

# AUGSBURG NOW



**INSIDE**

Literary scholar on skates  
Athletic facility spotlight  
Sesquicentennial co-chair Q&A  
Research and student success

**REMARKABLE  
ACHIEVEMENTS**



## NOTES FROM PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW

### *On “Yes, and ...”*

I teach the Honors Senior Seminar each spring, which is always a highlight of my year, and one of the class sessions introduces students to the history and practice of improvisation.

I invite members of our theater faculty and local improv performers to come to class to help us understand why improv is so important to places like Chicago (think Second City) and Minneapolis (think Dudley Riggs’ Brave New Workshop). Then the fun begins.

The improv artists invite us to the front of the classroom where we are taught some basic improv skills. Embarrassment aside, these sessions are full of life lessons. My favorite exercise goes like this: one student makes a statement related to an assigned topic. Perhaps the topic is the weather, and the student proclaims, “Wow, is it hot.” The next student then answers, “Yes, and ... I’m sweating like a faucet.” The next student continues, “Yes, and ... my faucets often leak.”

You get the point. No one is allowed to say “No” or even “Yes, but ...”—it’s always “Yes, and ...” That’s how improv works, and I believe that’s how Augsburg works when we are at our best.

We live in a “No” and “Yes, but ...” world—a world of scarcity that keeps us from risking ourselves in relation to others. Improv teaches us the way of abundance, a

way that finds we are better together. “Yes, and ...” builds upon the gifts of others to help us live healthier, more just and compassionate lives together.

The anthropologist Mary Catherine Bateson offers this helpful word: “Improvisation and new learning are not private processes; they are shared with others at every age. We are called to join in a dance whose steps must be learned along the way, so it is important to attend and respond.”

This issue of Augsburg Now is full of stories of “Yes, and ...”—including highlights of our planning for next year’s sesquicentennial celebration, Augsburg’s 150th anniversary. What a grand celebration it will be, as we recall the abundance of our founding in 1869, the decades of educating students for lives of meaning and purpose, and the promise of Augsburg’s mission in the years ahead.

Yes, and ... it will be good!

Faithfully yours,

PAUL C. PRIBBENOW, PRESIDENT

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# AUGSBURG NOW

Fall–Winter 2018



**IN FOCUS:** Surprising sights worth a first (or second) glance

This fall, Philadelphia-based artist Margery Amdur created mixed media installations in Augsburg's Christensen and Gage Family galleries. Amdur's art emphasizes the creative process and incorporates unusual materials—including cosmetic sponges. The exhibition was presented as part of a collaboration among Augsburg, Bethel University, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and St. Catherine University in conjunction with the publication of the book "Creative Practices for Visual Artists."



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COURTESY PHOTOS

Here's a new take on the "spring thaw." Virtually all summer and fall, the Augsburg Ice Arena was iceless, which allowed construction crews to complete facility improvements, including installing a more environmentally friendly refrigerant system and upgrading the ice sheet floors from sand to concrete bases. Augsburg's two-rink facility opened in 1974 and is used extensively—not only by the university's men's and women's hockey teams, but also by community groups, youth sports leagues, figure skating clubs, and recreational skaters.

**On the cover:** Undergraduate researcher and biology major **Angelica Diaz-Juarez '20** waters plants in Augsburg's Hagfors Center grow room. Learn about Auggies' research experiences on page 20.

Inset cover photo by Deanna Dent, Arizona State University

*All photos by Courtney Perry unless otherwise indicated*

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# AROUND THE QUAD



## THAT'S GROOVY. Augsburg students celebrate the start of the school year

Have you ever seen a dance floor filled with people swaying to the sound of ... silence? That's what a silent disco looks like. But the amusement was anything but muted for those who took part in an Auggie Bash hosted by the Augsburg Student Activities Council this past September. Participants wore wireless headphones tuned in to one of several audio channels playing a variety of music styles. This unusual approach to parties encourages dancers to move and groove their own way and to let their uniqueness shine as brightly as their neon headwear.

## StepUP makes NATIONAL HEADLINES

NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt put Augsburg University's StepUP® Program in the spotlight this May by showcasing its success in helping students in recovery complete their college education.

NBC's Catie Beck interviewed **Neil King '18** about the support he received from StepUP as a full-time student at Augsburg.

Beck also interviewed StepUP Program Director **Tamarah Gehlen**. "We always say that no one should have to choose between recovery and a college education," Gehlen said.

King, who began using drugs at age 14, discovered the StepUP Program four months into his recovery. "I really learned to believe in myself and my skills and capabilities," said King, who's now pursuing a master's degree at the University of Minnesota.



Hear Augsburg University faculty and staff share stories of their work with students in their own words. Launched this fall, the Augsburg Podcast is a new, 18-episode series offering a variety of perspectives on the university's most important work: educating students for the future.



Listen to the podcast online at [augsbu.edu/podcast](http://augsbu.edu/podcast) or download episodes from iTunes.



## THE PARADOX OF PEACE: The 30th Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis marked its 30th anniversary in September. The forum, hosted and presented by Augsburg University, celebrated the achievements of the 2016 Nobel Laureate, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, and the 2017 Laureate, The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, represented by Executive Director Beatrice Fihn. The program explored the intertwining complexities and paradoxes of water, conflict, and peace.

“The paradox of peace lies in the paradox of the human condition—that we are capable of great love and great cruelty, that we are always a mix of some amount of ability and vulnerability. To achieve peace, we often have to fight for it,” said **Joe Underhill**, Augsburg associate professor of political science and director of the forum.

PHOTO BY REBECCA ZEMESKY SLATER



INAUGURAL

### Schwartz Professor of Choral Leadership and Conducting

This fall, Augsburg named **Kristina Boerger** the inaugural John N. Schwartz Professor of Choral Leadership and Conducting. Boerger

leads a visionary program honoring Augsburg’s legacy of engaging both music majors and non-music majors across campus.

“Kristina Boerger has collaborated with leading composers and artists in creatively advancing the field of choral study and performance,” said Augsburg University President **Paul Pribbenow**. “Her work has garnered national recognition, and we’re excited to have her join Augsburg.”

With a strong commitment to inclusion, access, and equity, Boerger brings to Augsburg a long and diverse professional practice of exploring music from varied cultures. She has worked in public school, collegiate, community, and professional settings. In addition to her achievements in commissioning and premiering new works, Boerger served as director of three choirs that earned critical acclaim from The New York Times. She holds degrees in music education and conducting from the University of Illinois.



## UNIVERSITY AWARDS

**Top 200 Schools for Indigenous Americans:** The American Indian Science and Engineering Society Winds of Change magazine selected Augsburg as one of the 2018 Top 200 Schools for Indigenous American and Alaska Native students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math.

**Best Regional Universities by U.S. News & World Report:** U.S. News & World Report again named Augsburg one of the Best Universities in the Midwest, ranking the university No. 5 among the Minnesota schools on the list for undergraduate teaching, No. 10 on best value schools, and No. 14 for most innovative.

**Best in the Midwest by The Princeton Review:** This year, The Princeton Review again named Augsburg one of the Best in the Midwest for academic excellence.

**Best Value in Minnesota:** Best Value Schools ranked Augsburg No. 6 on a 2018 list of 20 Best Value Colleges or Universities in Minnesota. Rankings are based on graduation rate, net price, acceptance rate, and 20-year net return on investment.

**Top LGBTQ-friendly Colleges and Universities:** Augsburg was named to Campus Pride’s list of the top 30 LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities in 2017 and 2018. Campus Pride is the leading national organization for creating safer, more LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities.

### Augsburg delegation honors Mandela centenary

An Augsburg University delegation that included administrators and Board of Regents members traveled to Namibia and South Africa for Nelson Mandela’s centenary celebration. While there, Augsburg President **Paul Pribbenow** visited the university’s Namibia operations and met with students. Here, he’s pictured in Cape Town with guide Shireen Narkedien.

COURTESY PHOTO

# AROUND THE QUAD

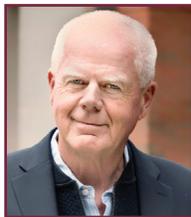
## NEW AUGSBURG BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBERS

**Matthew Entenza**, senior advisor on energy and the economy to Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, was elected chair of the Augsburg University Board of Regents at its October 6 meeting.

In addition, the Augsburg Corporation, at its annual September meeting, elected three new members to the Board of Regents and re-elected six members.

### *Elected to their first term on the Augsburg Board of Regents:*

- **Mark Johnson '75**, retired city planner and former president of Sonju Motors in Two Harbors, Minnesota
- **Terry Lindstrom '73**, drug discovery consultant and former Eli Lilly distinguished research fellow in Indianapolis, Indiana
- **Nancy Mueller '85**, physics and chemistry teacher in Rochester, Minnesota



Mark Johnson '75



Terry Lindstrom '73



Nancy Mueller '85

### *Elected to a second or third term:*

- **Diane Jacobson**, former director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- **Dr. Steven Larson '72**, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Riverside Medical Clinic in Riverside, California
- **Toby Piper LaBelle '96**, senior vice president of Northland Securities, a Minneapolis securities brokerage firm
- **LaJune Thomas Lange '75**, former co-vice chair of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Racial Bias in the Courts and of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness in the Courts
- **Dean Sundquist '81**, chairman and chief executive officer of Mate Precision Tooling in Anoka, Minnesota
- **David Tiede**, former president and professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota

 See the full list of Board of Regents members at [augsburg.edu/about/leadership](https://www.augsburg.edu/about/leadership).

## Augsburg adopts test-optional admissions policy

This past spring, the Augsburg faculty approved a pilot test-optional admissions policy, making submission of ACT or SAT test scores optional for fall 2019 first-year and transfer undergraduate student applicants, except in specific circumstances.

“The test-optional admission policy aligns with Augsburg’s mission of intentional diversity and is expected to increase the university’s pool of completed applicants each year,” said **Nate Gorr**, assistant vice president for innovation.

For a number of student populations, standardized test scores may not reflect an accurate indication of academic ability—including, for example, people without access to test preparation courses and tutors, those who can’t afford to retake the test, people with learning and physical differences, and English language learners. This policy change also aligns with Augsburg’s holistic admissions process, which looks at quantitative metrics and beyond. The application-review process allows Augsburg to maintain the university’s academic standards and ensure Augsburg admits students with the capacity to succeed.

## AUGSBURG ACHIEVES LEED Gold Certification for Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion

Augsburg University’s new signature interdisciplinary building—the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion—achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. In keeping with Augsburg’s commitment to environmental stewardship, the Hagfors Center was

designed to incorporate elements that maximize resource efficiency and minimize environmental impact, both in its construction and throughout its operational lifetime. LEED is one of the most popular green building certification programs used worldwide.





# RIVER SEMESTER 2018

A group of 15 Augsburg University students, two professors, and two guides departed August 24 in 24-foot voyageur canoes to spend the semester studying, researching, and living on the Mississippi River. The students and their guides are traveling nearly 1,000 miles, making stops to camp at several locations.

The River Semester, led by Associate Professor of Political Science **Joe Underhill**, is a unique 100-day, hands-on, interdisciplinary program. Students earn 16 credits studying biology, environmental science, health and physical education, and political science. This is Augsburg's second time conducting the program; the first was in 2015.

