A president is inaugurated

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The richness and wonder of human diversity

So God created humankind in God’s image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them … God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1: 27, 31a, NRSV)

I once heard a presentation from a nursing student who was part of a community health practicum course in a homeless shelter, who commented that before she went to her assignment at the shelter, her general feeling was that homeless people had done something to “deserve” their fate—she had no sense of how she could interact with these “people.” She was frightened. Once she had begun her assignment, however, she recounted how the residents of the shelter became her fellow citizens, her friends even. She learned their stories, grieved with them about bad decisions, unfair circumstances, sad and distressing experiences. She stood side by side with them in their struggles to find a home and set a new course for their lives. And she rejoiced in the role she could play in listening, empathizing, offering a word or hand or whatever might help. In her experience in that service-learning course, she learned about otherness and difference in ways that would make her a better nurse, a better citizen and neighbor, a better friend.

This story is why I will never give up in our efforts to make diversity a core value of our academic and common work and why I am so pleased that this issue of Augsburg Now illustrates some of our efforts to promote diversity on campus and beyond.

Creating, sustaining, celebrating, and supporting diversity is an abiding challenge for our college. Whether it is diversity of perspective, religion, ethnicity, race, social class, and so forth, there are critical voices from all sides pressing us to make the case for our philosophy, commitment, experience, policies, and practices related to diversity on campus and beyond. Here at Augsburg, we have the distinct gift of at least three compelling mission-based reasons for intentionally engaging the diversity of our world.

• Theologically, we believe that God has created humankind in all its diversity in God’s own image.
• Educationally, we believe that a liberal arts approach to learning and teaching is fundamentally committed to engaging otherness and difference so that we might genuinely understand and embrace the richness of human experience and creativity throughout the ages.
• Civically, we are persuaded that educating for democracy is at least in part about preparing our students for lives in society that will require them to have the knowledge, skills, and values needed to negotiate their ways with people of diverse backgrounds and experiences.

This past summer, I had the privilege of visiting Augsburg’s study site in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where I, too, learned to face my fears and stereotypes of other cultures and life experiences. We all are still learning to admit our privilege, to embrace the wonder of difference and other experiences, to live as neighbors here on campus and in our community, where the world is becoming our neighbor in very concrete and real ways.

Our work to educate students for democracy cannot be uncoupled from this commitment to diversity. This is why diversity on campus, in the neighborhood and city, in the church, and in the world is important—it is the heart of a healthy democracy.

Yours,

Paul C. Pribbenow, president
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On the Cover: At his investiture as Augsburg’s 11th president, the seal of the College is placed around the neck of Paul C. Pribbenow by Board of Regents chair Ted Grindal ’76.

All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.
Three new regents elected to board

Three new members were elected to four-year terms on the Augsburg College Board of Regents at the annual meeting of the Augsburg Corporation in October. In addition, Michael O. Freeman and Philip Styrland '79 were re-elected to second six-year terms. Freeman is a partner at Lindquist & Vennum, P.L.L.P., and Styrland is president of The Summit Group, an international education and development firm.

Richard C. Hartnack
Since the beginning of his banking career in 1971, Hartnack has held positions in corporate banking at First Interstate Bank of Oregon, and in community banking at First Chicago and Union Bank of California. He currently is vice chairman and head of consumer banking at U.S. Bancorp.

Hartnack has a bachelor’s degree in economics from UCLA and a master’s degree in business administration from Stanford University. He is a graduate of the Strategic Marketing Management program at the Harvard Business School.

 André Lewis ’73
Since 2002, Lewis has served as director of marketing and community affairs and president of the RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation. Previously he held a similar position at Honeywell. His background in education includes serving as principal at both Washburn and South high schools.

Lewis graduated from Augsburg and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He has been active in Augsburg’s Corporate Connections program.

Rev. Norman Wahl ’75
Since 1996, Wahl has been executive pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, the site of Augsburg’s programs in Rochester, Minn., and served on the task force that led to the formation of the Rochester campus. He has also been part of the alumni board, campaign cabinet, and on staff at the College.

After Augsburg, Wahl graduated from Luther Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the seminary in 1997.

Congratulations to Jacki Brickman ’97
Augsburg alumna Jacki Brickman ’97 was one of two teachers in the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts who were awarded a Milken National Educator Award in October.

This award, from the Milken Family Foundation, recognizes teachers and principals across the country for their effectiveness in the classroom, accomplishments outside the classroom, leadership, and ability to inspire students, teachers, and the community. It carries a cash award of $25,000.

Brickman, a 10-year teacher, is a teacher mentor at Hall International Elementary School in Minneapolis, working with other teachers at the school to test new techniques.

Brickman, who also is an adjunct instructor in Weekend College, is the second Augsburg graduate to receive a Milken Educator Award. Margaret Knutson ’91, fifth-grade teacher at Orono Intermediate School, received the same award in 2004. Read about both teachers in the Augsburg Now spring 2006 article, “Teachers who Lead, Leaders who Teach,” at www.augsburg.edu/now.

MBA consulting firm to start

Small businesses and non-profits in Rochester can qualify for pro-bono consulting services from Augsburg’s Rochester MBA students and graduates.

This new service, Augsburg Alumni Consulting Team (AACT), extends the MBA field service program, in which all students work with a client in the community on business issues and applications. A “full-team” consultation by AACT on critical strategic or management issues will be staffed by four to eight volunteers. A “fast track” for focused issues will involve one to three volunteers in two or three client meetings. And, a “board match” program will help non-profits build their board leadership.

Additional support services—database design, Web design, research, etc.—may be added by Augsburg undergraduate business and computer science students.

This College-sponsored consulting service will offer both experience and exposure to the students and alumni, and include a review process to build case studies.

While beginning in Rochester, AACT hopes to also expand the program to the Twin Cities.

For information, contact William Aguero at aguero@augsburg.edu.
Fond farewell to ‘Mr. Augsburg’

On Sept. 30 Jeroy Carlson ’48 officially retired from the campus and community he first came to more than 60 years ago. During that time, he served Augsburg as a student, volunteer, alumni director, and development officer.

At a packed reception in his honor, Carlson was presented with a baseball jersey bearing his No. 10 and a “Jeroy Carlson” baseball card. He was also presented with framed photos of the Augsburg campus, as he knew it and as it is today.

Known as “Mr. Augsburg” by his classmates and colleagues, Carlson excelled as a student-athlete in baseball, basketball, and football, and was part of four MIAC championship teams. He continued to work with the A-Club and helped establish the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 1991, after serving on the alumni board and as director of alumni relations, the alumni office was dedicated as the Jeroy C. Carlson Alumni Center.

See the winter 2005-06 Augsburg Now for a feature story on “Mr. Augsburg.”

The “greening” of Augsburg

Augsburg imagines environmental stewardship as central to its mission as a Lutheran college in the city.

President Paul Priebbenow says, “The Augsburg College community is deeply committed to what it means to build a sustainable urban environment. … Our relationships with our diverse neighbors, with the Mississippi River, and with other neighborhoods in our vibrant city are opportunities for learning, for civic engagement, and for faithful service.”

The institutional committee that grew out of a learning community seven years ago is now named the Environmental Stewardship Committee and provides leadership for the College in areas addressing sustainability. The committee’s growing website offers information and resources in the following initiatives:

• Recycling/waste reduction—Recycling bins have risen to nearly 75% capacity in the last year and new equipment across campus reduces water consumption and energy usage. The College recycles household items to community organizations and established a re-use table. A number of measures adopted reduce storm water run-off from campus, which, perhaps more than anything else, has had an impact on water quality in the Mississippi River.

• Transportation—Two light rail stations within walking distance and reduced fare bus-rail passes help the Augsburg community increase its use of public transit, freeing up parking spaces. Accessible bike trails provide alternatives to driving.

• HOURCAR—Augsburg is the newest neighborhood hub for HOURCAR—a hybrid vehicle that can be rented.

• Curriculum—Across the curriculum, courses address sustainability issues, and study abroad is available in metro-urban studies. A new environmental studies program is scheduled to launch in fall 2007.

• River stewardship—Augsburg is an official “steward” of a portion of the Mississippi River near campus and regularly hosts “clean-ups” to prevent pollution. The Environmental and River Politics course explores issues related to restoration of the river ecosystem and ways in which our relationship to the river reflects the health of our community.

• Campus Kitchen at Augsburg College—In its three years, Campus Kitchen has kept more than 35,000 pounds of food out of landfill and turned it into over 37,000 meals for the community. In the next year, Augsburg plans to launch a community garden to bring neighbors together and provide food for community organizations.

• Building a green campus—The Environmental Stewardship Committee has a voice in the ongoing planning for the new Science Center, which includes a “green” roof and maximal use of sustainable architecture and products.

Michael Lansing, assistant professor of history, wrote in the Augsburg Echo about Christensen Symposium speaker Douglas John Hall’s comments on “stewardly vocations.” Hall argued that everyone must make stewardship of the environment both a personal and collective priority. Lansing wrote that stewardly vocations “push us all toward recognizing and caring for the many other forms of life that we depend on for sustenance and comfort.”

To learn more about sustainability at Augsburg, go to www.augsburg.edu/green or contact Tom Ruffaner, chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, at ruffaner@augsburg.edu.

—Betsey Norgard

Vice President Tracy Elftmann ’81 presents Jeroy Carlson with a baseball jersey bearing his no. 10.
Commencement

Two commencements at Augsburg

Beginning this year, Augsburg will offer two commencement ceremonies, in order to recognize the different academic calendars followed. A May 5 ceremony will be held for day students and physician assistant students who are on semesters; a June 24 ceremony will honor Weekend College, Rochester, United Hospital, and the other five graduate program students who follow trimesters.

This year’s Commencement speakers are Eboo Patel on May 5, and Rev. Martin E. Marty on June 24.

Senior Richard Birkett wins research fellowship

Biology senior Richard Birkett is one of 43 students across the country to receive a 2006 Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the American Society for Microbiology. Its stipend funded his summer research with biology professor Beverly Smith-Keiling.

The project, applied for jointly by Birkett and Smith-Keiling, looks at the characteristics of streptococcal bacteria and the genes that encode them. They study a particular streptococcal protein, discovered by Smith-Keiling, that binds a human immune system protein, and its role in causing infections, especially in immuno-weak people (neo-natal babies, elderly, and others who are immuno-compromised). The research involves manipulating the protein’s DNA in the laboratory to create mutants for further study.

“We were thrilled to receive this ASM Fellowship,” says Smith-Keiling. “It is a prestigious award and played a significant role as a feather in our cap as one of several steps that Augsburg is taking to secure external funding, build our undergraduate research program, and move toward more scientific research at our institution.”

Birkett’s interest in infectious diseases began in summer 2005 when he traveled to Tanzania with a microbiology study abroad course through Hamline University. He visited labs and small villages, and found the experience “eye-opening” in terms of lifestyle and conditions he encountered.

