



**The Grinnell Magazine**

Winter 2012

Harry Hopkins 1912

# Touring Silicon Valley

*Why it is the best thing I did this semester.*

This fall, I applied for a spot on Grinnell's first career development industry tour of Silicon Valley [For more about the trip, see Page 29.] In my application, I wrote:

"As a third-year computer science major, I am both excited and scared to say I have decided what I want to do with my life after I graduate. I want to pursue my love of programming and problem-solving in a career in software engineering. And, like most Grinnell students, I want to make a difference. I don't know how or where I will do it, but my work will be significant.

"I have been preparing myself for this trip since my first year, though I didn't know it until recently. I have taken as much computer science as possible, mainly just because I love it. I have also emphasized mathematics and economics. Mathematics allows me to think like a mathematician — key to solving the toughest problems in computer science. Economics helps me understand the business side of the computer industry.

"It takes much more than classroom experience to impress the tech companies out there, so I have not wasted summers, either. After my first year, I performed a directed research project with professor of computer science **Henry Walker** to implement the use of robots in a Grinnell computer science course. This was the first use of Scribbler 2 robots with the C language, and my first experience doing something that had never been done before.

"After my second year, I did a mentored advanced project with another student and assistant professor of mathematics and statistics **Jeff Blanchard**, in which we created the fastest multiselection algorithm in the world using NVIDIA GPUs. We created a parallelizable algorithm for selecting multiple order statistics out of huge data sets and optimized the algorithm for GPU technology. I then took what I had learned from that experience and applied it at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where I helped analyze large sets of DNA to help with cancer research.

"My research has taught me a lot, and I really enjoyed it. Now I hope to find an industry internship — the logical next step for me in pursuing a prosperous career where I can truly make a difference in the way we use technology. It all starts in Silicon Valley."

Fortunately, I was chosen for a place on the trip along with 11 other students. The trip far surpassed my expectations! The area is even more amazing than I imagined. Companies there grow faster than anywhere in the world, yet they still manage to have a relaxed culture where employees have a say in what the company does and get to make a real impact in helping their company succeed. This is especially true with start-up companies. I had never realized just how many start-ups there are in the area, and how interesting and unique all of them are. Actually, I never really even thought about start-ups at all before this trip, but now I think a Silicon Valley start-up may just be a perfect work environment for me. I have decided I will now actively pursue a career there.

This trip also made me realize the value of networking, and how valuable the Grinnell alumni network is. We have some powerful alumni in amazing places, and all whom I met on the trip were more enthusiastic about helping current students than I could ever have expected. My primary goal for this trip was to obtain an internship, and the Grinnell alumni at many of the companies we visited submitted my application to their companies. I've already had interviews with three companies, and there are more to come! Without this trip, I never would have been able to apply to so many companies.

This trip gave me a much-needed foothold in the technology industry. At Grinnell, it's easy to focus on academics and forget about the real world, but this trip has done more than anything else I've experienced at Grinnell to help me plan for and feel confident about my future. I hope there will be many more opportunities like this for Grinnell students in the future.



Photo by Dan Weeks '80

By **Erik Opavsky '14**,  
a computer science  
major from Omaha,  
Neb.

"Don't be encumbered by history.  
Go off and do something wonderful."

- Robert Noyce



Students on the Silicon Valley industry tour [see inside front cover and P. 29] get words of encouragement from Intel co-founder **Robert Noyce '49**.

Photo by Dan Weeks '80

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In 1972, a 37-word section of the Education Amendments transformed girls' and womens' sports nationwide. It wrought big changes on campus in the 1970s and 80s, and continues to reverberate today — and not only in athletics.

**Webextras**  
[www.grinnell.edu/magazine](http://www.grinnell.edu/magazine)

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# The Grinnell Magazine

## Winter 2012

### Volume 45 Number 2

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#### Mission Statement

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

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#### On the cover:

Photo of Harry Hopkins 1912.  
Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.



## EDITORNOTES

### Back to the Future

*"Great Scott! Jennifer could conceivably encounter her future self! ... The encounter could create a time paradox, the results of which could cause a chain reaction that would unravel the very fabric of the space-time continuum, and destroy the entire universe!"*

—Dr. Emmett L. "Doc" Brown, *Back to the Future Part II*, 1989

Nah. That only happens in the movies. I've seen people encounter their future and past selves in real life, and the universe remains intact. The individuals involved, however, are often transformed.

It happens whenever more than one generation of Grinnellians gather — at reunions, alumni-taught classes and — for me most recently, on the College's first industry tour, as students visited alumni at their workplaces and asked about life after Grinnell. (See the inside front cover and Page 29 for more about this trip.) I was along to take notes and photos and had the chance to observe these encounters up close.

For the students, it was a compelling glimpse into their potential futures at exactly the time they need it most. For alumni, it was powerful déjà vu: "Wasn't it just yesterday," they think, "that I was where they are? Exhilarated and a bit scared by the possibilities that await after graduation, looking for mentors to guide me?"

Repeatedly on that trip, students said to one another how touched they were by the intensity of the bond between themselves and alumni they'd never met. "They really, really, really want us to succeed, and to help us in every way," one student said with more than a tinge of amazement.

In 10, 20, 30, 40 years, they'll know why. We alumni don't see an anonymous, generic representative of a younger generation when we look into the eyes of a Grinnell student. We see ourselves.

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



### Former Preschool Workers

Did you work for Carol Replogle Nielsen '56 at the Grinnell Preschool? If so, please email [stewardship@grinnell.edu](mailto:stewardship@grinnell.edu) or call Meg Jones Bair at 866-850-1846. We'd like to keep you informed of the development of the Carol Replogle Nielsen '56 Preschool Laboratory Fund, which was established to provide tuition and other assistance to students who could not otherwise attend the college preschool.



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What hath God wrought? ...  
I am pleased that Grinnell has  
chosen to (finally) recognize  
business as a valued profession.

—Richard L. Overholtzer '51

## LETTERS

### What Happened?

What hath God wrought? For years, I have been one of what I assumed was a miserably few alumni who railed at Grinnell's antibusiness bias. Now appears an entire *Grinnell Magazine* devoted predominantly to business and espousing the view that liberal arts graduates can succeed in the private sector. I don't know what happened, but I am glad to see a realization that businesses, large and small, as distasteful as the very thought may be to many, are the growth engine of the American economy.

I am pleased that Grinnell has chosen to (finally) recognize business as a valued profession, and I hope future graduates will consider business as a career rather than automatically writing it off in favor of government and nonprofit sectors.

—Richard L. Overholtzer '51  
San Jose, Calif.

### Commendable

I was very interested in the report on advanced degrees earned by Grinnellians on Page 35 of the Fall 2012 issue. How were these statistics gathered? Do you have statistics on other advanced degrees? If so, please publish them as well, as they might provide a fuller picture of what sorts of professional studies are being pursued by Grinnell grads.

On the general theme of the Fall issue, most of your readers doubtless find many for-profit businesses commendable. It is the privatization of public goods and services, the commercialization of our politics, and the pervasive and growing dominance of corporatism that deeply concern us and pose real threats to our democratic values and way of life.

—Byron C. Bangert '69  
Bloomington, Ind.

*These statistics come from the National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit organization that tracks*

*degrees awarded in the United State after 1990. The chart on Page 35 of the Fall issue lists eight types of graduate degrees awarded Grinnellians; here, in descending order of popularity, are a few more: M.S.E (education), M.S.W. (social work), MUCP (urban and city planning) M.Div. (divinity), and D.V.M. (veterinary medicine).—ed.*

### Condescending

I found the Fall 2012 issue condescending. Grinnell has always treated business with disdain; To suddenly discover that today's business world needs Grinnell graduates and prospers from their presence is a welcome new perspective, but laying it on so thick all at once after so many years of ignoring those involved was a bit much.

—Mark Butterman '76  
Englewood, Colo.

### Agriculture

I, too, am a Grinnellian in business: Next year I am starting a market garden outside Grinnell called Middle Way Farm. At Grinnell Heritage Farm, within sight of campus, there has been at least one Grinnell student or alumni working since 2007, including **Thomas Agran '09**, **Allie Gnade '09**, **Ben Iberle '10**, **Sam Calisch '10**, **Neal Wepking '10**, and **Vincent Geels '10** among others. And **Dan Neely '09** and **Sarah Luetzow '09** are starting a farm outside Madison next year. **Ami Freeberg '10** works for Cultivate Kansas City, a nonprofit organization promoting urban agriculture. **Erica Houglund '10** works for Growing Power. A feature on Grinnellians working in agriculture might be another way to show the versatility and unexpected value of a liberal arts degree.

—Jordan Scheibel '10  
Grinnell, Iowa

*Great idea, Jordan. We're on it!—ed.*

Of course Grinnellians  
are good at business;  
we're good at everything!

—Emily Mize Robare '01

## Disappointed

I was disappointed to see virtually no space reserved for the businesses of young alums. **John Wray '03** owns an environmentally friendly dog-walking business in Chicago. **John Bruns '10** and **Ashlen Matzdorf '11** founded and now run a gourmet oil company. **Dale Mackey '07** started her own fried-pie food cart! You missed an opportunity to garner support for Grinnellian-owned businesses and to provide insight about how recent graduates have responded to the dismal economy.

It's also unfortunate that the magazine limits information on younger alums in arts and entertainment. **Molly Backes '02** recently published a young adult book set in Iowa. **Kath Barbadoro '10** is a stand-up

comedian who sometimes travels to perform. **Rachel Fields '09** and **Nora Frazin '10** started recording a poetry podcast this fall. Maybe you can create a space to showcase this.

—Madeleine Cargas '10  
Chicago

*We're delighted to share the activities and accomplishments of all alumni in all disciplines and fields at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu) and [Classnotes@grinnell.edu](mailto:Classnotes@grinnell.edu). Tips and leads from alumni are a prime source of story ideas and "Classnotes" sidebars. Thanks for keeping them coming! For those who missed it, Molly Backes' book was featured on Page 41 of the Spring 2012 issue. Also, the College is working on a complete renovation of The Loggia that will make sharing this kind of information easier — stay tuned for more information. —ed.*

## Creeping Classnotes

I just finished reading the Fall 2012 issue. I like the new pictures and boxes highlighting alumni in the "Classnotes" section. But I feel like that section is creeping into the rest of the magazine. The Fall 2012 issue was a lot of people saying the same thing over and over about how their Grinnell degree contributed to their life in business — useful for prospective students, but as an alumnus (and one who works in business), I didn't find it very interesting or novel. Of course Grinnellians are good at business; we're good at everything! Maybe it could have been an article instead of the whole issue.

I've always enjoyed *The Grinnell Magazine* because I learn something new reading it. There

are profiles of individual alums, but they are typically well-written biographical pieces about super-interesting people (like the former South Sudanese leader who was a Grinnell alum) and focus more on that person's life and historical events. I imagine there's a fine balance that alumni magazines have to walk between having new content and promoting the College, but I think the Fall 2012 issue went too far on the promotional/propaganda side.

—Emily Mize Robare '01  
Chicago

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



## “The Grinnell 14” Wins Again!

“The Grinnell 14 Go to Washington: How one well-orchestrated road trip started the modern student peace movement” (Fall 2011 issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*) won a silver award for excellence in feature writing from the Mid-America region of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, an international association of educational institutions. The article was written by **Peter (Cohon) Coyote '64** and **Terry Bisson '64** with additional commentary by nine alumni involved in the historic road trip. The article earlier won an honorable mention from the Mills-Noun Popular History Award Competition. To read “The Grinnell 14 Go to Washington” online: [www.grinnell.edu/file/66843](http://www.grinnell.edu/file/66843)

# CAMPUS NOTES

## Planning Strategically

### Six Action Plans for an Innovative Future

In August of 2011, the College began a strategic planning process that included a year of research and study and solicited more than 1,200 comments and suggestions from the entire Grinnell community, including many alumni. These suggestions were organized, reviewed, shaped, and developed by the strategic plan’s working groups and steering committee, the board of trustees, and President **Raynard S. Kington**. The result is an action plan focused on six strategies to help the College become, in Kington’s words, “the most innovative liberal arts college of our time.” Here are those strategies:

#### Teaching and learning

Re-envision Grinnell’s commitment to a liberal education and its value in the 21st century. Create an innovative and evolving student-centered, liberal arts curriculum that enables students to be successful in an ever-

changing world and that informs and enriches the lives of Grinnell graduates.

#### Enrollment

Attract, enrich, and graduate a diverse and talented student community. Develop financially sustainable admission and financial-aid policies consistent with a mission of academic excellence and educational access.

#### Postgraduation success

Instill an orientation to the future and intentionally connect the Grinnell educational experience to postgraduate endeavors. Create a curriculum and learning environment that enables and encourages students to pursue and succeed in multiple life paths and careers.

#### Facilities

Build learning spaces that encourage collaboration, creativity, and inquiry. Design, operate, and

support all spaces on the campus to enhance the academic, social, and environmental success of the Grinnell College community.

#### Alumni engagement

Foster lifelong learning and contributions of alumni in the College’s intellectual life, service, mentorship, and advising. Purposefully include alumni in all strategies when designing the Grinnell alumni community, alumni-to-alumni relations, and College-to-alumni relations.

#### Resource management

Transform administrative practices to maintain continuous, collaborative, and adaptive planning for the College. Create a fiscally sustainable business model that supports the College’s continuing enhancements and maintains stability through variations in revenue sources and expenditure patterns.

Grinnell’s plan also establishes a \$2.5 million innovation fund over the next five years to launch projects that have the potential to transform teaching and learning at Grinnell.

#### It’s Continuous!

Strategic planning at the College is now an ongoing, iterative process of continuous evaluation, reflection, and improvement. The process is supported by **Angela Voos**, vice-president of strategic planning and special assistant to the president. President Kington will lead the College in setting priorities, managing resources, defining performance expectations, and ensuring an integrated set of actions.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Faculty at the Falconer

### *Breach*

Assistant professor of art **Andrew Kaufman's** *Breach* was an installation of 10 small, disassembled television monitors that make and remake drawings in an endless loop. "Through observations of social catastrophes and lived personal experiences, my understanding of containment has broadened to also encompass ideas of breach and contamination," Kaufman says. "Growing up under the uncertainty of AIDS, and now living in a new age of fear, terrorism, and natural disaster while maintaining the requisite comfortable consumer American life is a constant influence on the development of my work." As disease and disaster breach our comfortable existence, Kaufman's work spurs us to re-examine how we test our limits — and if we want to.

Assistant Professor of Art **Andrew Kaufman**, second from left, discusses his installation with gallery visitors.

## A Gathering of Psych Majors

### Psychology students and alumni connect at the first academic affinity reunion.

**Peter Kranz '63** hadn't returned to Grinnell since he graduated. An associate professor of psychology at the University of Texas-Pan American, Kranz wanted to visit campus — and connect with Grinnellians across generations, united by a common interest. He hatched the idea of holding a reunion for psychology majors. "I was wondering what happened with all these folks that had gone through psych in the 50 years since I graduated," he says. Kranz called **Jayn Bailey Chaney '05**, director of alumni relations, to get the ball rolling. "This was the first reunion of any discipline on campus," Kranz says. "We had no idea how it would go."

More than 70 psychology students and two dozen alumni

(from the classes of 1963 to 2009) gathered Nov. 2–3 to discuss psychology careers and research. Weekend events included lectures, class visits, psychology journal discussions, alumni-and-student meals, and even a trivia night. Alumni in fields from academia to law to financial planning presented a panel, "What I Did With My Psychology Degree." Many event ideas came from students, says **Laura Sinnett**, associate professor of psychology. The previous spring, she asked her research methods class to brainstorm what they'd like to see in a potential reunion.

**Atavia Whitfield '06**, a program development associate at the Boys' Club of New York, connected with both alumni and students during the reunion. She worked with the Career Development Office to set up

internships and has been in touch with students hoping to get an inside look at her work. "One of the students I spoke with at the reunion is planning to shadow me over winter break," Whitfield says.

Students found reassurance in alumni stories. "It was a relief to hear that they were once in our shoes and had no idea what they wanted to do with their degree," says **Zoe Cronin '14**. "It was really great to hear that it's an unfolding, a process to get to where they are." **Graeme Boy '14** adds: "It was good to see alums who are successfully doing something that interests them and celebrating Grinnell."

"This was an opportunity for alumni to network with one another and with students and to have an intensive educational experience around a specific discipline," Chaney says. "It's our hope to continue academic affinity reunions in the future."

"I contacted some of my friends in other majors to see if they could nudge a similar event forward," Whitfield says. Cronin enthusiastically agrees. "The students I've talked to want this to happen again. I went to almost every session, and I wish I could have gone to more. It was inspiring."

Perhaps most striking was a Grinnell identity across generations. "Everyone was very Grinnellian," Cronin says. "They all seemed to fit."

Reflecting on his nearly half-century hiatus from campus, Kranz notes, "I was struck with how Grinnell has kept quality at its core. I was thrilled to see how Grinnell is growing in so many ways, but that curiosity, that intellectualism, is still present."

—Kate Moening '11



## *we're all in this together*

Assistant professor of theatre **Craig Quintero** collaborated with artists from Grinnell, University of Iowa, and Taiwan to develop *we're all in this together*. The exhibit encouraged visitors to both *see* art and *be* art by creating and photographing stage images with props, costumes, and lights in the surreal installation space. Visitors could upload the resulting photos to the Faulconer Gallery computer. Each day, Quintero selected one image to print and frame, providing visitors with an opportunity to add their creative voices to this growing exhibition. In addition, the Grinnell College Department of Theatre and Dance staged two performances in the exhibit space.

