

ONE  
DAY  
IN  
MAY

68/20



## NOTES FROM PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW

### *On ‘Through truth to freedom’*

As we conclude our yearlong celebration of Augsburg’s 150th anniversary, in the midst of these historic times, I have been reflecting on some of the mottos and slogans Augsburg has used throughout its history. From our founding scriptural motto—“And the Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14)—to the familiar “Education for service,” to the more recent “We believe we are called to serve our neighbor,” to the iconic phrase first used as part of Augsburg’s 100th anniversary and now featured on our university seal, “Through truth to freedom,” each phrase points to abiding values that are at the heart of the education Augsburg offers to its students.

I am particularly struck by the claim made in that centennial motto, and I wonder what it might mean to explore how “Through truth to freedom” shapes our teaching and learning community in the midst of these pandemic times.

In a recent presentation, Professor of Religion **Mary Lowe** offered a provocative challenge when she asked us what it might mean to educate our students for freedom. What a countercultural notion! Educated for freedom from ignorance, from oppression, from division and hatred and violence. Educated for freedom to make the world more fair and just and healthy, to be good neighbors, to take care of creation. Educated for freedom for the sake of the world, for the good of others, for the promise of wonder and creativity.

At Augsburg, the possibility of this education for freedom is grounded in claims of truth. Above all, a theological claim of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ—stated so powerfully in that founding scriptural motto from the first chapter of John’s gospel—a truth that makes all things possible in our lives and work in the world. At the same time, it’s the truth we find in our commitment to a liberal arts education—to the belief in scientific knowledge, in social analysis, in artistic expression, in cultural wisdom. And finally, it’s the truth we find in the lived experiences of our students and the communities from which they come, truths that reside in rituals and traditions and practices that invite us into worlds rich in knowledge and wonder.

“Through truth to freedom” strikes me as a compelling

response to this moment when we find ourselves living at the intersection of three pandemics. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted all aspects of how we live and work, and it has pointedly illustrated the tension between public health and economic well-being. Following in the wake of that pandemic, an economic pandemic threatens our social fabric with massive unemployment and business closures worldwide. And, most recently, the racial inequities exacerbated by the senseless murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers—along with countless Black, Indigenous, and other people of color who’ve experienced similar racism and violence—have created a third pandemic that threatens to tear our country apart. Surely this uncharted intersection of crises presents unique challenges for all of us as citizens, trying to imagine how we will navigate to some as yet unknown future.

The question we will ask at Augsburg—a question at the heart of our academic mission and our commitment to social justice—is, “Where is the truth in the midst of these pandemics?”

What is the truth about keeping each other healthy in the face of a novel coronavirus? What is the truth in an economy that, more and more, deepens remarkable inequities? What is the truth in centuries of systemic racism and oppression? And the truths we will find, always evolving and emerging and transforming, will free us for the work we are called to do as “informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders”—Augsburg’s mission!

Let us go forward together into the next 150 years of Augsburg’s life recommitted to education guided by the belief that through truth there is indeed freedom. I can only wonder what such a countercultural belief will mean for stories yet to be told.

Stay strong, safe, and well.

Faithfully yours,

PAUL C. PRIBBENOW, PRESIDENT

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## EDITOR’S NOTE

When we began making this magazine in early 2020, the world was markedly different than the one we inhabit today. Augsburg Now staff delayed the magazine’s timeline due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the university’s operations.

Most of the stories and events described herein occurred before it became necessary to shift to many working from home, online gatherings, and other modified operations to slow the spread of the virus.

Because we wanted to share these remarkable stories and Auggie accomplishments as soon as possible, our team decided to release this issue in digital-only format, a first in the magazine’s history.

—John Weirick, editor

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**On the cover:** Augsburg commemorates an event in its history and reflects on its significance for today. See page 2 and page 8.

*All photos by Courtney Perry unless otherwise indicated*

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# COMMENCEMENT 2020

On Friday, May 29, and Sunday, May 31, Augsburg University celebrated commencement virtually. Taking precautions to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, Augsburg was among numerous institutions nationally that hosted virtual celebrations to recognize graduating students. The streamed online event opened with speeches from Provost **Karen Kaivola** and President **Paul Pribbenow**. Personalized slides for graduates included photos and messages that the students submitted. Friends and family posted comments to the video stream as they watched the event. Students took to social media to share their graduation posts using the hashtag #AuggieGrad.

Once it's again safe to host large gatherings, Augsburg will plan an in-person ceremony for the Class of 2020 that will include many more familiar commencement traditions.



