

## Douglas Caulkins

D. Douglas Caulkins, 82, died Tuesday, February 21, 2023, peacefully with his wife by his side at Mayflower Community Homes in Grinnell.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 12, at JRC 101 in the Rosenfeld Center,

Grinnell College, 1115 Eighth Ave. in Grinnell.

Memorials in Doug's honor will be directed to various organizations and may be sent in care of Cox-Smith Funeral and Cremation Service, PO Box 163, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Cox-Smith Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

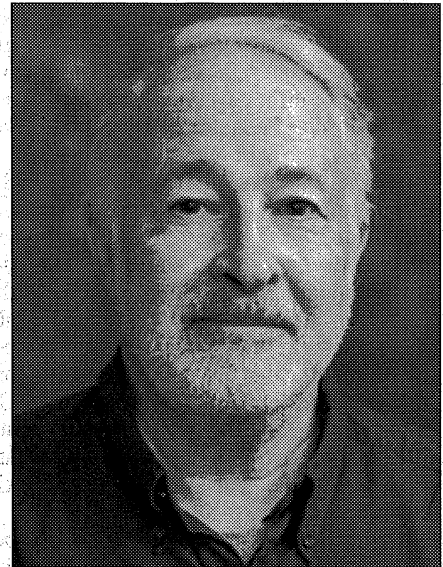
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## D. Douglas Caulkins

D. Douglas Caulkins, 82, died on February 21, 2023, with his wife by his side in the Mayflower Health Center. A gathering in remembrance of Doug will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the Joe Rosenfeld Center, Room 101, located at Grinnell College, 1115 Eighth Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Memorials in Doug's honor may be sent in care of Cox-Smith Funeral and Cremation Service, PO Box 163, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Cox-Smith Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



Doug was born August 28, 1940, the son of David and Helen (Jones) Caulkins. He was raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. Doug and Lorna came to Grinnell in 1970, after he accepted a position in the Anthropology Department at Grinnell College and they soon became valued members of the community.

During his tenure at the college, Doug was instrumental in establishing the Grinnell-in-London program, taking students to study in Britain and collaborating with them on research projects and publications. During and following his stint as interim director of Career Services, Doug led the effort to bring alumni to campus to engage with students about career paths that can grow out of a liberal arts degree. Both alums and students were enthusiastic about the class Doug taught on that topic, which attracted record numbers of students each semester. He mentored student researchers, and he headed the Wilson Program that helped students gain experience in business and entrepreneurship.

He put his research into practice by providing support to numerous start-up businesses in the town of Grinnell. For example, Doug and Lorna's work and support were invaluable in the construction and launch of the Drake Public Library. Other projects were prairie restoration and the protection of Iowa's soil, trees, and wildlife. The couple also enjoyed sharing their home with a number of fortunate cats.

Doug enriched the lives of many students who benefitted from his teaching and his kindness. Those who knew him, including eight close friends who shared a weekly potluck meal for over thirty years, will remember him with love and respect.

Dear Grinnellians,

I write today with additional information about plans to remember and celebrate the life of Professor Emeritus of Anthropology Doug Caulkins, who passed away peacefully with his wife Lorna by his side at Mayflower Community Homes in Grinnell on Feb. 21.

A gathering to celebrate Doug's life will be held on campus at 2 p.m., on Sunday, March 12, in the Rosenfeld Center JRC 101. Friends will be invited to share their stories and memories. The gathering will be available to view online via [the College's livestream service](#) on March 12.

Doug was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota, and earned a bachelor's with honors and distinction in Anthropology and Sociology at Carleton College, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University. He joined the faculty of Grinnell College in 1970 and spent the next 40 years enriching the lives of countless Grinnellians through his work as a teacher, mentor, and scholar. His former students and colleagues fondly remember his wisdom, generosity, and kindness.

Many alumni count Doug among their most dearly beloved professors from their time at Grinnell. He maintained close connections with alumni from a variety of academic and career interest areas, even if he never had them in one of his classes.