### What's at the Faulconer Now?

For information about current Faulconer Gallery exhibitions and related programs: 641-269-4660 or [www.grinnell.edu/faulconergallery](http://www.grinnell.edu/faulconergallery)

Assistant Professor of Theatre **Craig Quintero** photographs an exhibition participant.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Washington-in-Grinnell

### Behind the scenes on the campaign trail

This fall, Grinnell got a brief, behind-the-scenes glimpse of the presidential campaign. On Sept. 18, Vice President Joe Biden visited Grinnell's Harris Center to talk about issues such as student loans, the economy, and health care. The event was not College-sponsored (the Obama campaign rented the College's facilities to hold a rally), but College staff collaborated with Secret Service and the campaign in a whirlwind of site scouting, security sweeps, and venue preparation.

"We were really, really proud to have been visited," says **Jim Reische**, vice-president for communications. "We would have been proud to host either party."

Before the event, the Secret Service briefed College staff and the city of Grinnell's public service workers on how the visit would be managed. Then they locked down Harris Center and swept the entire interior with security dogs. Following that, College conference operations staff and campaign

workers transformed the center's concert hall into a rally space.

"It was a very compact process," says Reische. "We had five days' notice."

"They'd call and say, 'We need banners,'" recalls **Rachel Bly '93**, director of conference operations and events. Soon roadies were unloading enough

sound equipment, staging, and bleachers to host a rock concert.

Area alumni and friends of the College received VIP invitations. An array of student speakers and community music groups, including the Too Many Strings band (composed mostly of faculty and retired faculty) and the G-Tones a cappella group (composed entirely of students) kicked off the event.

Under a banner that read "Fired Up and Ready for Joe," supporters cheered and waved signs as Biden outlined the Obama platform, descended into the crowd for handshaking and picture-taking, and then was gone. The following morning, only a few truck-tire tracks left on Mac Field showed evidence of a campaign stop.

—Kate Moening '11



Vice-President Joe Biden addresses the crowd in the Harris Center.



## Riding RAGBRAI

### Bicycle across the state with fellow Grinnellians in July

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) has been a state tradition since 1973. For the past four years, a Grinnell team has joined the now-15,000-strong bike ride for seven days of what is touted as "the oldest, largest, and longest recreational bicycle-touring event in the world." Team Grinnell invites you to join the adventure July 21-27, 2013, as it celebrates five years of riding together.

About 40 Grinnell alumni, parents, faculty, staff, friends, and family members ride with Team Grinnell each year. En route, riders average 67 miles each day, and most bring their own bikes or ship them ahead. While you don't have to be a professional cyclist, it helps to have at least 500 miles of cycling in prior to RAGBRAI, with at least half of those miles in the eight weeks prior to the ride.

Riders meet in Grinnell and remember life as students with an overnight stay in the dorms and group dinners at local restaurants. Team Grinnell works closely with Bikes to You, a Grinnell cycle shop that

**Fifteen thousand riders pedal through the Iowa countryside each July. You're invited to join them.**

## Leading Interfaith Dialogue

**"I Don't Want Other Children to Lose Their Childhoods," Harold Kasimow says.**

"I've always been intoxicated with books," says **Harold Kasimow**, professor emeritus of religious studies, who was hired by the College in 1972 to help establish its Religious Studies Department. "I've been studying many faith traditions for nearly 50 years. I probably have 5,000 books looking at me in my office at Grinnell. But as I've gotten older, it's become as intoxicating to actually talk with people of other faith traditions."

Kasimow was one of 41 core group leaders at a conference in October in Florence, Italy, entitled "Awakened World 2012: Engaged Spirituality for the 21st Century." The conference was sponsored by the International Interreligious Peace Council, the Interreligious Engagement Project, and the Association for Global



**Kasimow, left, with A. T. Ariyaratne, the Sri Lankan founder and president of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, a spiritually based people's development in 15,000 villages.**

New Thought. Other leaders included Sister Joan Chittister, writer and co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women, and Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of

Mahatma Gandhi and former parliamentarian, Republic of South Africa.

Conference conveners suggested that the world is experiencing a new age and a new global consciousness, with "exclusivist certainty" developing into "open-minded inquiry." They designed the conference to map the evolution of religion

and spirituality worldwide and to inspire new initiatives of humanistic and environmental service. It was attended by more than 200 spiritual and religious leaders, scholars, peace activists, businesspeople, physicians, and other professionals.

"I saw incredible people," Kasimow says. "In spite of the radical differences in religions,

### webextra!

For more about Harold Kasimow's personal story:

[www.grinnell.edu/offices/communications/magazine/extras/holocaust](http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/communications/magazine/extras/holocaust)



provides a RAGBRAI charter service. In addition to the \$150 direct RAGBRAI registration, the charter service offers gear transportation, designated campsites, and campsite equipment and rentals. The goal is to make the 475-mile ride as easy and pleasurable as possible. Sheryl Walter '78 says, "RAGBRAI is a ride, not a race. It's the stops along the way that make it such a special week."

### Grinnellians Wanted

If you're ready to experience Iowa as you never have and to meet Grinnellians who love a challenge and share a sense of adventure, visit <http://loggia.grinnell.edu/RAGBRAI> or email Molly Campe '96, associate director of alumni relations, at [campe@grinnell.edu](mailto:campe@grinnell.edu). Registration ends Feb. 28, 2013.

RAGBRAI riders Sheryl Walter '78 and Ed Senn '79



cultures, and even clothes, there was a real commitment to dialogue toward harmony and peace."

Kasimow led a session titled "The Passing of Exclusivism: A New Openness," where 20 participants worked to identify signs of change, shadows, and strengths of openness in spiritual traditions.

Examples of change included the 1962-1965 Second Vatican Council, which opened dialogue between Catholics and those of other faiths, as well as the acceptance of religious studies in the academy.

Shadows included religiously sanctioned violence, bigotry and prejudice, extremism, literalism, the exclusion of indigenous traditions, lack of ethics in capitalism, and nationalism.

Strengths included a growing recognition that all is sacred and a willingness to be inclusive and open to dialogue.

As the conference progressed, proposals for initiatives emerged. These included creating more



Kasimow, left, with Canon Alan Race, editor-in-chief, *Interreligious Thought*, center; and Samdhong Rinpoche, Tibetan monk and scholar, former Kalon Tripa, or prime minister, of the Tibetan government-in-exile, director of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Banaras, India.

interfaith centers in colleges and universities; expanding knowledge of existing programs that address poverty, hunger, and other injustices; and establishing more global online networks to link resources to those in need, such as microfinance loans

to women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Kasimow has been a scholar of interfaith dialogue throughout his career, for intensely personal reasons. Beginning in 1942, after the first year of the German occupation of Poland, Kasimow,

then age four, spent 19 months and five days in complete darkness with his parents and two sisters. The family hid under the cattle barn of a Polish Catholic farmer, with Kasimow's father slipping out at night to get bread and water for the family. In the summer of 1944, the family was liberated by the Russians. The young boy, 6 years old, did not remember that daylight existed. Today at age 74, Kasimow says, "Interfaith dialogue is important to me because I don't want other children to lose their childhoods."

"I'm not sure if we truly live in a new age as the conference conveners suggested at the outset," Kasimow admits. "With all that's going on in the world, I can see arguments for and against. But the one thing we can't give up is hope — that things will get better, that to some degree human beings can free themselves, that everyone is capable of becoming a *mensch*, a human being who is compassionate and to some extent free of egoism, hatred, greed, and delusion."

—Suzanne Kelsey

## Serving Alumni Volunteers

Two new members of the alumni relations staff help alumni help students.

**Arlene Holmes** and **Melanie Drake '92** are assistant directors of alumni relations – Holmes, for career development, connecting alumni with students who can benefit from their professional experience and perspectives; Drake, for admission, coordinating alumni volunteers who help connect prospective students with the College.

“When we asked alumni for feedback during the strategic planning process, they were resounding in asking for more opportunities to provide professional development mentoring and advice, and in further outreach to prospective students during the admission process,” says **Jayn Bailey Chaney '05**, director of alumni relations. “We didn’t have enough support in place for those activities. Now we have two full-time people who are devoted to being catalysts in those areas.” Both have hit the ground running.

Holmes, formerly a career development office director at a small university, joined the College in April and already has coordinated a professional development workshop and networking event in Washington, D.C., attended by about 40 Grinnellians; is coordinating



**Arlene Holmes**

alumni-in-residence opportunities that will bring alumni to campus for two to four days to share their professional experiences; and developed and led the College’s first industry tour over fall break (see “Grinnell in Silicon Valley,” Page 29). Many more such activities are planned, and even bigger developments are on the way behind the scenes.

“Ultimately, we want to provide systems that help students find alumni who can help them and that can allow alumni to offer themselves as mentors to those students who can most benefit

## The Nana Project

Victoria Brown explores the unexamined history of the American grandmother.

When **Victoria Brown**, L.F. Parker Professor of History, became a grandmother in 2007, she set out to read a history on grandmothers in America – and found there wasn’t one. “There are many books on the histories of motherhood and of being a daughter and a wife, but there’s no attention paid to the cultural and socioeconomic construction of the grandmother,” she says. “This piqued my interest: It’s seldom a historian comes across a topic that is so wholly unstudied.”

Brown has begun to piece together a history herself. Drawing from sociological journals, popular culture, and interviews with women who have witnessed multiple generations of grandmothers in their own



**Victoria Brown**

lives, she is developing a complex picture of grandmothers’ roles across racial and ethnic groups and throughout the last century. In particular, Brown is examining how the role has evolved due to changing gender roles and economic needs.

“African-American women have worked outside the home in higher numbers longer than white women, so the role of the grandmother as an at-home child care provider has historically been more important,” she says. “I’m interested in asking the question:

Are white grandmothers becoming more like African-American and Hispanic grandmothers in the role they play in the family? Have economic and gender changes altered the role of white grandmothers, across class, over time?”

–Kate Moening '11

### Grinnellians Wanted

Do you – or does a woman in your life – have grandchildren? Brown is interviewing women with a range of experiences as grandmothers. “I’m looking at what grandmothers did in the ’40s versus the ’60s versus today,” Brown explains. “I’m trying to get a bevy of grandmothers I can talk to.”

Brown wants to interview women who have experienced three generations of grandmothers in their lives: their own grandmothers, their children’s grandmother, and themselves as grandmothers today. She seeks a spread of racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as a diversity of relationships: close and distant, paternal and maternal grandmothers.

Interviews last about 90 minutes and can take place in person or via Skype, depending on your location. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing your stories, email Brown at [brownv@grinnell.edu](mailto:brownv@grinnell.edu).





Melanie Drake '92

from their particular education, experience, and expertise,” she says. “Think interactive database.”

Drake, a former high school counselor and college admission officer, joined the staff in August and has taken over the Grinnell Regional Admission Support Program, or GRASP. Among other activities, GRASP volunteers attend college fairs and conduct admission interviews where they live. “The program has been around for decades, but this is the first time it has had a full-time coordinator,” Drake says. “As a result, we’ll be able to make some

pretty dramatic improvements; we’ve already had a record number of volunteers participate in college fairs over the last three months. Our goal is not only to engage GRASP volunteers more actively, but to make better use of their talents – to more thoroughly train them, to have them work more closely with faculty and staff, and to empower them to provide us with valuable feedback on our admission programs. It really is a new day.”

### Grinnellians Wanted

Interested in becoming a GRASP admission volunteer? Contact Melanie Drake '92 at 641/269-3208; [drakem@grinnell.edu](mailto:drakem@grinnell.edu).

Interested in becoming a career development mentor? Contact Arlene Holmes at 641/269-4294; [holmesar@grinnell.edu](mailto:holmesar@grinnell.edu).

## Conferencing at Grinnell ...

### One Person’s alma mater is another person’s 4.5-star conference center.

*“Your services are wonderful.” “Campus staff ... are all very helpful and pleasant.” “Top notch ... cannot think of one [experience] in particular that was the ‘best.’” “It was all very good – the contact in preparing for the event, service the day of the event, quality of the room, food, and AV.”*

So say respondents to a recent survey of participants in summer conferences that rent campus facilities. The College earned 4.5 out of 5 stars in every survey category, including event management, campus facilities, athletic facilities, dining hall service, catering service, and residence halls.

That may explain why the College hosted more than 500 events totaling 26,000 individuals last year – ranging from a six-person meeting to a conference with more than 1,000 attendees – and why many groups come back year after year.

“We often drop everything more than once each presidential election year to host a candidate,” [most recently Vice-President Joe Biden – see story, Page 7],

says Rachel Bly '93, director of conference operations and events.

Political geography aside, “These groups love our beautiful campus and town as much as we do,” Bly says. “And they appreciate the warm welcome, personal attention, and great facilities.”

In return, the College has an opportunity to make its facilities available – especially to groups that share its commitment to

youth, community, education, and positive social change. For this year, the College has added two more clients that align with Grinnell’s mission: a national association of science-focused high schools, and a conference of liberal arts computer science professors.

The College also benefits from the operating efficiencies of keeping the campus populated – and the half-million dollars

in revenue that conferences contributed to the College’s general fund last year.

### For more information ...

About holding an event on campus: [www.grinnell.edu/offices/confops](http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/confops), 641-269-3178, [conferences@grinnell.edu](mailto:conferences@grinnell.edu)



Photo by Justin Hayward

Room 101 in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center is a popular conference venue.

## Social Justice Pioneers

### Grinnell Prize recipients give students an up-close look at entrepreneurship

Grinnell hosted its second annual Grinnell Prize symposium Nov. 12–16. This year’s winners, selected from more than 300 nominees in 45 countries, spent a week on campus discussing their work with the campus community. Recipients included Cristi Hegranes of the Global Press Institute (GPI), an organization that provides journalism training to women in developing regions; Linus Liang and Jane Chen, whose company Embrace Innovations provides low-cost incubators for premature babies in low-income communities worldwide; and Jacob Wood and William McNulty, founders of Team Rubicon, a group that helps veterans reintegrate into civilian life by involving them in disaster relief (Wood and McNulty were unable to attend the symposium due to Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Their visit was rescheduled for the week of Feb. 24, 2013).

During the week, prizewinners engaged with students through lectures, class visits, meetings with student organizations – even bowling. “They were really willing to talk to anyone,” says **Alyce Eaton ’13**, editor-in-chief of *Scarlet & Black*. She spoke to Hegranes about merging

journalism with social justice. “It was cool and kind of intimidating how young she is. She has such a good understanding of what it’s like to be a student and also be thinking about the ways you can affect social justice.”

Selection committee chair and professor of political science **Eliza Willis** says, “Cristi [Hegranes] was impressed with students’ practical-mindedness. They wanted to talk concretely about how you make things happen.” Student engagement with the prizewinners will continue next year, when Liang, Chen, and Hegranes return to campus to run workshops and short courses exploring how to develop and manage a justice-oriented organization.

“The winners’ talks were excellent, and a lot of students who attended expressed how much they got out of it,” says **Sarah Purcell ’92**, associate professor of history and Rosenfield Program director.

**Keaton Cameron-Burr ’15** sits on the Rosenfield committee and says, “The symposium did a good job of channeling a certain entrepreneurial possibility – not necessarily for a business, but to do

## 138!

### The day before Thanksgiving, Jack Taylor ’15 was more popular than green bean casserole and apple pie. Literally.

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, Taylor – a 5’10” biochemistry major from Black River Falls, Wisc. – shattered the NCAA scoring record in a basketball game against Faith Baptist Bible College, of Ankeny, Iowa. Shooting 52 of 108 from the floor, including 27 of 71 from 3-point range, Taylor – a transfer student playing just his third game for Grinnell – scored an astounding 138 points, surpassing the previous NCAA record of 113 points set by Bevo Francis of Rio Grande College in 1954.

The Pioneers’ game ended at 9:45 p.m. Before dawn, the *Today Show*, ESPN, and *Good Morning, America* had requested interviews. #JackTaylor was trending wildly on Twitter, and Taylor’s name was the third most popular search term on Google the day before Thanksgiving – ahead of perennial holiday favorites “green bean casserole” and “apple pie.” In fact, searches for both “Jack Taylor” and “Grinnell College” reached a peak search volume on Google, and Web searches for “Grinnell College”



**Jack Taylor ’15 shoots yet again!**

reached an all-time high. The Grinnell College website and the Pioneer athletics site experienced unprecedented traffic.

Taylor and his teammates and coaches took it in stride. The day after the game, Taylor went to calculus, with associate professor of mathematics and statistics **Royce**

**Wolf**, then to introduction to Judaism and Christianity, taught by professor of religious studies **Tyler Roberts**, then gave nearly 300 interviews to reporters worldwide. “I don’t think reality has set in yet,” he told the Associated Press. “It felt like everything I tossed up was going in.”

“I’m lucky to have teammates who kept passing me the ball,” he told late-night host Jimmy Kimmel – and “God, who gave me the talent and the opportunity.” Most reporters – including those from three National Public Radio programs, plus CNN and Reuters – noted Grinnell’s academic excellence.

Predictably, backlash followed. For 20 years, Grinnell has played *The System*, a fast-paced game that leads to high scores and emphasizes three-point shooting, player participation, and frequent substitutions. Critics have called it “faux basketball” and much worse.

“The national conversation was ... deeply layered,” noted *The New York Times*, “with many questioning why an individual would attempt so many shots in a game that was clearly not a contest.”

On “The 138 Edition” of Slate’s *Hang Up and Listen*, associate coach **Dave Arseneault ’09** told panelist and National



something independent of an institution or an entity.”

Eaton agrees: “It’s a good reminder that students can accomplish things very soon [after graduating]. Especially as a senior looking at the job market, lots of people are scared. This shows that you can make your own path, that if you think something’s not working, you can change things. I think lots of students think everything that can be done has been done, or has been tried and failed.”

Willis sees opportunities for engagement beyond social justice-minded students. “It’s not just about how you innovate and lead a nonprofit, but about how you do that with any organization,” Willis says. “Their impact is way beyond social justice; these are people who came up with an idea and made it happen. These were very challenging projects and could have easily failed. They provided a lot of insight into how they did that.”

