Peter Agre ’70

2003 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry
Editor’s note

It is said that good things come to those who wait. This winter issue of Augsburg Now is all about both good things and waiting. You, the readers, are the ones who have been waiting for the winter Now (at least, editors always hope you are), even as we have already entered into early spring. On our part, it’s the good things that have caused us to wait on its production.

About mid-winter, when the issue is usually mailed, we learned that Peter Agre, Augsburg Class of 1970 and 2003 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, was coming to campus in late February. Since our winter issue already included a story about Agre and the awarding of his Nobel Prize, we made the decision to delay production so that we could expand the article to include his memorable days with us here.

It’s a rare and wonderful moment when a college can celebrate with one of its own, especially one whose vocation so richly embodies the mission of the College. For Agre, his time at Augsburg was a time of discovery and connections—exploring the subjects that piqued his interest and connecting with professors who made these subjects come alive and speak to him.

While in medical school Agre turned to research, where he realized his talents in research could serve to greater benefit in seeking the causes of illness. And now, while he has the ear of the scientific world, he is a strong advocate for adequate funding in science education to enable all citizens to make responsible decisions about ourselves, our society, and our environment.

The College also revels in the recognition our partnership with Cedar-Riverside Community School received, as Augsburg was lauded by the Carter Foundation and Campus Compact as an outstanding community partner.

Read about that in Around the Quad.

Plus, we feature the Campus Kitchen at Augsburg, a new community partnership program that has already brought us local media attention. Students and volunteers transform surplus food from the College’s dining service and a local food shelter into tasty meals that are delivered to several neighborhood community agencies.

Last fall the College celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Hispanic/Latino Student Services program, which provides support and encouragement to help these students succeed at Augsburg. You’ll read about the impact this program has in strengthening the appreciation of cultural richness within Augsburg’s learning community.

So, good things keep happening. And, we move into spring with this winter issue—fully aware that in Minnesota there could well still be some wintery snowflakes falling as you read this in April.

The next issue will be a combined spring and summer issue to bring you exciting news about Access to Excellence: The Campaign for Augsburg College that Augsburg kicks off on April 18 with a community festival. Join us!

Betsey Norgard
Editor
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Calendar

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Augsburg launches MBA program
In fall 2004, Augsburg will launch the charter class of its new MBA program. The 21-month program will meet in small cohort format, encouraging close collaboration with faculty as well as fellow students. For information, e-mail <mbainfo@augsburg.edu> or call 612-330-1101.

Math student teams place high
An Augsburg three-person math team finished fourth among 65 teams in November in the North Central Section Team Problem-Solving Contest sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America.

Another Augsburg team finished in the top half of the competition. Team members were Tim Bancroft, Andrew Held, Hung Nguyen, John Staton, David Wallace, and Dan Wolf.

Physics student chapter is honored
Augsburg's chapter of the Society of Physics Students was selected as an outstanding chapter for 2002-03.

The award letter highlights depth and breadth of “physics research, public science outreach, physics tutoring programs, hosting and representation at physics meetings, and providing social interaction for chapter members.”

This is the second time in four years that Augsburg's chapter has been among the top 10 percent recognized.

New and continued physics grants
Augsburg has received funding from the National Science Foundation and NASA for three multi-year research projects, each of which will provide funds for undergraduate student research. Professor Mark Engebretson heads up both NSF projects: the first, a five-year, $600,000 grant to support continued studies using the MACCS array of magnetometers in Arctic Canada; and the second, a three-year, $426,000 grant with Dartmouth College to continue similar studies using data primarily from Antarctica. Professor Ken Erickson heads up Augsburg's efforts to use data from NASA's polar satellite to study magnetospheric substorms, and subsequent auroral displays. This $252,000 project is shared with Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Augsburg speech team scores top points at tourney
Competing at the state and national levels against schools of all sizes, Augsburg Speech Team members have compiled a string of impressive victories.

At the 22nd Annual Novice National Speech Tournament, held in early March at the University of Houston, junior Ryan Sobolik placed fourth in the nation in Extemporaneous Speaking, while the Augsburg team garnered sixth place in the limited sweepstakes division.

“There were so many excellent speakers, I was proud just to make it to the finals,” said Sobolik, of Fargo, N.Dak. More than 50 colleges and universities, with over 1,000 competitors, participated in the tournament.

Earlier, at the Minnesota College Forensic Association's annual state tournament, senior Crystal Harles won second place in Oratory. This gives her a bid as one of two Minnesota students to compete in the Interstate Oratory Competition, the nation's oldest and most prestigious oratory tournament, to be held in Phoenix in April.

Harles' speech deals with international slavery and she said she tried to make the issue personal to help people understand that their actions can make a difference in combating this situation.

Junior Heather Nystrom took sixth place in the same competition, with what she calls a “tough sell … trying to convince people to learn more about statistical literacy, and apply it to their daily lives.” Through humor she tried to keep people's attention.

Augsburg's team won a second place sweepstakes award in the limited entry division at this state tournament. Coach and communication studies professor Bob Groven says that this carries special weight since Minnesota's state tournament presents some of the toughest competition in the country.
Augsburg neighborhood partnership is honored

The long standing relationship between Augsburg College and the Cedar-Riverside Community School was honored as one of six finalists for the new Carter Partnership Award that was presented by President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, as part of the Campus Compact 10th anniversary event in February. The purpose of the award is to provide recognition for outstanding campus-community partnerships.

The award was presented to the Grant Community School Collaborative of Duluth. But, Mrs. Carter added, “Every single one of the nominated partnerships deserves recognition. It doesn’t matter who wins.”

“It was a grand night for Cedar-Riverside Community School,” said Stephanie Byrdziak, the school’s assistant director. “A president of the United States now knows who we are and what we’ve become. And Augsburg College has been there for us all these years. They are what makes a true community school.”

Mary Laurel True, associate director of the Center for Service, Work, and Learning, said it was wonderful to be recognized for a true, long-term, vital partnership. “It meant the world to us to be able to let others know about our neighborhood and the immigrants who live here, and all the great work that we do together.”

Three new regents elected to board

The Augsburg Board of Regents welcomed three new members at its January meeting. Dan Anderson ’65, Dr. Marshall Stanton, and Emily Anne Tuttle were elected to six-year terms.

Dan Anderson ’65
Dan Anderson was an All-American basketball player at Augsburg, and went on to play professional basketball with the Minnesota Pipers and as a charter member of the New Jersey Nets.

He is now president of Swenson Anderson Financial Group in Minneapolis, with a network of planners across Minnesota and neighboring states. He is also regional director for Financial Network Investment Corporation, and a general agent for a number of insurance companies. He serves on the board of Metro Hope Ministries.

Marshall Stanton, M.D.
Marshall Stanton is vice president, medical affairs for Cardiac Rhythm Management at Medtronic. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and is chairman of the Fellowship Committee of the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and the Medical College of Virginia. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Mayo Medical School; he returned there to join the faculty and became director of the Cardiovascular Training Program. He also completed a fellowship in cardiology at Indiana University School of Medicine.

Emily Anne Tuttle
Emily Anne Tuttle was the first Democratic woman elected to the Minnesota Senate and specialized in healthcare policy. She was also elected to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. She currently serves on the Minnesota Humanities Commission and the boards of the Guthrie Theater, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, and the Minnesota Community Foundation.

She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and earned her master’s degree in public administration from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Alumni, Friends, and Families—Come Celebrate!

Augsburg Community Festival

Sunday, April 18, 2004
Noon–4:30 p.m.
Campus-wide activities
12:30 Campaign kickoff, free food, and giveaways—on the Augsburg campus
12:45-4:30 Free activities for all ages
• Free food, music, exhibits, reading corner
• Science demonstrations
• Lute Olson basketball clinic for boys and girls
• Hockey clinic/open ice skating
• Health screenings
• Theatre production—Machinal
• Art exhibits
• Celebration service
…and much, much more. You don’t want to miss it!
Come back and join us on campus!

Access to Excellence: The Campaign for Augsburg College
Around the Quad

A single book and black robes—a medieval experience by Dan Jorgensen

Thirty-two Augsburg first-year students are already wearing their graduation robes, but they won’t be participating in graduation ceremonies in May. The students are part of an experiment that not only is teaching them about life in medieval times but also is blending seven disciplines into one exciting new cross-curricular program.

The experiment, titled “Medieval Connections,” not only has both exceeded its professors’ broadest expectations, but it soon could serve as a model for other Augsburg courses and for liberal arts institutions across the nation. “When the College embarked on a new general education curriculum this academic year, faculty were encouraged to seek ways to present courses that were interdisciplinary in nature,” noted Phil Adamo, assistant professor of history and leader of the new program. Adamo has been so pleased with the results of the course that he plans to prepare a paper on it for possible publication in several national journals.

A core group of Augsburg faculty, including Adamo; Kristin Anderson, art; Phil Quanbeck II, religion; Joan Griffin, English; and Merilee Klemp, music, met and put together the basics for the course. Philosophy colleague Bruce Reichenbach, and Darcey Engen, theatre, joined them to form the seven disciplines represented by the course itself.

“The key idea that stuck with us is that the university/college that we know today comes out of the 12th century,” Adamo said. “Faculty and students wore robes somewhat similar to those that they do today, although today, of course, they’re primarily used in ceremonies like graduation.”

The students are both taught and learn in a style reminiscent of the educational experience faced by students from the “High Middle Ages”—the years 1100-1300 A.D. To learn in this fashion, both students and faculty attend class garbed in robes—the faculty members wearing the robes that signify their academic background and highest degree earned; the students wearing the robes that they ultimately will again wear on graduation day. While students do have access to modern learning devices, such as papers and ballpoint pens, they all have to learn from one single book—a large volume that was “constructed” by the professors in cooperation with art instructor Tara Christopherson, and is chained in the library where the students must go to read it. As students read, they can write “marginalia” (comments) in the book’s margins about what they have read, thus providing reading help for their classmates and others who follow. This is similar to what would have happened in the Middle Ages, Adamo said.

Sometimes a single professor teaches for the three-hour class, but usually two or three professors come, not only to help teach but also to respond to one another and students’ questions. In addition, a wide range of faculty and others who have learned about the course have been “dropping in” to share their knowledge and expertise on everything from medieval armor to what it was like to be a “traveling Sophist.”

One recent guest professor was a monk from St. John’s University who talked about monastic life, the Gregorian chant, and how the Bible was written by hand, using a project to write a new Bible currently underway at his school as an example.

Students begin each class with a prayer to the medieval “saint of the day,” working in teams to prepare the prayers and presentations on the saints. Thomas Aquinas, for example, was selected because he is the patron saint of all students. There are also long-term projects for each student, and the final class will be a medieval feast where some will cook, some will play or sing music, some will juggle, and some will debate—all the kinds of things students might have done in a big medieval feast of the time.

“I think it’s a bit of genius here,” Quanbeck noted. “Thanks to Professor Adamo, we’re combining the theatrical, experiential, and academic and turning it into something that makes it very memorable. It changes students’ habits and how they learn.”
Basketball in a different league

by Betsey Norgard

Where might you find a thousand Twin Cities middle school and high school students on Sunday afternoons during the winter months? A logical answer might be the ski slopes or the malls, but in this case the answer is in church gyms playing in the Augsburg-Congregational Youth Basketball League.

Thirteen years ago, Augsburg College Pastor Dave Wold had concerns about young people and their connection to churches. Many dropped out of church after confirmation, and many young people in city neighborhoods had no connection to a church. Wold was interested in addressing these issues, as well as getting the word out about Augsburg College.

Wold’s idea of a basketball league took shape when he realized how many church gyms in the metro area were not being used, and especially in thinking about how many students enjoy playing basketball but had no team to play on if they weren’t able to make their school teams.

