymer ’65’s new book, A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945, in November 2015.

Bryan Crockett ’76 has written Love’s Alchemy, a literary and historical novel as well as a mystery, released in March by Five Star Publishing. “It’s about the Elizabethan poet John Donne,” Crockett writes. “Set in 1604, Love’s Alchemy tells the story of Donne’s finding himself blackmailed into spying for Robert Cecil, the most powerful man, including King James, in England.”

Jin Feng, professor of Chinese, will research her book, Food Nostalgia in the Lower Yangzi Delta, during her 2015-16 sabbatical. Her project will explore the tension between China’s drive toward modernization and its increasing turn toward cultural conservatism by studying the representations and reinventions of culinary traditions in the lower Yangzi delta. She has been awarded a scholar grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange for this project.

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Artists and Scholars

**Fissures: One Hundred 100-word Stories**

Grant Faulkner ’87, the executive director of National Novel Writing Month and co-founder of the lit mag 100 Word Story, has focused on longer narrative forms for most of his writing career. He wondered, however, "What if instead of relying on the words of a story, I relied on the spectral spaces around those words? What if I privileged excision over any notion of comprehensiveness, and formed narratives around caesuras and crevices?" Published by Press 53 in 2015.

**The Daughters**

Motherhood and music provide focus for this debut novel by Adrienne Celt ’06, published by W.W. Norton/Liveright, August 2015. Celt has published numerous short stories and essays in literary magazines. She also publishes a web comic about the secret lives of animals. See adriennecelt.com for more about her work.

**Pursuing Justice**

Lesley Delmenico, associate professor of theatre and dance, wrote and directed Pursuing Justice, a play based on the transcript of a landmark 1995 trial of a man accused of raping two prostitutes. The play was staged in London in June 2015 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the English Collective of Prostitutes and Women against Rape.

Art and Theatre


Three studio art alumnae from the class of 2015 — Rebecca Garner, Abigail Lowe, and Martha Orlet — developed artist portfolios in the spring of 2015 while working with Lee Running, associate professor of art, on Mentored Advanced Projects. See: • rebecca-garner.com • abigail-lowe.com • martha-orlet.com

Point at Infinity by Gregory Miguel Gómez ’80 is on display at the Brattleboro (Vt.) Museum and Art Center through October 2015. The exhibition is a compilation of sculpture and charcoal drawings of similar designs. The two approaches share a single visual language that contrasts the illusion of space in two-dimensional drawings with the real space in three-dimensional constructions. The designs reference mathematics, symbology, and other iconography.

So Much Water So Close to Home, a video by Matthew Kluber, associate professor of art, will occupy the first of 40-some sites that Restoration Ingersoll, a Des Moines, Iowa, neighborhood group, plans to fill over the next few years. The city’s first animated artwork could help define both the Ingersoll neighborhood and its surroundings.

Craig Quintero, associate professor of theatre and dance, will direct his multimedia performance Dreaming David Lynch at Taiwan’s National Experimental Theatre in November. During the fall he will also teach a class on site-specific art at Taipei’s National University of the Arts as a Fulbright Scholar. In the spring, Quintero will study filmmaking with Taiwanese director Hung-Yen and produce his first short film.

Quote Board

“Grinnell College version of ‘getting hit by a bus’ hypothetical situation – ‘getting mauled by squirrels’?”

— Becky Yoose, assistant professor, library, Twitter

“Children who love reading will read anything. The challenge is that many young black boys don’t have that passion for reading, so the books we expose them to are books that will capture their attention and that will engage them.”


“I like the person I’m becoming here. #grinnellcollege”

— Katherine Menner ’18, Twitter

“At its best, teaching is an expression of hospitality and healing. I teach my students as I would teach my children.”

— Ron Dorr ’62 in “Professor’s goal: 75 letters of gratitude at age 75,” Lansing State Journal, April 7, 2015

“Real Talk. Every time I publish a book, 6 weeks later, I feel all this SHAME about it. Is this an author thing? Or is this a Catholic thing?”

— Dean Bakopoulos, assistant professor of English, Twitter
Playing for Fun

Isaiah Tyree ’15: From goalkeeper to forward and back again

by Jeremy Bulman ’15

In spring 2014, Isaiah Tyree ’15 made a name for himself, literally, while trying his luck at soccer forward. Our team affectionately referred to him as “Torres,” after Spanish striker Fernando Torres, Tyree’s favorite player. Coach Jaws (Brian Jaworski) suggested that our team’s Torres make the transition from goalkeeper to forward during his senior season.

“I had a tough previous season, and so my goal for my senior season was to have fun and recreate my love for soccer,” Tyree says.

A full-time goalkeeper during his first three seasons, Tyree eagerly prepared to play forward, leaving goalkeeping duties to teammate Major May ’17.

Throughout the intense preparation for his final chance at college soccer, Isaiah barely looked at his gloves, much less stepped between the pipes.

With high hopes of a season to remember, we began our campaign with our alumni game. Passes looked crisp and the team was in shape. Then everything changed in one heart-stopping moment. A ball snuck past our defense. Major May charged in goal and collided with the knee of an opposing forward.

With Major dazed on the sideline, Torres transformed back into our starting goalkeeper. After taking no repetitions in preseason, Tyree became the only healthy goalkeeper on our roster.

“Luckily [my skills] came back naturally,” Tyree says. “It probably helped that I was not overthinking it.”

Grinnell did not allow a single goal in its final seven matches. In fact, Grinnell’s opponents went scoreless for the final 742 minutes of the season.

While parts of the season felt like a fairy tale, the ending was a harsh blast of reality. Despite losing only three games, and winning or tying our last eight games, Grinnell did not qualify for the conference tournament.

The season was over.

Yet, the team achieved more than it could ever imagine in the record books. Tyree finished first in goals-against average and save percentage, after conceding only three goals all season. His save percentage of .959 was an NCAA Division III record and ranks second all-time among all NCAA divisions.

With the help of the Back Bros, the team set additional records. The Pioneers established a new Midwest Conference record in fewest goals allowed with only eight. Team goals-against average was 0.44, fourth nationally. Grinnell tied the MWC record for shutouts in a season with 11.

The most remarkable aspect of these accomplishments was the team’s process of getting there. From the bench erupting in applause each time the ball landed safely in Tyree’s gloves, to our backs eagerly willing to lunge in for a sliding block, it was apparent how much this meant to us.

“The point of any team sport is that you do things as a team. That’s not necessarily captured by these accolades, but it’s inherent in them,” Tyree says. “These are shared awards, and they represent what we did as a unit.”

Leading the League in Academics

Grinnell College landed a league-best 286 student-athletes on the Midwest Conference (MWC) All-Academic Team for 2014–15. Grinnell led MWC schools in All-Academic picks during all three sports seasons: 112 selections during the fall, 99 in the winter, and 75 in the spring.

To be eligible, students had to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.33 during the awarded academic year and letter in any of the conference’s fall, winter, or spring sports.
Then and Now

New Student Orientation
1963 vs. 2015

Photo courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College
Making Marijuana Legal

A Q&A with Brian Vicente ’99

by Denton Ketels

When Brian Vicente ’99 graduated from law school, some of his professors told him that the field of marijuana policy would be career suicide. Instead, Vicente turned it into a career path. After building his nonprofit organization into a force for marijuana policy change, Vicente went on to co-author the law that would make Colorado the first geographic area in the world to legalize and regulate the possession, sale, production, and distribution of adult-use marijuana.

In November 2012, the Colorado law known as Amendment 64 passed by a 10 percent voter margin. Vicente not only was instrumental in crafting the language and co-chairing the Amendment 64 campaign, he led the 2013 campaign that shaped the law’s tax policy.

Calling itself “the marijuana law firm,” Vicente Sederberg LLC is the banner under which Vicente advocated for legalization and now advises marijuana industry clients. In this interview, Vicente talks about his trailblazing journey.
How did you, a psychology major at Grinnell, become interested in law and dedicated to the field of marijuana policy?

After Grinnell I moved to Colorado to be a snowboard bum and to figure things out. I knew I wanted a job that would allow me to provide a public service and have a positive influence. For me, that broke down into two segments: direct services or broader policy change. Law seemed like a logical way to impact policy, and I ended up getting a full ride to the University of Denver law school.

While there, I began to work on behalf of a medical marijuana patient and was able to assist folks in trying to shift the marijuana laws. That exposed me to individuals who were absolutely receiving medical benefit from using the substance. It led me to rethink all we’ve been taught about the drug war and that marijuana is a horrible substance. I began to think of it as a possible career path to advocate to change laws I thought were broken, so I founded a nonprofit organization called Sensible Colorado that tried to get funding to work on marijuana policy issues. I ran that organization for the first several years of my professional career and essentially became an expert on marijuana policy.

I started the law firm in 2010 to advocate for these policy shifts as well as to represent marijuana businesses. The nonprofit entity is still around, but it’s sort of a unique animal in that we accomplished our mission. In 2004 our mission was to legalize marijuana in Colorado, and in 2012 we actually accomplished that.