To gain background in research, Birkett took a pilot course at Augsburg, Introduction to Research, designed to prepare second-year students for faculty-led research. He credits that course for teaching him the discipline, motivation, and critical thinking needed for scientific study. The course was repeated this past fall, and Birkett served as a peer mentor.

Birkett has thrived in the microbiology laboratory, and is interested in pursuing work in the health field with infectious disease, possibly attending medical school. He, along with Smith-Keiling and other students, will present their research at the American Society for Microbiology general meeting in the spring.

“Richard has been the model for what we hope to continue, as students progress from their early years without research skills to excelling as independent researchers, and the fellowship played a key role,” says Smith-Keiling. “It has been a privilege and joy to work with him.”

Birkett came to Augsburg from Boston as a student in the StepUP Program, which supports students in chemical recovery. He says that Augsburg has been great for him. “I came to Augsburg for StepUP; I’m staying for science and the people.”

—Betsey Norgard

With a national fellowship in microbiology and an interest in infectious diseases, senior Richard Birkett is studying the genes encoding streptococcal bacteria.
Two honored as Distinguished Alumni

Augsburg's Distinguished Alumni are recognized for their significant achievement in vocation, for outstanding contribution to church and community, and for lives that exemplify the ideals and mission of Augsburg College.

Glen Person ’47

A native of Minneapolis, Glen Person grew up in Augsburg’s neighborhood. He graduated with degrees in mathematics and business, and was one of the first students in Augsburg’s new business administration department. His college studies were interrupted by World War II, where he served in the U.S. Navy.

Person’s vocational career involved two 20-year employments in the insurance industry. In 1948 he started as a bookkeeper at Fidelity and Casualty Co., and left in 1968 as its bond manager. From 1969 until his retirement in 1989, he was an accounting manager and bond vice president at W.A. Lang Company.

From 1993 to 2005, Person served on Augsburg’s Board of Regents, as a member of the Finance Committee and as board treasurer. Over the years, he has been one of the most active members of Augsburg’s A-Club, and a frequent spectator and loyal Auggie athletic booster. He serves on the Claire Strommen Golf Tournament Committee. Person has also contributed financial expertise to numerous boards of directors, and as treasurer of Prairie Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Lois (Peterson) Bollman ’69

Lois Bollman graduated in 1969 with a bachelor’s degree in English education from Augsburg, and went on to earn a master’s degree in reading. In 2001 she earned a doctorate in educational policy and administration of higher education.

For the past 30 years, she has worked in a number of areas within the Minnesota community college system and is a recognized leader and administrator in areas of student assessment, college readiness, and developmental education. Her strengths lie in strategic planning, institutional research, and evaluation of academic programs. Currently she is vice president of strategy, planning, and accountability at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Here, she developed the Urban Teacher Education Program, in collaboration with secondary and postsecondary institutions, that aims to inspire and educate students from urban schools to become teachers in their own communities. In 2003, Bollman led the faculty development work that received one of five national Theodore Hesburgh Awards from TIAA-CREF.

Bollman has served as a class agent and is active at Edina Community Lutheran Church.

First Decade Award

The First Decade Award is presented to Augsburg graduates of the past 10 years who have made significant progress in their professional achievements and contributions to the community, and in so doing, exemplify the mission of the College.

Milana (Gorshkova) Pirogova ’96

Milana Pirogova graduated magna cum laude from Augsburg with a bachelor's degree in economics and international relations, and went on to earn a master's degree in international economics from George Washington University.

In 1998 she began working for the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group, in Washington, D.C. She is now an investment officer in the Global Financial Markets Department and posted in Russia, her homeland.

Two of her significant projects have included working with privatization projects in Bosnia and drafting the Mortgage Securities Law with the Russian national parliament. In her current work she is able to promote awareness and resources for the much-needed economic and educational development in Russia. She also has been an eager promoter of Augsburg College to prospective students in Murmansk, St. Petersburg, and Moscow.

Herald Johnson ’68

After graduating, Herald Johnson first became an admissions officer, then Augsburg’s first financial aid officer when new federal programs required administrative oversight. Over the nearly 40 years since, he became a pioneer, leader, and mentor among all of Minnesota’s financial aid officers.

He is respected both for helping students understand and access financial resources to make college possible and for mentoring young professionals in the field. He is the only person to have been twice elected president of the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA).

Johnson collaborated with Julie Olson ’90, ’04 MAL, now vice president of enrollment management, to create and implement the Enrollment Center, which brings together several student service offices into a one-stop shop for students.

Johnson retired last summer, but continues to serve as a consultant on scholarship programs and with Augsburg’s government relations office concerning financial aid issues.

---Betsey Norgard
The Rev. Clement A. Gisselquist enjoyed a lifelong love of music. He graduated from Augsburg College in 1941, and during his college years he sang both in the Augsburg Choir under Henry P. Opseth and in the Augsburg Quartet as its second bass when they toured in 1940. Following Augsburg, Gisselquist graduated from Luther Seminary, and he and his wife, Borghild, served churches in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. Throughout his life, he always actively promoted his churches’ music programs. Borghild recounts how especially pleased he was when his church in Sioux City, Iowa, purchased a new organ.

After Clement died in 1979, the family decided to establish a scholarship endowment in his memory and designed it to benefit students “of organ and/or choral music who desire to serve, professionally or otherwise, in the ministry of music of the Lutheran Church.”

“Augsburg was close to his heart and we knew that music was something he was always interested in,” comments Borghild, recalling the family discussions. The scholarship just seemed a fitting way in which they could honor their brother, husband, father, and uncle.

The remarkable fact is that the Gisselquist extended family includes 17 relatives with Augsburg connections. Clement’s brother, professor emeritus Orloue Gisselquist, attended Augsburg, as well as two sons, Richard and David. His wife, Marilyn, came to Augsburg and completed her bachelor’s degree in 1973. Clement and Orloue’s sister Grace E. Gisselquist ’49 married the Rev. Oliver Johnson ’50. Another sister, Marilyn, attended science classes at Augsburg as part of her nurses’ training and married Vardon Quanbeck ’44.

While at Augsburg, Orloue, like Clement, sang in the choir and Grace belonged to the Music Club, both sharing their brother’s love for music.

Another brother, John Irving, did not attend Augsburg, but his son, John E. Gisselquist, graduated in 1984.

Even more telling is the musical legacy Clement left his six children, all of whom graduated from Augsburg. The youngest, Miriam (Gisselquist) Jensen ’83 was a music major and is now an organist and piano teacher—something her mother knows would have pleased her father.

John, Class of 1972, sang in the Augsburg Choir and for many years has been a member of the National Lutheran Choir, performing in concerts throughout the U.S.

Nicole (Warner) Simml ’01 (left), who performs and teaches music in Germany, joined Krista Costin ’07 (right) as soloist with the Augsburg Choir’s concert in Leipzig, Germany last May. Both Simml and Costin are recipients of the Clement A. Gisselquist Church Music Scholarship.
Joel, Class of 1977, played tuba in the Concert Band for two years and sang in the Augsburg Choir during his senior year. The two oldest children, Rebecca (Gisselquist) Lien ’67 and James ’68, also sang in the choir. James is married to fellow Auggie Jane (Eidsvoog) ’73. Martha, a nurse, came to Augsburg to complete her bachelor’s degree in 1987.

The Clement Gisselquist Scholarship keeps the extended family connected to Augsburg. A number of the relatives continue to grow the endowment by making gifts to the scholarship a part of their regular giving—in lieu of exchanging gifts within the family on special occasions.

In the fall, Borghild said of her immediate family, “We’ve already talked about this Christmas, that we’ll make gifts to the scholarship instead of to each other.”

The Gisselquists enjoy meeting the Augsburg students who receive the scholarship each year. The 2006-07 recipient, junior music major Krista Costin was studying abroad in Ghana during the fall and regrets missing the Scholarship Brunch. She fondly remembers meeting members of the Gisselquist family at last spring’s Music Scholarship High Tea. Costin sings in the Augsburg Choir and toured with the choir last May to the Czech Republic and Germany.

Last year’s scholarship recipient, senior Nikki Lemire, is a harpist and a section leader in the choir at Central Lutheran Church. The 1998-99 scholarship holder, Nicole (Warner) Simml ’01, now lives in Germany and is enjoying a career performing and teaching voice. Last May she joined the Augsburg Choir in Leipzig on their tour in Germany, and joined Costin as a soloist.

An earlier Gisselquist recipient, Melissa (Wieland) Bergstrom ’97 has been organist and choir director at Edina Community Lutheran Church, in addition to teaching and serving as director of choral activities at Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

Several of the Gisselquist scholarship recipients have subsequently been chosen as Orville and Gertrude Hognander Music Scholars.

With many of the Gisselquist Auggies making regular gifts to grow the scholarship endowment, future students—and perhaps additional Gisselquists—join Rev. Clement A. Gisselquist’s legacy to Augsburg’s music program—something that surely would please him.

—Betsey Norgard
Brothers in soccer

Vinnie Brooks and Ryan Kitzman are like brothers. Brothers united by soccer.

For all but one year of the last dozen, the two have played on the same soccer teams—the same club teams, elementary school team, junior high team, high school team, and the same college team.

Ever since they were each eight years old, growing up in Maple Grove, Minn., and attending schools in Osseo, the duo could be found on the same fields—Brooks on defense, Kitzman in the midfield.

Best friends and players with similar competitive personalities, the two split for just one year—their freshman years in college, when Kitzman attended Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn., and Brooks enrolled at Augsburg.

But the pair reunited their sophomore years, became roommates, and helped to lead a renaissance in the Augsburg men’s soccer program.

“I wanted to be back in the city,” Kitzman said. “I talked to Vinnie pretty much all my freshman year. I came to visit Augsburg a couple of times, and he said they were getting a new coach and a new field, so I came for another visit. Once I met [coach] Greg Holker, it was a done deal.”

So Kitzman transferred, and the pair was reunited.

“We have the same style of play. We practice against each other and just go at it. It’s like we hate each other when we’re practicing. It gets pretty intense,” Brooks said. “He’s pretty much like my replica on the field. We have some minor differences, but overall, the competitiveness and our work ethic, we just relate to each other. It just clicks. We both respect each other.”

Both were starters throughout their Augsburg careers and were key elements of the dramatic growth of the men’s soccer program. In Brooks’ freshman year, 2003, the Auggies finished 5-11-2 overall, 0-9-1 in league play. In the 2006 season under third-year head coach Greg Holker, the Auggies finished 13-3-3 overall and 5-2-3 in conference play, winning a place in the conference’s postseason playoffs.

In four seasons at Augsburg, Brooks played in 67 games, starting 57, with eight assists from his defensive position. As a midfielder during his three years at Augsburg, Kitzman started 49 of 54 contests, with five goals and six assists for 16 career points.

As two of only three seniors on this year’s Augsburg squad, the pair acknowledges that they have been a part of a new beginning for the men’s soccer program, which they hope continues to succeed.