Wold and a group of youth directors and pastors developed the mission of the league “to provide relaxed yet structured games in a Christian setting, allowing kids an opportunity for fun and exercise while building relationships with teammates, opponents, and God.”

Now, more than 70 churches and as many as 1,000 students play in church gyms on Sunday afternoons in the months of January and February. The season climaxes on the first weekend in March at a tournament on Augsburg’s campus. More than 100 Augsburg students help out at the tourney as referees, photographers, concessions workers, security people, etc.

Wold, along with league director David Wrightsman and other youth professionals who run the league, seek to keep the tournament as low cost as possible. If churches can’t afford the full participation fee, which pays mostly for uniforms and referee fees, they find ways to subsidize them.

As in any athletic division, there are rules. Each game begins with devotions and ends with prayer, shared by both opposing teams.

Every game in the 70-church Congregational Youth Basketball League starts with devotions and ends with prayer, shared by both opposing teams.

The league has succeeded in bringing youth to the church. Half of the 70 teams last year were made up of senior high boys, and half or more of these players were not members of the churches for which they played. Some youth choose to play for a church team instead of their school team.

Wonderful friendships form through the games. Teams from city and suburban churches get to know each other, and players build relationships with teammates, coaches, youth workers, and pastors.

The story of Noah, an adopted Filipino high school student, is one example of the faith and love in this league. Noah has faced challenges all his life from a birth defect in his brain. He learned to love basketball and found tremendous support and friendship in his church team. His strength is in shooting, especially long shots. About five years ago in the tournament, the two finalist teams remained locked in a close game. In the final seconds, it was Noah who sank the ball from a long, half-court shot to win the tournament for his team.

“That shows how great sport can be and how great people can be,” says Wold.

For information on the Congregational Youth Basketball League, contact Pastor Dave Wold at 612-330-1732 or wold@augsburg.edu; or David Wrightsman at the Urban Youth Ministry Project, 612-599-6911.
Sports

Auggie women skate and tour in Italy, Austria

by Don Stoner

Members of the Augsburg College women’s hockey team took a trip of a lifetime during the Christmas holiday break, as they traveled to Italy and Austria, playing three games against local club teams and experiencing the beauty of the two countries.

Ten Auggie players made the trip, along with head coach Jill Pohtilla, assistant coaches Barb Halbrehder and Bill Halbrehder, Augsburg staff, and several family members. The eight-day trip took the Auggies through the heart of northern Italy and to the historic cities of Florence and Rome. Members of the team raised money for two years to pay for the journey.

“Having an opportunity to learn about another culture, first hand, is something the players will never forget,” Pohtilla said. “I had a similar opportunity playing hockey in Finland in 1980, and I will never forget some of the experiences I had.”

On Dec. 29, after a day-long series of flights across the Atlantic, the Auggies arrived in Milan, met Marc Smith, their tour manager from GoPlay Sports Tours, and immediately began a day of sightseeing to help counteract the effects of jetlag.

In Milan, Italy’s largest city, the team toured the Duomo, a stunning baroque cathedral with 3,400 statues and 135 spires, and walked across the city square to a huge downtown shopping area, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele.

After a night of needed rest in the nearby city of Bergamo, Augsburg was set to play its first game, against the Halloween Como team in the small town of Zanica.

Women’s hockey in Italy is still in relative infancy, with only a handful of teams in the northern part of the country. So, with only nine skaters and a goalie, Augsburg was competitive against all of its opponents.

In fact, Augsburg dispatched of Halloween Como by a 14-0 count. Freshman Stacy Anderson had a six-point day, with three goals and three assists, while senior Christina Hughes also had a hat trick (three goals). Senior Dottie Gilkerson, juniors Corrie Krzyska and Laura Prasek, and sophomores Calla Lundquist and Britt Pennington each scored two goals, while senior Annie Annunziato contributed assists.

The team then moved on to the Alpine city of Bolzano, little city where the Auggies were then headquartered for three days.

New Year’s Eve provided an incredible day and night of new experiences, including a two-hour ride deep into the Austrian Alps. As the team rode to Austria, jaws dropped at the stunning scenery of the Brenner Pass, one of Europe’s most famous trade routes.

The team’s second game also provided a unique experience—a semi-outdoor rink in the small town of Kundl, Austria.

The rink was enclosed, but two of the four sides were open to the elements. Many players said it was the first time they had played on an outdoor rink, which made for an interesting game.

Like Italy, women’s hockey in Austria is also relatively new, but the Kundl Crocodiles provided some strong competition. The team even recruited other players from its league to play the Auggies, but in the end, the Minnesota players’ years of experience proved too much, as Augsburg won 6-0.

Pennington was the star of the game, with a three-goal hat trick, with Gilkerson, Hughes, and Annunziato adding markers. Junior Jana Ford also got on the board for the Auggies with an assist. Augsburg outshot Kundl by a 29-10 margin, with junior goalie Kristin Johnson getting her second straight shutout.

“One of the funniest moments for me was when the Austrian team hosted a
brief get-together after our game. The language barrier was evident, and it took a line from Finding Nemo to break through. The players from both teams knew the lines, ‘Keep swimming, keep swimming’ along with ‘Mine...mine...mine.’ We all laughed hard about it,” Pohtilla said.

On the trip back to Bolzano, the team stopped for a couple of hours in the Bavarian winter sports mecca of Innsbruck, host city for two Winter Olympic games. As the team arrived, a running race was taking place as part of the city’s New Year’s Eve celebration, providing a unique detour.

Arriving back in Bolzano, the Auggies joined thousands of Italians at the city’s soccer stadium for a grand New Year’s Eve party, complete with bands, fireworks, and plenty of celebrating.

New Year’s Day provided some of the most incredible scenery of the trip, as the team traveled deep into the craggy high peaks of the Dolomite mountains, unique among the splinter ranges of the Alps. The cable car rides to the top of the mountain at a local ski area gave the Auggies plenty of stunning views for photo opportunities and time for playing in the snow.

The next day, Augsburg had its last game of the trip against the best team in Italy, the Bolzano Eagles. The game was played at the Bolzano civic arena, the largest hockey arena in the country, with seating for more than 7,000 spectators.

Augsburg scored three goals in the first eight minutes of the game and claimed a 6-2 victory to complete the trip. Anderson had her second hat trick of the trip, with Prasek, Annunziato, and Krzyska adding goals. The Auggies dominated from start to finish, not allowing Bolzano’s goals until the final two minutes of the game.

With the hockey complete, the Auggies became tourists, as the journey went south into the fabled province of Tuscany. A night in the small city of Montecatini was followed by a day of sightseeing in Florence, the city that spawned the Renaissance.

From the Duomo church with its unique "dome within a dome" design to the beautiful plazas, the Ponte Vecchio bridge and the stunning churches and public spaces, the day in Florence, while short, was still memorable. And several of the players showed off their “power-shopping” skills as well.

Back on the bus and the four-hour journey to Rome where, yet again, the scenery was outstanding at every turn. The evening was spent in two of the most famous places in Rome, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. According to legend, if you throw a coin in the famed Trevi Fountain, you will return to Rome someday, and every member of the Augsburg group threw some coins in the water.

Augsburg’s final full day in Italy was a whirlwind day of sightseeing across Rome. Starting early, they toured the Colosseum, the fabled arena where gladiators battled before the emperors, and traveled up the hill to the Roman Forum, an archeological wonder from ancient times.

From there, the group went to the Pantheon, the oldest complete structure in Rome, a church of immense size and beauty. The day ended in the holiest of sites, St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican, followed by a pizza dinner and a trip to a gelato shop for some authentic Italian ice cream.

It was a trip filled with exciting hockey, memorable sights, once-in-a-lifetime moments, and an incredible opportunity to come together as a team in the process.
Augsburg’s focus on vocation centers on listening for and responding to a call in one’s life. Peter Agre’s illustrious career has exemplified this process of understanding one’s passions and talents, and discerning the work that would best use them in service to others.

Last fall, Agre’s life was unexpectedly and dramatically changed by another call—a single telephone call that came at 5:30 in the morning on October 8. The voice on the other end spoke politely with a Swedish accent and informed him that he had won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2003.

Since then, Agre’s life has been a whirlwind of travel, interviews, ceremonies, speeches, and thousands of e-mails. Highlights have been the Nobel week in Stockholm, honors at the White House, and, most recently, a hometown tribute befitting a high school and college hero.

Agre is a Minnesota native, born in Northfield where his father taught chemistry at St. Olaf College. In 1959, Courtland Agre came to Augsburg as chemistry department chair, and within three years, with the help of new professors John Holum and Earl Alton, rebuilt and refurbished the department. Augsburg’s chemistry program then received the prestigious approval from the American Chemical Society.

In his senior year at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, Peter Agre was voted one of two most likely to succeed. He was not a focused student, however, and took more interest in the underground student newspaper than in his academic subjects. He refers to himself as a “handful” for his teachers.

Already in his last year of high school, Agre began taking classes at Augsburg and then enrolled full time. Here he truly connected with several professors, most especially with John Holum in chemistry, and was able to complete a major in chemistry in two-and-a-half years, culminating in the decision to become a medical doctor.

During medical school at Johns Hopkins University, Agre began gravitating toward research. “I wanted the kind of career where I could help people and do useful work that helped people—both as individual patients and by working on disease mechanisms,” Agre explains. “That’s what really got me into the science.”

In his senior year in medical school, he began working in laboratories, rather than pursuing the advanced training of a specialty. After a three-year medical residency at Case Western Reserve University and a clinical fellowship at University of North Carolina, he returned to Johns Hopkins for a research fellowship in cell biology. In 1984 he joined the faculty and is now professor of biochemistry.

It was his roommate in medical school who first connected him with a “hot” research lab on campus staffed by an international group of researchers, with whom he remains close. “It was actually the people doing science as much as the science that caught my interest,” Agre explains. “I never felt so excited about being with a group of individuals as with the people in this laboratory.” Some of these researchers traveled to Sweden to be with him at the Nobel ceremony.
Prize-winning research

Agre was honored for his work in discovering the existence of proteins that he named “aquaporins,” that are responsible for the passage of water across cell membranes, a process essential to all living things.

Agre’s discovery was a result of research serendipity—or “luck favoring the well-prepared,” as it was described in a Johns Hopkins press release. In 1991, while engaged in other research, his lab noticed a small, ubiquitous protein, which they isolated and cloned—and which later proved to be the long-sought-after regulator of water movement across cells. (See sidebar on page 11).

Agre shares the $1.3 million prize with Roderick MacKinnon, of Rockefeller University in New York, whose research studied similar questions of cell transport involving ions.

A week in December

The Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden (except for the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded in Oslo, Norway), on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, who bequeathed the endowment that funds the annual awards.

For a week around this date, the 2003 laureates presented lectures, spoke at press conferences, made visits to academic and medical institutions in Scandinavia, and enjoyed the Nobel collegiality. Agre describes the week as “Cinderella-like, except at midnight everyone kept partying.”

Agre received his gold medal at the highly formal prize ceremony, presented to him by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, surrounded by the royal family and prestigious academics. At the gala banquet, Agre presented a short “thank-you” speech on behalf of MacKinnon and himself (see p. 11).

The Augsburg community was able to share in the festivities via a live webcast from Stockholm. In Christensen Center, a crowd gathered around a large computer monitor, under a banner congratulating Agre, and cheered and clapped even while watching a very fuzzy screen image.

Back home in Minnesota

In February Agre returned to the Twin Cities for several days to visit his family, as well as to engage in yet another week of whirlwind activities and talks. His first stop in Minneapolis was at his high school alma mater, something he says he wanted to do for himself.