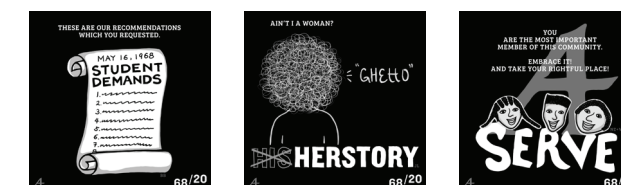
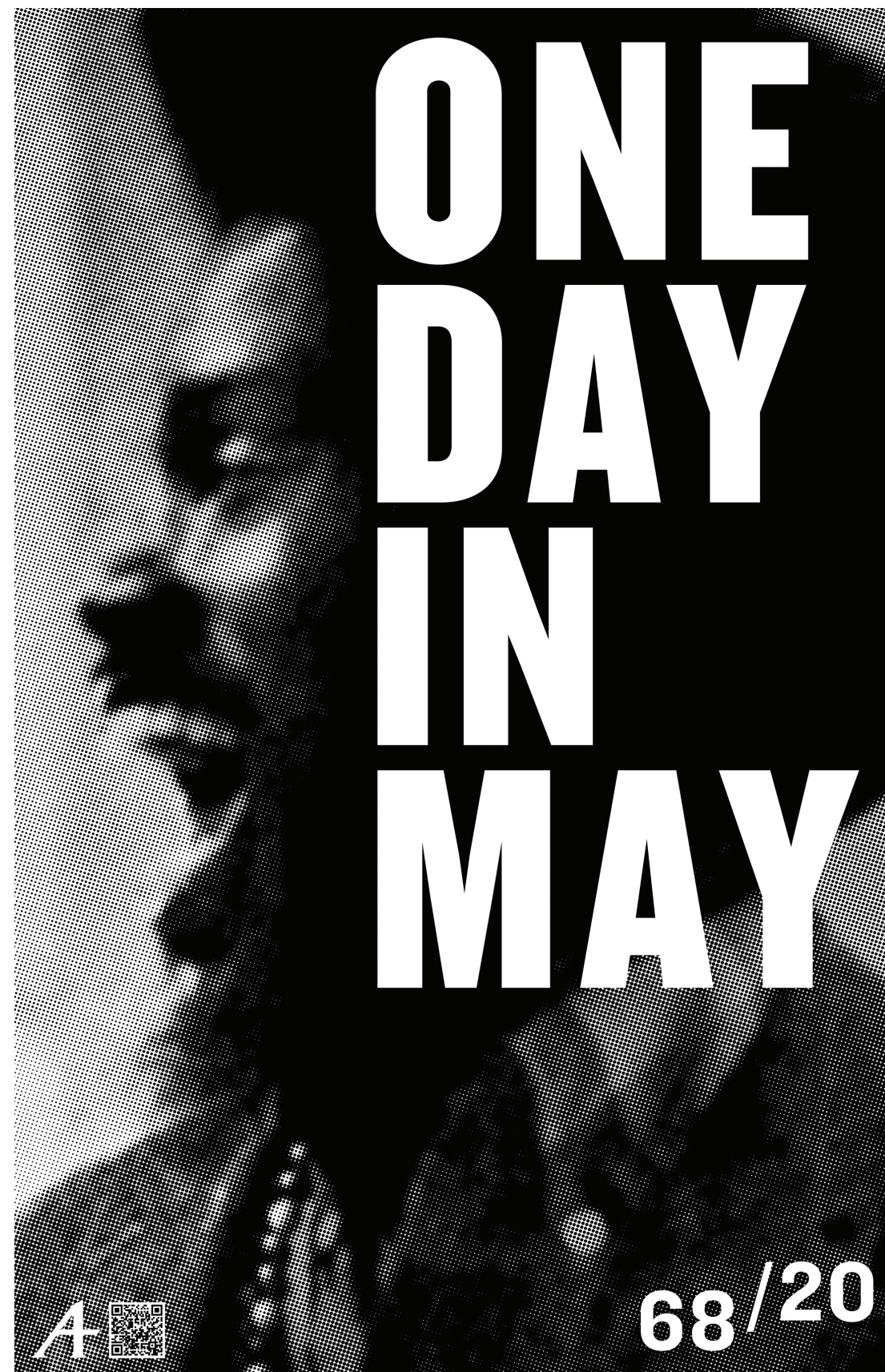
COURTESY PHOTO

## ONE DAY IN MAY

This year's commencement celebration featured a central theme, chosen in April, that connected defining moments in Augsburg's history with its contemporary reality. Uplifting the university's longstanding commitments to equity and inclusion, the theme "68/20: One Day in May" called the university community to explore the actions and outcomes of events in 1968 to consider their relevance for 2020.

Following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Augsburg canceled classes on May 15, 1968, and hosted a series of workshops and lectures. Augsburg faculty and local Black community members led conversations focused on racism, politics, power, education, and violence—significant tensions in American life in 1968. This year, Augsburg presented honorary degrees during the virtual commencement, recognizing two leaders of the historic One Day in May in 1968: the Hon. **LaJune Thomas Lange '75** and **Mahmoud El-Kati**.

Augsburg owes a debt of gratitude to the leaders of One Day in May, an event that continues to inform and inspire the university community to engage in efforts for equity and justice. Their contributions to our society and to Augsburg resonated strongly in the virtual commencement ceremonies, which took place just days after George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police.



Black artists, along with Indigenous and other students and community members of color, led an art campaign to uplift One Day in May during Augsburg's sesquicentennial celebration.

edu Hear audio recordings from the event in 1968, and see more One Day in May art, including a banner that appeared in The New Yorker, at [augsb.org/now](https://augsb.org/now).

