Multiply your mind by giving it away

As this issue of Augsburg Now illustrates, the Augsburg community is engaged in many efforts and initiatives that are best characterized as innovative—or “out-of-the-box,” as they’re called here. In fact, I believe deeply that there is something about Augsburg and its mission that lends itself to this sort of entrepreneurial spirit, this willingness to try new ways of doing things in service to our students and neighbors. Just think of the last 30 years of new programs at Augsburg—the Weekend College; the expansion to seven graduate programs; the Augsburg campus at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester and at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington; the Augsburg Core Curriculum—(AugCore), with its expansive framework for educating students in the liberal arts and in the world; the CLASS office, providing support for students with learning differences; the StepUP program, meeting the needs of students recovering from addictions; and the list goes on and on. All examples of how Augsburg is on the leading edge of providing an excellent education in new and innovative ways.

I’ve recently been reading literature on helping organizations to embrace and sustain a culture of innovation—that is, to create organizational cultures that are constantly looking for new and different ways to do things, to make products, to deliver services; to save souls, educate students, heal the sick. Recently, I happened upon the writing of Mark Federman, a Canadian scholar whose writings on innovation include this provocative suggestion: “Multiply your mind by giving it away.” And Federman means exactly what he says—be generous, be charitable, give instead of always taking. Because when you are generous with your mind, with your knowledge and education, you help to create organizations and neighborhoods and agencies and churches and schools that are marked not by the scarcity of the world but by the abundance of what’s possible when generosity of mind and heart and spirit is our guiding principle.

How will you give away your mind in the communities and organizations you serve? I constantly find examples of such generosity of mind right here in the Augsburg community, and you’ll see them in the stories featured here. For example, I’m struck by the ways in which staff member Brian Noy and his many colleagues who run our Campus Kitchen program are illustrating this generosity of mind and spirit. In addition to the ongoing preparation and delivery of 2,000 meals a month they serve to our neighbors in Phillips and Cedar-Riverside, they have focused our attention on the important role that food plays in our lives—as sustenance for our bodies, as fellowship for our community, as politics and economics in our neighborhood and world. They have multiplied their minds by giving them away to all of us. And the results are staggering—a community garden on the edge of campus that brings together neighbors and students and children, a Farmers Market that brings organic farmers from across the region to campus, composting of leftover everything in the cafeteria, and so much more—abundance through generosity.

The gift of an education, an Augsburg education, calls all of us to this generous undertaking of multiplying your mind and knowledge and experience by giving it away so that it serves God’s abundant intentions for God’s people and world. That is the sort of innovation that is at the heart of Augsburg’s mission and vision. I’m proud to share in this significant work.

PAUL C. PRIBBENOW, PRESIDENT
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On the cover
It’s impossible to arrange many of the programs, people, and partnerships at Augsburg neatly into a box. With their creative perspectives and unique features, the stories here show how Augsburg often looks and acts “out-of-the-box.”

All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.
With eight All-Americans and three national runner-up individuals, the Augsburg College wrestling team claimed its 11th NCAA Division III national title in the last 20 seasons in March in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Augsburg finished with 110.5 points, 10 points better than second-place Wisconsin-La Crosse’s 100.5. Defending national champion Wartburg (Iowa) was third with 83.5 points, Coe (Iowa) was fourth with 76.0 points, and Delaware Valley (Pa.) was fifth with 50.5 points.

In his second year as Augsburg’s head wrestling coach, Mark Matzek ’05 was named Division III National Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association—and at age 27, is the youngest head coach to ever win a Division III wrestling national title. Augsburg assistant head coach Jared Evans ’07 was named National Assistant Coach of the Year by the NWCA.

“It was nine individual efforts that created this team national championship,” Matzek said. “I’m proud of each and every one of the guys who wrestled, and I’m proud of each and every one of the guys in this program.”

The final session of the tournament completed a unique first for the Auggies—the first time Augsburg has won a national title without an individual national titlist. The feat has occurred just twice before in the 37-year history of the Division III championships.

Auggies win 11th national wrestling title

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Have you seen the new signs?

The new LED “Augsburg,” atop Mortensen Hall now serves as a beacon to commuters who pass by on Interstate 94 and as a marker of Augsburg’s location. To read more and see a video of the construction, go to the “Auggie Sign” page on Facebook.
Augsburg receives five Fulbright awards

In the past weeks, three Augsburg students, one faculty member, and the Center for Global Education have all been notified that they have received Fulbright awards for next year.

May graduates Jens Olsen and Heidi Le will both teach English in Vietnam during the 2010-11 academic year. Bethany Hellerich, a 2009 graduate who is spending this year as a member of the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, will teach English in Indonesia. All three have plans to further their education after their year abroad, as Olsen will apply to medical school, Le has deferred admission to pharmacy school, and Hellerich is interested in a public health graduate program.

Seven Augsburg students have been awarded Fulbrights over the past three years and the College has been recognized as a top producer of winners. Hellerich said Augsburg’s Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity office (URGO) deserves credit for working with students and pushing them to believe that they can have success.

“I’m just fortunate that [URGO director] Dixie Shafer exists and magical things happen when she works with you on your application,” Hellerich said. “She’s very helpful with giving good and detailed feedback.”

English professor Colin Irvine will spend the next academic year traveling the length of Norway as a Fulbright Roving Scholar in American Studies.

In this role, Irvine will prepare presentations on American studies topics and visit schools across Norway to provide opportunities for Norwegian teenagers to learn about the United States. Based in Oslo, he will likely give between 250 and 300 presentations across the country.

“I’ve always been interested in the possibility of working or teaching overseas,” Irvine said. “This roving scholar program was perfect.”

In addition, the Center for Global Education also received its fifth Fulbright-Hays Group Project award and will host a four-week curriculum development program for teachers during July and August in Namibia.

College mourns the death of faculty

Professor Don Steinmetz, who taught in the Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies Department for 41 years, died of an apparent heart attack on Dec. 28. He was 71. His son, Erik Steinmetz, is a member of Augsburg’s Computer Science Department faculty.

Don Steinmetz served as chair of the department and taught courses in German and Spanish. He also taught Chinese and linguistics within the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities consortium.

Professor Emeritus Myles Stenshoel died on March 26 following a short illness. He taught at Augsburg for 28 years and continued to teach part time in retirement. In 1965 he came to Augsburg and established the Political Science Department the following year. His interests were in politics and religion, and he was deeply committed to social action.

Also mourned is Neal Thorpe ’60, former faculty member and a Distinguished Alumnus, who died in Vancouver, Wash., on March 3.

Editor’s Note

The last issue of the Now had a story, “Augsburg’s first travel to Egypt.” Alas, we have received a note from social work Professor Emerita Edwina (Eddie) Hertzberg, who tells us it isn’t so.

“In 1979, for the January Interim, the College sponsored a course, Social Services and Public Policy in a Developing Country: Egypt, 1979,” she writes. “I was the faculty instructor, assisted by former adjunct professor Nagwa Farag and two of her colleagues from Helwan University in Cairo. My request to Professor Farag had been that we get as close to Egyptian people as possible so that our experience include the depth that only such engagement can provide. Eleven students, Augsburg and St. Olaf, from a variety of disciplines, participated in the month-long program. … [I]t was a remarkable educational and life-impacting experience for us all, students and faculty alike.”
Philosophy, religion, and Chinese food

Yi started out the semester in the back of the room, about as far away from me as possible. He showed relatively little interest; his homework and test grades were poor. Yet when I called on him he responded with reasonable answers. Like others hiding in the back row, Yi had potential; he just needed some personal attention and prodding. I took to writing notes on his homework encouraging him to move forward and talk to me. One afternoon he appeared in my office, and we talked for an hour about many things—about the class, how he came to United International College (UIC), and his goals. Eventually he closed the office door and wanted to talk about the injuries his uncle experienced in Tiananmen Square in 1989. But the fear was still too great and he left. Yi did move forward, began to interact with me, and soon his work, tests, and comments improved remarkably. He began to enjoy thinking philosophically.

Through a special arrangement, Augsburg made it possible for me to teach philosophy during the fall semester at UIC in Zhuhai, China. In three classes I was privileged to work with 120 bright Chinese students. A new, English-medium liberal arts college on the mainland, UIC is an experiment to provide a more Western style of education to the Chinese. China is dramatically changing as it attempts to educate its population, and UIC is one of eight brand-new universities built in Zhuhai in the last 10 years.

“I told my students that part of my mission was to corrupt them, to move them from the passive state of being excellent note-takers and regurgitators of teachers’ PowerPoints to being able to think and question for themselves.”

My Philosophy of Religion students and I would walk down to the student canteen on Friday for lunch and conversation. Jiang sat next to me and between bites of noodles asked, “Do you really believe in God?” Teaching Philosophy of Religion provided both a challenge and opportunity, as both the students and I looked for a common ground of understanding between our two cultures and worldviews. Once the initial barriers of passive learning were put to rest, the classroom boiled with discussion, questions, challenges, and good humor. Here, too, the students would linger. Tony periodically stayed around for an hour, his phenomenology book in hand, to inquire how Heidegger would view these ideas. Self taught in philosophy, he was eager to connect the course ideas with his own reading.

Three Augsburg students and four recent graduates, serving as teaching assistants, also joined the UIC community, providing cross-cultural connections that will continue to develop as students and faculty visit each other’s campuses in the years ahead. At the end of the term two of my classes took my wife and me to Chinese restaurants to show their appreciation. We toasted friendship and a wonderful semester as we affirmed that we all liked philosophy and Chinese food.

BRUCE REICHENBACH
Professor of philosophy
Chris Johnson—A third-generation hockey star

Chris Johnson certainly has an impressive hockey pedigree. Chris is the son of Mark Johnson, a member of the fabled “Miracle on Ice” 1980 U.S. Olympic team, a pro hockey star, and coach of the 2010 U.S. Olympic women’s silver-medal hockey squad. He’s the grandson of “Badger” Bob Johnson, one of the greatest coaches in American hockey history—who also happened to attend Augsburg for a year before transferring to the University of Wisconsin. And his siblings all played hockey on various teams.

But Chris Johnson has also made a name for himself as a leader of the Augie men’s hockey team. A native of Verona, Wis., Johnson had a terrific career as an Auggie, scoring 41 goals with 74 assists for 115 points in his 104-game career. He had a goal or assist in 15 of Augsburg’s 27 games this season, including seven multiple-point efforts.

Johnson’s squads reached the MIAC postseason playoffs in three of his four seasons, including two with him as team captain. He earned All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors all four seasons and All-American honors last year.

Off the ice, Johnson will also be remembered as a top hockey player. He’s a member of Augsburg’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and has helped lead hockey ministry and Bible-study groups of student-athletes. He’s also worked with the Herb Brooks Foundation’s “Rink Rats” program, teaching hockey skills to students from the Seward Montessori School. Johnson is a finance major with a 3.4 GPA.