My priority now is to make sure that Colorado’s marijuana laws continue to be responsible in terms of social/legal issues or regulation/taxation details. I wouldn’t say it has been a major change. When I graduated from law school and began working in marijuana policy, it was not considered a popular area to go into. Some people, including some of my professors, said it was career suicide and a mistake. But, for me, this is a social justice battle, and I felt like it was worth fighting. Over the years I’ve been fortunate to work with a great team. We’ve developed really strong policies here, and part of that involves advising newly licensed marijuana businesses and making sure they are responsible actors. In terms of my speaking on behalf of the industry, it’s really about demonstrating that there is a responsible face to this industry and having sustainable businesses being community partners going forward.

What’s the most challenging aspect of your work, the social/legal issues or regulation/taxation details?

It’s all pretty interesting and intellectually stimulating. The challenge was that I essentially advocated for almost a decade to get us to the point where we are now, and I was running into opposition — from government, law enforcement, angry parents, what have you — that was resistant to change. We dealt with a lot of negativity. Ultimately, I think we presented a strong case to the voters that regulation was better than prohibition. Now, a lot of it is just ironing out the details, whether it’s taxation or whether local communities should allow these stores or not.

You have been called “the marijuana industry’s de facto spokesman.” Has that changed your life personally and professionally?

How have government and law enforcement officials reacted to Amendment 64?

There has been acceptance in Colorado among law enforcement and government officials of this voter-approved change. Law enforcement certainly is not arresting people in large numbers for marijuana anymore, so I think we certainly have freed up law enforcement resources to focus on more serious crime.

For years the largest opponent of marijuana legalization was the government, federal and local. We did not have much support for the change that occurred in 2012 from government officials, but I will give them credit. Since we won by a 10 percent margin, every wing of our state government has decided to move forward thoughtfully and responsibly with implementing this law and fulfilling the will of the voters.

Our governor, John Hickenlooper, historically has not been a proponent of marijuana legalization, but to his credit, when this passed he committed to making it work and to push for banking solutions. He talked to the federal government and pushed forward. It’s a very interesting legal shift. We have this dichotomy where marijuana is federally illegal but legal in certain states. Twenty-three states have medical marijuana, and four states (Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska) now have legal marijuana for adult use with Colorado leading the way. It’s an interesting moment in time.

How did your Grinnell experience influence you?

To a certain extent my time at Grinnell was formative in terms of launching my professional career. I developed some critical thinking skills that led me to analyze policies, such as the drug war, and to think about solutions that maybe hadn’t been tried before, such as marijuana legalization, and to not be discouraged from moving forward with them. Also, Grinnell’s policy of self-governance had an impact on me and led me to think perhaps there are alternatives to some of the constraints on society and more positive ways to move forward.

Are you being approached to consult other regions of the country or the world where policies are being changed or about to be changed?

We’re certainly aware that the eyes of the world are on Colorado. We’re certainly in a position where people around the world are watching us, and we’re interested in promoting this model to other areas to go into. Some people, including some of my professors, said it was career suicide and a mistake. But, for me, this is a social justice battle, and I felt like it was worth fighting. Over the years I’ve been fortunate to work with a great team. We’ve developed really strong policies here, and part of that involves advising newly licensed marijuana businesses and making sure they are responsible actors. In terms of my speaking on behalf of the industry, it’s really about demonstrating that there is a responsible face to this industry and having sustainable businesses being community partners going forward.

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ROCK AND ROLL AND BEYOND

Georgia Dentel, the woman who put Grinnell College on the musical map

by Michele Regenold ’89

At 89, Georgia Dentel’s recall for conversations with people 50 years ago is clear and eloquent, much like her voice. From her easy chair at the Mayflower Community Health Center in Grinnell, she tells stories about performers and agents and concert promoters. The longer she talks, the stronger her voice becomes.
In 1960 when President Howard Bowen interviewed Dentel for the new position of activities counselor, he said, “I need activities. I need things happening for the students to do. I need to establish some sort of weekend activity, but I don’t know what that should be.”

“He didn’t know what kind of things he wanted,” Dentel says. She arrived on campus that fall not completely certain what her duties were. So she met with various students and formed a committee to oversee new ideas.

One of the early speakers was a local insurance man who talked about marriage. He got the best response, Dentel says.

“It emerged gradually that the only thing students wanted were concerts,” she says. “They wanted rock and roll.” There were a couple of bands in Iowa, but Dentel hated to bring them because they weren’t very good, she says.

“It occurred to me that the best bands of the country were at Fillmore East and Fillmore West,” Dentel says of the music venues in New York City and San Francisco, respectively. So she called Bill Graham, the legendary concert promoter and artist manager who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992. “I asked him if he had any bands that would make a trip to the Midwest for the Grinnell College homecoming. For the amount of money we could offer — it was very small — I can’t believe I had the nerve to ask him.”

“He said, ‘No, I really don’t.’ But we talked a little while. I told him I wanted only the best. I didn’t want a lot of trashy stuff.”

“Georgia really understood that jazz groups were the main thing she had to learn. ‘When I was learning about this, it was really self-taught,’ she says. ‘I became acquainted with some of the bands playing in Cedar Rapids. This fellow turned out to be a pretty good source of people in Chicago, and it kind of gradually developed.’”

When it came to negotiating about money, Dentel says, “I just had to work with what I had. Some of these bands became very, very expensive as time went on, but at first they were up against it as far as money was concerned.”

Gary Giddins ’70, concerts chair in 1967–68 and social coordinator for 1968–69, says, “What I discovered was any band that tours, they hate a night without a gig. Maybe they’re doing Chicago and St. Louis. We’d get bands for a decent price — Duke Ellington’s 15-piece band for $4,000, whereas a three-piece rock band was $12,000.

“Georgia really understood that jazz groups were getting a fraction that rock groups were getting and that my obligation was to provide something every month,” Giddins says. “Since I loved jazz, she made it very clear to me that I could probably do something every month — B.B. King, the Carter family, Doc Watson. Whereas if you have a rock band, you squander your whole thing on one night.”

“Georgia knew every agent, and if she didn’t, she never questioned me — my taste or me. She gave me a lot of leeway that way. And then she’d take over as soon as I gave her the telephone number. She’d make the deal.”

Even when she was able to pull off something fabulous — like a Pete Seeger concert — she sometimes got pushback. “Some faculty didn’t like that Pete Seeger was on a weeknight,” she says. She’d tried to get Seeger “many, many times in the past. He was almost unreachable.” Darby Gym was packed that Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1969. Dentel says, “If the students wanted something, they could usually get it. Pressure on the administration would cause them to give in. I don’t think [students] really understood how much influence they had.”

Professional reputation As a result of Dentel’s growing reputation among agents, they eventually started calling her. She recalls an agent calling to see if she was planning to bring Bruce Springsteen to campus.

“He’d mentioned him to me before,” Dentel says, “but I didn’t know who Springsteen was. I said, ‘Yes, I am.’ This was May that he called. He said, ‘If you want him, you should take him now because by fall he’s going to be out of your reach.’ I said, ‘I don’t know. I’ve never booked two years out.’ He talked me into it.”

Brian Mann ’76 was social coordinator when Springsteen played at Grinnell on Sept. 20, 1975, a month after his album Born to Run was released. Springsteen was on the October covers of Time and Newsweek.

Mann says Springsteen’s people “did everything in their power to get out of the concert because they were playing these big venues then. So they started making all these demands. They started saying, ‘Well, the little gym you have us playing in can’t handle our light show.’ So Georgia worked it out to drain the power from the science building to support it. ‘We’re going to need a big spread of fruit.’ Done. ‘We’re going to need security.’ Done. So I’m sure the cost of the concert doubled. It was a major event. Georgia was amazing in navigating that. I’m told that the Springsteen people joked for years about the private party they played in Grinnell,” Mann says.
Job in jeopardy

In 1976, Dentel was at the top of her game. Even so, her position and four others — all but one held by women — were eliminated during an administrative reorganization instigated by President A. Richard Turner. The changes were to take effect the next fiscal year.

Waldo Walker, professor emeritus of biology, was Turner’s executive vice president then. “When Turner came to campus as a newly-appointed president,” Walker says, “he mentioned to me early on that he believed that the administration was too large, especially in regard to middle-administration positions, considering the financial stress which the budget was experiencing at that time.

“Georgia was having no problems,” Walker adds, “and as far as I could see she was doing a good job getting really big-name entertainers to come to Grinnell College. Her track record there was excellent.”

During an open forum in the South Lounge of the Forum Sept. 22, 1976, Turner told several hundred students that he would not reconsider his decision about eliminating Dentel’s position.

Dozens of students and alumni wrote Turner letters describing Dentel’s expertise and significant impact on campus. Turner sent a standard letter back, writing in part, “We are well aware of the quality of her work in the area of social programming and booking events for college performances. Unfortunately, the College is in a posture of budget reduction that forces us to reduce the number of middle-level administration by three positions.”