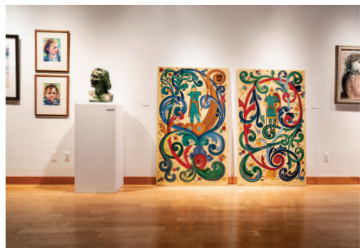


# Art at Augsburg

Works by Faculty,  
Past and Present

## THE ART OF AUGSBURG

As part of the university's yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary, **Kristin Anderson**, professor of art history and archivist, curated an exhibition of works by Augsburg art faculty dating back to the origin of the department in the 1950s. The exhibit included works by early department members, such as **Hans Berg** and **Ivan Doseff**, former longtime faculty members, including **Norm Holen** and **Phil Thompson**, and current faculty members **Stephen Geffre**, **Chris Houlberg**, **Dan Ibarra**, **Robert Tom**, **Lyz Wendland**, and others.



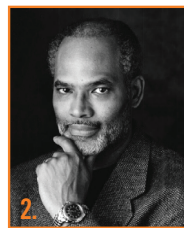
The faculty art exhibit was displayed in the Christensen Center Art Gallery.



## CONVOCATION SERIES SPEAKERS

The Augsburg University Convocation Series is an annual speaker series that includes long-standing endowed and special programs. Recent presenters included:

1. DeAnna Cummings, chief executive officer of Juxtaposition Arts, who shared a presentation at the Horbal Lecture in November called "Putting Creativity to Work 2025: Stronger Communities Through Local Art and Design"
2. John S. Wright, professor emeritus of English and African American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, who delivered "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community" at the 32nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation in January
3. Kwame Anthony Appiah, professor of philosophy and law at New York University, who presented "Ethics, Identity, and Cosmopolitanism" at the Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics in March



COURTESY PHOTOS



L to R: President **Paul Pribbenow**, Peter Heegaard, and Mike Christensen

## URBAN INVESTORS FINDS NEW HOME AT AUGSBURG

Last November, Augsburg University's Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship and the Strommen Center for Meaningful Work welcomed a new campus partner: Urban Investors. Formerly known as Urban Adventure, this program helps bankers understand the challenges and opportunities within cities through experiential learning opportunities. The program also facilitates partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit groups and promotes investment and community development that move families out of poverty, revitalize neighborhoods, improve schools, and build economic opportunity.

## THE AUGSBURG PODCAST: SEASON 3

The first two seasons of the Augsburg Podcast featured faculty and staff sharing stories of their work with students. The third season, launched in March, takes a new approach and invites students and a recent graduate to discuss their experiences with internships and the ways in which Augsburg has helped support their personal and educational goals.

Listen to the new season at [augsborg.edu/podcast](https://augsborg.edu/podcast) or in your podcast app.



Barclay Bates '18

COURTESY PHOTO

Hearst Foundation awards Augsburg

# \$75,000

FOR LEAD FELLOWS PROGRAM

LEAD Fellows, a program of Augsburg University's Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship, this winter received \$75,000 from the Hearst Foundation, Inc. to support students as they pursue in-depth, long-term, community-based work at paid internships. The program name stands for Leaders for

Equity, Action, and Democracy. Students spend two to four years engaged in public work projects that address social issues such as education, homelessness, racial justice, and poverty while also

participating in a peer learning cohort.

The LEAD Fellows program is unique in that it offers students a pathway to generate income while also making a difference and growing as leaders. The program is cohort-based with a strong support framework that helps students to develop connections with peers and mentors, build their sense of belonging, and hone their leadership skills.

The Hearst Foundation award will fund the pay students receive for their internships and will enhance cohort activities, including semiannual retreats and biweekly gatherings.



Augsburg's LEAD Fellows program is affiliated with the far-reaching Bonner Program that aims to transform students, communities, and campuses through service.



# AROUND THE QUAD

## The Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology degree launches to meet growing demand

This past November, the university introduced its second doctoral program: a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology. Augsburg's first, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, began in 2010.

Augsburg worked with former Minnesota School of Professional Psychology faculty and staff to provide continuity for students who were previously enrolled in the program housed at Argosy University. After the closure of Argosy in March 2019, Augsburg received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer this degree and become Minnesota's only university offering an in-person PsyD program in clinical psychology.

Employment of licensed psychologists and related occupations is projected to grow 13.7% from 2016 to 2026 in the United States. "We are pleased to offer this PsyD program as a way to meet the growing demand for mental health services statewide," said Monica Devers, Augsburg University dean of professional studies.

Augsburg University is currently seeking accreditation on contingency with American Psychological Association for newly admitted students to the Clinical Psychology PsyD program.

Contact Wendy Assal, associate director of graduate admissions, at [assal@augsb.org](mailto:assal@augsb.org) to learn more. In addition, individuals wanting to learn more about APA accreditation can also contact the American Psychological Association's Commission on Accreditation at the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, 750 First St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-4242; 202-336-5979.



Augsburg is now accepting applications.  
[augsb.org/psyd](https://augsb.org/psyd)

## Augsburg wins Campus Compact Impact Award

Campus Compact, a network of universities across the United States that are committed to public engagement in higher education, honored Augsburg University as an inaugural recipient of the Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation. Augsburg was selected for its work in developing partnerships with the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and advancing environmental sustainability, interfaith leadership, and equity and racial justice.