“It’s just awesome to have this kind of success in our last year playing here,” Brooks says. “It’s like leaving a legacy behind. It’s one of the things we wanted to do. We had the first winning season here in 20 years and made the [conference] playoffs.”

But the end of their senior seasons will not mark the end of soccer, or friendship, for Brooks and Kitzman. The two play on the same adult-league team and coach a youth team together in Plymouth, Minn. Brooks, a health and physical education major and business management minor, and Kitzman, a marketing major, have talked about starting a business together.

“It’s almost natural for us,” Brooks said. “Some people hear about it and think it’s pretty weird. But we had the same group of friends growing up, from elementary school to junior high and high school. We were always in the same group.”

“We don’t think of it as being weird,” Kitzman added. “It’s just normal for us.”

—Don Stoner

An amazing soccer year

For the Augsburg College men’s and women’s soccer teams, the 2006 season was a history-making one.

The Auggie women captured a third straight berth in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoffs and finished 10-6-2 overall, 7-3-1 in league play—the team’s fourth double-digit victory season in the past five years. Augsburg’s 15 points in conference play this season were the most for an Augsburg squad in the 21-season history of the program.

Meanwhile, the Auggie men reached the league’s four-team postseason playoffs for the first time, finishing the season 13-3-3 overall, 5-2-3 in conference play. Augsburg finished with its most victories (13) since its MIAC championship season of 1975 (15-2-1), and claimed its most points in league play (13) since its last MIAC title season of 1980 (11-1-3 overall, 9-0-3 MIAC, 21 points). Head coach Greg Holker was named MIAC Coach of the Year this season.

Augsburg was the lone school to have both its men’s and women’s soccer teams qualified for the MIAC postseason playoffs this year.

Both teams set school records along the way. Both teams were unbeaten and did not give up a goal until the women were scored upon on Sept. 20—Augsburg went the farthest among all NCAA Division III soccer teams in having both its men’s and women’s teams unbeaten and un-scored upon.

For both the Auggie men’s and women’s teams, the future looks bright. The men lose just three senior regulars to graduation, while the women lose only five.

—Don Stoner
Marathoner extraordinaire

Mary Croft ’79 didn’t catch the running “bug” until she was in her late thirties, a relatively late start for a serious athletic career.

But that bug has taken the Augsburg alumna around the world and earned her numerous unique distinctions in the world of distance running.

Croft is one of only 67 people—including just eight women—to have run in every Twin Cities Marathon over the 25 years of its existence. She has run a marathon in each of the 50 states—a feat that only 285 individuals have accomplished.

And over the past quarter-century, she has run in about 140 marathons and 30 ultramarathons—races ranging from 30 to more than 100 miles in length.

She credits her running career to her return to Augsburg as an adult learner to complete her bachelor’s degree in the late 1970s. She was an Augsburg student in the mid-’60s before starting her career in nursing.

“One of my friends was a runner, and she was running five miles a day for her mental health. I was impressed with that, but I didn’t start running until I graduated in 1979,” Croft said.

That year, she went to Duluth to watch a friend compete in Grandma’s Marathon, and was encouraged by her husband, David, to try a marathon herself. Later that year, the first Twin Cities Marathon appeared on the running calendar, and her running career kicked into high gear.

“I trained for my first marathon in just 12 weeks,” said Croft, who noted that she had only run a 10-kilometer race competitively before trying a 26-mile, 385-yard marathon.

Since then, she has run in each Twin Cities Marathon over the past 25 years, a race considered the most scenic urban marathon in the country. According to Twin Cities Marathon officials, Croft, at age 60, is the third-oldest woman of the eight to have run in each of the 25 races. She has also completed Grandma’s Marathon, a race along the Lake Superior shoreline from Two Harbors to Duluth, eight times.

She has also run in two of the most famous marathons in the country, the Boston and New York races. She has competed in the Boston Marathon—a race in which runners have to achieve a qualifying time in another marathon to compete—three times, including the 100th running of the race in 1996.

“It was just such a historic event,” Croft said. “Boston is the epitome of marathoning in the country.”

In 2004, she accomplished the feat of running a marathon in each of the 50 states (and the District of Columbia)—becoming the 162nd person at the time to make that claim. Since then, the list has grown to nearly 300 members nationwide. She has also run in marathons in Russia and Spain.

In addition to her marathoning, she has also competed in long-distance ultramarathons, which brought her the most meaningful moment in her sport. In 2000, she ran in the 75th Comrades Marathon, a 56-mile race in South Africa, considered one of the top ultra-distance events in the world.

“It’s the biggest sporting event in South Africa. It was the most amazing thing,” she said. “They were so wonderful. They greeted us and welcomed us to their country.”

She even incorporated running into her work. As a nurse at the Minnesota state prison in Stillwater, she organized inmates and members of a local running club to run a marathon inside the prison walls each year for a decade.

“We ran 112 laps around the prison yard, about 15 to 20 runners,” she said. “It was pretty well received by the prison administration.”

Her best time ever was a 3-hour, 18-minute effort in 1985 at the Grandma’s Marathon. Now, she runs in the 4:20 to 4:30 range; her time in the 2006 Twin Cities Marathon was 4:28.34, good enough for third place in her age group.

“I just run for the health benefits and I enjoy it. If I place in my age group, it’s an added benefit,” she said. “It’s the adventure, the travel, seeing other parts of the country, which is fun.”

She noted that she has been fortunate not to have suffered significant injuries during her career, which she credits to leading a lifestyle of fitness and training in moderation.

She now runs about seven or eight marathons a year—“I’m always in training,” she notes—and has been involved in organizing volunteers for the marathon in Tucson, Ariz., where she and David spend their winters. The Crofts live in Bayport, Minn., during the summers.

—Don Stoner

As a Charter Club member, Mary Croft ran her 25th Twin Cities Marathon in October, with a track record of 170 marathons in 50 states and several countries.
Kennedy Center now open

The Kennedy Center for Sports and Recreation has opened for classes, with health and physical education staff and coaches moving into their new offices. It will be formally dedicated on May 4.

The three-story addition to Melby Hall features a new wrestling training facility, increased classroom space, expanded locker-room facilities and expanded fitness facilities, as well as hospitality, meeting-room, and office space.

Oren Gateway Center

Scheduled to open in fall 2007, the four-story Oren Gateway Center will be the home of the StepUP program and other residential students in substance-free housing. The administrative section of the center will house the Institutional Advancement staff and an alumni relations conference center.

On the street level, a Barnes & Noble bookstore will serve as a welcoming place in the neighborhood for books, readings, and coffee. The Gateway Center will anchor a new circular entrance to the College, flanked by Lindell Library and Foss Center.

The illustration on the sign in the photo shows the orientation of the new center, facing the circular entrance to the College.
After 23 years at Augsburg, Margaret Anderson retired as head librarian in 1990. She had just spent several years studying and documenting the need for a new library building, and then convincing the College to build it. Now, 16 years later, she continues to work in Lindell Library one day a week as a volunteer—in the new building she labored to justify.

In the first two years following her retirement, she took time off. But then, she couldn’t turn down a phone call asking her to help troubleshoot problems the librarians were facing in creating barcodes for all materials.

There were lots of problems—“books without barcodes, and barcodes not connected to books,” Anderson says. Once that process was straightened out, she began working on a series of long-term special projects that, without additional staff and a meticulous eye, probably never would have seen the light of day.

For one project, Anderson classified videotapes from many years of College events that had been turned over to the library—which meant that she first had to view each tape for content and date, and then write a short description.

Another similar project involved classifying a collection of sound recordings, for which her music minor in college proved extremely helpful.

With history and knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System, Anderson has also aided in classifying and cataloging fiction, the only books in the library to use the Dewey system.

Her current project tops all others. In 1994, writer and activist Meridel LeSueur donated her personal library of more than 4,500 items to Augsburg College.

It’s housed in the library’s Special Collections Room, but has not been easily searchable. After working for more than two years, literally from book to book, Anderson hopes next year to complete an extensive spreadsheet index that will enable the collection to be searched by title, author, and subject.

In reflecting on her 40 years of library work, Anderson says that the heart of the work has not changed. “It still means connecting readers and scholars with sources,” she says, “but now, both in print and online.” What has changed dramatically is the way librarians fulfill that role, and the different tools they use.

One of the tools that made a huge difference in students’ (and librarians’) lives was the development of the CLIC (Cooperating Libraries in Consortium) system, making materials from more than a dozen college libraries available on loan.

In the 1960s, Anderson was a cataloguer, and she tells of how librarians phoned each other to check on availability by looking at catalog cards for all the books. She recalls that Karlis Ozolins, her predecessor as head librarian, often would track down students with cars to pick up the materials from other locations.

Two decades later, catalog cards became relics and library collections became housed on a database, introducing new physical requirements for technology in libraries. Already Anderson had fought for improvements to the aging Sverdrup Library, including carpeting to replace the loose asbestos tiles she continually removed. Upstairs, it was so cold that the case for a new building became obvious when students were seen studying in mittens.

In 1982 the new Weekend College increased the College’s enrollment and brought new demands on the librarians. At the time, Anderson recalls, the library staff was 4.75 full-time equivalents.

Over the next few years, Anderson detailed and documented what would be required to meet College needs and help it remain competitive. In the process, she studied and visited many libraries. She made her case before retiring, and then—as a volunteer—helped supervise the move into the new building.

While it’s rewarding to work in the new library, it’s really the people, she says, who keep her coming back each week. “The people I worked with have been among my best friends and they were a big reason why I wanted to stay in touch.”

Since her retirement 16 years ago, Margaret Anderson has continued to volunteer in the library to stay connected with the staff she enjoyed during her career.

“We just think of her as one of us,” current library director Jane Ann Nelson says about Anderson. Current cataloging coordinator Betty Joyce talks about what a wonderful mentor Anderson has been to her.

Anderson’s career at Augsburg has been part of an Augsburg family affair, dating back to 1949, when her husband, Ray, was appointed to teach speech and theatre. He retired in 1990, the same year as his wife.

All three of the Andersons’ sons graduated from Augsburg—Dean ’77, Stuart ’78, and Brian ’82. Stuart teaches in the Department of Physics, but also worked in the new library for several years in information technology. He still spends some time there as assistant director for instructional course design in the Center for Teaching and Learning.
The Inauguration of Paul C. Pribbenow
October 18-21, 2006

Over four days in October, Augsburg College inaugurated its 11th president, Paul C. Pribbenow.

The days were filled with activities connecting its own community of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents with city neighbors, church leaders, and colleagues from across higher education.

Events included discussions on civic engagement, roundtables on public education, service projects, and celebrations filled with music, art, and good conversation. Each day at the “Abundance” lunches, those who attended donated food and money to fill the food shelves at the nearby Brian Coyle Community Center.