—Kate Moening '11

### webextra!

To view more of the symposium, go to [www.grinnell.edu](http://www.grinnell.edu) and click on “Grinnell Prize.”



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Recipients Cristi Hegranes, Jane Chen, and Linus Liang

Public Radio journalist Mike Pesca, “It’s unfortunate when people say this is an individual record. I saw the game, I saw the sacrifices that everyone on the team made; it’s a team record. Everyone contributed.” Noting that Grinnell’s location and high academic standards make recruiting difficult, Arseneault says that The System was created after many losing seasons as a way to give students a chance to participate.

“If we’re going to lose,” he says, “we might as well do so while giving the kids something positive to talk about.” Since “there is no one way that the game of basketball is supposed to be played,” he says, “we found a way to think outside the box and have fun and maximize participation — and if we can do it and win at the same time, then all the better.” Now, the Pioneers are much more competitive; they’ve won five titles since 1996.

While it was fun for all Grinnellians to have the College

in the international spotlight for a moment, the media frenzy seems to have had little effect on the team, who celebrated Thanksgiving at the Arseneault family’s house, then practiced as usual on Friday and Saturday.

The Pioneers returned to Darby three days after the holiday for a fast-paced, physical, high-scoring contest against William Penn University. More than 1,300 people showed up at Darby gym, hoping that lightning would strike twice. It didn’t. Taylor played 17 minutes and scored 21 points, but the Pioneers lost to the Statesmen, 131-116.

“I think it shows just how special that [Tuesday] night was,” a smiling Taylor told ESPN after the game. “That I’m a player with flaws, who can’t go out and score 50, 60, 70, 130 points per game. That I am a good scorer, and I need to continue to improve.”

—Stacey Schmeidel

### What They Said

“That’s impressive. That’s crazy. I don’t care what level you’re at. Scoring 138 points is pretty insane.”

—Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers

“There are two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid. I want to see him, too. Sir Jack.”

—LeBron James, aka “King James”

“I don’t think I could score 138 points if I was the only player on the court.”

—Jimmy Kimmel, host, ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live!

“Grinnell is a really good school. You have to have high math SAT scores to get in. You have to know that three is more than two. And his coach said, hey, if we shoot and make all these three-pointers, and we let the other team shoot a lot of two-pointers, we’ll probably win.”

—Mike Pesca, National Public Radio journalist

“At Grinnell College students are expected to be both physical and service athletes. Moreover, academic standards aren’t lowered to attract top athletic talent. That point is far bigger than any point that Jack Taylor will ever score on the hardwood.”

—James Marshall Crotty, education columnist, Forbes.com



**Nathaniel S. Borenstein '80**

*majored in math and religious studies at Grinnell, received the College's President's Medal, and in 1998 became Grinnell's first Robert Noyce '49 Visiting Professor. Borenstein earned a Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University, was named a "geeks' geek" in 2001 by Salon, founded several tech start-ups, wrote three books and numerous articles, and holds three patents. In 2010 he gave up a sinecure as an IBM distinguished scientist to become Chief Scientist at Mimecast, a unified email services company.*

# MIME @ 20: A Happy Anniversary

*Nathaniel Borenstein '80 – the co-inventor of the email attachment – reflects on time, technology, and innovation.*

In 1992, only a few people had cell phones, or even knew what email was. South African whites were voting to end apartheid; the first shouts of “Wayne’s World!” echoed through the newly opened EuroDisney in the newly constituted European Union; Isaac Asimov and Benny Hill died; Miley Cyrus and Selena Gomez were born; and Microsoft finally found a market with version 3.1 of Windows.

Also new that year was MIME [Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions], the now-ubiquitous Internet standard for multimedia data – for me, the culmination of seven years of work researching, developing, and standardizing multimedia email. Twenty years later, my best guess is that MIME is used roughly a trillion times daily. But in 1992, a single MIME message made a bit of a splash among the few who saw it.

That message – often referred to as the first MIME message, but more accurately called the first *interesting* MIME message – circled the globe in March 1992, sharing a JPEG image and an audio clip of my barbershop chorus, Bellcore’s Telephone Chords, singing “Let Me Send You Email” to the tune of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart:”

*Let me send you email if you have the time  
Let me sing you email now that we have MIME  
You have lots of bandwidth, I have lots of bits  
Let's use MIME for email, plain text is the pits!*

Where has the time gone? Can it really be 20 years?

Well, yes; it’s a whole different world. Twenty years ago, when people asked why I was so passionate about this technology, I’d say, “Someday I’ll have grandchildren, and I want to get pictures of them by email.” This generally made people laugh – it was an absurd notion, given the costs of computers, bandwidth, and digitizing photographs.

Today, as I receive regular in-utero pictures of my third grandchild, I find it hard to explain to younger folks why this ever seemed unlikely.

As proud as I am of the MIME work, I don’t really believe it deserves as much attention as it gets. We made several mistakes, but fortunately not enough to make up for being in the right place at the right time. I’ve done plenty of things in my career that I thought were under-recognized, so I can’t shed too many tears about this one being over-recognized. It all feels rather random.

I’ve had plenty of adventures in the last 20 years, raised a family, made and lost a fortune, and gotten thicker and grayer. MIME hasn’t given me a fraction of the joy that I’ve gotten from my children and grandchildren. Yet the word MIME is probably as inevitable in my future obituary as the obituary itself. I figure I should simply relax and enjoy the show. Meanwhile, here are some lessons MIME might teach about how to create a successful technology standard.

**1. Where you work matters.** I devoted roughly two years of my life to defining MIME. Not that many employers would tolerate that, but I was a researcher at Bellcore, with a broad mandate to promote more bandwidth use. Few companies support standards work to the extent that Bellcore supported me.

**2. Address a real need.** Most people didn’t know it yet, but the world really needed an interoperable, open standard for multimedia data; almost everything on today’s Internet reflects this. I realized it early because I had built a multimedia email system at Carnegie Mellon, and Steve Jobs had followed up with something similar at NeXT, but the two systems couldn’t exchange multimedia data with each other. I knew that someday I wanted to get pictures of my grandchildren by email, but I didn’t want my kids and me to have to use the same email software.

**3. Address another real need.** Any standard will face barriers to adoption, at least from the inertia of the installed base; meeting two major needs can increase the number of people who care, and hence the pressure for adoption. In the case of MIME, multimedia junkies like me were able to make common cause with the deep desire of people around the world to send email in languages other than English. And my co-author, Ned Freed, was largely motivated by the need for a better email format standard to facilitate handling email at gateways without losing important information. These problems could have been solved separately, but a standard that solved both surely hastened adoption, perhaps even making the difference between success and failure.

**4. Connect the dots and share the credit.** Some successful teams self-assemble, but behind most successful teams



*We made several mistakes,  
but fortunately not enough  
to make up for being in the  
right place at the right time.*

is a visionary who figured out what parts needed to be brought together. In the case of MIME, the visionary was the late Einar Stefferud, who introduced me to Ned Freed and suggested that we collaborate on the work that became MIME. Sharing the credit is remarkably useful in leading argumentative technology gurus to consensus. At the end of the MIME standard, there's a long list of acknowledgements of people who helped draft the standard. I found that adding someone to this list made them less argumentative. There's no downside to sharing credit generously.

**5. Keep your goals modest, realistic, and limited.** I know, extending email to include all human languages and all media types doesn't sound like a limited goal, but the truth is that we achieved those goals via a very limited mechanism. We avoided trying to settle as many battles as we could, preferring instead to create a framework for the debate to continue. Thus, MIME doesn't declare JPEG a better image format than GIF, or PDF superior to HTML and DOC; we just made it possible to unambiguously define labels for these types, such as `image/gif` and `image/jpeg`. (The wisdom of this approach is clearest when you consider applying it to the natural language problem: Had we tried to specify that everyone should always speak English, or Chinese, we would never have found consensus.)

**6. Acknowledge that your vision is limited.** Standards designers tend to overspecify; MIME was designed in the aftermath of X.400, a proposed email standard that failed in large part due to its complexity. Rather than try to imagine every future use of MIME, we created an initial set of media types, and a registry for defining new ones. The result is that the number of media types has grown from less than 20 in the original standard to more than 1,300 today.

**7. Worry about branding and marketing.** This is the lesson I find hardest to convey to technically oriented people, who tend to dismiss anything nontechnical as fluff. The fact is, technologies are adopted (or not) by people, who are subject to a wide range of influences. Good publicity and catchy names really matter. In fact, the best advice I've gotten in my entire career came from Dave Crocker, the author of the original Internet email

standards, who convinced me to come up with a clever name or acronym. I laughed, but he was insistent, so after 15 minutes I came up with "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions" – MIME, which, because it is much catchier than, say, RFC 1341, is often used conversationally, and the term "MIME types" is sometimes used to refer to "media types." Essentially, because people have heard the name MIME and perhaps have a vague idea what it is, I have instant credibility with total strangers. It's a good thing I didn't know it would be used in so many non-email contexts, or I might not have come up with such a catchy name.

**8. Give it away.** If you want to see a standard adopted, it helps to produce a solid implementation and release it as open-source software. I built a software package called `metamail`, a stand-alone MIME implementation for UNIX that could be plugged into any mail reader, and released it to the world when the MIME spec was stable. Combine real need and free software, and things happen fast. Within a few days, I received patches that made it work on DOS, while Macintosh, Amiga, and others were not far behind. Again, credit is due Bellcore, for supporting building such software only to give it away.

There are other lessons, I'm sure, but most relate to technical details and are unlikely to be of wider value. So now, perhaps, I can stop writing about MIME for another 10 or 20 years and see what it looks like then. ■

**webextra!**

Read, see, and listen to the first MIME email at <http://guppylake.com/nsb/mime.html>  
Read more of Nathaniel Borenstein's witty and insightful musings about technology and life at his personal and work blogs: <http://theviewfromguppylake.blogspot.com> and <http://blog.mimecast.com/author/nborenstein/> This article is an adaptation of two of his posts there: "MIME @ 20: A Happy Anniversary" and "Looking Backwards: Eight Lessons from 20 Years of MIME."



By **Joel Shapiro '89**. He is a longtime Democratic activist, policy staffer, and attorney living in Portland, Ore. This piece first appeared as a blog post on [Blue Oregon.com](http://BlueOregon.com), Sept. 10, 2012, as Ryan visited Portland.

Do you know any Grinnellians who write topical, well-crafted, witty, insightful, fun or otherwise interesting blogs? Nominate a favorite entry for inclusion in The Grinnell Magazine at [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu). All points of view will receive equal consideration.

# When Paul Ryan and I Were Friends

*A long time ago, in another political lifetime, Paul Ryan and I were friends. This is our story.*

Back in the early '90s, like many others, I stumbled through my own *Reality Bites* phase. After working on an ill-fated congressional race in Iowa, I loaded my worldly possessions into a car and set out with a dream to work on Capitol Hill.

The Hill, of course, is a challenging job market. I started volunteering for a freshman House member and waited tables at a pizza joint to make ends meet.

I'd noticed a cool-looking gym called Capitol Hill Squash & Fitness. One day, I strode in and asked about becoming a trainer. I had no certification, but I pitched my qualifications by telling the manager that I had taken Wellness Dynamics [a course taught by physical education faculty members **Will Freeman** and **Evelyn Freeman**], and that combined with being a fairly athletic guy got me hired.

Life was good. The additional paycheck was nice. But the best part was that as gym staff, I had a free pass to an upscale fitness club populated by politically involved patrons. Besides lots of Hill staffers, I encountered senators, House members, media stars, and even a cabinet secretary. Once, I even trained Justice Antonin Scalia. But that's another story.

After a few months there, a new shift partner joined me. A tall, dark-haired guy from Wisconsin. Yes, Paul Ryan was my fitness-training co-worker. At the time, Paul was a junior staffer at Empower America, working for Jack Kemp.

I enjoyed working with Paul. Although he was intensely conservative, Paul was a decent guy and we got on well.

Paul was outgoing and personable, and passionate about his political views. As you might imagine, spending hours together at the gym, Paul and I had plenty of arguments over economic policy. I was well-versed in partisan debates, having landed a day job with a Democratic member by this time. In fact, when Paul received his first congressional job offer, he called me for input. I encouraged him to accept the job. In retrospect, perhaps I should have tried to dissuade him from that path!

This post is not the forum to argue the deficiencies and cruel consequences of the Ryan budget. However, I do want to pass along some observations about Paul's ideas.

To put things in a positive light: Paul is consistent. What he believes now and the policies he puts forth — based on Ayn Rand's objectivist economic theory — have not changed at all. Paul was resolutely committed to the same policy prescriptions in his early twenties as he is now

as chairman of the House Budget Committee. He was also just as smug and dismissive of opposing viewpoints back then as he is now on a larger stage.

To put it less charitably, one could say that Paul's beliefs are impervious to reality. Nothing that's happened in the past several decades has had any impact on Paul's views. He rigidly adhered to supply-side economics then, and still does now, even though that approach was tried and broadly discredited.

What was frustrating in arguing with Paul back then is still a frustration today. He knows what he believes, and he doesn't care about the data. To be honest, hearing Paul now is even more frustrating because there's no equal footing. He gets to assert his theories via a large megaphone and a deferential media.

Most curious, however, is Paul's reputation as an über policy wonk. Policy wonks base their proposals on data. Paul's ideas, however, have always derived from ideology, not evidence.

The truth is: Paul Ryan has always been — and still is — a rigid ideologue, not a deep-thinking policy wonk. The Ryan budget would base federal spending on outdated, discredited conservative theory. Think I'm being unfair? Read David Stockman's book *The Triumph of Politics: The Inside Story of the Reagan Revolution*. We've tried these theories before and they didn't work.

OK, I said this wasn't the forum to debate policy, so I've already taken this tangent too far. My last comment on Paul relates to the flak he's taking for lying in his convention speech.

Far be it from me to defend Paul's speech, but I do think the criticism is slightly mischaracterized. I never found Paul to be a liar. What I did find is that Paul is extremely zealous and partisan in framing arguments. That aggressiveness is now in full view.

But while I find some of Paul's highly politicized arguments beyond the pale, he is unembarrassed and unbowed. He offers a full-throated defense of his charges, facts be damned.

It's been a long time since I've talked to Paul, and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to my old friend. Paul is a legitimately nice guy, and I do hope he has a pleasant visit to our beautiful state. Sadly, I doubt we'll be able to catch up on old times. Although Paul's still well known for his workouts, I'm guessing he won't have time to join me at my gym. ■

# What was High-Tech When?

Four Grinnellians from classes ranging from 1944 to 1980 reminisce.

## Warm sidewalks

High technology during my time (1940–44) at Grinnell? Well ... the heating pipes ran under the sidewalk and thus there was no snow to be shoveled even in the bleakest of Iowa midwinters. The streamlined Rock Island Rockets were the coolest of trains. Influence? The trains got me to Grinnell, and the snow-free sidewalks got me to class. That's about it unless you want to count typewriters and telephones. Of course there was high-tech aplenty in those wartime years, but it was all military and top secret. This is just as well. Much of the campus culture in that era involved mischiefmakers and the authority figures whose main goal (we thought) was to catch us. Think what either side could have done with radar.

—Lucia Carter Taylor '44  
Sarasota, Fla.

## Smith Corona

I arrived at Grinnell in 1962 with pretty good typing skills and a brand new Smith Corona portable electric typewriter. That was high-tech. I didn't know anyone else who owned one. To make a little extra cash I typed papers for friends for 25 cents a page. I used Eaton's Corrasable Bond paper, the erasable typing paper. Mistakes could be removed with a simple pencil eraser — great for the typist, but not for the reader because the words would easily smudge. Wite-Out and regular paper came later. Soon, I was working as a typist for professors **Ben Graham** and **Waldo Walker** in the Grinnell biology department, earning 80 cents an hour.

—Marilyn Drake Jackson '66  
San Jose, Calif.

## TEAC and Peavey

For me, “high-tech” in 1977 was a TEAC A-4300 reel-to-reel tape deck. It was state-of-the-art then and still in use now and working great in my family room, with its 7-inch tape reels lined up in labeled boxes. My kids just shake their heads. I also still have a Peavey 1200S, a 40-pound monster of a stereo mixer. I used these two pieces to record and do sound for student groups like S & T, Sacred Harp, and orchestra; for campus bands and touring entertainers including the Mirecourt Trio, Steve Goodman, Pat Metheny, Dixie Dregs, Albert Collins, Harry Chapin, and Corky Siegel.

—Bruce Crane '80  
Skokie, Ill.

## The Computer

When I arrived at Grinnell in 1976, there was exactly one computer at the College — for all I knew, it was the only one in Poweshiek County. I had programmed a computer in high school, but had never actually seen one; my high school had a teletype that used a very slow modem to connect to a computer on the other side of town. At Grinnell, you could actually see the computer — through a large window in the wall that protected it from its acolytes. My computer time in high school was costly and strictly limited, but the computer at Grinnell was available for anyone brave enough to play with it. I figured out how to use it to write (without a word-processing program) my first paper for Professor **Harold Kasimow's** class Modern Jewish Thought. He said, “I didn't know you could write a paper on a computer.” He was even more impressed with my second paper, which managed to use lower-case letters as appropriate.

In that era, computer jocks — yes, we were called jocks, and no, being one did NOT make you sexy — divided our time between programming for the College for student wages (I started at \$1.96/hour) and pursuing esoteric projects of our own. I scoffed at the College's first electronic mail program. Since the computer wasn't on a network, and all the terminals were in one room, it was functionally equivalent to Post-It notes. I had been given an early glimpse of the technology that would define my career [see Page 18], but dismissed it as useless. Still, that PDP 11/70 — probably less powerful than today's toddler toy — along with the visionary guidance of professor **Henry Walker**, opened my eyes to a world of possibilities that I set out to help make come true.