His message to students there is one he repeated several more times during the week: “Whatever it is that captures your interest—you should go for it. There’s no limit in life. You can do whatever you want.”

At Augsburg, to a filled Hoversten Chapel, Agre presented the same lecture about his research that he gave in Stockholm during Nobel Week. He likened the chance discovery of aquaporin water channels to that of driving along a gravel road in the middle of nowhere in northern Minnesota and suddenly coming upon a city of 200,000 people. “You think to yourself, ‘now this is really interesting,’” he quipped.

While on campus, Agre had a chance
to greet several of his former Augsburg professors—chemistry professors John Holm and Arlin Gyberg, math professor Henry Follingstad, and biology professor Ralph Sulerud, among others—and reiterated their contribution to shaping his science interests and career direction. During the week the Agre family also gathered on campus, a homecoming for a number of Agre Auggies. Of Courtland and Ellen Agre’s six children, four are Augsburg graduates: Annetta Agre Anderson ’69; Peter ’70; James ’72, who serves on the Science Advisory Board; and Mark ’81. Courtland Agre died in 1995.

At 3M’s Tech Forum, Agre spoke to a crowd of 600 or more, presenting the sequence of his findings that led to the aquaporin discovery and describing extensive research others have carried forward in expanding the knowledge and seeking medical applications.

Courtland Agre was a chemist at 3M before and after his teaching career, working with a team of scientists to develop synthetic adhesives, and Peter Agre acknowledged that connection. Later, at the State Capitol, Agre appeared with President Frame before the Senate Higher Education Budget Committee to plead the need for science education and adequate funding for research and education.

“Research is what lifts us,” Agre told the senators, and “no one is willing to pay for excellent research.” Without it, for example, he said, no new antibiotics can be developed to combat the growing immunity to current drugs. This critical research, especially in Third World countries, is not the kind of profitable research drug companies seek.

Agre enthusiastically talks about using his public forum this year to advocate for science education and the necessity for every person to be educated in science.

With science an integral part of 21st-century life, he stresses the importance
Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Distinguished Guests:

Written in 1895, Alfred Nobel’s will endowed prizes for scientific research in physics, chemistry, and medicine. At that time, these fields were narrowly defined, and researchers were often classically trained in only one discipline. In the late 19th century, knowledge of science was not a requisite for success in other walks of life. Indeed, the 19th century painter James McNeil Whistler achieved artistic immortality despite failing chemistry at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, an experience which he remembered with amusement saying, “Had silicon been a gas, I would have been a major general.”

But the depth of science has increased dramatically, and Alfred Nobel would be astonished by the changes. Now in the 21st century, the boundaries separating physics, chemistry, and medicine have become blurred, and as happened during the Renaissance, scientists are following their curiosities even when they run beyond the formal limits of their training. At the same time, the need for general scientific understanding by the public has never been larger, and the penalty for scientific illiteracy never harsher.

In his masterpiece, One Hundred Years of Solitude, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, winner of the 1982 [Nobel] literature prize, describes the isolated village of Macondo where the inhabitants suffer from their own naiveté, trading their hard-earned gold to gypsies for what they believe to be amazing inventions—a magnet, a magnifying glass, and even an enormous, transparent crystal that fascinated them being so cold it was painful to touch. What they regarded as the greatest invention of their time was only a block of ice.

In a way, the inhabitants of Macondo resemble contemporary individuals without any background in science. Lack of scientific fundamentals causes people to make foolish decisions about issues such as the toxicity of chemicals, the efficacy of medicines, the changes in the global climate. Our single greatest defense against scientific ignorance is education, and early in the life of every scientist, the child’s first interest was sparked by a teacher.

Ladies and gentlemen: please join Dr. Roderick MacKinnon and me in applauding not the Nobel laureates but the heroes behind past, present, and future Nobel prizes—the men and women who teach science to children in our schools.

Tack så mycket.

© The Nobel Foundation, 2003

AQUAPORINS

Water comprises about 70 percent of the human body and is constantly passing across cell walls. Peter Agre was the first to identify the particular protein that serves as the channel through which the water passes. It was a discovery of chance for Agre’s lab team. While researching blood cells, they noticed a commonly reoccurring mystery protein. It was a colleague of Agre’s who suggested that this might be the long-sought-after water channel.

By isolating, cloning, and introducing this protein into frog eggs, Agre’s team was able to confirm that it, indeed, allowed passage of water—and Agre named it Aquaporin-1.

Since then, research around the world has explored the presence of additional aquaporins—or “water pores”—and extensively documented their existence in bacteria, plants, and mammals. Not all are equally understood, however. Agre quips that a particular one, Aquaporin-6, was “sent by God for our hubris in saying that we understand these proteins.”

While Agre’s research does not yield immediate cures or treatments for disease, it has exploded the understanding of what he dubs this “molecular plumbing system” and provided explanations for physiological processes at sub-disease states. As Agre says, “We have the answer—now what is the question?”

From here, research will focus on application of this information in studying a wide variety of diseases—kidney diseases, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, Sjogren’s Syndrome, among them. Beyond that, Agre says that the research can also benefit biotechnology, and even agriculture.
of being able to evaluate the validity of daily news, statements from government officials, and so on. People without science background are “totally at the mercy of the government or big companies that tell them a particular pollutant is not dangerous,” Agre says.

Equally worrisome to Agre is the situation where decisions about foreign policy, such as signing the Kyoto Accord, are made by lawyers with no scientific background. Even though there are scientific advisors, he sees it as similar to receiving something in translation.

In his banquet speech at the Nobel Ceremony, Agre stated that “Our single greatest defense against scientific ignorance is education.” He then applauded the role of teachers, whom he called the “heroes behind past, present, and future Nobel prizes.” (See the full text of this speech on p. 11.)

When talking with young people, he also encourages them to identify their heroes. One of Agre’s heroes he enjoys talking about is Nobel chemistry and Peace Prize laureate Linus Pauling, the eminent scientist whose unwavering opposition to nuclear testing led the fight to pass the limited test ban treaty. Pauling stayed with the Agre family while speaking in Minneapolis when Agre was a teenager, and the strong social conscience of the renowned scientist profoundly impacted Agre.

Agre is taking advantage of his Nobel stature to speak out on issues affecting science research, especially against restrictions placed on research as a result of the war on terrorism. Together with other Nobel laureates, he has advocated on behalf of a former professor, Thomas Butler, who faced 69 felony charges and massive fines for the mishandling that he voluntarily reported of plague samples used in bioterror research.

Learning for life

In summing up, Agre believes that although science is important, liberal arts are critical to educate people in many different areas for a lifetime. He told the Senate higher education committee, “All the good in my life happened because of my education.” He believes that “part of being educated is learning that we learn our whole lives, and we need to … have some background in different cultures, study abroad.”

Agre told the press that “the difference between laureates and the general public is that when we get up in the morning we really long to be at work.” That’s a statement of calling.

Courtland Agre taught chemistry at Augsburg for 17 years, from 1959 to his retirement in 1976. He also enjoyed an illustrious career in industry at both DuPont and 3M in the early research around synthetic adhesives.

Agre revitalized Augsburg’s chemistry department and was recognized for his programs that brought high school students to campus. Under his leadership, Augsburg’s department received initial approval from the American Chemical Society.

Agre’s last visit to campus was at Homecoming in 1995 when Peter Agre was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus. Courtland Agre died a few weeks later, in October 1995, from cancer.

His wife, Ellen, when interviewed about Peter’s Nobel Prize, told Minnesota Public Radio her daughter said that before his death, Courtland had stated that one day Peter was going to win the Nobel Prize. “Courtland would be rejoicing,” Ellen Agre told the interviewer.
1 E. Milton Kleven ‘46 and his daughter, Barbara Kleven Birky, are among the attendees at the dinner in honor of Peter Agre.
2 Bill and Kathy Urseth posed for a photo with Agre.
3 Augsburg regent James Haglund and his wife, Kathy, exchanged greetings with the Nobel Prize laureate.
4 Proud mother Ellen Agre enjoys the light moments of Peter’s presentation in the campus convocation about his research.
5 After his convocation in Hoversten Chapel, a throng of people waited to greet the Nobel laureate, including Philip Quanbeck Sr., to Agre’s left.
6 Agre reminisced with Professor Henry Follingstad, his former mathematics teacher, as members of the Department of Chemistry looked on. Clockwise, from lower left: Professor Joan Kunz, chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Professor Arlin Gyberg, who taught Agre as a student; Professor Sandra Olmsted ’69, chemistry department chair; chemistry student Monica Koukal; and Follingstad.
7 Dean Malotky ’71 (center) and Peter Agre were a year apart in the chemistry department. Cheryl (Rogalla) Malotky ’72 (left) looks on as they talked.
DISHING UP RECIPES FOR LEARNING AND SERVING

by Betsey Norgard
photos by Stephen Geffre
AS ANYONE WHO COOKS KNOWS,

finding creative ways to combine ingredients is a challenge. In the
Campus Kitchen at Augsburg, students receive surplus food from the College’s
food service and other local food banks and transform these various ingredients
into healthy and tasty meals for neighborhood residents in shelters and
community programs.

Augsburg is one of six campuses in
the country to join The Campus
Kitchens Project™, a leadership
development program of DC Central
Kitchen. The project focuses on making
use of recycled food, students in service-
learning, and teaching food preparation
skills to the unemployed. It is also a great
opportunity for volunteers from the
campus and the community to combine
talents.

The Campus Kitchen at Augsburg
opened in October with President and
Mrs. Frame cooking the first meals under
the direction of Augsburg’s Sodexho food
staff. About 60 volunteers have been
involved weekly since then, serving 100 to
300 meals—a total of more than 2,400
meals in the five months.

Two or three nights a week, a team of
volunteers assesses the food ingredients
available that day, and cooks up meals of
entrees, desserts, soups, etc. The next day
another volunteer team delivers the food
to one of three neighborhood agencies—
Safe Place at Trinity Lutheran Church,
the Brian Coyle Center Kids College,
Catholic Charities’ Secure Waiting Place,
and Peace House.

“One thing I will never forget is just
the look on their faces when they see that
we have brought them some food,” said
freshman Jennifer Ramos. “Along with
being happy about the food, they are
excited to see us.” Volunteers spend time
at the centers after delivering the meals to
gain an understanding of how the process works.

Project director Abby Flottemesch also
helps the students organize additional
activities—clothing drives, special events,
and projects. In February, the student
volunteers prepared a Valentine’s Day meal
for teen parents and their children at the
Division of Indian Work in Minneapolis.

The Campus Kitchen at Augsburg
developed from the collaboration of the
Center for Service, Work, and Learning
and Sodexho, the College’s food service
provider. “It’s a natural extension of our
community service-learning interests,”
President William Frame recently told the
Minneapolis Star Tribune, adding that it fit
Augsburg’s mission to be an “active citizen
in the neighborhoods.”

In addition to fulfilling their AugSem
requirements, first-year students learn the
broader lessons embodied in the Campus
Kitchens motto—“Teach, Reach, Feed,
Lead.”

“At the end of the day I feel better
knowing that I have made an impact on
someone’s life,” says Ramos.
IN 2003, Augsburg’s Hispanic/Latino Student Services program celebrated its 10th anniversary. Established in 1993, it is the newest of the four programs that provide services for ethnic populations at the College.

During its first decade, the program grew from the initial 13 students served to over 40 students who now receive assistance and academic support in areas of admissions, financial aid/scholarships, registration procedures, academic advising, personal counseling, and advocacy. The students also receive help to obtain internships, employment, and community referrals. While most activity in the program involves the day students, weekend and graduate students also take advantage of services on campus and community networking.