Inauguration Day, October 20, began with a Festival Service and Holy Communion, officiated by Mark Hanson ’68, ELCA presiding bishop, with the sermon presented by Rev. Dr. Robin W. Lovin, Southern Methodist University. The investiture ceremony was held in the afternoon.

Completing the inauguration was a morning of service in the community, preceding outdoor family activities and an Auggie football game against Carleton College.

For additional information and photos from the inauguration, go to www.augsburg.edu/inauguration.
Ages of Imagination

The theme of the inauguration, “Ages of Imagination,” was drawn from The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, one of the most influential works of British poet and artist William Blake (1757–1827).

From The Marriage of Heaven and Hell:

The Prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel dined with me, and I asked them how they dared so roundly to assert, that God spoke to them; and whether they did not think at the time, that they would be misunderstood, and so be the cause of imposition.

Isaiah answer’d, “I saw no God, nor heard any, in a finite organical perception; but my senses discover’d the infinite in every thing, and as I was then persuad’d, & remain confirm’d; that the voice of honest indignation is the voice of God, I cared not for consequences but wrote.”

Then I asked: “does a firm perswasion that a thing is so, make it so?”

He replied, “All poets say that it does, and in ages of imagination this firm persuasian removed mountains; but many are not capable of a firm persuasian of any thing.”

As Augsburg College celebrated the inauguration of its 11th president, it also celebrated its calling as a college, and imagined itself in future ages, using “AGES” to remind it of the four themes of this new era: Abundance, Generosity, Engagement, and Service.

In moving these four “mountains,” Augsburg College, under the leadership of Paul Pribbenow, will continue to demonstrate how the power of imagination can transform the lives of its students and its community.
Excerpts from the sermon for the inauguration of Paul C. Pribbenow

The Rev. Dr. Robin W. Lovin
Cary Maguire University Professor of Ethics
Southern Methodist University

… I greet you on behalf of all of us who have known and worked with Paul Pribbenow over the years and benefited from his leadership in many different places. …

I am also welcoming you to your own future, because those of us who have worked with Paul Pribbenow in the past know what you can expect in this new phase of the history of Augsburg College that we inaugurate today. … as I looked at the [Inauguration] program with its multiple events and its common themes, I spotted the Pribbenow imprint of energy and organization. …

And I suppose that what you want to know about the future from my knowledge of the past is whether it is really true that this guy can move mountains. I’m here to tell you that he can, and I’m also going to tell you how he does it. …

The way [he] moves mountains is to figure out what everybody else is already doing and tie those activities together into a single mission with a unified message, so that when the mountain moves, it’s because you moved it. …

Education is supposed to be about expanding our vision of the world and changing the way we see our own place in it. It is about asking new questions, and questioning familiar answers. It should change us in fundamental ways, not just fill our heads with facts. Education is inseparable from change, personal and social, change in ideas, goals, and priorities. …

The word of greeting I bring you from the past is that great things are possible for Augsburg College, beginning today, because you have a leader who will listen to you, who can see the possibilities that you see, and who can bring them together in new ways that will empower you and energize all these people who want a future of abundance, generosity, engagement, and service for this institution.

But the word I bring from the Lord, the word that cuts across past, present, and future, comes to you today in the form of a question. It is addressed equally to students, faculty, and staff, addressed to alumni, supporters, and to the church. And it is addressed to the president. The question is, “Do you really want to move the mountains?”

I think you recognize the opportunity, and I pray that you will enjoy the blessings that come with accepting the vocation. That through humility and even sorrow, your hunger for truth and justice will be satisfied; that through integrity and generosity in judgment, you will see God; and that through the knowledge you create and share, the world will find peace, and you will be called the children of God.
Thank you for being here today for this celebration of Augsburg College. I am inspired by your faithful lives, and I accept the call to be your partner in service to Augsburg with gratitude, resolve, and humility. …

Authentic life—especially a life of faith—begins and ends in gratitude and in thanksgiving. We come together with the humility of thanksgiving, the recognition that life is a gift and a privilege not to be misused or misled, and, I might add, not to be missed. The late Henri Nouwen once wrote that “Gratitude … goes beyond the ‘mine’ and ‘thine’ and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift.”

All of life is a pure gift.

Let these words of mine, then, become my thanksgiving to God and to all of you, my psalm of gratitude for this college, for its mission and values, and for the cloud of witnesses gathered here today and scattered across time and space that hold Augsburg College in their hearts and minds. …

“In ages of imagination,” [the poet William] Blake tells us, the power of the imagination, the power of belief, the power of a ‘firm persuasion’ can move mountains. We must decide, today, to live in one of those ages of imagination, in fact, to use our imaginations to create a new era for the College. …
There are four themes to my presidency. ... These four themes are Abundance, Generosity, Engagement, and Service. Think of them as the “AGES” in Ages of Imagination. ... Augsburg is already blessed to have all of these things, though we sometimes don’t recognize these great gifts—gifts that God has given us, and gifts that we were meant to care for and pass on. ... During my short time here at Augsburg, I have been challenged to think again about the role of colleges and universities in an urban setting. I am committed to the mutual dependency of colleges and the city. The paradigm for the relationships between cities and higher education must be less about extracting benefits from each other, less dependent on incidental impact, and more focused on the various resources that can be shared in the pursuit of a more robust, healthy, and meaningful urban life. ... I know that you share with me this deep sense of thanksgiving for this college and its remarkable commitments. What we do here matters—to our students, our neighborhood, our city, the church, and the world.

What we do here is significant—because our work is grounded in a deep and confident faith, because it enjoys a history of love in a community of memory and tradition, because it believes deeply in intellectual curiosity and personal courage, and because it is full of hope.

What we need now is imagination—and faith, and fearlessness—to hear and follow the call to be a college committed to the liberal arts in all that we learn and teach; a college grounded in faith and values that are the source of our firm persuasion; a college located in a place full of life and urgency that draws us out of our insular selves; a college engaged with a creation rich in difference that constantly surprises us.

What fun we’re going to have!

For the complete texts of Rev. Robin Lovin’s sermon and President Pribbenow’s inaugural address, go to www.augsburg.edu/president

(Left) Sounds of the big band organized and led by music professor Robert Stacke ’71 fill the tent during inaugural week festivities. (Below) Student Government public relations officers Rachel Forsberg (left) and Kati Welt (right) present a giant card with inauguration congratulations from students to President Pribbenow.
Making Connections

Scholastic Connections—the Name Says It All.
It’s about making connections.

In November, this scholarship-mentorship program marked the beginning of its sixth year. At the annual dinner, senior Chris Adams spoke on behalf of the students.

“Through this program, I’ve learned to connect with many different kinds of people,” said Adams. “This program has helped me understand the fundamentals. And these fundamentals have helped me understand the connections between hard work, talent, commitment, and their relationship to good grades, lifelong friends, engaging teachers, and a lot about life in general.”

Each year, five Day College students of color—African-American, American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino—are selected by Augsburg’s four ethnic services directors for a $5,000 scholarship. They are also paired with a mentor who is an Augsburg alumnus/a of color, with the idea being to connect leaders of today with leaders of tomorrow. Most students are paired with mentors of their own ethnic group.

The scholarships are renewable annually, so students can remain connected with their mentors as long as they are at Augsburg. Thirty students have participated in the program since its inception in fall 2001.
Scholastic Connections was the creation of columnist, playwright, and consultant Syl Jones ’73 and was designed to assist students of color to succeed at Augsburg, while engaging our alumni of color in the College’s commitment to an intentionally diverse community. This concept of combining financial aid and mentoring garnered national notice for the program when it began.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, president and CEO of the INTER-RACE Institute, a diversity think tank based at Augsburg, has been instrumental in implementing and sustaining Scholastic Connections. She says that while mentoring is common within community organizations and in the corporate world, she is convinced that it is vastly underrated at the college level.

With Scholastic Connections, students can pursue their careers already connected with mentors, who are able to network within their own communities on behalf of their mentees.

The pairs of alumni and students create their own styles of relationships. Some are largely career-driven with specific goals planned out, while others focus around personal issues, self-confidence, and life decisions.

Mathew Shannon says about his mentor, Chad Jackson, “I was looking for a friend who could be supportive enough to keep me encouraged and real enough to hold me accountable to the high expectations I set for myself and the company I keep.”

Attorney Jim Genia’s career has been a big factor in his mentorship with Chris Adams. Adams says that in addition to learning how Genia has been a successful lawyer, Genia has been helping him network to find an internship in a local law firm before entering law school.

Xia Xiong also worked on career planning. “I definitely feel that my mentor had an impact on what I am doing with my life today,” says Xiong. “She guided me in figuring out what I wanted to do upon graduation and helped me find resources in order to get where I wanted to go. I think having someone who has gone through the same path makes it so much easier.”

In some cases, cross-mentoring occurs to also connect mentees with other mentors who match their interests.

Culture was an important factor in the partnership of Melat Woldegebriel, from Ethiopia, and Noro Andriamanalina, from Madagascar. Woldegebriel says, “Knowing that my mentor is from Africa and seeing her as a successful person makes me realize that I can be like her if I work hard like her. On top of her responsibility at her work, [she] takes part in church and community activities. I learned a lot from that and increased my extracurricular activities.”

Andriamanalina adds, “You don’t have to be in the same discipline or line of work to have a positive and rewarding mentoring relationship. Melat and I were able to connect on many levels. We are both African women balancing different roles and expectations within and outside of our communities.”

“It’s clear that although the match did not seem perfect at first, as I am in education and she is in accounting,” Andriamanalina continues, “we had so much more in common than we ever imagined and learned from one another in the process.”

The value of the program to students is obvious: needed financial assistance, plus the experience of having role models who have already been through the challenges and pitfalls of college and career who can serve as guides.

For the mentors, their learning often includes the satisfaction of helping others maneuver these challenges.

For mentor Eloisa Echavez it is “to be energized and contribute to the development of a young professional who has many dreams and plans for the future.”

Mentor Chad Jackson says, “For me it was a way to connect with an African-American student … who had gone through the same things I did. It showed me the importance of investing in youth.”

The four ethnic services directors recommend alumni of Augsburg to be invited as mentors, and Jenkins Nelsen serves as the guiding force in making the mentorship connections. She provides training to both mentors and mentees on how to work together to get the most from their relationships.
In addition to the individual mentoring activities, Jenkins Nelsen brings the entire group of mentors and mentees together at various times during the year for cultural celebrations and other social and community activities. Both Genia and Adams have found these gatherings to be times when the group can learn about each others’ cultures and appreciate the differences and similarities.

The creation of Scholastic Connections came about in response to a difficult situation in Augsburg’s history. In 1986, alumnus Elroy Stock ’49 gave a $500,000 campaign naming gift to Augsburg. When it was discovered that he was the author of thousands of letters sent to interracial couples and adoptive parents urging “racial purity,” the College decided it would not put Stock’s name on the building. Charitable gift regulations prevented the return of the money, which led to a lawsuit by Stock that was later dismissed.