Three months after graduating Grinnell, I arrived at Carnegie Mellon University, one of the top schools for computer science. What surprised me even more than the Internet — more than 100 machines connected, some of them as far away as England! — was my tour of the computer center. There I spotted a PDP/11-70, the machine that had opened a door to this new world. “What's that one used for?” I asked. “It's holding the door open,” he said.

—Nathaniel Borenstein '80

### Next question:

What was your most memorable roommate-related experience at Grinnell? Email your answer to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu)

Each issue, *The Grinnell Magazine* asks a question and prints a selection of your responses in the next issue.





# Harry's War

*Most Grinnellians know Harry Hopkins 1912 as “the architect of the New Deal.”  
But as a new biography of Hopkins shows, he also helped engineer the alliance to defeat  
Hitler – and had as great an effect on the course of human history as any Grinnellian.*

“He had a mind like a razor, a tongue like a skinning knife, a temper like a Tartar, and a sufficient vocabulary of parlor profanity – words kosher enough to get by the censor but acid enough to make a mule skinner jealous,” Hugh “Iron Pants” Johnson, a fellow member of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s brain trust, said about **Harry Hopkins 1912**. “He’s just a high-minded Holy Roller in a semireligious frenzy.”

Whether his frenzy was directed at feeding a hungry nation during the Great Depression or winning World War II, Hopkins’ genius, focus, energy, and character astounded all who knew him. He was also perhaps the most powerful presidential aide the country has known – a close friend of the president and a man who lived in the White House at FDR’s elbow for years. Hopkins was crucial in establishing relationships with Churchill and Stalin and functioned as a de facto secretary of state before and during much of World War II.

The great World War II general George Marshall called Hopkins “one of the most courageous and self-sacrificing figures of the war,” citing Hopkins’ tireless and risky diplomatic missions. “This country will never even vaguely appreciate the service he rendered,” Marshall also said.

And perhaps it hasn’t – until now. In a new biography announced in the centennial year of Hopkins’ graduation from Grinnell, *The Hopkins Touch: Harry Hopkins and the Forging of the Alliance to Defeat Hitler* (Oxford University Press, January 2013), historian David Roll documents as never before how Hopkins played a weighty role in the outcome of the greatest event of the 20th century and one of the greatest in human history. Roll documents that Hopkins was deeply influenced by his Grinnell College education and that what he learned at the College about political theory, social justice, and leadership propelled him to not one but two careers – one feeding the hungry; the other, engineering the fight against Hitler. This article is based on that book.

*“This island needs our help now, Mr. President, with everything we can give them,” Harry Hopkins wrote to FDR about embattled Britain, after meeting with Winston Churchill in January 1941. Hopkins later implemented the lend-lease agreement that poured American materials into the fight with the same efficiency and zeal he brought to founding the Works Progress Administration.*

## **webextra!**

View a slideshow of historic photos of Harry Hopkins in his role as WPA chief and wartime presidential adviser at [www.grinnell.edu/URL](http://www.grinnell.edu/URL). Watch PBS TV’s history detectives solve the mystery of “Harry Hopkins Short Snorter” at [www.grinnell.edu/URL](http://www.grinnell.edu/URL).

# Hopkins' Grinnell Childhood

For Harry Hopkins' attendance at Grinnell, posterity can thank his mother, Anna. Harry's father, Al, an inveterate gambler, tried rather unsuccessfully to make a living as a traveling salesman. Anna was an intelligent and pious Methodist with strict moral convictions; she believed passionately in education and social justice.

While Al traveled, Anna decided to move her young family from Chicago to Grinnell in 1901, when Harry was 11 years old, so that her children would have an opportunity to get a college education that reflected her values. The Hopkins family rented a small house on Elm Street just a block from the Grinnell College campus. Harry entered Cooper School across the street from their home. Harry's teen years in Grinnell were, by all reports, blissful and full of sports, friends, girls, and pranks.



Courtesy of June Hopkins

**Anna Pickett Hopkins**, Harry's mother, was a Bible-reading, hymn-singing Methodist who believed passionately in education and social justice and made sure her family attended church daily — and twice on Sundays. "She was a straight-laced believer in the poor and the hungry and that kind of thing," Hopkins' daughter Diana recalled many years later.



Courtesy of Robert Hopkins at Georgetown University Library Special Collections Research Center

**Al Hopkins**, Harry's father, passed on to his son a garrulous nature, high tolerance for risk, and love of travel. Al was an adventurer who attempted to make money at a series of unsuccessful careers, including sales and harnessmaking. Al's real love, however, was gambling. Once he returned from a trip and flashed a \$500 roll of winnings to his son. "I wasn't supposed to tell my mother. ... She would have made Dad give it away to the church missions," Harry recalled.



Courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College

**Harry Hopkins** was known first as "Skinny," then "Hoppy." Tall and underweight, Hopkins loved to defy authority. In high school, when this photo was taken, he engineered the election of a popular but academically average student as junior class president over the protests of the school authorities, who always rigged class elections to favor the best students. He befriended the College president's awkward son, who was being unmercifully teased; and he broke up a high school girls' party when he "kidnapped" one of the girls, who was known as a snob. Throughout his life, Hopkins would side with the underdog and expose the pompous.

## Grinnell and the Social Gospel

Almost from its inception, Grinnell College and the community surrounding it were committed to the Social Gospel movement. That movement applied Christian teachings to the social ills arising out of industrialization's dehumanizing side effects: child labor, urban slums, political corruption, corporate exploitation of workers, and the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. This philosophy deeply influenced Hopkins' work with the Works Progress Administration.

## “Dirty Harry”

Grinnell College was where Harry Hopkins’ social conscience was born, where he first learned that politics was a science as well as an art, and where he exhibited the first flashes of the ambition and skill that would take him to the highest levels of policymaking and diplomacy. He emerged from Grinnell determined to make his mark in the world on behalf of the anonymous and the underdog. But it didn’t happen right away.

In fact, Hopkins’ ambitions were only dimly perceptible when he joined the Grinnell freshman class in 1908. During his first two years, he racked up a number of Ds and failed an English course. His classmate **Florence Stewart Kerr** 1912 said she “used to wonder if he’d ever graduate, because he was always turning up missing the required credits.”

Outside the classroom, Hopkins’ drive was visible from the first days of his freshman year, although it was veiled by his seemingly carefree attitude and propensity for pranks. Starting as a member of the social committee of the freshman class, he rose to become the permanent president of the senior class, the only elected position he ever held. He took advantage of almost every extracurricular activity Grinnell had to offer: editing the yearbook, serving on the College Council, winning the leading role in the senior play, organizing the Woodrow Wilson Club to promote Wilson’s presidential bid. On Grinnell’s championship basketball team, Harry played with a competitive ferocity inherited from his father that made him a big man on campus. In Grinnell’s most memorable game in those years, Hopkins’ six points and gritty defensive play helped the little college defeat heavily favored Kansas University – the reigning champion of the Missouri Valley Conference – by a score of 17-16 in Grinnell’s bandbox gym.

In his junior and senior years, however, he was drawn in by two members of Grinnell’s impressive faculty, and his academic performance began to improve. His favorite teacher was **Jesse Macy**, followed closely by **Edward Steiner**. He graduated with a major in political science and history and an interest in social work in June 1912.

Long before Clint Eastwood’s movie character, Hopkins, shown here in his Pioneers uniform, was known as “Dirty Harry” because of the number of personal fouls he incurred playing basketball.

Courtesy of June Hopkins





# Grinnell and the Progressives

Spurred by Social Gospel's Christianity, the progressive movement was remaking the United States by the time Harry Hopkins graduated. The age of reform ushered in women's suffrage, settlement houses, antivice campaigns, Prohibition, and educational reform. Political democracy and the economic rights of individuals could be restored, it was thought, by enacting laws and regulations to curb corporate power, attack social ills, and uplift the poor. Through science and the force of reason, government and its experts could address and solve society's ills, including the abolition of wars for all time. Speaking at Grinnell's commencement exercises in 1912, William Allen White, the influential Kansas newspaper editor, told graduates they had "two objectives in life: to promote social justice; and to develop in the masses such an enthusiasm for this social justice that they will be willing to follow the proper leaders at a personal sacrifice." It is a message that Hopkins took to heart.

Below: **Edward Steiner** with his wife. Steiner was born in Czechoslovakia. He was a Jew who had converted to Christianity and was a leading Social Gospel proponent and Grinnell's Rand Professor of Applied Christianity ("creating the kingdom of God on Earth through justice and social reform"). In the first semester of his senior year, Hopkins was captivated by Steiner's course, *The Development of Social Consciousness in the Old Testament*, on the ethical and religious development of the Jews and the poets and prophets of Israel. Steiner, who had been a friend of Leo Tolstoy, was famous for beginning the course by saying, "Jesus was a bastard." Hopkins excelled in this class, receiving another one of his rare As.

Opposite: **Jesse Macy** was Grinnell's most famous professor during Hopkins' time at the College and was credited by Robert Sherwood, the author of *Roosevelt and Hopkins*, as "the originator of the first college course in political science." Macy taught that government could be understood and improved through application of the scientific method and that everyone had a duty to work for a just society. In his senior year, Hopkins received an A in Macy's course.



Courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College





Photograph by Louise Dahl-Wolfe, posthumous digital reproduction from original negative. Courtesy of Louise Dahl-Wolfe Archive, Center for Creative Photography @ Arizona Board of Regents.

Hopkins' impish grin revealed a sense of humor that served him well, both in College and in crafting relationships with heads of state during World War II.

### “Here You Have Great Fun”

In 1939 Harry Hopkins traveled to Grinnell to address the student body in Herrick Chapel. He had just joined Roosevelt's cabinet as secretary of commerce and was both nationally acclaimed and widely criticized as the man who dispensed billions of dollars of federal relief to unemployed Americans during the Great Depression. Looking up from his prepared remarks, glasses perched on his nose, he grinned and said, “I am really in no mood to make a speech. ... The talk I had in mind is rapidly leaving me.”

He soon had them erupting in laughter and applause with an ad-libbed story about his pathetic performance as a right fielder on Grinnell's baseball team. Then he leaned forward and said, “When I hear people talking about what a college is for – its curriculum ... I know that one of the best things in college is to have fun. You have plenty of time later in life to get banged around or to get solemn about it, but here you have great fun, and I think that is good, of and by itself.”



## Harry's War on Poverty

Immediately after graduation, Harry Hopkins took a job at a settlement house on New York City's Lower East Side. Later, he organized the Bronx Park Employment Program, perhaps the first public employment project of its kind. In 1931, he caught New York governor Franklin D. Roosevelt's eye for his efficient distribution of \$20 million in aid as the executive director of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration. In 1933, FDR brought Hopkins to Washington to continue his relief work on a national scale.

Hopkins and his new Works Progress Administration (WPA) faced daunting challenges. The unemployment rate was 25 percent. Fueled by coffee, chain-smoking Lucky Strikes, and working crushingly long hours, Hopkins quickly assembled top aides from his vast networks of contacts in the world of social work. Hopkins and his staff rapidly became masters at getting relief money out the door by bending the rules, taking administrative shortcuts, and ruffling more than a few feathers. Under Hopkins' direction, the WPA employed 8.5 million people on 1.4 million public-works and cultural projects over the program's eight-year lifespan, pumping \$10 billion into the economy.

In the process, Hopkins hired two Grinnell classmates to help him: **Florence Stewart Kerr 1912** and **Hallie Flanagan 1911**.

Left: **Florence Stewart Kerr 1912** was Hopkins' lifelong friend. She taught English at Grinnell during the 1920s and early 1930s. In 1935 Hopkins recommended her as one of five regional directors of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects within the Works Progress Administration. She was promoted to assistant administrator of the WPA and director of women's and professional projects in 1938. She worked in Washington, D.C., until the WPA ended in 1943.

Opposite top: **Hallie Flanagan 1911** was raised in Grinnell, majored in theatre, and later studied theatre in Europe and was a playwright, director, and producer who taught playwriting and experimental theatre at Vassar College. Hopkins tapped her to lead the Federal Theatre Project, a WPA division, in 1935. After the program was shut down, Flanagan returned to Vassar to teach. The Flanagan Theatre in Grinnell's Bucksbaum Center for the Arts is named for her.

Courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College



Courtesy of Robert Hopkins Papers at Georgetown University Library Special Collections Research Center

## Harryisms

Reporters took a liking to Harry Hopkins during the New Deal days because of his plainspoken directness and sardonic wit. Here are some examples:

“People don’t eat in the long run, they eat every day.”

– 1933, when an adviser promised that a new program would work out “in the long run”

“I’m not going to last six months here, so I’ll do as I please.”

– 1933, about his cavalier attitude, as head of the WPA, toward red tape

“Well, they’re all at work but for God’s sake don’t ask me what they’re doing.”

– January, 1934, to FDR, after Hopkins’ WPA had employed more than 4 million people

“I haven’t a thing to apologize for about our so-called mistakes. If we have made mistakes, we have made them in the interests of people that were broke.”

– 1934, brushing off criticism of the WPA

Gaunt and chronically malnourished after an operation that removed part of his stomach, Hopkins — usually fueled by cigarettes and coffee — nonetheless worked long hours throughout his career.



# The Alliance to Defeat Hitler

In 1940, Harry Hopkins accepted the president's invitation to move into the White House and remained Roosevelt's closest adviser, speechwriter, sounding board, and friend nearly to the end of the president's life.

He was also Roosevelt's personal emissary to Great Britain and Russia. Serving without a title or even a salary, Hopkins took risky and exhausting diplomatic missions to London and Moscow during the height of World War II. He charmed and impressed Winston Churchill, who became a close friend, and earned the trust of Joseph Stalin, who felt that Russia was bearing the brunt of the Nazi assault with little help from allies. After Hopkins returned to Washington, he organized the lend-lease program that funneled armament to England and Russia with the same efficiency as he had previously used to create jobs for out-of-work Americans. Later, his personal diplomacy proved crucial to maintaining good relations among the Big Three.

In particular, Hopkins worked behind the scenes with Roosevelt and Churchill to engineer what turned out to be the most consequential Allied strategic decision of World War II: to invade French North Africa rather than launch

a frontal assault on Europe. In the process, Hopkins managed not only Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, but also George Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower, Vyacheslav Molotov, and Harry Truman — all with a combination of Midwestern directness, piercing intelligence, sharp wit, personal integrity, and nearly nonstop work.

Below: Hopkins confers with **President Roosevelt** in the Oval Study in 1942. Hopkins lived in the White House for more than three years. He was the president's closest adviser, friend, and confidant.

Opposite top: **Prime Minister Winston Churchill** greets Hopkins outside No. 10 Downing Street on Jan. 10, 1941. Hopkins had arrived as Roosevelt's personal representative to assess Churchill and convey the sense that America would support the British as they fought alone against Germany.

Opposite bottom: Hopkins and **Joseph Stalin** pose in the Kremlin for *Life* magazine photographer Margaret Bourke-White following Hopkins' courageous flight to the Soviet Union in late July 1941. As Hitler's armies drove toward Moscow, Hopkins assured Stalin that Roosevelt was determined to extend all possible aid to the Soviet Union.

Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library







## Wild about Harry

Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt each had much respect and affection for Harry Hopkins, and in 1945 Harry S. Truman awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal for his diplomacy.

“Harry Hopkins, that extraordinary man ... played ... a sometimes decisive part in the whole movement of the war. His was a soul that flamed out of a frail and failing body. He was a crumbling lighthouse from which there shone the beams that led great fleets to harbor. He had also a gift of sardonic humour. I always enjoyed his company.”

—Winston Churchill

“Harry is the perfect ambassador for my purposes. He doesn’t even know the meaning of ‘protocol.’... When he’s talking to some foreign dignitary, he knows how to slump back in his chair and put his feet up on the conference table and say, ‘Oh yeah?’”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Few know better than I the service he rendered to the world cause. In Harry Hopkins [Roosevelt] found a man not only of wide-ranging vision but of piercing eye. He always went to the root of the matter.”

—Winston Churchill

“Dear Harry, what would we do without you?”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
at the Allied meeting in Tehran, 1943

“[For] selfless, courageous, and objective contribution to the war effort [and] piercing understanding of the tremendous problems incident to the vast military operations throughout the world.”

—Harry S. Truman, awarding Hopkins the  
Distinguished Service Medal

# Hopkins' Legacy

Unlike Roosevelt, Harry Hopkins lived to see Hitler defeated, but without the urgent purpose that had kept him going during the Depression and the war, his always-precarious health deteriorated rapidly. He died in 1946 in relative obscurity. His ashes were not buried until 1973, in Grinnell, where his simple gravestone can still be seen in Glenwood Cemetery. At a small internment ceremony, Grinnell College President **Glenn Leggett** described Hopkins as “tough, knowledgeable, resourceful and tenacious ... but also possessed of the vision and sense of humanity that made his toughness and tenacity vehicles for a better state of mankind.”

It is perhaps no surprise that the legacy of Harry Hopkins — a man who, at the height of his influence, served without a title, office, salary, or even a permanent address, who was gaunt to the point of spectral, and who most often appears in photographs as a ghostlike figure hovering over President Roosevelt’s shoulder or whispering in his ear — would fade along with the few photographs of him that remain.

Hopkins was a man of action, not a reflective memoir-writer, and his name recognition diminished with the passing of Hopkins’ friends and associates. “He could make you his friend in the first five minutes of conversation,” said Franklin Roosevelt, Jr. Perhaps the closest we’ll come to meeting the man himself is a brief profile written by Ernie Pyle, the widely syndicated newspaper columnist, in 1935 when Hopkins was working on a crash-and-burn schedule to distribute as much work relief as possible, but still took time to talk to reporters:

“And you, Mr. Hopkins, I like you because you look like common people. You sit there so easy swinging back and forth in your swivel chair, in your blue suit and blue shirt, and your neck is sort of skinny, like poor people’s necks, and you act honest, too.

