

AUGSBURG NOW

A PUBLICATION FOR AUGSBURG COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Summer 2006

Vol. 68, No. 4



A SMOOTH TRANSITION page 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summer 2006
Vol 68, No. 4

FEATURES

- 17** The Frame years—
a journey toward vision
by Betsey Norgard
- 22** Augsburg's original MBAs:
The Class of 2006
by Bethany Bierman
- 27** On tour with the Augsburg Choir
by Judy Petree
- 30** Those Lutheran Ladies
by Betsey Norgard

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Around the Quad
- 7** Sports
- 8** Commencement 2006
- 12** Sixth Annual International
Programs Photo Contest
- 14** Supporting Augsburg
Access to Excellence:
The Campaign for Augsburg College
- 35** Alumni news
- 37** Class notes
- 40** Auggie Thoughts



Editor

Betsey Norgard
norgard@augsborg.edu

Graphic Designer

Kathy Rumpza
rumpza@augsborg.edu

Staff Writer

Bethany Bierman
bierman@augsborg.edu

Staff Photographer

Stephen Geffre
geffre@augsborg.edu

Media Relations Manager

Judy Petree
petree@augsborg.edu

Sports Information Director

Don Stoner
stoner@augsborg.edu

**Director of Marketing and
Communications**

Christopher Moquist
moquist@augsborg.edu

Director of Alumni Relations

Heidi Breen
breen@augsborg.edu

www.augsburg.edu

On the cover:

*Augsburg President William Frame (right)
and President-elect Paul Pribbenow (left)
have enthusiastically worked together for a
smooth administrative transition.*

Augsburg Now is published quarterly by Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454. Opinions expressed in *Augsburg Now* do not necessarily reflect official College policy. ISSN 1058-1545

Send address corrections to:

Advancement Services
Augsburg College, CB 142
2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
healyk@augsborg.edu

E-mail: now@augsborg.edu
Telephone: 612-330-1181
Fax: 612-330-1780

50 percent recycled paper (10 percent post-consumer waste)

From one president to the next— in smooth transition

In what President William Frame calls a rather remarkable and unusual occurrence in higher education, both he and President-elect Paul Pribbenow jointly spoke to the spring gathering of faculty and staff in March.

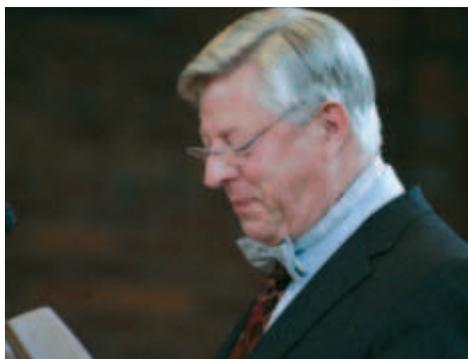
Frame explained what he understands as a complex relationship between continuity and change, as both he and the incoming president individually and jointly continue to increase the “clarity of the College’s self-definition” as well as “the speed at which it is being realized” during the transition period.

(In a gesture to ease at least the visual transition, Frame turned just before introducing Pribbenow and donned a bow tie, calling reference to the incoming president’s signature accessory.)

Pribbenow lauded and affirmed the defining work that has been carried out by the Augsburg community in articulating its vision. “I would not be

here,” he commented, “if I did not find your aspirations inspiring and compelling.”

Pribbenow takes office on July 1, and his inauguration has been set for Oct. 20. The next issue of *Augsburg Now* will outline his administration’s priorities and introduce his leadership team.



William Frame donned a bow tie to signal his “profound regard” for his successor.



Both retiring president William Frame (left) and incoming president Paul Pribbenow (right) spoke to faculty and staff in March.

Chris Kimball will be chief academic officer at California Lutheran University

Christopher Kimball, provost and vice president for academic affairs, left Augsburg May 31 to assume the same position at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, Calif., beginning in July.

Kimball, a member of the history faculty since 1991, was appointed dean in 2000 and provost in 2004 when that position was created. His impact at Augsburg is seen in the areas of curricular reform, calendar changes, teaching loads, several new programs, and the “internationalization” of the campus.

“I have been blessed to work at Augsburg during a time of great change,

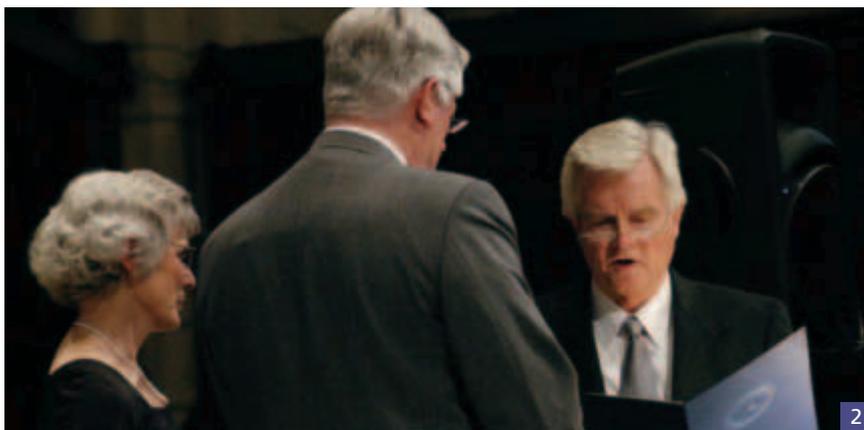
especially in the articulation of our mission and vision,” said Kimball. “California Lutheran University, located in an economically vibrant and culturally diverse region, offers a wonderful opportunity to continue that work.”

President William Frame stated, “... Chris’ gifts, some of which were shaped in the process of giving our College new vitality and sharp direction, have been acknowledged by a fine institution in current need of them.”

In May, the Department of Business Administration presented Kimball with a plaque recognizing his support of business studies and his “entrepreneurial spirit.”



Farewell to the Frames—a ‘gentle roast’ and a proper tribute



On April 21, more than 300 faculty and staff gathered to honor and show appreciation to Bill and Anne Frame, and to entertain them with some ‘gentle’ roasting. Augsburg’s Gospel Praise provided music, with returning special guest artist Jennifer Grimm ’99.

Gift presentations were made and the Frames offered an Augsburg rendition of Woody Guthrie’s song, “So Long, It’s Been Good to Know You.”

Frame reflected on his time at Augsburg. “These years have been a great gift to us ... because they’ve given us the possibility for growth ... And new understanding about this great business of education—where it comes from, what it changes, why it’s crucial for the salvation of humankind. ...

“This place gave us a chance to think through [a great calling] more deeply and better than ever we would have had a chance to do otherwise. So, we’re grateful. We’re grateful to you and we’re grateful to

this place and its great lineage in history.”

When asked by Augsburg *Echo* about his plans for retirement, he mentioned one specific project—an old boat with “at least a year’s worth of work before it’s ready for the water.”

On April 30, a more proper “Celebration of Music and Worship for the Presidency of Bill and Anne Frame at Augsburg College” was held at Central Lutheran Church.

ELCA presiding bishop Mark Hanson ’68 presented the keynote address. Three music groups—Augsburg’s Gospel Praise, Masterworks Chorale, and the Augsburg Centennial Singers—each sang several pieces.

Campus pastor David Wold read a series of tributes received honoring the Frames, including an ode written by Wartburg College president Jack Ohle and his wife, Kristy, and a proclamation from the City of Minneapolis declaring this day to be “Bill and Anne Frame Day.”

- 1 Bill and Anne Frame enjoy some of the lighter minutes of the “roast” in their honor.
- 2 Campus pastor David Wold reads the proclamation from Mayor R.T. Rybak declaring April 30 “Bill and Anne Frame Day” in the City of Minneapolis.
- 3 President Frame picked up his guitar to join Gospel Praise in “I Saw the Light” at Central Lutheran Church.
- 4 Assistant director of alumni relations and former football coach Jack Osberg ’62 leans in close to extend his greetings above the jazz and gospel music.

Campus News

Honors for distinguished teaching and learning



Congratulations to the faculty and staff who received awards for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning from the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of the Provost and Dean of the College:

Teaching—Phil Adamo (standing, left), history

Mentoring—Dixie Shafer (seated, center), Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO)

Service to Students—Heather Feehan (standing, right), Chris Pegg (seated, right), Scott Krajewski (seated, left), Robert Bill (standing, center)—all from Information Technology.

Joe Erickson selected for national network

Joseph Erickson, education, has been named to the “100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service-Learning Network.” The network includes school board members and district superintendents across the country selected by a panel representing the Education Commission of the States (ECS), the National School Boards

Association, and the American Association of School Administrators.

Selection to the network, part of ECS’ National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC), commits its members to further service to promote civic engagement for all students.

Erickson serves as chair of the Minneapolis School Board.

Hannah Dietrich’s research paper wins national award



Hannah Dietrich’s honor project research with Professor Nancy Steblay was named Best Undergraduate Paper.

Hannah Dietrich, a 2005 psychology graduate, has received the American Psychology-Law Society’s 2006 Award for Best Undergraduate Paper. She presented her research and received the award at the AP-LS meeting in March in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Her paper, “Predatory Sexual Offenders: Post-Treatment Registration Compliance and Recidivism” is the result of research she did in collaboration with psychology professor Nancy Steblay.

Dietrich became interested in studying disorders after taking an abnormal psychology class. She landed an internship at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, working in the Predatory Offender Registration Unit, and connected with a supervisor who included her in many areas of the work.

Dietrich visited the sex offender treatment program at the Lino Lakes Correctional Facility and learned about the pre-release transition program. She became interested in finding out if offenders really understood the registration process and if they became more compliant and submitted better verification after completing the program.

Together with Steblay, she crafted a research plan that became her senior honors project.

Dietrich is now in the master’s program in experimental psychology at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

Orientation leaders receive awards

Augsburg’s student orientation leaders participated in the National Orientation Directors Association Regional Conference in Minneapolis.

In the Undergraduate Case Study competition, Greg Hildebrandt ’08 won the Best Problem Solving Award, and Sarah Black ’09 received the Best Communication Award. Student Activities director Marc Skjervem presented on the changing culture of college students using online communities and the consequences students face with the misuse of websites.

Wrestlers are second in nation in academics

For the ninth year in a row, Augsburg finished in the top 10 in the National Wrestling Coaches Association’s Scholar All-America team program, finishing second among more than 100 NCAA Division III wrestling institutions, with a 3.42 team grade point average. The top team, Messiah College (Pa.), had a team GPA of 3.47.

Augsburg is the only school in NCAA Division III wrestling to finish in the top 10 both in competition on the mat and in the academic team competition in each of the nine years that the NWCA has awarded an academic team national championship. ■



'Zyzzogeton'— the last word

Augsburg launched a new tradition this year with “Zyzzogeton,” a four-day celebration of student and faculty work—from artistic performances to student research posters.

Taking its name from the last entry in Webster's Third New International dictionary, the celebration is meant to wrap up and highlight the breadth and depth of scholarship at Augsburg. Art exhibits, faculty and student recitals, faculty research roundtables, student research posters, film projects, theatre productions, museum installations, and more filled the calendar of events.

(In the dictionary, “zyzzogeton” is defined as a genus of South American leaf hoppers.)

Visitors to campus during this time included high school students who came on Drama Day to learn more about the theatre arts program, and middle school students with developmental disabilities and peers taking part in the annual Metro Arts Festival with Augsburg's music therapy students.

A lighter highlight of the celebration was a vigorous debate, Lefse vs. Lutefisk, in which four scholars—President Frame (political science), Lori Brandt Hale (religion), Joan Griffin (English), and Ken Kaminsky (mathematics)—took sides to argue and defend the Norwegian delicacies from the viewpoints of their academic disciplines. The judges were Norwegian bunad-clad members of the Augsburg Associates, and guests were treated to the delicacies of each, including their aromas. (And, yes, the lutefisk side was declared the winner.)



Top left: The spring theatre production, *Metamorphoses*, by Mary Zimmerman, uses contemporary language and imagery to explore ancient myths.

Center: Biology major Ben Sonquist explains his research to physics professor Ben Stottrup.

Bottom left: Physics professor Mark Engebretson shared his research on geomagnetic pulsations in Earth's space environment.

Larry Ragland retires after 21 years

Professor Larry Ragland was one of the founding members of the Computer Science Department and retired in May after 21 years teaching in both that department and mathematics.

He has stayed at Augsburg, he says, for the same reason he tells prospective students they should come—to be in a supportive environment where students and faculty work closely together.

While computing has changed greatly over two decades, he says, the discipline of computer science has not. “When I started, we showed students the ‘on’ switch and how to use a mouse ... We operated in an entirely different way then,” Ragland says. Now, with a comprehensive campus network and the global Internet, “we have changed how we relate to the world.”

Ragland reflects on the fact that he has spent his entire career working in a discipline that didn’t exist when he went to college. His first degrees were in mathematics, and he started out teaching in public schools.

His interest in computer science developed while he worked in the Apollo Space Program in Houston. During the period in which the manned program recovered from its tragic fire, Ragland worked on computer displays for



Professor Larry Ragland served as one of the founding faculty of the computer science department and retired after 21 years at Augsburg.

unmanned flights.

Ragland recalls his first assignment at Augsburg as chair of the Academic Computing Committee, with a goal to hire a full-time academic computing director. That finally happened in 1990.

At Ragland’s retirement celebration, Professor Karen Sutherland said the department will miss his “advice, cool ideas, ability to keep them calm, and sense of humor.” Junior Cory Nathan spoke for students, thanking Ragland for “putting up with us and teaching us a thing or two along the way.”