Experiential education is a trademark of students' Augsburg experiences. "We do this because we think this is the best way to learn both about the Mississippi River and about what's going on out in the world," Underhill said. Students return to the Twin Cities on December 1.



## 2018–19 CONVOCATION SERIES

In October, Augsburg's annual convocation series kicked off with the Bernhard M. Christensen Symposium featuring author and educator Rahuldeep Gill and his presentation, "Who Are 'We?' A Sikh Perspective on Vocation, Justice, and Death." Through his lectures and workshops, Gill works to build pluralism and cross-cultural relations to inspire connected communities on campus, in the workplace, and in the marketplace.

In November, the Center for Wellness and Counseling Convocation welcomed Gloria Burgess, pioneering scholar, author, and international inspirational speaker. Her presentation was titled "Greatness Lives in All of Us!"

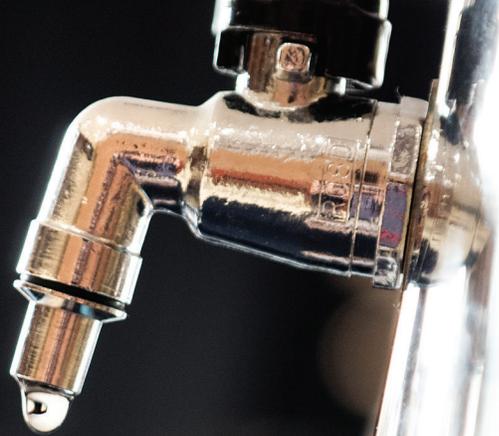


COURTESY PHOTOS



### SAVE THE DATE:

Join us **Monday, January 21**, for the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation. All convocation events are free, public, and held in the Foss Center. For more information, go to [augsborg.edu/convo](http://augsborg.edu/convo).



## ON THE SPOT A look at environmental privilege with social worker Christina Erickson

Whether it's popping up in social media news feeds or emerging in conversations held around the dinner table, the concept of "privilege" is rising in the public consciousness.

"Privilege has become a serious area of inquiry in recent years," said Augsburg Professor of Social Work **Christina Erickson**. "White privilege and male privilege have hit the spotlight, as have racial disparities in policing and the #MeToo movement highlighting harassment and sexual assault. Environmental privilege is a related phenomenon, and, while it seems to be an understudied area of privilege (and not the only one), it is still important, probably more than we realize."

Erickson teaches courses in environmental justice and social change, and she's taking on the challenge of exploring environmental privilege in greater depth. She is the author of "Environmental Justice as Social Work Practice," a textbook designed to bring an understanding of environmental privilege into social work curricula.

### **Q:** How do you describe environmental privilege?

**A:** Environmental privilege is having access to a resource simply because of your social identity categories—race, age, gender, income, and geography. Studies have shown that if you have a higher income, you likely have more green space near your home, work, or school. Not to mention owning a cabin, attending summer camp, or even seeing people who look like you at our most beautiful natural spaces. If you use all the water you want for your daily self care and other activities without thinking about it, you have environmental privilege.

### **Q:** Is environmental justice similar to social justice and, if so, how?

**A:** Environmental justice and social justice are intricately linked in ways that we have only begun to discover and name. For example, kids living in neighborhoods with poor air quality are missing school due to asthma more than

kids breathing clean air. If you can't go to school, your chances for school success, which leads to adult success, are inhibited.

### **Q:** Can you describe environmental injustices and the disparities some groups face?

**A:** In 1987, research found that waste facilities were most often near neighborhoods of people of color, many of them containing toxic waste. Even our own Minnesota nuclear power facility, located near Prairie Island Indian Community, is an example of how some people are forced to live closer to environmental burdens than others.

### **Q:** Why is it important to reflect on our own privilege, and how can we dismantle it?

**A:** Dismantling privileges is one of the ways we create social change. When we think about creating shifts in society, we generally need to stop certain

behaviors—such as racist hiring practices or sexual harassment—to integrate new behaviors to take the place of the old. Augsburg already has taken a stand on water—we encourage our entire campus community to refill water bottles from our own taps, which environmental studies students tested for safety.

### **Q:** How does your social work background align with your work in environmental justice?

**A:** For most of my life I viewed myself as a social worker who was an environmentalist. It wasn't until coming to Augsburg, collaborating on our interdisciplinary environmental studies major, working with my social work colleagues on privilege and oppression, and participating in our Environmental Stewardship Committee that I began to recognize myself, in an integrated way, as an environmental justice social worker.

# AROUND THE QUAD

## MINNESOTA URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE receives renewed support from three area foundations

The Minnesota Urban Debate League, a program of Augsburg University, entered the 2018–19 school year with a full head of steam thanks to funding and partnership support from three Twin Cities grantmakers.

- With a **\$25,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Minnesota**, MNUDL will launch a program centered on building financial literacy skills. Young women will learn financial concepts using the format of academic debate, which breaks down abstract concepts and makes them more relevant. Funds from this grant also will offer a cohort of women and gender-nonconforming students the opportunity to attend The Advocacy Unit, an advocacy skills training summer camp that takes place on Augsburg's campus.
- MNUDL will reach even more students in St. Paul Public Schools using a **\$40,000 grant from the St. Paul Foundation**. MNUDL will add four middle school programs over the next two years. Funds also will make it possible for MNUDL to expand culturally specific debate programs for Spanish-speaking and Somali students.
- A **\$40,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation** will provide general operating support, helping MNUDL expand a variety of priorities, including increasing summer camp opportunities for middle and high school students.

## Forty years of serving American Indian students

In October, Augsburg's American Indian Student Services celebrated its 40th anniversary. The program has been a national model of success since 1978. Approximately 130 students representing more than 25 tribes are enrolled part time or full time in Augsburg's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Special invitees to the 40th anniversary reception included **Bonnie Wallace**, Augsburg regent emerita and the first director of the AISS program, as well as current Board of Regents members **Eric Jolly**, **Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo**, and **Noya Woodrich '92, '94 MSW**.

## // AUGGIE STYLE: Athletics apparel, then and now

Today Augsburg University's varsity athletes wear high-performance gear that aligns with their high-caliber capabilities. Many Auggie teams are sporting new uniform styles following Augsburg's name change and a recent partnership with BIG Athletics to supply athletes with adidas apparel, uniforms, footwear, and accessories over the next five years. Here's a glimpse at how current styles compare to those worn in years gone by.

edu See other athletic uniforms  
at [augsburg.edu/now](http://augsburg.edu/now).

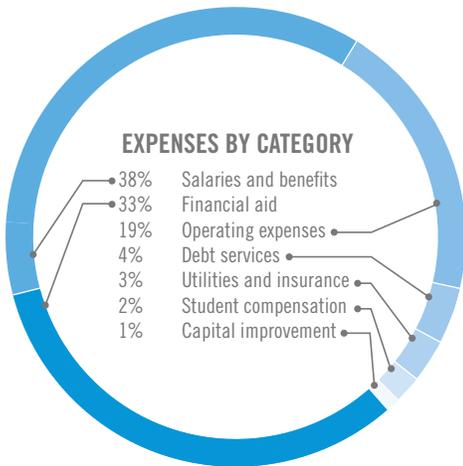


ARCHIVE PHOTOS

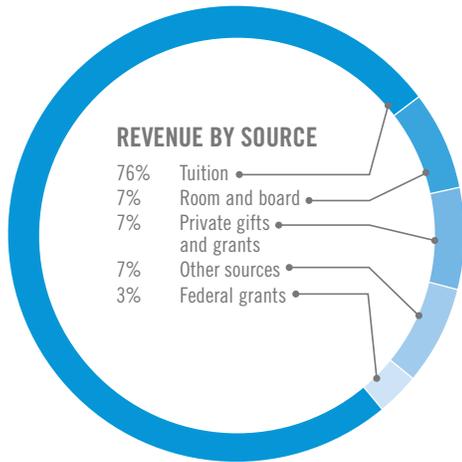
# 2017–18 AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY

## ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

Thank you. Your giving supports current and future Auggies as they gain skills and knowledge to thrive in their careers, pursue advanced scholarship, and achieve in leadership roles after graduation. Learn more about opportunities to support an Augsburg education at [augsborg.edu/giving](http://augsborg.edu/giving).

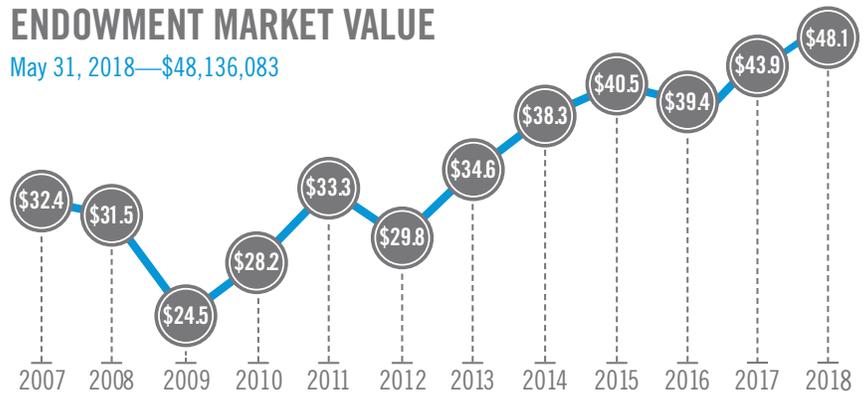


Fiscal year 2017–18 operating budget:  
\$68,736,254



### ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE

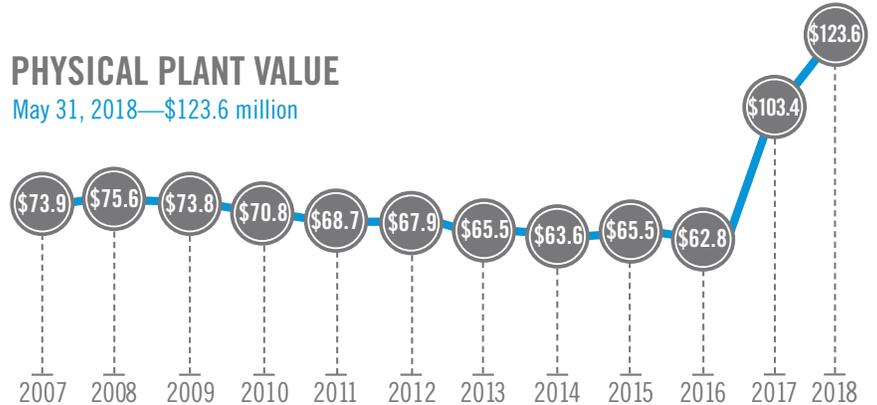
May 31, 2018—\$48,136,083



As of May 31, 2018, Augsburg University had annual realized and unrealized gains of 10.19 percent on the university endowment. The five-year average annual return on the endowment is 7.11 percent and the 10-year average annual return is 4.70 percent. Augsburg is committed to maintaining the value of the principal to provide support to the university in perpetuity.

### PHYSICAL PLANT VALUE

May 31, 2018—\$123.6 million



The quality and value of Augsburg's physical plant is on the rise. The largest recent contributor is the Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion, which was completed in November 2017.