Augsburg’s program is growing at the same time the Hispanic/Latino population in the state of Minnesota is experiencing a triple-digit percentage increase, according to the 2000 census data. The College’s location in the heart of the Twin Cities makes it accessible to Hispanic/Latino youth of both Minneapolis and St. Paul, and Augsburg’s commitment to a diverse student body enables it to offer the financial and academic resources to reach these students. Of the more than 40 students served this year, 12 are international students, while more than double that number come from the Twin Cities metro area.

Eloisa Echávez, who received her bachelor’s degree in 1994 and master’s degree in educational leadership in 1998, was the program’s founder and director for its first six years. She is now executive director of La Oportunidad, Inc., a St. Paul community agency.

“During this time, I witnessed first hand how the support that Hispanic/Latino students received made a great impact,” Echávez states. “I saw [them] grow in every area of their lives, carrying proudly Augsburg’s mission and becoming leaders in their respective communities.”

For three years, Hispanic/Latino students have participated in Scholastic Connections, a College scholarship program that pairs students of color with alumni of color in mentoring.
relationships. Adela Arguello, a junior from Nicaragua, double-majoring in finance and economics, is one of three students currently “connected” to an alumni mentor.

“This scholarship has been one of the instruments that has made possible the great experience of having a college education in the U.S.,” she says. “My mentor, Diane Love-Scott, and her husband, Rick, have both been great mentors and great friends in the past two years.”

Love-Scott, who graduated in 1998 and now is a social worker for Hennepin County, was one of the first students involved in the program and speaks about its impact. “Getting connected to the Latino program and being part of its development was an honor. … Since there only were a handful of Latino students, it felt like we were a family. The Latino program allowed for a group of students to be heard and recognized that otherwise would simply just have ‘blended’,” she says.

Plus, becoming active in the Latino group helps students connect with other activities on campus. “My involvement with campus life was greatly attributed to my participation in the Hispanic/Latino Student Association,” says Juliana Martinez, who graduated last year with an MIS major and business minor. “As a transfer student, it can be difficult to approach other organizations and find common grounds with its members. By founding this student organization, the Hispanic/Latino Student Services [program] opened the doors to host and support events together.”

In 2001, Augsburg was recognized as a “2001 Educator of Distinction” by Saludos Hispanos, a Los Angeles-based career and education magazine and Web site for its efforts in outreach and recruitment. Included in that are the College’s efforts to provide financial aid and scholarships above and beyond what is available through normal state and federal sources.

Senior Victor Acosta received federal funding and academic support that are helping him excel as a physics major. He is the recipient of a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship for math and science students and has spent two summers engaged in research funded by the National Science Foundation.

Part of the College’s and program mission is to help students prepare for

SCHOLASTIC CONNECTIONS Students Renzo and Robert Amaya Torres (second and third from left) and Adela Arguello (second from right) and mentors (left to right) Franklin Taweh, Eloisa Echávez, Maria R. Johnson, and Diane Love-Scott are part of the Scholastic Connections program, pairing students of color with alumni mentors. Hispanic/Latino program director Emiliano Chagil stands at the right.

Speaking on behalf of the mentors at the annual Scholastic Connections dinner, Diane Love-Scott ’98 commented that “a lot of the people sitting at these tables are a big part of what I am today.”

Juniors Renzo and Robert Amaya Torres, twin brothers from Colombia, spoke on behalf of scholarship recipients at the Thanksgiving reception for scholarship donors last November.
jobs in the workplace. Martinez found a position as a technology coordinator at a St. Paul community development center.

Charles Barton, a 2003 graduate in education, who has been featured in a continuing series in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, has decided to bide his time until the right teaching job opens up. In the meantime, he mentors at-risk kids and manages a before- and after-school program at a metro-area school.

Students from the various Hispanic/Latino countries bring their cultural traditions to Augsburg's campus life. During Hispanic Heritage Month, mid-September to mid-October, a series of community speakers and presentations focused on cultural traditions and social issues in Mexico, and Central and South America.

Each year in Chapel during Advent, the Hispanic/Latino students present Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and search for lodging. The campus community joins in singing the procession along, and then celebrates with the festive breaking of a piñata.

Program director Emiliano Chagil believes that Augsburg will grow as a resource to the burgeoning Hispanic population. Augsburg's weekend program is especially suited to help working adults in the Hispanic community complete an undergraduate education—the dream of many immigrants seeking better lives for their families. He credits the support of the administration, especially that of Ann Garvey, associate dean for student affairs, in helping shape the direction of the ethnic programs.

Chagil, a native of Guatemala who came to the Twin Cities in 1980, has a master's degree in theology from the University of St. Thomas School of Divinity and considers himself a testament to what is possible.

“The world is a wonderful world, but one must have faith, and believe in one’s self and trust others that our mission on Earth to better creation can only be accomplished with a community,” Chagil says. “Education is the right guidance for the journey. Our nation is waiting for leadership and one must consider the challenge. As commonly said in Spanish, ‘Dios primero,’—‘Let God be first.’”
When considering their options for higher education, this father and son duo from Forest Lake, Minn., had no intention of attending the same college. However, the educational paths of Alex and Kevin Keto led them both down different roads to Augsburg College.

Alex, who is currently a marketing manager for Wendy's International, Inc., came to Augsburg in September 2002 to enroll in the College's Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) program. He had been planning to pursue graduate education after his son completed high school, and wanted something different than an M.B.A. Augsburg's MAL focus on leadership intrigued him as different from other comparable college programs. Believing that “you can never stop learning,” he felt he had found a “perfect fit” at Augsburg. He feels the leadership aspect of the program will benefit him in his job and give him a competitive edge. “I hope to take what I know,” he says, “and add some leadership to incorporate mentoring to develop some kind of leadership program.”

Alex’s son, Kevin, choose a different road to Augsburg, which was in no way influenced by his father. Kevin entered Augsburg as a freshman last fall. A graduate of Forest Lake High School, he was involved in community service through the National Honor Society (NHS) and was the point guard on the varsity basketball team. As a team member and co-captain, he helped run basketball camps for younger players.

Kevin’s college selection pointed Augsburg’s way because he wanted to attend a school that had diversity, that was in the city, and where he could continue to play basketball. To his great joy, he made the varsity team in his first year and found that college basketball was a new experience he really enjoyed. He also enjoyed having Alex in the stands at many of his games, and is already looking forward to next year’s season.

Outside of basketball, although Alex and Kevin attend classes on the same campus they hardly see each other. Alex’s MAL classes meet every other weekend, and Kevin studies during the week. Even so, they still find time to meet or talk every now and then—as when they needed to clear a mix-up on their e-mails. One of Kevin’s professors, unaware that Kevin was not the only Keto on campus, e-mailed him with praise for a paper he wrote, asking if it could be shared with the class. Much to the professor’s surprise, the e-mail went to Alex, who wrote back explaining the confusion. The professor than e-mailed Alex back thanking him for setting everything straight and complimenting the work of his son.

Although Alex plans to complete his degree in the next year, Kevin will not be far behind. Because of advanced placement courses in high school, he is on an accelerated pace in his college studies. He has continued his service work from high school and is currently volunteering as a tutor for Somali children as part of his Christian vocation class.

Kevin has already accepted a position for next year as a resident assistant in Urness Hall, where he will help new freshman find their way around new classes, a new campus, and new experiences.

Becky Welle is a senior communications major and intern in the Office of Public Relations and Communication.
From the Alumni Board president’s desk...

These are exciting times for Augsburg College and Augsburg alumni. Several months ago, the College launched the “Transforming Education” marketing campaign. Billboards, radio and magazine advertisements, and the Augsburg Web site reflect that which all Augsburg alumni know: “Be yourself at Augsburg, and leave completely changed.”

One alumnus who exemplifies the transforming nature of an Augsburg education is Peter Agre ’70. Shortly after the campaign was launched, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that Peter was one of two winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (see the feature story on p. 8 for details). Peter’s award is a fantastic honor and all Augsburg alumni can be proud of his achievement.

Peter’s honor has personal meaning for me. While a senior at Augsburg, I traveled to Baltimore in the spring of 1984 to visit the Johns Hopkins University where I would matriculate in the School of Medicine that fall. Peter, early in his career at the time, warmly welcomed me to the city and into his home. He gave me an exhaustive tour of the city and the medical school and introduced me to many of his colleagues. Later, Peter was my teacher and mentor on the clinical wards. Despite his busy schedule, Peter always had time to talk and reminisce (especially about Minnesota and Augsburg). He was a terrific mentor and later a good friend and colleague. Congratulations, Peter!

In Alumni Board news, Dan Anderson ’65, who joined the Alumni Board last year, recently accepted appointment to the Augsburg Board of Regents. One of Dan’s primary roles on the Board of Regents will be to represent the Alumni Board and alumni. Dan is a dedicated supporter of the College, and this appointment will surely benefit the entire Augsburg community.

These truly are exciting times for Augsburg and its alumni. Within a Christian context, the College remains committed to an education that is academically excellent and “transforming.” One measure of the “transforming” nature of an Augsburg education is alumni participation in the affairs of the College. Indeed, alumni have not only increased their participation in alumni events, but have also increased their giving of time, talents, and financial gifts to Augsburg. On behalf of the Alumni Board, I thank you for your generosity!

Paul S. Mueller ’84, M.D.
President, Alumni Board

Alumni tour features Lutheran heritage in Germany and Eastern Europe

Augsburg alumni are invited to explore Lutheran heritage in Germany and Eastern Europe in a tour sponsored by the Alumni Association, October 15-27. This custom created travel program features the places of Martin Luther’s life and ministry in the German cities of Wittenberg and Eisleben, as well as a special worship service at the American Church of Berlin, where Augsburg alumnus Rev. Ben Coltvet ’66 is currently pastor. The itinerary also includes visits to Dresden and Leipzig, as well as to two of Europe’s most beautiful capital cities, Prague and Budapest. In addition, tour participants will have an opportunity to interact with the local Lutheran community in Bratislava, Slovakia, where the Lutheran church dates back to the 16th century.

Augsburg professor Dr. Mark Tranvik and his wife, Ann, will host this tour from the Twin Cities. Tranvik has taught reformation history at Augsburg for 10 years and has recently visited the places of Martin Luther’s life in Germany.

Pre-registration is required by June 15. A tour information and education meeting will be held May 16 at 2 p.m. in the Christensen Center (Century Room). A tour brochure is available for download in the Alumni News section of the Now Online at <www.augsburg.edu/now>. For further information, contact Alumni/Parent Relations at 612-330-1178 or <alumni@augsburg.edu>.
Second annual Connections event a success

The second annual Connections—A Women’s Leadership Event, co-sponsored by Augsburg College and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, was held January 31. It was an inspirational morning for over 130 participants including more than 25 current Augsburg students.

“What makes this women’s event unique compared to others is that we invite students to participate in this leadership development opportunity so they may network and be encouraged by the experiences and stories of the amazing women who attend,” said Sue Klaseus, vice president of Augsburg’s Institutional Advancement and Community Relations.

Presenters included Jennifer Grimm ’99, international recording artist; Jennifer Martin, senior vice president for corporate administration at Thrivent and an Augsburg Board of Regents member; Anne Frame, a financial consultant and Augsburg leader; Annette Minor, attorney and consultant with HD Minor, LLC; Tammera Ericson ’93, attorney and member of the Columbia Heights City Council; Julie Sabo ’90, former MN senator; and I. Shelby Andress ’56, consultant and owner of I. Shelby Andress, Inc.

Presentations were wide-ranging and included motivational discussions of the challenges of working in traditionally male-dominated industries, finding balance between work and parenting, living a life of service, igniting your passion to follow your dreams, achieving financial security, dealing with grief after caring for a terminally ill loved one, and more.