Ragland has no definite plans yet for retirement. He says he has room for one big “yes” for a project, but has no idea yet of what that project will be.

She fondly recalls the warmth of the Augsburg community and the enthusiasm of her students. Also, she enjoyed helping students in the McNair program and the Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity office with their research.

Sandi Lallak leaves Augsburg for Arizona



After 23 years at Augsburg working with students in the CLASS program, Sandi Lallak retired in May and moved with her husband to Mesa, Ariz.

When Lallak began working in the Center for Learning and Adaptive Student Services (CLASS), she recalls, CLASS had one computer, little technology, and mostly provided advocacy for students with disabilities—about 10 of them.

An endowment from the Groves Family in 1988 enabled the program to grow and make the commitment to become a premier program. Lallak researched the field to learn about available adaptive technology, traveled to visit programs, and helped create a small lab on campus. She and colleague Sadie Curtis began to tape textbooks.

Within three years, the program grew to provide services and accommodations to over 100 students. Lallak and Curtis spent nearly a decade developing the systems, databases, and procedures for CLASS as it is today, including its student workers. “I’m so honored to have been able to make this happen,” she says.

With new technology, Lallak says, “students are reading better, retaining, and comprehending better.”

Lallak became the first accommodations specialist she knows about; Curtis is now a physical disabilities specialist in the ACCESS program.

While CLASS currently serves about 190 students, past students remain an important part of Lallak’s life. A double bulletin board jammed with photos of past students—weddings, babies, vacations—covered a corner of her office.

Lallak has no definite plans in retirement, but many ideas for volunteer opportunities in Arizona.

Joy Bartlett leaves Education Department

Education professor Joy Bartlett retired from Augsburg in December 2005 and moved to Las Vegas. Since 2001 she has taught orientation to education, reading methods, and technology in the classroom.

Carol Enke retires from coaching by Don Stoner

I've never looked at any part of my job as a 'job,' said Carol Enke, who has coached Augsburg's softball team for 21 seasons and taught in the Health and Physical Education Department for 19 years. "I always say that I'm going to 'school.' I never say that I'm going to 'work.'"

"I've looked at this as fun. I get paid to come in here and do this—interact with students and interact with student-athletes."

Enke left her coaching position at the end of the 2006 season, while continuing to work in the HPE department. In 21 seasons at Augsburg, Enke has compiled 302 career victories, while coaching six players who have earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III All-American honors and 28 players who have earned all-region honors (entering the 2006 season).

Along the way, Enke has touched the lives of hundreds of softball players, along with hundreds of HPE majors who are continuing her legacy in classrooms all over the region. In 2001, the senior class selected her as one of three Honored Faculty.

"I've enjoyed watching the students grow," Enke said. "I have them in a 200-level class in their first or second years, and I ask myself, 'Are they really going to make it in the teaching profession?' Then when they are in the 300-level classes their junior and senior years, you see that these kids have made a lot of progress and they'll be OK."

Enke was a standout athlete in multiple sports in her hometown of Janesville, Wis.—she was inducted into her hometown's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995—and played collegiate softball at the University of Minnesota. She coached for three seasons, two as head coach, at Minneapolis Roosevelt High School before coaching her first season at Augsburg in 1986.

Enke initially worked part time at Augsburg, while completing her master's degree at Minnesota. And in her early



Softball coach Carol Enke, flanked by players (left to right) Sarah Mueller '09, Sarah Green '09, and Katie Johnson '08, cheers on the team in her last game as coach after 21 seasons. Enke will continue teaching in the health and physical education department.

years, she felt that Division III Augsburg would be just a step in her career to bigger goals.

"Way back when, I thought that someday I'd move up to coach Division II or Division I softball. Then, it happened that I started to teach more courses in the [HPE] major and I really enjoyed that along with coaching. After that, I never thought about moving up to Division II or Division I."

Do I remember very many games? Heck, no. Do I remember the fun we had? Absolutely.

—Carol Enke, softball coach

Enke has developed a close-knit, family atmosphere with her softball teams, encouraging the players' families to be active in the program during the short spring season. In the past, she has taken the players on off-season adventures and team-building activities, such as cross-country skiing, winter camping, snow tubing, and rock climbing.

She has also encouraged her student-athletes to be active in multiple activities on campus. Several of her players compete in multiple sports at Augsburg, while also serving as members of clubs and organizations on campus.

"With the softball teams, our athletes

aren't one-dimensional," Enke said. "We've got them going in all directions, more than ever before. That's just how well-rounded they are, and we encourage that. We tell them that they have four years here, and they should 'bite off as much as they can chew.' If you want to play two or three sports, do it. If you want to be active in campus activities, do it. Take advantage of what you're getting for your tuition."

There have been many changes in college softball during the 21 years of Enke's tenure, including in bat technology. "When I started here, a bat was \$29.95. Now bats can cost over \$200," she said.

But what hasn't changed with Enke's Auggie teams is the fun atmosphere she encourages, along with the life skills she teaches, both in the classroom and on the softball diamond.

"It keeps me young," she said. "Just the relationships with the students and student-athletes, getting involved in their lives. Letting them know that you are someone they can come to. I really like that, and I like to watch them grow in all areas of their lives—not just as student, not just as an athlete, but as the person as a whole."

"I've loved the people, the teammates and the coaches, all the relationships we've had. Do I remember very many games? Heck, no. Do I remember the fun we had? Absolutely." ■

COMMENCEMENT 2006

The 137TH YEAR of Augsburg College



Faculty and students grab one more farewell in Augsburg's longtime tradition of faculty cheering on their students as they process to the ceremony.

Libby Henslin, admissions and operations coordinator for Augsburg's Rochester program, graduated with a major in religion and shared the day's excitement with her daughter, Rebecca, who earned a degree in social work.



President William Frame congratulates student body president and Sabo Scholar Paul Cumings, who was awarded the 2006 Marina Christensen Justice Award.

PAUL CUMINGS RECEIVES MARINA CHRISTENSEN JUSTICE AWARD

Paul Cumings, an international relations major and student body president, was selected as the 2006 recipient of the Marina Christensen Justice Award.

Each year, this honor is presented to the graduating senior who best exemplifies Augsburg's motto, "Education for Service."

Cumings came to Augsburg from AmeriCorps, serving at the Brian Coyle Center on the West Bank in Minneapolis. He worked two years in the college readiness program, helping junior high and high school students first consider going to college and then helping them prepare the skills to gain acceptance.

On campus he served in numerous service and leadership roles—as resident adviser, as director of food and clothing drives, as a co-sponsor of the "get out the vote" efforts, and as a leader in neighborhood Somali programs.

As a Sabo Scholar, Cumings helped Augsburg make connections between public policy and service, laying groundwork for future Sabo Scholars.

The award recipient must have demonstrated a dedication to community involvement as characterized by the personal and professional life of Marina Christensen Justice, who reached out to disadvantaged people and communities.





Proud chemistry professor Arlin Gyberg (left) straightens the hood of his former student, Dr. Peter Agre '70, who was the Commencement speaker and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. The accolade was read by Dr. Paul Mueller '84, a student of Agre's at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



The Honorable Walter F. Mondale reads the accolade for the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree awarded to James A. Johnson, former executive assistant to Mondale and CEO of Fannie Mae.



Lisa Prytula '04, '06 MAN, who completed a bachelor's degree in nursing and finished a master's degree, spoke on behalf of the graduate students.

EXCERPTS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS "An Augsburg Education: Vocation and the Social Good" —Peter Agre '70, M.D.

I would like to use this occasion to reflect on my life and share some of the lessons I have learned. While an Augsburg student I became a die-hard advocate for the liberal arts tradition ...

I was a student here in the 1960s—an era notable for extreme turmoil in our country. During my years in high school and as an undergraduate, I lived through the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert Kennedy. My years here coincided with unprecedented social disturbances resulting from conflicts between white supremacists and civil rights workers, between supporters of the war in Vietnam and anti-war protesters. Despite the consternation experienced elsewhere, those of us at Augsburg enjoyed an island of tranquility where issues and events such as these could be discussed with respect and civility.

Augsburg College has never been a school for privileged members of the establishment. Augsburg recognized the importance of inclusion at a very early time and has long been a leader in providing educational opportunities for the Native Americans and other ethnic minorities. Augsburg's commitment to students with physical disabilities had just begun in the 1960s. Similar to previous generations of Augsburg students, many of my classmates were from the working class, often the first members of their families to attend college. ...

But this is not the tradition prevailing at the so-called "prestige" colleges and universities in the United States where it is rare to have first generation students or students with parents holding blue-collar jobs. Clearly the working class of America is being excluded from many institutions of higher education. This makes me even prouder of the modest roots of Augsburg students, for as the late Kirby Puckett reflected, "It doesn't matter where you come from. It only matters how you play the game."

And I always felt that my classmates at Augsburg learned to play the game extremely well. This was due in part to the splendid Augsburg faculty—perhaps most outspoken among them was my father, Courtland Agre, whose unbridled enthusiasm and exuberant encouragement directed many of us into professional and graduate schools. ...

While my generation, the "Baby Boomers," has achieved unprecedented prosperity, I sincerely feel that we have failed to improve the world to a state better than it was when we received it from our parents. In fact, I fear that the world is in worse shape now. If this continues, we will be the first generation in memory to fail in such an important endeavor. We all know what the problems are: damage to the environment, continued war, prevalence of famine and untreated disease in the developing world, violent crime and poverty in our inner cities, the epidemic of drug abuse, failure to provide adequate health care to all Americans, and the staggering \$9 trillion national debt which will fall on your generation.

Education has never been more important than in the current time of growing anti-intellectualism in America. It is really shocking when you think that less than half of all Americans read a single book last year.

As Mark Twain informed us, "The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

I fear the emphasis in our country has now become one of fixing the blame rather than fixing the problem. The polarized special interests have caused gridlock in our national government where the two major parties can seemingly agree on nothing. Let me suggest that the hour is late and we must stop the face-slapping and join hands and concentrate all of our attention on fixing the problems. It is often said that "the genius of this immigrant nation is that we have always found our center," and I believe that we need to do so urgently. ...

Thank you and congratulations.

The full Commencement Address is at <www.augsburg.edu/president/commencement06.html>.



Physician assistant graduate Tara Rick is the center of attention as she receives her master's hood from PA director Dawn Ludwig.

“Separating Together”

[I]n John's Gospel and the Book of Acts, Jesus is preparing the disciples for their new assignment—dispersal, one by one, each on his own, into the world for the sake of the great commission. He suggests that they can sustain themselves in the midst of their independence only if they remember before leaving that they were transformed from a motley crew of fishermen, tax collectors, and other workaday professionals into a “community.” But this recollection will strengthen them for the independent journeys just ahead only if they repair the terrible rip in the fabric of their collegium caused by Judas' betrayal. Hence, before the reprise of community can be undertaken, Judas' empty position must be filled. And it is, by one Mattias, who is called up from the apostolic bench (which appears to have been deeper than that of the Timberwolves) by a drawing of lots. ...

You and I are separating—together—and the good news is that we're separating from a place that gave each of us something to be separated from. ... [from] a community of learning, in which ideas of the transforming kind, experiences (sometimes of the embarrassing kind—some, entailing success, and some, failure and frustration), gave us new life and, therefore, identity. ...

Like us, in the hands of the College, the disciples had been molded into something new by their particular course of study, faculty, and classmates. Their capstone course culminated in the resurrection. Yours came to a more conventional conclusion a week ago. But neither we now, nor the disciples then, are yet prepared for separation.

Until we recognize that we were transformed by our time together; until we confess that each of us is now becoming someone—not the realization of some persona prescribed at or even before birth—but a self created by a million incidents of concurrence, a thousand recollections of experience, a hundred moments of revelation. Until we begin becoming ourselves, we shall lack the independence of the world that vocation requires. To stand in the midst of the life each of us is about to undertake—either of a job search, employment, or retirement—and to render service to our neighbor, we must know who we are and how we got that way. That knowledge is of identity; it constitutes the protective suit, even though not fully woven, that allows us to live in and serve the world without being wholly fused with it. ...

But what we have learned here—about ourselves, the world, and God; what the disciples learned about themselves—remains beyond our grasp and theirs without the great final examination known as saying goodbye!

Until we address our separation—seriously; until we face the fact that we are leaving people who have meant the world to us—teachers, friends,

COMMENCEMENT 2006

BACCALAUREATE HOMILY (EXCERPTS)
WILLIAM V. FRAME, PRESIDENT



Sunny Olise receives his master's hood from director Robert Kramarczuk in Augsburg's first MBA class.

parents (that you now realize you didn't leave four years ago but are now, finally going to leave—today!)—we are not tempered for the new immersion in the world. Until we know who and what we have become, we cannot maintain our independence in the world when we are out there in it, on our own.

Goodbyes force us each to meet ourselves face to face, as Achilles did in *The Iliad*. That means that we have put our affairs in order—so that they may be abandoned; we have to repair the rents in the fabric we knit in the College cocoon in order that we might be released from it—a beautiful butterfly capable of flying into the maelstrom of life without danger to bring a glimpse of beauty to a dour and broken world. ...

And so—let us, to each other, both now and this afternoon, say, “Goodbye!” And in so doing, we shall each bear the College with us, out into the world—a shield and a buckler of the vocational life that fulfills the requirements of the great commission in the kingdom on the left.

That last great goodbye gives us the capacity and even the need for reunion. If done right, it allows us to soon again say—here, at the intersection of Riverside and 22nd—“Hello! It's good to see you. I've missed you!”