### Augsburg University is stronger and more vibrant than ever.

Investments in priorities like scholarships, experiential learning, research, and faculty mentorship change the trajectories of students' lives. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and the generosity of alumni, parents, and friends who helped Augsburg raise **\$18,187,380** during fiscal year 2017–18. The philanthropy of more than **9,400** donors will help the university attract talented students and the dedicated faculty and staff who teach and guide them.

THIS IS WHAT A

## PEACE SCHOLAR

LOOKS LIKE



**Lex Dorfman '18**

*Mabeth Saure Gyllstrom Scholarship, Helen (Mohn) Henderson Scholarship, Mary E. (Mimi) Johnson Scholarship, Hoversten Peace Scholarship*  
**Hometown:** Minnetonka, Minnesota  
**Studying:** Religion, Spanish, and Leadership

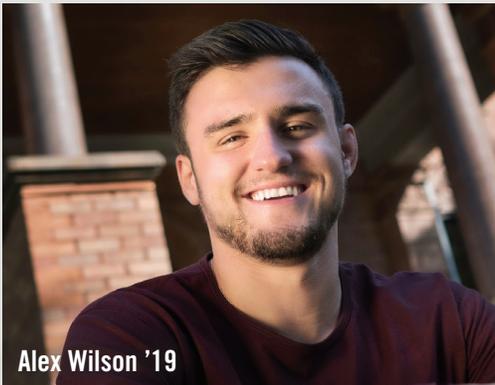
**Lex Dorfman '18** spent her summer in Norway studying alongside students from around the world. As one of two Peace Scholars selected at Augsburg this year and funded by the Hoversten Peace Scholarship and other donors, Dorfman's time in Lillehammer and Oslo was part of a robust program designed to pair academic inquiry with real-world dialogue and to give students an introduction to the field of conflict studies.

For Dorfman, the Peace Scholar program aligns with many of the topics she's explored throughout her college experience. Also an Augsburg Interfaith Scholar, Dorfman called on her own multicultural background to found a Hillel organization on campus and to foster new opportunities to build connections between people from diverse backgrounds. "Augsburg has offered me a personal, hands-on education," she said. "I have been able to create an organization on campus, interview Jewish leaders, and collaborate with a variety of students because of Augsburg's engaging and small-but-powerful community."

THIS IS WHAT AN

## ALL-AMERICAN

LOOKS LIKE



**Alex Wilson '19**

*Arne and Jean Markland Scholarship*  
**Hometown:** Oak Grove, Minnesota  
**Studying:** Biology

**Alex Wilson '19** can put the title "All-American" next to his name in two different contexts. Competing in his first NCAA Division III National Championship tournament last March, the Auggie wrestler earned All-American honors with a fifth-place finish at 149 pounds. He also was among eight Augsburg wrestlers to earn the Division III Scholar All-America distinction from the National Wrestling Coaches Association based on student-athletes' GPAs.

Whether he's facing an opponent on the mat or looking to ace an exam, Wilson has a drive to excel that will serve him well as he applies to competitive graduate programs and pursues his dream of becoming a physician assistant. For Wilson, Augsburg is a place where there's harmony between athletic and academic achievements. "Augsburg has helped me develop as a student and as an athlete by giving me all of the resources I would ever need to be successful," Wilson said. "Faculty support creates an atmosphere where it is possible to succeed in whatever you do."

THIS IS WHAT AN

## ENGAGED CITIZEN

LOOKS LIKE



**Baoyia Kong '19**

*Leola G. Anderson Scholarship, William and Anne Frame Scholarship, Adeline Marie (Rasmussen) Johnson Scholarship*  
**Hometown:** St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Studying:** Social Work and Psychology

**Baoyia Kong '19** has the guts to just dive in. When she studied at Augsburg's Center for Global Education and Experience site in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the social work major interned at a grade school, helping administrators infuse inclusive practices into the school's operations and culture—and honing her Spanish skills along the way.

Whether studying in Minneapolis or Mexico, Kong sees Augsburg as "a community with so many opportunities." Kong has enhanced her academic experience by seeking out opportunities beyond the classroom, completing an additional internship with Hennepin County, volunteering at a medical clinic in Augsburg's Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, playing intramural volleyball, and joining the Augsburg Asian Student Association and Hmong Women Together campus organizations. Kong said her Augsburg experience has shaped her as a leader because the university encourages students to be engaged in topics that align with their passions and creates "spaces for all to grow and flourish in their education."

# NO PLAIN

# Jane

BY JOHN WEIRICK

***How a quiet, first-generation college graduate became a leading literary scholar, Austen expert, and roller derby devotee***

***“Give a girl an education,*** and introduce her properly into the world,” said one of Jane Austen’s characters, “and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody.”

For a line published in 1814’s “Mansfield Park,” it prophetically resonates in the life and work of Augsburg alumna **Devoney Looser ’89**.

Looser earned a doctorate in English and women’s studies, holds extensive credentials as a professor who has served at leading universities, and has written and contributed to dozens of books, scores of academic journals, and even more book reviews. When national and international publications need an expert on 18th-century

literature, British women writers, or Jane Austen, they want Looser—if they can catch her before roller derby practice.

## ***Finding her voice***

Looser grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. College seemed like a distant dream, both because of the financial barrier and the fact that she came from a family with no college degree in sight. Her perspective changed when she applied to Augsburg and earned a President’s Scholarship for her academic merit.

“That made all the difference in terms of my ability to go to college. Augsburg gave me an incredibly generous opportunity with that scholarship,” Looser said.



**ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



PHOTOS BY DEANNA DENT,  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Devoney Looser



Looser wasn't outwardly confident, but she caught the eye of **Cathie Nicholl**, an English professor who taught at Augsburg for nearly 30 years until her retirement in 1999. Though Looser was somewhat quiet, Nicholl said, "her written work was always wonderful. She's really blossomed a lot since then."

Looser first became enthralled with Jane Austen's writings through a literature class with Nicholl, who has maintained correspondence with Looser through several decades. "I had no idea at the time how significant, how important [that connection with Nicholl] would turn out to be to my life—to a path toward a future in [literary] work."

**Douglas Green**, a professor of English who's taught at Augsburg since 1988, met Looser when he first arrived at the university. "She was exceptional. We had a real conversation about literature," said Green, a poet and scholar who teaches Shakespeare, drama, and writing as well as gender, sexuality, and

was very shy at 18, and to see the same faces who could tell me, 'You can do this,' made a big difference in my believing in myself."

For a suburbanite, moving to the heart of Minneapolis was an education in itself. "Being in an urban area, being able to live among other students was amazing," Looser said. "Augsburg's student body was very diverse. Being in class alongside students from all over the world was mind-blowing. It made me reimagine my role in

women's studies at institutions including the University of Missouri, Louisiana State University, University of Wisconsin—Whitewater, Indiana State University, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is described as a thoughtful and wise mentor who empathizes with first-generation college students. Her ability to reflect on and relate to the challenges others face is something Looser shares with the central figure of her academic work: Jane Austen.

who connected with Looser over their shared professional interest in 18th-century literature.

Known for romantic plots steeped in English society, including "Pride and Prejudice" and "Sense and Sensibility," Austen's writings have been in print continuously for nearly 200 years and retain an unassailable foothold in contemporary art and culture. Who was Jane Austen, really—and how did she become what she represents now?

That's the focus of Looser's latest book, "The Making of Jane Austen," which earned high praise among literary peers. It was named a Publishers Weekly Best Summer Book for nonfiction, featured in CNN interviews, and reviewed in The Economist, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal.

Looser's remarkable scholarship has led to an abundance of prestigious opportunities, including a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in support of one of

## *Did Austen predict roller derby?*

**"I hate to hear you talking so, like a fine gentleman, and as if women were all fine ladies, instead of rational creatures. We none of us expect to be in smooth water all our days." — Mrs. Croft, Jane Austen's "Persuasion" (1818).**

women's studies.

Though literature was central in feeding Looser's ravenous appetite for knowledge, people and experiences also offered lessons beyond the classroom.

"There were lots of things at Augsburg that brought me out of my shell," Looser said. "I

the world, and what my world could be, and how I was part of their world."

Engaging with a variety of people and ideas has served Looser well in her literary pursuits and academic experience alike. She has held positions teaching English and

### **Literary sense and moral sensibility**

"Austen is one of the most psychologically perceptive observers in all of the history of the novel," said Jenny Davidson, a novelist and professor of English at Columbia University

her current projects: a book about unheralded British sister novelists Jane and Anna Maria Porter.

Davidson offered a scholar's perspective: "The project on the Porter sisters is a genuine project of reclamation, of rewriting an injustice of literary history: these were two extremely widely read and well-regarded novelists whom literary history has essentially dumped in the trash." Because of Looser's background, Davidson believes, the first-generation college graduate is attracted to the works of underdogs and can convey their stories empathetically and authoritatively.

## Track tenure

Perhaps her affinity for the underdog is part of what drew Looser to a lesser-known sport—roller derby.

Nearly a decade ago, Looser and her friend Katie Carr, a special collections librarian at the University of Missouri where Looser was a professor of English, reconnected over a

mutual sense that they needed a change. Angela Rehbein, one of Looser's then-graduate students who is now a professor of English at West Liberty University, joined them to skate at a roller rink's retro night, where members of a local roller derby team invited the three to derby practice. It sounded fun, so they accepted.

Roller derby is a sport in which two teams of five players in roller skates line up on a track. The "jammer" on each team tries to maneuver past the "blockers" on the opposing team, and it all happens in a series of two-minute increments called "jams." Players force opponents off the track or block them with their shoulders, chests, and hips. Because it's full-contact, they wear helmets, mouthguards, knee pads, and elbow pads.

It's customary for derby players to create personas based on names that use a play on words. Carr dubbed Looser "Stone Cold Jane Austen," a mashup of Looser's literary expertise and professional wrestler Steve

Austin's stage name.

Looser is now a faculty advisor to the roller derby team in addition to her work as a professor of English at Arizona State University. She still remembers the coaches who patiently taught her to play derby, which perhaps unexpectedly refreshed her perspective on higher education. "It's humbling to start out as a complete newbie, and being laid flat and embarrassing myself," she said. "It put me in headspace that made me realize how students must feel their first year of college, when you didn't know what you were doing, and it was terrifying."

People who know Looser best—like Carr, Rehbein, and her former doctoral student Emily Friedman—point to Looser's knack for transforming her interests into excellence.

"There's this world-renowned academic and also someone who plays roller derby and excels at it. She is an incredibly generous friend and an amazing wife and mother," Carr said, referring to Looser's sons and

husband George Justice, a fellow Austen scholar and British literature professor at Arizona State University.

"I learned a lot from Devoney's incredible work ethic and her generosity toward her students and toward other scholars," added Rehbein, who appreciates Looser's influence both in and beyond the classroom.

The same is true for Friedman, who has also worked on Austen scholarship and now serves as a professor of English at Auburn University. Friedman observed Looser's simultaneous commitment to hard work and a rewarding life outside of it, and how "she keeps them dancing rather than in conflict and fighting."

Like Jane Austen and many icons before her, Looser will maneuver past any limitations in her path.

