Notes from the Editor
by Susan Ferguson

Greetings from Grinnell! What a wonderful response we received to last year's newsletter from our sociology alumni. It has been great hearing from so many of you about the different paths you have taken since leaving Grinnell College. I have included many of these updates in this issue of the newsletter. Clearly, the sociology major and your Grinnell College education have impacted your lives in a variety of ways. Please continue to respond to my request for information by filling out the questionnaire at the end of this newsletter and sending it back to me. You can either mail the form to me at the department address below or send me an e-mail at fergusos@grinnell.edu. I will continue to publish updates as I receive them in future newsletters.

Many exciting things have happened in the Sociology Department this past year. Kesho Scott returned from her Fulbright Fellowship year in Ethiopia, Kent McClelland returned from his inaugural semester in the Grinnell-in-London spring program (see page 8) and the department hired Miliann Kang, a recent Ph.D. from New York University (see page 8). In August, Susan Ferguson accompanied five sociology majors to the annual conference of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Chicago, where the students reported on their summer research from their Mentored Advanced Projects (see photo on page 11). The Sociology Department also hosted the Fourth Annual Social Science Research Conference in February, and we had 19 social science students present summaries of their independent research in a professional format. Please check out some of the fascinating research topics students are currently interested in on page 11. Moreover, one of our sociology majors, Julie Dona, who graduated in the December '02 class, recently received a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the University of Mumbai in Bombay, India. Julie will be studying urban migration and how migrants' identities and social networks are changed as they migrate from rural areas to the urban metropolis of Bombay. Her story and that of other current sociology majors can be found on pages 12 and 13. And, as I mentioned above, we heard from many sociology alumni after sending out the first newsletter last May. Their stories begin on page 14.

Also this past year, two very valuable projects were begun to help the Sociology Department better know itself and to help sociology majors finance their educations. The first project involves researching the history of the Sociology Department at Grinnell College. Several of you had asked me what had happened to Professor Burma or other faculty you knew during your time at Grinnell. Those requests and my love of history have led me to try and document better the origins and development of the Sociology Department here at Grinnell College. I have undertaken this project in collaboration with a history major, Katie Mears '03, who spent last fall semester digging in the College Archives uncovering data on the Sociology Department. The evidence is actually pretty sketchy, but we have found some interesting tidbits, including information on one of the earliest instructors who taught sociology courses at Grinnell, Laetitia Moon Conard (see article beginning on page 3). What is missing from the archival data is the anecdotal evidence that many of you have in your memories about sociology teachers and courses you had while at Grinnell. Please write those stories up and send them to me, and I will include them in the history.

The second project involves setting up two scholarship funds for sociology majors. The first scholarship is the Sociology Book Scholarship that we began to fund this past year due in part to generous donations from many of you. Thank you! The focus of this scholarship is to provide a small monetary award to an individual student that they can use toward purchases in the College Bookstore. College textbook costs continue to rise every year, and the Department wants to help alleviate some of this burden. Recognizing an outstanding sociology major, this scholarship will be given annually to a sociology major based on the merit of their work in the major. The second scholarship was established this past year due to generous gifts from the estate of Judith L. McKim, a Grinnell alumna, and a retired sociology professor.

(Continued on page 2)
Sociologist Risman Comes to Campus
by Marissa Andrews

This past November, the Sociology Department, sociology majors, and the entire Grinnell College community received a special treat with the visit of renowned sociologist Dr. Barbara J. Risman. Risman is the Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology and the Alumni Distinguished Research Professor at North Carolina State University. Risman also was selected to be the Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Lecturer for the 2002 academic year. This SWS Feminist Lectureship was established to provide a forum for feminist scholarship on college campuses that are rural, isolated, or not located in or near major metropolitan centers; and each year, the prominent feminist sociologist who is selected delivers a lecture to two such campuses. College campuses and universities nationally compete to be selected as one of the two sites. Grinnell College successfully was awarded a site visit this past year, and Dr. Risman gave the Scholar's Convocation on November 21st. The lecture titled, "Gender Politics in Teen Dating: Sexual Activity After the Revolution," drew a large crowd to Herrick Chapel. In brief, Risman's research shows that girls are taking more control in teen relationships when it comes to sexual activity. She claims that, as a result, teenage sexual activity is decreasing and teenage pregnancy rates have gone down in the last couple of years. In addition to studying gender differences in sexual behavior, Risman also provided some data comparing youths of different racial-ethnic backgrounds. Unfortunately, Risman was only able to provide some preliminary results from the early stages of this research project studying the sexual behaviors of today's youth.

Many students in a variety of sociology classes read some of Risman's research before she arrived on campus. One example is Professor Ferguson's course on the Sociology of the Family, offered last fall semester. Students in this seminar read Dr. Risman's book *Gender Vertigo: American Families in Transition* (Yale University Press, 1998). This book explores the mind boggling, essentially dizzying effect that we must endure if we wish to truly dispel the gender barriers and stereotypes in U.S. society. Gender is all around us, and Risman claims that if we know how to look for it, we can resist the perils of the engendering process that tries to capture us from the cradle to the grave. The students in the seminar enjoyed reading this text and spent much time debating the merits of Risman's thesis and her suggestions for social change. During Risman's visit, the class also was able to meet with Risman and ask her questions about her work.

Notes from the Editor
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at the University of Iowa, Dr. Lyle W. Shannon. Dr. Shannon wanted to endow a scholarship in the memory of McKim, who graduated in 1958. Judith McKim actually was not a sociology major during her time at Grinnell, but instead was an English-Journalism major. However, she spent 35 years working for Dr. Shannon doing sociology research at the University of Iowa. Each year the Judith Louise McKim Scholarship in Sociology will be awarded to a sociology junior or senior who has demonstrated excellence in course work generally at Grinnell College and in sociology in particular; has financial need; has demonstrated a commitment to the sociological perspective and to social justice; and has demonstrated a capacity for leadership. Judith McKim's story is on page 6 of the newsletter.

If you would like to contribute to either scholarship fund, please send a check to the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at Grinnell College and indicate in a letter that you want the funds designated to go to the Sociology Department or to a specific sociology scholarship.

Finally, one of the saddest events for the department this year is the upcoming retirement of Sylvia Thorson-Smith (see page 7). For over 14 years, Sylvia has taught courses in Gender and Women's Studies, Religious Studies, and Sociology at Grinnell College. In addition to being one of the most popular teachers on campus, Sylvia has ensured that hundreds of students have left Grinnell with a positive and healthy understanding of human sexuality. The Sociology Department will miss Sylvia's wise counsel, her great insights into sexuality, and her incredibly decadent chocolate desserts! We wish both Sylvia and her husband Mike well, as they begin their new lives in Arizona later this year.
Early Sociologist at Grinnell Was a Radical Socialist

by Susan Ferguson and Katie Mears

When did the Sociology Department begin at Grinnell College? Who taught the first classes in sociology? The first sociology courses were taught in the Fall, 1913 when the Economics Department began to offer courses in sociology. By 1919, the Economics Department offered a sociology minor which included the following courses: Outlines of Sociology, Social Development of England and the United States, Problems of Social Work, Charities and Correction, Rural Sociology, Labor Problems, Statistics, Social Reform, Social Origins and Evolution, Social Forces and some Applied Christianity courses. The impetus for this curricular change in economics is unclear, but we do know that the first courses in sociology were often taught by women, including one intriguing woman, Laetitia Moon Conard. In the Fall, 1935, sociology became a major separate from the Economics Department. The College hired one professor, William Boorman, to lead the new department, but many of the courses were still taught by Dr. Conard, who had the status as a "special lecturer" and taught Social Control and Social Origins. At this time the major required the following courses: Introduction to Sociology, Personality and Social Adjustment, Community Organization, Utilization of Leisure Time, Social Origins, Social Control, Urban and Rural Sociology, The Family, Delinquency and Crime, and Contemporary Sociological Theory.

Who was Laetitia Conard? Who was this woman who began teaching sociology courses when she was nearly 60 years old even though her academic training was in comparative religions? Who was this woman, raised as a Quaker, who later ran for Iowa governor on the Socialist Party ticket in 1932, the only woman on the ballot? Conard clearly was a unique woman for her time not only because of her advanced education and her political beliefs, but because she came to embrace a new academic discipline late in her life, sociology, and she worked to ensure that a sociology major and department were established at Grinnell College. Conard also stood out at a particular moment in the College's history, when most faculty and trustees had turned away from Grinnell's social gospel progressive past. As Professor Emeritus of History Al Jones recently said in an interview, Conard was that time period's only "real radical faculty member."