“Hockey was everywhere when we were growing up, in a good way, not in a pressure way,” Johnson told columnist Rachel Blount of the Star Tribune in a January feature. “We all got to play at the same high school as my dad. He taught us that even though we might have a last name that helps, it doesn’t matter if you don’t work hard. But he also told us that at the end of the day, it’s all about having fun.”

This season was a special one for the Johnson family. Since the U.S. women’s hockey team was based at the Schwan Super Rink in Blaine, Minn., prior to the Olympics, Mark—who took a leave of absence from his job as coach of the University of Wisconsin women’s hockey team to lead the Olympic squad—had ample opportunities to be with his son in the Twin Cities. Mark attended several of his son’s games at Augsburg, and the two met weekly for dinner and father-son bonding.

In a “Profiles of Excellence” feature on the CollegeSportingNews.com website by Rich Mies in January, Chris Johnson said that his experience at Augsburg has been a positive one. “I’ve received a great education here,” he said, “and I cherish the relationships I’ve made here with teammates, coaches, teachers, and friends. I’ve grown up a lot while I’ve been here.”

He also said he may consider following in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps and coach hockey someday.

DON STONER
Portraits
1st place: Matt Anderson
“Soccer at Le Sacré Cœur”
Paris, France
2nd place: Sandra Meyer
“Yes”
Managua, Nicaragua
3rd place: Dan Thewis
“Friday at Al-Azhar Mosque”
Cairo, Egypt

Landscape/cityscape
1st place: Norah Thompson
“Villa Joyosa, España”
Madrid, Spain
2nd place: Malena Thoson
“Municipal Dump”
Managua, Nicaragua
3rd place: Elizabeth Robinson
“Work Will Set You Free”
Berlin, Germany

Photojournalism
1st place: Dan Thewis
“Cairo at Midnight”
Cairo, Egypt
2nd place: Norah Thompson
“El niño en Madrid”
Madrid, Spain
3rd place: Sandra Meyer
“Nonchalant”
Managua, Nicaragua
“Doing Theology with Girlfriends,” or DTwG as it is known, is not your typical Bible study.

Sonja Hagander, associate pastor at Augsburg, started DTwG because students told her they wanted a Bible study on campus. “But you can’t always call it a ‘Bible study,’” Hagander says, “because that means it’s difficult or boring or only for people who already understand the Bible.”

So DTwG gives women at Augsburg a chance to connect, to support each other, and to relate their own life experiences to scripture. This group of girlfriends gathers once a month to share stories of their lives and to “do” theology.

The idea for DTwG came as Hagander reflected on how she loved spending time with her own girlfriends and on the importance of relating to other women. When the group gathers each month, one woman shares a story from her life. The others then share their own feelings and memories related to the story.

Hagander chooses a reading or two from the Bible, which the women use to dig deeper into their experiences. Finally, they ask how what they’ve learned might change their daily lives or the way they practice their faith.

On the last Monday in January, one student talked about what it means to “truly experience” nature as she related the story of her family’s vacation in Denali National Park. “I sat there for hours, looking out for miles, reflecting and praying and trying to figure out my place within God’s beautiful creation,” she said.

Hagander passed out copies of Psalm 23, and the girlfriends identified their own green pastures and still waters. For one, a late-night jog around the lakes in Minneapolis was a way for her to connect to nature. Another experienced the majesty of creation while watching the sunrise over the Grand Canyon.

Then Hagander asked the group to examine the dark and destructive side of nature using Job’s account of a fire-breathing, stone-hearted leviathan. This led to a discussion about the massive loss of life caused by the earthquakes in Haiti. One woman marveled at the faith that kept some people alive as they waited for days to be pulled from the rubble of destroyed homes, churches, and schools.

“Today is a gift that we get to use in the best way possible,” Hagander said, asking how the women could take this discussion into their lives.

This hour wasn’t a gab session or group therapy. But it wasn’t an ordinary Bible study either. There were no right answers or theologically sound interpretations. Just coffee and tea, comfortable chairs, a pink candle, and a chance to share.

That is how girlfriends do theology.

WENDI WHEELER ’06
A young woman meets her many grandmothers

Last year, Krystal Mattison ’10 studied in Korea. Many students who study abroad are profoundly affected by the experience. For Mattison, a history and American Indian studies major from St. Paul, spending the year abroad was a life-changing opportunity to bond with her new grandmothers.

Mattison is the granddaughter of a “comfort woman.” During World War II, thousands of Korean women were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military. Some of these women did not survive their ordeal, and many were unable to have children as a result of their treatment. Furthermore, the women were unable to talk about their experiences until many years later.

Her grandmother died when Mattison was five years old, but she heard the story from her father. While in Korea, Mattison spent time at the House of Sharing, an organization in Seoul that houses and cares for the surviving comfort women. She says that after she told them about her grandmother, the women became her adopted grandmothers (halmonis), even giving her the Korean name Soo-Jeong. “They spoiled me, holding my hands and feeding me,” she says.

She learned from the women, who now think of themselves not as victims but as survivors and activists, that speaking out against violence is an important part of the healing process. “This experience brought me so much completion that I had to do something.”

That “something” was to connect with Jessica Nathanson, assistant professor of women’s studies and director of Augsburg’s Women’s Resource Center. After Mattison shared her grandmother’s story and her own experience in Korea, the center agreed to donate the proceeds from its annual benefit performance of The Vagina Monologues to the House of Sharing.

Eve Ensler’s episodic play began off-Broadway in 1996. Each year The Vagina Monologues and other theatrical productions are presented across the country by women on college campuses on V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls.

“Since the purpose of performing this show is to fight violence against women by raising awareness about the issue and funds for organizations who do this work, we feel like it was a tremendously successful event,” says Nathanson. “The performances were excellent,” she adds, “beautifully and powerfully delivered.”

This year’s production raised more than $800 through ticket sales and donations, which amounts to 940,000 Korean won.

“This is such a personal issue for me, and I think it’s amazing that the women of Augsburg took it on,” Mattison says. At the end of each Augsburg performance, Mattison gave a speech about her grandmother. “I felt like she was there with me.”

The Vagina Monologues was directed by Julia Sewell, a senior psychology major from Minneapolis. The cast included Irene Abdullah, Veronica Berg, Kia Burton, Amber Davis, Rebecca Dickinson, Sarah Gillund, Annika Gunderson, Lucreshia Grant, Elizabeth Hanson, Brandy Hyatt, Valencia McMurray, Lily Morris, Kris Ness, Magdalen Ng, Shannon O’Brien, Yasameen Sajady, Leann Vice-Reshel, Rochelle Weidner, and Courtney Wiley.

WENDI WHEELER ’06
The 22nd Annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum

Striving for Peace
A Question of Will

March 5–6, 2010

In cooperation with the Norwegian Nobel Institute, five Midwestern colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) sponsor the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum. The colleges, all founded by Norwegian immigrants, sponsor the forum to give recognition to Norway’s international peace efforts and to offer opportunities for Nobel Peace laureates, diplomats, scholars, students, and the general public to engage in dialogue on the dynamics of peacemaking and the underlying causes of conflict and war.

The Peace Prize Forum is the Nobel Institute’s only such program or academic affiliation outside Norway.

Augsburg College
Augustana College
Concordia College
Luther College
St. Olaf College

This year’s Peace Prize Forum was held March 5 and 6 on the Augsburg College campus, and honored the work of 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland. The other plenary speakers were Kjell Magne Bondevik, president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, and Leymah Gbowee, executive director of Women Peace and Security Network-Africa.

Prior to the forum, the 15th annual Peace Prize Festival brought together approximately 800 school children and youth to learn about the importance and influence of the Nobel Peace Prize and to honor President Ahtisaari.

For more photos of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and Peace Prize Festival, go to www.augsburg.edu/now
Ann Parriott, vice president for human resources at H.B. Fuller, extended greetings at the forum’s opening ceremony.

“Good evening. It’s a pleasure to be here with you tonight to help introduce this year’s conference. H.B. Fuller Company is honored to serve as the lead sponsor for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Forum. We’re delighted to help welcome our very special guest speaker, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and pleased to help and encourage ongoing dialogue and discussion on the topic of peace and conflict resolution.

“As a company operating in more than 100 countries for many of our 120-plus years, H.B. Fuller has long embraced the value of diverse global perspectives to solve problems, address challenges, and maximize opportunities in the business sector. We are truly excited to help bring this year’s program to you and by so doing help provide a platform for dialogue, discussion, and diverse perspectives on an issue that affects all of us as global citizens.

“We salute the Norwegian Nobel Institute and our academic sponsors, including this year’s host, Augsburg College, for providing the platform and for staging this important event. Together, with all of you in the audience, I look forward to learning from a leader this evening, a man who’s been inspiring in his steadfast belief in peace and transformative in his approach. May we all leave this conference energized by the power of one voice and committed to engaging collaboratively with each other to further the process of achieving peace. Thank you.”

Alex Gonzalez ’90 represented Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™ at the forum.

“As a faith-based membership organization, Thrivent Financial seeks to help enable its members to demonstrate their care and concern for others. While organizationally it does not have a global focus, Thrivent Financial does help its members have a global impact through programs such as Thrivent Builds Worldwide and through various Lutheran relief organizations that have a global reach.”

Alex Gonzalez, FIC, CLTC, is a partner with the Stonebridge Group. He is a 1990 Augsburg graduate and a member of the Augsburg College Board of Regents.
McGough Construction and “Bright Green”

As a result of their extensive experience with “green” construction and knowledge of sustainable building practices and products, McGough has created the Bright Green sustainable program. A guiding principle of the program is to find creative ways to apply sustainable practices to construction projects in a cost-effective manner. This would include exploring techniques for reducing waste and applying eco-friendly operating practices.

McGough has adopted green strategies throughout their company to test cleaning products and utilize advanced recycling strategies. This focus on energy conservation and minimizing waste enables it to export these practices to the construction site and provide useful advice to clients.

The centerpiece of Bright Green is the Center of Excellence. The Center of Excellence consists of several sustainability specialists who can provide information and advice to organizations who are considering the implementation of criteria developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) or adopting proven practices to reduce the negative environmental impacts of building design and construction.

The center draws upon outside research and industry data, as well as lessons learned “on the ground” from McGough Construction projects. Indeed, McGough is a long-standing member of the USGBC and is a founding sponsor of the local Mississippi Headwaters Chapter in Minnesota. The sustainability specialists in the Center of Excellence maintain active roles in local chapter committees, enabling them to stay well-informed about the most recent developments in sustainable design and construction.

McGough, in collaboration with Augsburg, will apply these practices to the Center for Science, Business, and Religion.

Kjell Magne Bondevik, president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, spoke in dialogue with President Ahtisaari at the forum. “In the long term, we can never win the fight [against terrorism] by military means. We need to find out why people are willing to give their lives and we need to address the root causes of terrorism.”