In 2001, Syl Jones (himself a victim of Stock’s mail campaign) proposed an endowment in the same amount of Stock’s gift to offer scholarships for students of color and mixed race. The program supports them in achieving academic success and developing leadership skills.

President Paul Pribbenow, in remarks at the annual dinner, commented that Scholastic Connections is “an example of the College at its best,” supporting its mission and commitment to provide access to college for all students.

Overall, there is little doubt that the program is successful. So far, more than half of the former students have gone on to complete higher degrees. Echavez says the program enables Augsburg “to make a greater impact on the lives of the students of color going beyond the academics, extracurricular activities, and financial aid.”

Woldegebriel believes that more international students of color will be attracted to Augsburg, knowing that through Scholastic Connections they can be paired with a mentor of similar cultural background.

At the annual dinner, Genia, an attorney and lobbyist, spoke of the fact that among Minnesota’s 201 state legislators, there are only five or six senators...
and representatives of color, with no American Indians.

“The legislature is making decisions every day that affect all Minnesotans’ lives,” Genia said. “If some groups are under-represented, … then life-changing decisions are potentially being made without taking into account the unique perspectives and cultural beliefs of these groups.

“Until all races are represented in the halls of government, in the business world, or in the academic world at the same rate at which they’re represented in the general population,” he concluded, “we’ll need programs like Scholastic Connections.”

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CHRISS ADAMS ’07 (sociology)
Real estate broker
Vilana Realty

JIM GENIA ’87 (sociology)
Lobbyist/Attorney
Animiki LLC

XIA XIONG ’05 (sociology)
Graduate program:
Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology, University of Minnesota
Intern—Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, University of Minnesota

ELOISA ECHAVEZ ’94
(computer science), ’98 M.A.
Educational Leadership
Executive Director
La Oportunidad, Inc.

MELATEWORK WOLDEGEBRIEL ’05
(accounting)
Moving back to Addis Ababa

NORO ANDRIAMANALINA ’91
(English, religion)
Program Administrator in The Graduate School and Faculty Fellow at the Center for Teaching and Learning, both at University of Minnesota

MATHEW SHANNON ’04
(business, communication arts)
Administrative Assistant
Soft Computer Consultants

CHAD JACKSON ’97
(elementary education)
Account Executive
Bluewater Direct
Four black-and-white dogs have taken up residence in Augsburg’s computer science lab, and sophomore Jesse Docken has become their keeper, trainer, and researcher. The dogs are called AIBO, for Artificial Intelligence roBOt, and were created by Sony Corporation in 1999. Designed as futuristic pet robots, thousands of them with price tags of $1,500-2,000 have been purchased and taught to play games, shake their legs, wiggle their ears, say their names, and let their owners know when they’re happy, angry, and bored.

There is even a “four-legged league” of AIBOs that compete around the world in RoboCup, an international robotics competition.

Last fall, computer science professor Karen Sutherland took the AIBOs to her Introduction to Computer Science, a course required for all computer science, mathematics, and management information systems (MIS) students.

As far as robots go, the AIBOs are quite complicated crea-
tures, capable of highly-advanced programming. Their best feature, however, is that their basic programming is relatively easy—much of it is self-contained and doesn’t require proficiency in a programming language.

The task in the AIBO lab is for student teams of mostly freshmen and sophomores to write an easy program, transfer it to a memory card, plug it into the AIBO dog robot, and see if it goes through its routine correctly.

“The code is easy to read because it uses commands that you would use for a real dog,” says sophomore Brietta Schluender. “When working with the code you are able to change the commands and numbers to see how the dog reacts; then you can easily conclude how the changes in the code make the dog’s actions differ.”

The students turn on the switch and watch cautiously as their dog slowly comes to life. First a stretch, and then one, two, three, and four shakes of a paw—so far so good! After making several turns, AIBO ends with “an amazing amount of ear wiggles,” as one student describes it.

Sutherland introduced the AIBOs into her class as part of a collaborative grant—with Berea College and the University of Minnesota—from the National Science Foundation. Her goal is to engage and attract more students, especially women and minority students, to computer science study. The AIBOs offer an easy way to teach the basics of programming and robotics while having fun.

“It’s easy for the students to see how the AIBO reacts to their program, and it does cute things,” Sutherland says. “If they can see the program physically happen, they understand it better.”

Docken, a computer science major, works with Sutherland in the class, lending a hand when students run into programming glitches or when the AIBOs routine doesn’t work. In his own research, in addition to making the AIBOs perform various tasks, he has studied different means of programming to ascertain which methods are easier and harder. These results will inform how robots might be used in future class projects.

He has enjoyed working with his new robotic pets. “I’ve been fascinated with learning how to make them do certain things, for instance, how to change which lights come on [to show emotional responses], how to make them walk, or how to make them play sounds to music.” Working with the AIBOs will help him move into more complex robotics.

Docken’s primary interest is artificial intelligence (AI). “I’ve had a few ideas I’ve played around with,” he says, “and I hope to begin AI research to make algorithms that could provide a more sophisticated means of handling emotions and simulate primitive emotional responses to external stimuli.”

This could be applied, he says, in many ways—to robotics for entertainment, e.g. AIBOs that can react in more real ways, to games where characters can respond to events, and to simulation.

Docken has written a paper on his research that he will present at a regional conference in the spring. Sutherland is using his work plus student feedback from class labs at all three institutions involved in the NSF grant to develop a course curriculum that will appeal to a broad spectrum of students with varied career goals.

And, yes, Docken says their AIBOs have been given names—Sirius, Snoopy, Scooby-Doo, and Spike.
MEET THE INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

Associate professor Magdalena Paleczny-Zapp (management coordinator) was born and raised in Krakow, Poland, and taught in several European institutions before coming to Augsburg.

Associate professor Amin Kader (international business coordinator) is from Egypt. A past president of the Islamic Center of Minnesota, he teaches Islamic Studies in addition to business.

Before coming to the United States in 1970, associate professor and finance coordinator Ashok Kapoor worked at the American Embassy in his home country of India. He has brought this international experience into his Augsburg classroom since 1998.

Master of Business Administration (MBA) director Bob Kramarczuk was born in western Ukraine. At the age of five, his family escaped and hid in the forest for five months keeping ahead of the front during World War II. His family was later shipped to a work camp in Bavaria before immigrating to the U.S.

Associate professor Fekri Meziou, Tunisian by birth, has taught at Augsburg since 1987.

“Having faculty of diverse backgrounds is important to the richness of the academic programming offered in our department,” says Meziou. “For instance, I am teaching an international marketing course that is approached from a globally diverse background. We analyze the challenges of marketing products and services in different regions around the world. This course can only be taught by someone who has traveled extensively and has immersed himself/herself during an extended stay in the life of the foreign countries.”

“I grew up on a farm outside a small town,” says Jamie Schiller ’05, who currently serves as MBA program coordinator. “Most of my experience with diversity was through the business department.” Reflecting back on her undergraduate experience, Schiller remembers, “[Zapp] helped us understand global differences as well as learn to make culturally sensitive business decisions. … [Meziou] changed my life and drove me to seek out opportunities to broaden my perspective of marketing and business on a global level. He continuously brought cases to his courses that had global business challenges. … With the help of the business faculty, I was able to customize a study abroad program in England. … I have

Experience is a powerful teacher. In addition to study abroad programs, Augsburg’s business students have opportunities to experience global perspectives in their classrooms every day.

BY BETHANY BIERMAN

Associate professor Fekri Meziou brings case studies from his own cultural experience to his international marketing course.

From his years of working at the American Embassy in India, associate professor Ashok Kapoor can teach finance, drawing on extensive knowledge of both cultural contexts.
grown to appreciate international differences in other country’s beliefs, norms, and value sets.”

“Students leave the place more open-minded than the day they came,” Zapp asserts.

John Cerrito, assistant professor and department chair, says, “The course descriptions are broad enough so faculty members can bring in their own flavor and expertise.”

“In the current context of globalization,” says Kapoor, “my international experience comes in handy in all my classes, but especially in the international finance classes. My work experience overseas provides many examples to my students and helps them keep an open perspective leading to better decisions both professionally and in their personal lives.”

Senior Dulce Monterrubio is a perfect example of this. She came to Augsburg from her hometown of Mexico City. She says, “It was Magda’s own experience as an international business consultant that made me understand that being an international student here at Augsburg was just the first step, but that successfully adapting to a second, third, or fourth culture would be what truly would make me the international educator/professional I wanted to become.” Monterrubio is using her cultural experiences, which include studying abroad in Spain, in her current role as a program assistant in Augsburg’s Center for Global Education.

Along with representing differences in ethnic backgrounds, there is significant religious diversity represented in the department.

“The department really does have an interesting diversity of faith expressions,” comments assistant professor Lee Clarke, who also happens to be a former ELCA minister. “For some, it’s very clear to students because of culture and nationalities. Ashok [Kapoor] is very upfront talking about his Hindu faith, and Amin [Kader] and others are Islamic. For others, it’s not as intentional… Because religion is so close to culture, it gives students a taste of some of the challenges in global business.”

Cerrito agrees. “The College goes out of its way to be diverse. In 1983 when I came, I did not represent the faith, culture, or ethnic background the culture [of Augsburg] represents, and I’ve never been anywhere where I’ve felt more accepted.” (Cerrito is Roman Catholic and of Italian descent.)

Kapoor says, “Both my cultural and religious background allows me to bring a very different perspective to issues of the day that we discuss both among colleagues and with our students.”

**LAYERS IN CORPORATE EXPERIENCE**

A different kind of culture—corporate culture—is also something faculty add to the international mix.

Prior to coming to Augsburg in 1995, David Schwain, assistant professor, served on...
Greetings fellow Auggies,

As I write this, fall is settling in and the transition to winter is in the air. Homecoming week was a great set of events—I hope you could attend some of them. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about our Distinguished Alumni and Spirit of Augsburg and First Decade awardees. Their recollections of what life was like at Augsburg 30-40-50 years ago reminded me of how much has changed and is changing around us all the time.

Homecoming also set a great stage for President Pribbenow’s inauguration. I was honored to represent the alumni in the Inauguration Ceremony and the four days of events surrounding it. The theme of AGES—Abundance, Generosity, Engagement, and Service—is one we can all be proud of and take part in as we live our lives in service to the broader world. If you want to learn a little more about Augsburg’s year of transition I highly recommend the inauguration webpage, www.augsburg.edu/inauguration, and the President’s office page, www.augsburg.edu/president.

By the time you read this, Advent Vespers, Christmas, and the new year have come and gone, and before too long, Easter will arrive. Then, in May, another commencement arrives. I’m starting to deeply appreciate my grandmother’s insight when, at 90, she told me that the years never seem to go by more slowly. It’s always faster and faster.

As your new year unfolds, I wish you all the best in your transitions.