Thus, Conard may not have been hired to be the first professor of Grinnell's Sociology Department, but she was the first sociologist publicly committed to social justice to teach here.

Elizabeth Laetitia Moon (Conard) was born on May 9, 1871 in Fallsington, Pennsylvania, five miles west of Trenton, N.J., to devoutly Quaker parents. She grew up in an isolated environment in which education was valued highly, even for women, and as a teenager, she attended an all-girls boarding school outside Philadelphia, the Westtown Friends Boarding School. She then attended Smith College, earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree. Those who met Conard at Smith knew her as a very "sweet, demure" young woman, one who came to college in a Quaker bonnet and used the Quaker "thee" and "thou" in her speech.

Immediately after graduating from Smith with her master's degree in 1897, Conard left for Paris to study at the Sorbonne. During her year there, she began work on a dissertation in comparative religions from the University of Chicago that examined the ideas of God and a future life among the Algonquians. After returning to Chicago, she finished the doctoral program in 1899, one of only 25 students or so that received their doctoral degrees from the school that year. The Ph.D. requirements included extensive research and the candidate had to speak French, German, and English. It is impossible to find out what exactly Conard did while living in Chicago, but at the turn of the century, the city was at the forefront of progressive social reform. Chicago's universities relied heavily on the social programs based in the city, such as its settlement houses, for their curricular work, especially in "women's" fields, like social work. Moreover, the University of Chicago was also the home of the Chicago School, the predominate sociology program of the time that emphasized ethnographic field work studying the lives of immigrants and the poor in their own environments. Based on her later work, it appears that Conard must have been influenced by these social forces, and she possibly met many of the women leading these progressive social movements in Chicago and the clientele that they served.

After her graduation, Conard moved back to Philadelphia where she had attended high school. In April 1900, she married Henry S. Conard, a graduate student in botany at the University of Pennsylvania. Henry, a studious young man three years her junior, was in the midst of a decade long study of water lilies. His family also were Quakers from Philadelphia, and it seems likely that the couple met there. The Conards lived in Philadelphia for almost five years remaining childless and

(Continued on page 4)
Early Sociologist at Grinnell (continued from page 3)

working on their own projects: Henry worked on another book about water lilies, and Laetitia worked on social projects with the Charity Organization Society and the Association of College Alumnae.

The graduate education that Laetitia Conard attained placed her in a very unique position for a woman at the turn of the century. Only 3.5 percent of U.S. women graduated from high school in 1890, let alone earned college or post-graduate degrees. Because so few women had received graduate degrees when Conard was going through school, the men running the institutions did not yet know that one result of higher education for women would be delayed marriage and childbearing. This demographic shift conflicted with the Social Darwinistic notions that elite women needed to reproduce in order to perpetuate the "better class," so the delayed and limited reproduction of these highly educated women became worrisome to the establishment. Conard, in many ways, was doing exactly what these men feared. She waited to marry until she was nearly 30 years old, and it was not until four years after her marriage that she had her first child. As more women in her generation delayed beginning families, institutions soon began to impede women's higher education in the early part of the 20th century, channeling women into certain "acceptable" fields and encouraging most middle and upper class women to stay home and care for their children.

In contrast, Conard did not fully give up her working role after marriage and children. Her first child, Elizabeth Moon was born in 1904, and Conard continued to teach. She was a correspondence professor for the University of Chicago in comparative religions through the 1905-1906 school year when Elizabeth was an infant and Conard was pregnant with her second child. The daughter born in 1906 only survived a matter of days, but the incident illustrates Conard's tenacious desire to continue working despite her growing familial responsibilities. Moreover, Henry often mentions in his personal correspondence that Laetitia helped him greatly with his botanical research. On one occasion he writes: "We went west in the summer of 1902: three days in New Mexico, part of a day in Los Angeles and part among the big S. sempervirens at Santa Cruz, and three weeks on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington, collecting plants eagerly." 14

The family moved to Iowa in 1906 when Henry began teaching botany at Grinnell College, and in 1909, the family settled into a big brown house on Elm Street just a few blocks east of the new women's dorms. The Conard family had domestic help in the form of two young women students who, in exchange for room and board, assisted Laetitia with household chores. In the meantime, Laetitia and Henry continued to have children: Rebecca Shoemaker in 1910 and Alfred Fletcher in 1911.

During the children's toddler years, Conard appears to have primarily stayed at home to care for them, limiting some of her involvement in community activities. However, in the early 1920s, her activity in the community increased rapidly, concentrated in three broad areas: religion, politics, and poverty relief. Her religious work took the form of both helping to found the First Friends Church in Grinnell as well as teaching Sunday School at Uncle Sam's Club, a children's club in the poorer part of town. Politically, Conard was most involved during this period with the League of Women Voters, forming the club not once, but twice after it lapsed when the family left for a year on sabbatical. Both of these first two areas of work overlapped highly with the third: poverty relief. Conard was a board member of the Grinnell Social Services committee throughout the 20s and 30s, and she and Henry donated a significant portion of their earnings to the group, giving the first or second highest individual donation for many years in the late 1920s. It was for this community work that she was eulogized as having "personal loyalty to the inner light [of God... ] matched only by a vivid social consciousness, an ever ready eagerness to spend herself in the service of the poor and needy." 15 It was said that she knew what every poor person on the south side of town ate for breakfast, if they ate anything at all. She was deeply involved in the lives of the poor, to the point that her daughter Rebecca "felt put upon" by the long walks across town to the Uncle Sam's Club where her mother ministered to the town's poorest children. 16

In 1924, Laetitia Conard was 53 years old, married to a Grinnell College botany professor, with three teenaged children. Conard had spent the previous 20 years taking care of her family and helping her husband establish and maintain a very successful and travel-filled academic career. She also worked for various local community organizations toward social change. In addition, Conard was committed to political change. At the height of her political activity during the 1920s, she could be found all over the Iowa countryside relentlessly campaigning for the Progressive Party candidate Robert La Follette - - - a radical Wisconsin senator whose nomination for president was supported by the AFL and the American Socialist Party. Fellow Grinnell resident Ina Payne said that Conard "... was then driving a T-model Ford, somewhat uncertainly at times her friends thought, going all over the country side tacking up posters for La Follette for President and making speeches for him in school houses and meeting places 'round about. She was then, no doubt, at the height of her activity, and they were indeed stirring times for one of her mental outlook." 17

By the late 1920s, Conard entered a new phase of her life. Her daughter, Elizabeth graduated from Grinnell College in 1925, with Rebecca and Alfred following soon after. Since her children were grown and her husband was preoccupied with his own career, Conard decided to return to college herself. Despite already having two post-graduate
degrees, including a master's degree from Smith College and a doctorate in comparative religions from the University of Chicago, Conard went to Columbia University in 1925-26 for graduate work in economics and sociology. Upon her return to Grinnell, Conard began her work as a member of the college faculty, first teaching in the Department of Economics, then as a Lecturer in Sociology, teaching Introduction to Sociology, Social Origins, and Social Control. It is unclear why precisely she switched her academic focus from comparative religions to economics and sociology, but by the early 1930s, she was a member of various national sociological associations, including the American Sociological Society and the National Council of Family Relations, indicating her commitment to the field of sociology. Conard also was a life long advocate of the poor, and she was a member of the Iowa Association for Public Welfare. By now Conard was in her sixties, but her energy toward sociology continued unabated during the 1930s with Conard publishing two articles in top sociological journals related to her research on the effects of depression on family life and on people from different social classes.

In the documents surrounding her life, there is very little evidence of Conard's political beliefs until the 1920s when she campaigned for La Follette on the Progressive ticket. By the 1930s, however, it is very clear that she is a socialist. She ran for governor on the Socialist Party ticket in 1932 — the only woman on the ballot. In a speech she gave at the Workers Cooperative College in December, 1932, Conard argues that war and unemployment are inevitable under the capitalist system. The Scarlet & Black interviewed Conard in January, 1933 and asked her what drew her to socialism. Conard answered it was her welfare work, the war, and women's suffrage. Conard also traveled extensively in Russia during the early 1930s, and she wrote an article upon her return describing her admiration of the new nation. One friend described her beliefs as her "isms": internationalism, pacifism, socialism, humanitarianism. Though these beliefs impelled Conard to work hard in the community, they must have driven many townspeople away who were fearful of her and of one of her other "isms," her radicalism. This apparent discomfort with the radical in their midst seems to have led to a lack of reporting regarding Conard's socialist political career; neither Grinnell newspaper at the time covered her run for the governorship, and the campus newspaper only covered it after the fact.