Nordic Home Interiors

The Omari rug/wall hangings donated to the forum were woven by Nordic Home Interior’s partner, Everest Handicraft Industries, in Katmandu, Nepal. They were hand-knotted in the primitive Nepalese/Tibetan art form of Tibetan wool with 100 knots per square inch. The dove design is Indian silk.

EVENT CONTRIBUTORS:
Jeanne M. Voigt Foundation
Mary T., Inc.
Wells Fargo
Winds of Peace Foundation

DONORS:
Baker Tilly
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Norway House
On a cold, crisp February morning, photographer Stephen Geffre and I follow Jim Pederson ’56 through ankle-deep snow up a slope to a small log cabin that overlooks Swede Lake.

This log cabin, near Star Prairie, Wis., sits on the farm that was homesteaded by Pederson’s great-grandparents in 1872 and that he and his brother, Dwight ’60, now own. They grew up on the farm, moved away to begin their own lives, and now return often with their families and friends.

Our reason for being there is to visit the site of an annual celebration that has occurred on the second Saturday of November for the past 50 years. It’s an afternoon each year when Jim and Elaine Pederson host friends and family in the small log cabin for mulled cider and treats before heading to nearby West Immanuel Lutheran Church for lutefisk dinner. This church dinner is a 75-year tradition that now attracts more than 1,200 people for lutefisk, lefse, meatballs, and more.

THE BEGINNING OF ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS

Jim Pederson says it’s difficult to put a label on this annual gathering. It’s about friendship, legacy, good food, heritage, aging—all of those. Star Tribune columnist
Jon Tevlin, who attended last November’s half-century celebration, described it as “an iconic Midwestern living postcard that turned 50 years old Saturday.”

At first it was just an annual trek to the lutefisk dinner, but as years went by and friends began to gather beforehand at the farm, the camaraderie there became as important as the meal that followed. While to the Pedersons the gathering marks the final event of the farm’s social season, many of the attendees consider it the beginning of their holiday festivities.

Pederson really can’t put his finger on just what glue has held so many of them together for so long. The short answer, he says, is that it was a group of Augsburg friends who started coming out to the country for a church dinner.

“The better answer,” he adds, “is that some of us developed friendships that included faculty members who were our mentors and with whom we greatly enjoyed informal times outside the classroom.”

Faculty from the 1950s who became regular attendees include Phil Quanbeck Sr., Paul Sonnack, Joel Torstenson, Ralph and Grace Sulerud, and others. For nearly 20 years, retired history professor Carl and Val Chrislock spent many of their summers at the farm, where Carl did a great deal of writing and where Val tended her flower and vegetable gardens. When there were deaths, spouses and families often continued to participate.

“Many of us were deeply interested in public service of some kind, whether teaching, the ministry, public policy, or politics,” says Pederson. In the 1950s, when academic freedom was restricted and McCarthyism caused colleges to shy away from controversy, he credits Augsburg and the leadership of President Bernhard Christensen for encouraging political expression and organization.

“Augsburg practiced academic freedom while in some institutions it was only preached,” Pederson says. “Political organizations were encouraged on campus. Faculty encouraged students to become involved in political campaigns, and Political Emphasis Week brought speakers from the whole political spectrum.

“It was in this cauldron that lasting friendships developed and continued beyond graduation. While politics was a strong interest of a few, the friendships persisted regardless of the chosen vocation,” Pederson says.

It all started with the five Auggie Norwegian bachelors who, as students, lived together above Larson’s grocery store—Martin Sabo ’59, Jim ’56 and Dwight ’60 Pederson, Harlan Christianson ’57, and Erwin Christianson ’58. In 1959, Jim and Elaine Pederson (who were not yet married) and Harlan and Lori Christianson decided to drive out to Star Prairie for the lutefisk dinner. Elaine was a student nurse at Deaconess Hospital and Augsburg, and this trip became her introduction to the farm, to lutefisk, and to her future Pederson in-laws.

AUGSBURG STORIES PLAY OUT OVER THE YEARS

Pederson says he’d like to tie the story of the 50-year gatherings to what they learned at Augsburg. “‘Education for Service’ we thought of as just a phrase, but it really did mean a lot to us—whether in ministry, nursing, government, or politics. It played out, and that’s an important part of the story for me.”

The Augsburg-connected stories include the political career of Martin Sabo, which dates back to the days of the five Norwegian bachelors. Pederson, who served as student body president and was active in student political groups, became manager in 1960 for Sabo’s state house endorsement campaign. “And he never lost an election after that,” Pederson comments, about Sabo’s long and distinguished legislative career, marked by his retirement in 2007.

In another Augsburg story, Chrislock, who was a regular at the November gatherings, stayed on the farm while he wrote his 1991 book, Watchdog of Loyalty: The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety during World War I.

Emeriti professors Ralph and Grace Sulerud, close friends of the Chrislocks,
enjoyed the old farmstead and lake so much that they now have a house there, just down the hill from the log house. And so, the Augsburg connections continue.

THE MEANING OF PLACE
The Pederson ties date back more than 130 years in the community—to that farm now in its sixth generation and to the church originally chartered by his grandparents and their neighbors. The log house to which people come each November is for him an icon of family and heritage.

In the invitation letter for last November’s gathering, Pederson mentioned a recent book that weaves together themes of story, place, calling, and purpose. Claiming Your Place at the Fire, by Richard Lieder and David Shapiro, challenges those entering “the second half of their life” to consider these themes in finding purpose in what they choose to do during their elder years.

Pederson sees the old farm as the locale where at this annual event these themes of aging and legacy play out. “This is a time where family and friends share life experiences, the happenings of the last year, perhaps recalling mentors from college or elsewhere, many of whom are no longer with us; reminiscing about the good times; the not-so-good times; commiserating over losses or illnesses; sometimes engaging in a bit of gossip. Sometimes it’s small groups huddling to solve the world’s problems.” Collectively, they recall stories, redefine place, renew callings, and reclaim purpose.

“Oh yes, and there’s the country church dinner, the ostensible reason for the gathering,” adds Pederson. “Each year, however, we hear some say they really come for the hour or two they spend together before the big meal, sipping cider Norwegian traditional goodies, and sharing treats they bring.”

THE LOG HOUSE AND LEGACY
Pederson’s log house, the current gathering place, wasn’t part of the original farm. The original log house disappeared long ago, and Pederson had always wanted something like his great-grandfather built in the 1870s. In 1972, he found neighbors wanting to get rid of an old log house on their farm, and he jumped at the opportunity.

An eclectic mix of history and heritage, the one main room of the cabin is barely able to contain the crowd that gathers. Hanging on the walls are the farm’s homestead documents and old photos; some of the furniture is original. Rosemaling and other memorabilia fill the area. A loft offers sleeping space, and an enclosed porch was added for additional room.

In addition to Jim and Dwight, the old farmstead has incorporated the Pedersons’ younger generations. Jim and Elaine’s son, Kirk, has his place on the farm where he and his family enjoy the summer. Their daughter, Michelle, enjoys the solitude and serenity of the farm both in summer and winter.

So, as years go by, and the annual lutefisk group continues, children and grandchildren play greater roles. “In 1959,” Pederson says, “none of us could have predicted that 50 years later we would speak of a remarkable tradition that we hope will continue far into the future.”

Last November 14, after some traditional Norwegian folk music and hymns, Elaine Pederson announced, “We hope this carries on for another 50 years—so, younger generation, we’re counting on you.”

ELAINE PEDERSON

Augsburg Now

To read more and see photos from earlier gatherings, go to www.augsburg.edu/now
ON PAPER, Augsburg College looks a lot like most other liberal arts colleges. We have similar courses, departments, and programs. We teach students to think critically and to lead responsibly in the world, which is what other schools also aim to do. And our students, staff, and faculty don’t look much different than those at the big school across the street or the small campuses across the river.

But in person we look and act differently. At Augsburg, we try to put our own creative spin on things and to look at issues from different perspectives.

For example, this year some of our first-year students and a group of faculty spent an entire semester working together on a big problem in our first “I-Term.” In another example, students in the Honors program create their very own courses, write and edit their own scholarly journal, and together shape their own learning environment. And, one of our alums has found a very creative way to do community service while also running a thriving business.

The stories in this issue represent just a few of the “out-of-the-box” programs, people, and partnerships that make us uniquely Augsburg.
What’s a great way to engage alumni? Introduce them to current students who have similar majors or interests and let them swap stories. In the end, everyone benefits.

I-Term students focused on food, fuel, and media in the non-graded Fate of the Earth course.
As a student, Jacquie Berglund '87 dreamed of helping the working poor. Today her sense of vocation drives her to take leaps of faith that make life better for others.

Items such as an olive-leaf crown are emblems for specific houses in the Honors program.

100% of the profit from every bottle sold provides help at the grassroots level.

The Honors program consists of a combination of classes, students, structure, and a whole lot of creativity.

FINNEGANS

As a student, Jacquie Berglund '87 dreamed of helping the working poor. Today her sense of vocation drives her to take leaps of faith that make life better for others.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Working closely with Cedar-Riverside and Seward residents is just one of the ways we live out our vocation to serve our neighbors.

Somali students help their classmates learn more about the symbols and dress in Muslim culture.
Imagine your ideal college education. What classes would you take? Who would teach them? What kind of students would you study with? What activities would you take part in? Where would you travel?

When Robert Groven set out to restructure the Augsburg College Honors program, he asked faculty and students these sorts of questions. At first, he said, they were silent.

“They had just accepted that college is the way it is,” Groven said. But then, they flooded him with ideas.

Students wanted more academic challenge and to be pushed by faculty. They wanted courses to include more content and classroom experiences to be more active and engaging than in high school. They wanted to learn outside the classroom and to have opportunities for unconventional learning experiences—the exact sort of education that a small college in the city can provide.
The result of all that questioning was a student-centered program where students take responsibility for their own learning, with the full support of the faculty and the resources they need to achieve their goals.

“We believe that an ideal education will be different for every student,” Groven says. “We know no one can reach an ideal goal, but we believe the process of exploring and pursuing ideals is essential to college education.”

By striving for the ideal, the program has become one where students routinely go above and beyond the requirements outlined in their syllabi. “We set a very high bar, and we insist that they get there. But they set a much higher bar for themselves than we ever would.”

UNCONVENTIONAL COURSES
Three aspects of Augsburg’s Honors courses distinguish them from courses in other college honors programs. First, each class is specifically created for the Honors program. In other words, it’s not a matter of adding an assignment or text to an existing course or simply creating a new title, Groven says. The content of Honors courses is enriched and the pace is accelerated as well.

Second, Honors courses are intentionally interdisciplinary—multiple faculty from different departments teach in each class. This spring, for example, the senior key- stone course was taught by faculty whose disciplines include sociology, social work, metro-urban studies, art, English, and theatre. Augsburg’s president, Paul Pribbenow, is one of the lead instructors, focusing on his study of Jane Adams, founder of the settlement house movement.