Faculty members were also concerned. Joseph Wall ’41, professor of history, was on leave in 1976–77 and wrote to Turner: “Part of the difficulty for the faculty and students may lie in the fact that this plan was put into operation during the summer.” Students raised this point too.

Wall also addressed another sensitive issue — possible sexism: “The questions of principle that seem to be raised by this reorganization are centered around the issue of women administrative and staff personnel in very visible roles,” Wall wrote. “At a time when the faculty is being urged nationally and locally, legally and ethically, to make an all-out effort to bring highly qualified women to the teaching staff, the abrupt lopping off of three administrative and staff women naturally qualified women to the teaching staff, the abrupt lopping of three administrative and staff women naturally qualified women to the teaching staff, the abrupt lopping of three administrative and staff women naturally qualified women to the teaching staff.”

The voice on the phone

Dentel did not have a typical 8-to-5 job — even when it was full-time. She worked year-round because, she says, “I had to be available to bookers and managers.” She often worked late into the evening, making calls to booking agents to line up performers for concerts, much of which she did from home.

After the early 1970s, the students who worked closely with Dentel knew her only on the phone. “She was sort of mysterious,” says Pat Irwin ’77, “She was a good job well, there has not been any serious attempt to tighten up the administration in 15 years. The tendency has been to move people around and not face the issue.”

The uproar lasted until fall break, by which time Turner changed his mind. Dentel was offered a half-time position, which she eventually accepted.

D. A. Smith, professor emeritus of history and a great friend of Dentel’s, says, “They put her on half time, but she found it impossible to reduce her work hours accordingly.”

Dentel’s job was threatened again in 1984 — and again the issue was budgetary and again students protested vigorously. Smith believes a handful of trustees intervened on her behalf. Dentel doesn’t talk about these difficulties, however.

Impact on Public Events

“Georgia is not yours personally, as to whether the whole faculty and students may lie in the fact that this plan was put into operation during the summer.” Students raised this point too.

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When I think of you, I think of two visits by 1 Music, of two visits by the Prague Chamber Orchestra (one with the pianist Valentina Lisitsa), of one by Orpheus. I know you got The Academy of Ancient Music, with Christopher Hogwood and Emma Kirkby. These visits were more than satisfying to me personally. They were inspiring. They were popular with our audiences, but more important they had, I am sure, a shaping power in all the lives of the people who heard them perform. In this sense you were a faculty member without knowing it.

I remember one time in the 1990s when I got the quixotic idea of inviting the Mingus Big Band. I called Herbert Barrett and was referred to one of their agents, Mary Jane Fider. I am sure you remember the formidable Ms. Fider. She was absolutely unsilent! She asked me how much money I could spend on the Mingus Big Band. Like a fool, I told her what we had in our pockets (you later advised me never to do this). Fider’s response: ‘Kid, you haven’t in your whole budget got half of what it takes to get the Mingus. Forget about it. Save your money for Boy Scout camp.’

‘So I went to you, Georgia, and your response was, ‘Let me call Ms. Fider.’ One week later, at the cost of obliging ourselves only to one other H&B performer that next season, we had the Mingus Band at our original asking price. Was it popular? They played in Herrick. Even after the Chapel was mostly filled, people were in line outside all the way down to Fine Arts, where the queue disappeared into the darkness. Who knows what you said to tame the Bear? Whatever it was, I am grateful still today.”
Time, Talent, Treasure, Ties

Faces of Philanthropy

Third of a Four-Part Series:
Alumnus creates long-term ties mentoring Grinnell interns at TIAA-CREF

by Denton Ketels

In the globally competitive job market, quality summer internships markedly differentiate college graduates. Résumés that include student experiences at top companies tend to get the attention of talent acquisition specialists faced with evaluating otherwise similarly qualified candidates.

For Grinnell students, summer internships at TIAA-CREF Financial Services are the gold standard for superior learning opportunities. Since 2000, several Grinnell students have been fortunate to be accepted there each year. Not only do students discover an opportunity to develop their skills and career paths in meaningful ways, they find that much about the experience is distinctly Grinnellian.

Values that resonate
Michael Kahn ’76 is senior managing director of corporate strategy and development at TIAA-CREF in New York City. He sponsors, mentors, and works closely with the majority of Grinnell interns, whether their student experiences are in midtown Manhattan or at another major TIAA-CREF campus, such as Charlotte, N.C.

“TIAA-CREF is a particularly great environment for Grinnell students,” says Kahn, who was elected to the Grinnell College Board of Trustees in May. “We’re a mission-driven organization. We exist to serve those who serve the greater good, which aligns well with how Grinnellians think about what their role in the world will be.

“We are really good at what we do, whether it’s broad financial services or sophisticated asset management,” Kahn says. “We’re aligned with the interests of all our clients and we produce great outcomes, so TIAA-CREF is a company that has values and capabilities that resonate with Grinnellians.”

Challenging opportunities
Most important for students is that internships offer real substance, and Kahn says TIAA-CREF interns regularly work on assignments that not only are important to the company, but that constitute challenging student learning opportunities.

“Internships at TIAA-CREF typically involve working with senior level staff,” Kahn says. “Students are not buried deep in the organization. They actually get to work with people from whom they can learn a lot and who are really accomplished. I’ve even had students working on launches of new lines of business, which is something that interns would almost never get to do anywhere else.”

Success stories
David Jutrsa ’15 was a Grinnellink summer intern at TIAA-CREF in 2013. “David worked on a potential major acquisition,” Kahn says. “It was a big deal, and it was complicated. As an intern you’d think you would never get near something that interesting, but he got to work with the core team and was in meetings with our most senior staff.”

Jutrsa recently accepted a research assistant position with the International Monetary Fund. “The TIAA-CREF internship exposed me to the world of business and really solidified my interest in finance,” Jutrsa says. “I would definitely recommend any Grinnellink internship with TIAA-CREF to students looking to break into these fields and connect what they learn in classes to the professional world.”

Natalie Duncombe ’15 also was a Grinnellink intern at TIAA-CREF in 2013. She says building a mentor relationship with Kahn was the most valuable aspect of her internship.

“His advice throughout the summer helped me get the most out of my time at TIAA-CREF, and he continued to help me with recommendation letters, as well as career, résumé, and interview advice,” Duncombe says. “Without him and my time at TIAA-CREF, I don’t know if I would have been as successful in securing my economic research assistant position at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C.”

Defining mentorship
Megan Goering ’08, who interned at TIAA-CREF in 2006, says, “Interning with Michael defined the role and value of a mentor for me. At the time, I was really opening to discovery and my own personal capacity in a new way, and Michael’s example seeded lessons for me that continue to unfold nine years later.”
An Exemplary Model

The Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS) plays an integral part in matching students with TIAA-CREF internship opportunities through the Grinnellink program, which builds on alumni connections.

Megan Crawford, CLS director of career counseling and exploration, credits Michael Kahn’s personal efforts and the quality of the experiences for making TIAA-CREF internships hot commodities among Grinnell students interested in finance. More than 40 Grinnell students have held summer internships at TIAA-CREF in the past 15 years, a level of involvement that Crawford says puts TIAA-CREF “in a league of its own” among Grinnelllink partners.

Mark Pelz, Daniel and Patricia Jipp-Finkelstein Dean at CLS, calls Kahn a “champion” of the Grinnellink program and an “exemplary model” for the kinds of relationships it builds.

“He’s fun to look at the list of former interns at TIAA-CREF and see the career paths they are on,” Pelz says. “It is just one amazing success story after another.”

Achieving a high level of success requires that students learn to apply their unique strengths and abilities in purposeful ways, and Pelz says that’s not always easy without guidance from teachers, work-study supervisors, and mentors like Kahn.

“Those people are like your personal board of advisers,” Pelz says. “If you have the opportunity to have someone like Michael Kahn along on your journey, you are pretty fortunate.”

If you’re interested in offering an internship, contact Nate Dobbelts, assistant director of alumni relations for career programs, 641-269-3204 or dobbelts@grinnell.edu.

Supporting Innovations in Teaching in the Humanities, Social Sciences

Alumni pledge $1 million for ARH/Carnegie renovation project

by Lisa Lacher

Undergraduates creating interactive translations of literary classics. Analyzing space, time, and motion as philosophical, as well as physical, phenomena. Discovering new ways of seeing the world by recording and analyzing endangered languages.

Grinnell College students and faculty will gain advanced opportunities to collaborate, create, and use new technologies in their pursuit of a greater understanding of humanity, thanks to a $1 million pledge from Karen Van Dusen ’77 and Joel Spiegel ’78. Their commitment will support the College’s new humanities and social studies complex.

Van Dusen and Spiegel, a Grinnell College trustee, have made the largest pledge to date to a long-term plan to improve the College’s academic spaces. The College expects to launch a public campaign next year to raise $20 million for the project, which includes a major renovation of Alumni Recitation Hall (ARH) and Carnegie Hall. Classrooms that accommodate the continuing transformation in modes of teaching and technology are essential for introducing students to the full range of human ideas, says Erik Simpson, professor of English and Grinnell’s principal investigator for the collaborative Digital Bridges project with the University of Iowa (Summer 2015, Page 12).