Conard's radical political beliefs also affected her teaching. A student from one of Conard's sociology classes recalled: "We were to do some field work. And I remember interviewing a man who belonged to the railroad union. And I was given a home to visit down in the south part of Grinnell and I was appalled when I walked in. There was absolutely no furniture except a bed, the kids were playing on the floor with lumps of coal, and I was so naïve that I asked the woman if she went to PTA meetings at Davis school." This student credits her experiences in Conard's class as opening her eyes to the poverty present in rural Iowa.

Conard continued to teach sociology courses for 15 years at Grinnell College, retiring as a Lecturer in Sociology in 1941 at the age of 70 years old. During those 15 years, Conard was considered to be the faculty radical, attempting to expose her students to poverty and other types of social inequality in the local community. Even though rigid gender roles had kept her out of professional academia until she was nearly 60 years old, Conard continued to work toward social and political change in the local community and in the state of Iowa during her adult life. Her commitment to social change also led her to return to academia late in life to help start a Sociology Department at Grinnell College. Gender inequality was still a barrier, however, because although Conard had a doctoral degree in comparative religions and graduate training in both sociology and economics, the College never hired her as a professor. Instead, Conard worked under a special status as a lecturer. Even more remarkably, during her 15 years on the college faculty, Conard was never paid a regular salary by the College! In the campus newspaper article announcing her retirement, the Scarlet & Black reports, "...[Conard] voluntarily contributed her services to the equivalent of a half-time teacher, and has added an incisive, critical mind and a mature experience to the faculty in her fields of interest." In addition to teaching at the College, Conard remained active in public life and social welfare work. A few years after retiring from teaching, Laetitia and Henry moved to Florida in 1944. Laetitia Conard died on November 29, 1946, at 75 years of age, and she is buried at Westfield Cemetery, just south of Grinnell.

Endnotes
1 Interview of Al Jones by second author, Katie Mears on March 13, 2003.
2 One of Payne's friends from Vermont told her this, according to the same document, Grinnell College Archives.
4 Letter from Henry S. Conard to a colleague, Mr. McDough, dated November 8, 1954.
5 Unsigned obituary from the Grinnell College Archives, titled Laetitia Moon Conard May 9, 1871 - November 29, 1946. p. 3.
6 Unabridged copy of the Grinnell Herald Register article from the "Old Grinnell Series" about the Uncle Sam's Club. May 8, 1995, from the Grinnell Historical Museum.
7 "To the League of Women Voters" by Ina Payne. An unlabeled text found in the Grinnell College Archives that appears to be a speech given at Laetitia's memorial service.
9 Laura Wicman as interviewed by Lois Meacham, February 26, 1926. University of Iowa Women's Oral History Project, p. 13, side one.
10 From the Scarlet & Black, "Mrs. Conard Will Retire From Faculty," March 26, 1941.
In Memoriam, Judith Louise McKim
by Susan Ferguson and Lyle Shannon

The Judith Louise McKim Scholarship in Sociology honors a Grinnell alumna who was not a sociology major, but instead, ended up working as a sociologist for most of her professional life.

How did this turn of events occur? Judith McKim was born on September 1, 1936 in Waterloo, Iowa, the daughter of Dr. Francis and Bess McKim. She was educated in the public schools of Waterloo before beginning her college education at Grinnell College in 1953. McKim majored in English-Journalism at Grinnell, but like many journalism students, she also had taken courses in sociology, including some classes with Professor John Burna. McKim said she bought every book that a professor mentioned and every record in music appreciation. McKim also said on many occasions that her years at Grinnell were probably some of the happiest in her life.

After graduating from Grinnell College in 1958, McKim worked in the personnel department of Texas Instruments in Dallas before moving back to Iowa City in 1963. At the University of Iowa, McKim began work in a secretarial position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, next becoming an administrative assistant to the chair of the department. Beginning in 1967, she worked on a project funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity which involved the development of "A Bilingual Community Self-Survey System." By 1970, McKim had edited numerous papers for publication and reports to government agencies on projects which they had funded — on juvenile delinquency and on the economic absorption and cultural integration of immigrant workers in Madison and Racine, Wisconsin.

In 1970, when the Iowa Urban Community Research Center was recreated as an interdisciplinary research and teaching center, McKim became a Senior Social Science Researcher and had a lengthy career supervising graduate and undergraduate students who were working on large projects funded by such agencies as the National Institutes of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, and various Department of Justice groups. At the Center, McKim became even more focused on research in Racine, Wisconsin, and she was very active in developing research proposals, doing analyses of the data, and writing papers on the findings. The research focused on the adjustment problems of immigrants and on the relationship between juvenile delinquency and adult crime. This latter research project was sponsored by the Department of Justice to investigate the longitudinal factors of crime by studying birth cohorts over time.

At the Iowa Urban Community Research Center, McKim worked closely with the Director, Dr. Lyle W. Shannon, for over 20 years. Shannon credits McKim with basically running the Center while he was director so he could concentrate on teaching and writing up their findings. Shannon says, "[McKim was] a very bright person who not only was a research coordinator, but one who was of great assistance in writing very lengthy reports, editing them, and in general, making sure that everyone was doing what they should be doing. She also was very helpful to graduate students and new Ph.D.'s in completing their own papers and reports."


The Judith Louise McKim Scholarship in Sociology was established this past year due to a generous gift from the estate of Judith L. McKim, a Grinnell alumna, and an additional gift from a retired sociology professor at the University of Iowa, Dr. Lyle W. Shannon. Professor Shannon wanted to endow a scholarship in the memory of McKim, who graduated in 1958. Judith McKim actually was not a sociology major during her time at Grinnell, but instead was an English-Journalism major. However, she spent 35 years working for Professor Shannon doing sociology research at the University of Iowa. Thank you Judith and Professor Shannon for your generous gifts to the department. Each year the Judith Louise McKim Scholarship in Sociology will be awarded to a sociology junior or senior who has demonstrated excellence in course work generally at Grinnell College and in sociology in particular; has financial need; has demonstrated a commitment to the sociological perspective and to social justice; and has demonstrated a capacity for leadership.
Sylvia Thorson-Smith Retires

by Alison Williams

After fifteen years of being a teacher and a friend to countless Grinnell College students, faculty, and staff, Professor Sylvia Thorson-Smith is retiring from the Grinnell community and moving to Tucson, Arizona. Sylvia and her husband, Mike Smith, moved to Grinnell in 1986 from Tucson where Mike's two children and one grandchild live. "We came [to Iowa] for the weather," she jokes. "Now it's the other way around!" Sylvia says the pull to Tucson is very great. Between the weather, Mike's family, and a very close network of friends, they have hardly a doubt in their minds that Tucson is where they should be.

That is to say however, leaving Grinnell will not be easy for either of them. Sylvia says that leaving the Grinnell students is the hardest thing to do. Just a few weeks ago she was looking through her old grade books and remembering all her students from the Sociology, Religious Studies, and Gender and Women's Studies courses she has taught since 1988. Sylvia remembers the immense history of good times and amazing people she has been fortunate to work with. Every year she is delighted by the eclectic group of students in her classes. Sylvia feels lucky she has had the chance to be an interdisciplinary teacher and work within several different departments.

Teaching at Grinnell has been a gift, but Sylvia and Mike are ready for the move. When asked about her plans after she retires from Grinnell and moves to Tucson, Sylvia doesn't really know. As of right now Sylvia and Mike have no jobs or a house lined up in Tucson, but they are more excited than worried. Sylvia says she feels "like a graduate without a job!" Currently she is filled with excitement about her retirement and the move and, in the manner of Scarlet O'Hara, she plans on "worrying about those things tomorrow." Sylvia is retiring, but she's "not ready for the home" just yet. She thinks she and Mike might live in a friend's vacant condo while they look for a house; then Sylvia may look for teaching opportunities, do some workshops, write, and get involved with Planned Parenthood, with which both she and Mike have previous ties. Mike - who will give his last sermon as minister of First Presbyterian Church on November 9th of this year - hopes to do some part-time or short-term work with a church in Arizona. Sylvia is grateful she still has a few months in Grinnell before moving to celebrate the relationships she has developed here. She says it will be very difficult to leave Grinnell, but she feels like she and Mike made the right decision and they will be ready when the time comes.

One thing Sylvia will always remember about the Grinnell College students is their rich diversity of intellect, passion, interests, creativity and quirks. She says the students have been most enriching to her experience here and hopes that Grinnell will continue attracting students passionate about social justice and world involvement. Grinnell students must never stop being on the cutting edge, never stop taking risks, and never stop questioning authority. Sylvia counts on Grinnell students to take a stand when the rest of the world conforms, and she is delighted by students' creative imaginations and their ability to "think outside the box." Sylvia is constantly amazed by her students and feels fortunate to have worked with such a great community of learners.