“And you answer the reporter’s questions as tho you were talking to them personally, instead of being a big official. ...

The reporters tell me, Mr. Hopkins, that you’re about the fastest thinker of any of the big men who hold press conferences.”

Hopkins’ greatest legacies are work he provided for the hungry during the Depression, the enduring public works and cultural contributions made by the WPA, the defeat of Hitler — and the inspiration for generations of Grinnell students, who have seen one of their own, inspired by the College’s teaching and social justice ethic, inflect the course of world history. ■

Left: **Hopkins** was well-known during his career, but chiefly as someone who spent the taxpayer’s money on relief and the war effort, not as a diplomat and strategist.

## Why Not Give Him More Medals?



Courtesy of Robert Hopkins Papers at Georgetown University Library Special Collections Research Center. This cartoon appeared in the *Columbus Evening Dispatch* and was created by “Evans”.

### Harry Hopkins Medal

The College periodically awards the Harry Hopkins Medal to individuals with records of distinguished public service. The last recipient was U.S. Sen. George Mitchell in 2000.

### Read On!

Intrigued by Harry Hopkins? Treat yourself to David Roll’s 490-page annotated biography, the book upon which this article is based. *The Hopkins Touch: Harry Hopkins and the Forging of the Alliance to Defeat Hitler*, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press in January, 2013.







# Grinnell-in-Silicon Valley

*A dozen Grinnell students  
take a fall-break trip to the land of Noyce.  
They return to campus wired.*





**David Rosen '13, Kate Ingersoll '13, Ellen Finnegan '13, David Cowden '13, Maijid Moujaled '14, Andy Lange '13, Sahar Jalal '14, Erik Opavsky '14, and Amircan Uysaler '13 start their tour of Google's sprawling campus with colorfully painted Google bikes. "The Google campus seems like a really big playground that people get to work in," Ingersoll says.**

**Story and photos by Dan Weeks '80**

During October break, 12 Grinnell students with an interest in technology careers traveled to Silicon Valley for an industry tour jointly sponsored by the College's Career Development Office (CDO), the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, and hosted by alumni. **Arlene Holmes** from Alumni Relations organized and ran the trip – intended as the first of many such tours.

I was along for the ride, and as the students piled into our rented van outside our San Bruno Days Inn at 7 a.m. on the first day of the tour, I was impressed by what an astonishingly accomplished and inquisitive bunch they were. For example:

**Sahar Jalal '14**, a physics and math and statistics double-major from Rabat, Morocco, has already interned in civil engineering and mechanical engineering and seeks to explore software engineering before she decides which field to study in graduate school.

**Andy Lange '14** is a studio art major from Carroll, Iowa, with an interest in human-centered design. He hopes

to discover opportunities for artists in the technology industry.

**David Rosen '13** from Scarsdale, N.Y., is a computer science major with a linguistics concentration. He is intent on founding a start-up to produce next-generation language-teaching software.

**Corina Varlan '14** from Bucharest, Romania, is a political science major with prior internships in politics and international development. She wants to learn about the intersection of technology and politics.

Their eight fellow student travelers were similarly remarkable, with majors ranging from computer science to theatre to English. All had competed for the opportunity to join this trip and were paying a portion of its expenses. Set to receive them during the next four days in conference rooms, laboratories, offices, and living rooms across Silicon Valley were more than a dozen of the most notable Grinnellians in technology since **Robert Noyce '49** co-founded Intel in the late '60s.



These alumni from the classes of 1963 through 2012 included **Clint Korver '89**, a venture capitalist as well as a Grinnell trustee and board chair; **Jocelyn Wyatt '99**, co-lead and executive director, IDEO.org, a nonprofit design firm; **Sarah Luebke Sproehle '00**, director of educational services at Cloudera, a data management company; and many, many more.

For four days, the group ricocheted around Silicon Valley. We went to Google. We went to Stanford business school. We went to a biopharmacology lab. We saw a museum of computing and learned how silicon chips were made at Intel. We attended high-tech product demonstrations. We ate breakfasts, lunches, and dinners with our hosts, and met with a crew of alumni and employees in a conference room at Box, a file-sharing company, plying them with questions until 9 p.m. one night.

“Should I get a job or go to grad school?” students asked. “How do you deal with the ethical questions raised by drug development and testing?” “Is high-tech a bubble, and if so when will it burst?” “Can you negotiate the salary of an entry-level job?” “What’s it like working for a start-up?” “Is there work in tech for humanities majors?” “Internships here seem to be more competitive than jobs – how do you get one?”

**webextra!**

Watch a comprehensive slideshow of the tour at <http://on.fb.me.sqtbhz>



**Clint Korver '89**, a venture capitalist, Grinnell trustee, and board chair, explains how venture capital works.

“Write your perfect job description,” says **Megan Goering '08**, a strategist for Google during an impromptu job-searching workshop she ran for the students in one of Google’s funky lounges. “Then go out and get that job, or turn the job you *do* get into that job.”

## Advice from the Valley



**"Fifty percent of success is *not* just showing up. Belie the millennial generation stereotype and work your butts off. Signal that you're going to do that even if there's no benefit, no grade point bump, no raise."**

—Megan Goering '08,  
strategist, Google.



**"Shed the mindset that causes you to ask: 'Is the company going to be around in two years?' It's the network of people you make at a job that matters."**

—Kevin Jennison '12,  
business development assoc., Trialpay



**"Don't go to business school without working first. You still have to drink beer and flirt around a bit. Do it for a few years after graduating. Understand what you really want to do before you go back to grad school."**

—Ashish Gupta '91,  
chief marketing officer, Vidyo

At each stop, the students found some of the alumni responses eye-opening. Box software engineer **Ian Atha '09** says, "Working for a company is a skill you don't have yet. Take an internship and learn it." **Mark Schwartz '77**, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Galena Biopharma, says, "as an executive, you set the standard, and you effect change, so rising up in the business world is very enabling to social change." "Do a research project while you're at Grinnell" says **Melissa Koch '90**, program director at Build IT and Innovate TE and senior educational developer at SRI International, an independent research institute. "Showing that you know how to apply what you've learned and that you have the initiative to carry out a project says a lot."

Alumni often started the sessions by laying themselves open: "Here's what I've done," they'd tell students. "How can I help you?" Students were equally open: "Here's where I am," they'd say, or something like it. "Here's what I'm thinking. What can you tell me?" More notable even than the quality of these conversations was the tremendous emotional and intellectual high both students and alumni seemed to get from their exchanges, and how transformational they were for students.

"Until this trip I didn't realize how strong the Grinnell community outside Grinnell was. I was surprised at how much alumni want us to reach out to them. I knew that

the Grinnell community on campus was very close, but I didn't realize that extended into the future. These alumni — they treated us like family," says **Maijid Moujaled '14**, a computer science major from Accra, Ghana.

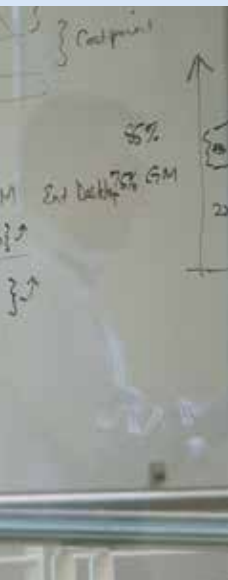
"I was really touched by how much the alumni are willing to help us," echoes **Kate Ingersoll '13**, from Superior, Wis., and also a computer science major. "The Grinnellian shows in all of them. This trip has made me more proactive about everything in my life. I'm going to be more active on campus and apply for projects I care about. Before, I was hesitant to do extra projects because I always put academics first. Now I'm going to make things happen! We got so much out of this. We really appreciate it."

"It has been terrific motivation to see all these successful Grinnellians and how valuable their education has been," Jalal adds.

It was as though each alum reached through the curtain that seems to hang between life at Grinnell and life after graduation and parted it a bit to show students the view from the other side. Suddenly, the students' perspectives on what is possible — along with their confidence and their directions — became much clearer. They often ended their days of touring with more energy than what they had at the start of the day; and as the van pulled back in to our hotel parking lot, it often roared with conversation.

"I wish I had a week off school after we get back.





**“An engineering salary with two years experience is about \$100,000 a year. That puts a lot of pressure on you.”**

–Ian Atha '09, software engineer, Box



**“That tech companies have to be irreverent and have free food and funny stuff ... there needs to be an underlying business reason for the practices to endure. When companies mature, the perks lose their gloss. People start saying ‘Sorry, boss, I don’t want to work till midnight every night.’”**

– Shelley Floyd '72, technical assistant to the Chairman, Intel. Corp., and Grinnell College trustee

There’s so much I am inspired to do now,” says **Jennelle Nystrom '14**, a computer science and art history major from Huntley, Ill., who had a phone interview with Microsoft while on the trip.

By the end of the week, each student had the beginnings of a plan. They wanted to rewrite resumes, work on design projects, figure out how to move to Silicon Valley after graduation. They all said the trip exceeded their expectations, and they were grateful for their West Coast alumni mentors – many of whom had invited the students to stay in touch with them as they took the next step in their lives and careers.

The alumni were equally effusive. “It is a true joy to interact with these impressive, accomplished young people,” says **Claudia Morgan '77**, associate dean for academic administration, Stanford Graduate School of Business.

“I’d be delighted to be a tour host in the future. I have already recommended it to every alum I see,” says **Dr. Craig Henderson '63**, a consultant to biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. He and his wife, Mary, opened their home to host an alumni/student reception in San Francisco that kicked off the tour. “Personally I consider any opportunity to interact with a Grinnell student (or, best of all, several at one time) a great treat. Their keen intellect, enthusiasm and idealism are always a joy and an inspiration.” ■

### Grinnellians Wanted



### Grinnell Students Look to You

If you’re interested in getting involved in future tours and other programs to support students’ career development, keep an eye on your email account, the Grinnell website, and the College’s LinkedIn Groups for announcements about these initiatives. Additionally, if your travels bring you to campus and you are interested in talking with students about your career, please tell **Arlene Holmes**, assistant director of alumni relations for career development programs (641-269-4294; [holmesar@grinnell.edu](mailto:holmesar@grinnell.edu)), so she can make the necessary arrangements. Whether singly or in groups, alumni interactions are some of the most impactful experiences students have while at Grinnell College.





Courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College

# Leveling the Playing Fields

Looking back at – and ahead to – the impact of Title IX at Grinnell.

By Erin Peterson '98

*“Field hockey was the reason I chose Grinnell,” says Kisa Skelton '86, who played all four years. “It didn’t exist in Midwest high schools. It was a huge part of my college experience, between the travel and the friendships. It developed my confidence and time management, and it let me go beyond just the books: There was that release and that commitment. In varsity sports, you didn’t have the option of not showing up.”*

When George Drake '56 was a student at Grinnell, he didn't give much thought to the fact that his female peers couldn't play sports. “The women watched, and we performed,” says Drake, a top track and cross country runner as a student. “Once in awhile, some women might play field hockey against another school, but the thought was that strenuous athletics was not something women did.”

Fast-forward to 1979, when Drake was inaugurated as the College's president. By then, Drake guesses that perhaps 20 percent of the women in the student body were competing in varsity athletics, and the numbers were rising.

The difference, of course, was Title IX. This tiny section of the Education Amendments of 1972 didn't even mention women or athletics. But it effectively transformed girls' and women's sports in just 37 words: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” It applied to any programs a school offered, but the most glaring inequity was in athletics. And the stark economic choice in the legislation's language – offer equal opportunities or lose federal funding – propelled institutions nationwide to build teams, gyms, playing fields, and millions of new opportunities for women. The changes at Grinnell were as dramatic as at many other schools across the country.

Today at Grinnell, both men and women compete in 10 varsity sports each. Last year, nearly 200 women competed in at least one varsity sport.

In the 40 years since Title IX was implemented, there has been enormous change both at Grinnell and nationwide that has led to greater equity in the opportunities offered to men and women. But the work of Title IX is far from finished. Grinnell continues to grapple with nuanced athletic and wellness issues for both men and women. More recently, the school has begun to address sexual assault concerns through the lens of Title IX [see p. 38]. But even as the issues of Title IX change over time, one thing hasn't: Grinnell's commitment to go beyond simple compliance to the law to reflect its spirit.

## The Calculus of Discrimination

A few Grinnell women had competed on men's teams before Title IX – and some had bested their male teammates. Golfer Julie Litchfield '66 played on the freshman men's golf team. At a double-dual meet against Coe and Cornell, she shot a 94 and led the team to victory. At least one other golfer and three runners competed on male teams before Title IX as well, sometimes to the chagrin of both teammates and competitors.

When Title IX passed, Grinnell found a strong champion for equity in athletic director John Pfitsch. Until then, the few women who had been able to compete on the men's teams had his blessing; under his leadership, the first sports offered to women were basketball, swimming, tennis, and track. When Title IX became law, Pfitsch was one of its staunchest advocates, Drake recalls. “There



## Gender Equity in Science

Title IX has had the most visible impact in girls' and women's athletics. But now, people have begun to turn their attention to the sciences where, both nationally and at Grinnell, women tend to be less likely to major in biology, chemistry, math, and physics than men. Physics professor and associate dean **Mark Schneider** says that the issues in the sciences aren't as straightforward as they have been in sports. "Discrimination and discouragement faced by girls and women at the various levels of our education system is readily quantified, in dollars and offerings, for athletics," he says. "It's more subtle and cultural in nature for pursuit of the sciences."

Title IX hasn't motivated programs that Grinnell has introduced to encourage women in the sciences, but these programs also illustrate that the College takes its responsibility to women seriously. Perhaps the most important contribution to increasing the number of women in the sciences at Grinnell has been the Grinnell Science Project (originally the New Science Project).

The program, initiated by College President **Pamela Ferguson** in 1992, addresses the underrepresentation of groups (including women and students of color) among science students at Grinnell. Today, the program includes mentoring, an emphasis on interactive coursework, and orientation sessions. In 2011, the White House recognized the Grinnell program with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

Biology professor **Leslie Gregg-Jolly** says some of the most exciting changes today are happening within the ranks of the faculty, where recent female hires in the physics and math departments provide new role models for students who want to pursue science and math careers. "Grinnell is doing a really good job," she says. "But it's not something you can check off a list to say, 'Okay, now we've done that.' We've always got to keep our eye on the ball."

was no question in John's mind that women's sports were just as important as men's sports, and his openness and encouragement was critical," he says. Indeed, when a female athlete asked to play on the baseball team, Pfitsch overruled the head coach's claims that it was too dangerous, and said she could join.

But as the number of women playing sports skyrocketed, so did some thorny problems. For example, the Physical Education Complex had been built just before Title IX, so the college had a brand-new facility that simply couldn't accommodate the number of women who wanted to play. **Dee Fairchild** arrived at Grinnell in 1984 and became the athletic director after Pfitsch retired in 1986. She recalls that women's locker rooms were inadequate at best. It was only in 2010, after the second phase of the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center completed, that the inequity was fully resolved.

Hiring new coaches to lead the new women's teams also proved problematic early on. Fairchild was eager to find women coaches to helm the new women's teams, but female candidates often had much thinner resumes than their male counterparts because they simply hadn't had as many opportunities to play or coach. "Many of them didn't have the experience, but they definitely had the skill," she says. She and her staff worked hard to find top women's coaches — especially those who might be green, but who had



"Track was the thing I did consistently in college," says **Maggie Klingele '81** of her four years on the Grinnell track team. "Being female in the world, it wasn't completely acceptable, and that's changed dramatically. The concern was that when you ran, you lost your neurons."



significant potential. “I knew I would have to mentor them, and I considered that an important part of my job,” she says.

There were also questions of fairness and equality in other areas, from travel accommodations to more personal matters. “When I first looked over the men’s football budget after I became athletic director, there was a budget for jock straps,” Fairchild says. “There was no budget in women’s sports for sports bras. Of course, sports bras are much more expensive. But we needed to buy both or we needed to buy neither. It wasn’t about having men’s and women’s budgets the same. Individually, we wanted to make sure each athlete had as much as any other.” In the end, male athletes ended up buying their own athletic supporters.

These growing pains at Grinnell were common everywhere; one difference was the level of support the Grinnell administration provided to ensure equity. “George Drake was very, very responsive to my concerns,” Fairchild says. “I never had a problem getting equitable budgets.”

## Nuances of Equity

When Title IX first became law, the differences among men’s and women’s sports was vast; today, the gap is much narrower. Grinnell has improved opportunities, funding, and facilities to help give female athletes a similar experience to their male counterparts. It has also begun to address

subtler issues that have long given an edge to men’s teams.

For example, women’s and men’s basketball teams typically play their games one after the other; at most schools, the women’s team has generally played first. That often felt like a warm-up to the premier event: the men’s game. This year, the Midwest Conference deemed the tradition to be in violation of Title IX. Going forward, the men and women will switch game times each year.

A second concern has been alumni support, which has tended to come from men to support men’s teams. Head women’s basketball coach **Kate Gluckman** says it makes sense: “The men’s programs tend to have more longevity than the women’s programs, and male alumni who participate in varsity athletics tend to give more than females at this point,” she says. So far, however, coaches from Grinnell’s programs have tended to split gifts with women’s teams to help provide better experiences for both groups.

Sometimes, Grinnell has invoked Title IX to ensure parity for men. Grinnell’s robust wellness program, for example, has tweaked some of its offerings, says wellness coordinator **Jen Jacobsen ’95**. “Some male students would say ‘I like that we do sex ed on campus, but most of it is directed toward women. Where are the men in this conversation?’” This past fall, the department created a Men’s Health and Wellness Group in response. “We don’t want men to feel left out,” Jacobsen says.