To read the full Baccalaureate Homily, go to
<www.augsburg.edu/president/baccalaureate06.html>.



Audra Johnson, a studio art graduate, has a jubilant smile on graduation day.

THE AUGSBURG COLLEGE CLASS OF 2006

- 3,420** Attended the ceremony
- 3,600** Cookies and petit fours served at the reception
- 752** Class of 2006—346 traditional day students, 162 weekend students, 39 students in the Rochester program, 13 from United Hospital, 1 from 3M; and 191 graduate students in six programs
- 580** Graduates marching
- 490** Enjoyed Commencement Brunch
- 350** Attended Commencement Dinner
- 125** Faculty marching in the procession
- 58** Age of the oldest graduate
- 20** Age of the youngest graduates
- 14** Flags representing countries of international graduates
- 2** Honorary degrees conferred
- 1** Retiring presidential couple—many thanks to Bill and Anne!
- countless** Smiles and tears of happiness, gratitude, and appreciation



The sociology department faculty take a moment to get photos of their graduates.

SIXTH ANNUAL International Programs Photo Contest



1



2



3



7



8



9

1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT AUGSBURG, second place. "Melting Pot." Kamilla T. Fossem, Norway.

2 PEOPLE PORTRAITS, first place. "Yo confío." Kathryn Jones '08. San Salvador, El Salvador.

3 PEOPLE PORTRAITS, third place. "Begging Musicians." Richard Garnett '08. Cuernavaca, Mexico.

4 LOCAL PEOPLE, second place. "Video Games vs. the Acropolis." Katharine Mahon '06. Athens, Greece.

5 LOCAL PEOPLE, third place. "A Journey through an African Desert." Therese DeMay '06. Swakopmund, Namibia.

6 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT AUGSBURG, first place. "The Old and the New Minneapolis." Martin Garnes, Norway.

7 CITYSCAPES, third place. "Untitled." Britta Boyum '06. Lofoten Islands, Norway.

8 LOCAL PEOPLE, first place. "Bearing the Load." Kelsey Nolan '06. Sontule, Nicaragua.

9 PEOPLE PORTRAITS, second place. "Familia." Megan L. Schiller '06. Nicaragua.

10 CITYSCAPES, second place. "Cusco by Night." Joelle Bickel '07. Cusco, Peru.

11 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT AUGSBURG, third place. "A Frozen Falls." Martin Garnes, Norway.

12 CITYSCAPES, first place. "Fishing Industry." Britta Boyum '06. Harstad, Norway.

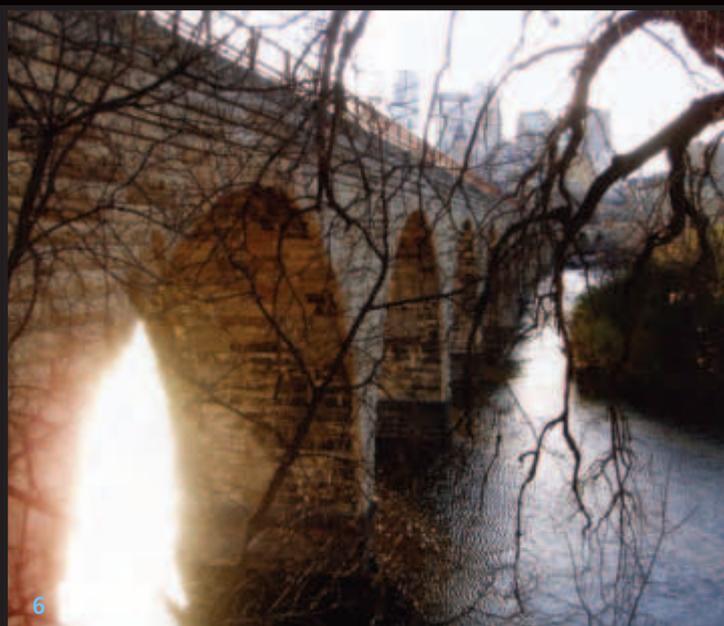
13 BEST OF SHOW. "Waca Wasi Wardrobe." Joelle Bickel '07. Waca Wasi, Peru.



4



5



6



10



13



11



12

Supporting Augsburg

Gift of \$4 million gives green light to Gateway

by Betsey Norgard

A \$4 million naming gift from Donald '53 and Beverly (Halling) Oren '55 has provided the funding needed for Augsburg to proceed with the \$18.5 million Gateway Building.

On May 5 the Augsburg Board of Regents granted approval for the College to pursue the financing needed to begin construction this summer. A ceremonial groundbreaking is scheduled for Sept. 8, with building completion in fall 2007.

Donald Oren '53, an Augsburg regent emeritus, is chairman of the board of Dart Transit Company, founded by his father in 1934. The trucking and logistics company ranks 53rd of the Top 100 Carriers nationwide.

Beverly (Halling) Oren '55 has taught school and worked as vice president of human resources at Dart Transit. She remains a principal and adviser to the company, and currently serves on Augsburg's Board of Regents.

Three of their children are involved with Dart Transit—David, president; Daniel, vice president; and Bradley, general manager. Daughter Angela Anderson is mother to one-year-old Samuel.

"We are pleased and honored to participate in Augsburg's growth by being part of the Gateway project," says Beverly Oren. "The business school is of special interest as it offers an opportunity for students to experience the entrepreneurial



Donald '53 and Beverly (Halling) Oren '55

spirit. Also, Augsburg's commitment to promoting vocation provides a very worthy goal."

The Gateway Building will be Augsburg's link to its surrounding community and city, and a distinctive "front door" on Riverside Ave. It will easily connect the College with the Cedar-Riverside area, the University of Minnesota's West Bank, and the Fairview-University Medical Center across the street.

The building is a four-story combined administrative, commercial, and residential center. It will provide new homes for the Alumni Conference Center, the StepUP Program, the Master of Business Administration program, the Gage Family Art Gallery, and offices for Institutional Advancement. Community residents and organizations will be encouraged to use meeting space in the new Gateway.

On the first floor, retail stores such as

Barnes and Noble will serve not only the campus community, but staff and patients of the hospital across the street and the West Bank and Cedar-Riverside communities as well.

The top three floors will provide student housing—upperclass students on the second floor and StepUP students on floors three and four.

From Riverside Ave., a central Gateway plaza welcomes visitors to campus. Circling the plaza are Hoversten Chapel, Lindell Library, and the Gateway Building, representing the College's commitments to faith, reason, and service.

For Augsburg's StepUP program, which provides students in addiction recovery the support and skills they need to succeed in college, the Gateway Building will centralize their office, counseling, and residential space.

It's about "having a home where we're all together," says StepUP director Patrice Salmeri, and will give students who complete the program the "ability to stay longer and mentor younger students."

In eight years, StepUP has grown to over 50 students, and they have maintained an 83% abstinence rate while in the program and a grade point average of 3.0. Augsburg is a national leader in the recovery school movement; Salmeri currently serves as president of the national organization.

The Augsburg MBA program, which after only two years is now the state's third largest, will gain much needed and more suitable classroom, technology, and study space in Gateway for its small-class learning.



Save the date!

**GATEWAY BUILDING
CEREMONIAL GROUND BREAKING**

**Friday, September 8
Noon**

Gateway's ground floor will welcome alumni and visitors, and provide a gathering space to meet over coffee and enjoy exhibits in the Gage Family Art Gallery, which will move from Lindell Library to a more accessible location in the new building.

"[T]he connection to the wider community will be greater than ever before," says Kerry Morgan, coordinator of galleries and exhibits. "The easy access from Riverside will be welcoming to off-campus visitors; and Augsburg students, staff, and faculty will continue to find inspiring and thought-provoking art where they work, live, and study."

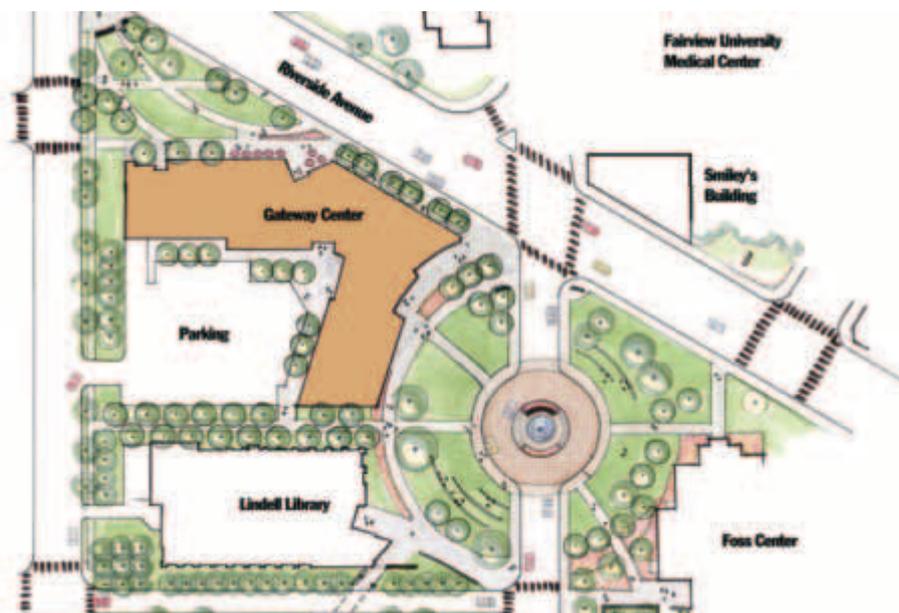
Planning for the Gateway Building has been carried out in conjunction with the Riverside Corridor Project development, funded partially with an early campaign gift from James A. Johnson, former banking administrator and public servant. The project brings together West Bank partners—the Cedar-Riverside Business Association, the West Bank Community Development Corporation, the University of Minnesota, Augsburg,

Fairview-University Medical Center, and others—to envision a thriving urban village that links to the light rail system.

The City of Minneapolis has begun to develop a small area plan for the entire Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

"One issue the plan will consider is how to make Riverside more comfortable

for pedestrians and bicyclists," says Beth Elliott, principal city planner. "More retail stores and outdoor seating opportunities will also help in adding vibrancy to that section of the corridor." She says the Gateway Building can be "an example that others can follow if they are thinking about redevelopment."



Honoring a graduate by honoring the College



Matt Van Zant '06

and asked how he could make a gift to the College instead, in honor of Van Zant.

Van Zant came to know McKinney, a corporate lawyer, in Ohio where Van Zant grew up. "He encouraged me and stressed the importance of ethics,"

As a non-traditional student past the usual graduation age, Matt Van Zant seemed just a bit too old for the traditional card with a money pocket. So Frank McKinney, a close family friend, called Augsburg

Van Zant says. "[He] is a believer in education and encouraged me to remain in school and do well."

McKinney said he was proud of Van Zant, that after many years he would return to school for his degree.

Van Zant works as an operations analyst in the healthcare field. He enrolled in Weekend College in fall 2001 to begin a major in management information systems (MIS).

One of the common themes he found in his classes fits right in with what he remembers learning from McKinney. "People who work with data, who manage sensitive and confidential information," says Van Zant, "are and should be held to higher standards of performance and integrity."

Juggling full-time employment with full-time study was difficult, and Van Zant says he tried to take it just one term at a time. "It helped to work on coursework almost every day and try to remain current with the material."

His strategy worked, so much so that he will begin an MBA degree in the fall, looking forward to "the opportunity to develop strategic decision-making skills."

McKinney says he enjoyed making the gift to Augsburg in Van Zant's name and that Van Zant also enjoyed it. To McKinney, "it just seemed the appropriate thing to do."

He says now he'll just wait for Van Zant's master's degree.

Construction begins on Melby Hall addition

by Betsey Norgard

On a chilly, cloudy May 5, a crowd gathered on the south side of Melby Hall to ceremonially mark the groundbreaking for the \$6.1 million new south wing, named the Kennedy Sports and Recreation Complex.

Augsburg regent and emcee Mike Freeman, in describing the expansion, called it “lots of much-needed space to show our Auggie pride.” He drew attention to the efforts that had made the project possible, especially noting that every coach had put together a plan to reach former students and athletes.

He read a statement from lead naming donors Dean '75 and Terry Kennedy, who

weren't able to be in attendance, saying that their “family is proud and excited to be part of this [project].” Kennedy was an All-American wrestler and, as co-captain of the team, led Augsburg to a runner-up spot at the NAIA national finals, marking the beginning of Augsburg's longtime dominance in small-college wrestling.

President William Frame drew attention to Augsburg student-athletes and the leadership they bring to the life of the campus.

Football linebacker Michael Matson '06, speaking on behalf of student-athletes, directed his remarks to lead donors Alan Rice, Jim Haglund, and the

Kennedys. “Your gift is exciting, and we so appreciate it.”

The Kennedy Sports and Recreation Complex includes the Alan and Gloria Rice Wrestling Center and the James and Katherine Haglund Fitness and Recreation Center, as well as other named spaces: the Llavonne (Johnson) Peterson '50 Conference Suite; Lute Olson '56 Hall of Champions; “Doc” Johnson '52 A-Club Office; and the Gamma House Hospitality/Classroom.

Work has already begun on the new south wing; construction is expected to be completed in spring 2007, with the official opening in fall 2007.



Front row (L to R): Major gifts director Donna McLean; regent and lead donor Jim Haglund; Board of Regents chair Jean Taylor '85; assistant dean and head wrestling coach Jeff Swenson '79; lead donor Alan Rice; regent Mike Freeman; and President William Frame.

Melby groundbreaking—twice!