 Watch the video used to introduce Augsburg at the award ceremony at [augsb.org/now](https://augsb.org/now).

## HONORING Retiring Faculty

Several faculty members are entering retirement following years of dedicated service to Augsburg University. Augsburg is grateful for their commitment to advancing the university's mission and supporting student learning within and beyond the classroom.

**JOHN CERRITO**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Business—joined Augsburg in 1983

**MARGARET FINDERS**  
Professor, Department of Education—joined Augsburg in 2014

**MARK FUEHRER**  
Professor, Department of Philosophy—joined Augsburg in 1971

**DAWN KADERABEK '18 DNP**  
Instructor, Department of Nursing—joined Augsburg in 2015

**VIRGINIA MCCARTHY**  
Associate Professor, Department of Nursing—joined Augsburg in 2011

**NANCY RODENBORG**  
Professor, Department of Social Work—joined Augsburg in 2000

**MICHAEL SCHOCK**  
Associate Professor, Department of Social Work—joined Augsburg in 1993

**NANCY STEBLAY**  
Professor, Department of Psychology—joined Augsburg in 1988 (Read about her research on page 18.)

**MARTHA STORTZ**  
Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Vocation and Religion—joined Augsburg in 2010

**MARK TRANVIK**  
Professor, Department of Religion—joined Augsburg in 1995



At a special chapel service during the January 2020 Augsburg University Board of Regents meeting, Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially installed **Babette Chatman '06**, left, and **Justin Lind-Ayres** as Augsburg's university pastors.

## Augsburg community launches on-campus lending shop to reduce waste and promote reuse

Augsburg's Environmental Stewardship Committee and Campus Cupboard food pantry collaborated in Fall 2019 to pilot a new resource: the Share Shop, which offers a wide variety of items for free, short-term checkout. The Share Shop currently features board games, small appliances, office supplies, sewing kits, sports equipment, tools, and much more.

The Share Shop follows the same hours of operation as Augsburg's Campus Cupboard and is located in the lowest level of Science Hall, adjacent to the university's longstanding "free table," where Auggies place items they no longer need and wish to offer to new owners. For Fall 2020, the Campus Cupboard will relocate to the Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship in the lower level of Anderson Residence Hall to accommodate new operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Share Shop will remain in Science Hall, and the two student-run initiatives will continue to work together.

 Visit [augsb.org/green/shareshop](https://augsb.org/green/shareshop) and [augsb.org/foodshelf](https://augsb.org/foodshelf) to learn more.

## President Paul Pribbenow shares Augsburg's story at



On March 11, Augsburg University's President **Paul Pribbenow** (pictured) shared the Augsburg story during a session called, "Hospitality is Not Enough: An Institutional Journey From Diversity to Inclusion and Equity" at The Forum on Workplace Inclusion conference.

Augsburg, home of The Forum on Workplace Inclusion since last summer, is "proud to partner with the forum to help expand diversity, equity, and inclusion skills, so our students can fully participate and succeed in the workforce," Pribbenow said.

The 32nd annual, three-day conference attracted more than 1,500 people from around the world and across sectors.



The Star Tribune recently published an article featuring **Steve Humerickhouse**, executive director of the forum, in which he explained the importance of creating safe places for difficult conversations.

 Visit [augsb.org/now](https://augsb.org/now) to read the article: "How the Twin Cities became one of the largest hubs for workplace diversity and inclusion."



## ON THE SPOT

How One Day in May in 1968 forced Augsburg to reevaluate its posture and practices regarding racism and education

**Hana Dinku** served as director of Augsburg University's Pan-Afrikan Center from March 2019 to July 2020. Her most recent project at Augsburg, "One Day in May," was featured on WCCO-TV this spring, prior to Augsburg's virtual commencement (see page 2). Between her work leading programs and supporting students, she outlined the importance of Augsburg's history and present moment.

**Q:** Why was One Day in May such a pivotal moment for the Augsburg community in 1968?

**A:** One Day in May forced Augsburg to recognize all the ways it had failed to live up to its mission and values. In the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, higher education institutions across the country saw a wave of protests and a demand for structural change. One Day in May was Augsburg's response to the moment. The community speakers, Augsburg students, staff, and faculty who participated shed light on systemic white supremacy in the Augsburg community and the nation. This public acknowledgment created a level of transparency and accountability that helped move Augsburg in the right direction.

**Q:** How did the reintroduction of One Day in May arise and become the theme of this year's commencement ceremony?

**A:** When I started my job at Augsburg, one of my mentors, community elder **Mahmoud El-Kati**, told me the real history of Black folks at Augsburg. Elder Mahmoud was one of the community speakers at One Day in May and spent years working closely with the Pan-Afrikan Center. Very few people on campus knew about One Day in May and the contributions of Black students, staff, and faculty. After learning that Augsburg's sesquicentennial book, "Hold Fast to What is Good," didn't mention it, I worked with other Augsburg leaders to make One Day in May the theme for the university's 2020 MLK Day celebration. As more people heard

the story and understood the significance of One Day in May, it took on a life of its own. Directors of International Student Services, LGBTQIA+ Student Services, and Multicultural Student Services worked with faculty member **Leon Wang** and the administration to build and promote a sesquicentennial campaign about One Day in May.