Sylvia is currently excited about her upcoming book that will be published this summer. It is a reflection on sexuality issues in the context of a controversial Presbyterian report on sexuality she helped to write in 1991. This new collection, co-edited by Sylvia and Marvin Ellison, features articles on sexual ethics by feminist, womanist, and queer theologians and is entitled, Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love. It will be published by Pilgrim Press.

Sylvia will miss teaching Women in Jewish and Christian Traditions; Human Sexuality in the U.S.; Gender, Sex, and Power; Jesus; The Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies; and Death and Dying. However, she is excited to go to Tucson and expects lots of Grinnell visitors!

A reception for Sylvia's retirement will be held Friday, May 9th at 4:15 p.m. in the Forum South Lounge on campus. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Chris Hunter, Chair of the Sociology Department at [hunter@grinnell.edu] or write to Chris Hunter, Chair; Department of Sociology; Grinnell College; Grinnell, IA, 50112. 
Sociology Department Hires Miliann Kang

by Marissa Andrews

Miliann Kang is the new kid in town. She joined the Grinnell community as the latest addition to our Sociology Department this past fall. Some might have expected her to come down with a case of little town blues as Professor Kang was born in New York City and grew up in St. Louis. However, she says that Grinnellians have made her “more grounded and also more hopeful of social change.” While Professor Kang has so far been impressed with Grinnell College and its students, we too are impressed with her. Professor Kang comes from a strong educational background as a graduate of Radcliffe College at Harvard University, and she later received her Ph.D. in sociology from New York University in 2001. Throughout her studies she has published various articles. In addition, she was the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the NYU Dean’s Summer Fellowship for Preliminary Ph.D. Research in 1996. Currently Professor Kang’s main research interests are Asian American women and feminism, and also emotional labor and sociology of the body in beauty service interactions. But as she likes to say, enough of academics already!!

Professor Kang has certainly done well at Grinnell College with her academic qualifications. However, after only one and a half semesters here at Grinnell, she also has demonstrated her compassionate attitude toward teaching and toward her students. She not only encourages her students to stimulate their minds with the wonderful world of sociology, but she tries to stress the importance of incorporating the mind, body, and soul in the learning process. Her motto comes from the great spiritual leader Gandhi who said, “be the change you want to see in the world.” She truly follows her motto in her life, as her teaching and passion for sociology comes from the embracement of her own background. She says, “I hope to share the ways I have attempted to integrate academic study, community work, and my own emotional and spiritual development.” In addition, Professor Kang hopes to share her perspective as a woman of color and to use her experiences to enrich and broaden the perspectives of Grinnellians of all colors and backgrounds. She will hopefully find this to be an easy task as Professor Kang comes from an American family. Her parents emigrated from Korea, her husband is Vietnamese American, and they have a beautiful daughter named Sangha. While Professor Kang can use her heritage as an inspiration for her career, she says that her family helps her to balance her life and to remember that there are sometimes more important things than publications and journal articles. She certainly has her work cut out for her.

Grinnell-in-London Internship Program

by Kent McClelland

Katherine and I spent the Spring semester of 2001-2002 in London as resident faculty for the first semester of the new Grinnell-in-London Spring program. The GILS program joins the long-standing Grinnell-in-London Fall program and the new Grinnell-in-Washington program in offering an off-campus experience devised and directed by Grinnell faculty.

Like the College’s other two off-campus programs, GILS provides students with the opportunity to do an internship in addition to their academic studies. Unlike the GIL Fall program, in which only a small number of Parliamentary internships are available, the new Spring program gives every participating student the opportunity to do an internship in London, with possible placements at a wide variety of organizations and businesses.

In the Spring 2002 semester, ten students participated in our new program, doing their internships with organizations as diverse as the National Health Service, CNBC-Europe, MindShare Advertising, Moneywise Magazine, and the Church of England. The internships also included a variety of other placements: a biomedical research assistant at a hospital, a teaching assistant in a private primary school, a public relations assistant at a fringe theatre, and even an assistant for a unique start-up business—an upscale nightclub just opening last spring in Central London!

The GILS students began their internships in late March, after first completing an intensive eight weeks of coursework. The students took courses in modern Irish literature, the history of London, and an introduction to British culture, in addition to the sociology course that I offered: a survey of health education, and welfare systems in modern Britain. Donna Vinter, the Resident Director of the Grinnell-in-London programs, and Lisa Bowers Isaacson, a longtime member of the GIL teaching staff, were the other professors offering courses.

In connection with the Irish literature course, we all traveled to Ireland for a five-day field trip, with a day in the fascinating historic city of Derry in Northern Ireland, a tour of the rugged picturesque Inishowen Peninsula in Galway, a day trip to the beautiful Wicklow Mountains, and two days spent seeing the sights and checking out the pubs in Dublin.

(Continued on page 9)
London is an exciting place to live and work, full of theatres, museums, ancient monuments, open-air markets, sidewalk cafés, expansive parks, double-decker buses, canal boats, clubs and pubs, lots of stores, lots of traffic, lots of different kinds of people living in different kinds of neighborhoods, magnificent architecture old and new, and the Thames River winding through it all. A short train ride can take you to the green English countryside, with picture-book villages and lushly blooming country gardens, and, in almost any direction you go, you'll quickly find yourself at the seaside. Though it does rain in London, we saw a lot of the sun last spring, and the region around London is the least rainy spot in the British Isles.

As you must have gathered, we had a great time in London. I'm only sorry not to be going back for next spring's program. Paul Tjossem of the Physics Department is the Grinnell resident faculty member this spring, and Bob Grey from Political Science is scheduled to lead the GILS group going in Spring 2004.

**Recent Books by Sociology Faculty**

**CALLED OUT WITH:**
**STORIES OF SOLIDARITY**
**in Support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons**

Eds. Sylvia Thorson-Smith, et al.

This book is a collection of 25 stories of heterosexual allies who have been vocal advocates for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in religious institutions. These stories reflect activism within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as well as commonalities in the experience of individuals "coming to awareness" of heterosexual privilege and working for sexual justice in their religious institutions. This book is a companion to CALLED OUT (eds. Jane Adams Spahr, et al., Gaithersburg, MD: Chi Rho Press, 1995), a collection of "coming out" stories by LGBT Presbyterians seeking to be members in full standing within their religious communities.

**BREAST CANCER**

_Society Shapes an Epidemic_

Edited by Anne S. Kasper and Susan J. Ferguson

Foreword by Dr. Susan Love

(New York: Palgrave Press, 2000)

_Breast Cancer: Society Shapes an Epidemic_ is a bold, new look at why breast cancer has become an unrivaled women's health issue. This is not a book about the latest treatments for the disease or the research to find a cure. Instead, this book is about how society has helped to create and shape the epidemic of breast cancer.
Dance As Social Protest

by Amanda Perry

Before the highly controversial second Gulf War began, Grinnell students Jill Peterson '03 and Barbi Rodriguez '03 decided to combine their interests and talents to let everyone know how they feel about the issues in a unique and innovative way— an anti-war dance. Jill, a sociology major, and Barbi, an English major, got the idea last semester and immediately began researching, brainstorming, and working with theater professor Chris Connelly to develop the project. They decided to create an independent study on protest dance theater to combine social movements, theater, and art as a reflection of what is going on in society today. According to Jill, the two have researched previous performance protests, but it seems as though past organizers have spent more time doing than writing, so sources are often hard to come by. That said, Jill and Barbi are having little trouble finding their own inspiration and resources. Both believe theater presents an under-utilized venue where you have immense power that can be used "to do something in your face" and engage the viewers in a meaningful way. Jill wants "a dance to mean something" and Barbi agrees adding the piece should be productive with "a direct message and clear motive."

To transform these ambitious plans into reality, Jill and Barbi held auditions early this semester open to anyone who wished to participate. According to Barbi, they were going to have the college and community involved, but after thirty or so college students auditioned, they decided to let all of them in and keep the performance group limited to the college. The group of performers is currently up to about thirty people, which is a lot more than Jill and Barbi had originally planned, but they are a "good mix of people" with interests and experiences ranging from theater to activism with overall little previous dance experience. The diverse backgrounds of the group are highlighted in individual and collaborative choreography by Jill and Barbi, integrated movements created by the dancers, as well as by singing and dialogue. As of the midway point of spring semester, Jill and Barbi are deep into rehearsals with one two-hour rehearsal everyone per week in addition to two smaller sessions with either Jill or Barbi. Although the overall performance is still in lots of pieces, Jill and Barbi are both excited to put it all together in the coming weeks.