The course, Legacies of Chicago: Ideas and Action in Place, was conceived by Lars Christiansen of the sociology and metro-urban studies departments. The course examines how particular places are incubators for unique ideas and actions. In addition to studying about the traditions and concepts that originated in Chicago, the class traveled to the Windy City to experience the “place” firsthand.

Finally, each course has a “signature” experience—an unconventional way of learning that involves a high level of effort and also includes a public display of what the students have learned. Students are usually enthusiastic about these experiences, Groven says, because the tasks are generally open-ended and students have more freedom to make decisions about what they learn and how they learn it.

In Liberating Letters, a first-year humanities course, students put texts, authors, or fictional characters on trial, serving as judge, jury, prosecution, and defense. But before this class begins, students have to pass a test. In fact, in order to gain admission into the first session, they are required to recite the first stanza of Homer’s Odyssey from memory, solve a riddle about Greek mythology, and present the “prophecies” of three different people who know them well concerning where that student will be in 10 years.

A second type of course, which is likely more-than-ideal for many students, is the Student Created Learning Experience, or SCLE. Aptly named, these are classes created by students based on their interests. SCLEs can essentially become an independent study course for one student or 20 students and can be open to all Augsburg students.

One of the more popular SCLEs, which generated a great deal of interest when it was first introduced and again this year, was The Art, Science, and History of Brewing. In addition to learning about brewing from the perspective of different disciplines, students also brew two batches of beer and invite guest judges to evaluate the fruits of their labors.

This year senior theatre arts major David Ishida created an SCLE on swordplay to fulfill...
a physical education credit but also to explore his interest in medieval history and culture.

**STUDENTS WHO LOVE TO LEARN**

Interesting classes and outstanding faculty certainly can combine for a compelling honors program, but the character and quality of the students make Augsburg's program unique. “We are trying to look beyond good grades and test scores,” Groven comments. “We want intrinsically motivated learners—students who see ideas as living vehicles for human expression and change.”

Computer science professor Larry Crockett, who was once the Honors program director, has taught in the program for many years. While he says Honors students are pushed to rise above expectations and challenge each other, he is especially enthusiastic about the extraordinary energy coming from this year’s incoming class.

“These students are willing to dig into issues and are very receptive and energized,” Crockett says, “… not just in the classroom but on campus.” Crockett has engaged 14 current students as research assistants who will read and critique work that he is presenting at an international conference. “I hope they really come at me,” he says. “I’m counting on them to find fresh answers.”

**EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER**

There’s more to Honors at Augsburg than fun classes and energetic students. Honors also provides leadership and scholarship opportunities and fosters an environment where students often start their own activities or groups.

“Part of our philosophy is that as much learning should happen outside the classroom as inside,” Groven says.

Students are organized into houses, each of which focuses on a different area: scholarship, social justice and service, stewardship, and citizenship. Each house plans and promotes activities and also elects two house presidents who serve on the Honors Council. With faculty advisers, the council sets the policy for the program and helps solve problems.

One officially organized non-classroom learning opportunity is the Honors Review, a student-run, student-edited interdisciplinary journal of undergraduate scholarship. Taylor Norman, a senior English major and Honors student, is the current editor-in-chief.

This year the Review extended its reach and received 43 submissions from undergraduates all across the country. After articles are selected for publication, Norman and her editorial staff check citations, verify research, and then engage the author to revise and edit. “We wanted to create a scholarly environment with lots of dialogue,” Norman says.

All Honors activities and programs serve to support students so they can pursue their academic goals. “Honors tries to show students what amazing talents and abilities they have,” Groven says, and they find countless ways to apply their academic learning. For example, senior Jessica Spanswick, who majored in international relations and minored in peace and global studies, studied in Namibia for a semester and served as a Peace Scholar in connection with the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Her opportunities to volunteer for World AIDS Day in Namibia and to travel as a scholar to Chiapas, Mexico, gave her valuable hands-on global experience.

Honors program students have received many of the highest national and international academic awards available; they have been Fulbright scholars, Goldwater scholars, the College’s first Rhodes scholar, and students who have won National Science Foundation grants—and that’s still just the tip of the iceberg. Part of the program’s mission is to encourage students, many who never thought of themselves as award-winning scholars, to apply for scholarships and publication so that their work can be recognized.

These courses, the faculty who teach them, the students who take them, and the learning opportunities that happen outside the classroom all come together to try to create an ideal education for Augsburg Honors program students.

“I never think of the Honors program as being done,” Groven says. “The best program will always be different because we are constantly adapting to new technologies, new students, and new problems.”
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD  BY JEFF SHELMAN

We believe we are called to serve our neighbor. That is Augsburg’s statement of institutional vocation.

Live the experience. Love the city. Learn by living. Those words hang on banners along Riverside Avenue.

While the first is formal and the second much more conversational, both, however, sum up what Auggies do.

On a near daily basis, Augsburg students spend part of their afternoon at Trinity Lutheran Congregation helping young Somali children with topics ranging from spelling and sentence construction to subtraction and social studies. Several times a week, Auggies serve food in the gym at the Brian Coyle Community Center as part of the Campus Kitchen program. First-year Auggies in the Bonner Leaders program work with nonprofit organizations, most within a mile of campus.

Across the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and the nation, stories of neighbors and colleges clashing bubble to the surface featuring real town vs. gown tension. Augsburg’s philosophy, however, is very different.

Augsburg isn’t building walls or installing large steel gates on campus to keep the outside world out. Instead, Augsburg is reaching further out into the Cedar-Riverside and Seward neighborhoods and, in the process, the College founded by Norwegian Lutherans is working closely with the largest concentration of Somali immigrants in the United States.

WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

Let’s say one person wanted to match the amount of community service that was completed by Augsburg students during the 2008-09 school year. What would it take?

Since Auggies performed 67,000 hours of community service last year, someone would have to work for 2,791 24-hour days—more than 7.5 years—or 8,375 eight-hour work days. That’s a staggering total for a college with 2,000 traditional undergraduates and 4,000 total students.

That work has led to Augsburg’s inclusion as one of the top 25 schools in the country for service-learning by U.S. News & World Report and the Carnegie [Foundation] Classification for Community Engagement. Earlier this spring, Augsburg became the only Minnesota college or university and one of only four ELCA schools to be named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. The President’s Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to volunteering,
Augsburg Now

service-learning, and civic engagement.
“We are very proud and honored to be included in the President’s Honor Roll,” Augsburg president Paul C. Pribbenow said. “Civic work and serving our neighbor are at the core of Augsburg’s efforts to educate students for democracy.”

Last school year, 900 Augsburg students participated in service-learning and 1,200 students participated in more than 20 hours of community service per semester. Much of the community service takes place in course-embedded service-learning, something that has been part of education at Augsburg for years.

MORE THAN JUST SERVICE
Augsburg’s work in Cedar-Riverside and Seward, however, is about more than simply donating time; it is also about trying to make the neighborhood safer, more vibrant, and create opportunities for the state’s newest immigrant population.

Pribbenow currently chairs the Cedar-Riverside Partnership, a group that includes larger institutions in the neighborhood including Augsburg, Fairview hospitals, and the University of Minnesota.
“TThe accession of trust being built,” said Steve Peacock, Augsburg’s director of community relations.
“There are conversations taking place that weren’t before. There’s the coordination of infrastructure and planning among the institutions.”

Much of the work has been around safety in the neighborhood. Last summer, for example, the members of the partnership provided funding to ensure security at the Brian Coyle Community Center. There has been much more communication among security at Fairview and Augsburg, the University of Minnesota, and Minneapolis Police Departments.

Augsburg has also worked in the neighborhood in other ways, ranging from providing meeting space to sometimes even trying to build bridges. Last year, more than a dozen reporters and editors from the Minneapolis Star Tribune sat in a room in Oren Gateway Center with a dozen or so Somali community leaders and elders.

The Somali leaders talked of good things going on in their community that don’t get covered. Star Tribune editors said they would like to tell more stories, but finding Somalis willing to talk is challenging. The Somali leaders—who arrived in the United States having never experienced freedom of the press—gained a better understanding of how the media work. Reporters and editors left with new contacts and resources.

CHANGE TO THE CAMPUS
Augsburg’s involvement in Cedar-Riverside has led to a change on campus as well. With each passing fall, the number of Auggies of Somali descent grows. This fall, there are about 50 Somali students on campus. For some of them, Augsburg was the first college they ever knew. For others, there is a comfort in attending Augsburg.

Halimo Adan is a first-year student who grew up in Seward and can see the Augsburg sign atop Mortensen Hall from her home. She’s among the growing number of students on campus wearing both an Augsburg sweatshirt and a hijab, the head covering worn by Muslim women.

“People don’t ask stupid questions, they’re very open minded,” said Adan, who came to the U.S. when she was 9 years old. “Even though I’ve been here most of my life, when you get asked questions all the time, you feel like you don’t belong.”

But at Augsburg, neighbors are always welcome.

First-year students file into the Northern Clay Center to help with clean-up on City Service Day.
For Daley Konchar Farr, the lack of grades was motivation for signing up, but the discussions and professors’ involvement were more rewarding aspects of I-Term.
It isn't quite a chicken or egg kind of question, but it is an academic conundrum along the same line.

Just how important are grades on a college campus when it comes to actual learning? Do grades really reflect how much a student has learned? Or do students do just enough to get the grade they want? And what happens if you take letter grades and numerical marks completely out of the equation?

That's what 50 Augsburg first-year students, five professors, and several staff members tried to find out this past fall. The Integrated Term, Fate of the Earth 101: Consumption of Food, Fuel, and Media in Contemporary Culture, was more than just a different way to package and deliver several general education courses; it was a semester that challenged many of the standard conventions about what a college education is or should be.

There were no traditional letter grades for this learning community nor was there a static syllabus passed out on the first day. This was a term that focused on doing, on students having a say in what they would be evaluated on, and on professors writing detailed evaluations about both what students had accomplished and where they needed to continue to work. Sitting lifeless in the back row and regurgitating enough facts to pass wasn’t an option this term.

“This was much more work than grad ing,” English professor Robert Cowgill said. “But I thought it was a major success.”

Most of the students—many of whom were drawn to the I-Term because of the environmental focus or the alternative evaluation method—agreed. Daley Konchar Farr called the semester-long experiment empowering. Veronica Berg said she was pushed to do things she wasn’t sure were possible just one semester into her college career. Katelin Grote called the whole thing life changing.

Some of that was because the I-Term, which showed just how parts of a liberal arts education are interconnected, was their entire load for the semester. I-Term students who successfully completed the course received credit for English 101 or 111 (writing), Religion 100 (Christian Vocation and the Search for Meaning I), History 101 (Western Civilization), Sociology 101 (Introduction to Human Society) and AugSem (first-year seminar). They also completed their Engaging Minneapolis requirement.