“More and more often,” he says, “my students will talk about a novel around a table one hour and move to their computers to collaborate on a digital project the next. Bigger and more flexible classrooms will enable groups and individuals to switch between them seamlessly. Plus, well-designed informal spaces will encourage conversations to extend beyond class time.”

The couple’s new gift demonstrates their commitment to providing students with connected and relevant experiences, complementing great classroom teaching with direct exposure to different ways of looking at the world.

Van Dusen, who majored in political science, describes how Grinnell’s broad-ranging approach expanded her own horizons. “I grew up in a rural area in the mountains of Wyoming,” she says. “I would sit and watch the license plates of cars passing through on their way to Yellowstone and wonder where those places were. Grinnell was my entry point into that larger world. I want to give other students with the same aspirations a chance to encounter the incredible range of human experience.”

Spiegel agrees. “As a biology major, the humanities and social sciences opened my eyes to the world,” he says. “These new learning spaces are important to us not just as bricks and mortar, but as a way of helping Grinnell pursue its original mission in a new time and context. This is about empowering faculty to help students see the world in new ways, so they can do great things for their own futures and for the common good.”

To learn more about the project, please contact Shane Jacobson, vice president for development and alumni relations, 641-269-3207.
Thirteen-year-old Bethany Willig has never taken a class at Grinnell College, but as the daughter of a faculty member and an alumni couple, she feels linked to its strong tradition of service. That connection also lies in large part due to her participation in the College’s inaugural Global Day of Service during June 2015. “You could feel the togetherness in the air,” she said. “It felt good to be surrounded by people who wanted to help others. And, we looked good in our matching T-shirts,” she joked.

On or close to June 10, Founders’ Day, Grinnellians not only looked good in their uniform red T-shirts that read #GCDayofService; they also “did good” by performing individual and group community service projects around the world. More than 365 people volunteered for this joint community effort. They represented 12 countries and 68 cities across 29 states and ranged in age from 4 to 75.

They engaged in Alumni Regional Planning Committee projects that included sorting donated clothing for at-risk youth at Cradles to Crayons in Massachusetts; painting fences for Partnerships for Parks in New York; collecting over 500 pounds of waste before any damage to marine life could occur in the Puget Sound area; clearing weeds and planting trees near the National AIDS Memorial in the San Francisco Bay area; and constructing 1,800 feet of trail to replace flood-damaged areas in Colorado.

Many participants expressed their gratitude for the event. Kristin Stout ’89 from Minneapolis says, “I appreciated the fellowship in volunteering with Grinnellians on behalf of our community and felt fortunate to be able to support Second Harvest’s mission by packaging pasta for distribution to their food-insecure clients.”

In cities like Cincinnati where there were no regional planning committees, Grinnellians came together to provide key community services such as painting a house for lower income residents. In Guatemala, a small group that included Jenny Dale ’96 and Lisa Hetzel ’00 planted trees as part of a reforestation project called Plantemos 1000 Arboles. Others worked solo, like Ashokkor Tettch ’94, who volunteered with a nonprofit fair trade organization in Montreal, Quebec, to educate the public about fair trade, sustainable development, and socially responsible purchases.

Overall, the Global Day of Service was a huge success. Alumni Council members are eager to partner again with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to plan the second annual Global Day of Service. Grinnell alumni are also looking forward to the next installment. As Amanda Keledjian ’98, who helped plant native species to improve water quality in the Anacostia watershed near the District of Columbia, says, “Everyone worked really hard and had huge smiles on their faces at the end. I think it really showed that Grinnellians of all ages still love to give back to their communities, which is a quality we all learned to cherish in our time at the College. Everyone is already excited about the next year’s event and is inspired to continue doing service projects as a group.”

To see more photos from Grinnell’s Global Day of Service, visit bit.ly/1MxX861.

Paperwork
After I got admitted to Grinnell in 2013, I had to go to Chennai, India, for my U.S. student visa appointment. I was waiting for my turn and noticed that the two girls in front of me had been rejected. Naturally, I got extremely nervous and assumed that this officer was very strict and would say no to my application. He called me up to the window and I nervously handed my documents to him. I stood quietly while he examined them and suddenly he looked straight up at me and said, “You’re going to Grinnell?”

I quietly replied, “Yes.”

He immediately exclaimed, “MY WIFE WENT TO GRINNELL!”

For the rest of the appointment, my visa officer continued to tell me how amazing Grinnellians are and that I was going to have an amazing time. At that point, I safely assumed that my visa was approved.

To everyone, I say congrats and know that it was, so naturally we stayed for a chat. She and her husband both graduated from Grinnell many years ago, and their children, a few years younger than I, are aspiring Grinnellians. There we were, alumni, current student and future students, at a rest stop, hundreds of miles away from our homes, over a thousand miles away from the prairie that connects us, discussing the age-old question: North Campus or South Campus?

-Kathryn Buck ’08

Dream Job
I graduated in 1987; the “Seven Dwarfs” were running for the Democratic nomination. I did not get my dream job with [Michael] Dukakis, so I went to D.C. to visit my father. On a daily run, wearing a Grinnell T-shirt, I was stopped short by a guy saying, “Hey Grinnell!”

In brief conversation, I discovered his boss, Reid Wilson ’82, was running [Al] Gore’s Iowa campaign. I took a chance and followed the guy to Reid’s apartment. I was offered a job on the spot! Thanks, Reid, for getting me my dream job!

-Jennifer Bishop ’87

Film Fans
Kathryn Buck ’08 and I, both German majors at Grinnell, are seen here in Northampton, Mass., as participants at the 2015 DEFA Summer Film Institute (i.e., East German film summer camp). We realized our Grinnell connection when I happened to be saying to fellow participants, “I went to this small college in Iowa, Grinnell . . .” and Kathryn happened to pass by right at that moment. She said, “Me too! We should talk.” And we did.

-Evan Torner ’04

Prompt for Winter 2015
In honor of Georgiana D-certel (see the story on Page 22), tell us about a memorable musical or theatrical performance at Grinnell — one from any era — that you enjoyed as either a performer or audience member. Submit to magazine@grinnell.edu with “performance” in the subject line.

Due date: Oct. 26, 2015
Length: up to 250 words
1949

Mary Seise Schnadt and Glenn Schnadt ’49 bought the historic A.D. German Warehouse, designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, in Richland Center, Wis. The Schnadts purchased the building and made infrastructure improvements prior to gifting the building to the A.D. German Warehouse Conservancy, whose goal is to pursue restoration and reuse of the building. The Schnadts will receive the Sear Wright Award from the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in October 2015.

“Finance Is Cool”

Grinnell internship led to passion for diversification in work and life

Rahim leads a multidimensional life outside of work — a pattern established at Grinnell. “In Islamabad, nobody cared about cocurricular activities; their future was based on their exam results.” But he quickly realized there was more than academics at Grinnell. Besides working on campus 15 hours a week — washing dishes in the dining hall, “grading students’ chicken scratch” in calculus, and working in the art gallery — Rahim also volunteered at Grinnell Community Daycare, served as vice president of Mortar Board, was president and founder of the Muslim Student Association, played club and intramural soccer, and served on various committees. “My life in New York echoes the same broad scope and fast pace. I mentors children through iMentor and Teak Mentor, organizations that help low-income students achieve their ambitions. Rahim is president of the board for a New York nonprofit that encourages literacy among minority youth. Serving as Grinnell’s regional planning coordinator for alumni volunteers in the New York region is his “selfish pleasure, an excuse to meet Grinnellians in New York.” He otherwise explores the city. “The point of living in New York City is to enjoy what you can only get there.” For Rahim, that means museums, restaurants, and Broadway plays. Does he second-guess his decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. “If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known he factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known him factor in the ways fear, greed, sociology and psychology help decision-making, principles from decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known

1969

“During the last three years or so at the University of the Pacific,” writes Patrick Cavanaugh, “I worked on the biggest project of my career: to finance, buy, and renovate a 400,000-square-foot building south of Market in San Francisco for the University of the Pacific’s Arthur A. Dagoni School of Dentistry.”

Michael Domjan recently created educational videos in which he plays the viola and discusses various issues connecting music with psychology. The Tertis/Pavlov Project is a series of videos with Lionel Tertis representing the viola and Pavlov representing psychology. The videos are available at sites.utexashs.edu/tertispavlovproject/video/.

Suzanne Wright Sufaro and husband Dick “have our own nonprofit, which we solely support,” she writes. “It is called the World Species Forest in Conway, Mass., 86 acres of preserved forest, which is conserved in perpetuity.”

“Everything else was just a waste of time, according to my family.” That’s why he intended to major in physics and math at Grinnell and study engineering through a joint program at Dartmouth College before going to graduate school in engineering.

But as an excuse to live in New York City, he couldn’t resist doing a summer internship in alternative investments for TIAA-CREF through the Grinnell internship program. The experience surprised him. “I realized I liked the unpredictability of the financial markets.” Even so, he dutifully followed through with his plan to study engineering.