Currently, Jill and Barbi have three performance dates and locations for their anti-war dance, although plans could potentially change depending on the political situation. The first performance on April 21st is scheduled as the only one in Grinnell and will be held in Roberts Theater. Two additional presentations are slated for the 23rd and 26th of April in Des Moines at the capital and in Iowa City by the pedestrian mall. Jill and Barbi hope politicians and other leaders, the press, and all of the people passing by will view, learn from, and appreciate their dance protest and its important messages. After completing this initial protest dance project, Jill and Barbi both hope to keep building from the experience and continue to combine many of their loves in the future.

Some Career Choices of Past Sociology Majors

by Allison Barrett

Are you looking for the perfect response to the perennial question of, "What are you going to be? A social worker?" Well, here's some information from the Career Development Office about what some past sociology majors are doing:

- Attorney
- Farmer
- Psychologist
- Teacher
- Consultant
- Editor
- Audiologist
- Union Organizer
- Real Estate Broker
- Personal Financial Advisor
- Elementary Principal
- Asst. Prof. of Education
- ESL Instructor

- Research Analyst at the Bureau of Health Information, State of Wisconsin
- Program Director at Lifeline
- Claims Team Leader at Progressive Insurance Company
- Director of WIC Program at the Minnesota Health Department
- Advertising Design and Support Manager at the Lexington Herald-Leader
- Assistant Director at Head Start
- General Support Coordinator at Centro Hispano

- Section Manager of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Vice President of Social Policy, Metropolitan Family Services
- And of course . . .
- Forensic Social Worker

Information found on the CDO website at www.grinnell.edu/offices/cdo/students/academicchoices/sociology/careers/
The Fourth Annual Social Science Conference

by Nancy Pellowski

This year the Fourth Annual Social Science Conference was held on February 28th from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. After trying to find an array of speakers, we had 17 presentations from juniors, seniors, and an alum. This year the focus was on expanding the conference to involve other social science majors; the presentations ranged in topics, including the death penalty, education, divorce, political campaigns, and religious studies. Though it seemed that only sociology professors cancelled their classes, many professors, including those from the education, political science, and religious studies departments, and President Osgood came to listen to a few presentations. Thanks to all of the presenters, professors, and students who attended, and to Professor Hunter for his guidance and help to make the conference a success!

Bridget Lavelle '04
Touch as a Gender-Norm Socialization Agent within the Family

Tina Lim '03
Chinese and Japanese Family Values and Attitudes Toward Divorce Among Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans

Kat Jones '03
Subverting the Skeleton: Comparing Personifications of Death in Art

Amy Shebeck '03
Within the Shell: The Religious Rhetoric of the Industrial Workers of the World 1909-1913

Ann Mogush '03
Fusing Social Theory and Social Reality: Maintaining Class Reproduction under "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families"

Helen Funston '04
Biological Implications of the Socialization of the Modern American Adolescent

Joshua Dorner '03
The Megacampaign: An Investigation of Recent Trends in the Behavior of U.S. Senate Candidates and Campaigns

Geoffrey Swenson '03
Beyond Free Speech Dogma: Realizing the First Amendment's Democratic Promise

Courtney Dolan '03
Making a Brighter Future for Girls at the Proshanti Shelter Home

Nathan Williams '03
The Curriculum as a Narrative of Initiation: Reflections from an Undergraduate

Eric Utech '03 and Jill Peterson '03
Mitigation and the Death Penalty

Jess Rochester '03
Goal Setting Practices in MICA's Peer-to-Peer Consulting Program and Family Development Programs

Ellen Gallagher '03
Crisis Intervention in Nonprofit Organizations: Does it Work? Part I

Jill Peterson '03
Crisis Intervention in Nonprofit Organizations: Does it Work? Part II

Laura Riddle-Ford '04
Live and Let Die: Experiences of Dying Children, their Parents, and their Siblings

Alison Williams '03
Gender Differences in Attributions in a Technology Classroom

Alison Brown '03 and M. Molly Backes '02
"Cool Math" Teaching Mathematics to Pre-Adolescent Females: Curriculum Development Implementation

From left to right: Tina Lim, Jess Rochester, Jill Peterson, Julie Dona, and Ellen Gallagher in Chicago at the ASA meetings, August, 2002.
News from Current Sociology Majors

by Allison Barrett

There are as many different reasons that students declare a major in sociology as there are interests to pursue. The current sociology majors certainly illustrate this, with a host of summer jobs, internships, and research projects that prove that a sociology major is not as worthless as your parents always claimed. Here’s what some sociology majors are doing now:

The Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC) members this year were (from left to right) Alison Williams, Amanda Perry, Marissa Andrews, and Allison Barrett, (not pictured) Julie Dona and Jessica Ward. The SEPC helped with faculty searches, faculty reviews, and this newsletter.

Julie Dona, December ’02 completed a summer Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) with Professor Ferguson utilizing her data on never married Asian American women. The title of her research was “Gendering Processes in Immigration: The Effects of Spousal Immigration Order and Women’s Labor on Chinese American and Japanese American Gender Roles.” Julie recently was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study at the University of Mumbai in Bombay, India. During her fellowship year, Julie wants to study cultural pluralism and change in India by examining how migrants’ identities and social networks are changed as they migrate from rural areas to the urban metropolis of Bombay.

As part of her off-campus study at the Chicago Arts Program, Tai Duncan ’04 had an internship this fall at the P.E.A.C.H. Club, an organization that uses art, writing, and performance to aid grade-school children who need help with social, academic, and/or behavior development. The children assigned to the program are predominately Spanish speakers who know English as their second language. Tai co-taught four art and writing classes per week with two other co-teachers.

For the second year in a row, Andrew Greenlee ’04 spent this past summer working as an intern for the Chicago Public Schools’ State Pre-Kindergarten Program. Much of his work involved contacting and working with parents of statistically “at-risk” children, helping them enroll their children in pre-kindergarten. While his experience was primarily administrative, some of his most amazing experiences from the summer came from talking and working with the parents who brought their children in for the child assessment portion of their application. Because of the nature of the program, Andrew had the opportunity to deal with families from diverse socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds—from families who made hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, to families who were homeless and trying to raise their children on the street.

Tawny Lane ’03 is excited about the possibility of getting a fellowship at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research for next year in Washington, D.C. The IWPR is a nonprofit organization focused on women’s issues that tries, through research, to educate policy makers and other women’s organizations about the effect of policies on women. They focus on a variety of issues including economic disparities, childcare access, and health care access. She hopes that this fellowship will provide her with some experience of what it is like to actually do research and to be involved in improving women’s lives.

Ever since Bridget Lavelle ’04 can remember, she has enjoyed mathematics. However, she realized early on that the world of mathematics is highly artificial and simplistic compared to the complex real world of people, their differences, their motivations, and their interactions. Hoping to get the best of both worlds, she has become a rarity: a double major in sociology and math. Bridget is excited to be designing a survey study that combines both her knowledge of statistics and sociology for a project inspired by her Sociology of the Body class. With graduation looming nearer, she plans to pursue both fields in graduate school.

Jill Peterson ’03 participated in a Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) with Professor Hunter where she evaluated Mid-Iowa Community Action Agency’s Peer-to-Peer crisis intervention program. By analyzing documents and conducting interviews, she determined the effectiveness of the program at making sustainable change in failing nonprofit organizations. Jill recommended that Peer-to-Peer workers use a more participatory structure in making organizational change, and to make follow-up a priority.

Emma Samuels ’04 will be working this summer as a swim instructor and swim coach at Stanford Campus Recreation Association or SCRA for short. Emma values this job for the opportunity to gain more experience in the educational field, working with children. She hopes to put her sociology degree to good use as an elementary school teacher, and she has realized that the lessons gained from teaching in the sunshine are endless. For example, she says, “When diving for rings, always blow bubbles.”

Last spring semester Joa Taylor ’03 completed an internship at the Planned Parenthood Federation of Spain administrative office in Madrid. She learned about Spain’s policies and attitudes regarding the reproductive health of Spanish citizens and its immigrant population. Joa also became interested in the plight of the Roma (Continued on page 13)
News from Current Sociology Majors - Taylor
(continued from page 12)

(“gypsy”) population in Europe and how racist attitudes affect their lives and has been inspired to learn more about them; this semester her research project in the Global Dimensions of Women’s Health seminar will focus on how racism has affected the health and well-being of Roma women in Europe.