In addition, participants were given the opportunity to break into smaller groups for networking at roundtable conversations led by a host committee made up of women leaders throughout the community, many of whom were Augsburg alumnae.

Watch for details of the third annual event in upcoming issues of the Augsburg Now!

A-Club and AWAC merge

Augsburg’s two alumni athletics organizations—A-Club and the Augsburg Women’s Athletic Club (AWAC)—merged in November. This new joint venture unites all resources, talent, and passion into a single cause directed at supporting the success of Augsburg athletics. On the immediate horizon, the new A-Club will be a major fundraising force for the proposed South Wing expansion of Si Melby Hall. The project is an important and necessary step in upgrading facilities for all students, staff, physical education majors, and intercollegiate athletes. Look for an expanded story about the merger in the spring/summer issue of the Augsburg Now.

The new A-Club’s first joint golf tournament is June 28 at the 27-hole Pebble Creek course in Becker, Minn. Proceeds from this annual event underwrite various A-Club activities, including the Hall of Fame banquet. Contact the Athletics office at 612-330-1249 for more information.

2004 Alumni Directory

The 2004 Augsburg Alumni Directory is underway. Have you returned your questionnaire or contacted the publisher (Harris) toll-free to verify your information? If you did not receive your questionnaire or have questions, contact Alumni/Parent Relations at 612-330-1178 or 1-800-260-6590 or e-mail <alumni@augsburg.edu>.

Lutheran Free Church celebration

A celebration of the tradition and heritage of the Lutheran Free Church is planned for Sat., June 12. All alumni are welcome to attend this special day of worship, “singspiration,” testimonials, lectures, and conversation. Pre-registration is required by June 1; contact Alumni/Parent Relations for more information at 612-330-1178 or <alumni@augsburg.edu>.
Fans expressed their Auggie pride at the Homecoming football game.

Robert Stacke '71, Augsburg associate professor of music, led the pep band at the Homecoming football game.

Members of the Class of 1993 gathered before the football game for a tailgating party to celebrate their 10-year reunion.

Knut Hoversten '30 (right) and his family were honored with the 2003 Distinguished Service Award. Since Knut's graduation from Augsburg in 1930, more than 40 members of the extended Hoversten family have also attended, including the family's most recent Augsburg graduate, Kari Lucin '03 (left).

Students, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered for the second annual Homecoming reception celebrating Augsburg’s four ethnic programs: the American Indian, Pan-Asian, Pan-Afrikan, and Hispanic/Latino student service areas.
The Rev. Hans G. Dumpys ’56 (right), 2003 Distinguished Alumnus, enjoyed conversation following the Homecoming chapel service, which celebrated the golden anniversary Class of 1953 and featured guest speaker Rev. Arthur Rimmereid ’53.

Brenda Henrickson Capek ’63 gathered with fellow alumni and faculty at the psychology department’s 40th anniversary celebration and reunion.

Jane Jeong Trenka ’95 and Aaron Gabriel ’00 read their work at the English department’s wine and cheese reading and reunion. Trenka’s book, The Language of Blood: A Memoir (Borealis Books), is nominated for two Minnesota Book Awards and was chosen by the Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers Program as a fall 2003 selection.

Ertwin Jones-Hermerding ’69 (pictured above) and the Rev. Hans G. Dumpys ’56 were honored at Homecoming Dinner as recipients of the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award. Other honorees included Tammera Ericson ’93 with the First Decade Award and both John Benson ’55 and Sigvald V. Hjelmeland ’41 with Spirit of Augsburg awards.

Senior Jamie Smith, Auggie wide receiver, helped lead Augsburg to a 19-0 victory over Carleton College.

Jeremiah Knabe and Katie Scheevel were crowned 2003 Homecoming King and Queen.

Joel Nelson ’85 joined fellow alumni and faculty of biology, chemistry, math, physics, and psychology at the science alumni gathering.

The Rev. Hans G. Dumpys ’56 (right), 2003 Distinguished Alumnus, enjoyed conversation following the Homecoming chapel service, which celebrated the golden anniversary Class of 1953 and featured guest speaker Rev. Arthur Rimmereid ’53.
HOMECOMING 2003


1978


Recipients of Augsburg's
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Class Notes

1947
Raymond Klym, Bloomington, Minn., was inducted into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame and will be inducted into the Minneapolis South High School Hall of Honor in April. He can be reached at <rklym@netzero.net>.

1948
Clarence “Bobb” L. Miller, Coral Gables, Fla., was elected to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1995 and the YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1997, both in Holyoke, Mass.

1953
Leland Fairbanks and his wife, Eunice, were honored by the mayor of Tempe, Ariz., when he declared August 16, 2003, as “Dr. Leland and Eunice Fairbanks 50th Anniversary Day” in tribute of their golden anniversary and their service to Tempe.

Gloria (Ostrem) Sawai received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Canada’s Augustana University College 2003 Homecoming celebration in October.

1954
John “Jack” E. Seaver, Edgerton, Wis., is enjoying retirement with his wife, Lois. He can be contacted via e-mail at <loisseaver@msn.com>.

1957

1959
Don C. Olson traveled to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, in August; it was his seventh year traveling as a mission worker.

1961
Kenneth J. Manske, Asheville, N.C., is a retired professor of chemistry from Mars Hill College. He and his wife, Janet, can be reached at <kj39@charter.net>.

Nellie Jones von Arx, Farmingville, N.Y., retired in June from Sunrise Medical Labs where she was a microbiology supervisor for 16 years. Prior work included 15 years as microbiology supervisor at North Shore University Hospital in Glen Cove, N.Y.; 10 years in medical technology at Mt. Sinai Hospital, Minneapolis; and over two years in U.S. Peace Corps, Sabah, Malaysia.

1965
Neil Sideen, Howard Lake, Minn., is public television coordinator for the City of Howard Lake and is involved in affiliated marketing on the Internet. He can be reached at <cable@howard-lake.mn.us>.

1966
Rodger T. Ericson, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, was deployed overseas to a forward operating location to support the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1968
Frank Lawatsch, Benson, Minn., is hospital administrator at Swift County-Benson Hospital, which was recently honored as one of the top 100 rural hospitals in America.

Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and president of the Lutheran World Federation, wrote a commentary published in the Oct. 18, 2003, St. Paul Pioneer Press (“Pope has been a fighter for Christian unity”) celebrating the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II. Hanson met with the pope last spring.

Diane Tiedeman, Richfield, Minn., is enjoying her retirement from teaching for Bloomington Public Schools. She likes spending time with family and friends, planting flowers, and taking care of her lawn.

1970
Ray Hanson, Sterling, Va., received a “Lightning Award” from ITT Industries AES Division. He also celebrated the marriage of his daughter in June.

1971
Barbara (Lien) Nordaune, Glenwood, Minn., was elected to serve as associate grand conductress of the Order of Eastern Star at its 2003 Grand Chapter meeting in St. Cloud. In addition to her many duties, she will be traveling throughout the state and to other jurisdictions to represent the Grand Chapter of Minnesota. Barbara is a member of the Minnewaska Chapter #129 in Glenwood, and works as a computerized embroidery operator at Cowing Robards in Alexandria. Her husband, Lyndon, owns and operates MTM Marine.

Mark Saari, Rush City, Minn., is principal of Rush City High School.

ALUMNI ON THE ROAD

Clinton Peterson, Tracy, Minn., participated in the National Festival of the States Concert Series in Washington D.C. in July as director of the Tracy Community Band. Forty band members presented concerts at the Navy Memorial, the Fairfax Retirement Village for military officers, and the Lincoln Memorial. The Tracy Community Band was Minnesota’s representative in this festival.
Rev. Arvid Dixen ‘52 brings a Memorial Day message of peace  by Jen Hass

Reprinted by permission of Quad Community Press in White Bear Lake, Minn.

Arvid “Bud” Dixen is convinced that most people think of Memorial Day as simply a sign of summer’s arrival. And he’d like to change that.

The Korean War veteran and Circle Pines, Minn., resident said people could best spend their time this holiday weekend by visiting gravesites or war memorials. Even better, the 73-year-old Dixen suggests, is to get involved with the peace movement.

His own history as a political activist is a long one, kindled by his war experiences and his religious training. After graduating from Augsburg College in 1952, Dixen was drafted into the military and was a combat engineer in the Korean War. He said the experience fighting at the tender age of 21 for more than a year—and his religious views about how Christians should react to war—changed his mind about the necessity of such conflict.

“If people could live in dignity and basic peace, they’re not going to war,” he said. Dixen returned home a changed man, not unlike other soldiers who came back from the so-called “forgotten war.” He became a preacher after attending Luther Seminary and worked during the next three decades at churches across the Midwest.

But it isn’t just peace that drove him into the streets and powered his sermons. Dixen was jailed for three days with Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1962 for demonstrating against segregation in Albany, Ga. He helped promote the country’s first female Lutheran parish pastor through the ranks at Edina Community Lutheran Church in the ’70s. Around that same time, he rallied church members to raise money for Dennis Banks and Russell Means, members of the American Indian Movement, who were arrested for taking control of Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

“All of these things are tied together, to recognize the dignity and worth of every person,” he explained.

Today, Dixen has kept busy as a member of Veterans for Peace, People of Faith Peacemaking, and the St. Paul Affinity Group, which is made up of volunteers with the international Nonviolent Peaceforce organization.

He has continued being a minister on a part-time basis for a small ELCA Lutheran ministry called Kairos. And he still speaks out about basic human rights and how they apply to the modern day—though he’s just as likely to be enjoying classical music and reading with his cats, Mozart and Socrates, at his feet.

“We’re audacious enough to think we can stop people from starting war,” he said. “But it isn’t just an effort being made by white people—this is a worldwide effort.”

It’s a mission that has sent Dixen across the country to speak at political rallies and faith forums, to write cabinet members in President George W. Bush’s administration, and to contact reporters about how to best cover wars, speaking with local establishments like the Star Tribune and KARE-11.

It has also sent him to protest locally, primarily at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Lake Drive in Circle Pines, where protesters gathered for the latest Iraqi conflict.

Dixen isn’t a pacifist but believes in questioning all American military action. He emphasizes caring for other nations, keeping the peace, and obeying the Christian dictate to “Love your enemies.”

“I consider myself a patriot,” he said, “but that doesn’t mean I’m uncritical.”
Class Notes

ALUMNI PROFILE

David Cheung ’73: Tissue transplant pioneer

by Lynn Mena

Peter Agre ’70 isn’t the only Auggie making news in the science community. Agre’s discovery of aquaporins and his resulting Nobel Prize in Chemistry (see p. 8) is but one very public example of the research and accolades enjoyed by many of Augsburg’s esteemed science alumni. In fact, alumnus David Cheung ’73 is currently engaged in groundbreaking research that could very well lead to a Nobel Prize of his own.

Cheung, a tissue transplant researcher, has successfully developed new tissue treatment methods that allow non-living animal tissue to be rebuilt in humans as living tissue. This is remarkable because not only has Cheung demonstrated that non-living animal tissue can become living tissue in humans—but he has also demonstrated that non-living animal tissue has the potential to actually grow once it has been transplanted into another species.

“Ultimately, my goal is to reduce the need for allograft (human to human) transplant tissues or human living cells (such as fetal cells) used in other popular tissue engineering techniques,” said Cheung.

“I would never have dreamt that such a thing was possible when I was a chemistry major at Augsburg,” added Cheung, reflecting upon his journey from Augsburg to his current professional research and success.

“Augsburg provided me with an environment of integrity and a value system that is consistent with the basic faith of the Lutheran church,” continued Cheung. “Along with academic training, guidance, and encouragement, this value system made me what I am today. It prepared me to face a world full of people who often compete with no rules, principles, or integrity. For that, I am so thankful to Augsburg.”