When Rev. Clifford M. Johnson, '34 ('30 Acad, '39 Sem) received his invitation to attend the May 5 ceremonial groundbreaking for the expansion of Melby Hall, he remembered that he still



had a 46-year-old photo from the day he held a shovel to break ground for the new Melby Hall.

Johnson, age 95, has been part of the Augsburg community since 1926 when he entered the Augsburg Academy. He has been a fundraising leader, a regent and board chair, and a director of development over the years. In 1993 he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus.

He recalls the excitement in 1960 of constructing the first athletic facility for Augsburg. Until then, he says, the basketball team played on the court in the basement of Old Main. He also remembers that the invocation that day was given by Lutheran Free Church president Rev. T. O. Burntvedt '12.

Johnson was thrilled to be part of this new excitement this year and to see that earlier photo at the ceremony, enlarged to poster size and sitting on an easel.

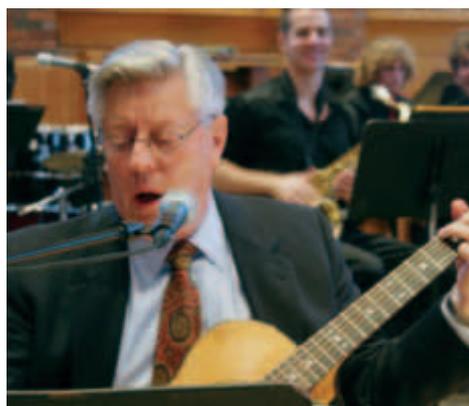
Just announced ...

A \$1 million gift has been received from Norman and Vangie Hagfors for the renovation of the chapel in Old Main and the creation of a home for Augsburg's Center for Faith and Learning. Read more in the next issue.

The FRAME years

a journey toward vision

BY BETSEY NORGARD



William Frame, the 10th president of Augsburg, is not typical of his nine predecessors. He is not a Midwesterner, nor is he of Norwegian background or an ordained Lutheran minister.

From his nine-year tenure, he leaves a long litany of new programs, partnerships, and much-needed capital improvements. But, much more significant is that he leaves an Augsburg that has renewed its self-identity, and that has crafted and refined a vision representing the deepest thinking any college could undertake about its own mission or “institutional vocation.”

In the foreword to Augsburg’s revised vision document, *The Augsburg Vocation: Access and Excellence*, Frame describes this vision not as his, but as “drawn from the soul of the College.” It is an idea—vocation—that “has been calling Augsburg to its work since the founding.”

Frame points to his time at Augsburg as the continuation of a vocational journey that began as a young instructor at Kenyon College, that immersed him in the urban life of corporate banking and finance, and then took him back into academia. All along, the work he did served to shape, nurture, and refine a strong, personal sense of vocation. At Pacific Lutheran University, he came to understand Martin Luther’s two-dimensional world of faith and reason, one in which students explored vocation as both learning through *faith* to understand themselves and learning through *reason* to prepare for careers and service in the world.

Top, left: President Frame (right) and ELCA presiding bishop Mark Hanson '68 (left) find a moment for conversation at Commencement. Staff photo

Middle, left: Bill and Anne Frame enjoy talking with passersby at Augsburg’s State Fair booth. Staff photo

Bottom, left: President Frame occasionally joins the Augsburg Jazz Ensemble with his guitar.

At Augsburg Frame discovered the theology of Luther's close colleague, Philip Melancthon, who authored the Augsburg Confession and advocated the participation of Christians in civic affairs. This German theological duo became the basis for Frame's model of education and the hallmarks of Augsburg's vision: vocation, service, civility, diversity, and community.

Remarkably, in retrospect, the agenda for the Frame years seemed set even before he became president. In summer 1997, shortly before taking office, he was interviewed for *Augsburg Now*, and was asked to identify the three most important agenda items for Augsburg College as it prepared for the 21st century.

Nine years later, his responses at that time seemed predestined:

1. finding "communal clarity about our purpose"—who we are and what we do;
2. determining "how we adapt what we're up to, to what properly serves the world" ... i.e., what we must do to carry out our mission;
3. figuring out "how we do all that" ... finding "a form of life on campus that allows us to do all this thinking in a fully civil, candid, ingenious, participative way."

Clarifying the vision

In the first two years of Frame's presidency the entire campus engaged itself in a highly collaborative process, which included commissions charged with producing working papers around issues that would form the groundwork for a vision document.

English professor Joan Griffin, describes that period:

"When Bill Frame became president of Augsburg, the College suddenly became Lutheran. I'm exaggerating, of course, but despite the required religion courses and daily chapel, our Lutheran identity was something that we took for granted: we did not always connect it with how we go about doing our work.



"But then Bill arrived, and even the least theologically sophisticated among us became familiar with the kingdom on the right and the kingdom on the left, freedom, paradox, and of course, most of all, vocation. Bill changed the Augsburg lexicon."

Griffin and physics professor Mark Engebretson were charged with shaping the 250 pages of discussion into the College's first vision document, *Augsburg 2004: Extending the Vision*, approved by the Board of Regents in 1999.

Five years later, as 2004 approached, Frame again called the campus community into discussion about updates to the vision. Again, Griffin and Engebretson compiled a revised vision document, *The Augsburg Vocation: Access and Excellence*, that succeeds in bringing vision and practice closer together.

Tracy Elftmann '81, vice president for institutional advancement and former regent, commented, "The leadership Bill brought to our visioning work is nothing short of extraordinary. The clarity of purpose in Augsburg's vision provides balance, meaning, and motivation to our daily work. We know who we are and what we are here to do.

"Let's be clear," she continued, "this

is not Bill's vision for Augsburg—it's our vision. We wrote it, we work it, we live it. The collaborative effort to bring this work to full fruition was laborious but well worth the effort."

Tom Morgan, vice president for planning and market development, added additional context. "Through Bill's leadership we have rediscovered who we are and clarified where we need to go. More than simply words on a page, we have been inspired to rededicate ourselves to a course that was charted at the time of the College's founding."

Carrying out the vision

The most significant result of the revisioning process was the launching of a new general education curriculum to imprint the core values of the vision. Griffin led a faculty team that crafted a new Core Curriculum. Combined with the depth of study in a major, this would prepare students for careers and service in the world.

Ideas of vocation, citizenship, and engagement are reflected in the signature elements of the Core Curriculum—Search for Meaning courses to explore vocation; the first-year program that



includes learning about and connecting with the city; experience gained through internships, research, community service, and global study; and a keystone summative seminar. Combined with a liberal arts foundation and skills development, students prepare to become effective, informed, and ethical citizens.

Important to Augsburg's vision are a number of new programs that provide access to education for students who lack it for various reasons: Scholastic Connections, a scholarship program that matches students of color with alumni of color in mentoring relationships; StepUP, a nationally-recognized program that provides support to students in addiction recovery to help them succeed academically; and graduate programs to help students understand the world through a lens of vocation.

Augsburg's vision has taken the College into many new and innovative partnerships. A program in Rochester now serves 300 students, mostly from Mayo Clinic and IBM, who wish to complete baccalaureate and some graduate degrees. An unusual partnership with Capella University involves Augsburg faculty developing and teaching online courses.

One of Frame's key leadership roles was helping to found Faith in the City, a collaboration of seven urban Lutheran institutions in Minneapolis that together seek to improve the quality of life in the community. Included is the year-old Augsburg Academy for Health

Left: President Frame poses for a moment with the directors of the ethnic programs at the annual Scholastic Connections dinner in October 2005. (L to R) Bao Thao, Cindy Peterson, Frame, Emiliano Chagil, and Trena Bolden Fields.

Top: First-year students hear from the president on City Service Projects day during their Augsburg Seminar.

Summer 2006

The LEGACY of WILLIAM FRAME'S YEARS at AUGSBURG (1997-2006)

New programs

- New general education—Core Curriculum
- Scholastic/Corporate Connections
- New master's degrees—education, nursing, physician assistant, and business administration
- Youth and family ministry major
- Finalizing and naming first endowed chair—Christensen Chair in Religion
- Growth of StepUP program
- Degree programs in Rochester

Community partnerships/collaborations:

- Nursing degree programs at United Hospital and Rochester
- Augsburg-Capella innovative "brick-click" courses
- Faith in the City—plus the spin-off Augsburg Academy for Health Careers
- Clinical Lab Science program with Fairview

Capital buildings/improvements:

- New Hall—apartment-style residence hall
- Groundbreaking for Melby Hall expansion
- Link between Library and Sverdrup/Memorial— Sverdrup renovation, new atrium
- Christensen Center renovation—welcome and gathering area, coffee shop, gallery space
- Purchase and renovation of Augsburg House
- New signage on Mortensen Hall and on I-94
- Upgrading of residence halls
- Replacement of Edor Nelson Field turf
- Overall beautification of grounds
- Sale of Ice Arena to gain lease-back arrangement and capital
- Added two new parking lots and upgraded security
- Purchased additional perimeter properties around campus

Administrative

- Creation of Enrollment Center as one-stop shop
- Creation/consolidation of Center for Service, Work, and Learning
- Creation of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) from McNair program

Awards/Recognition

- 2006—Augsburg Medal
- 2006—award from Lutheran Educational Council of North America
- 2006—Toby LaBelle award from StepUP to Anne and Bill Frame
- 2004-05 chair of Minnesota Private College Council
- 2003-04 president of the ELCA Council of College Presidents
- Project director for Council of Independent Colleges' Presidential Vocation and Institutional Mission seminars

Careers, a joint charter school with Fairview Health Services that prepares high school students for careers and vocations in health care.

Augsburg, under Frame's leadership, has gained considerable recognition for its visioning work. Elftmann stated, "College presidents across the country consistently ask Bill how Augsburg was able to capture its essence, its purpose, its wholeness so well. Bill's contributions have established Augsburg as a national leader in terms of strategic direction and future focus."

The College was recognized by *The Princeton Review* and Campus Compact as a "college with a conscience." It consistently ranks high for service-learning programs and is one of 12 colleges selected for excellence in first-year programs.

Frame has served as president of the ELCA Council of College Presidents, as chair of the Minnesota Private College Council (MPCC), and as project director for the Council on Independent Colleges (CIC) seminars reflecting on vocation and institutional mission. He also has received awards from the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA) and Augsburg's StepUP program, who selected Anne and Bill Frame for the 2006 Toby LaBelle Award for support of its ideals.

Changing the culture

Frame's third agenda item from his 1997 interview was the creation of a campus culture that would support and model the mission and vision. His first task was confronting what he called "militant modesty," the difficulty of the College to "toot its own horn." He immediately put a great deal of attention on both tangible improvements—fixing up and painting residence halls, landscaping, new facilities—and more deep-seated changes, such as making Augsburg salaries more competitive.

Griffin says that Frame has been able to get Augsburg to "think big about ourselves"—in both small ways, like the campus improvements, as well as bigger ways, with new programs and initiatives. "I think we're becoming more willing to

embrace our complexity—and also our promise," she said.

The Frame presidency has been one very much shared by both Bill and Anne Frame. Anne has been active in a number of Augsburg programs, contributing her business expertise, hospitality, and much volunteer time.

She told faculty and staff that after long consideration of how to describe her role at Augsburg, she had recently been introduced in a way that seemed very comfortable to her—"this is Anne Frame, she's a member of the Augsburg community and happens to be married to our president."

Hospitality, from the theological sense to a simple friendly welcome, has become a hallmark of the vision—and one in which Anne has played a significant role. Their sharing of Augsburg House as a center for college hospitality has opened new dimensions in how community members relate to each other.

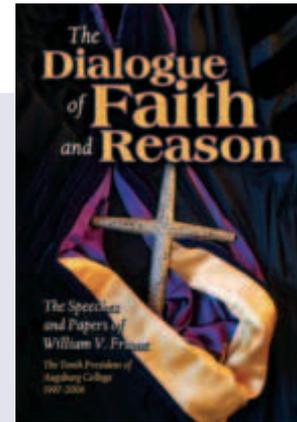
In March Bill Frame articulated Augsburg's vision of hospitality: "[Our college] welcomes the stranger as a gift to a learning community composed of students, many in the guise of faculty and staff colleagues, who cannot proceed in their own quests for vitality and hope without constant contact with a diverse array of learning styles and even learning capacities, each one at least beginning to feel that deep and absorbing hunger to know."

In an interview with *Augsburg Echo*, Frame recently reflected on what he considers his proudest moment—"having our envisioning work recognized as distinctive by candidates and their sponsors for the 11th presidency of the College."

And, indeed, President-elect Paul Pribbenow told faculty and staff in March, "I would not be here if I did not find your aspirations inspiring and compelling."

Griffin offered an Augsburg community perspective: "I think at least part of the excitement of the approaching Pribbenow era is that Bill brought us to a point where we can imagine how much farther we can go."

Since February, when Pribbenow was chosen by Augsburg regents, an unusual



The Frame years in print

William Frame has published a collection of writings and speeches from his years as president at Augsburg College. He says it intends to both "provide a record of the principal stops on the faith and reason journey on which I was sent when elected as Augsburg's 10th president," and to share his connection with Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon.

The book's preface was written by the Rev. Mark Hanson '68, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Published by Lutheran University Press in Minneapolis, the book is available in bookstores, online, and at <www.lutheranupress.org>. Proceeds from sales of the book will be donated to Augsburg's annual fund.

collaboration has developed. Frame invited Pribbenow to share the podium with him in March at the College's all-faculty and all-staff meeting.

