

She's with the band

Evelyne Lawson plays the clarinet at Symphonic Band practice Thursday night. photo by Leslie Boyadjian

by Aly Beery
Arts Editor

Every Tuesday and Thursday around 4 p.m., members of the Grinnell College Symphonic Band begin to trickle into Fine Arts 103 for rehearsal. Even though the music department hires a student to set-up and tear-down the chairs and music stands each day, five-foot-tall Evelyne Lawson consistently shuffles to the back of the room toward the extra music stands to retrieve another one.

The set-up crew assumes two musicians per stand for band members who play relatively small instruments such as the clarinet, which Lawson plays. Individual musicians are not considered when placing the sixty chairs and forty stands. This presents a problem for Lawson: she stands about a foot shorter than Dan Nemchonok '06, her intended stand partner. Lawson is too short to share.

Eighty-two year-old Lawson has been playing the clarinet since 1934.

She has been a member of the Grinnell Community Band for eight years and the Grinnell College Symphonic Band for four. Lawson also plays for the Methodist Church bell choir and chancel choir. Although music has remained Lawson's steady companion for almost 70 years, the Community Band was the first performance setting Lawson had been a part of since college.

The Symphonic Band challenges her; Lawson claims that compared to high school when she polished challenging solos, she can't play anything anymore. But she feels welcomed by the director, Mark Dorr, and other musicians in the band, especially those in her section. Besides, "I like to keep up with the college kids," she said, "I want to know what's up."

When she was a freshman in high school, a man named Mr. Shedden formed a band for teenagers in Lawson's hometown, Gypsum, Kan. "Everyone wanted their child in the band," Lawson said. Lawson thrived, practicing in her spare time and frequently performing solos. Her high school band progressed as well, and even attended the National Music Contest in Lawrence, Kan.

Lawson continued to play her clarinet in college, but after only two years, she left her school in Emporia, Kan., and began teaching in a one-room country school. World War II put a tight grip on her father's spending; college was simply too expensive.

For two years, Lawson worked in small, rural schools earning only \$65/month her first year. Lawson made the best of the tight quarters and low pay; she encouraged students who knew how to play piano to entertain the class and often joined in by playing her clarinet.

Years later, Lawson had two sons of her own. The younger, Mark, started playing the trombone in fifth grade. "I took out my clarinet and played right along with him through junior high," Lawson said. Aside from helping to motivate her son, Lawson's playing helped prevent arthritis pain.

Lawson is glad that she gets the opportunity to play her clarinet in the Symphonic Band, but the music challenges her. She sometimes feels discouraged with her playing because it isn't as technically sound as it used to be.

When she's frustrated, Lawson turns to her section members. "Dan [Nemchonok] says, 'Tighten your embouchure,'" Lawson said. "It's just wonderful to have him there."

"I like to keep up with the college students. I want to know what's up."
—Evelyne Lawson



Coming back to college

Former non-traditional student Judy Garland '00 provided a unique perspective in dramatically different classrooms when she started studying art and education again after a few years off

by Sara Millhouse
News Features Editor

Like other Grinnell students, Judy Garland '00 spent late nights studying in Burling Library and writing papers in the ARH computer labs. "I've never been so tired in my life or felt so good when I was done," she said. "I walked out of one final exam at about the same time as another student. We walked out the door, looked at each other, and just gave each other a big high five!"

Garland's experience at Grinnell was, in many ways, absolutely typical. She even went to Waltz. But instead of entering the campus community as a barely-legal first-year, Garland began taking classes in her early 50s, and she attended Waltz with her husband.

Garland began her college career at Orange Coast College in California. Upon completing her associate's degree, she transferred to San Diego State University, where she took classes in elementary education for a semester. After leaving school, she worked as a single mother and as an administrative assistant.

Thirteen years ago, she married Jeff Garland '67, and in 1994, they moved from Southern California to Grinnell. Jeff began practicing law in Grinnell, and Judy started working as a Noun program assistant for the college.

Schedules and professors permitting, Grinnell allows staff members to take one class per semester free of charge. After working and taking classes for

two years, Garland decided to become a fulltime student.