"She's the hardest worker I know," said Friedman. "I'm just trying to skate in her tracks." ■



*Looser's next book topic:*

## ROLLER DERBY

*"Roller derby got its start in the United States in 1935. It included male and female athletes of many ages. It was multiracial; it was gay-lesbian inclusive. We're so quick in American culture to talk about baseball, basketball, football. I think roller derby has had a similar kind of impact." — Devoney Looser*

### *The first time Looser played roller derby*

*"I was worried that I was too old," Looser remembered. "It was terrifying: What am I even doing here, doing something where I could get my teeth knocked out?"*



# CARVING PATHS *for* THE FUTURE

Theater professor **Darcey Engen '88** helps plan a forward-looking 150th anniversary celebration

BY STEPHEN JENDRASZAK

**D**arcey Engen, professor of theater arts, has been on both sides of an Augsburg education: student and professor. As a leader on campus, she brings both perspectives to bear.

Thinking from a student perspective, she understands the intense obligations today's students face and, with her colleagues, implemented a series of changes to make it possible for students from all backgrounds and enrolled in any major to participate in Augsburg's theatrical productions despite family or work commitments.

As a faculty member, Engen observed that faculty in the arts sometimes struggled to receive appropriate credit for their artistic and scholarly work, so she advocated for revisions to promotion and tenure guidelines to address the issue.

Now, she's been asked to call on those twin perspectives in a new leadership role: helping to guide the commemoration of Augsburg's sesquicentennial during the 2019–20 academic year. In a recent interview, Engen shared her views on the university's 150th anniversary, the important contributions faculty will make in commemorating the occasion, and what makes Augsburg unique in American higher education.



“ One of the things I love about Augsburg is that we are more like the real world than other colleges and universities. The needs of the real world around us are present in everything we do.”

**You are a co-chair of the sesquicentennial committee. What do you hope this milestone will do for Augsburg?**

I hope that it gives us a moment in time to understand our past, mark where we are now, and look forward. It's an opportunity for us to appreciate those who came before us, what we're doing in the present, and those who will inevitably follow after us.

**What does this occasion mean to you as both an alumna and a faculty member?**

In our costume shop, there are boxes and boxes that say things like "summer hats." Those labels were handwritten by my professor, Ailene Cole, the former chair of the theater department, before she retired in her 80s. When I'm in the costume shop and see her handwriting, I'm reminded of her and what she did for me and all her students. That inspires me to do the same for my students. As a former chair myself, now, I am part of a legacy, which gives me a lot of satisfaction. I'm aware that all of us, chairs and faculty, are so privileged to be able to create an atmosphere where our students can thrive as artists. I keep the past with me as I try to carve out paths for the future with my students.

**How are faculty members going to be involved in marking this significant moment in the life of the institution?**

I'm very grateful that we were able to make resources available for faculty to create scholarly projects that reflect sesquicentennial themes. The support opens the door for these scholarly projects, whether they be permanent works or ephemeral experiences, to be installed or occur during our yearlong celebration. They will honor and mark the 150th anniversary and also give faculty the opportunity to expand the good work they do, which is ultimately to support our students.

**I understand that the number of proposals for faculty sesquicentennial projects exceeded your expectations. What does that enthusiasm say to you?**

It was amazing to get all the proposals for such thoughtful projects. It goes to show you that we faculty members all have in us, no matter how busy our days can sometimes be, a great love for this institution.

**What kinds of projects are faculty members working on, and what are they trying to achieve?**

There's so much incredible work being done, but I'll offer a few examples to give you an idea of the scope of the effort.

**Sonja Thompson**, assistant professor of music, is working on an original musical—with original music—about Augsburg, embracing both the rocky and exceptional moments in our history. Her team is interviewing as many people as possible and conducting story circles where students, staff, alumni, and friends can share their Augsburg experiences to inform the production.

**Erik Steinmetz**, assistant professor of computer science, is building an app for exploring Augsburg's campus now and at various points in history via augmented or virtual reality. The idea is that if you're on campus, you can look around through your phone and see what a particular part of campus looked like at another time. And if you're not here, you can virtually explore those same environments. We're hoping to create online experiences that capture as much of the art and activity and scholarship happening on campus that year as possible.

**As Augsburg prepares to commemorate 150 years, what stands out for you?**

I've toured a lot of colleges; I've taught at two other universities. One of the things I love about Augsburg is that we are more like the real world than other colleges and universities. The needs of the real world around us are present in everything we do. ■



Augsburg's plans to celebrate the sesquicentennial are developing, and updates will be posted at [augsburg.edu/150](http://augsburg.edu/150).





# THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE DOME THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE DOME

BY KATE H. ELLIOTT

**DOZENS OF BUSES** en route from 25 Minnesota school districts pause on 23rd Avenue to unload hundreds of students in grades three through six at the Augsburg University Air Structure (aka the Augsburg Dome). The air lock opens, and grinning youngsters wheel, walk, and run into the 360-by-216-by-63-foot inflatable bubble lined with activities to exercise their cognitive, emotional, and physical muscles.

Augsburg has held this one-day Sports Extravaganza for nearly 20 Novembers. Do the math: that's more than 4,000 children, teachers, and paraprofessionals who have visited campus, and two decades of Auggies who have applied their health, physical education, and exercise

science coursework to the field.

HPE instructor **Carol Enke** said the event wouldn't have started without the dome.

"Imagine funneling hundreds of kids with mental and/or physical disabilities into Si Melby Hall via untold batches of elevator trips," she said. "Without the air structure, this dual community engagement and learning opportunity would have never taken off.

"Every year, teachers tell us that students ask about the event from the first day of classes, and we see that excitement as kids meet others and participate in activities they might have assumed were inaccessible to them."

## AN EXPANSIVE GATHERING PLACE

Sports Extravaganza is one of several community events squeezed into the dome between softball and lacrosse games and practices for baseball, track and field, golf, soccer, and football. Physical education classes, intramural activities, alumni events, and more also vie for the space, which features four batting cages, a driving range net, and four soccer goals.

About 35 campus and community groups schedule the space each year, according to **Greg Holker**, the men's soccer head coach, who helps manage dome schedules as part of his dual role as athletic facilities assistant manager. Thousands of people use the dome for a total of about 3,000 hours during any given year.

"Regular users include our sports teams, HPE classes, camps, the Minneapolis United Soccer Club, and other prominent academies and associations," he added. "During Super Bowl LII this year, a large corporation hosted a Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition, and the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee filmed a commercial in the space."

Each November, more than 500 student-athletes join coaches, staff, and administrators to erect the weather-proof

structure. It's a Herculean effort that illustrates the university's cooperative, all-in attitude, according to Athletic Director **Jeff Swenson '79**. Come May, after 12-hour weekdays and about 18-hour weekend days, the dome is put away in about three hours, again by a campus-wide team.

Swenson said the dome has substantially increased Augsburg's workout space.

"Nobody appreciates the air structure more than our spring sports," Swenson said. "Access to a climate-controlled regulation field in our backyard gets them in the game earlier in the season without interruptions due to weather."

The university also is able to offer physical education classes, including golf and soccer, in the spring. **Eric Rolland '97**, men's and women's golf head coach, said without the dome, spring offerings would be limited to indoor activities like bowling. And while Rolland enjoys throwing a strike as much as the best of them, the former All-American golfer said he has enjoyed the ability to teach golf throughout the year.

"It's a lifelong sport that can enhance your career, given that so many business meetings occur on the golf course," said Rolland, who has taught golf classes for the past five years. "Students make lasting friendships, too, as the dome transforms into a giant driving range where students visit as they perfect their swings."



## THE DOME 'SAVED OUR SEASON'

Talk of spring takes Softball Head Coach **Melissa Lee '04** back to April, when the Twin Cities experienced its snowiest and fourth-coldest April on record, according to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, which reported 26.1 inches of the white stuff and an average high of 47.4 degrees.

"It was the winter that would never end," said Lee, who is in her 15th season on Augsburg's coaching staff. "Other teams in our conference have to rent out dome space or practice on hard gym floors incapable of mimicking competition, so when the weather is bad, those players may catch—or try to catch—their first deep pop fly of the season during a game. We made the playoffs last year, and I believe the dome contributed to that success."

Then-senior-outfielder **Katie Parker '18** was among the Augsburg softball players who spent the majority of the 2018 season under the dome. Playing inside requires adjustment, she said, with rules against catching deflected balls (to avoid injuries), turf vs. dirt, and many lights, rather than the sun's sole beam. But the snowy season didn't faze the native of Lakeville, Minnesota.

"It's our home turf, literally, so we practice in the space long before our first game," said Parker, who graduated in May with a bachelor's in elementary education with a focus on special education. "I loved the sense of community and cooperation as we worked side-by-side with student-athletes on other teams to take down and set up fence panels and goals, depending on the sport. Coach Lee also worked hard and stayed up late to make sure other area softball programs could access to the dome to finish out their seasons."



Augsburg community members work together to assemble the dome each fall. First installed in 1993, Augsburg's original dome was one of the premier inflatable air structures in the Midwest.



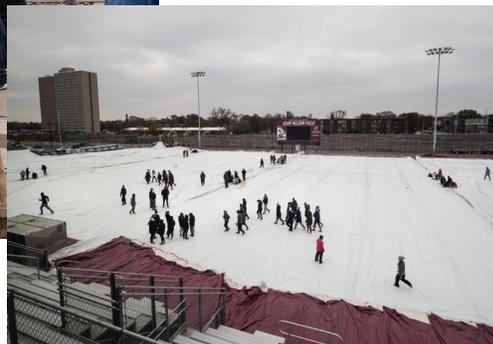
Augsburg's Minneapolis campus

Will this year be a repeat of last season? The Farmers' Almanac indicates 'no,' Coach Lee said, but the Minnesota native jokes the state's weather is as unpredictable as a curve ball. What is not inconsistent, she added, is Auggies' willingness to work together—snow or shine.

Assistant Baseball Coach **Zach Bakko '18** echoed Lee's appreciation for the dome's ability to bring athletes across Augsburg's 21 sports together with each other, the campus, and greater community. Bakko spent several seasons fielding balls under the dome lights as an Auggie outfielder.

"Whether it be quarterback **Quinn Frisell '19** throwing out routes to his agile receivers, golfer **Brett Buckingham '21** working on his swing, or soccer forward **Ashley St. Aubin '20** figuring out another way to score a hat trick, I've been able to see athletes in other sports work to maximize their potential," said Bakko. Plus, "The space allows our campus to give back to the community and make a positive difference in the lives of young athletes [through camps and clinics]."

"Having worked for athletics, I've met the real heroes of the dome—athletics administrators, coaches, and all the maintenance staff—managing scheduling, cleaning, and every other task that arises," he added. "That willingness to come together and do what's needed, regardless of whether it's in your job description, has expanded my understanding of the word 'team.'" ■



Find bonus content and fun facts about the dome at [augsborg.edu/now](http://augsborg.edu/now).

# BANNER YEAR IN STUDENT SUCCESS

## Undergraduate research gives students an edge

BY GITA SITARAMIAH

The summer before his third year at Augsburg, **Fekireselassie Beyene '16** was paid to research Earth's magnetosphere. He worked in a lab on campus under the direction of a physics faculty member.

And he discovered a passion for space physics.

Beyene's research, which was funded by **Dean '91 and Amy Sundquist** his first summer and TRIO McNair Scholars for the second, helped him stand out in national scholarship competitions. The following year, he was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious national program that provides financial support to undergraduates who show the promise of becoming leading scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Then, Beyene's Augsburg advisors helped him successfully apply for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, providing him with more than \$100,000 for graduate school.