Barry M. Vornbrock ’96 MAL
Alumni Board President

Auggies at the State Capitol

Congratulations to the following Auggies who were elected to the Minnesota Legislature in November:

Sandy Wollschlager ’94 (DFL), elected to her first term in House District 28A, representing Cannon Falls and Red Wing

Diane Loeffler ’75 (DFL), elected to her second term in House District 59A, representing Northeast Minneapolis

Rod Skoe ’77 (DFL), elected to his second term in Senate District 2, representing Northwest Minnesota. He had previously served two terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sport an Auggie license plate

Auggie license plates are available from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a $10 plate fee and a minimum annual contribution of $25 when renewing registration. The plates can go on passenger class vehicles carrying not more than 15 persons; this includes pickup trucks and vans with a three-quarter-ton or less gross weight and one-ton passenger vans. For information, go to www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/PlBrochure/CollegiatePlates.htm.

From the Alumni Board president …

Alumni calendar

February 20
Alumni Board meeting—5:30 p.m., Minneapolis Room, Christensen Center

March 14
Join members of the Alumni Board Events Committee to volunteer at Augsburg’s Campus Kitchen from 7-9 p.m. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Liz Pushing at lpushing@provplace.com. Learn more about Campus Kitchen in the GET INVOLVED section at www.augsburg.edu/alumni.

April 17
Alumni Board meeting—5:30 p.m., Minneapolis Room, Christensen Center

Check the online calendar at www.augsburg.edu for a complete schedule of campus events.

Send in your nominations

Is there someone you believe is deserving of a Distinguished Alumnus/a, Spirit of Augsburg, or First Decade award? Nominations are being received by the Alumni Relations Office from now until March 1.

For instructions about nominating and the nomination form, contact Becky Taute at 612-330-1085 or tauter@augsburg.edu. The forms are also available on the alumni webpage at www.augsburg.edu/alumni. Please consider making a nomination!
Centennial Singers head to the Southwest

Following a successful series of concerts in Florida in 2006 and their annual fall concert season in Minnesota, the Augsburg Centennial Singers will reprise their 2005 tour in Arizona in February 2007, with additional concerts in Nevada and Utah.

Directed by Alfred (Al) Reesnes ’58, the Singers reflect the gospel quartet tradition at Augsburg. Formed in 1993 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Augsburg gospel quartet that traveled to Norway, the Singers have toured Norway twice, most recently in 2001.

“Seeing alumni and other friends of Augsburg is a wonderful part of the touring,” says Reesnes. “Our guys love to sing songs of praise and we are looking forward to returning to the Southwest.”

Also featured in the concert are songs by a quartet, led by Paul Christensen ’59, and including Norm Anderson ’60, Paul Mikelson ’70, and Jon Lueth, husband of alumna Marilyn (Buschbom) ’71. This group recalls Augsburg’s strong gospel quartet tradition over many years. In addition, a second quartet now presents songs from a more Southern gospel tradition.

February concerts/appearances

February 6, 7 p.m.
Eccles Concert Hall, Dixie College, St. George, Utah

February 7, 7 p.m.
Community Lutheran Church, 3720 Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, Nev.

February 8, 7 p.m.
Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, 15820 Clearview Blvd., Surprise, Ariz.

February 9, 7 p.m.
Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church, 3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson, Ariz.
Alumni reception, 6–6:45 p.m.

February 10, 4 p.m.
Chaparral Christian Church, 6451 Shea Blvd., Scottsdale, Ariz.

February 11, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services at American Lutheran Church, 172 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, Ariz.
Alumni reception between services.

February 13, 7 p.m.
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, El Lago Blvd. and Fountain Hills Blvd, Fountain Hills, Ariz.
Alumni reception, 6–6:45 p.m.

February 14, 7 p.m.
King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2085 E. Southern Ave., Tempe, Ariz.
Alumni reception, 6–6:45 p.m.

February 15, 7 p.m.
Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, 25150 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale, Ariz.

NOTE: Augsburg President Paul C. Pribbenow will be the guest preacher at services on Feb. 17 and 18 at the American Lutheran Church in Sun City, Ariz. (see address above):
Sat., Feb. 17—4 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 18—8:30 and 10:30 a.m., with a coffee reception between services.

For information, contact the alumni relations office at 612-330-1085.

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If you have questions, e-mail healyk@augsburg.edu.
Homecoming 2006 brought students and alumni together in record numbers. Fireworks at the pep rally pumped up the crowd, and seniors Grant Hemmingsen and Sari Gallagher were crowned Homecoming King and Queen. While the football game against Concordia-Moorhead went into overtime, the Cobbers edged out the Auggies, 34-28, for the win.
Class of 1956
(L to R) ROW 1 (front): Dorothy (Floistad) Benson, Carolyn (Lower) Bliss, Elizabeth (Mortensen) Swanson, Chris (Munson) Main, Ron Main.

Class of 1966
Class of 1981
(L to R) ROW 1 (front): Ruth Muschinski, Karla (Morken) Thompson, Janna (Wallin) Haug, Mary Beamish, Molly Olson-Blomgren. ROW 2: Susan (Dahlgren) Sackrison, Kirsten Schwappach, Maureen Webster, Kristine Johnson, Gaynelle (Webb) Buckland, Leann Rock, Barbara Gilbert, Janis (Blomgren) Aune, Naomi (Christensen) Staruch.

35th Anniversary of Metro-Urban Studies
Alumni enjoyed reuniting with former faculty and classmates at the 35th anniversary of Augsburg’s Metro-Urban Studies program. Paula (Brookins) Pentel ’78, warmly greets Fran Torstenson, with professor emeritus Joel Torstenson ’38 looking on. In the background, professor emeritus Myles Stenshoel talks with Bruce Shoemaker ’81.
1942
Chester and Ebba (Johnson) Brooks, Duluth, Minn., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June at Gloria Dei Church in Duluth, surrounded by family and friends. After more than 32 years with the National Park Service, they moved to Duluth in 1983.

1943
The Rev. LuVerne “Red” Nelson, ’46 Sem, New Hope, Minn., celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a Lutheran pastor on August 4. He served parishes in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Red was married to Grace (Carlsen) ’45 and established a scholarship for voice students in her memory. He also set up a scholarship for tuba players.

1948
Jeroy Carlson, Burnsville, Minn., celebrated his retirement on September 30 after 44 years of service and was honored at a reception in October. (See page 3.)

1951
The Rev. Morris Vaagenes, Shoreview, Minn., recently published Baptism: God’s Activity of Grace at Kirk House Publishers. For 38 years, he served as the senior pastor at North Heights Lutheran Church and played an active role in the development of the Roseville and Arden Hills campuses, when the church grew from 525 to 7300 members. He and his wife, Bonnie (Bieri) ’67, have four children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1957
Jeanette (Olson) Locke, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., has been awarded a grandfather clock after 35 years of service as an H&R Block employee. She and her husband, Peter ’60, have lived in both St. Paul and Scottsdale, Ariz.

1959
Gail Castor, Redwood Falls, Minn., played one season of Auggie football while a student. In the Homecoming alumni football game this year, as the oldest player on the field at age 75, he made two plays towards the end of the game, one of which ended in a touchdown. His efforts were showcased on several local television stations as well as in ESPN’s Top Ten Plays of the Day. He has every intention to play again next year.

1960
The Rev. Myron Carlson, Grantsburg, Wis., celebrated his retirement after 37 years as the pastor of Grantsburg Faith Lutheran Church. He also served congregations in Clayton, Wis., and rural Clear Lake. Myron is looking forward to traveling with his wife, Lois, visiting their three children, reading, and golfing. Lois is director of nursing at the Burnett Medical Center.

1963
Carol Ann (Erickson) Zwernik, Minnetonka, Minn., was named the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s 2006-07 Director of the Year, an award based on professional achievements and work in implementing programs for students, their families, the congregation, and community. She is the pre-kindergarten director at Calvary Lutheran Church.

1968
Janet Letnes Martin and Suzanne (Johnson) Nelson were awarded the Gold Pen Award by Metro Lutheran newspaper at their annual dinner in October, recognizing distinguished service to Christ and the church through significant contribution to public communication. Their book, Growing Up Lutheran, is the basis for the currently-running play Church Basement Ladies. In August, Janet suffered the loss of her husband, Neil, who died following a four-year battle with cancer.

1976
Jane Stritesky, Georgetown, Ky., has taken a new position at Northern Elementary School as elementary music specialist for grades K through 5. She also coordinates after school courses in choir, piano, and guitar.

1979
Linda Sue Anderson, Minneapolis, received rave reviews in the Star Tribune for her performance as Big Mama in Tennessee Williams’ Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage. The show sold out in July and was extended into September.

1982
Diane (Peterson) Kachel, Woodbury, Minn., has become assistant director for the newly-established Center for Lung Science and Health at the University of Minnesota. For nearly 25 years she has been actively engaged in lung-related research and administration across the academic industry and government sectors. In her new role she will focus on lung research, education, and public service for the prevention and treatment of lung cancer.
1985
Tom Terpening, Minneapolis, appeared on TV’s Deal or No Deal. Unfortunately, he didn’t win the big money, but says he and his family enjoyed a wonderful four days in Hollywood for the taping.

1986
Debra Balzer-Plagemann, Roanoke, Va., and her husband, Rob, welcomed a new daughter, Sophia, in August.

Lisa Baumgartner, Sycamore, Ill., recently received tenure and promotion at Northern Illinois University to associate professor in the counseling, adult, and higher education department.

1987
Barbara Blomberg, Princeton, Minn., is one of four people inducted into the Princeton High School Activities Hall of Fame this year. She teaches in the Princeton district and served several years as the head volleyball coach.

1989
Mark Limburg, St. Paul, has been published by Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis, Mo., for his piano arrangements, which have appeared in many collections. Carols for Piano is his 12th published piece. Mark has been named of one “Today’s Top Writers” and “Today’s Top Arrangers.” In 1999, he toured England with David Soul and Hugh Burns, the guitarist for Paul McCartney and George Michael. Mark is currently completing a CD of original contemporary compositions. You can e-mail Mark at rachoven63@aol.com.

1991
Betty Christiansen, La Crosse, Wis., became a published author this fall. Her book, Knitting for Peace, contains stories about charity knitting organizations around the United States, self-help knitting groups in countries recovering from war, and other folks who are using knitting to help others around the world. She hopes the book will inspire others to pick up their needles and knit one of the 15 projects in the book for someone in need.

1994

(L to R) Lisa (Salmonson) Weatherhead, Marlene (Sorensen) Carr, Cindy (Winberg) Sisson, Janice (Haselhorst) Hostager, Linda (Dibos) Graslewicz, Terry Swanson (U of M graduate), Kris (Alexander) Korby, Jean (Lucas) Horton, Terese (Borgstrom), Almquist.