Jancey Wickstrom ’03 has accepted a post-graduate position with Boys Hope Girls Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides family-like living and private school education to at-risk youth. She will be working as a residential counselor for nine teenage boys in a San Francisco home. Jancey is really excited to work with multicultural youth, with a NPO, and in a big city.

She hopes to take baking classes at the Culinary Institute in her free time!

Alison Williams ’03 is currently working on publishing her research over two summers entitled, “Student Attributions by Gender in a Technology Classroom.” This research was a Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) with Professor Voyles in education but is very sociological in nature. Alison will be graduating in May with a sociology major but will return to Grinnell next semester to work on getting her certification in elementary education. She will be student teaching in a third grade class at Davis Elementary in Grinnell. Alison will miss Grinnell College very much but will always remember the good times.

Research Projects of Current Sociology Majors
by Amanda Perry

As part of Professor Susan Ferguson’s spring 2002 research methods classes, all class members researched, developed, and wrote research proposals for a hypothetical grant proposal board for future research. From these initial proposals, five new senior sociology majors decided to actually carry out their proposed research this spring in an Advanced Research Methods class under the direction of Professor Chris Hunter.

Megan Beaman ’03, Marcos Davalos ’03, Kat Jones ’03, Amanda Perry ’03, and Jess Rochester ’03 are all currently hard at work on their diverse and fascinating projects and will hopefully present their findings to the campus and community at the end of the semester. Below are short summaries provided by each researcher regarding their project:

Megan:
I am conducting research that looks at rural white citizens’ attitudes regarding race and racism. Most studies on race and racism have been limited to urban areas, and the few that have focused on rural areas have only looked at the interactions and resistance that occur WHEN people of color reside in rural areas. My study looks at the attitudes and their development in cases of essential isolation from the racial Other.

I am interviewing rural Iowans from a cluster of small towns south of Des Moines. They are mostly working class parents and are part of a convenience/snowball sample. My projected sample size will be about 15-20 people. I also am following-up interviews with questionnaires.

Marcos:
My research evaluates the existing purpose and attitudes associated with the Moose Club by members and non-members of the Moose Club on the Grinnell College campus. “Moose” is an organization founded by students that allows students to participate in non-college sponsored drinking activities. This research will hopefully demonstrate that because of Grinnell’s rigorous academic schedule, seclusion from an urban area with many extra-curricular distractions, and lack of a Greek system, Grinnell College students create rituals like “Moose” to find an escape from the Grinnell College academic environment.

Kat:
My research is comparing male and female experiences with and preferences for video and computer games. I’m also looking to see if males and females play electronic games for different reasons, which could help explain why males tend to like certain types of games and females another. I’ve sent out a survey and am also conducting some short interviews.

Amanda:
For more than twelve years, Grinnell College has been running the Davis Buddies and Mentor Programs which pair college students with either elementary or middle school students in a mentor relationship. Despite the overwhelmingly positive feedback, neither program has ever been formally reviewed — a process that will be highly beneficial in assessing and improving the programs. Therefore, I am conducting a study to evaluate the Davis Buddies and Mentor Programs for current and past participants using both a questionnaire for mentee participants and interviews with key involved adults at all of Grinnell’s schools.

Jess:
I am researching any possible connections between non-stereotypical attitudes towards gender roles and a person’s involvement in the Community Supported Agriculture movement. I hope to add to the discussion on motivations behind involvement in CSAs by moving beyond looking at only gender as a determinant of involvement. My work also focuses on broader definitions of work as proposed by such writers as sociologist Arlie Hochschild.

This year 30 seniors are graduating with degrees in sociology.

Spring 2003
Rhoda Mallory Anderson '44


Other News: "When I was attending Grinnell I was very fortunate in my senior year to be able to do hands on social work home visits to families in Grinnell who were being assisted by the Red Cross. I had a major in sociology and minor in psychology, and in my senior year a new chaplain came to campus whose wife had a master's in social work and was an experienced field worker. She supervised those of us who were interested in home visits for the Red Cross. This was a unique opportunity for undergraduates because it was wartime and many young fathers had gone into the service and left wives with small children. At that time there were many poor people in Grinnell as there had been a manufacturing plant of some kind that had drawn in uneducated young workers, and by 1944, the plant closed leaving many of them out of work. We assisted the young wives in applying for their G.I. benefits and also with money provided by the Red Cross, which had a full-time office in Grinnell at that time.

It is a wonder I pursued a career as a social worker after one of my early home visits. It was winter with snow piled everywhere and, of course, there were no cars at Grinnell College in those days so I walked from the campus to this home across the tracks. The young woman had several small children and perhaps an outdoor toilet. At any rate, she had a 5-gallon can in the living room that all of the children used as a potty. The stench was so horrible I could hardly conduct the interview. I hurried down the street out of sight and bent over a snow bank and lost my lunch. Some first time experience!

However, I went on to do social work as a profession most of my life. My first job was with the Madison County Welfare Department in Winterset, Iowa where I went to work in the summer of 1944 after passing the state exam with the top score. No doubt due to the wonderful education I received at Grinnell College. Former College President Stevens was my advanced psychology professor due to the shortage of teachers during WWII.

I was married during the summer between my junior and senior year thinking my husband Marvin Anderson was due to be shipped overseas. Instead, that summer he was assigned to the Army Cadre of the ASTP & STAR units that were opened on campus. I was the first married student to graduate from Grinnell.

After my husband returned from WWII we lived in Iowa for about nine years while he taught in Rudd, Iowa, and we had two children. We came to Arizona in 1953, and I worked briefly for the Pinal County Welfare Department and then stayed home with my children for several years. In 1960 I started to work for the State of Arizona - first with the Civil Defense Department for six years and then for the Arizona State Mental Hospital for four years as a field social worker in Pinal County under the program to return mental patients to their home communities.

This was my dream job, as my early ambition had been to be a psychiatric social worker. During that time I helped to start a Mental Health Association in Pinal County and also a Mental Health Clinic. The balance of my career I worked for the Department of Economic Security as a child social worker.

Since my retirement I have been active in volunteer social work in our community of Coolidge, Arizona. It is a town of about 6,000 and is a cotton agricultural area. In our first years here cotton was still being primarily picked by hand and consequently, many migrant workers of all races were brought or came to the area. After machine cotton picking took over, there was little work for many of these uneducated and untrained people leaving a pool of poor unemployed. This has been a social problem for this community ever since. Many of these people and their children got an education thanks to a fine community college where many learned marketable skills, but there were many who had neither the motivation nor ability to become educated and so have been on welfare, etc. Thru my church (Episcopal) I have helped to start several programs to benefit these people. In my early days here I chaired a committee that established a Well Child Clinic --- the first in the area --- under the auspices of the Federated Woman's Club. We received a national award for a project much needed in our community (highest infant mortality rate in the U.S.) and also [obtained] cooperation from all the service clubs in town.

Well, I started out to fill out a form and got carried away. But you may find it interesting to know what one Grinnell sociology student did with her life. As you see, I am a born social worker—no typist."

Paul B. Leitch '72

Leitch, Paul D. '72. "I have been working full-time as an attorney doing mostly plaintiffs personal injury and employment litigation and other civil law. I have two large cases --- working with a woman attorney --- I am doing most of the work on a class action civil rights case representing 18 prisoners who were bitten by brown recluse spiders in a prison near Memphis. Last week I was barred by the prison administration from visiting prisoners. We are preparing a class action lawsuit
for the Western District of Tennessee along with an injunction. I also represent an HIV positive transgender identity male who was in the Memphis-Shelby county jail and blindfolded, gagged, handcuffed, had legs bound and restrained to a chair then beaten by four jailers to the extent that ribs were broken, then violently sexually assaulted with a nightstick. Yesterday, I had a wife of a man who died in prison telephone me. He was 48 and she believed that he had not been receiving the proper medical care and medication while in jail --- it was very sad.

I graduated in 1972 with double majors in sociology and psychology. While at Grinnell, I spent about two years doing a study using 7th graders in Grinnell, exposing them to three different assemblies presented by an M.D. It was titled “The Effects of Fear Arousing Communication on Attitudes Toward Cigarette Smoking and Health.” All were pre-tested with a general health questionnaire. One group heard a bloody presentation in first person with color slides of surgeries, lungs, etc. stating “this will happen to you . . .”. The second talk was non-threatening, a soft-sell, using only bar graphs to make the same points. The control group heard a talk on nutrition. The children were re-tested. During the fear arousing presentation the audience was very restless, noisy, and at times, almost wild.