Mark Hanson '68, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), summarizes the impact of the Frame years, "... Bill draws upon the great themes of the Lutheran Reformation and weaves them into the mission of a Lutheran urban college in the 21st century. When Bill Frame speaks, I want to ask him to stop after each sentence so that we can ponder the depth of his wisdom."

In every way, the Frame presidency has been one of introspection and distinction, even to his legendary eloquence and penchant to speak long. Quipped student body president Paul Cumings, "He will be missed. Even his dry humor and lengthy lectures." ■

At Augsburg House—since 1998

Frequency of events: about twice a week

Events held: 430

People who have attended: 8,600

Catering by Augsburg-Sodexho staff

(as of January 2006)

In 1998, the Augsburg Board of Regents authorized the purchase of a house for the home of the president and a gathering place for campus events. In January 2006 Anne Frame talked to the Board of Regents about hospitality at Augsburg House. Following are excerpts of her talk.

HOSPITALITY and the House

BY ANNE FRAME

I've been asked to think about some of the ways my work with Augsburg is applied to implementing the idea of hospitality. *The Augsburg Vocation*, our vision document, talks about community and intentional diversity—language that conceived of this College as a welcoming place, where persons are accepted, perhaps *because* of their differences, and where a community is developed that contributes to the learning for all of us.

Much of my work takes place away from this Riverside campus. From the beginning, Bill and I—ironically, as the newcomers—took as our job helping the various constituents of the campus feel at home here. We have visited alumni and friends of the College in many locations to let them know what is going on now at Augsburg, and specifically to emphasize that they are welcome here. That they, as a part of Augsburg's history, therefore have a place in its present. And, as we have learned much from their stories and memories, we hope they have strengthened or rekindled their bonds to this place.

We have been privileged both to live at Augsburg House and to use it frequently for College events. A plaque in the entry hall—carved by a Norwegian in Iowa—states our purpose:

In this place we extend to our guests the friendship and hospitality of the Augsburg Community in loving memory of Adeline Marie Rasmussen Johnson '31 and through the

generosity of James and Kathleen Haglund and Milton and Dorothy Kleven.

So we are acting for the community and have practiced that hospitality to student groups, to faculty and staff, to the regents, the parents and alumni and friends of the College, to neighborhood and community groups who may not know Augsburg well. We have done this in as many different forms as we can think of: with receptions, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, conversations. We bring these groups together for food and fellowship, for study and discussions. We feel that getting to know each other better, spending time together, and talking about the College together helps us to be a stronger community.

Frequent remarks I hear as people learn how many groups and events are at Augsburg House each year come in one of two forms, the first being, "You must get really tired of having so many people at your house." (The answer is a very clear "no.") The other comment is, "You must really be a party person!" I don't think that's quite the case, either.

But these two questions have caused me to try to express what it is that I do like about using Augsburg House in this way. What do I get out of it?

The answer is ... getting to know the wide and diverse constituency that is Augsburg—learning histories and connections, hearing staff and faculty speak across their areas of expertise, and listening and discussing ideas with each other.



Staff photo

Bill and Anne Frame welcome the community to Augsburg House.

What a rare privilege this is. It has given me an appreciation of this place that is deeper than I could have discovered elsewhere. It has widened my horizons, expanded my understandings, and has made this College house truly "home" to me.

What we do at the house is intentional, and I believe it's consistent with trying to build our community, as stated in *The Augsburg Vocation*, "the development of a sense of connectedness that leads to lasting relationships."

The author of the Book of Hebrews exhorts his readers: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." And I'm convinced there are at least a few angels hanging around Augsburg.

Augsburg's original
MBAS

The Class of 2006



BY BETHANY BIERMAN

The AUGSBURG MBA

Nathan Appel joined the army right out of high school in Colorado and spent several years in the service. He eventually came to Minnesota to attend the university but “became tired of rollerblading from Timbuktu to a class where another student taught us.” So he transferred to another college, taking evening classes to finish his undergraduate degree in management. His campus? A hotel conference room in the suburbs. His cohort? Number 327.

Later, with his career at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage well underway, Appel decided to return to school for his Master of Business Administration degree. He was about to choose another program when he received an MBA postcard from Augsburg. He came to an information session and was sold. His new campus? A small, fully functioning campus in the heart of Minneapolis. His cohort? Number 1.

“It’s kind of cool ... We are the original,” Appel says.



A JUMP-START LAUNCH

This May, Augsburg graduated the first four sections, or cohorts, of its new Master of Business Administration program—a total of 84 students.

The 20-month program evolved from eight years of discussion, research, and planning by members of the business department, with Professor David Schwain serving as the chief designer.

“In the feasibility study, our researcher found that our business program ranked third best business program in the state by those students taking the GMAT,” says John Cerrito, chair of the Department of Business Administration. “Of course, we did not have a grad program at that time, which the two programs that ranked higher did, so we felt we’d have good acceptance in the market. When we introduced the MBA, we met with instant success.”

In fact, recruiting one group to start the program doubled into two, as 44 students responded by the time the MBA began in fall 2004. The initial goal of four cohorts by the end of three years was met within four months of launching the program. It was these students who became Augsburg’s first MBAs in May.

THE CAPTAIN

Since its launch 20 months ago, under the direction of Robert Kramarczuk, the MBA program has grown to over 300 students.

Kramarczuk’s international career had included teaching at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Switzerland, running several successful businesses, and starting up six other graduate educational programs. He was already enjoying retirement, but the Augsburg call was too good to pass up.

He was attracted to Augsburg’s commitment to service-learning,



Top: MBA director Robert Kramarczuk places a hood on Kristen Schell, one of 84 in the first class of MBA graduates.

Bottom: Sarah Anton offers a comment to her classmates in Cohort 3.

“In the real world, you don’t function on your own. You rely upon other people.”

—CHRISTINE WAGGONER '97, '06 MBA

which became an integral component in the MBA. “The program reflects very well Augsburg’s mission—service to others,” Kramarczuk says. “It’s a hallmark of our program.”

One group of MBA students spends time in the Somali community. All are involved in field projects where, as a team, students work with an organization for 10 to 11 months. Kramarczuk says that these sorts of experiences put Augsburg’s MBA students “ten levels above” those in other programs.

“The other key factor is that we consider really good leaders to differ from others by being able to think critically ... That’s woven into the entire program.”

Even with six other successful program starts, Kramarczuk considers Augsburg’s unique. “We look at it from a different perspective. We look at it as your life’s purpose or vocation, with the MBA being a critical leg in this life’s journey... We tell our students, ‘After

you get this MBA, you’ll say this is probably one of the most important decisions you’ve made in your life.”

As a requirement for admission to the program, each applicant must personally interview with Kramarczuk. “It’s humbling to hear them share and discuss their goals and aspirations and how the MBA fits into this process. ... I consider myself almost like a peer. I love my students, and I think they kind of like me.”

Like him they do, and at a recent event they presented Kramarczuk with an award. Accolades include these words from Babette Blumenauer of Cohort 4: “He has started this program that will change my life course. ... I am not just a number or an obscure student here. Dr. Kramarczuk ... gives me time, shows he cares, and he knows my name. And that has meant a lot to me.”



Jamie Schiller, MBA coordinator, and graduate Christine Waggoner pause from the action of an MBA softball game.

THE CURRICULUM

The intense curriculum includes finance and economics, local and global issues, organizational management, and leadership ethics. Through application and research, students learn to implement ideas and communicate vital statistical, financial, and other critical business-related data in an evolving work environment.

The required field project, which serves as the thesis for the MBA, often responds to real-world requests that come to the program from business and industry.

“Book learning is very different from real-life experience,” says Christine Waggoner of Cohort 2. “It’s that real-life experience that is discussed and studied in this program.”

Waggoner earned her bachelor’s degree from Augsburg in 1997. “Given my positive experience as an undergraduate, I cannot tell you how excited I was when I received the postcard announcing that Augsburg was starting an MBA program,” she says. “At Augsburg, the professors know you. They tailor their teaching methods to the students in their class. They share their personal stories ... [and] successes and failures they’ve gone through.”

“When you finish, you will be at a higher level of leadership and decision-making,” Kramarczuk says. Additionally, because of the liberal arts background, an

Announcing NEW MBA GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

- Finance
- Financial planning
- Human resource management
- International business
- Marketing management
- Music business management

Graduate certificates provide applied, practical, graduate-level training to enhance skills and advance careers. In addition, they can later be applied toward a master’s degree. Certificates can be earned in as few as six months with courses meeting one evening per week for seven weeks. Cohorts will form beginning this fall.

For information, call 612-330-1390.

Augsburg MBA graduate will be more of a “cosmopolitan” thinker.

Waggoner confirms this. “I have a new outlook on the way I view myself and my career. I have a lot more confidence in my ability to lead, manage, and make strategic business decisions.”

A significant number of students have been offered new jobs and promotions as a result of what they have taken away from the MBA program.

LIFE IN THE COHORT

The cohort model has been critical to the success of the program. It allows students to build relationships and become almost like family to each other as they travel together through the sequence of courses.

“Taking classes as a member of a

cohort has really enriched my learning experience,” says Waggoner. “Classes are sequentially ordered so that students build upon learned skills, and those skills are continually reinforced throughout the program. The program is organized so students can focus on learning.”

This even includes providing a warm meal before each evening class. “[Students] have an opportunity to sit together,” says Kramarczuk. “They are from different professions, different parts of the Twin Cities. They sit down to really communicate about class work, personal life, professional life.”

“In the real world, you don’t function on your own,” Waggoner says. “You rely upon other people.”

“You learn a lot from the students,

too,” adds Appel. “There are people of diverse backgrounds—professional backgrounds, cultural backgrounds, age groups...”

This group atmosphere extends beyond the classroom to social events and celebrations. Appel formed and managed a softball team with players representing multiple cohorts. They ordered Augsburg caps and jerseys and even won a game. “We were beyond awful, but we had a lot of spirit!” Waggoner says.

“When Cohorts 3 and 4 came on board, we had a little party at Kramarczuk’s Deli,” reminisces Appel. “Bob [Kramarczuk] wrote a ‘Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer’ song and made them sing it.” The parody was titled “Auggie, the Adult Professional.” These kick-off dinners have become a tradition, with older cohorts welcoming new ones.

Other social events have included the students’ families, giving them a chance to meet classmates and professors.

Already, a graduation celebration is in the planning, where awards will be handed out and, in line with tradition, Kramarczuk’s musical parodies will probably be sung.

THE CAMPUS

The opportunity to study on a “real” campus also attracts students to the program.

“Here, you come to *school*,” Appel says. “There’s people with laptops, people studying, there’s the bookstore... When I meet my cohort outside of class to study, we meet at the library. You feel like you



MBA director Bob Kramarczuk (left) and Auggie Eagle (right) lead Cohorts 3 and 4 in their “initiation” song.



MBA graduate Nathan Appel, originator of the MBA softball team, strikes a pose.



Nigerian-born Sunny Olise came to the U.S. to study business and appreciates the small-group atmosphere in Augsburg’s MBA program.

“[My classmates are] people I respect... very smart people. Just like family.”

—SUNNY OLISE '06 MBA

are in school... Now, actually coming to campus just feels more like I'm at an institution of higher learning and all that goes along with that."

Nigerian-born Sunny Olise began studying in Lindell Library while he was an undergraduate business student at another school because he found it to be a more calming and productive place for him to work.

So when he heard the ad for Augsburg's new MBA program on the radio, he said to himself, "Yeah, it's a good school." Olise called Kramarczuk and told him the story of how he woke up one day after working for the Nigerian government for 21 years wanting to "try something new." The two later met in the coffee center of Christensen Center. At the end of their visit, Kramarczuk said, "Congratulations, Sunny. You're in!"

"I didn't even know he was interviewing me," Olise says, laughing. From there, Kramarczuk took Olise to the bookstore to purchase his books. Less than two years later, Olise is one of the Cohort 4 graduates. He describes his group as "people I respect... very smart people. Just like family."

"In addition to the knowledge you get from the MBA program, there's a lot of prestige attached to it," says Olise. "I work full time, I have a full-time family, I attended school, and I'm a chess addict... I have no regrets whatsoever. None."

COMING OF AGE

Kramarczuk considers the number of students pretty close to the maximum the College can currently support, although he sees a huge potential for growth. In response to a particular need, Augsburg now offers the full MBA program at Thrivent Financial's corporate center in downtown Minneapolis. Several students have transferred in from nearby programs, and Kramarczuk anticipates an eventual 100 students at the Thrivent location alone.

Augsburg also launched its first MBA cohort in Rochester in fall 2005, its second last winter, and will add its third this fall.

"Augsburg is a very traditional institution, while the MBA is a very entrepreneurial effort. There's continual adjustment that's had to happen on both ends," Kramarczuk says. "It seems to be progressing well."

"We want to continue to develop graduate business programs geared toward executives. We are also developing MBA programs in specific concentration areas such as international business," says Cerrito.

"It's kind of scary being the first class of MBAs, but Augsburg's reputation in the metro and in the region is solid," Appel says. "The undergraduate business program has a really good reputation. Hopefully we'll piggyback off of that. ... I'm banking on Augsburg's reputation carrying weight. I think it will." ■

For more information about the MBA program, go to <www.augsburg.edu/mba>.



(L to R): Derek Zielin, Max Boller, David Sandvig, Matthew Barrett, Sarah Anton, Scott Kretzschmar

Putting their MBA TO WORK

Many MBA students seek out the program to help them advance in their current positions. For some students in Cohort 3, however, the program provided the foundation for a new business venture.