While spending his junior year at Dartmouth “in the cold hills of New Hampshire,” he thought often about how much he preferred the chaos of the trading floor to the order of the instructional machine shop at the Luyer School of Engineering. The following summer in New York, he interned in market risk for securitized products with Deutsche Bank. For him, the experience confirmed that “finance is cool.” He decided to return to Grinnell with a new major: economics. Rahim currently works as a portfolio analyst at AllianceBernstein in New York, with plans to start his M.B.A. studies this fall at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

“Finance isn’t just about numbers and getting the right answers on math problems,” Rahim says about his work. “Finance is as much about the stories as the numbers, and there are often no right answers.”

Take the Japanese auto market, for example. Maybe you see it has a bad day. “People think, ‘Oh, a big part of the auto market is Japanese cars, so demand for cars must be falling, so any supplying car maker will suffer, even a small U.S. auto-parts maker that only supplies U.S. car makers.’ But if you understand the story — that the yen had one poor day, but it was just a one-time event — then you may decide to buy when others are selling.” Emotions and feelings create a story and influence reality; that’s what keeps him hooked.

He credits the interdisciplinary approach at Grinnell with helping him value the interchange of information, stories, and knowledge. While math skills are a part of his decision-making, principles from sociology and psychology help him factor in the ways fear, greed, and groupthink can dominate fundamentals and logic.
1970
Bruce Nissen received the 2015 Marilyn Gittell Activist Scholar award from the Urban Affairs Association. The award is given to the academic scholar who has done the most to put his scholarship to work in social justice. Nissen is a faculty member at Florida International University, Miami.

1972
The New York County Lawyers Association, one of the largest local bar associations in the United States, installed Carol Simond as president June 1, 2015. Her goal is to address both internal and external issues affecting the justice system.

1973
Irina McClaurin’s column entitled “A Black Mother Weeps for America: STOP KILLING OUR BLACK SONS!” won highest honors for Insight News column, taking first place, best in nation, Emory O. Jackson Column Writing Award for the Black Press in America. The award was one of 16 categories of merit awards to member publications for stellar, exemplary work in newspaper journalism, presented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association at its annual convention. The award is named after Emory O. Jackson, a civil rights activist and editor of the Birmingham News 1941–1975. McClaurin’s column is online at bit.ly/1YLoG7F.

1974
Michael Kump, a founding partner of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP , in Santa Monica, Calif., was recently named in Variety’s 2015 “A Blazing Stars” list. Kump was also named in Variety’s 2015 “A Blazing Stars” list. Aldisert LLP , in Santa Monica, Calif., was recently included in the Top 100 Power Lawyers 2015, Entertainment and Media Industry, The Hollywood Reporter, April 2015. Kump was also named in Variety’s “Legal Impact Report 2015,” April 2015, and recognized in Chambers USA Guide 2015.

1975
The Brooklyn College Foundation, New York, has elected Leonard Kura trustee.

1976
“I’m on my mission to change the way we see art in America and around the world and rebuild tropics in the process,” writes David Schafer. “As president of the American Poultry Producers Association, [Tim] telling you that is now my job! My most fun job is a live poultry processing demo at each of the Mother Earth News fairs across the country. At my side in this demo is the famous luncheonator Joel Salatin, hero of [Michael] Pollan’s Omnivore’s Dilemma and Food, Inc. Come catch our gig at a town near you.”

1977
David Cantor wrote “Beyond Humanism: toward a New Animalism” in Circles of Compassion: Essays Connecting Issues of Justice, edited by Will Turtle, published by Vegan Publishers in 2014. Jonathan Herman 77 and his family enjoyed a reunion with relatives (and the descendants of relatives) long thought killed during the Holocaust. After doing the historical research, Herman wrote the story and published it in the winter/ spring 2014 issue of Harvard Divinity Bulletin. The story has many twists and turns — his grandmother surviving a pogrom while in her teens, vivid memories of massacres in a Ukrainian shtriltz, and a single photograph — thought to have disappeared seventy years ago — facilitating the recovery of lost family. Read the story at bit.ly/1YLoG7F.

1978
Robert Sholkin won first place in the best debut reporter category for mislaid non-daily newspapers at the annual Illinois Press Association contest. He also finished third place in the Robert M. Cole Award for school board coverage, larger weekly newspaper category, June 2015. He writes for the Riverside-Brookfield Landmark Newspaper in Riverside and Brookfield, Ill.

1979
Lee Arnold and Tijen Arin announced the birth of their second child, a second son, Davis Arin Arnold, May 1, 2015.

1980
Jack Carpenter began teaching at University of California–Berkeley in August 2014. “I am a lecturer in the theatre, dance, and performance studies department, teaching two classes in stage lighting design, mentoring up to six advanced students through their own designs, and designing two main stage productions per semester. It all started in Grinnell…” he writes. Blake Downes and Barbara Szaurek celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in June. “Life is good,” Downes writes.

1985
Heidi B. Brumbaugh received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the Senate at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, June 2015. Bob Striker recently completed an e-learning module designed for middle and high school students. The e-learning module demonstrates the extreme effort it took for high school and college-age students of the 1960s to nonviolently challenge and reverse the legalized segregation at many public accommodations. The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., launched Striker’s project, “Standing Up by Sitting Down,” to further the museum’s mission. The project was initially conceived as a Wall Alumni Award project but did not win finalist status. Verizon sponsored it instead. See civilrightsmuseum.org.

1986
Kimberly Judas Friedman has been promoted to senior director of business development at the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) national service office. She has worked in business development for the past seven years at NFP. As senior director of business development, she supports the national growth and sustainability of its programs across the United States. The partnership is a national, evidence-based home-visiting program serving first-time moms and children living in poverty.

1987
Claire Verrettes Mathias writes: “I have a new gig at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This February I joined the institutional advancement team as director of advancement services. I’ve missed being in an academic setting, because I feel like I can probably do that for the first time in a long time. That includes being a Grinnellian, because practically everyone here is familiar with Grinnell College (one colleague’s kid graduated from Grinnell in ’90). I can make literature or historical references that people actually get! Also, for the first time in years, I’m working somewhere with actual work-life balance. We are strongly encouraged to keep it to 40 hours, plus there is plenty of vacation. What a notion!” Her husband David Mathias 85 and son Joseph get to see more of her, she says.

1988
Kent Staley was on sabbatical this past academic year, “which is a benefit of having been at the same university the department at Saint Louis University for 34 years (which seems impossible),” he writes. “This is the year that we ended our adventure in home-schooling our daughter Nora [at her request] and enrolled her in the Saint Michael School of Clayton [Mo.], where she is in the fourth grade. She loves being in school, and I have been able to work at home in relative quiet. My wife Diane and I have even been able to enjoy some weekday time together doing things like taking walks to the St. Louis Art Museum.”

1989
Neil Weintraub called out our class to show up in Memorial Hall for the Arizona Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission in June 2015. The project was initially conceived as a Wall Alumni Award project but did not win finalist status. Verizon sponsored it instead. See civilrightsmuseum.org.

1990
Heidi B. Brumbaugh received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the Senate at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, June 2015. Bob Striker recently completed an e-learning module designed for middle and high school students. The e-learning module demonstrates the extreme effort it took for high school and college-age students of the 1960s to nonviolently challenge and reverse the legalized segregation at many public accommodations. The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., launched Striker’s project, “Standing Up by Sitting Down,” to further the museum’s mission. The project was initially conceived as a Wall Alumni Award project but did not win finalist status. Verizon sponsored it instead. See civilrightsmuseum.org.

1991
Weinstein, a Kabib National Forest archaeologist, was named 2015 professional archaeologist of the year by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Association. Weinstein was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Forensic Examiners and the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Association.

1992
My wife Dianne and I have even been able to enjoy some weekday time together doing things like taking walks to the St. Louis Art Museum.”

1993
Kevin Ruby was on sabbatical this past academic year, “which is a benefit of having been at the same university the department at Saint Louis University for 34 years (which seems impossible),” he writes. “This is the year that we ended our adventure in home-schooling our daughter Nora [at her request] and enrolled her in the Saint Michael School of Clayton [Mo.], where she is in the fourth grade. She loves being in school, and I have been able to work in relative quiet. My wife Diane and I have even been able to enjoy some weekday time together doing things like taking walks to the St. Louis Art Museum.”

1994
Thomas Eisenberg won the University Distinguished Scholarship Award, the highest honor bestowed on faculty scholars at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. He is a professor of health psychology and director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco Products, a World Health Organization collaborating center.

1995
Several essays have recently been published by Grant Faulkner: “Writing About Fiction: Telling a Story with What’s Left Out,” Writers Digest, May/ June 2015, Vol. 95, No. 4; “Naked (On the Page) and Afraid,” Writers Digest, July/August 2015, Vol. 95, No. 5; “More Ideas Faster: Writing with Abandon,” Poets & Writers, January/February 2015. See his website: www.grantfaulkner.com. Also see “Artists and Scholars,” Page 12.