I went to graduate school in sociology at Florida State, picking the location for its nice climate. I stayed two years and left with an M.S.

with the thought of returning after a year off. I spent one year in a grant as a Staff Development Officer for the Polk County, Iowa, Department of Social Services. I then worked in Jacksonville, Florida at the South East Corporate Office for Prudential administering health insurance products — disliked that job most of the time, but was a volunteer in the startup of a home for neglected and abused children where I made contact with the wife of a retired U.S. Navy officer who led a program where college instructors lived aboard U.S. Navy ships and traveled throughout the world. I worked on several ships and traveled extensively with class groups and others in seaports and in between semesters. I visited approximately 60 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. My next job was teaching sociology at Christian Brothers University, a small college in Memphis. As I was not making progress toward a Ph.D., I lost my job after two years. I attended law school instead of returning for a sociology degree. I have worked about 10 years in Human Resources Management and was Human Resources Generalist for Cummins Engine Company, and Illinois Tool Works where I was responsible for human resources and labor relations at two manufacturing plants. Most recently, I worked in the litigation department at Thomas and Betts Corporation. T&B downsized and let go of over 100 people in one day, so I am job hunting and working a few law cases on my own right now.”

Pete Parshall '58

Parshall, Pete '58. “I graduated in 1958, a truly pathetic sociology student. I earned all C's and one D in my senior year sociology courses, squeaked out a "C" on my comps, and was lowest among the graduating sociology majors save for one football player. I did, somehow, get a 90th percentile in the sociology section of the GREs and later published a joint paper with Tom Lasswell based on my senior project. (It's amazing what adding more jargon and footnotes will do. Being an associate journal editor also helps!)

After an abortive year in graduate school in psychology where my performance was even more lackluster than in sociology, I finally took note of the fact that I had earned all A's in my French courses at Grinnell. I switched to comparative literature, and received my M.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1966 and my Ph.D. in 1975 from Indiana University. Despite having a major in languages, I ended up teaching English my entire career. (Just as well, since my grasp of French grammar was as feeble as that of sociological theory!)

I taught for 39 years at the college level, retiring a year ago in June. Along the way, I moved partly into film studies, with a year of post-doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin in film, courtesy of the Lilly Endowment. I also taught American Film in Dresden, Germany, for six months as a Fulbright Scholar. Of my scant dozen publications, most are in film.

At a few moments in my career, my background in social sciences has come in handy. I taught for 34 years in a joint department of Humanities and Social Sciences at a small engineering school, with colleagues in economics, psychology, political science, and anthropology. Currently, as I try to write a book on Buster Keaton that never got completed during my teaching career, I find that bits of anthropology, ideas from Piaget, and snippets of Jungian psychology are creeping in at points. (Oh, the curse of a liberal education!)

I am thankful to the Sociology Department for sheltering me while I searched for my true vocation. (I haven't altogether abandoned hope of finding it some day.) But while my affection for Grinnell College remains steadfast, I have no real interest in things sociological— as Tom Lasswell and John Burton would attest.”

Adzaku, Vivian Hazel '68. Present Occupation: English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor at Tulane ESL Institute. Other News: I have been a reader for GMAT and TWE and am currently a reader for the Advanced Placement International English Language (APIEL).

Beckman, Alison '96. After living and working in Minneapolis for several years, Ally and her new husband, Ken, just moved to Guinea, West Africa. Ally is training professionals working with torture survivors in the refugee camps.

Benjamins, Mary '95. Present Occupation: Homemaker. "My daughter, Sonja Esther Benjamins-Carey, was born March 15, 2002, and I am enjoying being a stay-at-home-mom. Prior to that, I worked as a nanny for six months (during my pregnancy) and prior to that I had worked as a counselor and bookkeeper at the Philadelphia Women's Center, an abortion and gynecological clinic."

Bhoyo, Matthew '99. "I graduated in June 2002 from Harvard Law School with my J.D. I maintained ties to sociology during my time in law school; last year I was a Teaching Fellow in the Sociology Department of Harvard College for a course called "Media and the American Mind," exploring contemporary America through the lens of media. I have also done research for Professor David Wilkins over the past two years, examining the sociology of the legal profession and law firms in particular, with a focus on law firm demographics in the wake of globalization. I have also been heavily involved in the Jewish Law Students Association and the Harvard Students for Israel. More related to my practice, I am currently a Teaching Fellow in the Government Department of the College for "The Politics of Congress." In the fall 2002, I start work as a political law attorney in the D.C. office of Skadden, Arps."

Brock, Kelly '02. Present Occupation: Leading mountain bike tours for Banana Adventure Tours in Costa Rica.

Bui, Diem-My '97. Present Occupation: Completing Ph.D. in Communications at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. (See poem on page 17).

Campe, Molly '96. Married another Grinnell alum, Joe Zimsen '92 in August, 2002. Molly writes "Joe and I are both applying for a scholarship with Rotary International to study abroad for one year. I'm interested in studying community health in a developing country in Africa, such as Uganda, Kenya, or somewhere in that region that speaks English. Rotary International will pay for one year of study. My ideal plan would be to study for one year and then come back to Minnesota to study for my master's of public health. I specifically would like to focus on maternal and child health issues. I've found from working with immigrant families in my current job that learning about cross cultural health issues is a new passion for me. I can't wait to focus more in school on what I'm learning in my everyday life."

Ciao, April '02. "I'm now working for the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention in San Mateo, California as a counselor/advocate in their shelter. I'll be doing a combination of social services/case management/advocacy for the women at the shelter, and some counseling as well. I'm really excited about the job — I think that I will learn a lot and have a good time! The commute is kind of long but overall not too bad. Anyway, I volunteered for DVA/SAC in Marshalltown while I was at Grinnell, and I'm really excited to be able to do domestic violence work on a full-time basis."

Cottam, Jennifer '97. "I'm in Flint, Michigan, working as a juvenile probation officer for the county. I've been in this position for three years now, and I'm still enjoying it very much. I recently purchased my first home, which was a scary and exciting experience all at the same time. I wasn't able to make it to the reunion weekend because of a family wedding, but I'm hoping to visit Grinnell sometime soon."

Gershon, Lori De Lay '58. Present Occupation: Desktop Publisher and Communicator for CAPCO Health Group, an organization which provides a variety of healthcare services, particularly consultation and advocacy for patients with life-threatening conditions in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Ernie '56 is president of CAPCO; also, "I am a Jewish Chaplain for a nursing home and a supportive housing retirement home and spiritual leader of the Baycrest Terrace Reform (Jewish) Congregation (again in conjunction with Ernie); and part-time Hebrew teacher (this one is on my own)."

Other News: "Ernie ('56) and I were married (by Professor John Burma) in Herrick Chapel the day before I graduated in 1958 and are celebrating our 44th wedding anniversary. We have 3 sons and 3 daughters-in-law and 9 grandchildren — although our clients at Baycrest Terrace Retirement Home (average age lower 90s) outdo us on all of those scores — particularly great grandchildren."

Greene, Carol Boucher '69. Present Occupation: Program Coordinator — Admissions, Hospice, and Palliative Care of Louisville, Kentucky.

Hagstrom, David '57. "I so appreciate the way in which you are reaching out to alumni. As I think back over my life, I am so pleased that I was a (Continued on page 17)"
Ode to the White Boy Who Thought
He Could Stand Six Feet Tall Next to My Life

by Diem-My T. Bui

You reduced me to that poster of a naked Thai woman you made me feel like a sex toy. And I said nothing.

Now you stand in front of me Six feet tall to my five feet three informing me of my bad habit of not allowing you to discuss racial inequality because my anger gets in the way. So I must make this a pleasant experience for you.

I should back away when you get tired of the subject. Your side of the story MUST be heard. You say that your humor is not racist. You decided that for me.

My mother dragon has known you for some time since you invaded her children. Someday she will open her mouth and she will scorch your words because they sound like shit to me.

Notes: Apocalypse Now in the poem refers to a widely known nightclub in Vietnam that is something of a morbid show. The theme of the nightclub is the Vietnam War, and it attracts mostly foreigners, typically Americans or Europeans. The ceiling has murals of helicopters. The ceiling fans are its propellers. Globe lights stick out from the wall and are covered with fake blood dripping from the top. It is a place where you can find prostitutes. Even Asian American women who are just hanging out there will be mistaken for prostitutes.

The dragon refers to the Vietnamese heritage. A legend in Vietnam says that the Vietnamese are descended from dragons. Being Vietnamese is part of its identity and the dragons are its roots. Vietnam has a long history of being invaded or colonized, but the legend of the dragons has never been stolen or raped as its people have been.