One particular group of students began talking during breaks, after class, and, of course, over the pre-class dinners. At these dinners, student Sarah Anton says, "We learn about our families, our goals, our plans for the future."

These discussions led to the creation of Minnesota Business Consultants, LLP (MBC), a group of five men and Anton. "Each member brings a different expertise to the group that comes out of our diverse career paths," she says.

MBC specializes in strategic planning and profit maximization for

small- to medium-size businesses. "Guiding businesses that might wish to re-evaluate their current financial picture" is the mission, according to Anton. "We see using the contacts we've gained from Augsburg to develop a client base and to develop a niche in an industry where small businesses are struggling. We believe small businesses are an important part of our Minnesota culture."

MBC is starting out in rental office space, and each consultant will maintain his or her current job until MBC is able to support them fully.

"It's a natural progression of the excellent talent pool that Kramarczuk puts together," says Anton. "It would surprise me if there aren't more businesses formed out of the MBA cohorts."

on tour with the AUGSBURG Choir

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JUDY PETREE

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW WROTE, “Music is the universal language of mankind.” As the Augsburg Choir set out on its European concert tour they would come to understand the meaning of Longfellow’s words.

From May 8-21, under the direction of Peter Hendrickson '76, the choir toured Budapest, Hungary; Prague and Kutna Hora, Czech Republic; and Dresden and Leipzig, Germany, where the tour ended at the American Choral Festival.

The 66-voice choir sang in basilicas that took their breaths away, in churches that dated back to the 1300s, and in one of the finest concert halls in Europe. Their audiences included U. S. citizens living in Europe as well as people who could speak little or no English.

The choir learned that it wasn’t the words they sang, but rather the music they made that touched hearts and brought smiles—and sometimes even tears—to the people who came to hear them. They also learned how music is indeed a universal language, and that experiences like these also create bonds among themselves that last across continents and time.

On the return trip home, tenor Hayes Kaufman '09 said when he joined the choir his dad expressed his hope that someday he, Hayes, would come to appreciate the opportunity he was being given.

“I think I already have,” Kaufman told his fellow choir members. “Thanks to everyone for this great trip, the memories, and opportunity.”

HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC, AND GERMANY





1

(1) The concert tour began at St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, Hungary, the city's largest church. Not only its beauty and magnificence awed the choir, but also the sound of their voices. Tenor Tony Wallin '08 said he couldn't believe that "we, the Augsburg Choir, would ever have the opportunity to sing in such a place."

(2) In the small Czech town of Kutna Hora, once famous for its silver mines, the choir sang at St. Barbara's Cathedral. Here, a few choir members take a break at intermission to catch a view of the town at night.

(Front row, L to R) Aleah Tebben, Mike Schmit, Colin Callander, Kathryn Goerges (Back row, L to R) Stacey Zeutenhorst, Miranda Nelson, Eric Anderson, Adam Krumwiede, Tom Robinson and Kent Bodurtha.



2



3

In Prague, the choir sang at St. Ignatius, an active church run by Jesuit monks that was begun in 1665 and completed in 1671.

(3) At a stop in Krabcice, another small Czech town, the choir performed for an audience of senior citizens, most of whom knew no English. A highlight of the tour for many of the students was a song they sang in the Czech language, for which they received a standing ovation and compliments on their pronunciation.

"This by far has been the best part of the tour for me," said soprano Molly Shortall '07, who enjoyed talking with one of the senior citizens after the concert.

"It was better than the larger concerts because you could just feel that it meant so much to these people. These are people who had their culture taken away from them for so many years, and now you can see how much it must mean to them to get it back."



4

(4) The audience was sparse but very appreciative at Annen Kirche in Dresden, Germany, one of the only churches there to escape bombing during World War II. A woman in the front row was so clearly moved by the choir's singing, she would direct along with Peter and, at times, smile broadly and cry quietly.

“It doesn’t always matter how many people are in the audience, said bass Dave Czepa ’06. He spoke for many of the choir members as he said, “that one lady and what this obviously meant to her made the whole concert worth it.”

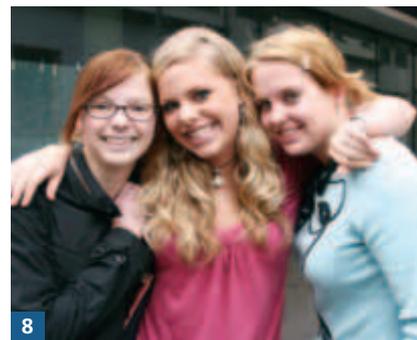
(5) In Leipzig, Germany—home to such famous composers as Bach and Handel—the choir visited St. Thomaskirche, where Johann Sebastian Bach was a cantor and where he is buried. They also toured St. Nicholaskirche, founded in 1165.



(6) The choir teamed up with the Northwestern College Choir of St. Paul to perform at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig for the American Choral Festival. They sang several songs as a massed choir, plus each choir performed on its own. Joining the choir was Augsburg alumna Nicole (Warner) Simml ’01. Simml now lives in Germany teaching voice and performing frequently.

Performing solos are (L to R) Nicole (Warner) Simml; Krista Costin, Augsburg; Nathan Bird, Northwestern; and Dave Czepa, Augsburg. Directing is Northwestern choir director Timothy Sawyer, with Augsburg director Peter Hendrickson on piano.

What was the most memorable part of the trip—the beautiful churches; the scenery; experiencing different cultures, food, and languages? Not according to many of the students. What they will remember most are the bonds and friendships they made with each other. Although the choir has been singing together all year, they found that sometimes it takes an experience such as this to get to know each other really well. Alto Kellin Pray ’08 said she really enjoyed being with others who enjoy the same thing. The sad part, she added, is now saying goodbye to the seniors whom they were just starting to really know.



(7) (L to R) Kellin Pray, Bri’Ann Wright, and Micah Erickson.

(8) (L to R) Emily Denstad, Emma Stensvaag, and Adena Berg.

(9) Mother’s Day greetings from Prague were sent home by Brian Halaas and Kari Aanestad.



Every week more than 2,000 people fill the Plymouth Playhouse in the Twin Cities' suburb for an afternoon or evening of laughter, sharing the lives of four women and their pastor in the church basement of the East Cornucopia Lutheran Church.

The play, *Church Basement Ladies*, pays homage to the stalwart women who cooked for and served every church congregation. And it strikes a chord with anyone who grew up in the 1950s and '60s across the Midwest, whether they be Lutheran, Methodist, or Presbyterian—it was all part of their own experience.

Church Basement Ladies is based on the Scandinavian humor books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann (Johnson) Nelson, both 1968 Augsburg graduates. On stage the role of the church's matriarch, Mrs. Lars Snustad, is played by Janet Paone '83. For all three of them, their Augsburg experiences play big.

Martin and Nelson came to Augsburg in 1964 as freshmen, each attracted to

the big city and driven by the desire to escape a future as a farm wife. When they arrived, Augsburg was in the midst of great change, reflecting new college direction and leadership—the College had just merged into the American Lutheran Church after the demise of the Lutheran Free Church, and Oscar Anderson had just become president. Students were pushed to explore and understand the social and racial issues of the city around them, forever changing their worldviews.

Nelson aspired to be a home economics teacher, but by the end of her

“God knew that if there were going to be growing, self-sustaining, active Lutheran Churches in America, he would have to create a special species of people, so He created the Lutheran Church Basement Women.”

—*Growing Up Lutheran*,
Janet Letnes Martin and
Suzann (Johnson) Nelson, 1997

first semester had switched to political science, and then in her sophomore year to Scandinavian studies when the new major was announced. She studied Norwegian and was active in the Norwegian Club, which led to many opportunities, such as meeting the visiting King Olav V of Norway.

Both Martin and Nelson felt comfortable at Augsburg. They loved the big city around them, but appreciated the small-town comfort of the campus.

What they discovered was that small-town Scandinavian Lutheran life was the same everywhere. Nelson recalls the many nights she and classmates from small towns across the Upper Midwest sat around in Gerda Mortensen Hall and talked about their common backgrounds. “We all grew up the same way,” Martin confirms.

Students not from rural small towns were commuter students, and Nelson remembers stunning her city roommates by talking about eating cream on bread. So much so that she and others went shopping and demonstrated how it was made and eaten.

Paone arrived at Augsburg 15 years later. By then Augsburg was less

THOSE Lutheran ladies

BY BETSEY NORGARD



Top: Janet Letnes Martin '68 began writing down her experiences growing up in rural North Dakota and calls herself a "Norwegian-Lutheran farm girl humorist."

Bottom: From *The Augsburgian*, 1968.



Suzann (Johnson) Nelson '68 used her Scandinavian studies to inspire the characters of rural Norwegian Minnesota in her books.

Bottom: From *The Augsburgian*, 1968.



Janet Paone '83 has made a career in acting and voiceover work, and brings her Augsburg experience to the stage in *Church Basement Ladies*

Bottom: From *The Augsburgian*, 1981.

obviously Norwegian Lutheran and far more diverse, but it was because of the Lutheran church that Paone chose it. Her mother was Lutheran and her father was Catholic. She was raised in Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, but within her family she felt the stigma of being the child of a parent who "turned," i.e., married outside the Lutheran faith. She feels her father's family never really accepted her Lutheran mother.

After applying to music schools in New York, she decided to stay home for college and chose Augsburg because she had always respected and enjoyed the Augsburg students who were counselors at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp. She had also considered the ministry, but she ended up in the theatre program.

"There was definitely a Norwegian Lutheran influence at Augsburg," Paone says. "There was a Scandinavian studies major, and most people's names ended in -son, -sen, -gard, or -dal." She also remembers the aesthetic influence of the "good" dinnerware with Scandinavian design used for special dinners.

Martin and Nelson graduated in 1968, but neither returned to her small town. On a Norwegian Club trip to Decorah, Iowa, Nelson had met Ronald E. Nelson '67; in March 1967 they were married in Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis. She studied Scandinavian literature in graduate school and for 10 summers directed Skogfjorden, the Norwegian Language Village.

Martin married shortly after college and began raising a family. More than a decade later, in 1983, while helping her mother-in-law research family history, she became frustrated at not finding much information about life in rural communities and decided to begin writing down what it was like growing up. Together with Allen Todnem '64, also an Augsburg graduate, she co-authored *Cream and Bread*, and then *Second Helpings of Cream and Bread*.

Martin and Nelson remained close friends. In 1994, on a whim, Martin suggested that Nelson should write a book with her, and Nelson quit her job the same day.

Sitting around the kitchen table in their flannel nightgowns enjoying

REMEMBERING those Lutheran ladies

BY DAVE WOOD



Dave Wood is a past vice-president of the National Book Critics Circle and former book review editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune. He taught English and journalism at Augsburg from 1969 to 1981.

poetry readings, students went off to good graduate schools.

Best, we all had lots of fun, parked right in the middle of a seedy old section of Minneapolis.

But back to Janet Letnes Martin. Her first book was a success followed by many more, including one of my favorites, which involved Hastings housewife/detective

IT WAS THE MID-1980S. I had recently been appointed book review editor of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* after a lengthy stint as English teacher at Augsburg and feature writer for the old *Tribune*.

"Dave," said the receptionist, "There's an author out here in the lobby who wants to see you."

Wow. My first author. Who would it be? I trotted down to the lobby to discover a woman who looked like a pert middle-aged housewife from Hastings, Minn., which, in fact, she was.

"Hi," she said, thrusting an enormous layer cake into my paws. "I'm Janet Martin. I went to Augsburg back in the '60s. I've written a book and if you'll review it the cake is yours."

Looking back, I sincerely hope I wasn't too condescending when I explained to Janet Letnes Martin that *Star Tribune* policy prohibited my taking gifts, blah blah blah.

"OK," she said, unflappable. "I'll take back the cake. You take the book."

So there I was with Janet Letnes Martin's first literary effort, *Cream on Bread*. I gave it a whirl. It was wonderful. As a minor ethnician of the times, I had read lots of this stuff, like Howard Mohr's work, and I think I knew what was good. Janet Martin's was excellent. No cheap shots. There were no big yuks in *Cream on Bread*, just lots of little ones. That's because Janet Martin was smart enough to know that there aren't a lot of big yuks in Lutherandom, but lots and lots of little ones. That's why she became one of Lutheran humor's most honest purveyors.

Was I surprised? Yes. But I shouldn't have been. I had taught for 10 years at Augsburg, not too many years after she had graduated. I had taught at four other schools before my arrival there and was continually surprised at the little college's vitality and intellectuality. Sure, there was a streak of inferiority feeling running through the student body. The University of Minnesota students across Riverside Ave. called Augsburg "God's Little Acre." We had great music, science, art, and poetry, but the steam heat system in Old Main on a cold day sounded like the last 15 minutes before the H.M.S. Titanic went down. Nevertheless we had great

Shirley Holmquist, a direct steal from Arthur Conan Doyle. In 1994, her Auggie classmate, Suzann Nelson of Grand Rapids, Minn., joined her and their books tumbled out, books like their monumental theological tract about Lutherans and Roman Catholics entitled *They Glorified Mary ... We Glorified Rice*. They also performed two-woman shows, filling church basements across the Midwest.

Ever since the Martin/Nelson success, I've been a bit jealous. I've tried my hand with ethnic humor. Like Martin and Nelson I grew up in a little Norwegian Lutheran town. But my stuff never lit any fires. Why did theirs?