The ideas she brought to classes were shaped by vastly different life experiences than those of her peers, and professors enjoyed having her unique perspective in the classroom, she said.

"At first I was very intimidated, because I thought the other students were much smarter than I was," she said. But though students were sometimes unsure of how to treat Garland when she first entered a classroom, she felt accepted as soon as they found out she was a student. She made good friends with her classmates, and she still remains in contact with some of her "studio buddies."

Education had changed greatly since Garland had last been in the classroom. "In Educational Psychology, we shared stories from times in high school," she said. "The way we learned and descriptions of life in the classroom were very different. I think there's a more thoughtful approach to teaching now." Instead of focusing on memorization, teachers place a much greater emphasis on logic and independent thought, she explained.

Garland graduated in May 2000 with a degree in

Art History. "In Educational Psychology with Martha Voyles, we interned at a local school," she said. "I realized that I probably didn't have the energy to be a fulltime elementary teacher. I'd collected art, and I enjoyed the company of artists, so I'd clearly identified an interest in art," she said. "I like how [art history] placed art in context."

"It was a wonderful experience. I've never worked so hard in my life. I feel like I did a lot of growing."

—Judy Garland '00

Shortly after becoming an alumnus, Garland accepted a position as Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. She has also continued painting, holding exhibitions of acrylics and watercolors at Café Phoenix, Grinnell Regional Medical Center and the Grinnell Community Art Gallery.

Garland hopes that Grinnell continues to admit nontraditional students. "It improves the experience of everybody, faculty and other students as well," she said. "It was a wonderful experience. I've never worked so hard in my life. I feel like I did a lot of growing."



This week we checked the bag of Nick Lloyd '04. Here's what we found:



Here's what Lloyd said about his stuff: 1) "The Imperial War Museum in London is extraordinarily difficult to find. Tube stations surround it, but all the arrows to it are wrong. That was really annoying, so I used a map." 2) "These are pens that I accidentally stole from the bookstore. I don't feel like returning them because I gave them \$300 of my parents' hard earned money. I stole \$1.50 worth of pens by accident, but I don't feel bad about it. Lower tuition, and I'll pay you back!" 3) "I don't know much about this book about the Pilgrims, because I haven't done the reading for class." 4) "This is a flier for a party in London last semester. I didn't go to it, but I keep it anyway to feel cooler than I am." 5) "I stole this sign from Wal-Mart, because I thought it emphasized the three things you can never find at that store: 'Quality, Purity, Value.' Some things need stealing." 6) "I'm reading two biographies on Thomas Jefferson, and I will not even be tested on him. No papers will be written about him. I have to read them to understand what's so special about biographies." 7) "The most interesting thing in my bag is the Rachel A. Haile 21st Birthday Party Fundraise-a-Thon white board, where I have a phallic looking tongue raising money." 8) "I subscribe to Maxim because someone has to look out for me, a white, middle-class male, and Trent Lott's not in charge anymore."

—Information collected by
Bradley Iverson-Long



Cate Bardelson '05, Read 1st SA



7:45 a.m. Alarm goes off.

8 a.m. Gets up and does yoga and then gets dressed.

8:30 a.m. Eats breakfast at Quad.

9 a.m. Attends

Inorganic Chemistry class.

10 a.m. Attends Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies class.

11 a.m. Checks her mail and then goes back to her room to read the *New York Times* online and waste time on the Internet looking at the *Onion* and homestarrunner.com.

11:30 a.m. Catches up on sleep.

2:30 p.m. Wakes up and makes ramen.

3 p.m. Reads *A Traveler's History of Japan* to start preparing to study abroad next spring. Assures her floormates that they'll have their lounge TV back soon and informs them that the TV is not part of the SA's job responsibilities.

3:30 p.m. Talks with Baylis Beard '05 when she stops by.

4:15 p.m. Goes to see *Jackass* in Harris with a group of friends.

6 p.m. Eats dinner at Quad.

6:45 p.m. Hangs out on Cleveland 3rd for a while, talking to friends.

9:30 p.m. Goes to James 2nd to party with friends.