1996
Toby Ewing writes: “Andrew McKean called one of us up in Classnotes. Cheers, Andrew Carla and I continue to live in Sacramento, Calif., with our daughters Lily (13) and Mallory (10). We are in the midst of all things summer: soccer, swim team, camping, voracious reading, etc. Carla is making a career change as she enters the medical field as a child life specialist helping children cope with the challenges of being hospitalized. I recently moved from working for the California legislature to running a state agency that oversees California’s mental health system. Nearly every day I deal with issues that I began to think about at Grinnell — the structural drivers of racial and ethnic disparities, the effectiveness of government programs, the role of research and analysis in… For Love of Running,” Page 39.
The final season of television series *Glee* wrapped up in February. For Sarah Hodges-Olivieri, this marked her fourth year working on the series as second assistant director. Olivieri headed back to television work in the summer and is looking forward to another new adventure.

**For Love of Running**

Alum builds community through fun, fitness, and charity

Neil Weintraub ’86 is driven by two enduring passions. One is his job at Kaibab National Forest, for which he earned honors as 2015 professional archaeologist of the year from the Arizona Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission.

The other is running. Weintraub discovered it at the age of 12 when a neighbor in Scarsdale, N.Y., spurred his interest in the local 15K. “I was one of the few young kids doing distances, and I took pride in that,” Weintraub says. “It was fun because I did it on my own time. I had no interest in being coached.”

Running was not Weintraub’s main athletic interest. Baseball was, and running put him in shape for it. He played four years at Grinnell and was co-captain for two. “We had a great time,” he says, “but my baseball career ended right then and there.”

When Weintraub graduated and moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., he found a runner’s paradise in the Coconino National Forest: “an enormous backyard with endless trail systems.” He learned the benefits of training at higher altitudes (7,000 to 12,000 feet). He also developed a competitive urge.

“I never hit that runner’s high that people talk about,” Weintraub says. “It was the mental part of it — being able to do something, go farther. Eventually a marathon became the goal.”

Weintraub ran the downhill St. George (Utah) Marathon (“I wasn’t going to miss that one!”) and fulfilled his goal of running the New York City Marathon. While training for his “dream” race, the Boston Marathon, he tried to outburst a friend in a 200-yard sprint. “I heard a pop, and there went the hamstring,” he says. “That is a pain I do not want to relive.”

After his injury, Weintraub “took a step back and embraced trail running. In 2001, he ran the Soulstice Mountain Trail Run through Coconino. “I had the time of my life,” he says. Soon after, Weintraub founded the Northern Arizona Trail Runners Association (NATRA.org), in part to revive the Soulstice event that had been drawing only about 30 runners.

Weintraub’s group compiled a Listserv of 500 locals and put a NATRA run on the calendar for every weekend. “We haven’t missed a Saturday in 14 years, except on days with popular charity runs,” he says.

“Every run I attend has this wonderful sense of fun, community, and charity support, and I know that is a reflection of Neil’s spirit and dedication to organizing these events.”

As for NATRA’s success with the Soulstice Mountain Trail Run, it has been listed as one of the top 32 trail races in the country by Runner’s World magazine. The October event raises $5,000 annually for Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. An April lottery fills the field of 225 runners.

“It’s the smallest race on the list,” Weintraub says, “but it’s known for having the best post-race party, inspired by none other than the Grinnell Relays!”

— Denton Ketels
Classnotes

in The Huffington Post India entitled “Pictures: A Peek Into the Lives of the ‘Third Gender,’” and the photographs were featured on NBCNews.com, June 2015, entitled “India’s Third Gender.”

Dr. Dan Olson completed his fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Colorado-Denver Hospital and has secured a faculty position at the university’s Children’s Hospital. He is currently working on a vaccine trial project for dengue fever in Guatemala.

2003


2004

Alice Anderson and Ben Cochran announced the birth of their second child, first daughter, Cleo Josephine Cochran, May 11, 2015.

Melissa Colon and Lamar Stagg were married July 26, 2014. She also received her M.B.A. from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, New York, May 2015.

Naomi Bethel Olson received her Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 7, 2015.

2007

Nathan Kimball and Noreen Hannon announced the birth of their first child, a boy, Panch Kimball Hannon, Feb. 27, 2015.

Quenna Lalonde and Greg Flattich announced the birth of their first child, daughter, Lalonde Flattich, May 29, 2015.

2010s

2011

Allison Brinkhorst received her master’s of nonprofit management with a concentration in equity and social justice and a certificate in intercultural competency from the University of Oregon, Eugene, June 2015. She is now a development coordinator at Ecotrust in Portland, Ore.

Justin Chang and Kelly Helbach ‘13 were married June 20, 2015.

Tasha Popkin received her master’s of health care administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, May 2015.

Tasha Popkin and Mark Rosenberg were married June 13, 2015 in Lakeport, Cal. The wedding party included Kaithryn Hardy ‘13 and Paul Winchelhaus ‘13. Attending were Nora Calton, Merrick Davis, and Dwayne Shiu, class of 2010; Nathan Chab, Sarah Ervin, Mona Ghadiri, Natsu Hosh, Cara Rosw Huch, Carrie Kiniry, Elizabeth Malbin, Andrea Mullins, Ben Offenberg, Maia Olsen, Tim Rehs, and Phil Sletten, class of 2011; Daryl Brost, Greg Fox, and Evan Wright, class of 2012; and Kyle Logan, Edward Logen, and Mary Rollinger.

Max Farrow and Andrew Kirpalani have been accepted by Straight Shot, an Omaha startup accelerator, in its third class of startups. Farrow and Kirpalani’s new company, WorkRound, has a goal of fitting communication gaps within the trucking industry by allowing drivers to provide feedback while on the road. The accelerator puts startups through 90 days of business development and mentor connections.

2013

David Cummings and Josephine “Jojo” Ju were married in Iowa City, Iowa, April 18, 2015. The wedding party included, from the class of 2012, Glenda Lopez, Portilla and Emma Rollinger; and from the class of 2013, Kate Doyle, Robert Logan, and Mary Rollinger.

Max Farrow and Andrew Kirpalani have been accepted by Straight Shot, an Omaha startup accelerator, in its third class of startups. Farrow and Kirpalani’s new company, WorkRound, has a goal of fitting communication gaps within the trucking industry by allowing drivers to provide feedback while on the road. The accelerator puts startups through 90 days of business development and mentor connections.

2015

Silvia Foster-Frau writes in her article, “Student Life: Wiping one whiteboard clean,” for the The Register-Mail, Galesburg, Ill. Jan. 29, 2015, about graduating from college and the journey to her first job. See her article at bit.ly/1ixmKf.

Lea Marolt Sonnenschein and Joe Wlos launched Presevent, a website for an iOS mobile application. Prevent tracks the speeches, fundraisers, and events of the 2016 presidential candidates. The app’s mission is to promote political transparency and involvement by delivering event details to users in an engaging and informative platform.

Social Justice for Peanuts

Alumna veterinarian advocates for animals

Veterinarian Sara Matthews ‘82 landed in jail in May in Vero Beach, Fla. — on behalf of a dog named Peanut.

Mathews and husband Dan Clifton own Dr. Dan’s Animal Hospital in Vero Beach. On a Friday afternoon, an assistant’s pup — an exuberant, 13-month-old shelter adoptee — broke his owner’s fence and went on the lam, staring a woman walking two small dogs. The woman called a city animal control officer, who elected to take the dog over to the shelter, causing taxpayers unnecessary expense.

This ongoing conflict was likely what led to Peanut’s dramatic entrance. “In a perfect world, the officer could have checked for the chip and returned the dog to its owner,” she explains, noting that animal control pays $77 to take an animal to the shelter, causing taxpayers unnecessary expense.

On Saturday morning Mathews’ assistant asked Mathews to accompany her to the Humane Society as a witness. The arresting officer was not on duty, so Mathews phoned him, asking politely for the dog’s release. “There was no reason whatsoever to keep the dog over the weekend,” says Mathews. “Keeping a dog in a shelter for three days increases its exposure to diseases. Plus it’s just stressful on the animals and on the owners.”

Returning on Monday with her assistant, Mathews sat quietly in the back of the room, but when the control officer saw her, he asked her to leave. She refused, explaining that she was the dog’s veterinarian and wanted to make sure he was healthy after being held all weekend.

The officer called Mathews, arrested her for trespassing, and took her to the jail. She was released a few hours later after posting a small bond. Two days later, charges were dropped — Mathews believes because of backlash from community supporters. Peanut’s owner received a $115 ticket because the dog was running at large and was charged a $40 impoundment fee.

“My whole point was just to encourage animal control officers to stop unnecessary holds on animals,” says Mathews.

There’s a larger picture that explains the extra tension that day with the officer — and in that picture are the feral cats.

Mathews is known in the community for her preference for spaying and neutering, rather than killing, stray cats. She performs the procedures pro bono when a volunteer team traps the strays in response to community sightings. Before their release, the animals are ear tagged so the public knows they have been fixed and received rabies shots.

Mathews’ goal is the same as that of local animal control officers — to reduce free-roaming cats in the community. “But my method of trying to maintain colonies is upsetting to the officers. I’m interfering in their ability to do their job, which is to trap and euthanize.”