**Q:** What is one component of One Day in May that is especially relevant for our current social and political environment?

**A:** All aspects are relevant, but if I had to identify one particular component, it would be the demand to decolonize the curriculum at Augsburg. The Eurocentric core of the education system is the clearest example of how our institutions are embedded in white supremacist ideology. This is why we gathered this year to begin the creation of a Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies department.

**Q:** What do you hope is accomplished through the reintroduction of One Day in May?

**A:** My goal for this campaign was to help Black students understand and appreciate the battles fought by those who came before them. I want Black students and other marginalized students to know that we are a part of Augsburg history; we are not guests at this institution. When the whole Augsburg community understands this, we will see the kind of institutional changes that marginalized students, staff, and faculty have demanded for years.



## Rick Steves partners with Augsburg's Center for Global Education and Experience Plan ahead for travel to Guatemala

When well-known travel author, activist, and media personality Rick Steves went to Central America to film segments for his new public television special, "Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala," he called on Augsburg staff to provide expert guidance and introductions to community leaders and regional organizations committed to ending hunger and extreme poverty. That's because Augsburg's Center for Global Education and Experience has a vast network in Guatemala and has offered educational programming in the country since 1985.

One of the key people Steves spoke with during the production of his television special was **Fidel Xinico**, director of Augsburg's CGEE Guatemala programming. Xinico set up Steves' trip logistics from Guatemala and served as a cultural guide and language translator. He is a trilingual Guatemalan citizen of the Kaqchikel Maya ethnic group. **Susan Peacock**, a CGEE program coordinator based out of Minneapolis, connected Steves and Xinico and helped shape the direction of the television show. Augsburg is now planning a travel program for the general public that will take participants to inspiring destinations in Guatemala.

### Participate in CGEE's newest trip: Hunger and Hope in Guatemala

When non-essential travel resumes, travelers will get an inside glimpse of Guatemala and visit many of the same places depicted on "Rick Steves Hunger and Hope: Lessons from Ethiopia and Guatemala."

From the charming colonial city of Antigua, to Lake Atitlán and its surrounding volcanoes, to the colorful tapestry of Mayan history, there is an abundance of things to do, see, and learn.

#### Registration open for:

Trip 1: April 11–18, 2021

Trip 2: June 13–20, 2021

Trip 3: August 8–15, 2021



Visit [go.augsburg.edu/hope](https://go.augsburg.edu/hope) to learn more and register.

## Augsburg senior scholar published in TIME MAGAZINE



Find a link to the article at [augsburg.edu/now](https://augsburg.edu/now).

**Harry Boyte**, senior scholar of public work philosophy at Augsburg's Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship, co-wrote an article that was published in Time magazine. Boyte's piece offered an analysis of the 2020 United States presidential race and suggested that a compelling campaign would appeal to Americans as engaged citizens rather than disgruntled consumers: "Emphasize a citizenship message for government to be a partner, not a savior."



Visit [inside.augsburg.edu/one-day-in-may](https://inside.augsburg.edu/one-day-in-may) to see more ways Augsburg is building on the foundation of One Day in May.



# HOW TO BUILD A WOMEN'S WRESTLING PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH

BY KATE H. ELLIOTT

Augsburg Athletics continues trailblazing trend with Minnesota's only collegiate women's wrestling team

"I already feel bad for my future children," joked **Bel Snyder '23**. "They are going to have to hear the story of Minnesota's only collegiate women's wrestling team over and over again."

Snyder is one of 10 women wrestlers who made history at Augsburg during the 2019–20 academic year—a quarter century after the university founded the NCAA's first women's hockey team in the Midwest, followed by Minnesota's first varsity women's lacrosse team in 2014. That pioneering spirit drew Snyder to Augsburg, which received a Breaking Barriers Award in February at Minnesota's National Girls and Women in Sports Day event at the Minnesota History Center.

"I have never felt such close bonds or such support," added Snyder, who's an elementary education transfer student. "I am going to bleed maroon and gray for the rest of my life."



*Editor's note: In late July, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announced plans to postpone competition in cross country, football, soccer, and volleyball until the spring. Winter and spring sports are still under consideration.*



## GREEN BUT GREAT

It's a young team with seven first-year and three transfer students who had never wrestled for an all-woman team until now. The roster includes some of the nation's top competitors, including **Emily Shilson '23**, who's considered the top woman recruit in the country by some wrestling news outlets. The 19-year-old finance student qualified to wrestle for a spot in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games (which have been rescheduled for 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic).

How did a budding team recruit such champions? Meet Women's Wrestling Head Coach **Max Mejia**, a former Harvard wrestler who became a women's and skills coach for Arizona's Sunkist Kids Wrestling Club, which produced 55 Olympic medalists in both men's and women's wrestling.

"In wrestling, you can control your destiny more than other sports. It's not about height or speed. Champions have mental toughness, diligence for detail, and a hunger to win," he said. "My goal is to produce the best women leaders in the world. When they graduate, I want them to understand how these traits convert to success in the real world. And I want the employers to gobble them up because they recognize what comes from that level of leadership, dedication, and grit," he said.