After graduating from Augsburg in 1973 with a B.A. in chemistry, Cheung received a master’s degree in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota. He received his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Southern California, where he first started working on tissue transplant research under Dr. Marcel Nimni (Nimni helped develop the Hancock Valve—an artificial heart valve made from pig heart valves mounted on plastic frames wrapped in Dacron cloth). Cheung stayed on at USC and joined the faculty at the USC School of Medicine (now called the USC Keck School of Medicine).

In 1995, Cheung left USC to join the International Heart Institute of Montana Foundation (part of the University of Montana and St. Patrick Hospital and Medical Sciences Center in Missoula) as director of the Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering Laboratory and as an adjunct associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and biological sciences.

In 2000, Cheung founded a medical device company called Philogenesis, Inc., located in Montrovia, Calif., a few miles from his home in Arcadia, where he has been working on the commercialization phase of his current research (he has been traveling back and forth between Montana and California every month for the past seven years).

In addition, Cheung is a consultant to numerous medical device industries, as well as a volunteer associate professor in surgery and cardiology back at USC.

Cheung and his wife, Chuane-Chuane, have two children: Rebecca, a pharmacist and fellow at the VA Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif.; and Philip, a junior majoring in bioengineering. Cheung’s sister, Pearl (a 1971 Augsburg alumna) is a researcher with Cheung at Philogenesis (coincidentally, Pearl and Peter Agre were chemistry lab partners as Augsburg students).

“Science is about being able to think logically and creatively, an ability given by God,” said Cheung. “It is by God’s grace that I had an opportunity to receive my undergraduate education at Augsburg and continue on to a career in biomedical research after further graduate training.

“I hope that Augsburg’s current students can be encouraged to hold on to their faith long after their years at Augsburg,” continued Cheung. “I hope they are inspired to challenge the world and become future leaders.”
1972
Tim Nelson and Karen (Brien) ’72 moved to Colorado in January 2003 to be closer to their grandchildren. Both of their granddaughters are redheads, in honor of great-grandfather LuVerne “Red” Nelson ’43. Tim works in Broomfield as a real estate broker/consultant for Redhorse Real Estate, Inc.

1973
Cheryl Paschke was named Educator of the Year by Young Audiences of Minnesota. Cheryl has been an advocate of Young Audiences for many years, and most recently worked as their partner in the award-winning “Classical Initiative Project.” She is a K-12 fine arts specialist for Minneapolis Public Schools, working as an orchestra conductor, music teacher, and arts coordinator.

Gary Anderson, Minneapolis, is a systems development manager at Traveler’s Express in St. Louis Park. He can be reached at <ganderson@temgweb.com>.

Rev. Michael F. Nelson, Cokato, Minn., is pastor of North Crow River, Grace, and Redeemer Lutheran churches in the rural Cokato-Dassel area. He previously served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Cass Lake and Our Savior Lutheran in Federal Dam, both in Minnesota. His wife, Sue, teaches music at St. Peter’s Elementary School in Delano.

Joyce (Catlin) Casey and her husband, Paul, recently relocated to Waconia, Minn., to be closer to Waterbrooke Fellowship in Victoria, where Paul is worship pastor. Joyce is a second grade teacher at Albertville Primary School, where she has taught for 25 years.

1974
Larry Walker, Minneapolis, who writes under the name Lars Walker, is author of Blood and Judgment, a fantasy novel published in December (Baen Books). This is Walker’s fourth book for Baen Books. Larry was a guest lecturer last summer for the Royal Princess cruise ship during a cruise from England to Norway. He lectured on the Vikings, sharing information he has gathered in his book research.

1975
Steven Waleen, Lino Lakes, Minn., is a teacher for the Anoka-Hennepin ISD #11.

1976
Shari (Simonson) Hanson, Delavan, Minn., works at Winnebago Elementary. She recently helped move her daughter into the ninth floor of Urness for her freshman year. Shari can be reached at <shhanson@blueearth.k12.mn.us>.

Marjorie Miller, Minneapolis, is executive director of Southeast Seniors, a living-at-home block nurse program.

1977
Roselyn Nordaune, Plymouth, Minn., was featured in the “Super Lawyers 2003” section of the August issue of Minneapolis/St. Paul magazine. She has practiced family law since 1980 and is a founder of Nordaune & Friesen in St. Louis Park.

Jean M. Herges, Phoenix, Ariz., was recently named Career Consultant of the Year by the International Association of Career Consulting Firms (IACCF). Herges is vice president of consulting at Andrew Stevens & Associates in Phoenix, as well as president of Women in Healthcare, an organization serving executive women involved in healthcare or healthcare related services. She received a graduate degree in organizational development and has been working as a career consultant for over seven years; she was previously a flight nurse for 15 years.

1978
David Wilhelm, River Falls, Wis., is a physician at Western Wisconsin Medical Associates.

1980
Paul B. Kilgore, Duluth, Minn., was featured in the November issue of Minnesota Monthly magazine. His short story, Roeschler’s Home, was a winner of the magazine’s 18th annual Tamarack award.

1981
Dennis Gilbertson, Rochester, Minn., is general manager of the Saturn dealership in Rochester. He has been a sales manager at three other Rochester dealerships over the past 16 years. He and his wife, Colette (Kehlenbeck) ’79, can be reached at <dennisg@lupient.com>.

1982
Judy (Bodurtha) Dougherty and her husband, Chuck, own the Cover Park Manor, a bed and breakfast in Stillwater, Minn.

1983
Laurie (Bennett) Halvorson ’99 WEC, St. Paul, is in her fourth year teaching fifth grade at Como Park Elementary School.

1984
Lisa (Rykken) Kastler and her husband, Brent, live in Champlin, Minn. Brent, who designed the magazine format for the Augsburg Now, has a new line of greeting cards called Fun Cards, which are available at local Kowalski stores.

1985
Irvin James Narum Silrum, Bismarck, N.Dak., became the new deputy secretary of state for North Dakota. He worked for 18 years for the ELCA, most recently as executive director for Camp of the Cross Ministries near Garrison, N.Dak. His wife, Marci, is a producer and anchor for a new 5 p.m. statewide newscast for the CBS affiliate in Bismarck.

HOMECOMING 2004
Spark Your Spirit
October 5–9
Football Game vs. Gustavus Adolphus
Saturday, October 9, 1 p.m.

Homecoming Dinner
Saturday, October 9, 5:30 p.m.

Reunion Celebrations
Watch your mail and upcoming issues of the Augsburg Now for complete details. You can also stay up-to-date by visiting the alumni Web site at <www.augsburg.edu/alumni>.
It all started at Augsburg

by Naomi (Christensen) Staruch '81

Following is a story submitted by Naomi (Christensen) Staruch '81, in which she recounts how a gathering she planned in 1998 to reconnect with Augsburg friends has led to frequent, ongoing get-togethers.

We came from various parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, mostly. I hadn’t seen many of these people in ages. We were still good friends but we had, over time, lost touch as we became embroiled in our individual lives. As the days and years passed, our paths crossed only occasionally. This wasn’t right! We had been together on the journey that transformed us into adults—there were so many precious memories that shouldn’t be lost on heavily scheduled calendars, professional obligations, or family responsibilities.

I needed to see these people.

So I decided to throw a party. I picked the day, time, and place—it would be in my backyard in south Minneapolis. I sent invitations to about 25 folks, and asked them to RSVP so I could plan food and beverages. I had heard from a few that they couldn’t make it, but I pretty much assumed that everybody else would. Hah, we have a good laugh at that today!

At the prime time of the party, only two people had arrived, Paul ‘79 and Sally (Hough) Daniels ‘79, and they called a few blocks from the house to see if it was still okay to show up as they hadn’t returned their RSVP. It turned out that they were the lucky ones; they were the first to meet my husband-to-be, Steven. That was the “real” reason for that first party. I wanted to introduce the man I was about to marry (a native of Butler, Pa., of Slovakian heritage, a graduate of Oberlin College and the Eastman School of Music, a Minnesota transplant), to my good friends from college days. Paul, Sally, Steven, and I had a great evening together. That could have been the end but instead it was just another beginning.

I was confident that this idea of reconnecting Augsburg friends was a good idea. Steven and I tried again a few months later and this time the backyard was full of college chums. We talked and laughed and told stories and talked and laughed some more. Even the non-Augsburg spouses were quickly inducted into the Auggie family. Amazingly, it seemed as though we had never been apart. Then someone mentioned the ages of their children, or someone else revealed that they had held the same job since college, and even a few were approaching their 20th wedding anniversaries! Soon we were proclaiming that we really weren’t old enough for these things to be possible, as it seemed we had only just graduated from college. Look at us—we are still so very young!

That first get-together was in September 1998, nearly 20-some years after our days on the Augsburg campus. Steven and I were thrilled that most of these Augsburg friends sang in the choir at our wedding in February 1999.

Now we intentionally get together two, three, even four times a year, just for fun. Involvement ebbs and flows as it is nearly impossible to find a time when everyone is available for socializing—yet each time we are together we remember and celebrate the bond that ties us together.

It all started at Augsburg.

1986

Lisa M. Pestka Anderson, Rochester, Minn., wrote and performed a one-woman show, Who Am I, and How Did I Get Here? at The Masque Youth Theatre and School in Rochester.

Augsburg theatre faculty, Darcey Engen ‘88, directed the musical comedy.

Lisa Baumgartner, Sycamore, Ill., is an assistant professor in the Counseling, Adult and Health Education Department at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. In May she was elected to the Adult Education Research Conference Steering Committee for a two-year term.

Patrick Guernsey, St. Paul, was one of six AFSCME members chosen from around the nation to question 2004 presidential candidates at a Town Hall Forum in Des Moines, Iowa. The event was televised live on C-Span and CNBC. He has served as president of AFSCME local 552 Hennepin County Probation and Parole Officers since 1997.
Kara Anne (Hansel) Buhr, St. Paul, started the Como Block Nursing Program so more senior citizens could stay in their own homes. She is a social worker and works primarily with elders and hospice.

1987

Louise (Butler) and Peter Mason moved back to Richmond, Va., where Louise works with families at the Family Intervention Center of Virginia. The couple also runs an e-commerce business, Cyber-Mall, at <www.cyber-mall.net>.

Becky (Clifford) Jans, Blue Earth, Minn., is involved in the national program “Musikgarten” to bolster the learning curve in pre-schoolers.

Alice (Dahl) Roth, St. Anthony, Minn., recently became assistant dean of Hamline University’s Graduate School of Education.

1988

Christie (Moechnig) Wetzel, Wells, Minn., was elected to the United South Central School Board for a four-year term. She owns Idle Ladies Jewelry and is also an independent distributor for SeneGence International. Christie and her husband, Doug, have two children: Davis, 6, and Lauren, 4.

Dave Stevens appeared on ABC-TV’s That’s Incredible Reunion Show in August. He now works for ESPN, where he has won three Emmy Awards, and previously worked at KSTP-TV sports for nine years.

1990

Alisa Holen, Iowa City, Iowa, presented a pottery show, Father-Daughter Dance: Pottery Across the Generations, with her father, Norman Holen, Augsburg art professor emeritus, last fall at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, Minn., where she also served as an artist-in-residence (she was previously a studio artist at the center). The show was their first joint exhibit. Alisa is working on her master’s degree in ceramics at Iowa State University.

1991

Jeff Ronneberg, Lino Lakes, Minn., is director of teaching, learning, and accountability for the Spring Lake Park School District. He previously served as principal of Woodcrest Elementary School. He and his wife, Jill, have two children: Sam, 3, and Sydney, 1.