An earlier draft of poem was published during Bui's senior year at Grinnell College in the Asian American underground magazine.
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Boston area. Ideally, I would like to work in a non-profit women’s organization (outside of the ideal, I see myself in some type of social organization). Doing what? I cannot say. I’m just beginning to navigate the many job categories, fields, positions, positions in categories, positions in fields. Ah, it is intense! I know that I have many skills to contribute. I know I can make an impact within an organization — at whatever level I am allowed. At this point, I am on a search for my first post-collegiate job and am very open to the possibilities. I just need to get my feet wet in this city’s non-profit structure.”

Hemmer, Mary Kay Earl ’70. Present Occupation: Proofreader for several court reporting firms. Other News: “After getting a sociology degree, several years later I got a degree in speech pathology/audiology and worked in that field. More importantly, I am one of Jehovah’s Witnesses and enjoy helping others study the Bible.”

Hetzel, Lisa ’00. “I’ve just passed the two-year mark here at the Census Bureau as a statistician, where I’m still working on analyzing and writing about aging data. I’ve actually been sticking around for the opportunity to co-teach a three-week workshop in September 2002 for international participants, focusing on gender statistics. The end product will be a short report that each of the participants produces on a gender-related demographic issue in his or her home country. It should be a very interesting and challenging experience. I’ve also enjoyed the opportunity to present at various conferences this past year. I’ve hit the Gerontological Society’s Chicago conference, the National Council on Aging’s Denver conference, and the Population Association’s Atlanta conference.”

“Exciting news! I’ve accepted a volunteer position with the Organization of American States to work from March 2nd through June 1st in El Salvador at their job training centers for adults with physical disabilities. Three other volunteers (all from South America) and I will be teaching classes on Microsoft Office programs and job preparation, as well as supporting the work of partner organizations in the area. In June, I plan to travel to Guatemala and meet up with friends living there, and to hopefully find longer-term volunteer work.”

Hickey, Ann ’98. Present Occupation: Completing Ph.D. in sociology at University of Kansas, Lawrence. “Life here in Kansas doesn’t change much! Just trying to make it through all of those hoops they make us jump through to get a Ph.D. . . . area exams! Yuck! I was fortunate enough to have my Tuskegee syphilis paper (the one with the ethnosexual slant on the experiment) accepted into a regular session at both the American Sociological Association and the ABS (Association of Black Sociologists), so I will at the Chicago meetings in August, 2002.”

MacAfee, James J. ’76. Present Occupation: Attorney in private practice in Salem, Oregon. Other News: Married to another sociology major from Grinnell: Susan Lefferts ’76.

Maier, Cindy ’70. Present Occupation: Teacher and Head of Math Department at the Odyssey School of 120 dyslexic students. I was one of the founding teachers of this fledgling 8-year-old school in Stevenson, Maryland. As of 6/10/02 other news: “Interspersed with my various jobs in education, I actually used my sociology training for 8 years doing medical research (interviewing, analyzing data, helping doctors write research protocols, editing journal submissions, doing literature searches, etc.) Grinnell’s liberal arts training prepares you for anything you set your mind to do!”

McCallon, Betsy ’99. “I’ve officially enrolled in the M.A. program in international sustainable development at Brandeis University. I’m really excited about the program, which includes an intense year in residence of classes and then a second year field placement.”

McInnes, Donald K. ’96. Present Occupation: Attorney in private practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other News: Active in law practice, playing tennis, Palestinian human rights. Married to Wellesley graduate. Jeannette is Director of Mental Health at a neighborhood service center in Boston. Two children, four grandchildren. Traveled to South Korea last year. Planning trip to Middle East this fall.

McNamee, Jennifer ’98. “I am still in Boston and still working for Reach Out and Read (www.reachoutandread.org). But, I am planning on making big changes in the coming months. I will be in Grinnell for reunion at the end of the month.”

Munoz, Rachel ’98. Is working on a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Newell, Helen F. Landes ’45. Present Occupation: Retired. Worked as a County Social Worker, a church secretary, Retirement Home Administrator, administrative assistant to a Rabbi and raised 4 kids! Other News: “I was interested to read about the variety of careers now open to sociology majors. Times have changed!”

Newman, Andrea ’89. Is living in Denver, Colorado.

Ruyffelaere, Dianne A. ’70. Present Occupation: Self-employed as a teacher in a play school in Berkeley, California. “So glad to see so many women in the [Sociology] Department. As I was

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graduating, my advisor (the then Dept. Chair) said "why go to grad school --- you'll be married having kids in a few years." I was glad that he was still on the faculty and was at the meeting where I was introduced as Associate Dean of Students a few years later."

Sale, Tamara Hancock '83. Present Occupation: Regional director for 5-county initiative providing community education and early intervention for psychosis. Other news: Married Ed Sale in 1999; have 6-year-old daughter, Katherine.

Sanders, Roberta Brown '45. Present Occupation: retired. "I was a sociology major in the class of 1945. John Buruma was head of the department at the time. In 1945, all women, regardless of education or ability entered the job market as typists. I joined the Leggett Drug Co. in 1946. At the time of my marriage in 1949, I had advanced to the position of Director of Training and Employment for the Midwest region (eleven states). I felt my education at Grinnell and specifically my major in sociology were very important in helping me to be successful in the business world.

Other News: Your book scholarship for sociology majors sounds like a very good idea."

Seacrest, Theodore C. '69. Present Occupation: President, Rock and Roll Heaven Inc. in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Staveteig, Sarah '98. Present Occupation: In a combined Sociology and Demography Ph.D. program at the University of California, Berkeley.

Steenhoek, Sacha '00. "I came out to California in June 2000, right after graduation, just to see what was out here. I got a job right away in a group home for teenage girls. It was pretty stressful, and I basically used it as a starting point while I looked for another job. In August I found my dream job, working at the International Institute of San Francisco, an organization working with immigrants and refugees in the Bay Area. I am an immigration caseworker in Redwood City, helping people understand their eligibility for U.S. residency and actually filling out the forms and working with the INS to gain it for them. I get to speak Spanish all day long since most of our clients are Mexican, and I recently became accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals as someone who can represent clients in front of the INS. This has been a great starting point for me, and I hope to continue on to law school in the next few years to work in immigration law, specifically in one area of it called the Violence Against Women Act, which allows some victims of domestic abuse to gain their residency.

In my free time I've been coaching some local high school teams—girls and boys volleyball and girls basketball. I like it out here in California, but I'm planning on coming home to the Midwest soon and going to the University of Minnesota law school."

Stein, Sandra '88. Received her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Stanford University in 1997. Most recently, Sandy was tenured in the Public Affairs Department at Baruch College where she teaches educational policy. She is now on a two-year leave to work for the city of New York in the role as Academic Dean of the new Leadership Academy of New York City working to train new principals for the NYC school system.

Versten, Elizabeth '87. Present Occupation: Associate Director, Polio Eradication Private Sector Initiative. However, my contract is ending in December 2002, so I'll be "available." Other News: Had a baby Feb '02 (Tobias Versten Straws).

Walinski, Maria Elizabeth '92. Got my master's degree—FINALLY!—on May 19, 2002. Master of Arts in Teaching from Drake University, Omaha. Public Schools has offered me a job for 2002-3! So I'll be employed again! Other News: "I was on campus for Alumni College and Reunion 2002 (as part of 1992's planning committee) and really enjoyed my time in G-town with other Grinnellians. I love the SOC newsletter! Keep it up!"

Walters, Stephanie '97. Present Occupation: Fourth year medical student. Will start residency in Family Practice in '03.

Wilson, Gretchen Lynn Borsche '94. Present Occupation: Homemaker. Other News: "We're moving to Africa! My husband has accepted an assignment with Chevron Texaco in Luanda, Angola. We will be relocating to Angola for three years beginning in January of 2003. I had recently begun work at Contra Costa County, Children and Family Services Bureau. After only two weeks of work, we learned of our pending move. As a result, I decided to resign the position in order to prepare for the move. Prior to leaving I will be traveling with my daughter to visit LOTS of relatives and trying to learn to speak Portuguese. What an opportunity! My husband and I are VERY excited. It's unclear whether I will be able to work while in Angola but I'm sure that I will find something valuable with which to occupy my self and my mind. One of my primary goals (and concerns) is to ascertain ways of parenting my daughter (now one year old) responsibly in a third world nation where she will be both a racial minority and socio-economically "at the top." In fact, in general, it's our goal to be responsible citizens in a country where WE are the racial minorities and socio-economically "at the top." Anyway, we feel very fortunate and we're looking forward to the experience! Hopefully, we will also have the opportunity to be part of some positive changes while we're there!"

Zhou, Min '01. Present Occupation: Completing Ph.D. in sociology at Ohio State University.
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