12:30 a.m. Walks a friend home and then goes to bed.

—Information collected by
 Carly Schuna, Staff Writer

Tying the knot

Married on Main Street

Clay and Amanda Collins enjoy married life . . . and fresh bread

by Sara Millhouse
 News Features Editor

On June 30, 2002, Clay and Amanda Collins were married in a small ceremony in Idyllwild, Cal. Amanda had recently graduated from Washington and Lee University in Virginia with a B.A. in English and a Psychology concentration. Clay had one year left at Grinnell.

The two now live in a Main Street apartment. Amanda works at the Poweshiek Mental Health Center, and Clay is finishing his Psychology degree.

Clay and Amanda became friends in high school in La Quinta, Cal. After graduation, Amanda went to England, and they lost contact. Eventually they began casually emailing each other. "One Christmas break I came home and decided that Clay was the best friend I'd ever had," Amanda said. "I wanted it to stay that way."

"That's the way things happen in my life," said Clay. "There are periods of long preparation, then times when things really happen. This relationship has been developing for a long time." Clay and Amanda began dating and were engaged by March 2001.

"Most of my friends were excited," said Clay. "They were not used to the idea of their peer being engaged at all. . . . It's really unusual for a Grinnell College student to be married."

They held a legal, "financial aid" wedding in Grinnell on April 18, 2002. "I was a dorm counselor, so my freshmen were so excited," said Amanda. "They wrote little messages on my white board."

For the Collins couple, some of the hardest parts of married life are the differing schedules and situations of two people at two different points in their life. "You're caught in the middle. I'm married to a person with a nine to five job who wants to be in bed by 10 or 10:30, and my friends are in college," Clay said. "Negotiating that balance can be hard." He gets up early and tries to do all his homework during the day so he can spend time with Amanda when she's off work in the evenings.

"There's no social life for working people in their twen-



Amanda and Clay Collins following their June wedding.
 Photo courtesy of Clay and Amanda Collins.

ties," said Amanda. "All my coworkers are older, and there's a lot of college students who are about my age, but their schedules are so different."

The Collins couple also had to adjust to the everyday aspects of living with another person, answering minor questions like whether to leave the toilet cover up or down. But married life also holds small advantages. "Amanda makes fresh bread every week," said Clay.

"We have absolutely no regrets," said Clay. "But if your parents won't be pissed, you should live together for awhile before getting married."

After graduation, Clay plans to enter a graduate program in Developmental Psychology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Amanda may stay in Grinnell for a few additional months, finishing out a year of work. "Communication is the most important thing," said Amanda. "It's okay as long as you both know that eventually your dreams are similar, even if how you get to that place is different."

Why wait?

Heather and Dolph Robb met and fell in love as students at Grinnell

by Lola Garcia
 Staff Writer

Heather Robb '03 loves being married. "There are no words. I love it; it's so much fun," said the Chemistry major.

She met and fell in love with her husband, Dolph Robb '02, at Grinnell, and the two were married this past July. Robb describes the student experience as being integral to their relationship.

"It's not the typical marriage of people in the outside world," she laughed.

Many people are surprised to hear about Heather's eagerness to wed before graduation, and she admitted it has not always been easy. Dolph had to stay in town, and he currently works at the local bank while waiting for Heather to graduate.

Her workload sometimes strains their relationship: "Because I'm still in school, he's kind of had to be adjustable to my schedule, [but] he's really understanding when I have work to do."

Robb's youth also gives some people doubts. She and Dolph got married because "there was no doubt in my mind that he was the person I wanted to be with," she said. "We just saw no reason to wait. . . . I felt comfortable when I was young."

After graduation, Heather plans to stay in Iowa. She wants to attend either the University of Iowa or Iowa State. Her goal is to go to school, get an internship and hopefully become a child life specialist.

Dolph may also attend graduate school for accounting. "It just depends on where we go," he said. "I'm the kind of person that isn't just focused on my career."

Overall, Heather knows she is an exception rather than a rule. "I'm not saying everyone should be like me, but I like it," she smiled, "and so does my husband."