Mejia focuses on process, knowing results will follow. He seeks to understand each athletes' hopes and motivations so he can help them play to their strengths for both athletics and career success.

Mejia empowers each wrestler to set her own goals: "I know I have the discipline to do anything I put my mind to, and I'll have a great mindset while doing it," said kinesiology major **Savannah Vold '22**.

"He doesn't see us as we are but as we could be," said **Vayle-rae Baker '23**, who ranks at the top of her weight class. "Then he pushes us through self-doubt or

whatever is holding us back. I take more risks, and I'm seeing the rewards."

Those strengths are showing. With an overall record of 4-2, Auggie Women's Wrestling ranked among the top 10 programs in the NCAA as the team headed into the inaugural Cliff Keen National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships in early March. Augsburg finished in ninth place as a team, while Shilson claimed the national title to close out her inaugural collegiate season.



*"My goal is to produce the best women leaders in the world."*

## NCAA NAMES WOMEN'S WRESTLING AN 'EMERGING' SPORT

In January, NCAA Division II and Division III voted to add women's wrestling to its list of Emerging Sports for Women; in June, Division I voted in agreement. The next milestone for the wrestling community will be to reach at least 40 NCAA-affiliated varsity women's wrestling teams, which is required to achieve official NCAA Championship status. At present, about 35 NCAA schools support women's wrestling teams.

Augsburg Athletic Director **Jeff Swenson '79** is optimistic. "We have no doubt women's wrestling will build on our reputation as a 'wrestling school,' with our men's team having secured its 13th national title in 2019.

"In 1995, Augsburg made history with the region's first women's ice hockey team, and now you're unique if you don't offer women's hockey. Then in 2014, Augsburg started the NCAA's first varsity women's lacrosse team in Minnesota, and now, here we are with women's wrestling," he said. "Augsburg continues to be a pioneer for women's athletics, and we're invested in the success of women's wrestling."

Men's Wrestling Co-Head Coach **Jim Moulsoff** is thrilled that Augsburg is creating opportunities for women to wrestle at the collegiate level. Girls' wrestling is the fastest growing high school sport, according to the U.S. Wrestling Foundation, yet Minnesota and Wisconsin are among the 30 states that haven't made girls' wrestling an official sport."



"For the past 18 years, I have helped out at junior freestyle summer trainings, and it's been amazing to see the growth of women's wrestling from no girls in attendance to hundreds each year," said Moulsoff, the 2015 and 2019 National Wrestling Coaches Association Division III National Coach of the Year.

## TEAM OF 'FIRSTS' MENTORS YOUNG GIRLS

Members of the women's wrestling team also are driven to share their knowledge and pave the way for the next generation of women wrestlers. Every one of the student-athletes has lived a first—the first girl on a high school's wrestling team, the first match

a competitor forfeited because he "didn't want to wrestle a girl," the first time she saw women's wrestling at the Olympics (in 2004). They embrace the strength gained from those moments, but it is time for more women to have opportunities to wrestle.

Nine years ago, Minnesota USA Wrestling began hosting open gyms at Augsburg every Sunday, and four girls attended the first session. Earlier this year, about 60 girls showed up every week, even with weekend tournaments pulling some away. Baker said she and her teammates consistently volunteered to coach and mentor the girls, who ranged from 6 to 18 years old.

"I started wrestling when I was 9, and I was the only girl on that team and the only girl on my middle and high school teams," Baker said. "I



look forward to coaching and connecting with the girls each week. My teammates and I want to show them they can do this, and show them there will be teams for them when they go to college.”

**Chad Shilson '93**, women's wrestling director and coach for Minnesota USA Wrestling, said lifelong friendships seem to emerge at every practice, as girls experience wrestling with those who are similar in strength, weight, flexibility, size, and goals. “They get to be the iron that sharpens other iron,” he said.

The result: some of the top women wrestlers in the country, if not the world, have come out of the open gyms—“hungry for the sport and everything it has to offer,” added Shilson, the father of top-ranked Augsburg wrestler, Emily Shilson.

Coach Mejia hopes to collaborate with USA Wrestling and other organizations to offer even more camps and open gyms (when it's safe and appropriate for public health regarding the coronavirus) for the estimated 300 girls who are wrestling at some level in the state. When they graduate from high school, Mejia said, “I want them to have no doubt that Augsburg is the place to be.”

## ‘WE KEEP PLAYING. ... WE PERSIST’

Word has gotten out. Alumni and friends of the university are tweeting their praises and sharing news coverage of the historic team. Children's book author and public speaker, **Shelly Boyum-Breen '97**, said the university's investment in women's wrestling is also an investment in girls and women in general.

“I was fortunate to be at Augsburg when women's hockey started, and I saw lives changing before my eyes. I know firsthand the impact that continues to make on those women's lives,” said Boyum-Breen, who taught physical education and coached women's basketball at Augsburg. “When we invest in women and our diverse communities, we invest in what's possible. We have to show it in action through media coverage. Kids

*“When we invest in females and our diverse communities, we invest in what's possible.”*



Augsburg placed seventh in the NCAA women's division at the Multi-Division National Dual Meet in Louisville, Kentucky, in January.

need to hear these stories—boys and girls.