This ongoing conflict was likely what led to Peanut’s disproportionate long sentence in the shelter last May, as well as to Mathews’ own imprisonment.

She won’t make a habit of going to jail, says Mathews. “But I would do it again. It is just in my heart to care for animals that don’t have anybody caring for them. I can’t just leave them. It’s my way of carrying on the Grinnell spirit.”

— Suzanne Kelsey
Thoughts into Pictures
How one alumna is using drawing as a thinking tool

From a young age, Brandy Agerbeck ’96 knew she was destined to be a visual learner. “When I was a kid I would sit and do these obsessively detailed drawings,” she says. “I was happiest if I could turn an assignment into a craft project.” And that’s just what she did when she came to Grinnell. Agerbeck initially resisted her First-Year Tutorial on occupational literature because, she says, “I was never really a reader.” But when the time came to complete her final project, she had a moment of inspiration that proved to be a powerful portent of her life to come.

“First, I busied myself turning my paper into a small, hand-bound manifesto of my utopia for each classmate. Then, the night before I had to give my final presentation, I pictured it, and it sort of all came to me in one image. So the next morning when I gave the speech, I switched between facing the class and talking and turning my back and drawing,” she recalls. “I considered that to be the seed of what I now do for a living.”

Agerbeck says. “He pointed across the meeting space where someone was drawing on a white board in front of the room and turning his back and drawing,” she recalls. “I considered that to be the seed of what I now do for a living.”

That’s what excites me. I truly believe that this process is actually much more collaborative. “I try to dehumanize the drawing because it’s really more about making people feel listened to and helping to find the connections and patterns in the conversations people are having. I’ve always been a good synthesizer; it’s just the way I was wired.”

Thanks to an intuitive dream, Agerbeck was inspired to write a book about her methods, The Graphic Facilitator’s Guide: How to use your listening, thinking and drawing skills to make meaning. Although she felt compelled to write about the professional role she was known for, she has been waiting for the right moment to write about how anyone can use visual thinking on an individual level.

“What’s that excites me. I truly believe that this book is what I’ve been put on Earth to write,” Agerbeck says. “This is why I’m here.”

Her second book, The Idea Shapers: The power of putting your thinking into your own hands, is just one of the ways Agerbeck is working to make her methods accessible to people outside her field. She has presented at numerous conferences as well as a TEDx event and is transitioning into more teaching and speaking roles.

“I have been the one person drawing in the room for a group of people,” Agerbeck says. “Now, it’s about getting everyone to pick up paper and pen and draw out their ideas.”

– Elise Hadden ’14

Lyle Pursell, former Grinnell College professor, Rolla, Mo., June 6, 2015. Pursell taught mathematics at Ohio State University and Grinnell College before joining the faculty of the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) in 1967. Survivors include his son, John Pursell ’74 and David Pursell ’79.

1930s

Anna L. Blaul ’31, Minneapolis, May 1, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and Simmons College and worked as a secretary for her grandfather’s business before marrying James Poehler Blaul in 1933. The couple traveled extensively and enjoyed ballroom dancing. She loved gardening, needlework, and bridge and was an enthusiastic golfer up to her 94th year. She was an active member of the 注意 Park Church in Edina, Minn., as well as the Edina Women’s Club and the Minneapolis Women’s Club. She is survived by her twin daughters, six grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

1940s


Helen Potter Webb ’41, Wayzata, Minn., Feb. 6, 2015. She is survived by her sisters Marion Potter McKens ’43 and Lois Potter Schwab ’55.

Lauren “Larry” York ’41, April 23, 2015, Tulsa, Okla. Larry met his wife of 70 years, Aggie Morse York ’43 (deceased), when they were students at Grinnell. After graduating, Larry attended the University of Iowa, Larry served in World War II as a Navy lieutenant. In 1947, the Yorks moved to Tulsa where Larry launched a 58-year career as a CPA, also lending his accounting expertise to local nonprofit boards. Larry enjoyed traveling with Aggie, golfing well into his 80s, and singing in the church choir. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and nieces Nancy Wolf Rosenthal ’64 and Sally Wolf Robin ’63, and great-niece, Amy Robin ’92.

Haleyon Heline Botkin ’42, Marcus, Iowa, July 6, 2014.


Aubrey Lester ‘Les’ Buck, Jr. ’43, March 2, 2015, San Antonio, Texas. He attended Grinnell for two years prior to his military service. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944, Les served on the USS Savannah and the USS Reneus (SS487). After resigning his commission in 1948, he joined General Electric Company and later Litton Industries as head of its Washington, D.C., office. Les later led the D.C. office of newly-formed Teledyne, Inc. Upon retirement, Les moved first to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and then relocated to Brownsville, Texas, where he opened the office of AG Edwards and Sons, a regional stock brokerage firm. He was celebrated at a family service at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Margaret McCall Halasy ’44, Kilauea, Hawaii, Sept. 22, 2014. She is survived by her husband Tom, four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

1950s

Sawato John Hatakeda ’45, Visalia, Calif., Jan. 16, 2014. After his release from an internment camp during World War II, John attended Grinnell College for one year before returning to his father’s ranch in California for 70 years, and he was a dedicated outdoorsman and fisherman. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Barbara Holden Sheridan ’46, Palmyra, Va., Jan. 3, 2015. She is survived by four daughters, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Nydia “Beth” Yates Strong ’46, Oneonta, N.Y., March 2, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell College and then Columbia University Law School in New York, Beth worked as a librarian at the University of Wisconsin, Columbia University, and Princeton University. She later worked as a librarian at The Daily Star in Oneonta from 1977 until she retired in 1991. She was a founding member and president of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Otsego County, an advocacy organization for individuals with mental illness.

Walter Eugene Schluter ’46, Minneapolis, Dec. 25, 2014. Walter joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 17 and served in World War II. Upon returning from the war, he attended Grinnell College and the University of Iowa, where he met his wife Martha. He was a talented cartoon artist and writer and remained an active baseball player and enthusiast until late in his life. His survivors include two children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

In Memoriam
with mental illness. Because of her dedication to educating the public about mental illness, she was named a Woman of Distinction by Sen. James Seward in the New York State Senate Women of Distinction Program. She also served as vice president of Country Horizons Oregon, an organization that provides residential and vocational services to persons with disabilities. Survivors include two children, a grandchild, and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Helen Jackson Goodnight ’47, San Antonio, Feb. 23, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and the University of Texas honors music program in Austin, graduating with a B.A. in music. While in Austin, she worked for Texas author J. Frank Dobie and met her husband Eddie Goodnight, whom she married in 1949. They owned the Goodnight Funeral Home for 30 years, during which time she also taught music at many public schools. She retired from her summer school to receive her master’s in American programs for the mentally ill. Survivors are her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Gloria Laurie Wolfe ’47, Xenia, Ohio, March 20, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and went on to receive a master’s in social work from Columbia University. She worked in various state and county welfare and child services departments and was an active member of numerous community institutions, such as Greene County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, P.E.O. International, the League of Women Voters, and the Miami Valley Women’s Center. She was an avid traveler, venturing abroad to Turkmenistan, Australia, Ireland, China, and Japan through Friends of Friendship Force, an organization that aims to immerse travelers in different cultures through personal connections with locals. Survivors include her sister, Dorothy Laurie Taylor ’47, two children; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Gene Keltnar Cannon ’48, Webster Groves, Mo., April 16, 2015. She is survived by her sister, Beth Keltnar White ’47, two children, six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Anne Royal McMurray ’48, Webster, City, Iowa, May 25, 2015. Surviving are five children, including sons David McMurray ’76 and Scott McMurray ’79; eight grandchildren, including granddaughter, Julie McMurray ’99; and three great-grandchildren.


Florence Althulmer Leisestein ’49, Coral Gables, Fla., April 29, 2015. She is survived by her husband Harold, two children, and four grandchildren.


Lawrence E. Silverton ’49, Encino, Calif., Feb. 5, 2015. Lawrence served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed in Japan during World War II. He then attended Grinnell College, where he met Doris Tishin, his wife of 63 years. He served two years with the Army’s 20th Engineering Brigade as a sergeant. He met his wife Joan on a blind date and they remained happily married for 63 years. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Laura, and one grandson.


Nancy A. Buscher ’50, St. Joseph, Mich., March 12, 2015. Grinnellians may remember Robert A. Globus ’50 as a owner and operator of the White Spot Restaurant near campus and later work in downtown Grinnell. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict before moving to Grinnell and enrolling at the college. Robert died April 10, 2015, and is survived by one brother.

Irwin “Tom” Taylor ’50, Mount Dora, Fla., Dec. 5, 2015. He is survived by his wife Jane, four children, and five grandchildren.


Dorothy Laurie Taylor ’53, Boulder, Colo., Feb. 6, 2014. She is survived by her two daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.