WINTER 2006-07 35

Auggies at Jellystone

This group of Auggies (Classes of 1995, ’96, and ’97) and their families celebrated their ninth annual summer outing at Jellystone Park in Warrens, Wis. All living in the Twin Cities, they are able to get together often and continue to add “future Auggies” to the clan. Their shirts read, “First Annual Auggie 5K Walk, Run, & Crawl.” (L to R) Jodi Monson ’96, Gene Louie ’95, Dave and Natasha (Solberg) ’96 Sheeley and daughter Kaia, Brian ’95 and Jennifer (Cummings) ’96 Ackland and children Ellie and Lucas, Brittany (Lynch) ’96 and Mike Jakubiec, Brooke (Manisto) ’96 and Erik ’97 Reseland and daughter Elsa, Tom Shaw ’95 and Stephanie Harms ’96 and daughter Madeline, Nate Markell (fiancé of Jodi Monson), Dylan Nau ’97 and Wendy Laine ’96 and daughter Lydia, Andy and Connie (Arndt) ’96 Clausen and children Adam and Aaron.
Kari (Schroeder) Prescott, Minneapolis, and her husband, Scott, welcomed their second child—a son, Soren Theophilus. He was born on June 28 and joins big brother Simon, 6. Kari is a physician with a private practice downtown and Scott is a middle school music teacher in Chaska, Minn.

Devean George, Dallas, Tex., signed a two-year contract worth $4.2 million with the Dallas Mavericks. In his first three years in the league, he became the seventh player in the NBA to win three championships. He leaves the Los Angeles Lakers to join the Mavericks.

Victoria Sadek, New Brighton, Minn., teaches Honors Humanities, 20th-Century American Literature, and Creative Writing in the English Department at Mounds View High School. She also directs the fall and spring plays and just finished a production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, presented as a radio broadcast, complete with sound effects. For it, marketing students created real “commercials” for local businesses that benefited the theatre program.

Leah Carlson, Minneapolis, has recently moved to Chicago, Ill., to become operations specialist for Dominium Inc. Because the company has properties in 14 different states, she will be traveling most of the time.

Jessica (Norman) Hafemyer, Northfield, Minn., and her husband, Eric, welcomed a daughter, Lauren Ann, on October 15. Lauren weighed in at 9 lb., 4 oz. and is 22 in. long.

Rachel L. Oldfather, Fargo, N. Dak., graduated from Luther Seminary in May with a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained June 10. She is now serving at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minn., as part of the Transition into Ministry Program. She can be reached at: Rachel@trinitymhd.org.

Torma-Agrimson Wedding


Bonner-Pavelka Wedding

Lindsay Bonner ’02 married Matthew Pavelka ’02 on August 27, 2005, at First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Tex. Matron of honor was Solveig (Grafstrom) Harren ’02, and best man was Jacob Pavelka. Beth Scott and Sara Seekins ’02 were bridesmaids, and groomsmen were Jason Pavelka and Devin Fitzsimons. Flower girl was Madison Pavelka. Ushers were Ryan Bonner ’08, Matthew Brutsche ’00, and Andrew Gordon ’02. Matthew is a first-year medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Tex., and Lindsay is a voice teacher on faculty with the Galveston Island Arts Academy, and is currently performing in the East-End Theatre Company’s production of *The Full Monty*.
Deanne McDonald graduated in 2004 with a degree in theatre arts. In the not-quite-three years since then, she has appeared in a surprise hit indie b-movie; started her own acting company, starring in its premiere production; and directed her high school alma mater’s theatre productions—in between other theatre projects and working a full-time job.

A year ago, after enjoying several summer stints with Shakespeare & Company, an outdoor repertory theatre in White Bear Lake, McDonald decided to form her own theatre company. She loved doing Shakespeare outdoors, where she says it feels “larger than life,” and, along with her sister and a group of fellow Shakespearean actors, she put together a company. Its name, the Traveling Players, comes from the description for Shakespeare’s own theatre company. She loved doing Shakespeare outdoors, and her alma mater, in Mendota Heights, Minn. On the production team also was a fellow Auggie, set designer Justin Johnson ’06. In the spring, McDonald returns to Sibley to direct The Boyfriend.

Last year McDonald’s work also included another stage appearance in Wind in the Willows, with New Breath Productions, a musical theatre learning collaborative.

Even with a busy theatre schedule, McDonald works full time at TMP Directional Marketing, an ad agency. She says the acting experience enhances her work there, especially in role-playing techniques she uses for sales training.

For information on upcoming screenings of The Monster of Phantom Lake featuring Deanne McDonald, go to www.monsterofphantomlake.com.

—Betsey Norgard
Laura Waldon and Emily Brinkman were married on Sept. 2 at the Inn at Castle Hill in Ipswich, Mass. Emily graduated from Northeastern University in Boston in August with a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies. Laura is currently obtaining her Master of Fine Arts degree in creative nonfiction writing from the University of New Hampshire, where she teaches First-Year Writing and is the director of the Online Writing Lab. The couple lives in Salem, Mass.

Fellow Auggies in the wedding party included Andi Slack ’07, Becky Welle ’05, Amy Mackner ’04, Sarah Schultz ’04, Angela Van Binsbergen ’05, Jon Faehler ’03, T.J. Bramwell ’03, Sam Gross ’03, Paul Amundson, Nick Slack ’02, and Joe Holman ’04.

2004
Kelly Chapman, Willernie, Minn., received the Fashion Design Award for Outstanding Fashion Design Student. As one of only 10 designers to participate in the Advanced Fashion Design Program for the 2006-07 school year, her first collection will debut at “FIDM’s Fashion Gala” in February 2007.

Chad Darr, and his wife, Krista, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Addison Lynn, on Sept. 8. Addison weighed in at 6 lb., 6 oz. and was 19 3/4 in. long.

Sara Kamholz, Maple Grove, Minn., and her husband, Chad, welcomed their first child, Sophia Lyn, on Oct. 19, weighing in at 8 lb., 7 oz. and 20 1/2 in.

Linnea Mohn, Minneapolis, and her team, including David Gillette and Rich Kronfeld from the Comedy Central TV show, Let’s Bowl, won this year’s 48-Hour Film Festival. Their seven minute short film Dangerous Proximity was completed from inception to delivery in 48 hours. The film can be viewed at www.youtube.com.

Katie Scheevel, Las Vegas, Nev., recently began teaching third grade at Stanford Elementary School. She can be contacted at spicerisnicer24@yahoo.com.

2005
Katarzyna (Pruchnik) Niles, Isanti, Minn., and her husband, Joe, welcomed their first child, daughter Helena Violet on July 14. She weighed in at 7 lb., 12 oz. and is 22 in. long.

2006
Justin Johnson, was set designer for the fall play, Look Homeward Angel, at Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights, sponsored by the Henry Sibley Drama Club. He has recently completed other sets, including productions for Irondale High School and In the Basement Productions. He’s pictured here with fellow Auggie Deanne McDonald, who directed the play. See page 37 for more on Deanne.

Graduate Programs
Barry Vornbrock ’96 MAL, and his husband, Ernest Lewis, recently relocated to Palo Alto, Calif. Barry accepted a position with Stanford University Medical Center as the director of IT Systems Planning-Ambulatory Care. Besides leading the technology efforts to implement a new electronic health record, he will also help Stanford Hospital and Clinics develop a future vision of their technology needs as they grow their ambulatory (walk in and walk out the same day) services.
**In Memoriam**

Stella (Pederson) Eiermann '30, Pacific Palisades, Calif., age 98, on May 31.

The Rev. Clifford M. Johnson '34 ('30 Acad, '39 Sem), Bloomington, Minn., age 95, on Oct. 12. He was a Distinguished Alumnus and served Augsburg as a fundraising leader, regent and board chair, and director of development.

Abner B. Batalden '35, Hanover, N.H., age 98, on Jan. 18. He traveled and worked many years for the Lutheran Church and Lutheran World Relief, in social service agencies and with refugee affairs. At Augsburg he served as director of alumni relations and as a fundraiser; he was a Distinguished Alumnus.

Wilhelm (“Bill”) Helland '35, Spicer, Minn., age 91, on Feb. 16.


The Rev. Carl J. Carlsen '43 ('46 Sem), Gig Harbor, Wash., age 85, on Sept. 3.

The Rev. Gerhard (“Giggs”) Bretheim '46 ('51 Sem), Edina, Minn., age 78, on July 21 from cancer.

Roaal Nokleberg '47, Duluth, Minn., age 84, unexpectedly on Oct. 12.

Mae Luhn ’50, Crossville, Tenn., age 82, on July 22 after a long illness.

Aileen Okerstrom ’50, Shoreview, Minn., age 78, on Sept. 16.

Morris G. Jespersen ’57, Little Canada, Minn., age 76, on Feb. 8 after a long battle with cancer.

Jack R. Norman ’59, Pennock, Minn., age 73, unexpectedly on Aug. 6.

Gerald L. Peterson ’61, Owatonna, Minn., age 66, on Sept. 1.

Philip M. Dyrud ’64, Newfolden, Minn., age 67, on Sept. 18.

Carolyn (Hove) Dyrud ’65, Maple Grove, Minn., age 62, on Sept. 24, 2005, from cancer.

John A. Bruntjen ’68, Wayzata, Minn., age 63, on Nov. 3 from cancer.

Michael Manz ’70, Spokane, Wash., age 58, on Nov. 1 of a heart attack.

Mark J. Zachary ’83, Savage, Minn., age 45, unexpectedly on July 22.

Kathryn Mae Powell ’01, student in the Master of Arts in Nursing program, Rochester, Minn., age 47, on Oct. 22 following an accident.

Jason B. Mulligan ’02, St. Paul, age 28, on Aug. 18 of ALS.

Luverne (“Vern”) Carlson, Edina, Minn., age 86, in July.

Robert Clyde, Crystal, Minn., age 79, on Jan. 9. He was associate professor and institutional research analyst at Augsburg for 31 years until he retired in 1998.

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**SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS**

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

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

Send your news items, photos, or change of address by mail to: Augsburg Now Class Notes, Augsburg College, CB 146, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN, 55454, or e-mail to alumni@augsburg.edu. You can also submit news to the Augsburg Online Community at www.augsburg.edu/alumni.

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Stu Stoller, professor of accounting, maintains active ties with universities in Poland and the Czech Republic, where has collaborated to develop curriculum, teach seminars, and establish a small-business incubation center.

a national promotion board that oversaw the “Got Milk” advertising and promotion program. His industry experience amplifies business theory in the classroom.

Professor Stu Stoller owned his own CPA practice before going through what he calls “a mid-life change in careers.”

Prior to joining Augsburg, Assistant Professor Marc Isaacson worked at Innovex Inc. in Maple Plain in various quality/engineering roles, including the launch of Flex Suspension Assemblies into high volume manufacturing. This took him to Asia frequently as he dealt with issues in global engineering, development, and customer service.

Nora Braun joined the department in 1997 with 20 years of information technology industry experience, most recently with Electronic Data Systems and National Car Rental.