**Terri Porter ’86**, far right, played volleyball, basketball, and softball as a student. “Title IX was still a work in progress,” she recalls of her Grinnell athletic experience. “Particularly in team sports, there wasn’t the same emphasis on competitiveness there is now, that it’s okay for women to be competitive in sports.” Still, she says, “Sports gave me an immediate connection and a community. I learned to juggle athletics, academics, working, play time — that translates into day-to-day business, the game of life.”



Courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College



## Title IX Across Generations

**Veronika Platzer '87 has made a career of empowering women through sports.**

Veronika Platzer '87 aims high. As a student, the nationally ranked discus thrower had two chief goals: to be the first in her family to graduate from college and to compete in the Olympics. After graduation, her passion for athletics led her to the U.S. Olympic rowing team and later to a coaching career.

A lifelong athlete who came of age as Title IX found its feet, Platzer was enmeshed in the gender politics of athletics early on. "I didn't see myself as a female athlete," she recalls. "I was the one picking the guys in grade-school football. I was bigger and stronger; I saw myself as an athletic equal."

In general, she says, "Grinnell did a far better job balancing men's and women's teams than other schools. Cross country and track coaches **Will Freeman** and **Evelyn Freeman** were a husband-and-wife team who were equal: They coached events rather than genders."

Still, she felt a nagging sense of inequity. "The women's gear was old and outdated, and the guys' was new and cool," she remembers. Platzer attended the NCAA championships in a red shirt borrowed from the men's team, because the College didn't have women's shirts that fit her 6-foot frame. Most poignantly, she remembers the athletic display case. Platzer would later be one of the first female athletes inducted into the Grinnell Hall of Fame, but as a student, she recalls, "Every day I'd look at the display case photographs at the PEC. I wanted to see what a champion looked like. I was struck by the absence of females."

After graduation, Platzer took a life-insurance sales job that allowed her to work and train with the U.S. Olympic rowing team. When offered the opportunity to take over New York Life Insurance's Grinnell office, she faced a choice: steady work or her rowing career. "That was when a friend pointed out a film about Title IX," she says. "It told the story of a basketball coach at George Washington University who won this massive Title IX lawsuit against the school. She gave every penny back to the university to build lockers." It sparked an awakening: "I knew then what my calling was," she says. "I made the decision to be a career coach and a role model to empower women and girls through sports. That's where I am now."

Platzer has coached rowing at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, since 1999. She still sees Title IX backlash, 40 years later. "There's tons of misinformation that suggests that women's sports



Courtesy of The Des Moines Register

are the reason athletic departments cut men's sports. "It's unequivocally untrue," she says. Programs are cut "because of the budget, not because we need more women's sports. It's a very sensitive topic."

As a coach, she is in a unique position to influence athletes' attitudes on the issue. "It's important I role-model the appropriate behaviors," she says. "In my program, women's rowing is a varsity sport, and men's is club. The painful part is hearing these guys get upset. Club status is not a step down from varsity. We all have the same hardships. We're going to help each other, without infringing on Title IX. I don't coach them, but if we can help transport their boats, we do it."

Despite some Title IX backlash, Platzer sees great progress. "I see tremendous role models of all types," she says. "If you want a role model who maintains über-femininity and who is a formidable athlete, look no further than Serena Williams," she says, referring to the American pro tennis player.

Looking back, "Grinnell was far, far more developed than most schools. Most coaches for women's sports were women. The extraordinary thing now is that at most schools, there are far more guys coaching women's sports," Platzer says.

"It is my hope that — not necessarily because of Title IX, but because at Grinnell we are Pioneers — we push information to the forefront, so the next set of men and women athletes looking at the display case can look into the eyes of women and think, 'I wonder what her story is. I wonder what made her a national champion.'"

—Kate Moening '11

## Support for All

Legislating equality was a catalyst for women's sports, but continuing to build a culture where men's and women's sports are equally valued is also incredibly powerful. Forty years ago, women's sports were looked upon with some skepticism. Even 20 years ago, when Jacobsen was a cross country and track athlete at Grinnell, she says she often felt like the women's teams were "little sisters" to the men's teams, even if they were similarly successful. That's changed. "Top female athletes are seen as just as impressive as top male athletes," she says. "They get the same amount of respect from students."

Today, many of Grinnell's women's sports attract as many fans — both male and female — as do men's teams.

Drake avidly follows the women's volleyball team, not only for their competitiveness but for the way he says they "manifest their joy in the sport" — something he says he sometimes finds lacking in the men's sports he follows. "There are differences between men's and women's teams, but we're learning to appreciate those differences," he says.

But Drake says the work of Title IX — at Grinnell and beyond — is not yet done. "This is an evolutionary phenomena, and I don't think we're at the end of it by any means," he says. "We probably can't anticipate all the pressure points, but it will be interesting to see the directions it takes in the future." ■

## Sexual Assault and Safety

When sexual assault allegations jolted Grinnell's campus last spring, the school took quick action to improve student safety. It also hired Title IX consultants — both to help craft better policies and procedures to help prevent future assaults and to help the College community provide better support to sexual assault survivors.

The link between sexual assault and Title IX may not seem obvious, but **Astrid Henry**, associate professor of gender, women's, and sexuality studies, says it is there. "Title IX is about ending discrimination in educational institutions," she says. "This is one way [female] students feel that their sex or gender is

preventing them from having the same educational experiences that male students take for granted."

The process for improving Grinnell's systems is still in the early stages, says **Angela Voos**, vice-president for strategic planning, but Grinnell is committed to going well beyond what is required by law, and students are deeply involved in the conversations. "We want to create a campus that has not only the programs, but the ethos that makes it very hard for these things to happen," she says. "Grinnell wants not just to be in compliance with the law — the minimum standard — but to develop prevention programs that can be a model for the country."

An avid club soccer player all four years at Grinnell, **Louellen Stedman '85** (not pictured) pushed to make women's soccer a varsity sport (a change that wouldn't take place until after her graduation). "Grinnell took Title IX seriously, but that doesn't mean the change was easy," she recalls. "Arguably, if there are 40 women going out for soccer, you have demand, but they felt they had an even number of men's and women's teams. We had to organize everything ourselves."



Courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College

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Website:  
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### Deadlines

Spring 2013 Issue: February 4, 2013

Summer 2013 Issue: April 12, 2013

# CLASSNOTES

## 1954

**Robert B. Winter** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Scoliosis Research Society in Chicago, September 2012.

## 1957 55th Cluster Reunion

**Stephan L. Jones** and wife Linda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, May 30, 2012.

**James R. Watterson** was inducted into the Event Industry Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Las Vegas, February 2012.

## 1959

**L. Roland Roegge** received the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award, August 2012. The award recognizes not only "superior professional competence," but also those who adhere to the "highest principles and traditions of the legal profession," and who benefit the national, state or local community through their actions.

## 1962

**Judith L. Darrh** was named Community Volunteer of the Year by the Peoria, Ariz., Chamber of Commerce, June 2012. She was also one of three finalists for the Health Hero Award in the community outreach category presented by the *Phoenix Business Journal*, August 2012.

## 1964

**Dennis D. Maulsby** won first place in the 20th Annual Senior Poets Poetry Competition with his poem "Grandmothers' Dance." The poem will be published in the Angels Without Wings Foundation's 2012 contest book, *Golden Word*.

## 1966

**Robert C. Mack** was honored with the Career Achievement Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota for his accomplishments as a preservation architect with his firm MacDonald & Mack Architects, as an educator at the University of Minnesota, and as a volunteer for local preservation organizations and bodies.

**George E. Moose** was nominated to the board of directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace by President Barack Obama, September 2012.



## Walter Koenig '58

On Sept. 10, *Star Trek* cast member Koenig received the 2,479th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "This is something that you hope and wish for but never expect to really happen," Koenig says. "It's a joyous occasion, and I am deeply honored." In 1967, Koenig joined the original *Star Trek* series in its second season, as Ensign Pavel Chekov on the *USS Enterprise*, a role he reprised in seven *Star Trek* films. He later played a key Psi Corps enforcer in several episodes of *Babylon 5*.



## Philip E. Bennet '51

Seventy years of Bennet's paintings, prints, and collages were featured in *Retrospective 1942-2012*, a solo exhibit in the Glenview Mansion Gallery of the Rockville Civic Center in Rockville, Md., November 2012. "I work intuitively," Bennet says of his abstract works. "I mix a color and then paint a shape, look at it and decide what the next color

shape should be. When I'm printing, I feel lost in another world." Also, his oil-based monotype "Splash" (2004) was featured in the August issue of *The Washington Post*.





## Personalizing the Political

### Carl Pfirman '83 takes an intimate look at the Republican presidential primary

This year's presidential election cycle had a Grinnell connection. Carl Pfirman '83 co-produced *Janeane from Des Moines*, a film blending political commentary, documentary, and fiction. Jane Edith Wilson, a native of Ames, Iowa, plays Janeane, a 47-year-old Tea Party conservative. After her husband's layoff, Janeane loses her health care coverage and discovers a lump on her breast, testing her convictions and sending her on a quest for answers from

Republican primary presidential candidates.

The backstory is fiction, but Wilson attended actual political rallies and talked to real candidates in character as Janeane. Viewers watch her quiz Newt Gingrich on health care and grill Rick Santorum on defunding Planned Parenthood, as she tries to determine which candidate will get her vote.

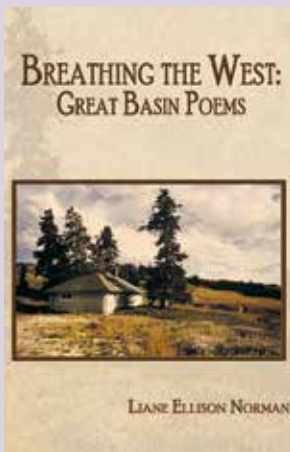
"The truly out-of-body moment for me was when Michele Bachmann bought me a cup of coffee," Wilson said at a Nov. 2 on-campus screening. "She tucked in for a good conversation with me."

A *Variety* reviewer wrote, "The film admirably refuses to go the predictable route of 'punking' the candidates for easy satire. Instead, it provocatively features a fictive, downwardly mobile citizen trying hard to get answers from real-life candidates."

"This is about starting a conversation. We tend to exist in our political bubbles," director Grace Lee says. "We wanted to insert ourselves into the dialogue in this really grass-roots way."

Wilson adds, "The story is about Janeane. She becomes a talking point: the undecided voter. I think it's important we take an empathetic perspective."

Pfirman notes parallels between Janeane and her co-stars, the politicians with whom she interacts. "I think candidates are improvisational characters themselves," he says. "There's an element of



### Liane Ellison Norman '59

Norman grew up in Utah's Wasatch Mountains — the backdrop of her third book of poetry, *Breathing the West: Great Basin Poems* (Bottom Dog Press). Poet Jan Beatty writes, "These poems breathe the West ... alive with adventure, love, and family ... beautifully crafted." A peace activist and author, Norman received a Grinnell College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009.

### 1969

**Eleonore Spiegel Stump** was among 180 influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at a ceremony in Cambridge, Mass., October 2012.

### 1972

**Henry L. Corona** was promoted to chief financial officer and chief operating officer for NPN Media, July 2012. He directs all financial and accounting procedures and oversees daily operations in the Miami office.

**Nancy S. Mills** received the American Chemical Society Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution sponsored by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, August 2012. She will be honored on April 9, 2013, in conjunction with the society's 245<sup>th</sup> national meeting in New Orleans.

**Gregg C. Sayre** was appointed commissioner of the New York State Public Service Commission.

### 1973

**Karen "Chana" Wilson** was recently interviewed by Lisa Ling of the Oprah Winfrey Network as a preview to Ling's show *Pray the Gay Way*, about damage caused to LGBT folks by the ex-gay therapy movement.

### 1981

**Scott B. Adams** recently accepted a position with the Illinois Council of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees as director of research and employee benefits.

**Wesley G. Kennedy** has been inducted as a fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Annapolis, Md., November 2012. The college was founded to recognize lawyers who are making an outstanding contribution to the labor law field.

**Matthew J. Maggio** was recently elected as a trustee for the Iowa Dental Association, Johnston, Iowa.

**Bruce D. Packard** and his wife Lana celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, Jan. 28, 2012.



### David M. Gibson '69

An exhibition of Gibson's pastel chalk drawings hung in Shadravan's Gallery in Oakland, Calif., Sept. 1-22. With more than forty years as an artist, Gibson has specialized in pastels since the early 1980s (he also works in oil, graphite, and monotype). French writer Pierre Laszlo remarks that Gibson's paintings "achieve a cleansing of one's eyesight ... what makes them refreshing to the viewer is that the familiarity of the scene depicted carries with it such originality of treatment."



performance; they're very much aware of the cameras. You can almost look at it as two actors."

Pfirman met Lee at the University of California-Los Angeles film school, where he enrolled after a brief stint in advertising. After graduating from UCLA, Pfirman worked for 20th Century Fox ("not the news part," he emphasizes), developing special features for DVDs. He now works as an independent contractor based in Los Angeles. While Wilson and Lee

filmed their way into Iowa politics, Pfirman edited footage and screened it for investors, including an enthusiastic producer of political comedian Bill Maher. "They wanted to see lots of Iowa," Pfirman says. "They

had seen the events we covered, but they hadn't seen them from the perspective of someone trying to push through the circus of cameras."

The crew wanted to use the film to personalize the political, Pfirman explains. Once it was finished, they screened it in swing states, where they believed it would help facilitate political dialogue.

Janeane's health care crisis, in particular, opened the door to conversation.

"Health care is so personal, regardless of your political leanings," Lee observes. "Janeane deals with it on a survival level.

"As the election got closer and the stakes were higher, the issues Janeane faces became much more real to people. There were fewer intellectual reactions and more emotional ones," she says.

"I thought this was important to do," Pfirman says, "Policies like Obamacare are so politicized that it's hard to talk about them."

—Kate Moening '11

## 1990

**Thomas G. Wickersham** accepted the position of program director for the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, Waterloo, August 2012.

## 1991

**Erik E. Skinner** was appointed acting executive chancellor for the Southern California Community Colleges, September 2012.

**Sarah Rosenberg Strommen**, longtime member of the Ramsey, Minn., city council, defeated incumbent mayor Bob Ramsey, garnering 55 percent of the city's vote, November 2012.

## 1992

**Melanie S. Drake** was named assistant director of alumni relations for admissions programs at Grinnell College, August 2012.

## 1995

**Erika Schuh Buhring** was appointed the new director of the office for civic and social engagement/experiential learning coordinator for St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., August 2012.

**Daphne L. Cunningham** accepted the position of program coordinator at the Cantemir Institute, a University of Oxford, England, research center for the study of East and East-Central Europe, March 2012.

**Heidi L. Eggert** represented Grinnell College at the Reed College inauguration of John R. Kroger as 15<sup>th</sup> president, September 2012.

**Sarah Rosenberg Strommen**, longtime council member from Ramsey, Minn., and associate director for Minnesota Land Trust, was elected mayor of that city, October 2012.

## 1996

**Molly B. Campe** became associate director of alumni relations at Grinnell College, October 2012.

**Sarah J. Swarts** accepted an endocrinologist position at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Corvallis, Ore., August 2012.

## 1998 15th Reunion Cluster

**Jacob D. Boyer** joined the family-care clinic of Grinnell Regional Family Practice and Grinnell Regional Medical Center, August 2012.



## Lisa Harris '75

Harris's ceramics were featured at the Evanston Art Center's Winter Arts and Crafts EXPO in Evanston, Ill. A ceramic artist and instructor, Harris specializes in decorative tiles and vessels. She writes of her current series of grain elevator teapots, "There is an unconventional beauty that draws me to these industrial forms and the urban landscape."

**Daniel D. Sewell** was selected by his peers as being among the top 10 percent of geriatric psychiatrists in the United States in a survey conducted by *U.S. News & World Report*, August 2012. He was also selected as a "Top Doc" in San Diego for the second consecutive year by the San Diego County Medical Society and *San Diego Magazine*, October 2012.

## 1982

**Aubrey A. Carlson** accepted a position at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, summer 2011.

## 1987

**Shelley Aggeler Harper** was installed as president of the Colorado Academic Library Association at the annual Colorado Association of Libraries conference in Keystone, Colo., October 2012.

**N. Marlene Michaud Wagner** was re-elected to the board of education in the Manchester Community School District, Manchester Village, Mich., November 2012.

## Lute Lover

**Jacob Heringman '86 first took up the lute the summer following his graduation. Now he has a worldwide audience.**

They arrived on horseback, swords at their sides and fury in their eyes, carrying their ouds with them. More than 1,200 years after the Moorish invasion of what is now Spain, the oud's European descendant, the lute, landed in the hands of **Jacob Heringman '86**. Today, he is one of the instrument's most innovative and respected players.

Heringman, who has lived in England since 1987, recalls, "My father loved listening to records. When I was 4, I put rubber bands on a shoebox and strummed it. Two years later, my parents gave me my first guitar. Everyone assumed I'd be a musician, but I wanted to pursue other interests."

He double-majored in English and philosophy. "It prepared me to think and write clearly, and do the scholarly work needed to research music," he says.

Not that he didn't study music at Grinnell. He fondly remembers **Elizabeth Hays**, associate professor of music-emerita and then-director of Collegium Musicum. "She was very supportive and inspiring," says Heringman, who played guitar and recorder in the early-music ensemble. The lute didn't grab him until his senior year, when he heard it on the

radio. "It was a beautiful tone, a cross between a harp and a guitar."

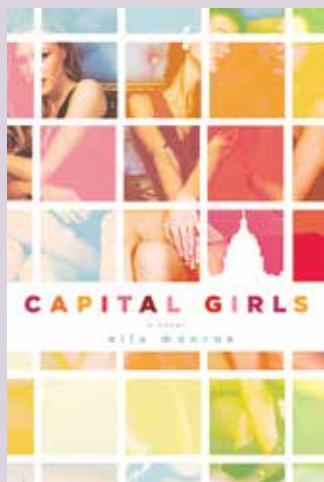
The lutenist he heard was Jakob Lindberg, and the following year Heringman studied with him at London's Royal College of Music. "Jacob is one of the best lute students I have taught," Lindberg says. "He has a thoughtful approach and combines intellectual clarity with musicality."