1950s


Paul B. Bacher ’50, Fountain Hills, Ariz., May 29, 2015. Paul attended Grinnell College for two years before transferring to Northwestern University, where he graduated with a degree in business in 1951. He then served two years with the Army’s 20th Engineering Brigade as a sergeant. He met his wife Joan on a blind date and they remained happily married for 63 years. He is survived by his wife Joan, a daughter, Laura, and one grandson.


Nancy A. Buscher ’50, St. Joseph, Mich., March 12, 2015. Grinnellians may remember Robert A. Globus ’50 as a owner and operator of the White Spot Restaurant near campus and later work in downtown Grinnell. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict before moving to Grinnell and enrolling at the college. Robert died April 10, 2015, and is survived by one brother.

Irwin “Tom” Taylor ’50, Mount Dora, Fla., Dec. 5, 2015. He is survived by his wife Jane, four children, and five grandchildren.

Donn C. Chatterton ’51, Georgetown, Mass., April, 9, 2014. He graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in English. He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalistic fraternity, and was also a DJ at the College radio station. After graduation, he served as a field radio operator in the U.S. Marine Corps aboard the USS Melbourne during the Korean War. Then he began a 40-year career as marketing manager at Thermal Circuits in Salem, Mass. He was an involved member of the First Congregational Church in Georgetown, where he served as the church moderator for 27 years and ushering coordinator for 10 years. He loved the outdoors, going for walks and picnics with his family and dogs, and enjoying the culinary arts. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Joan; two children; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.


Eleanor Jean Lagen ’51, Woodstock, Maine, July 8, 2014. She is survived by her husband Richard.

Mary L. Martin ’51, Duluth, Minn., March 12, 2015. She worked as a clinical psychologist for many years. After retiring, she was an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and the Peace United Church of Christ, where she oversaw her adopted family, Laurie and Mariah Berner, her daughter and granddaughter.

Charles “Chuck” W. Williams ’51, Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 26, 2014. After serving as an Army cryptographer during the Korean War, Chuck graduated from Grinnell College and later obtained a graduate degree in business from the University of Chicago. He and his brother William owned and published Star Publications in Chicago Heights, one of the largest suburban newspapers in the country. After selling the newspaper in 1986, Chuck traveled the world and devoted himself to writing novels and children’s books. Surviving are his wife Diane, four children, and five grandchildren.

Roger T. Cameron ’52, Green Valley, Ariz., died Dec. 23, 2014. He is survived by his wife Carol, seven children, 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a sister.


Mary Ellen Jensen Low ’52, Round Hill, Va., April 16, 2015. She is survived by her husband Kenneth, two sisters, three children, two stepchildren, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Robert E. Offer ’52, Akron, Ohio, Oct. 8, 2014. Survivors include six children, 17 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Catherine Ann Cheyne Tate ’52, Lubbock, Texas, April 11, 2015. She is survived by her husband Gene, two children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.


Kathleen Seels Manthey ’53, Richardson, Texas, Aug. 17, 2014. Surviving are her three children and five grandchildren.


Barbara Broaddus ’75, Lubbock, Texas, April 11, 2015, is survived by her daughter and granddaughter.

Blacketer ’54, Nicholasville, Ky., Jan. 15, 2015. His wife Mary Lynn, three sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren survive him.

Robert W. “Buzz” Ackerman ’56, Phoenix, Dec. 21, 2014. After majoring in business and economics at Grinnell, he married Pat, his grade-school sweetheart. A short experience with the corporate world convinced him to go to medical school at the University of Minnesota. He served as an anesthesiologist in Vietnam for two years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and seven grandchildren.

Mary Marston Kennedy ’58, St. Louis, Dec. 8, 2014. Surviving are two children and three grandchildren.

1960s


A tragedy claimed the life of educator N. Jane West Young, 70 and her husband, Sydmore, S.D., May 1, 2015, while vacationing in the Virgin Islands. She had been a math teacher at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School for 17 years at the time of her death. She is survived by her son and daughter, whom she and her husband adopted from Russia.

Lisa J. Wentz ’73, Tarzana, Calif, worked for more than 40 years in financial and property management for Los Angeles County; the University of Southern California, and private individuals, after earning a master’s degree in architecture from UCLA and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Her hobbies and interests were wide-ranging from military history to sewing, quilting and photography to the architectural history of Los Angeles. Lisa died March 27, 2015, and is survived by her sister, brother-in-law, and nieces.

Bookseller and enthusiast James G. Broaddus ’75, died April 11, 2015, collected books on history, history, mountains, and books culminated in owning and operating the Aion Bookshop, On the Hill in Boulder, from 1987 to 2002, with his wife Deborah. James was inspired by Coloradoan’s natural beauty, and his...
Vernon E. Faulconer ’61, a life trustee and longtime benefactor of the College, died Aug. 7, 2015, in Dallas at the age of 76. On campus Vernon was perhaps best known as founder, along with his wife Amy Hamamoto Faulconer ’59, of Faulconer Gallery in the Bucksbaum Science Center and the Charles Benson Bear ’39 Recreation and Athletic Center.

In addition to his leadership at Grinnell, Vernon was deeply involved in the arts and community service. He was a member of the Board of Visitors at Tyler Junior College in Texas, where he created the Faulconer Academic Incentive Award for Minority Students. He also served as a board member of the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas, and as a member of the board of the Dallas Museum of Art, where he was instrumental in helping build the museum’s worldwide reputation.

Vernon E. Faulconer ’61

1980s

Philip J. Karlin ’84, Highland Park, Ill., May 11, 2015. He is survived by three children.

Darin R. Kobatke ’87, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii, June 9, 2015. He died in a paragliding accident while paddling the waters of Sugar Beach in Maui. Darin owned International Beauty Schools in Kahului. Survivors include his wife and brother, Drel Kobatke ’92.

Matthew M. Rickert ’89, Indianapolis, Ind., April 11, 2015.

1990s

Plumelele J. Mibba ’93, Komani, South Africa, June 1, 2015. He is survived by his sister, Nolikha Mibba ’91.

In Memoriam

Do Something About It

Helping families deal with a child’s autism diagnosis

The rate of autism diagnosis in children has been increasing steadily since 1990, leaving more parents with the challenge of figuring out how to help their children with autism achieve their greatest potential in a society that is full of confusing and often contradictory information about autism. While public knowledge of autism has increased over the past 10 to 20 years, most communities in the United States continue to have needs that outweigh the available resources. That is certainly true for my employer, the Rochester Center for Autism, which has a nine-month waiting list for intensive behavioral therapy.

Getting support and resources for a child with autism in a timely manner is nearly an impossible challenge for parents. Through my work, I have repeatedly heard from parents that when children are diagnosed with autism, families are given very little information about what to do next, how to connect with services, and what to expect when their child starts school, enters adolescence, and eventually becomes a young adult. While raising a child with special needs is hard, navigating a system that is geared toward typically developing children is even harder.

One family in Rochester told me that they had traveled an hour to La Crosse, Wis., to attend a 12-week parent training program that begins at the time of the child’s diagnosis. Upon hearing about this, I wondered what didn’t have such a program in Rochester. Lily Tomlin once said, “I always wondered why somebody doesn’t do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.” In the same spirit that led me to become active with student government at Grinnell, I decided that instead of asking why somebody doesn’t do something about it, I would just go ahead and do it. So I set out to learn more about the parent training and support program in La Crosse, so I could establish something similar in Rochester.

I felt strongly that our parent training program should be a partnership between multiple community organizations, and should be free of charge for parents. This was in late 2013, the same year I had convened a group of community organizations to share ideas and collaborate on community projects relating to autism. This informal group, called the Southeastern Minnesota Autism Alliance, included representatives from more than a dozen public and private agencies including therapists, social workers, educators, advocates, and parents. So I brought the idea of starting a new 12-week parent training and support program to our autism alliance and asked them for help.

An autism specialist from our school district agreed to help plan and facilitate the parent groups with me. The executive director of a local nonprofit autism awareness organization, the RT Autism Awareness Foundation, suggested I pitch a budget to its board of directors. So that is what I did. The foundation was able to raise funds and commit to fully supporting the first year of the program.

Our first 12-week session of the program opened in Faulconer Gallery on Sept. 18. (See details of the exhibit on Page 7.)

To learn more about the parent training and support program, which is to be called RT Autism CARES (Community Autism Resources Education and Support), started in September 2015. We hope to serve 12 to 15 families in the first year, all free of charge. The program will be a collaboration between the agency I work for and the RT Autism Awareness Foundation.

Parents will attend 12 weekly sessions, where we will provide them with an orientation to their child’s diagnosis, teach them how to effectively access community services, and provide information on how to implement evidence-based behavioral and communication training techniques with their child. Parents will also develop a support system made up of the four to five other families who will go through the program with them. If nothing else, they will not be alone in facing the challenge of raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder.

As I continue my career as a social worker, I still just want to help people. Sometimes that simply means listening and asking people what they need, seeing who wants to help, and just going out there and doing it!
That's So Grinnellian

Students participated in games on Ward Field during the all campus picnic Aug. 26, 2015, the day before classes started.
Iowa View

First-year students participating in Grinnell Science Project.