Clarke was introduced to Augsburg when Braun, a colleague, informed him of an opening in Management Information Systems (MIS). Clarke had worked for the EDS Corporation and National Car Rental System, Inc., where he served as a software development manager, senior programmer/analyst, and project leader. “I brought with me a corporate culture, but it was not long before it became obvious that it was very different here.”

All of this gives students a better idea of what to expect in the “real” world. Ana Chilingarishvili, a senior international relations major from the country of Georgia, says, “Professor Zapp shared with us all kinds of experiences she has had in her professional career which enhanced my understanding of the concepts covered in the textbook and showed how they can be applied to real-life situations.”

“It’s paramount that you do what you teach,” says Stoller. “It’s one thing to be an academic and understand the philosophy and the theory, but people become practitioners when they graduate from here, so they need to understand the rules of practice. One of the things that experience does is to give you that practical experience… [What] I think I give to students that they enjoy are my stories of what is out there in the trenches of the world.”

GIVE CREDIT WHERE DUE

Cerrito credits the character of the business department to Amin Kader, who founded it (formerly it was combined with economics) and served as department chair for 16 years. “Faculty are here because of Amin’s leadership and drive. He was very successful at establishing a culture where all members of the department are treated with dignity and respect.”

“When I interviewed here, Amin Kader was the chair at the time,” recalls Stoller, who grew up in a Jewish New York City family. He remembers his family telling him, “You mean you’re teaching in a Lutheran school, and your boss is Egyptian?” They said, ‘Boy, you’re in trouble.’”

“When I got here [in 1990] and saw the amount of diversity in the department, I wondered if we would all work well together,” remembers associate professor Lori Lohman, who is a self-described Midwestern Protestant. “In a short period of time it became apparent to me that this would be the best place I would ever work. My coworkers are exceptional. We support each other. We respect and value our differences.”

“For me, it would be hard to work in a department where only one culture was represented,” says Zapp.

CREATE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

The business faculty have actively crossed borders for their teaching and research—especially in Central and Eastern Europe. In 1991, following a trade exhibition in Poznan, Poland, Cerrito went to Warsaw and met the vice-mayor of the city of Lublin, who was also a professor at Catholic University. “He invited me to visit the campus and meet with professors. That really started [Augsburg’s] relationship with Catholic University and working with Solidarity, the free trade movement, and privatization issues. I then brought in Amin [Kader] and Stu [Stoller].”

Cerrito and Kader were invited by Catholic University’s dean to develop management degree programs and work with the university’s faculty to assist them in privatizing state industries. Cerrito and Kader were also asked to serve as guest lecturers.

In 1996, Stoller was invited to Catholic University to set up curriculum and to teach a seminar for financial auditing. “My grandfather came from Poland, from Krakow, and so I figured I could visit on the way… I knew nothing about Poland. The only thing I knew were the black and white newsreels from World War II… I thought Poland was black and white.”

Stoller later returned to Catholic University to set up curriculum and teach sem-
inars in Audit, and Mergers and Acquisitions.

“I learned a lot about different perspectives, different point of view. It took me out of my comfort zone and really gave me an education,” Stoller recalls. “But I figured, this cannot end here, so I asked my colleagues here [at Augsburg], if they had any connections in central Eastern Europe.”

It turned out that business/MIS professor Milo Schield’s son was teaching in the Czech Republic. He connected Stoller with the associate director of intercultural studies at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Stoller’s offer to help resulted in his “thumbprint” on the Czech professor’s financial project over the Internet. This led to a sabbatical, during which time Stoller created an incubation center for small business in the community.

Stoller then created a course for Augsburg students, “The Czech Republic: Social and Cultural Impact of the Emerging Free Market Economy,” which integrated history, culture, and economics. In January 2001, he took 17 students to the Czech Republic for the first time.

Students met with business leaders, workers, and citizens to discuss the impact of the privatization process and the development of capitalist enterprises in the ex-communist country. The course has evolved since 2001, but Stoller continues to lead student groups to the Czech Republic.

Stoller was later invited to set up a similar program in Prague. Stoller has taken students there in 2003 and 2005 and will return this year.

“Nothing can change you in three weeks as fast as an experiential education,” Stoller asserts. “Four years of college don’t change you as much as three weeks in Prague.”

MAKE WIDER CONNECTIONS

In the mid-’90s, a connection with Russia was established when Cerrito joined with political science professor Norma Noonan to present lectures at and facilitate an exchange of professors with the State Academy of Management in Moscow.

In May 2004, President William Frame and Zapp visited the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, to rekindle an exchange program with Augsburg. Several other business faculty, including Clarke and Kader, have also visited Slovenia. The department has hosted four professors and the country’s prime minister, Dr. Janez Drnovsek.

On that same trip, Frame and Zapp also visited Krakow University of Economics, Zapp’s alma mater. A year later, an exchange agreement was signed between Augsburg and Krakow University.

Last summer, through another faculty connection, Stoller and associate professor Kathy Schwalbe taught a course in Karlsruhe, Germany, including four Augsburg students and 14 students from the Berufsakademie.

More recently, Stoller has developed curriculum, discussed business cooperations, and has given lectures in Shanghai, China. An exchange of business programs is being considered as part of ongoing College discussions.

IN SUM

Stoller says his colleagues “tell about their lives, they bring in their food—it’s wonderful. They talk about their experiences … you can call up somebody like my friend Ashok and talk about Indian culture, or Muslim culture, or whatever. It just adds a breath and depth and experience to the department. We all work with each other on a professional basis and rejoice in each other’s differences.”

“It’s outstanding that we have this diversity,” says Kramarczuk. “We’re all God’s children. I’ve seen people die because of their nationality. When I came into New Orleans in the early ’50s, I couldn’t understand when I would get on a bus, why an older black woman would have to get up and give me her seat.”

In the words of Lohman, “My colleagues have expanded my world. It’s been fabulous.”

“We bring to the class very different worlds,” says Zapp of her colleagues. “We represent different cultures, different countries, different religious beliefs… The benefits are immeasurable.”

The Department of Business Administration has 24 full-time faculty, more than 35 part-time faculty, teaching over 700 undergraduate and 300 graduate students.
Icons of an Inauguration

THE SCHOLARLY SYMBOLS
College seals are common inauguration icons and appear on the many official congratulations and certificates President Pribbenow received from his colleagues across the country. Nearly 50 of these colleagues attended the inauguration.

THE BOW TIE STYLE
Paul Pribbenow adopted the bow tie on a daily basis after learning to tie many of them for black tie events in his work at the Art Institute of Chicago. He believes he currently has more than 50 bow ties in his wardrobe.

A giant red bow tie anchored the “President Bush” outside of Christensen Center, designed by a team of students led by junior Ben Katz.

Bow ties, again, on the buttons that Student Senate distributed across campus during inauguration week.

THE STUFF
From printed programs to food and coffee, lots of visuals recall this festive week. The Event Services Office reports that approximately 800 Augsburg “A” cookies were served at the inauguration reception.
FEBRUARY

Through February 16
"In the Secret Place," by Arlene Burke-Morgan
Gage Family Art Gallery, Lindell Library
Artist talk, Feb. 8, noon, Minneapolis Room, Christensen Center

February 2–11
Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare
Guest directed by Barbra Berlovitz
Feb. 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10 at 7 p.m.
Feb. 4 and 11 at 2 p.m.
Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

February 8
Theatre Artist Series
“Technical Direction at the Guthrie Theater,” Craig Pettigrew, technical director, Guthrie Theater
1:30–3 p.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

February 9
Theatre Artist Series
“South Indian Dance: Bharatanatyam,” Ranee Ramaswamy, artistic director, Ragamala Music and Dance Theater
11 a.m.–noon—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

February 21
Reading by ACTC visiting writers
Ingrid Wendt and Ralph Salisbury
7:30 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

MARCH

March 2
2007 Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics and 25th anniversary of the Center for Global Education
Jorge Bustamante, president and founder of El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
10 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel
612-330-1180

March 6
Theatre Artist Series
“Stage Movement Using Viewpoints as Developed by Anne Bogart,” Randy Reyes, actor/director
9:40–11:10 a.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

March 6
Theatre Artist Series
“The Scenic Artist,” Mary Novodvorsky, scenic artist
1:30–3 p.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

APRIL

April 1
Masterworks Chorale concert
4 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

April 3
Theatre Artist Series
“The Production Notebook: Directing Ptericles from Start to Finish,” Joel Sass, freelance director/designer
9:40–11:10 a.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

April 7
faith@work! breakfast series
Tim Geoffrion, executive director, Family Hope/TreeHouse
7 a.m.—St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn.
www.spdlc.org

April 10
Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls, by Naomi Iizuka
Guest directed by Steve Bussa
7 p.m.—Foss Studio Theater

April 11
Augsburg Choir home concert
7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

April 15
Augsburg Orchestra concert
7 p.m.—Foss Studio Theater

APRIL 9-May 6
All-Student Juried Art Exhibition
All-Student Juried Art Exhibition
Award Winners
Christensen Center Art Gallery
Opening reception, April 13, 5–7 p.m.
Awards presentation, April 13, 5:30 p.m.

April 12
Theatre Artist Series
“Creating Original Work,” Shawn McConilogue, artistic director of Shawn McConilogue and her Orchestra
11:50 a.m.–1:20 p.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

April 13-22
The Threepenny Opera, by Bertolt Brecht; music by Kurt Weill
Faculty directed by Daney Engen
Music direction by Sonja Thompson
April 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 at 7 p.m.
April 15 and 22 at 2 p.m.
Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

April 15
Augsburg Orchestra concert
7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

April 16
Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lecture
“The Exploration of Planetary Systems,” Fran Bagenal, professor of astrophysical and planetary sciences, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado
8 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel
612-330-1180

March 7
faith@work! breakfast series
Tim Geoffrion, executive director, Family Hope/TreeHouse
7 a.m.—St. Philip the Deacon
Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn.
www.spdlc.org

March 13–16
Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls, by Naomi Iizuka
Guest directed by Steve Bussa
7 p.m.—Foss Studio Theater

March 25
Augsburg Choir home concert
7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

March 28
Theatre Artist Series
“Issues of Race and Ethnicity in Asian American Theatre,” Josephine Lee, director, Asian American Studies Program, University of Minnesota
11 a.m.–noon—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

March 29
Theatre Artist Series
Bain Boelte, Jungle Theatre
11:50 a.m.–1:20 p.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

Note: The Gage Family Art Gallery will close in Lindell Library on Feb. 16. A new Gage Family Art Gallery will open in the Oren Gateway Center in August.

For art gallery information, call 612-330-1524
For theatre ticket information, call 612-330-1257
For music information, call 612-330-1265

WINTER 2006-07
Advent Vespers 2006

The 27th Advent Vespers filled the majestic Central Lutheran Church for four services of music and liturgy to begin the Advent season. For the first time this year, Central Lutheran’s new carillon bells were an added dimension to the music of the three Augsburg choirs and Vespers Orchestra.

— Stephen Geffre, photographer