“Look at the decision-makers, the percentages of coaches, the funding gaps, and the near media blackout of women's professional and collegiate sports. And yet, we keep playing.

And people keep watching. Because of the support that exists, we persist,” said Boyum-Breen, who also established grants to pay sports fees and equipment costs that functioned as barriers to participation for some Minnesota girls.

Augsburg women's hockey coaches know better than most the kind of investment and persistent leadership required to create and sustain a vibrant women's athletics program.

“To be a leader—it's scary,” said founding Women's

Hockey Head Coach **Jill Pohtilla**. “I've seen Augsburg, time and time again, make bold moves based on what makes sense and what is right,” said Pohtilla, who was inducted into the Women's Hockey Association of Minnesota Hall of Fame in 2006.

The women's wrestling program has made an immediate impact in the Athletics Department and has increased expectations for success, said **Michelle McAteer**, Augsburg's women's hockey head coach.

“Coach Mejia was able to bring in a large and talented class for the inaugural season, and it's clear how skilled, determined, and committed these women are,” she said. “They are representing Augsburg and our Athletics Department with great pride, and growing the profile of their sport at the same time.

“They are making history, living history,” McAteer added. “It's a special team doing very special things.” ■

## LATE 1990s

First college varsity women's wrestling program begins at the University of Minnesota—Morris (which later dropped men's and women's wrestling programs).

**2004** Women's wrestling becomes an Olympic sport.

**2008** Women's Collegiate Wrestling Association hosts first national tournament.

2019 Committee on Women's Athletics recommends emerging sport status for women's wrestling to the NCAA.

*Women's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports:*

**20,000** HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLERS

**11,000** COLLEGE WRESTLERS

**70+** colleges and universities sponsor a varsity wrestling program.

**22** U.S. states and territories sanction an official scholastic girls state wrestling championship.





## *A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS AT AUGSBURG*



» 1972

*Title IX mandates equal opportunities in education, allowing women to participate on high school and college athletic teams. Augsburg basketball, gymnastics, tennis, and volleyball record their official inaugural varsity seasons in the Title IX era.*

» 1975

*Women's track and field is added as a varsity sport.*

» 1991

*Women's cross country program begins.*

» 1922

*Women's basketball team assembles. Beginning in 1950, they earn a record of 125-5 over 15 seasons.*

» 1974

*Softball is added as a varsity sport.*

» 1985

*Women's soccer becomes a varsity sport.*

» 1995

*Augsburg establishes the first varsity women's hockey team in the Upper Midwest.*

» 2014

*Augsburg establishes the first varsity women's lacrosse team in Minnesota.*

» 2003

*Swimming and diving program begins.*

» 2019

*Augsburg launches the only varsity intercollegiate women's wrestling team in Minnesota.*





# MISTAKEN IDENTITY

BY GITA SITARAMIAH

**National Science Foundation grant fuels Professor Nancy Steblay and Augsburg students' research of the reliability of eyewitness identification and law enforcement procedures**

You've seen the story on TV or heard it on a true crime podcast.

A crime is committed. An eyewitness identifies a suspect in the lineup. The suspect is prosecuted and relegated to years of incarceration. Justice is served ... until DNA evidence exonerates the suspect.

Augsburg University Professor of Psychology **Nancy Steblay** believes these crucial questions deserve answers: How reliable is eyewitness identification, and how trustworthy are the law enforcement procedures that collect eyewitness evidence?

"I was trained as a social psychologist. As I was teaching after graduate school, I saw that many of the principles I'd learned about social psychology and experimental methods really applied to this area of psychology

and law," said Steblay, who is entering retirement after 32 years at Augsburg. "What became interesting to me are principles through which we could change the justice system."

Activists and community leaders in the United States have long decried the injustices of racial discrimination and violence perpetuated in the criminal justice system. More than six years before Minneapolis police killed George Floyd, prompting a growing number of citizens and leaders to call for greater accountability for law enforcement officers—with some calling into question the legitimacy of police policies and even police presence as a whole—Steblay and her team collected data, evaluated methods, and drew scientific conclusions about a specific mechanism within the

law enforcement system that many believe is, at the very least, in desperate need of reform.

That component of the justice system is the police practice of lineups: a law enforcement process designed to confirm an eyewitness's identification of a criminal suspect among a lineup of several people with similar appearance, build, and height as the suspect. However, this process is far from flawless.

Mistaken eyewitness identification is observed in seven of every 10 cases when the true identity of the criminal is revealed by forensic DNA testing, said Gary Wells, an Iowa State University psychology professor who collaborated with Steblay. "It's a national problem and has major implications for our criminal justice system and our belief in the reliability of that system."



REAL PEOPLE IN  
REAL CASES

Eyewitness identification of criminal perpetrators is a staple form of evidence in courts of law.

“Think of eyewitness memory like trace evidence, such as blood, gunshot residue, or other physical evidence,” Steblay said. “You don’t want to contaminate it.”

Steblay, along with Wells, is among the top national experts in eyewitness identification. As an experimental social psychologist who has conducted research on eyewitness memory, police procedures, and eyewitness evidence for 30 years, she is often called upon by defense attorneys to testify when they believe a suspect is being wrongly accused based on faulty identification.

