



WELCOME BACK
ALUMNI

Grinnell College
Annual Alumni Reunion

2021

MULTICULTURAL REUNION

Reimagining our Grinnell narrative



Grinnell College
Office of Development and
Alumni Relations

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

MEET & GREET WITH OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Nov. 11, 2021, Noon-1:15 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/83288871718?pwd=aTVyNotlR2wrYzRINFNTWmRtWkdmQTo9>

Meeting ID: 832 8887 1718

Passcode: Grinnell

Rub virtual elbows with the staff of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Schvalla Rivera, Ph.D., chief diversity officer, VP of diversity & inclusion, and senior advisor to the president at Grinnell College, will share the vision, mission, and goals of the office of DEI, and introduce the staff: Marc Reed, associate chief diversity officer for staff equity; Vrinda Varia, assistant chief diversity officer for intercultural student life; and Autumn Wilke, associate chief diversity officer for disability resources. Please come with any questions and be ready to learn about the amazing work the College is doing.

Co-hosted by **Robert Quashie '86** and **Opeyemi Awe '15**

SOCIAL LOUNGE – DAY 1

Nov. 11, 2021, 2021, 1:30-6 p.m.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/86559695632?pwd=aUJNVk1RTUpFR2duMHFmTVhXZWdJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 865 5969 5632

Passcode: Grinnell

Chill out, sit back, and catch up with former classmates in a low-key setting.

Thursday, Nov 11	Host 1	Host 2	Topic
1:30-2 p.m.	Fae Townsend '01	Kari Bassett '98	Plan your weekend! See who's around, ask for more info about events, etc. Chill/Hangout Space
2-2:30 p.m.	Kari Bassett '98		
2:30-3 p.m.			
3-3:30 p.m.	Fae Townsend '01	Kari Bassett '98	Representation in media: books, tv, movies, etc. (Bring suggestions to share!)
3:30-4 p.m.			
4-4:30 p.m.	Jeffrey Fields '90		Chill/Hangout Space
4:30-5 p.m.			
5-5:30 p.m.	Rick Rose '88	Chris Wilde '88	Time for an Aids Memorial?
5:30-6 p.m.			

TOWN HALL WITH PRESIDENT ANNE F. HARRIS

Nov. 11, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/85766848936?pwd=ZTVuQVZOdzZKcUhOVys5TWFUR1pGdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 6684 8936

Passcode: Grinnell

Meet Grinnell College’s 13th President, Anne F. Harris. Hear her vision for the College as she shares the five strategic principles that guide her work. She will take questions from you, the alumni, and will discuss how we can come together and build our Grinnell College community.

LET’S GET THIS PARTY STARTED: AN UNCONFERENCE

Nov. 11, 2021, 8:30-10 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/81884596479?pwd=WnJKYoQ4L1RPeitSMW5VdmluSDMzQT09>

Meeting ID: 818 8459 6479

Passcode: Grinnell

After hearing from the President, you can dive into all the hot topics you just heard about. First, in one big Zoom-room on a virtual white-board, you can post the topics you most want to discuss. Then everyone will vote, and we’ll create breakout rooms by topic. You can move in and out of rooms as you like.

Hosted by **Danielle Currier ’87**.

AFTERHOURS – DAY 1

Nov. 11, 2021, 10-midnight CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/81448446382?pwd=NotXNS9MdfVnSU9uUkFFZkVlVW9tdzo9>

Meeting ID: 814 4844 6382

Passcode: Grinnell

If you still have not had enough interaction with your fellow alums, keep the stories rolling after hours.

Thursday, Nov 11	Host 1	Host 2	Topic
10-11 p.m.	Jeffrey Fields ’90		1990’s
11-midnight	Fae Townsend ’01		2000’s+

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

SPEED FRIENDING – MEETAWAY EVENT

Nov. 12, 2021, Noon-1:00 p.m. CST.

Get to know current students and alumni using Meetaway. Hold engaging one-on-one conversations, start building relationships, and maybe even find a lifelong friend in a fun environment.

Register here: <https://video.meetaway.com/event/6213827744982-x-274992541580983940>

SPEED FRIENDING – CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Nov. 12, 2021, 1-1:30 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/84034865900?pwd=Zzh1U01FaTF4MWEycU9vSHBkNXgwZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 3486 5900

Passcode: Grinnell

Did you meet some fascinating Grinnellians and want to keep talking? Keep the conversation going on Zoom after participating in the speed friending event that occurred from noon-1 p.m. CST.