I've come to think that Augsburg College had a lot to do with it. Augsburg was traditionally on the outer fringe of the Lutheran establishment. Its supporting synod, the Lutheran Free Church, was always suspicious of clericalism, authority, big shots. An immigrant church, it had to survive by its wits. (Janet Letnes Martin, you see, didn't actually think her layer cake would persuade me to review her book. It was just a way of tweaking my self-satisfaction, cutting me and the *Star Tribune* down to size.) And so the two pious girls from small farm towns came to God's Little Acre in the heart of the Sinful City and found out one could love one's church and have some fun with it, too.

I look back more than a quarter century at the students like Martin and Nelson and wonder at their successes, many of which have just a bit of orneriness in common. It's a wonderful tradition and the women who made church basements famous are definitely part of it.

And so now the girls are moving out onto the national scene. Martin and Nelson are no longer girls, but I can't help thinking of them in that way, for their girlish glee and for poking a little fun at the basements where they both spent hundreds of hours learning that certain concepts were "most certainly true."

I have only one bit of advice and that's for Janet Letnes Martin. If and when you get to New York City, don't bring a layer cake to the offices of the *New York Times Book Review*.

The editor won't get it.

copious amounts of both coffee and laughter, the two women began to capture recollections and memories as they spilled out. Nelson has said that it's her job to jog people's memories and their job to laugh. Their intention is never to make fun of anyone or anything. "There's a fine line between making fun of something and having fun with it," Martin told an interviewer. "Hopefully we'll never cross it."

Three books came within the first six months. So far, they've written nine books together, the most popular being *Growing Up Lutheran: What Does This Mean?*, which won a Minnesota Book Award for humor.

Requests for speaking engagements also started coming, and for several years Martin and Nelson crisscrossed each others' paths as they spoke to church groups, women's groups, and local organizations. Then they devised a comedy routine and began appearing together as "Those Lutheran Ladies"—nothing more than sharing their own backgrounds.

An idea for a play came about when TroupeAmerica's president and executive producer-director, Curt Wollan, hired Those Lutheran Ladies to perform for three weeks at the Medora Musical in North Dakota. Wollan invited a playwright-couple, Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke, to pen the script.

Wollan, who had grown up as

"Lutherans attending a Lutheran college in the '50s and '60s did not have to prepare themselves for any big culture shock. Some of them even shared the same last name—but were not related."

—*Growing Up Lutheran*,
Janet Letnes Martin and
Suzann (Johnson) Nelson, 1997

president of his Luther League and the son of a dedicated church basement lady, encouraged Paone to take the part of matronly Vivian Snustad, the unequivocal and uncompromising queen of the church basement ladies in his fictional East Cornucopia Lutheran Church.

Paone, a veteran character actress seen in *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*, pushed for revisions to the script through a workshop process in order to engage Mrs. Snustad more with the audience. This character is a curmudgeon, but works through her issues and begins to understand why things must eventually change—beginning with her consternation over the hymnals changing from black to red.

Church Basement Ladies previewed at several locations before settling into its long run at the Plymouth Playhouse. Paone recalls opening in Fargo, where

the cast was extremely nervous about how it would go over. Once the audience started laughing and didn't stop, Paone remembers the "neat moment" between acts when the cast suddenly realized that "this thing is going to be huge."

Audiences react differently to the play, Paone says, and she can tell by what they laugh at whether the crowd (often comprised of large church groups) is Lutheran or Catholic. And, if they react most vividly to the physical comedy aspect, they probably aren't church-connected at all.

Even if someone is not well versed in the ways of Martin Luther, she says, the play is still very accessible. "It's about a [small] country church ... it's the social center, with many different layers."

Paone would love to pull more material from Martin and Nelson's books for the stage, and Martin and Nelson would love to have the current actors stay involved with the East Cornucopia Lutheran Church.

What's next for Those Lutheran Ladies? When asked about it, Martin quickly replies, "Oh, ya, there's lots more in it." When they get together and start laughing, she says, "We just run with it ... and sometimes we just blurt out the same thing."

And, to quote Martin Luther and the church basement ladies, "This is most certainly true." ■

"If Scandinavian Lutherans could add one more feast day to the church calendar, it would be the feast of fish and flatbread ... Unlike the Catholics who had to eat fish every Friday, Scandinavian Lutherans were only morally obligated to eat it once a year, and that was at the annual *Lutefisk* supper."

—*Growing Up Lutheran*,
Janet Letnes Martin and
Suzann (Johnson) Nelson, 1997

CHURCH Basement Ladies

—you bet it's a big hit!



Troupe America, Inc.

The cast of Church Basement Ladies (L to R): Janet Paone '83 (Mrs. Lars Snustad—Vivian), Greta Grosch (Mrs. Gilmer Gilmerson—Mavis), Tim Drake (Pastor E. L. Gunderson), Dorian Chalmers (Mrs. Elroy Engelson—Karin) and Ruthie Baker (Signe Engelson—Karin's daughter).

BY ANY MEASURE, *Church Basement Ladies* is a monster hit. It has been running for more than 35 weeks at Plymouth Playhouse (scheduled through the end of 2006) at 101% occupancy. It now has a double cast and offers 10 or 11 shows per week.

Curt Wollan, producer and director, found inspiration for the play in his own mother. After she died, Wollan was asked if the gift she left the church could be used for their greatest need, a new stove for the kitchen. He agreed, and it was named Lorraine in her honor, a seemingly fitting legacy.

"We're honoring people who are never honored ... and who are under-appreciated," says Wollan. "The play has been hugely popular with women who have worked in church basements, and with their daughters and granddaughters, who are remembering mom and grandmother."

He remembers being a Luther Leaguer in his own church when they'd sing, "Come out, dear ladies, come out, come out" so the women could be recognized, and they were always bashful about it. "They were the unsung heroes of the church—they kept it clean and fed, and the coffee going."

He says the play is universal—it doesn't matter where or what church you're in—every church has its basement ladies. The show just happens to be Norwegian Lutheran because it's based on Nelson and Martin's book, *Growing Up Lutheran*.

The play is important, he says, because this part of church life is dying. "As women have started to work, there are fewer basement ladies and there is more catering," says Wollan. "This

celebrates the past and its heritage."

Church Basement Ladies is preparing to embark on a nine-state, 50-city tour from January-March 2007, in mostly small towns throughout the Upper Midwest, but reaching as far as New Mexico, Colorado, and Montana. Then, they'll wait a year and tour bigger cities.

Already underway are plans for a second cast to begin production in Chicago. New York is pending, and there has been interest in an off-Broadway venue where it would play in a real Lutheran church basement.

Norwegian Lutheran food is central to the play. One of Wollan's favorite lines is "Lutefisk and lefse are directly descended from the five loaves and two fishes at the Sea of Galilee, and have since lost their color."

The music and lyrics were written by Drew Jansen; here are two samples:

From "Closer to Heaven"—"You're closer to heaven in the church basement, Where we do the Good Lord's work. Everywhere you look you see spectacular sights; 40 kinds of food to feed some fierce appetites; Nearly new linoleum and fluorescent lights, managed by a stalwart squad. Here below the house of God."

From "Dead Spread"[term for the spreads served on sandwiches following a funeral]—"Dead spread, a splendid affair, to celebrate someone who's no longer there; dead spread, a wonderful thing, what sweet consolation a hotdish can bring."

For more information, go to <www.plymouthplayhouse.com>.

From the Alumni Board president's desk...



Serving as president of the Augsburg Alumni Board the past year has in many ways been one of the most rewarding and enriching things I have done. I am continually inspired by the many outstanding and diverse accomplishments of our alumni, and I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve the Augsburg Alumni Association and Augsburg Alumni Board over the past seven years.

My goal this year was to continue the transformation and forward momentum of the Alumni Board in its journey from the role of an advisory board to a working board. Under discussion has been our advisory member initiative, in which we invite representatives of various campus constituencies to attend our committee meetings in order to foster greater dialogue, e.g. parents, international students, A-Club, the Augsburg Associates, Faculty and Staff Senates. Our Connections Committee, led by Buffie Blesi, undertook an effort to explore possibilities for offering alumni benefits. Stay tuned to hear more about

this effort in the coming months.

I'm proud to report that Alumni Board members are well on the way to a fourth consecutive year of 100% contribution to the annual fund. Our intention is to continue to build on this tradition of giving, and I am pleased to say that the Alumni Board has also committed to a 100% contribution rate among board members to the Access to Excellence campaign. We are certainly blessed by these commitments and by these gifts.

President Frame's leadership of Augsburg is finishing with tremendous energy, solid growth for the College, and renewal of its vision for the future. The strength and constancy of his leadership has helped draw Augsburg to new levels of recognition. In his own words, "Augsburg plays a unique role in the world of Lutheran education. Its service to the city, to the provision of accessibility to first-class educational opportunities, and its regard for faith and reason as interactive and mutually reinforcing modes of understanding ... gives us a special mission." Augsburg has been truly blessed by President Frame's incredible leadership the past nine years.

I had the privilege of speaking at Augsburg's 137th Commencement on

May 6 and welcoming 752 graduates as the newest members of the Augsburg Alumni Association. Our Alumni Association has grown considerably since my Commencement ceremony a little over 20 years ago, when the Weekend College had just been launched and when graduate programs, the Rochester program, and many others did not yet exist. The Alumni Association in those days numbered around 10-11,000 members and now includes around 18,000. Congratulations and welcome to the Class of 2006!

I am excited about Augsburg's future, the future of the Alumni Association, and the Alumni Board. I hope you will join me in welcoming President-elect Paul Pribbenow and incoming Alumni Board president Barry Vornbrock—the next chapter in our history!

Stay close and stay connected.

Karina Karlén '83
President, Alumni Board

LSAT prep for a bargain

Don't take out a loan to pay those expensive test prep companies. Augsburg's Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) is hosting LSAT Prep on campus this fall.

The instructor is Brian Farrell '95, an attorney and Augsburg alumnus, who scored in the 99th percentile on the exam and taught LSAT prep for Princeton Review. Four sessions are offered:

TUES., SEPT. 26, 6 TO 9 P.M.—General introduction to the LSAT, analytical reasoning strategy and practice

TUES., OCT. 3, 6 TO 9 P.M.—Homework review, logical reasoning strategy and practice

TUES., OCT. 10, 6 TO 9 P.M.—Homework review, reading comprehension strategy and practice

TUES., OCT. 17, 6 TO 9 P.M.—Homework review, continued practice in all sections, overall test-taking strategies, test-day preparation, class questions

The cost for the four sessions is \$150 for Augsburg alumni, compared to \$580 at the University of Minnesota and over \$1300 at Kaplan or Princeton Review.

To register (limited spaces are available), contact Dixie Shafer, <shafer@augsborg.edu>.

Alumni Events

Please join us for these upcoming alumni events; unless otherwise noted, call 612-330-1085 or 1-800-260-6590 or e-mail <alumni@augburg.edu> for more information.

June

- 20 Alumni Board Meeting,**
5:30 p.m.
Minneapolis Room,
Christensen Center

July

- 11 Auggie Hours,** 5:30-7 p.m.
Maynard's Restaurant,
685 Excelsior Blvd., Excelsior, MN
(located in the southeast corner of
Excelsior Bay on Lake
Minnetonka), 952-470-1800

August

- 8 Auggie Hours,** 5:30-7 p.m.
Campiello, 1320 West Lake St.,
Uptown Minneapolis,
612-825-2222

- 10 Auggie Evening at the Races**
Canterbury Park, Shakopee, MN
Gather your friends and family and
join us for free admission and
complimentary hors d'oeuvres.
RSVP is required and space
is limited.

Please e-mail the following
information to <ecs@augburg.edu>
or call 612-330-1104: Total number
in your group, names of you and
your guests, your graduation
year(s), and your contact number.
**The deadline to register is Friday,
August 4.**

- 15 Alumni Board Meeting,**
5:30 p.m.
Minneapolis Room,
Christensen Center

- 16 Auggies attend Lutheran
Night at the Dome**
Minnesota Twins v. Cleveland
Indians, with first pitch at 7:10.
Lower level seating—\$18 per
ticket(group rate).
Tickets are limited-contact the
Alumni Relations Office,
612-330-1613 or send check to:
Alumni Relations Office,
2211 Riverside Ave S., CB 146,
Minneapolis, MN 55454
Once your payment has been
received, the tickets will be mailed
to you in August.

Homecoming 2006—*Watch us Soar* September 25-30

Mon., Sept. 25

- 4:30-6 p.m. International Student
Organization reception
7:30-9 p.m. Student Kick-Off Event,
Coronation and Pep Rally

Tues., Sept. 26

- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Counseling and Health
Promotion Annual Fair
6:30 p.m. Alumni Baseball game,
Parade Stadium
7 p.m. Powder puff football
9 p.m. FCA campfire, Murphy Park

Wed., Sept. 27

- 10:30 a.m. Augsbug Associates annual
fall luncheon (off campus)
Noon-1 p.m. Auggie Cup Knowledge
Bowl (East Commons)
9:30-10:30 p.m. Homecoming communion

Thurs., Sept. 28

- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Student activity—Old Auggie
photos
5:30-8:30 p.m. Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

Fri., Sept. 29

- 9-10 a.m. Reunion breakfast
10-11 a.m. Homecoming chapel
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Student activity
12:30-2 p.m. Alumni luncheon

- 2:15-3:15 p.m. Campus tour
3:30-6 p.m. Hall Crawl
3 p.m. Artist Amy Rice '93, slide
presentation, Marshall
Room, Christensen Center
7 p.m. ASAC Variety Show
7:30 p.m. Men's soccer game v.
Macalester

Sat., Sept. 30

- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Picnic in the Park
noon Auggie Cup Desk
Hurling
1-3 p.m. Football Game v. Concordia-
Moorhead
3:30-7 p.m. Auggie Block Party

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes

1956

Evelyn (Chanco) Steenberg, Missoula, Mont., and her husband, **Tom '58, '61 Sem**, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on June 2, and hope to be at their 50-year reunion at Homecoming. They've spent 45 years in the ministry, including 35 years as missionaries in Japan. The Steenbergs can be reached at <tasteenberg@aol.com>.