Now a Ph.D. student in space physics at UCLA, Beyene credits his Augsburg undergraduate research experience with getting him where he is today.

"You don't see the level of personal coaching at other schools like you do at Augsburg," he said. "I really appreciate that about Augsburg."

Augsburg's undergraduate research opportunities are paying off for students like Beyene, who compete alongside the nation's top students to land high-profile fellowships, internships, and scholarships as well as selection to highly competitive graduate programs.

In fact, Augsburg had a banner year in 2017–18, with a record number of students earning prestigious awards and fellowships.

Here are some highlights:

- Augsburg had six Fulbright winners named this past year and has been listed five times in The Chronicle of Higher Education as a top producer of Fulbrights for master's level institutions. The previous single-year record for Augsburg was four. Since 2008, Augsburg's Fulbright winners total 29.
- An Augsburg student was one of just four Minnesota recipients of the Goldwater Scholarship last year. Out of 1,280 applicants nationwide, 211 were named.
- Three Auggies were Critical Language Scholarship winners in the first year that Augsburg undergraduates pursued this fellowship. Only 10 percent of applicants nationwide receive this award. Two of the students were selected to study Swahili in Tanzania; the third, to study Mandarin in Taiwan.
- Another two Auggies were Public Policy and International Affairs Program winners. Only 20 percent of applicants nationally are accepted into this program. One of the Augsburg winners studied at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The other student spent seven weeks at University of California—Berkeley in a law-focused program.
- For the first time ever, an Augsburg student won a Boren Award, which honors undergraduates studying language in areas underrepresented in study abroad programs. The Auggie, who studied Swahili at the University of Florida this past summer, is continuing to study the language and culture in Tanzania this semester. He will commit to one year of paid federal government service after graduation.



Undergraduate research boosts the résumés of Auggies like **Holly Kundel '19**, who looked for a rare dragonfly in Twin Cities area wetlands.

# SS

Many of these accomplishments are the result of Augsburg's decade-plus commitment to providing undergraduate research opportunities for students. Two programs are responsible for much of this success: the Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity and the McNair Scholars program.

URGO, now in its 14th year, offers an 11-week, on-campus, faculty-led undergraduate research experience with 50 students each summer. Students receive support throughout the research process from a faculty mentor, participate in weekly seminars, and engage in roundtable discussions with fellow student researchers to hone their communication skills. URGO also advises students about national fellowships, graduate school, medical school, and other health sciences.

The McNair Scholars program is a federally funded program designed to prepare students from groups currently underrepresented in graduate school for doctoral studies to some of the most competitive institutions in the U.S. The program currently serves 26 students a year and includes 21 months of graduate school preparation workshops, travel to national research conferences, and hands-on scholarly research projects with faculty mentors.

Through these programs, talented Augsburg students are earning prestigious national opportunities that they otherwise may not even have known about. "Many [of the students] who win awards and fellowships had never even heard the word 'Fulbright' before they were in this program," said **Dixie Shafer**, URGO director.

When students start their first summer research experience, Shafer said, they're looking around wondering how they got selected. "You can tell they're a little bit nervous," she said. "By the end, when they're giving oral presentations and submitting projects, they're the experts in the room. Their level of confidence has grown."

Students agree that they gain key skills from research and writing in partnership with faculty members, presenting their work at conferences, and receiving hands-on guidance from advisors about how to translate those experiences into top fellowships, internships, scholarships, and graduate programs. And they often go on to other off-campus research experiences to expand their curricula vitae.

**Blair Stewig '18**, currently a Fulbright scholar in Poland, first did summertime research at Augsburg in a biophysics lab. She successfully applied for an Augsburg grant to do research while canoeing the Mississippi River during the 2015 River Semester experience, then did summer research with the Minnesota Lupus Foundation at the Mayo Clinic. The next summer, she conducted cancer research at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.



Currently, Stewig is conducting research on colorectal cancer at the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Poland and will shadow physicians and volunteer at the Maria Skłodowska Curie Memorial Cancer Centre.

“Without my research experience and the support of staff and faculty at Augsburg, I don’t think I would have had the confidence to apply for the larger competitive research experiences,” said Stewig, who plans to apply for combined M.D./Ph.D. programs in the future.

Similarly, two months into her first year at Augsburg, biology major **Vision Bagonza '17** regularly started visiting the URGO office and mapping her trajectory to medical school. “They were with me every step of the way,” she said.

In her first summer research project, Bagonza worked on genomics research with Associate Professor and Biology Department Chair **Matthew Beckman**. “That was instrumental to my understanding of what was going on throughout the field,” she said.

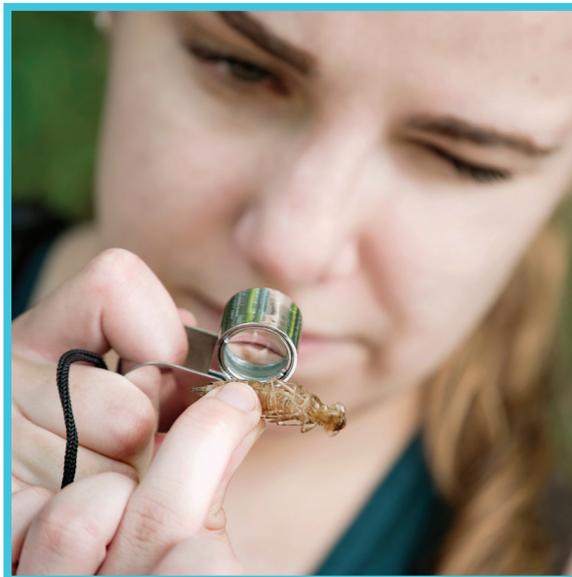
The following summer, she researched biomedical ethics at Mayo Clinic, and she spent her third summer researching malaria at Johns Hopkins. These experiences set the stage for her participation in the Mayo Innovation Scholars program, where she learned about the complexities of the FDA approval process when bringing innovation to market. Finally, Bagonza was awarded a full scholarship to the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School of Medicine after working closely with

three URGO advisors on her medical school applications.

“It was almost like they knew more about my story than I did,” Bagonza said.

Shafer sees this type of faculty and staff interaction with students as a key part of helping students evolve.

“Faculty and staff believe in students and then the students start believing in themselves,” she said.



Fieldwork experience inspired **Holly Kundel '19** to apply for doctoral programs in freshwater ecology.

Fourth-year biology major **Holly Kundel '19** chose Augsburg after meeting faculty on a campus tour and learning that she would be able to do research directly with them.

The summer after her first year, Kundel began her paid research on the rare Spatterdock Darner dragonfly in Twin Cities area wetlands. Kundel, who loves being outdoors during Minnesota summers, was drawn to the project after approaching Biology and Environmental Studies Assistant Professor **Emily Schilling** and learning

that the research entailed doing fieldwork.

Since then, Kundel has received other grants to support her research with Schilling. “It’s nice to work with a faculty member who knows exactly what my strengths and weaknesses are,” Kundel said.

This year, Kundel received a Goldwater Scholarship, providing tuition assistance for her fourth year at

Augsburg, and the associated prestige is expected to set her apart in her applications for doctoral programs in freshwater ecology. “I wouldn’t be applying to the graduate programs I am this fall if I hadn’t done this research at Augsburg,” Kundel said.

While many in the URGO Summer Research Program are science majors, other disciplines are represented as well.

English literature major **Abigail Tetzlaff '18** studied patterns in language and rhetorical uses in poetry and prose. Currently a Fulbright Fellow in Berlin, she is an English teaching assistant and plans to pursue a Ph.D.

in English literature to ultimately become a university professor.

“Especially for undergraduates studying within the humanities, it isn’t very common to come out of college with a research experience already complete,” Tetzlaff said.

For Beyene, if not for the direct support from faculty and his McNair Scholars and URGO advisors, he wouldn’t have considered himself graduate school material. “Being at UCLA now, I realize how fortunate I was to have programs like McNair and URGO,” he said. ■

# AUGGIES CONNECT

## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



COURTESY PHOTO

Dear alumni and friends,

As always, the fall season at Augsburg was full of excitement. This past August, for only the second time, our community sent a group of Auggies to explore the Mississippi on a River Semester off-campus study experience. Over the course of the semester, these students will spend 100 days paddling down the river while learning about history, politics, and the environment, and having the adventure of a lifetime.

Then, as the calendar turned to September, the community welcomed returning students to a new academic year and ushered in the first-year students who make up the class of 2022.

At Homecoming in October, we honored an accomplished group of Distinguished Alumni. We found inspiration in hearing their stories and learning about their achievements, and we were reminded of the talent and dedication that Augsburg alumni exhibit across a vast spectrum of vocations and commitments. Augsburg alumni are, indeed, remarkable professionals and amazing people.

This year, I'm especially excited to serve on the Augsburg Alumni Board as its members strive to increase the ways in which they give to the university. I have personally committed to giving 50 hours of my time to Augsburg. I plan to attend events, mentor a student, and help reconnect the Auggies in my social network with the university.

If, like me, you're interested in making a difference in the lives of others in our Augsburg community, you'll find that there are many ways to connect with Augsburg in support of students.

- Consider attending the Auggie Networking Event coming up in February. This is an opportunity for alumni to help students practice valuable interpersonal skills that will benefit them in their future job searches and careers.
- Join us for the 2018–19 Auggie Take Out student mentoring program.
- Reconnect with Augsburg by volunteering with the Alumni Office or the Alumni Board. We're always looking for people to join our leadership boards.
- Volunteer to usher at Advent Vespers or to serve in another capacity.

In all of the ways that Augsburg has shown up for you, it is now the time to show up for Augsburg. You can find information about these and other volunteer opportunities at [augsborg.edu/alumni](http://augsborg.edu/alumni). I hope you will consider sharing your time and talents with the university this year.

Go Auggies!



NICK RATHMANN '03, ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



## HOMEcoming 2018

Nearly 525 Auggies attended the Augsburg University Homecoming celebration held October 11–13. Alumni, students, and community members gathered for a festive weekend featuring more than two dozen events that united the university's remarkable legacy with its contemporary identity.

If you are interested in serving on an alumni reunion committee or volunteering to help plan Homecoming 2019, contact [alumni@augsborg.edu](mailto:alumni@augsborg.edu).

+ PHOTOS COURTESY OF REBECCA ZENEFSKI SLATER  
\* PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIDGET DONOVAN



## A LIFETIME OF ACTIVISM: Augsburg students of the '60s reflect on the past 50 years



In 1964, folk singer Bob Dylan released his album and song “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” which served as a call for change to address the social injustices he saw in the world.

For the group of young students entering what was then Augsburg College that same year, his words would prove prescient. College is a transformational time for students, but for members of the class of 1968, the impact was especially pronounced.

The Augsburg graduating class of 1968 witnessed the United States live through some of the worst upheavals in the nation’s history. In late 1963, President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. By 1968, assassinations also would claim civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and the late president’s brother, Robert F. Kennedy, as well as political activist and leader Malcolm X. At the same time, the country was becoming violently divided over social issues, including civil rights and the increasingly unpopular war in Vietnam, with ever-larger numbers of young people being drafted and sent to southeast Asia to fight.

In response, Augsburg students began to march for peace and civil rights and to take part in programs like Augsburg’s Listening Witness, which brought them to live and work in impoverished and racially segregated neighborhoods in Chicago and elsewhere.