SOCIAL LOUNGE – DAY 2

Nov. 12, 2021, 1:30-6 p.m.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/88577235109?pwd=Rkx1NzVuNjBTTmRrUkxDTS91M2NVQTo9>

Meeting ID: 885 7723 5109

Passcode: Grinnell

Whether you're looking for a blast from the past or to make new friends, take this time to chill out and catch up with fellow Grinnellians in a low-key setting.

Friday, Nov 12	Host 1	Host 2	Topic
1:30-2 p.m.	Fae Townsend '01	Kari Bassett '98	Chill hangout space
2-2:30 p.m.			
2:30-3 p.m.	Kari Bassett '98		
3-3:30 p.m.	Ope Awe '15		Reconnect + Reflect
3:30-4 p.m.			
4-4:30 p.m.	Rick Rose '88	Chris Wilde '88	Stonewall Resource Center: What Comes Next?
4:30-5 p.m.			
5-5:30 p.m.	Milton Garcia '14		Latino/a/x/e? Hispanic? Hyphen-Identity? Indigeno/a? Let's talk about it.
5:30-6 p.m.			

DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD CEREMONY

Nov. 12, 2021, 6:30-7 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/83926056801?pwd=cHJjYzlkbnRocowvbjFXQzcoUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 2605 6801

Passcode: Grinnell

Celebrate the 2021 recipient of the Diversity Champion Award, **Heidi Criswell**, program assistant for the Institute of Global Engagement for the incredible impact she has had on our students and her continued engagement with young alumni.

The Grinnell College Diversity Champion Award recognizes the accomplishments of faculty, staff, and alumni whose behaviors, activities, or projects have significantly contributed to the diversity, inclusion, and equity of Grinnell College. These individuals, teams, or organizations have created an environment where each of these factors is highly valued. Hosted by the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Alumni Council: **Ed Atkins '66, Bernard Jackson '86, Debbie Gottschalk '90, Kelly Clements Hopfer '96, and Eric Mistry '14.**

LOGGIA LAUGHS: MAKE GRINNELL FUNNY AGAIN FEATURING MAYA MAY '99, SARAH ASWELL '03, & ALVIN IRBY '07

Nov. 12, 2021, 7-9 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/86951440645?pwd=eHlsMTMxSVlQQTFEZ0RUQnpilOhUUT09>

Meeting ID: 869 5144 0645

Passcode: 991034

One of the best parts of Multicultural Reunion is sharing a good laugh together! The alumni planning committee worked hard to line up a great group of established Grinnell comedians to do just that. Laugh along with these fellow alums as they share their path to make Grinnell funny again!



Born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, LA-based comedian, **Maya May '99**, used humor to survive being one of the few black kids in school. Maya's comedy will leave you on the floor laughing, but then you'll get up thinking. She's a high-energy performer who keeps audiences on their toes with carefully crafted jokes that combine her life experiences with observations on race, politics, class, and gender. Highly sought after for her energetic performances, in 2020, she headlined over 45 colleges for her Virtually There College Comedy Tour, which was featured on CNBC, Fox, ABC, and iHeartRadio. As the co-host of a weekly streaming show for the Lincoln Project, she's on a mission to save democracy with comedy.



Sarah Aswell '03 is a writer and comedian living in Missoula, Montana. Currently the Special Projects Editor at Scary Mommy, her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, *National Lampoon*, *MAD Magazine*, *Reductress*, *Forbes*, and more. She's also written for brands like Nike, Facebook, and Kitchenaid. An alum of the Big Sky Comedy Festival and HBO's Women in Comedy Festival, she was recently named one of the best unknown comedians in *America* by Thrillist, which is one of those insults that sounds like a compliment.



Alvin Irby '07 is a former kindergarten teacher turned award-winning social entrepreneur, international speaker, comedian, and author. As Founder of Barbershop Books, he was awarded the National Book Foundation's Innovations in Reading Prize. Irby's keynotes and professional development workshops help school districts, library systems, and education organizations create relevant and engaging learning experiences for all students. Irby received a master's degree in Childhood Education from Bank Street Graduate School of Education and a master's of public administration in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

CRAFTERNOON

Nov. 13, 2021, Noon-2 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/83980442613?pwd=b1FobotOYlgxbktLTG9GYWlqZFZQUTo9>

Meeting ID: 839 8044 2613

Passcode: Grinnell

Share your artistic side and join us for a relaxing afternoon of laid-back, creative conversation. Even if you don't have a current project you are working on, you can print off one of our coloring pages. Otherwise, bring your own project and join in. Hosted by **Fae Townsend '01**.