1992

Julie (Goede) Luers, Eden Prairie, Minn., was awarded the National Society for Marketing Professional Services’ highest honor, the 2003 Marketing Achievement Award. A highly competitive award, SMPS selected Julie based on her accomplishments and contributions in the following areas: research, education, professional leadership, marketing communications, and innovation. Julie is marketing director of the national architectural firm, Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, and past national president of SMPS.

1993

Doris Rubenstein ’93 MAL, Richfield, Minn., celebrated the publication of her book, The Good Corporate Citizen: A Practical Guide (Wiley, John & Sons, Incorporated), in March. Doris owns PDP Services, a consulting firm that focuses primarily on philanthropy and citizenship, and her book shares the methods that PDP Services uses to help mid-market companies create vibrant, strategic, and ethical policies and procedures for their business philanthropy and volunteer programs.

1994

Maria E. Johnson, Minneapolis, is starting her 10th year as a middle school teacher at Webster Open School. She can be reached at <mariaj@mpls.k12.mn.us>.

1995

Jody Rosenbloom (MAL), Northampton, Mass., was one of four recipients of the 2003 Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education in Western Massachusetts. She also contributed a chapter in the recently published book, The Ultimate Jewish Teacher’s Handbook (edited by Nechama Skolnik Moskowitz and published by ARE: Denver); Rosenbloom’s chapter is called “The Teacher/Principal Relationship.”

1996

Margaret (Lubega) Johnson, St. Paul, is pursuing graduate studies.

Annette Marie (Anibas) Poeschel, Excelsior, Minn., is the executive director of the Intercongregation Communities Association food shelf in Minnetonka, which provides food and assistance for families in the west metro community. In April 2003, the Excelsior Area Chamber of Commerce presented her with its 2003 Adult Hero Award, honoring her significant contributions to the community. Annette can be reached via e-mail at <icaannefjuno.com>.

1998

Meghan (Carlblom) Blomquist, Minneapolis, received her elementary education teaching license in January.
Laura (Paul) Newton, Minneapolis, was awarded a DOVE fellowship by the University of Minnesota. The fellowship is awarded to only a few students each year who are entering a master’s or Ph.D. program at the university and provides full tuition and a $15,000 stipend. She is pursuing a Master of Social Work.

Raylene Dale, Woodbury, Minn., is technical director at Minnesota Lions Eye Bank in Minneapolis. She can be reached at <dalex011@umn.edu>.

Victoria Sadek, West St. Paul, auditioned for and received the role of “Mudonna,” the official mascot for the St. Paul Saints baseball team. She is an English teacher at North Branch High School, where she teaches British literature, composition, and detective literature. She also coaches cheerleading and is the one-act play director.

Tom Gronwold, Ashby, Minn., is a high school social studies instructor and junior high football coach at Ashby School. He was previously a part-time teacher at Jefferson High School in Alexandria, Minn. He and his wife, Michelle, have a daughter, Zoe, 6.

Wendy (Hoekstra) Vogelgesang, Litchfield, Minn., is a second grade teacher at Lake Ripley Elementary and recently became a PartyLite consultant.

Ryan Mills, Philadelphia, Pa., graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J., with a Master of Divinity degree. He entered the Master of Sacred Theology program at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and serves the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Princeton University.

Mary Beth (Grahn) Gruis, Kerkhoven, Minn., works at Ridgewater College as an adjunct English faculty member and is working on her thesis at St. Cloud State University. She can be reached at <maryg@ridgewater.mnscu.edu>.

Kendy (Bade) Lewis is pursuing graduate studies in gerontology at St. Cloud State University.

Jessica Rivera, Le Center, Minn., was appointed by St. Paul Lutheran Church as their 2003-04 intern. She will serve the parish by preaching, working with the youth group, and helping with church services.

Heidi (Hoffman) Quezada, Minneapolis, is a warehouse manager for Second Harvest Heartland. She and her husband, Carlos, have three kids: Carmen, 4, Ethan, 3, and Elan, 3. Heidi can be reached at <hoffman@augsburg.edu>.

Sarah Luce, Northfield, Minn., is a teacher at Montgomery Elementary School.

Brendan Anderson, Burbank, Calif., guest conducted at Lutheran High School of Orange County, Calif., in a performance of his piece, I Believe, written for concert band and choir, in a benefit concert for a scholarship fund the school uses to send students to music camps. The Augsburg Concert Band also performed Anderson’s piece with the high school at the Crystal Cathedral in May 2003 during the Concert Band’s California tour.

Kendra Roberg, Bloomington, Minn., is a research analyst for Hennepin County Public Defenders and is also pursuing graduate studies.

Elizabeth Scanlan, Minneapolis, is a vocational coordinator for Access to Employment.

Eric Bretheim, Minneapolis, works at Cargill.

Jeremy Jirele, Austin, Minn., is a staff accountant at LarsonAllen.

John Tieben, Duluth, Minn., took part in the “White Coat Ceremony” at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Duluth. The ceremony takes place during orientation when freshmen students first enter the medical community.

Aaron Kolb, St. Paul, is a student at Luther Seminary and a part-time youth minister at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake. He can be reached at <godlovesa@hotmail.com>.

Debra Ann Balzer ‘86, Lake Shore, Minn., married Robert Plagemann in June. Debra is starting her third year as career center director at Brainerd High
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School; Robert is a partner in JMS Homes.

Daniel Nessel ’88, Brentwood, Calif., married Charmaine Trifon in June. Daniel works at Prudential Real Estate in Los Angeles; Charmaine works at Coldwell Banker Real Estate.


Nancy Nordlund ’91, Minneapolis, married Allan Bernard in September. Nancy supervises the customer contact center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Lisa M. Nicosia ’01 married Brian Farrell ’95 in September. Lisa is a registered nurse at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minn.; Brian is an attorney at McCollum, Crowley, Vehanen, Moschet and Miller in Bloomington.

Erika Timm ’95, Fridley, Minn., married Samuel Rodriguez in September. Erika is a physician assistant at Allina Medical Center in Champlin, Minn.; Samuel is a diabetes management consultant for Medtronic in Minneapolis.

Stephen Oswood ’95, Minneapolis, married Laura Slaughter in June. Stephen is a program manager at Restart, Inc., and can be reached at scooby628@hotmail.com.

Tim Ronneberg ’96 married Melanie Harding in September. Tim is completing his family practice residency at St. John’s Hospital and will begin work as a physician; Melanie is pursuing her MBA at the University of Minnesota and works for the Target Corporation in the finance department.

Laurie H. Boros ’97, Pierz, Minn., married Rocky L. Boser in April 2003 in Hawaii.

Joseph Peter ’97, Farmington, Minn., married Shari Heggen in August. Joseph works at Gourmet Award Foods; Shari works at Park Dental.

Emma Manville ’98, White Bear Lake, Minn., married Kevin Nelson in October. They both work for St. Paul Public Schools, where Emma is a kindergarten teacher and Kevin is an elementary counselor.


Becky Esser ’99, Ramsey, Minn., married Derek Anderson ’98 in October. Becky is a buyer for Augsburg Fortress Publishers; Derek is a computer analyst for Interactive Quality Services.

Natasha Hamann ’99, Shoreview, Minn., married Josh Schaefer in March 2003 in Cancun, Mexico. Tasha is a resident physician at St. John’s Hospital; Josh is an actuary for Allianz Life Insurance.

Amanda Krebsbach ’99, New Brighton, Minn., married Ben West in June. Amanda is a fourth grade teacher at Spring Lake Park Schools.

Stephanie Lein ’00 married Sam Walseth ’00 in Hoversten Chapel in August. Stephanie works at Theater Mu; Sam works at Capitol Hill Associates in St. Paul.

Phoebe McDonald ’00 married Nicholas Johnson ’01 in October. They reside in Manhattan, where they both work in academic information technology—Phoebe at Columbia University and Nicholas at Brooklyn College. The couple previously worked in Augsburg’s IT department, which is where they met.

Julie Peterson ’00 married Kip Kaufmann in October. Julie is a financial planner assistant at Olson Weiss, LLC, in Bloomington, Minn.; Kip is a senior IT systems analyst at Cargill in Minnetonka.


Skylar Hanson ’01 married Jennifer Harrison in August.

Heidi Erickson ’01, Minneapolis, married Matt Segedy in May 2003. Heidi works in medical device sales at LifeScan in St. Paul; Matt is a pediatrician with Wayzata Children’s Clinic.

Teresa Lewandowski ’01 married Christian Dawson ’01 in March 2003 in Invercargil, New Zealand. Teresa works at Phoenix Schools in Fair Oaks, Calif.; Christian works at South Pointe Academy in Sacramento.

Solveig Grafstrom ’02, Huntsville, Ala., married Jackson Harren in August. Solveig works for the U.S. Space and Rocket Center; Jackson is studying industrial systems engineering at the University of Alabama, Huntsville.

Amy Huseby ’02 married Rick Goebel in August. Amy is a PA-C in general surgery for Minneapolis, married Matt Segedy in May 2003. Heidi works in medical device sales at LifeScan in St. Paul; Matt is a pediatrician with Wayzata Children’s Clinic.

Lute Olson ’56 married Christine Toretti in April 2003. Olson, head basketball coach at the University of Arizona, met Toretti at an NCAA Foundation Dinner in April 2002 in Atlanta. Toretti is the chairman and CEO of S.W. Jack Drilling, an oil and gas exploration drilling firm in Indiana, Pa.
Class Notes

St. Cloud Medical Group; Rick is a systems analyst at Banta Catalog Group in Maple Grove, Minn.

Christopher Kambeitz ’02, Eden Prairie, Minn., married Melissa Ketchum ’01 in August. Christopher works in sales at Cargill-North Star Steel in Edina.

Mara Koughan ’02, White Bear Lake, Minn., married Brad Louque in August 2002.

Carrie Lister ’02, Fridley, Minn., married Nicholas Matros in April 2003. Carrie is an assistant site director for the Southdale YMCA’s school-age childcare department; Nicholas is a floor technician for Reichow Parquet Flooring in Cedar, Minn.

Kristina Lutter ’02, Wayzata, Minn., married David Brackett Jr. in September. Kristina is a psychiatric technician at Fairview Riverside Medical Center.

Troy Peterson ’02 married Nicole Forcier in October. Troy is an account analyst at John B. Collins Associates; Nicole is a senior payroll specialist with Best Buy Enterprises.


Derek Kuhlman ’03, Maplewood, Minn., married Angela Mold in July. Derek works for 3 Diamond Corporation in Shoreview; Angela is a dental assistant at Metropolitan Pediatric Dental Associates in St. Paul.

Elizabeth Lallak ’03, Tallahassee, Fla., married Aaron Sundstrom in January. She is a college admissions counselor.

Births

Rev. Paul Burow ’84 and his wife, Janeen, Brooklyn Park, Minn.—a son, Christopher Michael, in April 2003. He joins brothers Danny, 10, and Jonathan, 8.

Paul is pastor at Family of God Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park.

Karin (Sabo) ’86 and Nicholas Mantor, Burnsville, Minn.—a daughter, Sarah Nicole, in September. She joins siblings Emily, Thomas, and John.

Deborah (Raetz) ’87 and Dale Hansmeier, Apple Valley, Minn.—a son, Paul James, in April 2003. Deborah is a special education teacher at Como Park Senior High, and can be reached at <deblr65@aol.com>.

Devoney Looser ’89 and George Justice, Columbia, Mont.—a son, Carl Anchor Justice, in September.

Bonnie (Gutknecht) ’91 and Thurston Miller, Granger, Ind.—a daughter, Salinda Josephine, in May 2002. Bonnie can be reached at <leaflaker@mail.com>.