During his Grinnell career, Doug held several academic and administrative positions. In addition to serving terms as assistant dean and acting associate dean of the College, he was director of both the Grinnell-in-London Program and Off-Campus Studies from 1979 to 1983.

Doug loved to travel with students; among his favorites were trips to Wales where he would involve students in his research. Many alumni have spoken of the amazing experiences they had traveling with Doug and Lorna, long before global opportunities and course-imbedded travel became an ingrained part of student experiences. Many students and alumni became like family to Doug and Lorna.

His service to the Anthropology Department included his faculty appointments as instructor (1970–1973), assistant professor (1974–1980), associate professor (1980–1989), and professor (1989–2010), culminating with his professor emeritus appointment in 2010. He was awarded the Earl D. Strong Chair in Social Studies in 2000, became the Donald L. Wilson Professor in 2005, and was chair of the Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership from 2002 to 2010. He had a passion for bringing alumni back to campus, especially through Wilson programming. He saw great value in the way such interactions opened students' eyes to a range of career options.

Doug published more than 70 journal articles and book chapters on diverse topics including Chippewa adolescent culture; Norwegian social capital; high technology entrepreneurship and regional development in Wales, Scotland, and England; organizational cultures in high technology firms and heritage sites; Welsh and Celtic

identity; the global Welsh diaspora; ethnicity and entrepreneurship; research methodology; and applied anthropology.

He was awarded grants from the National Science Foundation and served as a visiting scholar/fellow at Trondheim University and Bergen University in Norway, Durham University in England, Stirling University in Scotland, St. David's College at the University of Wales, and the University of Kansas.

Elected president of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research in 2006, Doug was a fellow of both the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology. He participated in several applied anthropology projects, including a federally funded project to develop new technology for empowering diabetics on Lakota reservations to better manage their health.

In keeping with his strong interest in policy issues, he served in government on a national level as a faculty intern with the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment in Washington, D.C. in 1983, and on the local level as a member of the Poweshiek County Zoning Commission beginning in 2005. A member of the Prairie Studies Program, he also was a founder of an environmental stewardship organization, Pleasant Grove Land Preservation; a board member of a biofiber producers organization, Creative Horizons of Iowa; and with his wife was a part-owner of a 240-acre parcel of reconstructed prairie, sedge meadow, wetland, and restored oak savannah. He was known for sharing honey from some of the bee colonies that thrived there.

Doug and Lorna quietly but generously supported many community members, businesses, and non-profit organizations. In 2018, the Caulkins were honored as the recipients of the prestigious Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation Connie Marshall Spirit of Giving Award. Doug and Lorna, who is the retired director of the City of Grinnell Drake Community Library, were recognized for a lifetime of service to others through individual endeavors and through overall community involvement.

We are grateful for Doug's many contributions to the lives of our students, and to the difference he made through furthering the common good. Please keep this beloved member of our community in your thoughts.

Sincerely,  
Beronda

Beronda Montgomery  
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

From: Charles Duke charlesduke@windstream.net  
Subject: Fwd: Passing of Doug Caulkins, CARES Supporter  
Date: Feb 22, 2023 at 11:49:45 AM  
To: mari dukeclml@icloud.com

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Val V." <valvetter3@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Passing of Doug Caulkins, CARES Supporter  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 at 10:43:18 AM CST  
**To:** "Val V." <valvetter3@gmail.com>

CARES members and Supporters:

It is with sadness that I share with you the passing of Doug Caullkins, Tuesday, February 21, 2023. He was on the faculty of Grinnell College in the Anthropology Department for over 40 years.

Doug was one of CARES' earliest, most generous, and most ardent supporters from its inception, even before we incorporated in January of 2013. He was especially supportive when CARES was subpoenaed by Prestage and we had to go through an expensive and stressful legal process in 2015-16.

He also encouraged students to do research projects related to CAFOs, Poweshiek CARES, and growing a grassroots local organization. Some papers were jointly presented (with him) at Anthropology conferences.

Of course, Doug's wife Lorna was an equal supporter of CARES. Our thoughts are with Lorna.

Val Vetter