Since 1988, Heringman has performed and recorded in Europe, the U. S., and Canada, and can be heard in films such as *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and on pop albums.

"It's important for me to improvise and to commission new music, but I especially enjoy playing neglected and difficult Renaissance lute music," he says. On his latest CD (one of more than 50), he and his wife, viol player Susanna Pell, play "divisions," the Elizabethan equivalent of jazz improvisation.

"Jake is very creative and open to new ideas," says singer John Potter, who has worked with Heringman for more than 20 years. "His performances and recordings are innovative and immaculately prepared."

For that, Heringman thanks the Alexander technique, a system that



### Amy Benecki Reingold '78

Reingold co-authored the young adult trilogy *Capital Girls* with Marilyn Rauber under the pseudonym Ella Monroe. The books follow a quartet of teenage girls embroiled in Washington, D.C., politics and scandal. Published by St. Martin's Griffin, the series has been optioned by Warner Television and the Dan Jinks Company. Reingold is also a textile artist and chef.

**Sarah L. Fowles** was elected to serve on the Milwaukee Children's Choir board of directors, July 2012. Founded in 1994, the choir provides children ages 4 through 18 with choral music instruction and performance experiences through child-centered classes, rehearsals, and a variety of programs.

**Jarrad W. Morgan** has entered medical school at Pacific Northwest University of Health Science, fall 2012.

### 1999 15th Reunion Cluster

**Joseph H. Lauber** was named assistant legal council for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, October 2012.

**Teresa Schutz Esler** accepted the position of business growth consultant with Enterprise Minnesota, Minneapolis, August 2012. She will help manufacturing companies achieve executive leadership, strategy management and ultimately, profitable growth.

### 2000

**Jonathan E. Finley** competed in his first ride in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, commonly known as RAGBRAI, summer 2012.

### 2001

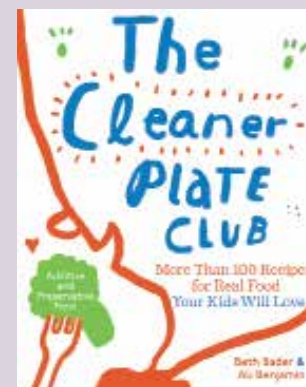
**S. Evan Gerking** accepted the position of boys' basketball coach at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, Spring Hill, Fla., July 2012.

**Bethwel Raore** completed a residency in neurosurgery at Emory University, Atlanta, summer 2012. He has accepted the position of staff neurosurgeon at Miami Valley Hospital at the Ohio Neurosurgical Institute in Dayton.

**Charles A. Warpehoski**, director of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, won the Ward 5 seat on the Ann Arbor, Mich., city council in the only contested race for a council seat, November 2012.

### 2002

**Erik D. Gable** is the new adviser of *The Independent Collegian*, an independent student newspaper published in Toledo, Ohio, serving the University of Toledo community, October 2012.



### Ali Wade Benjamin '92

Benjamin co-wrote *The Cleaner Plate Club* (Storey Publishing) with Beth Bader to help parents feed picky eaters nutritiously. Reviewers at *Sixty Second Parent* magazine wrote: "This isn't just a cookbook: it's an educational arsenal to wield your way with grace and dexterity through the carnival that is the modern American food system." A writer and blogger, Benjamin was also lead researcher for a *Sesame Street* special.



retrains the body to release unnecessary tension and move efficiently, allowing him to play more comfortably and expressively. “It helps me not lose sight of myself, the music, and the audience,” says Heringman, now a certified Alexander technique trainer.

He also teaches students at the University of York “how to find their way with the instrument,” he says. “Since there’s no continuous tradition of lute playing, there’s a lot of guesswork involved.”

Meanwhile, the lute has taught Heringman “how to apply myself patiently and methodically ... music’s peacefulness gives me something I need. The lute is also a potent symbol of harmony. It flourished in medieval Spain, when there was brief harmony between Muslims, Spaniards, and Christians. We owe a huge debt to Middle Eastern cultures.”

Heringman helps repay that debt – with each pluck of the strings.

—Claire Sykes

### Listen Here!

For more information, to listen to samples of Heringman’s work, or to order a CD: [www.pellingman.co.uk](http://www.pellingman.co.uk) or [www.heringman.com](http://www.heringman.com).



### 2004

**Amber Crouch Russell** accepted a position as community child advocate at Blank Children’s Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, May 2012. She will be providing a more concentrated effort to improve the health and safety of Iowa children.

### 2005

**Daniel S. Follmer** is enrolled in a one-year master’s degree in higher education administration program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Mass., September 2012.

**Sung Ju Park** was promoted to investment officer at the Portland, Maine, office of CEI Capital Management, September 2012.

**Katherine Lewin Tschida** received the Donald B. Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience from the Society of Neuroscience at its annual meeting in New Orleans, September 2012. The prize recognizes an outstanding doctoral thesis in the area of general behavioral neuroscience.

### 2006

**Wesley T. Barber** received the 2012 Gerald O. Mott Scholarship provided by the Crop Science Society of America, August 2012. The award is provided to a student who has completed at least one year of graduate work leading to an M.S. or Ph.D. in the field of crop science, and who has outstanding potential for leadership. Barber is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of crop sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Julian B. West** was appointed assistant county attorney in Storm Lake, Iowa, July 2012.

**Patrick B. Waldo**, in conjunction with Decernis LLC, an information systems company in Washington, D.C., was awarded a patent for a system that tracks regulatory and scientific developments as well as risk management in product manufacturing and food and beverage processing, October 2012.

### 2007

**Emerson Williams-Molett** completed his certification in project management at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., July 2012. He accepted a promotion at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Minneapolis, September 2012.

### 2009

**Erin E. Duran** was named residential life coordinator/LGBTQA adviser, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa., August 2012.

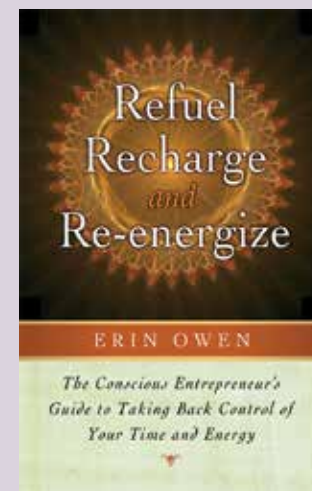
**Morgan G. Miranda** was admitted to the Mississippi bar at the bar admission ceremony, September 2012. She received her J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law, May 2012. She accepted a position as clerk at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi in Jackson.

### 2011

**Que’Nique M. Newbill** was one of three new Herbert Scoville, Jr. Peace Fellows, a program funded by Carnegie Corp., August 2012. He is serving as a full-time, junior staff member at the Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington, D.C., on Middle East security, especially as it relates to the Arab transitions.

### 2012

**Morgan D. Bober** was named Midwest Conference nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award, October 2012. The award honors senior student-athletes who have distinguished themselves in academic achievement, athletics excellence, service, and leadership.



### Erin Owen '94

Owen’s *Refuel, Recharge, and Re-energize* shows how good business management, complementary health practices, and Buddhism, yoga, and traditional Chinese medicine can improve quality of life. Based in Philadelphia, Owen holds an MBA and is an author, speaker, and personal performance coach.



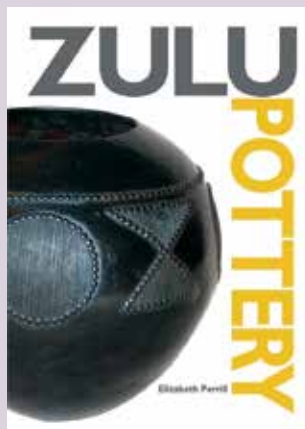
## Music Maven

### Cameo Carlson '93 has a career that has evolved with the music industry

On Sunday mornings, 13-year-old **Cameo Carlson '93** would listen to Casey Kasem's "American Top 40" and write down the 1984 hits in her Hello Kitty diary. She had it with her when she got to Grinnell in 1990 as a sophomore political science major, and played those songs on her '80s-music KDIC campus radio show. It was her first disc-jockey gig, "and I fell in love with sharing music," she says. She still does that, now as head of digital business development for Borman Entertainment, a music management company in Nashville, Tenn. There, she pushes the careers and pulls in the fans of country music stars such as Keith Urban, Alison Krauss, and Lady Antebellum.

In her own 20-year career, Carlson takes credit for three of the 10 largest-selling digital albums in history, record-breaking first-week sales of mobile ringtones, and the highest volume and sales of multiplatinum ringtones. Since its earliest days, she has stood at the forefront of the ever-evolving digital music revolution.

"Before the Internet and the disaggregation of music, one hit song sold a million records. Now, it sells a million tracks and maybe only 20,000 CDs," Carlson says. "But the Internet also offers other avenues of revenue,



### Elizabeth Perrill '99

African ceramics specialist Perrill published *Zulu Pottery* (Print Matters), a brief history of ceramics in the KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa. The book aims to guide art teachers, particularly in South Africa, "to prepare lessons, not just about Van Gogh or Picasso, but also about indigenous Zulu art forms," Perrill explains. She is assistant professor of art history at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

**Toby R. Cain, Michael R. Cole, and Eric J. Ritter** have been named Academic Scholar-Athletes by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, October 2012. To earn the honor, a player must have a grade-point average of at least 3.50 for the current academic year, be a varsity letter winner, and be enrolled at his or her present school for at least two semesters.

**Ryan D. Creps** has begun a one-year position at American University in Cairo.

**Michael A. Goldfien** was named to the Jewish Sports Review All-America Baseball First Team for NCAA Division II and III, and NAIA, October 2012. He helped the Grinnell Pioneers win their third consecutive Midwest Conference South crown in the 2012 season.

**Kevin M. Jennison** and co-worker Alex Groth have developed Tab for a Cause, a computer app for Chrome or Firefox Web browsers that will automatically donate to charity each time someone opens a new tab. Both work for a startup company in Silicon Valley. Since its launch in August 2012, Tab for a Cause has gained 3,000 users and donated \$4,000.

**Peter T. Marsho** was named Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar for the second consecutive year for his participation on the Grinnell College men's golf team, October 2012.

**Kramer J. McLuckie** was featured in the *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette* for his work with an affordable health care plan that will allow young Iowans to stay on their parents' plans longer and lower health care costs for Iowans by improving preventive care procedures, lowering administrative costs, and increasing competition through an online health care market, July 2012.

**Charity A. Porotesano** was chosen second runner-up in the 20th Miss American Samoa beauty pageant, October 2012. She was sponsored by 93KHJ Radio and won the prepageant interview with a presentation on teenage pregnancy. She is a teacher at Matafao Elementary School, Pago Pago, American Samoa.

## Degrees

**Carol Schmidlein Margolis '71, M.A.** in English as a second language, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., July 31, 2012.

**Margaret Rayburn Kramer '72, Ph.D.** in English, University of Kansas-Lawrence, August 2012.

**Richard R. Lancaster '76, A.A.S.** in power plant technology, Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., Aug. 3, 2012.

**Elizabeth Painter Storrs '90, Ph.D.** in higher education administration, Boston College, Boston, August 2012.

**Alanna R. Walen '92, master's** in teaching, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., May 2012.

**Kristin Clark Olivier '00, master's** in school counseling, University of Iowa, Iowa City, May 2012.

**Ellen A. Sale '01, master's** in educational leadership, National Louis University in partnership with the KIPP School Leadership Programs, Chicago, July 2012.

**Benjamin W. Dyer '04, J.D.,** University of Chicago Law School, June 2012. He was admitted to the Wisconsin state bar, September 2012.



like YouTube videos, music streaming and merchandise from websites. And it's made it easy for artists to directly communicate with fans and for fans to spread the word about artists, on a much larger scale than ever."

Artists' free downloads, in exchange for fans' email addresses, effectively promote and sell music, but the Internet also makes it easier to steal. "What drives sales drives piracy, and it's a major issue," she continues. "That's why building relationships with fans is so important. If they feel invested, they're more likely to contribute financially."

While the music industry embraces digital business development, "labels have yet to adjust. They need to work together if they both want to advance," she says. She is helping them do just that.

Carlson understands technology, labels' interests and artists' objectives — from her work as editor at online radio's Spinner.com (2000–04); with iTunes' online commerce and retail stores (2004–07); as executive vice president at Universal Motown Republic Group (2007–11); and at Borman since 2011. Practically the only thing in the industry she hasn't done is record music herself.

"When I was younger, I took guitar, piano, and singing lessons, but

I felt I had no talent. The only way I could participate in music was to share it," says Carlson, who worked at KFMZ radio at the University of Missouri, where she got master's in journalism (2000) with her eye set on working at *Rolling Stone*. But she turned down a postgraduate internship there and chose Spinner.com instead, "Because I realized I loved, and was good at, radio," she says.

Carlson followed her gut. That, luck, and timing have brought her success. It's what she wants for young women in Nashville's digital music industry, so in 2012 she started a mentoring group called Digital Divas.

"It's important to stay open-minded and adaptable, and work with people of different interests, because that's where innovation comes from. It's true in any industry," she says. Whether promoting music, education, or health care, "it's all about using technology consumers can best relate to and industries can adapt to."

As the music industry provides greater consumer access, labels will become artist-services companies, Carlson says, but "it's hard to say where I'll be in an industry that's constantly changing."

—Claire Sykes

## Marriages and Unions

**Sarah E. Evans '05**, Ph.D. in ecology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, summer 2012.

**Miriam A. Stanton '05**, M.A. in art history, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., June 2011. She is a curator at the Williams College Museum of Art.

**Abigail B. Hagel '06**, master's in sociology, minor in psychology, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, August 2012.

**Nicholas M. Johnson '06**, master's in urban and regional planning, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, May 2012.

**Natalie L. Larson '06**, B.S. in computer science and mathematics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., May 2012. She entered the Ph.D. program in computer science at the University of California, San Diego, fall 2012.

**Spring Melody M. Knapp '07**, Ph.D. in chemistry, University of Oregon-Eugene, June 2012. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Colgate University, Hampton, N.Y.

**Mark A. Johanningmeir '71** and Judith Jenya, June 21, 2012.

**John N. Pepper '71** and Diana Holmes, Sept. 23, 2011.

**Scott H. Hall '83** and Richard W. Gonzalez, Oct. 11, 2012.

**Craig E. Martin '95** and Chiara Bariviera, June 15, 2012.

**Donna House '96** and Eric Lohmeier, Aug., 4, 2012. Attending were *Anne Gay Gray '96*, *Aaron A. Wright '02*, and *Abby Spears Wright '04*.

**Ann E. Newman '99** and Mike Ruffalo, March 10, 2012. Attending were *Andrea Newman Sirls '89*, *J. Daniel Sirls '90*, *Jennifer A. Metcalf '00*, and *Angela K. Stone-MacDonald '00*.

**Aaron P. Kidd '03** and **Elen K. Rhoades '03**, June 24, 2012. The bride's father is *Marcus Rhoades '61*, her brother is *Matthew W. Jones-Rhoades '99*, and her sister-in-law is *Melinda S. Jones-Rhoades '99*. Attending were *Ryan McGary '97*, *Stephanie M. Walters '97*, *Audrey F. Hendrickson '01*, *Peter J. Majerle '01*, *Sahil N. Merchant '01*, *Andrew A. Sherburne '01*, *Elizabeth Graf Sherburne '01*, *Amy E. Walters '01*, *Jefferson J. Bishop '02*, *John L. Catron '02*, *Daniel Olson '02*, *Melissa Bailey Torres '02*,

*Arik S. Anderson '03*, *Beth L. Hammarlund '03*, *Tricia J. Hadley '03*, *Elysia J. Hassebroek '03*, *Michael S. Heller '03*, *Katrina S. Pedersen '03*, *Matthew W. Shamey '03*, *Gustavo Torres '03*, *David M. Whitcomb '03*, *Michael F. Zabel '03*, *Matthew D. Johnson '04*, *Naomi Bethel Olson '04*, and *Annaliese E. Beaman '05*.

**DinaMarie Chou '05** and Jim Skoog, July 21, 2012. Attending were *Arik S. Anderson '03*, *Victor M. Soria '03*, *Maria O. Stanislaw '04*, *Supat Tipayamongkol '04*, *Rachel E. Abbott '05*, *Sarah S. Helgen '05*, *Claire L. McDonough '05*, *Audrey Coffield Soria '05*, *Meghan McCuen Jones '06*, *Amanda J. Kaufmann '06*, *Niyantri Ramakrishnan '06*, and *Kristen M. Barlow '07*.

**Devin A. Lindsey '05** and Adam Porro, Aug. 18, 2012. They currently reside in Woburn, Mass.

**Nicholas M. Johnson '06** and Keri Clifton, Sept. 22, 2012.

**Rachel F. Marek '06** and **Caitlin E. Raich '06**, June 29, 2012. Attending were *Keri D. Hornbuckle '87*, *Jacob L. DeBower '06*, *Abigail B. Hagel '06*, *Mairead Ernst Saleh '06*, *Amanda R. Smith '07*, *Elizabeth M. Swanton '07*, and *Eden E. Marek '15*.



**Molly M. Moilanen '97**  
**Justin E. Bakken '02**

Moilanen and Bakken were two-thirds of the first-place Team Gear Junkie/WEDALI team in the U.S. Adventure Racing Association's 2012 National Championship on Oct. 14, 2012, in the Catskill Mountains of New York. With teammate Scott Erlandson, they navigated a series of checkpoints using only a map and compass while trail-running, mountain-biking, paddling, and orienteering 110 miles in 29 hours.