**REASONS FOR NOT GRADING**

When a group of professors returned from a conference at The Evergreen State College in Washington in 2007, the goal was to find a way for Augsburg to experiment with a learning community model of teaching as well as non-traditional evaluation methods.

Over the next two years, the professors worked with the dean’s office to make this a reality. How was this term going to be structured? Were groups such as Faculty Senate supportive? How would students receive credit? How would the narrative evaluations fit into the very traditional transcript?

Once hurdles were cleared, plans were set for a three-year pilot program of the non-graded Integrated Term. The faculty designers of the I-Term hope that the students who spend a semester focused on learning instead of simply making a grade will have higher retention and graduation rates. The longer-term outcomes of the experiment won’t be clear for several years, but this group and subsequent groups of I-Term students will be tracked by the College.

While the word “experiment” is often tossed around rather loosely on college campuses, the I-Term is certainly unique. Sociology professor Lars Christiansen, an I-Term faculty member who has studied alternative evaluation methods, said that about 15 colleges and universities across the country have experimented with non-graded courses. Some are completely non-graded while others are partially graded or have reverted back to traditional grading. Alverno College in Milwaukee is one of the only schools in the Midwest that is grade free.

No grades, however, doesn’t equal no evaluation. In almost every case, I-Term students had a greater grasp of where they stood. They worked very closely with the two English professors on their writing, and received regular written feedback from the other faculty members.

“It was kind of like tough love,” Maryam Ayir said. “You knew exactly what you had to work on.”

Konchar Farr signed up for the I-Term both because of the subject matter, and also because of lack of traditional grades.

“Grades are false motivation,” she said. “In high school, I didn’t get anything out of getting As if I didn’t learn. [Here], I really appreciated that things were so discussion-based and how involved the professors were. They were so dedicated to our work.”

For Christiansen, the best thing from the semester is that Augsburg now has the framework in place to continue experimenting with alternative evaluation methods. There is now the ability for the narrative evaluations to accompany a student’s transcript. And there is also at least some appetite from students to not have a semester of work boiled down to simply a number.

“The majority of students said it was a good
experience to not have grades and they liked the ongoing evaluation,” he said. “It shows me that if you provide it, people will try it, and many will like it. Why don’t we make it an option generally? It’s not dissimilar to our transportation system. Until the last few years, many didn’t believe they had options other than driving. The I-Term is akin to the Hiawatha (light rail) Line: Once a viable alternative is provided, people may see it as useful and desirable.”

**LEARNING BY DOING**

Unchained from the burden of grades, students could concentrate on really learning and figuring out what truly motivates them. And without traditional exercises like exams, students in Fate of the Earth 101 demonstrated their advancement through semester-long projects that incorporated something under the broad umbrella of food, fuel, or media.

One group of students met with staff members from Sen. Amy Klobuchar’s office about how the bodies of women are portrayed in advertisements. Pushing Best Buy to be more environmentally friendly in its stores was what another group sought. Others looked into the feasibility of Augsburg capturing solar energy and purchasing more locally grown food.

“Those are the kinds of things we were hoping would happen,” Christiansen said. “We were hoping through the experiences of the I-Term that [students] were here to learn and that they were here to understand themselves as possible change agents—and that collaboration is an essential component.”

And while most courses end as soon as that final exam is completed, a number of the I-Term students are continuing with the ongoing work of their projects. For example, Berg was part of a group that created the website www.mnhomelessyouth.org. Those students met both with representatives from Minneapolis Public Schools and a group working on homeless issues, before and during the spring semester.

“It didn’t just end at the end of the course,” history professor Phil Adamo said. “They continue to be engaged.”

Because of what they were asked to do, many of the I-Term students accomplished more than they thought possible just months removed from high school graduation.

“We were learning at a different level, we were getting to project ourselves at a bigger level,” Berg said. “To sit at the table as a contributor with some of these agencies was something I didn’t think I’d be able to do for many years.”

That theme was a common one.

“One thing we repeatedly heard was the notion that they were empowered with what they were able to accomplish by the end of their first semester in college,” religion professor Lori Brandt Hale said. “They were surprised and excited about how they will be able to leverage that moving forward.”

**CHANGING TEACHING METHODS**

Like the other I-Term professors, Colin Irvine is back teaching more traditional courses this semester. An English faculty member, Irvine has a collection of writing and literature classes this spring.

But Irvine acknowledges that he is teaching differently this semester. And the I-Term had much to do with that.

“It made me complicate my classes,” he said. “I’m not content with the way I was teaching before. I’m not content with the assignments I was giving. I’m making them more fun, more relevant, and harder to assess. I can’t allow myself to teach the way I’ve always taught.”

Irvine talked about a conversation with a biology major who is taking his environmental literature course this season. The student said he’s been doing the reading, working hard, and attending writing lab sessions.

“But he said, ‘I don’t know how I’m doing,’” Irvine said. “I told him, ‘Are you kidding me? That’s exactly what I want you to do, you’re figuring it out, you’re doing great.’”

Because just like the I-Term students who have adjusted to courses with traditional grading, almost everyone involved in the experiment has a better idea of what motivates them and just how important learning is.

**I-TERM CREATORS/DESIGNERS**

| Phil Adamo, History, Medieval Studies |
| Lars Christiansen, Sociology, Metro-Urban Studies |
| Robert Coghill, English, Film Studies |
| Stacy Cutinella, Lindell Library |
| Lori Brandt Hale, Religion |
| Colin Irvine, English, Environmental Studies |
| Nathan Lind, Information Technology |
| Alyson Olson, TRIO Student Services |
| Beverly Stratton, Religion |

**PROJECTS THE STUDENTS WORKED ON**

- Addressing women’s body representations in advertising by creating a legislative bill requiring advertisers to indicate the presence of air-brushing and similar touch-ups
- Website that centralizes resources for homeless youth in the Twin Cities
- Energy-producing exercise bicycles at Augsburg’s Kennedy Center
- Reducing water waste at Augsburg
- Increasing local food sourcing at Augsburg, particularly meat and cheese
- Assisting in developing curbside composting in Minneapolis
- Reducing paper waste at Augsburg bookstore
- Improving environmental practices at Best Buy
- Composting at Maple Grove High School
“I read this article in *Time* magazine, interviewing all of these 80- and 90-year-old people,” said Jacquie Berglund ’87. “The overwhelming feedback from their question, ‘If you could change one thing, what would it be?’ was that they all wish they had taken more risks.”

That was 1983, when Berglund was in her first year at Augsburg College. Since then, she has faced many risks on her way to building one of Minnesota’s most successful social enterprises—an enterprise that uses beer sales to fund its community foundation.

One of her first risks? Backpacking through Europe during her sophomore year in the face of parental disapproval.

“My parents didn’t want me to do it,” Berglund said. “[My English professor] said, ‘Jacquie, you should absolutely do it. Let’s come up with a way for you to get credit for it here.’”

With that, Berglund ventured across the Atlantic for six weeks under the banner of an Augsburg creative-writing course. Her experience fostered a travel bug that would lead her back for a seven-year long stay in France after Augsburg. “[Backpacking] helped me to think globally and really changed my perspective,” Berglund said. “That was a powerful turning point for me.”

Graduating from Augsburg in 1987 with a degree in communication studies, Berglund ’87 knew that with passion and patience she could fulfill her dream of making a difference in her community.
and a minor in political science, Berglund combined an interest in nonprofits with her travel experience to pursue work in international development. By 1990, she had taken an internship in Paris at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the same group that helped administer the Marshall Plan after World War II. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Berglund found herself working with the best entrepreneurial minds at OECD to develop regional economies in former Soviet bloc countries.

“We were training government officials, and these guys were all communists—they didn’t want to learn [about how to build free markets],” Berglund said. “I felt like we went in and did all of this work and spent all of this money, and I don’t know what impact we really had. Then I thought, ‘you know, I think the real work is done at the grassroots level.’ I would see the people at the grassroots level in these countries and they were really making a difference, and I thought, ‘that’s where I have to be. I’ve got to get there.’ I just didn’t know how I was going to get there, but that’s where I wanted to go.”

While at OECD, Berglund earned her master’s degree in international relations from the American Graduate School in Paris. However, by 1997 Berglund found herself needing expensive back surgery, so she returned to the Twin Cities to work as marketing director for her old friend, Kieran Folliard, restauranteur and owner of Cara Irish Pubs LP.

One of Berglund’s duties as marketing director was to help Folliard distribute charitable gifts in the Twin Cities. They found themselves giving grants to any organization that asked. Eventually, their CFO put the brakes on their charity bonanza and told them they needed a better strategy. Berglund agreed: she recognized from her OECD days that the Cara Pubs money wasn’t making the desired impact.

Berglund had also just attended a conference in Washington, D.C., on self-sustaining nonprofits.

“That’s when I thought: we sell beer all day,” Berglund said. “What if we create our own beer, and we choose to give all of the profits from this one beer to our own foundation, and then we pick one cause, and we really make a difference? It took me a little while to sell Kieran on the idea.”

With that, Berglund and Folliard set about creating Finnegan’s Irish Amber, named in reference to James Joyce’s final work. They contacted James Page Brewing Company in Minneapolis to help them create the beer, eventually selecting one recipe from over 40 options provided by the brewmaster.

At this point, Berglund and Folliard realized that running Finnegan’s and its community foundation would consume all of Berglund’s time. That left one choice: quit Cara Pubs and focus on Finnegan’s, or let the idea die.

Berglund bought the Finnegan’s recipe for $1 from Folliard.

“That was kind of scary, leaving that job, from having a good salary to no salary,” Berglund said. “It was very scary. It was rather terrifying. I’ve had a lot of terrifying moments—I must handle stress well. I’m still waking and talking and not in a straitjacket.”

Starting in 2000, Berglund created for-profit Finnegan’s Inc., which donates all of its profits from beer sales to her nonprofit
creation, which is now called Finnegan’s Community Fund. She taught herself the beer trade. James Page produced Finnegan’s on contract, but she was responsible for selling it to distributors.

“I didn’t even know what a keg fee was,” Berglund recalls.

Finnegan’s community focus sold the beer. Distributors, liquor stores, bars, and restaurants in the Twin Cities were sympathetic to Berglund’s cause—and it helped that the beer was popular during the burgeoning craft brew craze. Though she wasn’t turning a profit yet, Berglund was able to make a $2,000 donation in her first year of operation.

Then, James Page Brewing Company shut down in 2002.

“I was a mess—I was totally a mess,” Berglund said. “I started to panic: ‘If they go out of business, I’m going to go out of business.’”

Thinking quickly, Berglund contacted Mark Stutrud, founder of Summit Brewing Company in St. Paul.

“They really didn’t do contract brewing, but I think that [Stutrud] appreciated the community-mindedness of what I was doing,” Berglund said. “Plus, I already had a list of accounts, so I already had a proven track record that I could make this thing work.”