STUDENT & ALUMNI COMMUNITY BUILDING & STORY SHARING

Nov. 13, 2021, 2-5 p.m. CST

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/88157993338?pwd=dzRUTms4VVhSLoYrR3lHUEJhUVpOZzo9>

Meeting ID: 881 5799 3338

Passcode: Grinnell

A signature part of every Multicultural Reunion is spending Saturday afternoon together in our multicultural space like the Conney M. Kimbo Black Cultural Center, Stonewall Resource Center, Center for Religion, Spirituality, and Social Justice, and the MLC (Multicultural Leadership Council) suites in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center. Come and connect with the each other and share your stories.

We will gather in a Zoom room with breakout rooms for the following identity groups: Black, Latinx, Asian American, LGBTQIA+, Jewish, disability, and 1st gen/low income. If more rooms need to be created that represent our intersectional identities, we will create them on the spot. You can move in and out of rooms as you please.

I SAID WE'D TALK SOON: UNCONFERENCE TWO!

Nov. 13, 2021, 5-6:30 p.m.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/86192599395?pwd=M1dJSVFZYVRlbnRZRTMxQmduaXY4QTo9>

Meeting ID: 861 9259 9395

Passcode: Grinnell

Since we cannot physically bump into each other on campus, the planning committee has created an intentional space to talk with fellow alumni about what's on your mind. In one big Zoom room, you will first post topics on a virtual board of what you want to discuss. After everyone votes for their favorites, we will pick the leading topics and create breakout rooms for each. You can move in and out of rooms as you please.

Hosted by **Jeffrey Fields '90**

LOW-STAKES TRIVIA NIGHT

Nov. 13, 2021, 7-8:30 p.m.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/89503432768?pwd=MUloL2xCNEgzQmRqREc5STZ6THpJUTo9>

Meeting ID: 895 0343 2768

Passcode: Grinnell

Join us for a low-stakes, high-laugh trivia night. Create your own team of 3-5 Grinnellians, or hop onto Zoom and we will find a team for you! You may just learn some Grinnell history that you didn't know and have some fun along the way! Co-hosted by **Jennifer Dong '17**, **Marlú Abarca '14**, and **Rhonda Stuart '86**.

VIRTUAL DRAG VARIETY SHOW: IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME

Nov. 13, 2021, 9-11 p.m. CST.

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/87596226135?pwd=K2dNTHhSdoduWUttZmhmeEFVdkhhZzo9>

Meeting ID: 875 9622 6135

Passcode: Grinnell

Whether it's bouffants and glitter pumps or beards and bowties that get you excited, get ready to Turn Back Time and come to the fabulous first Grinnell Virtual Drag Show! We're reimagining the QPOC legacy event as the finale for the 2021 Multicultural reunion. Get ready (dressing up fab is not required, but definitely encouraged!) to watch amazing video performances by alumni and students, share a virtual drink with your friends, and raise some money for our students.

All funds raised will go to the Intercultural Affairs Fund. This fund is used to cultivate co-curricular opportunities and address student needs that engage, empower, and encourage Grinnell students in their holistic exploration of self, community, and social change.

If during the Drag Variety Show, you are inspired to perform, let us know and we will let you turn on your camera and strut your stuff.

Co-hosted by **Conner Stanfield '21** and **Lester Alemán '07**.

AFTERHOURS – DAY 3

Nov. 13, 2021, 11 p.m.-midnight

<https://grinnellcollege.zoom.us/j/89542190319?pwd=clBHei81YklJOUZldoZvdnQ2RVhoUTo9>

Meeting ID: 895 4219 0319

Passcode: Grinnell

How was your Virtual Multicultural Reunion? Bring your own spicy tea to share. Hosted by **Milton Garcia '14** and **Carly Jerome '11**.

GENERAL

MULTICULTURAL ARCHIVE PROJECT: CROWDSOURCING WEBSITE

<https://mcarchive.sites.grinnell.edu>

Time to share your personal photos and images! Bring photos of posters, t-shirts, buttons, and other ephemera that reflect the traditions, parties, protests, and student organizations of times gone by. Photos of you rocking the styles of the decades are welcome.

This website will allow you to share the story behind the photo, allow other alums to add theirs to it, or even just help us identify mystery students in others. Even if you don't have a photo of your own to share, we will provide some stock images for you. That way you can still share a great memory—and maybe inspire someone to add their own photos and memories to it.

FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO GRINNELL PODCAST

In celebration of this year's Multicultural Reunion *Reimagining Our Grinnell Narrative*, the MLC podcast team invite you to tune in for notes about reunion from this year's co-chairs, unearth the chronicle beginnings of Multicultural Reunion through storytelling, and take record of the experiences had from notable individuals that got us here. For this season, we invite you to Finding Your Way Back To Grinnell with the stories and conversations we have prepared. The tea is piping hot, and it's ready to be served!

To get your scoop, visit <https://soundcloud.com/mlc-rb> as reunion nears closer.



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