1957

Gloria (Grant) Knoblauch, Lake Elmo, Minn., was recently recognized for her service and leadership in forming the Friends of Lake Elmo Library, which succeeded in bringing a branch of the Washington County Library back to their city.

1958

Rev. Gary Turner, San Jacinto, Calif., is an Anglican priest and V.A. Hospital chaplain. Last summer, while at the Hollywood Bowl to see Garrison Keillor, he ending up sitting two rows ahead of **Philip Knox '57**.

1965

Dwight Olson, San Diego, Calif., was elected president of the Licensing Executives Society (LES) of USA & Canada, a professional society of over 6,000 members engaged in the use, development, manufacture, and marketing of intellectual property. LES is part of an international organization, with 30 national societies representing 12,000 members in 80 countries. He can be reached at <dwight.olson@ironmountain.com>.

1969

James Roste, Roseville, Minn., retired on Dec. 31 after 36 years in corrections work. He has joined his wife, **Lorene (Peterson) '70**, in her business, "Senior Moves," helping seniors

sort, pack, move, unpack, and settle in at new locations.

1971

Thomas Haas, West St. Paul, Minn., retired last August after working 32 years at the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, helping people find employment by providing basic skills and resources. He says that retirement is "almost all I have heard it can be—WONDERFUL." He also wonders how he had time to work and get other things done before. His wife is a genetics researcher at the University of Minnesota.

Jean Holbrook, San Mateo, Calif., has been named San Mateo County superintendent of schools through January 2007, to complete a vacated term. She brings 30 years of experience with the San Mateo County Office of Education to the position.

Charles Maland, Knoxville, Tenn., was awarded the Alexander Prize for his superior classroom teaching and distinguished scholarship at the University of Tennessee. His teaching and research focuses on American literature and cinema, and he has been named editor of a volume of James Agee's film criticism.

1975

Daniel Swalm, Minneapolis, is an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the Graduate College of Education and Professional Studies and teaches career counseling through the Department of Counseling and School of Psychology. He is the executive director of Career Solutions Inc., a nonprofit career development agency in St. Paul.

1986

Karl Spring was named chief meteorologist at the Northland's

NewsCenter in Duluth, Minn., which provides weather news to several TV channels and newspapers in northern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin.

1988

Kiel Christianson, Champaign, Ill., writes a golf equipment column for travelgolf.com as a hobby, and was recently quoted in an article in CNNMoney.com about a new Nike golf club.

1989



Nnamdi A. Okoronkwo and his wife, Sabrina K., Minneapolis, announce the birth of their son, **Grayson**

Nnamdi, very unexpectedly and quickly, with the help of the Minneapolis Fire Department. He was born on his parents' fifth wedding anniversary and joins

older brother, Spencer, 18 months. Nnamdi and Sabrina work for Best Buy and Target.

Steven Torgerud and his wife, in St. Paul, welcomed a daughter, **Abigail Mae**, on March 1.

1992

Susan E. (Gehrke) Erdman and her husband, Shane, Marinette, Wis., announce the birth of their daughter, **Wynn Leslie**, on Sept. 9. She joins her brother, Carson.

1993



Dana (Ryding) Martin, and her husband, Jeff, Andover, Minn., welcomed a son, **Caden Joshua**, on Dec. 2. He

joins brother Noah, age 2. She can be reached at <dana.martin@moundsvIEWSchools.org>.



Joyce (Nelson) Schrader '64, Friendswood, Texas, is a retired elementary school teacher who taught second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. Her husband is a retired human resources manager. In the photo are Joyce and her husband, Steve (middle and top rows, right); their daughter Mandy and her husband, Scott (top row, left and middle), with their children, Haley (3) and Cason (1); and their daughter Julie (bottom row, left) with her dog, Elvis.

Targeting cancer as both physician and scientist

by Sara Holman '06

Nine years have past since Arlo Miller roamed Augsburg's campus as a biology and chemistry student. However, this recent M.D./Ph.D. Harvard graduate has not forgotten his Minneapolis alma mater.

"One of the biggest challenges in medical school is just trying to figure out what is important and what actually matters. It's essentially very easy to lose the forest for the trees. I think Augsburg science did very well to emphasize the forest, which provided a good starting point," Miller comments. He also credits the Honors Program for its emphasis on critical thinking and communication skills. After his junior year, Miller worked for the summer with a leading cancer researcher at Washington University in St. Louis, who helped convince him to seek the dual medical/research degrees.

Entering Harvard after his 1997 graduation was the first step in Miller's pursuit to study oncology, and his lab work in graduate school led him to study melanoma. "I'd always been thinking I would do hematology-oncology," says Miller, "but I found that dermatology is a better fit for me. Dermatologists actually deal with the most prevalent forms of cancer, but the work primarily occurs in the clinic rather than in the hospital. This will better enable me to spend a fraction of my time doing research."

Whether to become a regular doctor or a regular researcher or to split his time doing both has been something Miller has grappled with since becoming part of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP).

MSTP was founded to bridge the gap between physicians and scientists. "Sometime in the 1970s," Miller says, "there was a concern that the divide was widening to the point that effective translation of basic science research to the realm of medicine was in jeopardy. The MSTP program sends people to medical school and graduate school with the hope of creating a pool of people who could serve as bridges between these two communities."

Miller entered the MSTP program with a National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant, given to about 300 students across the country. The grant pays all medical school costs and provides an annual stipend to compensate for the economic consequences of choosing the lengthy M.D./Ph.D. path.

In this joint medical-research program, Miller's first two years included the medical school core scientific curriculum—atomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pathophysiology, etc. Then he shifted to graduate work and did research for five years in three different laboratories, including the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Finally he returned to the last two years of medical school and worked in hospital and clinic settings.

In early June, Miller graduated from the M.D./Ph.D. program and will marry Ileana Howard, also a physician. For the next year, he has a transition-year internship in Seattle, where Howard is currently a resident in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

In July 2007, Miller will begin a three-year residency in dermatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., a department known for its excellence in the research and treatment of unusual problems. He imagines himself ending up at a research university and says he feels drawn to the area of cancer biology.

When dealing with the very sensitive subject of cancer, Miller says his Augsburg experience continues to impact his role as a doctor. "You often find yourself taking care of people that the rest of society has pretty much given up on and for whom all social support systems have failed," he says. "This is a community service aspect of medicine that I hadn't anticipated or appreciated when I started, but I feel that Augsburg helped prepare me through informal means, including the Link program and its urban setting."

Sara Holman graduated in 2006 with majors in communication studies and English.



Courtesy photo

Arlo Miller '97 received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2004 on the same day as his fiancée, Ileana Howard, graduated from Harvard Medical School. In June, he completed the M.D./Ph.D. program and also received his medical degree.

TOASTMASTERS AWARD

Courtesy photo



The Honorable Pamela Alexander '74, Minneapolis, received the Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership award for 2006. She was lauded for her community service as a youth motivational speaker, basketball coach, and teacher, and for the more than 50 community service awards she has received. She is a judge of the Fourth Judicial District Court, Juvenile Division, of Hennepin County.



Jessica (Ferrell) and Brad Zenner '92, Minneapolis, adopted a daughter, **Jasmine Shan**,

in November. Jasmine was born in Hunan, China, in February 2005. She joins a happy sister, Lily Jinxiang, 3. Jessica can be reached at <jessicazenner@hotmail.com>.

1994



Carrie Kennedy and her husband, **Eric Peterson**, Hopkins, Minn., announce the birth of a son, **Kieran Philip**, in

January. Carrie is an adjunct professor of English at Concordia University in St. Paul and teaches fiction writing at the Loft Literary Center.

1996

Anne Lalla married **Todd Johnson** in March; they live in

Shoreview, Minn. They have one son, **Evan**, born in September 2002.

1998

Brittani (Gross) Filek '00 PA, Corona, Calif., and her husband, **Matt**, welcomed their first child, **Van Owen**, in June 2005. They were married in July 2004; Brittani is a surgical physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente General and Plastic Surgery Department.

1999

Bobby Scala, Eden Prairie, Minn., along with his brother-in-law, has opened **Scala's Beef Stands** in Maple Grove, a restaurant selling products from his family's Chicago-based wholesale meat company.

Sarah (Ginkel) Spilman, Iowa City, Iowa, and her husband, **Matt**, announce the birth of their son, **Alexander Nicholas**, on Jan. 3. Sarah earned a Master of Arts degree in sociology at the University of Iowa in 2004.



Leslie Lucas '00 married **Matthew Weide** in July 2005. She is currently a student in the Master of Social Work program, and he is an account executive for **Donaldson** in **Bloomington**. They live in **Minneapolis**.

2000



Kai Gudmestad '06 MBA, Minneapolis, Minn., and his wife, **Amy**, welcomed their son, **Elijah Douglas**, on Jan. 29. Kai graduated in the first Augsburg MBA class.

2001

Kathryn Koch has been named production stage manager for the Glimmerglass Opera 2006 festival season in Cooperstown, N.Y. She will lead the stage management staff and be part of a world premiere opera, *The Greater Good*. The company produces four

operas in repertory during its eight-week season, attracting 40,000 people from around the world.

Graduate programs

Doris Rubenstein '93 MAL was elected to the Board of Directors of Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union. She is principal of PDP Services, a consulting firm specializing in corporate and personal philanthropy.

In Memoriam

Irvin Nerdahl '40, age 87, Jan. 27 in Crystal, Minn. He is survived by his children, **Marsha**, **Laura**, **John**, and **David**.

Kelly Roth '47, age 85, in Wheaton, Minn. He is survived by his wife, **Beverly**, and three children, **John "Champ"**, **Richard**, and **Janice**, who also attended Augsburg. Kelly, nicknamed "Smiley," was a manager at the Smiley's Point confectionary. He retired from Lutheran Brotherhood and Central Life Insurance. He was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame in 1978.

Rev. Philip A. Nelson '55, '58 Sem, age 72, Dec. 1 in New London, Minn. He is survived by his wife, **Beverly (Omdahl) '55**, and three sons, **Bruce**, **Peter**, and **Blair**. Phil had callings to **Colombia Heights**, **Morris**, **New London**, and **Osakis** before retiring in 1994 due to health concerns.

Edward M. Sabella, professor emeritus of economics, May 5 in Minneapolis. He taught at Augsburg from 1967 until his retirement in August 2000 and was chair of the Departments of Business Administration and Economics from 1968-81.

Over spring break, 35 Augsburg students joined with students from Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa, for a trip to Biloxi, Miss., to help with hurricane relief sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Students posted daily journal entries on Augsburg's website; the following is a portion of Jeanette Clark's journal from the last day of the trip.



Guarding people's stories

by Jeanette Clark '07

Some look at the journey home as a necessary part of a trip—something logically following going away somewhere. On some level, this is true. On the other hand, the opportunity to travel home is one that should not be ignored. One does not have an experience, really, until he/she reflects on it, and this is part of going home. So rather than being a burden, this 30-hour bus ride has been a blessing—a chance to continue to get to know people and to process, or try to process, all we have seen and heard.



It seems that more than the work we did during our time in Biloxi, our greater service was guarding people's stories. We heard the great trials and agony of those who worked in the morgue after Katrina. By going home, caring for those around us, and sharing these stories, we will guard the stories of those who suffered through this disaster. More than clearing brush, painting, or scrubbing, it was crucial that we took the time to value the experiences of those who suffered so much. It was a service to hear AJ talk about the importance of his camp. It was a service to hear Jack tell of the struggles of those living in FEMA trailers. We heard the stories of spelling tests and possible "reward movies" by the elementary students we visited. There is no way we can begin to understand their pain or their experiences, but we can listen, and in doing so, we show them they matter just as they showed us that we mattered by cooking and caring for us with the utmost hospitality.



On some level, our trip home is when the journey starts. Who around us is also suffering, and how do we get to the root of this pain? Who around us has a story to tell that no one has listened to? How can we be in solidarity with those on the coast who are trying to rebuild their lives? There is still work to do. We've only just begun.

Jeanette Clark '07 is pursuing a degree in metro-urban studies, and youth and family ministry. She is a student leader in Campus Ministry and the Campus Kitchen at Augsburg.





The Golden Fisherman

According to the volunteer coordinators at Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Relief in Biloxi, Miss., Mondays start slow. So, to quell their nervous energy, some students got on the bus for a quick tour of the damage that Hurricane Katrina caused. Even after nine months the destruction is awe-inspiring. The U.S. Highway 90 bridge, which once spanned the 1.5 miles between Biloxi and Ocean Springs, looks like a set of dominos. "The Golden Fisherman," a sculpture by Harry Reeks, has only its feet connected to the cement base, with the rest of the eight-foot brass-and-copper figure thrown 20 feet from its home.

—Stephen Geffre, Staff Photographer

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@augsborg.edu>.

Full name	Maiden name	Class year or last year attended
Street address		
City	State	Zip
Is this a new address? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Home telephone	E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Okay to publish your e-mail address?
Employer	Position	Work telephone
Is spouse also a graduate of Augsburg College? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, class year _____		
Spouse name	Maiden name	
Your news: _____		

AUGSBURG
COLLEGE

2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 2031