To this day, Finnegan’s is produced at Summit. In 2003, Finnegan’s made its first profit. By 2009, Finnegan’s was selling 4,300 barrels per year to 475 restaurants and 600 liquor stores in Minnesota and beyond—which translated into $30,000 for the Finnegan’s Community Fund. That money, in addition to direct donations, is being used to fund local grassroots community organizations that are helping the working poor.

“When I came back from France, I volunteered in St. Steven’s shelter in Minneapolis,” Berglund said. “I got to see for myself … a lot of these guys get up to work factory jobs at 3 or 4 o’clock in the morning. I saw how many of these guys were working and still homeless.”

The needs of the working poor strike a personal chord for Berglund. Growing up, her father started working as a janitor before moving up the ranks, while her mother was a waitress.

“I remember as a kid not being able to participate in church activities because we didn’t have the money,” Berglund said. “I feel so fortunate to be able to have done all of the things that I do. I think that, ‘Boy, it’s nice to give back a little bit.’ We owe a bit of gratitude.”

That background helps explain Berglund’s drive to build a self-sustaining nonprofit that can help the working poor regardless of government grants or philanthropic whims. But it also comes down to faith in your vocation.

“Whenever I do speaking engagements, that’s my whole thing: It’s about following your passions, and then at some point, the dots will connect. Even though it seems so remote that they could possibly connect,” Berglund said. “When I came back and was working in the pub, I thought, ‘What am I doing here? How does this connect to this whole dream job I had of international development projects?’ I just had faith that it’s going to come—I’m going to find it. It’s kind of that whole ‘calling’ thing at Augsburg—I knew I was going to find it, it was just going to take a minute.”
One student heard about a fire that broke out in one of the houses on campus in the 1970s. Another enjoyed hearing perspectives from a studio art major about his work at a financial organization. A third met with an alum who fondly remembers the tasty cinnamon rolls that students often got in Morton Hall in the mid-1950s.

Twenty students working in the Alumni and Constituent Relations Office recently completed the first year of Project IGNITE. They’ve been meeting with alumni to learn more about the role that the College played in the lives of the alumni and to share stories and experiences about Augsburg then and now.

Senior Brittany Goff is the intern who directs the students’ work for Project IGNITE. Once she hand-matches students and alums who share similar majors and/or interests, a letter from President Pribbenow is sent explaining the program and alerting the alum to a future call from a student. The student will invite the alum to a meeting preferably on campus or at a convenient coffee shop.

That first contact can be a little daunting for students, but knowing they share interests makes it easier. Melissa Herrick, a
communication studies and art sophomore, says it
tells the alum that “this is not a random call; there's
a reason I'm calling you,” which, in her case, is to
share with them what art at Augsburg is like now and
to hear about their experience studying art at
Augsburg.

STUDENTS CONNECT WITH ALUMNI
On a cold day last fall, Herrick met with Patti Lloyd
’83, who owns a web development and interactive
marketing company. While Lloyd was an international
business major and not an art major, the two immedi-
ately discovered common interests in web design.
Herrick was trying to plan a webpage for an arts proj-
ect and was delighted to get some ideas from Lloyd.
“We had a great meeting,” says Lloyd, “and when
she left, I think she felt comfortable that all the re-
sources were there for her project.”

One of the meetings that Goff enjoyed was with a
physician. In the conversation, Goff, a psychology
major, learned about the physician's medical prac-
tice that has included a psychologist and a nurse,
enabling him to offer both physical and mental test-
ing and care. “This was really a great experience for
me,” Goff says, “to help me consider my future ca-
reer and the option to be in a practice like that.”

Adam Spanier, sophomore class president and an
Honors student, says he has met many interesting
people through Project IGNITE. His favorite aspect
of the program, he says, is “hearing the many dif-
ferent bits of advice and wisdom that alumni have
to offer.”

ALUMNI ENJOY RECONNECTING
Most alumni contacted in Project IGNITE aregrad-
uates who have not been active in alumni activities
or participated recently in events. Re-engaging with
their alma mater through Project IGNITE has also
been enjoyable for them, especially seeing the
College through the eyes of current students.

Christopher Haug ’79 was one of the alumni
Spanier met last fall. “What benefited me the
most,” Haug says, “is that I felt I was connected
again with my school. There’s nothing like a face-
to-face relationship with a person who is going through
the experience.”

Haug and his partner returned to campus in December
for the Advent Vespers dinner and enjoyed talking with
people they knew and meeting others.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE
Pat Grans, the Project IGNITE volunteer coordinator,
follows up with the interests and/or requests that stu-
dents bring back from the alumni visits. She crafts indi-
vidual plans recommending events and volunteer
opportunities that could include speaking in a class,
inviting a student to job shadow, or helping with regis-
tration at an event. Or, Grans can seek to create a tai-
lored opportunity based on the alum’s interests.

Grans has now developed volunteer job descriptions
and oversees all aspects of recruiting, training, schedul-
ing, supervising, and recognizing volunteers.
HAS PROJECT IGNITE MADE A DIFFERENCE?
Project IGNITE means Involving Graduates Now In Thoughtful Engagement. A three-year project funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Project IGNITE is designed to serve as a model to help other colleges and universities engage their alumni.

What makes Project IGNITE an out-of-the-box program and readily transferable are several components that together offer lifelong alumni connections:

- One-to-one interaction between students and alumni—who better to talk about the college experience and re-engage alumni than current students?
- Mutually beneficial matching of student and alumni majors and interests
- Individualized and ongoing follow-up from a volunteer coordinator to keep engagement and energy alive

In the project’s first six months at Augsburg, both attendance at events and volunteering have increased. Of the alumni the IGNITE students have visited during this time, 14% have now attended College events. Nearly 76% have expressed interest in volunteering; and of those, 20% have begun. More than 1,800 hours of volunteer time have been logged.

Kim Stone, director of alumni and constituent relations, is excited by the results. She attributes success to the total package Project IGNITE makes possible—engaging students in the alumni program before they graduate, encouraging ongoing attendance at alumni events, and keeping alumni connected to campus through meaningful volunteering.

For more information or to arrange to meet with an IGNITE student, contact the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations at alumni@augsburg.edu or 612-330-1085.

“WELCOME TO AUGSBURG”
Larry Menzel ’67 retired three years ago from a long career as a Kmart executive in 17 locations across the Upper Midwest. Working with people was what his job was all about, and in retirement he wanted to be able to continue that.

When volunteer coordinator Pat Grans sent a mailing about Augsburg’s new volunteer program, it sparked his interest. Despite the fact that he hadn’t been on campus since graduation, he still felt a connection.

“Since my wife was gone from the house regularly on Friday mornings, I thought it would be a good time for me to do something, too,” Menzel says. He called Grans to talk about volunteering.

Grans suggested that he staff the welcome desk in Oren Gateway Center on Friday mornings, and he thought that sounded good.

In addition to helping people find their way around the building and answering questions, he also provides help to the Institutional Advancement staff. Soon he found himself at Homecoming and other events, which pleases his wife, too, as she sees him doing things he enjoys.

His advice to current students he meets? “Study hard, find a rewarding life, and follow the principles of God, family, and work—in that order.”

Melissa Herrick, an art and communication studies major who is working on a web project, found a natural connection with Patti Lloyd ’83, the owner of a web development company.
THE BOD POD lives upstairs in the Kennedy Center kinesiology lab. It’s a high-tech apparatus that provides fast, safe, and accurate measurements of body composition, detailing fat and lean body mass. It provides useful information for measuring the effectiveness of exercise and nutrition, fine-tuning top athletic performance, and tracking the progress of obesity and disease.

Since Bod Pods are found mostly in fitness facilities and elite training centers, Augsburg’s health, physical education, and health fitness majors are fortunate to have this in their learning portfolio. Used primarily in kinesiology and exercise physiology classes, students learn how to run the Bod Pod, interpret the results, and incorporate recommendations into specialized training plans.

If you are interested in being measured in the Bod Pod, contact Professor Tony Clapp at clapp@augsburg.edu or 612-330-1618.

THE BOD POD

1. The Bod Pod
2. Data acquisition box—interprets test data coming from the Bod Pod measurements
3. Computer hardware that processes all measurements, manages data, and provides customized printouts of the test data
4. Calibration standards—Weights used to calibrate the Bod Pod before each person is measured, to assure accuracy when the person’s weight is entered
5. “Fast Eddie”—The Auggies’ own skeleton used in health and physical education classes. He arrived when the Kennedy Center opened in 2007.
6. Anatomical charts most likely dating from the opening of Science Hall in 1949, recently found rolled up in a storage closet. They’re now taking on new life in the Health, Physical Education, and Health Fitness Department.
7. Professor Tony Clapp, demonstrating the Bod Pod procedure:
   - Wear spandex-type swimsuit or bike shorts and a swim cap
   - Sit in the Bod Pod while measurements take about 30 seconds
   - Get printouts of test results in about five minutes
The annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum (see story on page 10) is the result of just one of the many unique partnerships at Augsburg College. It is the only program or academic affiliation of the Norwegian Nobel Institute outside of Norway.

Here are a few more examples of Augsburg’s out-of-the-box partnerships.

NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIONS
The Cedar-Riverside Partnership was founded in 2008 to foster collaboration among existing community organizations—the African Development Center, Pillsbury United Communities, West Bank Community Coalition, the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program, and the West Bank Business Association—and local government bodies and institutions, including the city and county, the University of Minnesota, Fairview Health Services, and Augsburg College.

“The goal of the partnership,” says Steve Peacock, Augsburg director of community relations, “is to leverage these organizations’ collective resources to strengthen Cedar-Riverside as a vibrant place in which to live, learn, and work.”

The partnership is chaired by Augsburg President Paul Pribbenow.

BUSINESS FEASIBILITY
Augsburg plays an active role in the Mayo Innovation Scholars Program (MISP), a unique partnership with the Mayo Clinic that offers an experiential learning opportunity for both graduate and undergraduate students. Through the program, undergraduate and business students from select Minnesota private colleges are teamed with MBA project leaders from either Augsburg College or the University of St. Thomas to evaluate the commercial potential for patent ideas submitted through the Mayo Clinic Office of Intellectual Property.

This year, Augsburg had five teams working on projects—two in Rochester and three in Minneapolis—which presented their findings and recommendations to professionals at the Mayo Clinic in March.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
The Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC) was founded in 1975 by five liberal arts institutions—Augsburg, Hamline, Macalester, St. Catherine, and St. Thomas—to provide cooperative programs and services for students, faculty, and administrators.

In 2009, the consortium’s Chief Academic Officers Council, chaired by Barbara Farley, Augsburg’s vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, renewed its efforts to explore common areas of academic opportunity using a focus on “sustainable urban development.”

“This theme truly ties us together as colleges in the Twin Cities,” Farley says. “Broadly defined, it includes education, health care, transportation, housing, and environmental concerns, offering a rich platform for exploring strategies for enhancing shared academic programs.”