Kimberly Anne (Swanson) ’93 and Jeffrey Paul Meslow ’92, Plymouth, Minn.—a daughter, Kayla Grace, in September. She joins sister Ally Jillian, 2. The Meslows can be reached at <jeffmeslow@msn.com>.

Ann (Gallagher) ’96 and Lee Stephenson ’96, Sturgeon Lake, Minn.—a daughter, Grace Ann, in May. Ann is a first-grade teacher at Moose Lake Schools, and Lee teaches high school social studies.

Jeffrey Cameron ’96 and his wife, Linda, Vadnais Heights, Minn.—a daughter, Allison, in September. She joins sister Megan, 2. Jeffrey was named partner at E.J. Brooks & Associates, a law firm specializing in intellectual property law, and was named a “Rising Star” by Minnesota Law and Politics magazine.

Liza (Lindquist) ’97 and Ted Jacobson, St. Louis Park, Minn.—a daughter, Annie Estelle, in August 2002. She joins brother Cecil, 3.

Mary (Brooks) ’98 and Jon Wroge, Norwood Young America, Minn.—a daughter, Hanna Adaire, in January 2003. She joins siblings Kylie and Cole. Mary is an English teacher for Central Public Schools, and can be reached at <mwoogle@central.ks12.mn.us>.

Kim (Eckström) ’99 and Rique Beslin Jr., Centerton, Ariz.—a daughter, Rebecca Ann, in June. She joins siblings Stephanie Kae, 2, and Darrell, 9. Kim is a systems administrator for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Corporate ISD Division, in Bentonville.

Daria Marie Reboin ’00 and David Gordhamer, Apple Valley, Minn.—a son, Elijah Lee Gordhamer, in March 2003. Daria is a microscopist/environmental analyst for EMSL Analytical, and can be reached at <creboin@hotmail.com>.

Carla Steen ’91 and Jeff Friedl, St. Paul, Minn.—a daughter, Lucy Steen Friedl, in January 2003. Carla is dramaturg/publications manager at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.
In Memoriam

Leonard C. Froyen ’30, Braham, Minn., died in September; he was 97. He was a teacher, athletic director, and coach of many sports at Braham High School from 1930-73. In 1967, he was inducted into the Minnesota Coaches Hall of Fame, and was the first person inducted into the Braham Hall of Fame in 1989.

Esther (Sather) Kennedy ’38, Edina, Minn., died in August; she was 88.

Rev. Hubert F. DeBoer ’41, Apple Valley, Minn., died in September; he was 84. He served various parishes in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Rev. Michael D. Furney ’43, Mesa, Ariz., died in August; he was 82.

Charles “Pat” Foley ’47, Minneapolis, died in August; he was 82. He was a cost accountant for ADM Company for over 20 years, part owner of Galaxy Film Service for eight years, and operated his own tax consulting and accounting business for the past 45 years.

Rev. Gilbert Feig ’49, Minneapolis, died in August; he was 80. After serving parishes in North Dakota and Minnesota for 23 years, he was a prominent building contractor in the Twin Cities for more than 25 years.

Betty Lee (Munson) Nyhus ’53, Edina, Minn., died in November; she was 72. She served in the American Lutheran Church’s women’s stewardship division in Minneapolis, and after the merger, served in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s stewardship division in Chicago for 10 years.

Rev. Leo B. Vetvick ’53, Minneapolis, died in December; he was 84. He was a chaplain with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches in the Hennepin County Courts and Jails for 20 years, serving as an advocate, counselor, and pastor to those under the jurisdiction of the courts. He also taught courses in social problems and criminology at Augsburg. After his retirement in 1973, he served as a visitation pastor at Bethlehem Covenant Church. He co-founded CoAm (Cooperative Adult Ministry), and was also an active member of AMICUS, a support organization for offenders released from prison.

David L. Mortrud ’63, Park Rapids, Minn., died in October; he was 63. He served as a US Navy submarine officer from 1963-1974, and as a U.S. Naval Reserves officer from 1974-1989, retiring with a rank of captain. As a civilian, he worked as an investment counselor in the law department of Acta Life & Casualty and as an investment manager with Northwestern National Life. He retired in 1998.

Ellen (Johnson) Strom ’65, Prior Lake, Minn., died in September of ALS; she was 60. After teaching third grade in Bloomington and beginning her family, she joined the Gittleman Corporation, and for the last 10 years she was project manager for the G.M. Northrup Foundation. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, and friend.

Larry Fleming, Minneapolis, died in December. A choral conductor and composer, he formerly directed the Augsburg Choir. He founded Augsburg’s annual Advent Vespers celebration, as well as the National Lutheran Choir.

Clayton L. Lefevere, Richfield, Minn., died in August; he was 80. He was president and co-founder of LeFevere, Lefler, Kennedy, O’Brien and Drawz, and formerly served as chair of the Augsburg Board of Regents.

A man called ‘Mo’ by Vern Bloom, Augsburg professor emeritus, social work and sociology

There are always some little known heroes among us—folks we may never have met, or have long since forgotten what they did. Such is the case, perhaps, for my good friend and former Augsburg staff member, Wayne Moldenhauer—or just plain “Mo” to those who knew him.

He died in September; he was 66.

Mo was an ex-convict, and he came to work at Augsburg in 1971, straight from Stillwater State Prison. He was one of the first students in the classes Augsburg had offered at the prison in 1969.

I am convinced that he, as much as anyone else, provided leadership that helped shape the diverse character of Augsburg as it is today. He raised over $1 million for the College from 1971-1983 in grants, scholarships, and contracts for non-traditional student programs. He was also a teaching assistant in several classes for students with disabilities.

In addition, he organized the first “non-medical” transportation for students and others with disabilities—the beginning model that later became today’s Twin Cities Metro-Mobility. After leaving the College, he went on to serve as director of the Center for Education of Non-Traditional Students (CENTS). Later, he organized and headed Minnesota’s Message Relay Service, providing telephone communication between deaf and hearing people.

Mo had no formal degrees or even much “legitimate” work experience until he came to Augsburg. Ironically, it was his experience “on the streets” that informed his skills as an organizer and fundraiser.

Mo is still a hero to those of us who came to know him. But Augsburg was also Mo’s “hero.” In December 1973, he wrote “An Open Letter to Augsburg College,” published in the Augsburg Echo. He wrote:

“...Augsburg College has given me the greatest present I could have thought to receive. That present is the ability to enjoy life again—both as a person who can find strength in his tears and frustrations and peace in his strengths and successes. ...”

Thanks, Mo—from all of us—for everything.
Greetings!

I just read the article in the Star Tribune, “Augsburg College has the Right Recipe.” And, yet again, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the work that is being done at Augsburg. I know you are doing amazing things with the students studying at Augsburg, as well as in the community.

Over the past academic year I have started supervising MSW (Master of Social Work) interns from Columbia University. This has given me the opportunity to deeply reflect on my own education and experience. In addition, I have come to the realization that Augsburg offers a holistic learning experience that other schools are unable to offer. I am very grateful for the education I gained, the financial assistance I received, and the mentors that guided me. It seems that not a day goes by when I do not think about Augsburg at least once. Some of my thoughts reference academic material, but more than that I reflect on the sense of generosity, hope, empathy, and faith I gained through my experiences. It has been invaluable. Reading the stories of the students in the article reminded me that the same work is still happening.

On a personal note, I am still doing the same sort of work I started at Augsburg. After graduating from Columbia in 2001 with my MSW, I have continued living in Manhattan. Right now I am working for an organization called Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc. I work in a public high school three days a week doing individual and group counseling as well as educational outreach to students. The other two days I am at a mental health clinic working with patients in an individual setting. My client base is aged 7–64, which adds a richness to the practice. Additionally, I am getting married in June to a great man I met out here—I will soon be Keely (Blumentritt) Meshel! It is a very exciting time in life.

I owe the faculty and staff at Augsburg a great deal of thanks for the support I have received in my educational and, now, professional career. And, it is wonderful to know that the good work is still being done by good people. If you ever need anything from New York just let me know.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,
Keely Blumentritt ’00
Music
For more information on any of these events (unless otherwise noted), call 612-330-1265

April 18
Spring Jazz Ensemble Concert
7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

April 20
Riverside Singers Spring Concert
7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

April 21
Chamber Music Recital & High Tea
4 p.m.—Sateren Auditorium

April 25
Augsburg Concert Band Spring Concert
3 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

May 2–8
Augsburg Concert Band Tour of the Midwest
Performances in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and South Dakota
For information, call 612-330-1279

Theatre
For ticket information, call 612-330-1257

April 2–18
Machinal
By Sophie Treadwell
Directed by Darcey Engen
April 2, 3, 15, 16, and 17 at 7 p.m.; April 4 and 18 at 2 p.m.
Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

April 23
Senior Acting Recitals
7 p.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

Exhibits
For gallery information, call 612-330-1524

April 2–May 2
Juried Student Art Exhibit
Gage Family Art Gallery, Lindell Library

April 2–May 16
Senior Art Exhibit
Christensen Center Art Gallery

April 4–17
Augsburg Native American Film Series 2004
In conjunction with the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival
Various dates and times; to request a flyer via e-mail, call 612-330-1523 or e-mail <marubbio@augsburg.edu>

April 18
Student Documentary Film Showcase
2–4:30 p.m.—Science Hall, Room 123
For information, call 612-330-1507
e-mail <davidson@augsburg.edu>

April 19
Dr. Noel W. Hinners, senior research associate, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado-Boulder
8 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel
For information, call 612-330-1551 or e-mail <gregoire@augsburg.edu>

May 16
Alumni Tour Information Meeting
Information about the Alumni Association-sponsored tour exploring Lutheran heritage in Germany and Eastern Europe Oct. 15-27
2–4 p.m.—Century Room, Christensen Center
For information, call 612-330-1178 or e-mail <alumni@augsburg.edu>

Other Events

April 18
Access to Excellence: The Campaign for Augsburg College
Augsburg community campaign kick-off event, including science demonstrations, music, exhibits, athletic clinics, theatre, health screenings, reading corner, worship celebration, free food, activities for all ages, and much more.
Noon-4:30 p.m.—Augsburg campus
For information, call 612-330 campus

April 30–May 1
Commencement Weekend
April 30
• Honors Convocation
4:30 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel
• Commencement Dinner
6 p.m.—Commons, Christensen Center
• Commencement Concert
Augsburg Chamber Orchestra
7:30 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel
May 1
• Eucharist Service
8:30 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel
• Baccalaureate Service
10 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel
• Commencement Brunch
11 a.m.—Commons, Christensen Center
• Commencement Ceremony
1:30 p.m.—Melby Hall
Seating begins at 12:30 p.m.
Tickets required
• Commencement Reception
3 p.m.—Murphy Square

June 12
Lutheran Free Church celebration
A celebration of the tradition and heritage of the Lutheran Free Church
9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.—Augsburg campus
For information, call 612-330-1178 or e-mail <alumni@augsburg.edu>

June 28
A-Club Golf Tournament
Pebble Creek golf course, Becker, Minn.
For information, call 612-330-1249
Send us your news and photos!

Please tell us about the news in your life, your new job, move, marriage, and births. Don’t forget to send photos!

For news of a death, printed notice is required, e.g. an obituary, funeral notice, or program from a memorial service.

Send your news items, photos, or change of address by mail to: Augsburg Now Class Notes, Augsburg College, CB 146, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN, 55454, or e-mail to <alumni@augsburg.edu>.

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Is this a new address?  □ Yes  □ No  

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Is spouse also a graduate of Augsburg College?  □ Yes  □ No  

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Your news: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

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Please tell us about the news in your life, your new job, move, marriage, and births. Don’t forget to send photos!

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