It was fitting, then, that at this year’s Homecoming celebration, 1968 alumni celebrating their 50th reunion delivered an Auggie Talk titled “The Baby Boomer Effect: How Four Years Affected 50.”

The five speakers—**Michael Arndt '68**, **Kim Gudmestad '68**, **Ted Johnson '68**, Augsburg Board of Regents member **LaJune Thomas Lange '75**, and **Joey Sylvester '68**—said their time at Augsburg shaped the course of their lives. They described how education empowered them to pursue lifelong work in the areas of diversity, justice, public leadership, and social activism.

“I think [those times] had a profound effect on many of us as individuals, and it certainly had a profound effect on Augsburg,” said **Rev. Mark Hanson '68**, an alumnus who went on to serve as a pastor and the third presiding bishop of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America. “For me, Augsburg provided an immersive experience so that those changing realities, those cultural conflicts, and those strivings for racial justice and peace in southeast Asia weren’t just topics that one was reading about or subjects in a classroom. They became lived experiences.”

Hanson, who is now the executive director of Augsburg’s Christensen Center for Vocation, said he’s seen the university change as a result of activism originating in those pivotal mid-’60s years. He points to increasing diversity in the current student body—the result of an intentional commitment to inclusion, equity, and intercultural competency.

Like Hanson, **Myrna Sheie '68**, co-chair of the 1968 reunion events, went on to work with the ELCA after graduation. She reflected that she had entered college without much experience with diverse cultures but saw both herself and Augsburg change during her college years.

“When I started at Augsburg, I was both naïve and unaware of the diversity we lacked,” she said. “Over the next four years, my classmates and I were exposed to ideas, concepts, and lifestyles—both inside and outside the classroom—that challenged us intellectually, socially, and personally. I became less naïve as my eyes and heart became more open.”

### A laboratory for life

When Arndt, one of the Homecoming Auggie Talk presenters, reflects on his college experience, his memories often connect the time he spent on campus with dramatic life events that followed it.

Shortly after graduation, Arndt was drafted from his first teaching job and sent to Vietnam as a member of the Army’s First Cavalry division. He served in the jungle near the Cambodian border and saw heavy military action that killed seven of his friends. During that time, Arndt says he recited the Shakespeare he’d learned during college to calm himself.

# AUGGIES CONNECT



ARCHIVE PHOTOS

## CELEBRATING A SEASON OF HOPE

### 39TH ANNUAL ADVENT VESPERS

For more than three decades, Augsburg University has ushered in the Advent and Christmas seasons with Advent Vespers, a magnificent experience of music and liturgy, focusing on the theme of preparation and culminating in the joyful celebration of the Incarnation. Advent Vespers is set in downtown Minneapolis in the sanctuary of Central Lutheran Church, and this year Advent Vespers services will occur November 29–December 1. To learn more or request reservations, visit [augsborg.edu/music/vespers](http://augsborg.edu/music/vespers).



### VELKOMMEN JUL

Velkommen Jul is one of Augsburg's most beloved traditions. It's an event that celebrates the university's Norwegian heritage and ushers in the Advent season.

Come join us Friday, November 30, at 10:30 a.m., in Hoversten Chapel for a special chapel service—with Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish carols, Scandinavian dancers, and the Gospel read in Norwegian. Wear your Scandinavian sweater, if you have one; it's a tradition to take a group sweater photo!

Following chapel, the festivities continue in Christensen Center. Shop in the boutique for unique gifts and homemade goodies, and make sure to visit the buffet featuring lefse, krumkake, and other treats. The buffet is complimentary, but donations are greatly appreciated. All proceeds from the event support Augsburg student scholarships.

Today, Arndt is chair and professor of Theatre Arts and Dance at California Lutheran University and the artistic director of the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company. He calls on his experiences as a veteran and artistic professional to use theater to help treat fellow veterans suffering the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"There was a time after I got out of the army when I felt that the country was going to dissolve into civil war," he said. "There was such a divide and ... a real sense that we were going to end up in total chaos. In talking with my college students today, there's a sense of that now. [But] I think one of the things we're saying is that those of us who felt that strongly in 1968 tried to work to make a difference. And many of us did."

Hanson concurs. "All that was taking place in the Twin Cities, in the country, and in the world in those four years became, for so many of us, not just objects of study, but context in which we were being formed for our future lives and vocations. And that's still to this day what is particularly unique about Augsburg—it takes its context as the laboratory for life, not as something from which we seek to flee."



Augsburg's Class of 1968 is working to raise \$68,000 in scholarship funds for future students. Learn more about this initiative and their Auggie Talk at [augsborg.edu/now](http://augsborg.edu/now).

# 150

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY  
1869-2019

## SAVE THE YEAR

Join us in honoring the traditions of Augsburg's rich history and celebrating the remarkable progress we have made in educating students to be informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders. A yearlong series of events including a sesquicentennial gala will commemorate our deep roots and recognize our present opportunities and future endeavors as we become a new kind of urban university.

Subscribe to the sesquicentennial events digital calendar to participate in these community celebrations. Visit [augsburg.edu/150](http://augsburg.edu/150).



## AUGGIES TRULY *GIVE TO THE MAX*

Each year, Auggies around the world respond generously to support the breadth of programs and experiences offered by Augsburg University.

In total, over the past five years, Augsburg has raised more than **\$1.5 million** through Give to the Max Day efforts. And even if you missed the opportunity to participate this year, you can find information about our fundraising results and learn more about additional ways to support the university at [augsburg.edu/giving](http://augsburg.edu/giving).



COURTESY PHOTOS

## AUGSBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Plan ahead to participate in exciting alumni trips commemorating Augsburg's sesquicentennial. Overseas trips are planned to locations in Norway and Germany that are central in Augsburg's history.

In May 2020, **Darcey Engen '88**, Augsburg University professor of theater arts, and her husband, **Luverne Seifert '83**, head of undergraduate theater performance at the University of Minnesota, will lead a tour exploring the rich and vibrant arts and culture of Norway. The tour will include plays, concerts, and historical landmarks as well as an opportunity to celebrate Syttende Mai in Norway.

At the same time, a tour exploring Norway's peace work, government, and environmental agencies will be co-led by **Bettine Hoff Hermanson**, Norway Hub managing director, and **Joe Underhill**, associate professor of political science and director of environmental studies. This trip also includes the opportunity to celebrate Syttende Mai in Norway.

In July 2020, **Rev. Sonja Hagander**, Augsburg University pastor and director of ministries, will lead a hike to the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway—a pilgrimage made by travelers for more than 1,000 years. Along the way, the group will learn about history and culture, and experience firsthand some of the most beautiful nature in the world.

Also in July 2020, Augsburg associate professors of religion **Lori Brandt Hale** and **Hans Wiersma**—who led the 2016 alumni tour for the anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation—will lead a tour to Bavaria, Germany, with stops in Nuremberg, Salzberg, and additional nearby locations. The tour also includes tickets to the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play, which first opened in 1634 and has been performed every 10 years since.

Contact **Katie (Koch) Code '01**, director of alumni and constituent relations, at [codek@augsburg.edu](mailto:codek@augsburg.edu) or 612-330-1178 if you are interested in learning more about Augsburg's travel opportunities.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**1942** The French government posthumously awarded **Chester Hendrickson '42** the Jubilee of Liberty Medal for his service and work in Normandy during World War II.



**1958** **Grace (Kemmer) Sulerud '58** received a Spirit of Augsburg Award at Homecoming for her faithful service to Augsburg across her time as a student, librarian, faculty

member, and alumna. After graduating from Augsburg in 1958 with a degree in English, she became a junior high English teacher and an elementary librarian in U.S. Air Force Department of Defense Schools in Germany, Japan, and Libya. Sulerud earned master's degrees in library science and English, served as the treasurer of the Augsburg Associates, and continues to stay involved at university events. She personifies Augsburg's calling to humbly serve in a variety of ways.



**1968** **David J. Melby '68**, Ph.D., received a Distinguished Alumni Award at Homecoming and was recognized as a psychologist, executive leader, and advocate who embodies faithful service in true Auggie form. With a bachelor's degree in psychology from Augsburg and master's and doctoral degrees in counseling psychology, he has worked as a CEO and has served on the boards of organizations relating to behavioral health care, health practices, and housing. As a thoughtful steward and responsible leader, his work has created healthier, more fulfilling lives for many.

**1971** The St. Michael-Albertville (Minnesota) Coaches Association Hall of Fame Committee selected **Darrell Skogan '71** as a Hall of Fame inductee. This fall marks Skogan's 51st season as statistician for the school district. He also has umpired, run clocks, and coached girls' basketball and softball throughout his tenure with the district.

**1972** **John Sherman '72** was honored with two awards for his work as a sports journalist. Sherman received the Outstanding Media Award from the Minnesota State High School League and the Spinnaker Award from Minnetonka School

District. While at Augsburg, Sherman was the editor for the school newspaper and played baseball and soccer. Since graduating 46 years ago, he has served on the Sun Newspaper staff in Edina, Minnesota.

 **Terry Lindstrom '73 and Mark Johnson '75** joined the Augsburg University Board of Regents. See page 4.

 **Augsburg Athletic Director Jeff Swenson '79** explains how the university's dome gives Auggies a competitive advantage. See page 16.



**1982** Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame inductee **Jeff Andrews '82** was a key defender on Auggie men's hockey teams that won NAIA national titles in both 1980–81 and 1981–82, while winning MIAC titles and

reaching the NAIA tournament all four years of his career. Andrews accumulated 29 goals and 60 assists for 89 points in his college career, and he earned All-MIAC honors in 1981–82 and All-MIAC Honorable Mention honors in 1980–81.



Former basketball star **Brad Nelson '82** was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame. An All-MIAC guard in 1981–82, Nelson was a three-year member of the Auggie men's basketball team, averaging 12.0 points, 2.6 rebounds, and 2.9 assists per game in his career. He averaged 20.5 points, 4.7 rebounds, and 4.4 assists per game on Augsburg's MIAC runner-up team in 1981–82, and averaged 7.8 points on the Auggies' MIAC title (later forfeited for use of an ineligible player) and NAIA national tournament team in 1980–81.

**1984** Mayo Clinic Health System—Franciscan Healthcare named **Dr. Paul Mueller '84** the vice president of its Southwest Wisconsin Region. As a regional leader, Mueller will manage operations out of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He completed his undergraduate degree at Augsburg and has spent the past nine years chairing Mayo Clinic's Division of General Internal Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota.

 **Nancy Mueller '85** joined the Augsburg University Board of Regents. See page 4.

 **Darcey Engen '88** employs perspectives both as a student and as a faculty member to plan Augsburg's sesquicentennial celebrations. See page 14.

**1989** The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced that **Carolyn (Ross) Isaak '89** was inducted into the NCAA Division III Track and Field Athlete Hall of Fame in May. Isaak set several records as an Augsburg athlete, including the 400-meter hurdles record that stood until 2014. Isaak, a five-time national champion and nine-time All-American, is Augsburg's first athlete ever to be inducted into this Hall of Fame.

 **Literary scholar Devoney Looser '89** was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2018 and will complete a biography of forgotten sister novelists. See page 10.