PARTNERS ON CAMPUS
In recent years, two of Augsburg’s community partnerships have become integrated into the College: Campus Kitchen and the Minnesota Urban Debate League—both of which operate under the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning.

In 2003, Augsburg became the fourth college campus in the U.S. to join the Campus Kitchens Project. The program provides meal preparation and delivery to neighborhood organizations, nutrition and food preparation classes for area youth, and outreach to the surrounding neighborhood through the continuously expanding community garden. Augsburg is the first college to wholly integrate its Campus Kitchen as part of the College.

The Minnesota Urban Debate League has had a relationship with Augsburg since 2004 and became part of the College in summer 2009. This move allowed the league to focus less on administrative operations and more on reaching urban middle and high school students. In the past year, the program doubled to 350 students and teaches important skills like research, writing, thesis development, and public speaking.

CONNECTING YOUTH TO CHURCHES
Now in its 19th year, the Augsburg College Congregational Youth Basketball League partners with dozens of metro-area churches to involve junior high and high school boys and girls in an annual basketball league that emphasizes fun, service, sponsorship, participation, relationships, and growth in one’s faith.

The program was founded by Augsburg pastor Dave Wold to help keep youth connected to churches. The league starts in January each year and culminates in a March tournament on Augsburg’s campus that involves more than 1,000 players, coaches, officials, and volunteers from Augsburg and area churches.

“The program is very successful at enabling our churches to connect with a greater number of young people,” Wold said, “providing the opportunity for them to have some fun; get some exercise; build relationships with teammates, coaches, youth workers, and pastors; and have an encounter with God.”
As I write this article we’ve headed into the spring season, and a couple of words appear in my mind: renewal and growth. We can see our world transform around us with a renewed sense of purpose—growth. Trees are beginning to bud, early flowers are beginning to show their bright colors, and I think this lifts our spirits and warms our hearts to the possibility and purpose of our world.

It is this renewal and growth I want to discuss with you in this my last article as president of the Alumni Association, as it chooses new leadership in June.

One of my main goals this year was that of growth for the Alumni Association—not only in size, but also in commitment and involvement in activities and events that enrich and add value to your life.

Every year, the Augsburg Alumni Association’s Board of Directors spends a great deal of time in the creation, planning, and execution of events designed to raise awareness, renew involvement, and create a sense of community among alumni.

Looking back on the year, alumni have had opportunities to come together in ways we have not been seen in many years. Examples of this are the more than 700 alumni who attended the Canterbury Park event last August, the capacity turnout for events such as the Winter Wine Tasting, the Eye-Opener Breakfast Series, and the Young Alumni Council events, as well as alumni attendance at the Guthrie performance of Macbeth. These events and activities are just a few that have been exceedingly well received; and the leadership of the Alumni Association as well as the College’s dedicated staff from the Alumni and Constituent Relations Office plan to enhance what has been a very successful year.

I am very grateful for having the opportunity to represent the alumni this year as well as for all of the hard work and dedication of those who helped make this year so successful. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming years and plan to continue contributing to this wonderful organization dedicated to the alumni of Augsburg College.

I wish you a wonderful spring—please continue to check back with the College, as something new will always be springing to life.
Journeying to Italy

When I returned to Augsburg in fall 2004 after dropping out a year earlier, I was eager to reform the lackluster study habits that had plagued my academic career. At every fork in the road, I purposefully chose the path I previously would never have considered. And that’s how I, a young man who spent his entire adolescence hating to travel, jumped at the chance to study in El Salvador.

There, we witnessed previously unimagined poverty and became inspired by countless acts of resilience. The little free time available was spent in discussions, journals, and books. There were no moments wasted and no words ignored.

That summer, I studied literature in France, and over the next two years, I went on to study in Nicaragua, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania and volunteered on a mission trip to Mexico.

Upon graduating in May 2007, I feared my opportunities to continue traveling overseas had vanished. The expansive summer and holiday breaks were gone; the immediate walls of my work cubicle provided no horizon to look beyond. Fortunately, I spotted a chance to break the monotony—Professor Kristin Anderson was leading a travel seminar to study Italian art and architecture.

In November, I boarded a plane alongside 25 other seminar participants. During our journey through Padua, Venice, Ravenna, Florence, Orvieto, the ancient ruins in Pompeii, Naples, Rome, and Vatican City, we viewed wondrous landscapes, observed countless works of art, and walked through dozens of secularly decorated churches. Day by day, my learning regarding ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and baroque art and architecture grew, thanks to the knowledge shared by Professor Anderson. I came to better appreciate works I already knew—Michelangelo’s David, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel—and discovered wonderful artists—Bernini, Carravaggio—I previously knew nothing about.

Between visits to churches and museums, we made time for wine tasting on a Tuscan vineyard and a tour on an olive farm. Food and drink took on greater significance while in Italy. An expansive dinner coupled with lively conversation regularly served as an evening’s event. My roommate, a chatty substitute science teacher from Lester Prairie named Gordon, celebrated his 70th birthday in Orvieto during one of our four-course dinners.

The trip to Italy allowed me to escape the stresses of home for a couple weeks and infused me with a new appreciation of visual art. It was a fitting continuation of the travel experiences I began while studying at Augsburg.

JEREMY ANDERSON ’07

Young Alumni Summer Series

The Young Alumni Summer Series is back in 2010 with exciting new events and favorites from last year.

- Seven Corners kick-off party—May 21, 5–8 p.m., at Preston’s
- Networking at Fuji-ya in Uptown—June 17, 5–7 p.m.
- Minnesota Twins game at Target Field—July 15, 7 p.m.
- Auggie Night at the Races, Canterbury Park—Aug. 5
- Summit Brewery tour—Aug. 21, 1 p.m.
- End of Summer Bash—Sept. 16, 5–7 p.m., at Seven UltraLounge

For more information and to register, go to www.augsburg.edu/alumnievents and join the Young Alumni group on facebook. To get involved in the Young Alumni Council, call 612-330-1178 or e-mail storma@augsburg.edu.

Journey to the Emerald Isle

(Note change of date to May 2011)

Join friends from the Augsburg College community in early May 2011 for an in-depth journey through Ireland with Phillip Adamo, associate professor and chair of the History Department, director of Augsburg’s medieval studies program, and experienced study tour leader. He looks forward to returning to Ireland with alumni and friends to explore centuries of heroic history including sites dating to 9,000 BC. Experience the intense rugged beauty of land carved from the sea contrasting with the meticulous gardens of stately castles. Discover the spirit and historic significance of Celtic Christianity, visiting ancient monastic communities where Christianity flourished during the Dark Ages. Celebrate contemporary Irish culture with passion-filled music and food at local pubs.

To receive additional updates on the tour and be among the first to receive a tour brochure by late June, contact Alumni Relations, 612-330-1178 or alumni@augsburg.edu. Don’t hesitate to be included on the interested list as the alumni tour to Italy last year filled quickly and had a waiting list. Join us at the information session on Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Oren Gateway Center.

The Augsburg Choir Legacy

Recordings will be available soon!

Three boxed sets, each containing five CDs, present remastered recordings of the Augsburg Choir over 30 years, from 1949–79. Included with each order is a monograph by Bill Halverson ’51 about Leland B. Sateren’s life and career. Cost: $49 per boxed set; $135 for all three boxed sets, plus shipping and handling.

For information about availability and ordering, go to www.augsburg.edu/music.

GO GREEN

The Augsburg Alumni Association is reducing print mailings and relying more on technology to get the word out about events. To stay in the loop, update your contact information at www.augsburg.edu/alumni or e-mail the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@augsburg.edu to receive NOW@Augsburg, the monthly news and information e-newsletter. You can also stay up to date by becoming a friend of Auggie Eagle on Facebook.
class notes

53 Dr. Leland Fairbanks, Tempe, Ariz., was recognized by Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights (ANR) with the 2009 ANR Smokefree Hero of the Year Award during the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in Phoenix, Ariz. on June 9. He is the longtime president of Arizonans Concerned About Smoking (ACAS).

56 Len Brown and Mavis (Danielson) ’60, Baxter, Minn., were featured on brainerddispatch.com for their tradition of traveling the region to find and enjoy lutefisk dinners. In 2007, they went to 13 spots, because of the Auggiettes’ pioneering efforts in promoting women’s sports.

58 Mabeth (Saure) Gyllstrom was recently featured in the Fergus Falls Daily Journal in a story about her background and work in retirement as director of the Zion Lutheran Church choir in Amor, Minn. She currently lives on Otter Tail Lake, Minn.

60 Ruth (Carlson) Olson was inducted into the Fairbault High School Hall of Fame on October 1. For 20 years she coached gymnastics, kept score for volleyball, reported for track meets, etc. as the sports liaison between the junior and senior high schools. It was her Augsburg career as an Auggiette on the women’s basketball team, however, that earned her the Hall of Fame spot, because of the Auggiettes’ pioneering efforts in promoting women’s sports.

62 Rev. Jim Quitno and his wife, Mary, Spirit Lake, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2009. Jim retired from the pastorate in 2002 after being at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake for 27 years, but both he and Mary remain active volunteers in retirement. Last year Jim was honored with the June Character Counts Spotlight Award.

Dennis Kalpin, Alexandria, Minn., was honored with the George Haun Award last October, given by the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association (MSHSCA) for leadership in promoting the mission of MSHSCA. He retired in 2007 after a 40-year career teaching mathematics and coaching football, mostly in Alexandria.

64 Mary (Strom) Dyrd was honored as the recipient of the 2010 Peter Hess Memorial Faculty Recognition Award on February 22 at the Spring Awards Ceremony at Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls, Minn. She has taught there since 1993 and currently teaches Spanish; she and her husband, Loiell ’62, live in Thief River Falls.

67 Jerry Peterson, hockey and soccer coach at Bloomington (Minn.) Kennedy High School from 1967–1992 was inducted into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in October. Following retirement in 1992, he served as student activities coordinator until 2001.

80 Kathy Lindquist-Blilie, and her husband, Eric, Blaine, Minn., announce the birth of their daughter, Anne Elizabeth, born May 6, 2009. She joins her siblings, Andrew (7-1/2), Alexander (5), and Erin (2-1/2).

74 Lambda House reunion Ten Auggie women, all 1974 grads, had their own 35th reunion on Gull Lake, on the same weekend as Homecoming last fall. The women began as freshmen on the first floor in Urness, then moved to the ninth floor as sophomores, and then lived at Lambda House (no longer standing) as juniors and seniors. They’ve continued to see each other several times a year and now have begun taking longer trips together. All live in Minnesota, except for Barb (Ruud) Revueltas who lives in Los Angeles. Three women are married to Auggies, who lived together in a house around the corner from Lambda House.