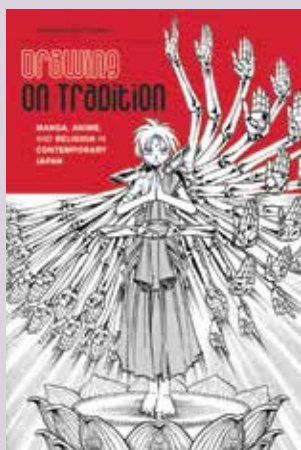
## Errata:

The fall, 2012 issue erroneously reported that **Mary J. Greenwood '78** was named chief public defender of Santa Clara County, Calif., and a federal prosecutor from Palo Alto, Calif., May 2012. In fact, she was the Chief Public Defender of Santa Clara County from 2005 - 2012, and was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Brown in May 2012. She was never a federal prosecutor.

The same issue also incorrectly listed the dates of two of President Kington's appearances. He will visit Miami on Friday, Jan. 25, 2013 and Sarasota, Fla. on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013.

On page 3 of the 2012 *Grinnell College Honor Roll of Giving* the class years for **Keith Brouhle '96** and **Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94** were incorrectly listed.

We regret the errors.



### Jolyon B. Thomas '01

Thomas's *Drawing on Tradition: Manga, Anime, and Religion in Contemporary Japan* (University of Hawai'i Press 2012) is among the first full-length monographs of its kind. S. Brent Plate, professor of religious studies at Hamilton College, remarks, "Thomas charts a new course for engaging religion and the media of popular culture." Thomas is a doctoral candidate in religion at Princeton University.

**Mitchell H. Parks '08** and Wendy Schreiner, July 21, 2012. Attending were *Tinsley Walker Hunsdorfer '08*, *Leila R. Lindeman '08*, *Andrew T. Polta '08*, and *Zackary P. Rider '08*.

### Births and Adoptions

**Anthony G. Harris '90** and Alexandra Maul Harris, Jan. 17, 2012, their second child, first son, Henry Jacob.

**Jennifer Robinson Kloos '90** and Charles Kloos, Nov. 26, 2010, adopted March 26, 2012, their third child, first daughter, Eleanor Xian Kloos.

**Melissa J. Koch '90** and Matthew Nahan, March 28, 2012, their first child, a son, Axel Koch Nahan.

**Teresa L. Federer '93** and Peter Levinson, Aug. 24, 2012, their second child, second daughter, Meyer Levinson.

**Sharyn Gordon-Obsatz '93** and Michael Gordon-Obsatz, March 23, 2012, their first child, a son, David Morris Gordon-Obsatz.

**Ann Magruder Oldervoll '93** and Thomas Oldervoll, June 17, 2012, their second child, first son, Torstein Oldervoll.

**James K. Foster '94** and Kate de Kay, May 9, 2012, their second child, second son, Michael Ormonde Foster.

**Elizabeth J. Harbron '95** and Carey K. Bagdassarian, July 27, 2012, their first child, a daughter, Julia Naz Bagdassarian.

**Hollis V. Pfitsch '96** and Magdalen Kawinski, Oct. 1, 2012, their first child, a son, Oskar Pfitsch-Kawinski.

**Peggy A. Parker '97** and **Mark A. Burkhead '98**, Aug. 8, 2012, their third child, first daughter, Ruthanne Parker Burkhead.

**Sarah Reimer Dawson '99** and Colin Reimer Dawson, July 29, 2012, their first child, a son, Arlo Reimer Dawson.

**Katherine Nydam Olivier '00** and **Kristin Clark Olivier '00**, Aug. 25, 2012, their first child, a son, Severin Francis Olivier.

**Mark J. Czarniecki '01** and **Megan Ranney Czarniecki '04**, July 11, 2012, their first child, a girl, Nora James Czarniecki.

**Peter H. De Kock '01** and Jennifer De Kock, Aug. 20, 2012, their first child, a son, Robert Rex Garatoni De Kock.

**Kerstin Wolf Sinkevicius '01** and Apolinaras Sinkevicius, Sept. 11, 2012, their first child, a daughter, Greta Sinkevicius.

**Nadia L. Manning '02** and David Thomas, March 4, 2012, their first child, daughter, Saba Aneira Lucia Thomas.

**Alice C. Anderson '04** and Benjamin Cochran, May 12, 2012, their first child, a son, Henry Anders Cochran.

**Jessica Ward Waymouth '04** and **Robert L. Waymouth '04**, July 29, 2012, their first child, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Waymouth.

**Brian K. Crabtree '05** and Dara Lestrade, June 16, 2012, their first child, a daughter, Ayanna Lucille Crabtree.

## Publications, Productions, and Exhibitions

*Modes of Learning: Whitehead's Metaphysics and the Stages of Education*, by **George J. Allan '57**, State University of New York Press, June 2012.

"Will there be another Bush v. Gore in 2012?," by **Ann M. Lousin '64**, *National Law Journal*, Aug. 27, 2012.

*Shake-Awakes* by **Robert K. Heidbreder '69**, Tradewind Press, Sioux Falls, S.D., March 1, 2012. Also, *Noisy Poems for a Busy Day*, Kids Can Press, Tonawanda, N.Y., Sept. 1, 2012; and *Life Long Distance*, em-dash press, Victoria, B.C., Canada, October 2012.

*A Conservative's Manifesto: A Brief Discussion of Some Principles*, by **E. Erik Hines '71**, self-published through Xlibris, Bloomington, Ind., Feb. 13, 2012.

*Tasting Heaven on Earth: Worship in Sixth-Century Constantinople*, by **Walter D. Ray '81**, self-published through Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 20, 2012.

*Agent*, by **James G. Redfern '87**, Amazon Digital Services, Aug. 12, 2012. Also, *Hecatomb*, Amazon Digital Services, Aug. 31, 2012.

*The Raging, Flaming Goat of Samos*, by **Michael J. Andrade '92**, Robertson Publishing, Los Gatos, Calif., July 3, 2012.

## In Memoriam

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

**Norman J. De Wind '37**, Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 28, 2012.

**Helen F. Wendling '39**, Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 11, 2012.

**Elinor Danforth Mitchell '40**, Spokane, Wash., Aug. 2, 2012.

**Robert E. Allen '41**, Walnut Creek, Calif., Aug. 7, 2012.

**Robert W. Page '42**, Culver City, Calif., Sept. 22, 2012.

**Warren J. Brooker '43**, Duluth, Minn., July 1, 2011.

**Ervine P. Inglis, Jr. '43**, Atlanta, Oct. 20, 2012. Survivors include his sister *H. Joye Inglis Brown '50*.

**Tom G. Laster '43**, Springfield, Mo., Feb. 20, 2012.

**Margaret Terril McCormick '44**, Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 26, 2012.

**Audrey Knox Ayres '45**, Redondo Beach, Calif., April 18, 2012.

**Nancy Young Brown '47**, Kirkwood, Mo., Sept. 7, 2012.

**Wen Chao Chen '47**, Kalamazoo, Mich., Aug. 13, 2012.

**Jean Meredith Clemmensen '48**, Ormond Beach, Fla., June 20, 2012.

**Stanley B. Hall '49**, Eugene, Ore., July 23, 2012. Survivors include his wife, *Doris "Dody" Duke Hall '50*, and his son, *Charles "Chip" Hall '75*.

**R. Dorset Graves '50**, Chadron, Neb., Sept. 1, 2012. Survivors include his wife, *M. Jane Miller Graves '50*.

**Grace Lang Davidson '51**, Grinnell, Iowa, Oct. 20, 2012. Survivors include her daughters, *Leslie Davidson Litwiller '73*, and *Christine Davidson Jensen '76*; her granddaughter, *Abigail B. Jensen '01*; and grandson, *Daniel V. Litwiller '01*.

**Robert F. Getty '51**, North Platte, Neb., Oct. 4, 2012.

**John L. Peterson '51**, Middleton, Wis., Sept. 30, 2012. Survivors include his son, *Mark L. Peterson '79*.

**Thomas C. Rigler '51**, El Dorado Hills, Calif., June 3, 2012.

**K. Mark Pedersen '52**, Grinnell, Iowa, Oct. 19, 2012.

**Rachelle Pogue Standerwick '52**, Grinnell, Iowa, Sept. 15, 2012.

**Charles Busch '53**, Fairfax, Minn., July 23, 2012.

**R. Jeannine Lyerly '53**, Anchorage, Alaska, Sept. 23, 2012.

**John L. Phillips '53**, Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 7, 2012.

**Garwin R. Dawley '54**, Arlington Heights, Ill., Oct. 22, 2011. Survivors include his brother, *Bruce D. Dawley '55*.

**Nancy Smith Lesko '54**, Asheville, N.C., Sept. 17, 2012. Survivors include her daughter, *Jil H. Lesko '84*.

**Mary Ellen Brock '56**, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 14, 2012.

**Jean Liedtke Perry '56**, Montgomery, Ill., Feb. 22, 2012.

**Sally A. Fellows '57**, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 3, 2012.

**Kay Jorgensen Arnold '58**, Franklin, Ind., Sept. 4, 2012.

## In Memoriam

### Larry Pidgeon, Former Trustee

**Larry Pidgeon**, a member of Grinnell College's Board of Trustees 1995–1999, died Nov. 13, 2012, after a struggle with cancer. He was born Feb. 12, 1963. He graduated in 1981 from Des Moines Roosevelt High School; earned his bachelor's from Yale University in 1986, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude; and received his master's in economics from Yale in 1986. He was only 32 when he became a Grinnell trustee in 1995; he resigned in 1999 due to the press of his work at CBM Capital, an investment partnership.

"Larry was extremely intelligent and highly principled," says trustee **Fred Little, Jr. '53**. "As chair of the investment committee and member of the finance committee, he was an instrument for change, constantly challenging existing practices and traditional assumptions. Larry brought a rigorous, disciplined way of thinking to the board and introduced objective measurements for the College's performance. He strived for excellence and left the board in a better place for his presence. I feel fortunate to have known him and privileged to have been his friend."

Pidgeon is survived by his wife Sue; his children, Daniel, Alexandra and Jack; his parents, Harold and Shirley Pidgeon; and brothers, Brian and Mark Pidgeon.

**John C. Kennedy '59**, Muiden, Netherlands, July 7, 2012.

**Carol Eaton Johnston '61**, Fort Collins, Colo., July 26, 2012.

**W. Ernest Rutherford '61**, Monroe, La., July 28, 2012. Survivors include his sons, *Phillip R. Rutherford '88*, and *Jason S. Rutherford '93*.

**Robert J. Barker '64**, Mount Prospect, Ill., Sept. 20, 2012. Survivors include his daughter, *Nell W. Barker '99*.

**James Wolfson '64**, Chicago, Ill., July 22, 2012.

**Harry D. Shrago '65**, Marietta, Ga., Feb. 19, 2012.

**Susan Beach Vaughn '65**, Bayonet Point, Fla., July 4, 2012.

**Jennifer A. Wolfe '67**, Mayerthorpe, Alberta, Canada, Feb. 23, 2012.

**Wayne R. Luepker '71**, Oak Park, Ill., July 1, 2012. Survivors include his brother, *Russell V. Luepker '64*, and sister-in-law, *Ellen Thompson Leupker '64*.

**Mark W. Fischer '78**, Boulder, Colo., Aug. 1, 2012. Survivors include his wife, *Kim Connelly Fischer '78*.

**Matthew T. Miller '79**, Madison, Wis., July 25, 2012. Survivors include his brother, *Stephen D. Miller '78*.

**Rhonda Mayer Heut '81**, Glenmoore, Pa., Aug. 9, 2012.

**Nicholas Klawes '13**, Madison, Wisc., December 11, 2012.

## Alumni Council

### A Report from Volunteer Weekend

The Alumni Council and other College volunteers returned to campus for Volunteer Weekend, Oct. 4–6. The hot topic was Grinnell's struggle to balance need-blind admissions with the responsibility to preserve the Grinnell experience for future generations.

We met with President **Raynard S. Kington**; the College's chief financial officer, **Karen Voss**; and **Joe Bagnoli**, vice president for enrollment. We received a detailed look into the problem and options for addressing it. We appreciated the opportunity to engage and debate the issues.

Here are some key take-aways from our sessions:

- Students today have greater need than previous classes. Ten years ago, financial aid paid for about 50 percent of the cost of the average Grinnell student's education, but in recent years it has covered more than 60 percent.
- Philanthropic gifts and grants cover six percent of Grinnell's budget; nearly half of this revenue comes from alumni. Consequently, endowment spending and net tuition revenue cover the majority of program costs.
- Increasing our draw from the endowment would deplete principal and reduce support available to future Grinnell students.
- Tuition increases have limited effect because aid budgets must increase accordingly.
- We cannot cut our way to balanced financials. Benchmarking shows that our expenses are on par compared to our peers. For expense reductions to cover our financial gap, we would need to deeply cut our program — the very teaching and learning attributes that make Grinnell distinctive.

There are no easy answers. The College presented several possible strategies that could by and large preserve need-blind admission and ensure that we continue to meet the full financial need of admitted students. Visit [www.grinnell.edu/grinnellfuture](http://www.grinnell.edu/grinnellfuture) to learn more.

As alumni, we can also put our money where our mouths are. As a student, I depended heavily on aid from Grinnell, and I want to ensure that the College can continue to admit — and fund — students like me. I plan to increase my annual gift to the College and designate it for financial aid. I can't solve the College's challenges myself, but I can do my part.

— *Matthew Welch '96*  
Alumni Council President



# The Fourth State of Media

The late Armando Montaña '12 writes about reporting locally and publishing globally.

Argentine journalist Rodolfo Walsh spent his last minutes alive on March 25, 1977, in a gory shootout with military thugs in front of his home. The day before, he had sent a letter to newspapers, radio and television stations in Argentina and the United States, denouncing the military government. Only after the military regime fell five years later did the letter see the light of day.

Under similar circumstances today, Walsh would perhaps have published the letter in a *Huffington Post* column, and as the government thugs scurried to murder him, they would find Christine Amanpour's smartass smirk and a frenzy of international reporters waiting for them.

The Internet affords journalists quick, efficient access to information — and an immortal cyberpublication that can instantly broadcast thousands of articles, pictures, and videos to millions of readers. The Internet smashed an industry created by power-hungry tycoons.

It also redefined ethical standards. No story is too uninteresting, too cliché, or too scandalous for this new media: *Huffington Post* editors strip bylines from articles from other sources and rewrite and run them as “original” content. Gawker media can pay an anonymous source more than \$2,000 for testimony of his underwhelming one-night stand with Tea Party member and Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell and accompanying sultry .jpegs of her in her ladybug outfit.

Most print writers and editors scream that sites such as these perpetuate lazy, immoral, sensational, and mind-numbing standards. But as each *Rocky Mountain News* or *Honolulu Advertiser* meets the same fate as the velociraptor, a generation of journalists is molding a new medium, one that gives an unimaginable ability to read — and experience through videos, slideshows, and graphics — more news. You can open your computer and let the *Los Angeles Times* crime map show you which neighborhoods have the most stabbings or vehicular homicides.

But as our ability to consume news deepens, our connections to countries across oceans wither.

Every year New York University, University of Southern California, Northwestern University, and University of Missouri arm more undergraduates with journalism degrees and world-class networks than there are foreign correspondents in South America. Most newspapers' overseas bureaus have closed in the past five years; Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Bloomberg survived by creating a paywall (requiring a paid subscription to access news) for their extensive international business coverage. That's great if you want

to learn about coffee futures, but disappointing if you need to know that drug trafficking and counterfeit goods between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay skyrocketed so much that Interpol, a European agency, opened its first South American office in January.

We are now letting a corporation or two tell us how an event happened, while denying billions the ability to deliver their versions of the story. Mainstream media covered the garment factory fire in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that killed 27 and wounded 100 last December, pointing to the sealed emergency exits and lack of fire escapes. However, only two western news sources, the Associated Press and *The Guardian*, mentioned that the factory produced clothing for the Gap, JC Penney, Abercrombie, and Target.

Ex-foreign correspondents attempted to fulfill the international news gap by creating websites including *Global Post* and *Latin American Herald* that give ex-pats and American students the opportunity to post blogs with glamorous overseas datelines. But underneath the slick layouts, interactive slide shows, and sexy headlines (“Is China Killing Africa's Elephants?” “Bob Dylan Does Asia”), a neocolonial stench reeks.

Politico, Gawker, and *The Huffington Post* require their reporters to fulfill a weekly story quota. Why not create a global network similar to these, but of local correspondents from all over the world who write in English? This network would recruit bilingual journalism students from major cities around the world, briefly guide them through camera usage and ethical guidelines, equip them with a press pass and a generous stipend, and demand that every week they produce 10 stories that they feel are the most important in their communities.

These rookie local correspondents could act as gatekeepers to their own cultures. Imagine a Pakistani student shooting a video of a booming marketplace in Karachi bustling with expats and tourists — and then revealing to us that a mafia paid hotels to warn tourists away from other neighborhoods. It would put the power to represent a country, a city, and a community in the hands of people who live there.

New media mutates writing a news article into a science rather than an art. It's who, what, where, why — but in 300 words with video. Now the art lies in doing the research, getting a quote, and more importantly, seeing the impact of this new information on an audience. This form has the potential to tear down regimes, expose corruption, and empower everyday people. The only ones who should fear Internet journalism are the ones who have something to hide.

## Alumni Musings



Photo by Ben Brewer '11

By **Armando Montaña '12**, who died June 30, 2012, while working as a summer news intern for the Associated Press in Mexico City. He and his writing were featured on Page 25 of the Summer 2012 issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*.

An effort is under way at the College to establish a program in Montaña's name to enhance the professionalism of the *Scarlet & Black* student newspaper. Those wishing to help can contribute to: Mando Montaña's *Scarlet & Black* Fund, attn.: Meg Jones Bair, 733 Broad St., Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112.



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## *Iowa View*



*An October view of North Campus residence halls from MacEachron Field. (Photo by Justin Hayworth)*