**Brynn Watson '89** received a Distinguished Alumni Award at Homecoming. She is an award-winning leader in the aerospace industry for her technical experience, executive leadership, and tireless advocacy of STEM education for youth. She earned a mathematics degree from Augsburg and a master's degree in applied mathematics before she gained several director- and vice-president-level positions in technology and engineering companies. She now serves as vice president for the Future Enterprise Program for Lockheed Martin. Watson's spirit and accomplishments mirror the tenacity of Auggies around the world who ascend to prestigious positions among today's leading companies.



**1995** Wrestling star **Randy Eastman '95** was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame. Eastman was a three-time NCAA Division III All-American in the 167-pound weight class, finishing second nationally in the 1994–95 campaign, third in 1993–94, and fifth in 1992–93. A transfer from Mankato State, he was a member of Augsburg teams that won the national titles in both 1992–93 and 1994–95, while

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

finishing fourth in 1993–94. Eastman won two MIAC titles and was a conference runner-up in his Auggie career.



Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame inductee **Tom Layte '95** was a dominant wrestler for the Auggies in the mid-'90s. Layte competed at Augsburg in the 1994–95 season after transferring from Western New England College, and he made the most of his Auggie campaign, going 44-4, winning the NCAA Division III national title at 150 pounds, and earning Outstanding Wrestler honors at the national championships as the Auggies won the team national crown. He later served as an Augsburg assistant coach and was head coach at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Augsburg volleyball star **Carolyn Tuohy '95** was a dominant player in the mid-'90s, playing three seasons as a middle hitter, earning All-MIAC honors in 1994, and receiving All-MIAC Honorable Mention honors in 1992. Tuohy, who was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame, was a team co-captain in 1994 and finished her career with 878 kills in 2,566 attack attempts. She was voted the team's MVP in 1992.



**1997 Derrin Lamker '97** was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame in recognition of his successes on the football, basketball, and baseball teams. A quarterback in football, Lamker led the Auggies to the 1997 MIAC title and a spot in the NCAA Division III national quarterfinals. He earned All-MIAC honors in 1996 and 1997. He was the conference MVP in 1997, in addition to earning All-America honors and finalist honors for the Gagliardi Trophy (Division III Player of the Year).



**Joe Lavin '97** had an outstanding pitching career on the Augsburg baseball team. An ace during the mid-'90s, Lavin earned All-MIAC and All-Midwest Region second-team honors in 1995, while earning conference Player of the Week honors multiple times. He had a 1.42 ERA in conference play with five complete games, a shutout, and 41 strikeouts against only 16 walks and 32 hits in 1995, while winning three games on the mound in 1994 and four in 1996.



**Eric Rolland '97**, the Augsburg men's and women's golf head coach, teaches students a lifelong sport each spring in the campus dome. See page 16.

**2000 Jasha Johnston '00 and Carrie (McCabe) Johnston '02** opened their third restaurant, Mortimer's, in the Whittier neighborhood of Minneapolis. The new venue features live music, an updated menu, and a family-friendly atmosphere. In addition to their new venture, the Johnstons own Nightingale Restaurant and Tilt Pinball Bar.



**2002** Three-sport athlete **Brenda (Selander) Mitshulis '02** was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame. Mitshulis was an All-MIAC honoree in 2000 and All-MIAC Honorable Mention honoree in 1999 in soccer, where she finished her career with 15 goals and four assists for 34 career points. She led the Auggies in scoring in three seasons. In hockey, she was a member of the 1998–99 and 1999–2000 MIAC title squads and the 2000 national runner-up team. She also played two seasons of softball.



**2003** Dual sport athlete **Rachel Ekholm '03** was inducted into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame. One of the best softball players in school history, Ekholm earned All-MIAC honors three times, while earning NFCA All-Region honors twice. As a pitcher, she won 39 career games

## AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



'70



'76



'84



'90



'12

with a 2.45 ERA and 347 strikeouts. She hit .389 and holds school records for home runs, triples, RBI, and slugging percentage. She also played in 60 career games in basketball, averaging 9.1 points and 2.3 rebounds per game.

 Softball Head Coach **Melissa Lee '04** said the Augsburg air structure helped save the team's 2018 season. See page 16.



**2006** This year, Augsburg's Excellence in Coaching Award recognized **Jim Gunderson '06**. Gunderson is in his fourth season as football head coach at the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, Minnesota, after serving for 14 years as an assistant coach. He has also served as track and field head coach since 2012. In football, his team won the Minnesota Class AAAA state title in 2017, with Gunderson being named the Minnesota Football State Class AAAA Coach of the Year.



**2008** **Joshua Harris '08** received a First Decade Award at Homecoming. His life and work in the past 10 years embodies Augsburg's pursuit of social justice, equity, and inclusion. Since

graduating from Augsburg with a degree in communication studies, he has devoted his career to public leadership and making a difference in his community. He ran for mayor of Baltimore in 2016, becoming the youngest person ever to run for the office. He also sits on the boards of several Baltimore community initiatives and is the co-founder of a nonprofit fostering revitalization.



**Brian Krohn '08**, Ph.D., received a First Decade Award at Homecoming. After earning a degree in chemistry, researching biofuel, and becoming Augsburg's first Rhodes Scholar, Krohn founded companies Mighty Axe Hops and Magic Wizard Staff. He earned a doctorate from the University of Minnesota as an Environmental Protection Agency Fellow and master's degrees from the University of Oxford in environmental change and science. He was an Innovation Fellow at the U of M's Medical Devices Center and is CEO of Soundly, an app-based therapy to reduce snoring—an initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.



**Killa Marti '08**, J.D., received a First Decade Award at Homecoming because she embodies Augsburg's values through her thoughtful stewardship, critical thinking, and rigorous

pursuit of justice and equity. After graduating from Augsburg with a major in international relations and a minor in economics, Marti earned a law degree so that she could serve immigrant communities. She has worked with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and several law firms, has founded her own law practice in the Atlanta area, and has worked tirelessly for her law clients in districts and cases where the decks were stacked against them.

Former Augsburg cheerleader **Cassandra Roschen '08** returned to Fairmont High School to coach the cheerleading squad. Roschen, a former Fairmont cheerleader, taught current students sideline cheers and routines. She also extended her service to include team building and community outreach with the squad.



**Chris Stedman '08** received a First Decade Award at Homecoming for his robust intellectual engagement as an informed citizen and critical thinker. A religion major with minors in English and social welfare, he earned a master's degree in religion from Meadville Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago. He was the founding executive director of the Humanist Center of Minnesota, founded the Yale Humanist Community, and was a humanist chaplain at Harvard. Stedman is the author of "Faitheist: How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious" (Beacon Press, 2012).

**'70** **Nikki Rajala '70** published "Traacherous Waters," her second novel in the "Chronicles of an Unlikely Voyageur" series. A career ESL teacher, Rajala retired from the St. Cloud School District in 2004 and lives in Rockville, Minnesota.

**'76** **Jeff Mueller '76** was honored by Norway's King Harald V, who bestowed the rank of Knight First Class in the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. Mueller, director of administration and finance at Norway House, Minneapolis, is a past president of the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce and currently serves on its board of directors. He also has been active in the Syttende

Mai Committee, the Norwegian Independence Day celebration, the annual troop exchange program with the Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard, and Torske Klubben. Mueller (right) is pictured with Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S. Kåre R. Aas, who presented the order of merit medal at Norway House.

**'84** The HGA firm hired **Mary Claire Olson Potter '84** as a health care business developer and senior associate.

**'90** In June, former Augsburg football player **David Stevens '90** hosted a Disability

Dream and Do Camp alongside the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, an American minor league baseball team based in Upstate New York. CBS affiliate WBNG covered Stevens' story and time with the Rumble Ponies. Stevens, who led six other athletic camps this summer, was the only double amputee to play three seasons of football for the Auggies. He later played for the St. Paul Saints and tried out for the Minnesota Twins and Dallas Cowboys.

**'12** **Janelle (Christensen) Nelson '12** welcomed a daughter, Kennedy Elaine, in April. Nelson majored in art history. Her grandfather also attended Augsburg.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**2011** **Laura (Schmidt) DuSchane '11** and **Seth Lienard '11, '16 MBA** opened a new business venture called Fretless Marketing that provides social media and event marketing services for small businesses. Their company website is [fretlessmarketing.com](http://fretlessmarketing.com).

**Ted Nielsen '11** started a new job at Edward Jones as a financial advisor. Nielsen assists individuals and families with long-term investing. Nielsen previously worked with Thrivent and graduated from Augsburg with a bachelor's degree in English.

**2012** **Kimberly Simmonds '12** was promoted to a program assistant with the City of Minneapolis. Simmonds majored in history at Augsburg before receiving her master's in public administration in 2014.

**2013** **Alexandra Buffalohead '13** started a new role as manager of art and cultural engagement with the Native American Community Development Institute. Buffalohead earned a bachelor's degree in studio arts at Augsburg. She has since served as a graphic designer for the American Indian Cancer Foundation and as a communications officer for the Indian Land Tenure Foundation.

**Tyler Heaps '13** is a manager of analytics and research at the United States Soccer Federation. SportTechie, an online resource devoted to covering topics at the intersection of sports and technology, interviewed Heaps regarding his work within the federation tracking players and opponents using innovative technologies. Heaps is working to standardize analysis and support across all soccer levels and teams to ensure the federation can effectively track players within the system.

The Chicago Tribune wrote about **Dustin Ritchea '13**, who returned to live and work in his hometown of Chesterton, Indiana. Ritchea serves as a promotions director for Indiana Dunes Tourism and also works as an actor, producer, songwriter, and writer.

**2015** **Nikki (Ludwig) Darst '15** started a new job with Black Line Group as a research and development tax manager. She graduated from Augsburg with a degree in accounting management.

 **Fekireselassie Beyene '16** participated in undergraduate research that contributed to success after graduation. See page 20.

**2017** **Jack Swift '17** recently started a new role with In The Groove Music as a publishing assistant. As an Augsburg student, Swift majored in business administration with an emphasis on music business.

 **Vision Bagonza '17** conducted research through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity. See page 20.

**2018** The NBC Nightly News featured **Neil King '18** in a story about his success at Augsburg in the StepUP® Program. After graduating from Augsburg and StepUP, King started a master's degree in integrated behavioral health at the University of Minnesota.

**Chung Eang Lip '18** started a new role as a graduate school teaching assistant at Columbia University in New York City. Lip is working on a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in infectious disease epidemiology.

St. Olaf College hired **Gregory Mitchell '18** as a wide receivers coach for the 2018 season. Mitchell was a receiver on the Augsburg football team. He previously coached receivers at Centennial High School and Southwest High School.

 **Blair Stewig '18** and **Abigail Tetzlaff '18** delved into student research with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity. See page 20.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**Matthew Halley '97 MSW** serves as executive director for Cookie Cart, a nonprofit youth program that equips young people with employment and life skills. Halley was interviewed by the St. Paul Pioneer Press for an article highlighting the program's continuing success since its founding in 1988. Halley is focused on expanding the program by adding more youth workers.

This spring, Education Minnesota named **Kelly (Sheehan) Holstine '12 MAE** the 2018 Teacher of the Year. An English teacher at Tokata Learning Center, an alternative high school in Shakopee, Holstine created a new English curriculum and developed policies that the school has implemented. Lavender Magazine featured Holstine's accolades and focus on diversity in education. As Teacher of the Year, Holstine is an ambassador for 86,000 teachers in Minnesota.

## AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS

**'16** The Twin Cities Arts Reader interviewed **Brid Henry '16** regarding her work in the Minneapolis theater scene. Henry has performed in the Minnesota Fringe Festival and has directed and co-produced the first year of the Minneapolis branch of the Future Is Female Festival. Henry chose to study theater at Augsburg because the university's program was ranked among the top opportunities outside of New York.

**'13** Augsburg alumnus **Scott Cooper '13** returned to the university this August as a full-time staff member serving as an alumni engagement manager. Cooper started his undergraduate degree at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, before transferring to Augsburg in 2011 where he completed a bachelor's degree in communication. Cooper was a member of the Augsburg Choir and the 2012 and 2013 Auggie football teams. Prior to

## SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

joining Augsburg's Alumni and Constituent Relations staff, Cooper served in Minneapolis Public Schools' high school special education programs. In his free time, Cooper has enjoyed public speaking engagements in which he has discussed his experiences as an Auggie football player.

**'12** **Rick Wolke '12** and **Ashley (Carney) Wolke '13** welcomed Aurora Jo Wolke on

## AUGGIES HONORED

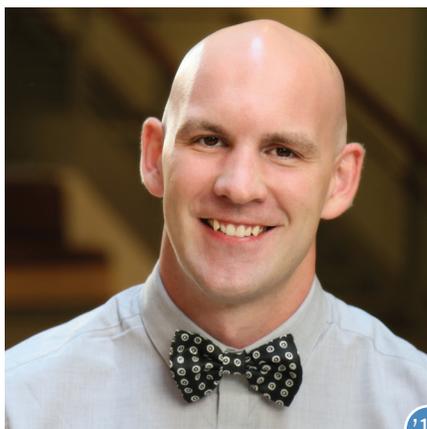


**Orville "Joe" Hognander Jr.** received a Spirit of Augsburg Award at Homecoming for his thoughtful stewardship and responsible leadership. Although he was not a student at Augsburg, he is a noteworthy Auggie through and through.

His grandfather was an Augsburg graduate more than 100 years ago, his parents were highly involved in the music program, and his ties to alumni and faculty run deep. A retired naval officer and private investor now living in Edina, Minnesota, Hognander's longstanding involvement with Augsburg speaks to a family history of commitment and engagement, particularly in the continued support of Augsburg's Department of Music.



'16



'13



'12



Professor Emeritus **John Holum**, Ph.D., received a Spirit of Augsburg Award at Homecoming. A beloved retired professor whose legacy spans more than 30 years, Holum is a prolific writer who has published dozens of scientific

textbooks and peer-reviewed papers. He came to Augsburg with a doctorate in organic chemistry and taught chemistry until his retirement in 1993. Holum, who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, has demonstrated a lifelong passion for academic excellence and support for students on their educational journeys.



'09



'15



'10

Tell us about the news in your life—your new job, move, marriage, and milestones. Visit [augsborg.edu/now](http://augsborg.edu/now) to submit your announcements.

**'09 Caitlin (Hozeny) Lienard '09, '17 MSW** and **Seth Lienard '11, '16 MBA** were married on September 23, 2017, in Stillwater, Minnesota. There were several Auggies in attendance. Pictured are [front, L to R]: **Seth Lienard, Caitlin (Hozeny) Lienard, Morgan (Bray) Thompson '09, Amanda (Chmiel) Spence '09**

[back, L to R]: **Wade Wojick '11, Ryan Wilsey '12, Erika Osterbur '11, Aren Olsen '11, Luke Lienard '16, Aaron Rosell, Stefan Swanson, Sheridan Lienard, Lindsey Graff '11, and Ben Krouse-Gagne '11.**

**'15 Laura (Swanson) Lindahl '15 MBA** and her husband, David, welcomed a son, Lawson Robert, on April 26.

**'10 Jonathan Chrustek '10 and Katie Pendo '10** were married on July 7 in Leesburg, Virginia. Several Augsburg alumni joined the couple as they celebrated their wedding, which was officiated by **Sylvia Bull '10** and **Emily Wiles '10**. Augsburg alumni **Alissa Nolan '09, Nick Blixt '10, and Cait Kortum '10** were in the wedding party, and **Kate Edelen '11** was in attendance.

# IN MEMORIAM

**Lydia C. (Mitlyng) Pokrass '35**, Ashburn, Virginia, age 104, on May 29.

**Eunice C. (Knudson) Iverson '42**, Richmond, Minnesota, age 97, on September 9.

**Joyce M. (Reitan) Knutsen '43**, Fridley, Minnesota, age 93, on May 30.

**Richard J. Koplitz '45**, Minneapolis, age 95, on June 15.

**Lenore "Beth" B. (Buesing) Opgrand '45**, Wilmington, North Carolina, age 95, on May 25.

**Adele L. (Anderson) Cupit '46**, Walnut Creek, California, age 94, on May 26.

**Jack E. Jacobsen '46**, Minneapolis, age 95, on January 11.

**Helen "Merle" M. (Houser) Campbell '47**, Newberg, Oregon, age 94, on June 27.

**Arthur E. Marben '47**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 95, on July 14.

**Estelle M. (Uleberg) Swanson '47**, Madelia, Minnesota, age 92, on August 2.

**Milan J. Sedio '48**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 94, on May 18.

**Donald L. Sween '49**, Lakeville, Minnesota, age 93, on April 25.

**Richard J. Thorvig '49**, Minneapolis, age 93, on August 4.

**Lynn B. Lundin '50**, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, age 90, on May 29.

**Verna M. (Haverly) Brue '51**, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, age 90, on July 16.

**Erika R. (Staub) Niemi '51**, Tucson, Arizona, age 91, on April 16.

**A. Richard Petersen '51**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, age 89, on August 21.

**Duane J. Christensen '53**, Bemidji, Minnesota, age 87, on May 7.

**Clara A. (Hookom) Cobb '54**, Willmar, Minnesota, age 85, on May 26.

**Duncan D. Flann '55**, Overland Park, Kansas, age 85, on April 9.

**E. William "Bill" Anderson '56**, Plymouth, Minnesota, age 84, on May 16.

**Lloyd C. Grinde '56**, Minneapolis, age 92, on July 1.

**Russell C. Lee '56**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, age 86, on August 17.

**Roger K. Ose II '56**, Minnetonka, Minnesota, age 84, on May 9.

**Sidney D. Berg '57**, Minneapolis, age 88, on May 29.

**Leroy H. Conyers '57**, Marshall, Minnesota, age 88, on June 13.

**Charles H. Erbstoesser '58**, Little Falls, Minnesota, age 88, on July 18.

**Harlan J. Jacobson '59**, Ashby, Minnesota, age 81, on July 20.

**Joyce K. (Johnson) Rudi '62**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 85, on August 29.

**Gloria A. (Metcalf) Kubnick '63**, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, age 77, on July 12.

**Karlton "Karl" I. Bakke '64**, Roseville, Minnesota, age 77, on July 18.

**Bruce E. Braaten '64**, Prior Lake, Minnesota, age 76, on May 27.

**Charlotte K. (Jensen) Duty '65**, St. Joseph, Missouri, age 75, on March 24.

**Cengiz Gokcen '66**, St. Pete Beach, Florida, age 74, on August 5.

**Daniel "Dan" E. Peterson '66**, Clear Lake, Minnesota, age 75, on March 4.

**Niles R. Schulz '66**, Minneapolis, age 74, on July 10.

**James E. Leschensky '67**, Minneapolis, age 73, on March 25.

**Judith A. (Anderson) Woods '67**, Brainerd, Minnesota, age 73, on March 7.

**Dolores "Dee" M. (Larson) Fagerlie '72**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 90, on August 23.

**Kathleen E. Tinseth '74**, Minneapolis, age 66, on September 4.

**John R. Burgeson '75**, Andover, Minnesota, age 66, on May 19.

**Margaret "Marie" (Salmonson) Marx '78**, Scandia, Minnesota, age 89, on September 7.

**Stephanie J. (Torgerson) Sipprell '81**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, age 59, on May 5.

**Mary J. Andersen '84**, Afton, Minnesota, age 61, on March 10.

**Linda J. (Skay) Weinberg '87**, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, age 69, on March 13.

**Eileen M. (Henkemeyer) Saldana '91**, Minneapolis, age 82, on January 6.

**Jon M. Leverentz '92**, Hopkins, Minnesota, age 67, on August 16.

**Alisa J. (Norvold) Leonard '93**, Northfield, Minnesota, age 48, on July 8.

**Shirley A. Sopkiewicz '93**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 60, on February 27.

**John E. Sorlien '93**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 55, on July 19.

**Scott D. Syring '93**, Minneapolis, age 48, on August 24.

**David R. Berken '94**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 50, on May 19.

**John "Johnny" M. Burke '94**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 54, on March 20.

**Rebecca E. Rehfeld '95**, Minnetonka, Minnesota, age 62, on February 19.

**Phyllis A. Lee '96**, Frederick, Maryland, age 76, on January 18.

**Alice E. (Barden) Mapes '96**, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 56, on August 24.

**Susan D. (Graff) Mills '96**, Fargo, North Dakota, age 65, on July 3.

**Scott W. Schuck '97**, Minneapolis, age 63, on August 31.

**John M. Welch '07**, Sudbury, Massachusetts, age 34, on June 30.

**Marlene M. Taylor '09**, Plymouth, Minnesota, age 31, on May 16.

**Jennifer L. Lovering '10**, Bemidji, Minnesota, age 29, on April 26.

**Cheryl L. Miller '10**, Altoona, Wisconsin, age 52, on August 9.

**Jon "Ryan" R. Benson '12**, Chanhassen, Minnesota, age 40, on June 1.

**Jacalyn "Jackie" S. (Ruschmann) Pederson '14**, Danbury, Wisconsin, age 65, on August 28.

**David "Alex" A. Jenny '16**, Kansas City, Missouri, age 29, on May 27.

**Cole R. McAdam '17**, Faribault, Minnesota, age 23, on April 7.

*The "In memoriam" listings in this publication include notifications received before September 15.*



# VISIT CAMPUS

## ALUMNI

Whether you're on campus often or haven't been back in years, there's always something new to see. Schedule a personal tour by contacting the alumni office at **612-330-1329** or [alumni@augsborg.edu](mailto:alumni@augsborg.edu).

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Augsburg could be right for you. Traditional undergraduate students who are children or spouses of Augsburg graduates or the siblings of current Augsburg students are eligible for a minimum scholarship of \$16,000 per year. Schedule a campus visit at [augsborg.edu/visit](http://augsborg.edu/visit).





PHOTOS BY KEVIN HEALY

## Augsburg press box name commemorates Campus Pastor Emeritus Dave Wold

Augsburg University dedicated the press box at Edor Nelson Field in honor of the late **Rev. Dave Wold** during the Auggie football team's home opener this fall. Augsburg's campus pastor from 1983 to 2013, Wold died April 21 at age 72. In addition to his service to the Augsburg community as a faith leader, Wold was a constant presence in the Augsburg athletics community, serving as public address announcer for football, men's basketball, and wrestling home competitions, along with events in many other sports. The breadth of Wold's pastoral care supported generations of Auggies, and he is beloved by alumni and Augsburg community members around the world.