The 10 women are Linda (Lundeen) Dunn, Linda (Bailey) Holmen (married to Ken Holmen ’74), Laurie (Johnson) Thorp (married to Tim Thorp ’74), Barb (Ruud) Revueltas, Marlene (Chan) Hui, Debbie (Rowley) Hasti, Mary Ratzlaff, Diane (Johnson) Moen, Carla (Johnson) Velenchenko, Chris (Henry) Thompson (married to Gary Thompson ’74).
00 Leslie (Lucas) Wiede ’07 MSW and her husband, Matthew, welcomed twin boys, Lucas and Hunter, on April 3, 2009.

01 Sarah (Wilhelm) married Chris Uwimana in Burnsville, Minn., on October 24, surrounded by family and friends. Sarah is a buyer at Supervalu and Chris is a business analyst at DRC. They live in Bloomington, Minn.

02 Jackie (Heyda) married Joshua Eyberg on Nov. 27. She is in her seventh year of teaching in the New Prague (Minn.) Area School District and is a first-grade teacher at Eagle View Elementary School in Elko New Market. They live in Burnsville, Minn.

03 Peter Samargia married Angela Gustafson on August 15 in Biwabik, Minn. They traveled around Lake Vermillion on a houseboat for their honeymoon. Peter runs his own business, Attitude Goaltending, LLC, and is a goalie coach for the Augsburg men’s hockey team. Angela is a property manager for Colliers Turley Martin Tucker.

04 Emily Gerard and her husband, Craig Maus, welcomed the birth of their second daughter, Lilia, on November 17. Pictured are Craig and Emily, with Lilia and Caroline.

05 Jeffrey Nodland was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for Texas Petrochemicals Inc. He is currently the president, CEO, and a director of KIK Custom Products.

06 Marianne (Lundberg) Kulka became director of business development in Minnesota in July 2009 with TMP Worldwide Advertising and Communications, a full-service recruitment marketing agency headquartered in New York.

07 Mary (Primm) Lingen’s watercolor paintings of Minnesota landscapes were on display at the James Wegner Art Gallery on the West Campus of Riverland Community College in Austin, Minn., in October. Since graduating from Augsburg, she has had more than 30 solo exhibits and numerous group and juried exhibitions.

08 Kurt Strelnieks accepted a position as vice president-account executive, managing existing client relationships, at First Business Capital Corp. in Madison, Wis., in February.

09 Mike Kilgore was the recipient in October of the Conservation Minnesota Leadership Award for his work as chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, a Minnesota Legislature advisory body in charge of “restoring, protecting, and enhancing of Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

10 Jane Helmske, managing editor at KARE-11 TV, was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle in September by the Upper Midwest Chapter. Silver Circle members have displayed superior contributions to the television history and/or NATAS for at least 25 years.

11 Anne Panning was recently named the New York 2009 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). She was also awarded the Lillian H. Fairchild Award by the University of Rochester for her book, Super America. Her latest work has appeared in West Branch, Ascent (www.readthebestwriting.com), River Teeth, and Women and Gender, a Pearson Longman textbook. She has recently started a blog about reading, writing, teaching, travel, and family called www.thepapersandwich.blogspot.com.

12 Rev. Rozenia Fuller was awarded a 2009 TRiO Achievers Award from the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP). The award recognizes outstanding former participants in the federal TRiO programs who have made significant civic, community, or professional contributions. She was also recently inducted into the 2009 Minneapolis Community and Technical College Hall of Fame.

13 Betty J. Vangorder, director of finance and human resources at Apex Print Technologies, has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in financial operations. In her job, she is responsible for managing financial reporting for the company, budgeting, forecasting, overseeing 18 employees and performing human resources duties.
Lance Campbell, Stewartville, Minn., was awarded his certified public accountant license last fall and was promoted to senior accountant at Wolter & Raak, Ltd. in Rochester, Minn.

Michelle (Connolly) married Matthew Ariola on July 11 at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake, Minn. They honeymooned in Alaska and now live in Blaine, Minn. Michelle is a kindergarten teacher in Sorteberg Elementary School in Coon Rapids and Matthew is starting his own plumbing business.

Kyle Loven performed his visionary solo puppet show, my dear Lewis, both in Seattle where he now lives and in Minneapolis in March at the Open Eye Figure Theatre as part of an emerging artists program. A Seattle arts and culture paper called him a “visionary new puppeteer” and a “burgeoning genius.” See story at http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news/archives/2010/03_08_10/kyle_loven.html

James Palan recently began as account executive in the advertising department at the Rochester Post-Bulletin. He was formerly a personal banker with Associated Bank.

Becky (Wolf) and Joe Kaarbo ’06 were married on October 3 in St. Louis Park, Minn. Becky works at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in the Involvement and Leadership Office. Joe is the imaging coordinator at Berkeley Risk Administrators in Minneapolis. Auggies in the wedding included Joel Wolf ’02, Josh Wolf ’05, Chris Dicken ’06, Erik Reynolds ’06, Carrie (Ohnerheim) Wolf ’02, and Evan Boyce ’07.

Nechia Agate received her Minnesota Certified Public Accountant license and currently works as a senior consultant for the Business Advisory Services practice at Grant Thornton in Minneapolis.

Carolyn Mollner also earned her Certified Public Accountant certificate last fall. She works at Best Buy as a senior tax analyst.

Sam Kanenwisher and his wife, Sophia, welcomed the arrival of a son, Parker Andrew, on August 27. Sam is a fourth-year divinity student and the student association vice president at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif.

Brian Ludwig and Sarah (Peloquin) married on June 20, 2009. Sarah is a youth minister in Cottage Grove, Minn., and Bryan is a second-year law student at St. Thomas. They currently live in Woodbury, Minn.

Stacey (Kinder) married Ryan Plasch in August 2009 in Farmington, Minn. Auggies in the wedding party included Christine Esser ’09, Shawn Boonstra ’09, and Jason Jefferson ’09. Stacey is a substitute teacher in Lakeville, Farmington, and Burnsville; Ryan is a mental health counselor for South Metro Human Services.

Jenna Gerard, Fridley, Minn., and her sister own Bravel Productions and created a two-woman musical revue, “Christmas Again?” that spoofed Christmas customs. It ran at the Sunshine Factory in New Hope, Minn., during Christmas last fall. Jenna is currently a student at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Kathryn MacAulay is currently one of the 14 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants in Malaysia, and is living in Kemaman, Terenganu.

Graduate Programs

Erik Bredeson ’06 MBA married Tasha Clifford on May 30, 2009, in Kihel, Maui, Hawaii. Erik works in medical sales; they live in St. Louis Park, Minn.

Ryan May ’07 MBA was recently hired at Risdall McKinney Public Relations (RMPR) as a vice president.

Sarah Marie (Larson) ’07 MSW married Leon Peter Kyalo on October 3.
Send us your news and photos

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

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

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

Full name

Maiden name

Class year or last year attended

Street address

City, State, Zip

Is this a new address?  Yes  No

Home telephone

E-mail

Okay to publish your e-mail address?  Yes  No

Employer

Position

Work telephone

Is spouse also a graduate of Augsburg College?  Yes  No

If yes, class year

Spouse’s name

Maiden name

Your news:

☐ I know a student who is interested in attending Augsburg.

In Memoriam

Johnson, Vernel ’42, Tucson, Ariz., age 90, on Oct. 20, after a long illness.

Myrvik, Quentin ’45, Caswell Beach, N.C., age 88, on Dec. 13. He is a 1960 Distinguished Alumnus.

Midtling, Rev. John ’49, Minneapolis, age 86, on Oct. 20.

Elmberg, Rev. Donald ’50, Mound, Minn., age 85, on Dec. 29.

Rust, Alice (Gjesdahl) ’53, Burnsville, Minn., on Dec. 30.


Seaver, Dean ’60, Le Sueur, Minn., age 73, on Jan. 12.

Thorpe, Neal O. ’60, Vancouver, Wash., age 71, on March 3. He taught biology, served as department chair at Augsburg College, and is a 2001 Distinguished Alumnus.

Hovland, Rev. Peter ’62, Mora, Minn., on Dec. 21.

Hunt, Duane ’62, Lakewood, Colo., on Nov. 13.

English, Dr. Nancy ’73, Duluth, Minn., age 57, on Aug. 8, of cardiac arrest.

Hain, Ramon “Ray” ’81, Roseville, Minn., age 50, on Nov. 21.

Agrimson, Robb Joel ’83, St. Paul, age 49, on Jan. 6.

Woodcock, Delores ’89, Bloomington, Minn., age 83, on Dec. 12.

Connors, Patrick ’07, Vail, Colo., age 28, on Dec. 30.

VanDeVoorde, Elaine, Rochester, Minn., on Oct. 26. She was a Master of Arts in Education student in Rochester.

Mark, Cindy, Cedar Lake Township, Minn., age 61, on Dec. 13, of cancer. She taught in Augsburg’s program at the Minnesota Women’s Correctional Facility-Shakopee.

Wrightsman, Rev. Bruce, Decorah, Iowa, age 75, on Oct. 4, of heart failure and amyloidosis. He taught math, physics, and philosophy at Augsburg College, 1960–63.
When she was growing up, Aquila Tapio said she never really knew what she wanted to do. “I just wanted to help people,” she said. Until recently, Tapio and her husband helped Native American children as foster parents through the Indian Child Welfare Act program. And then after the birth of her second child, she decided it was time for her to return to the workforce.

“I wanted to help Native American kids and keep doing the work we were doing at home,” she says. So when Tapio discovered Augsburg’s tribal special education program, she knew she had found the right fit.

Naadamaadiwin, Ojibwe for “helping one another,” is a partnership between the University of Minnesota-Duluth Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Language Revitalization and the Augsburg College Master of Arts in Education program. Naadamaadiwin is a special education licensure program in emotional behavioral disorders and learning disabilities with a focus on the unique needs of Native American children.

For Tapio, a member of the Oglala Lakota in South Dakota, working with Native children and families through the education system is important because education is a “touchy issue” for Native Americans. “We need teachers who know where people come from and who understand the history and trauma families have experienced,” she says. “Having a Native teacher provides comfort to students and their parents.”

Tapio is completing her student teaching this term at Longfellow Humanities Magnet School in St. Paul. She says the Naadamaadiwin program has given her a new way to give Native children the consistency and support they need. “No matter how many times you have to tell them something, they will pick it up,” she says. “They are capable. They can do anything.”

Naadamaadiwin is a two-year cohort-based program with classes meeting primarily online. For more information, go to www.augsburg.edu/admissions/mae/ and click “Licensure Options.”

WENDI WHEELER ’06
In addition to an education, Augsburg provided me with the confidence and skills to think critically, to see what’s possible, and to create opportunities. I want to make sure that future generations have this same opportunity.

So, when Glenn and I sat down to do our estate planning and consider our legacy, it was important for us to commit a percentage of our estate to Augsburg College.”
Second Augsburg Powwow

The Augsburg Indigenous Student Association hosted a traditional powwow on Saturday, March 20, in Si Melby Hall. To view more photos from the powwow, go to www.flickr.com/photos/augsburgcollege.