Her ability to speak with authority on the subject has been reinforced by her research findings. Assisted by Augsburg student researchers, Steblay and Wells led studies that, for the first time, sought to understand and predict eyewitness identification errors using actual lineups.

Before these studies, scientific psychology’s understanding of eyewitness identification accuracy was based almost exclusively on controlled laboratory studies that simulate eyewitness experiences.

Steblay and Wells were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to pursue a four-phase study from 2014 to 2018. The research followed up on their prior work, in which police lineups were presented to real eyewitnesses by detectives using laptop

computers with a software program developed specifically for the field experiment. Data was collected from 855 lineups in four cities: Austin, Texas; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina; San Diego; and Tucson, Arizona.

The field data collected in these cities provided lineup photos and eyewitness identification decisions, investigator reports, and audiotapes of the verbal exchange between the lineup administrator and eyewitness during each lineup procedure. A startling discovery emerged from a pattern of cases when lineup administrators, who were also the case detectives, knew who the suspects were and behaved in a leading fashion with the eyewitnesses.

LEARNING FROM  
LINEUPS

Augsburg student researchers collected data and assessed 190 real lineups for fairness or bias. “It’s powerful to bring students into research by saying, ‘Here’s the problem of wrongful convictions, and let’s figure out how to solve them,’” Steblay said.

Psychology majors made up the research team at Augsburg, adding laboratory skills to what they learned in the classroom. Steblay and 27 student

**“It’s powerful to bring students into research by saying, ‘Here’s the problem of wrongful convictions, and let’s figure out how to solve them.’”**

researchers conducted the first and second studies across multiple semesters. Verbal exchanges between police

lineup administrators and eyewitnesses to crimes were audio-recorded. There had never been an analysis of recorded verbal comments from actual witnesses because such recordings had never

existed until this study.

The Augsburg students coded 102 audio transcripts to examine the association between witness comments and lineup selection, finding that an instant identification by an eyewitness was less likely to produce an error than when the witness was deliberative.

**Natalie Johnson ’18**, who’s pursuing a master’s degree in counseling psychology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, was one of the students who listened to police audiotapes and coded them based on whether the decision-making process was immediate or deliberative.

She and other students were startled to realize that the police push for a conviction could, in some cases, influence how criminal cases are pursued.

“Doing the work on police lineups made me realize how flawed our system can be,” she said. “It made me realize our criminal justice has a long way to go.”

**Sean Adams ’17**, who is currently a legal assistant, said he was shocked by how poorly some of the lineups were constructed.

The tests were designed to include fake witnesses, and these mock witnesses in Augsburg’s laboratory studies represented the worst possible scenario: a witness with no memory of the offender. Mock witnesses should not be able to pick the police suspect from a lineup at a rate higher than chance. “The worst lineup I saw had such a leading description that the [laboratory] witnesses picked the police suspect 80% of the time,” Adams said. “That should have statistically been less than 20% of the time.” Lineups should be constructed so that the suspect and the fillers (innocent people added to the lineup) match the suspect description.

RELEVANT  
RESEARCH

Along with stunning insights into eyewitness identification, these studies brought to light more questions worth exploring. The research resulted in 12 conference poster presentations involving 23 students, and it fostered two student honors projects and spinoff projects that are ongoing.

“It was time-consuming, but it was important. I think the student researchers had a sense of the importance,” Steblay said. “It was really fun to work with them. Their work enabled me to complete the project.”

Augsburg student researchers saw the subject material’s importance for effective law enforcement practices as well as its resonance with people beyond their research group. When **Austin Conery ’17** began researching how to predict eyewitness identification errors, he discovered that his Augsburg University research project was a hot topic with friends and family.

“Every party or every family event, someone would ask what was going on at school, and I could talk about the research for hours because it was so relevant,” Conery said.

Besides a view into a major criminal justice system issue, students said the research opportunity gave them practical experience.

Conery said the research gave him the confidence to read, understand, and apply studies in his current job as a site director at a children’s mental health provider, PrairieCare.

“It was a great way to implement the things I was learning in class,” he said. “It gave me the place to think critically in a controlled environment.”

As Adams considers his future work, he’s looking back to his time at Augsburg. “I’ve been thinking of what I enjoyed in college, and a lot of it was the work I did with Nancy,” he said.





TURNING RESEARCH FINDINGS INTO PRACTICAL POLICIES

Stebly's influence may not make her a household name, but her research findings are being put to practical use in a variety of ways.

Minnesota judges view a webinar module she created, "Eyewitness Science: Protection and Evaluation of Eyewitness Identification Evidence," as part of their judicial e-learning program. Steblay also published a chapter in the 2019 book, "Psychological Science and the Law."

The findings of the research by Steblay, Wells, and Augsburg student researchers are leading to major reforms nationally. The best practices include critical stipulations: that lineups must be double-blind, meaning the administering officer doesn't know who the suspect is, and that the non-suspect fillers in the lineup must resemble the suspect and match the description of the offender that was provided by the eyewitness.

"There are hundreds of thousands of police officers who are using these eyewitness identification protocols that we didn't use 20 years ago, and they don't know Nancy Steblay's name," said William Brooks, a police chief in Norwood, Massachusetts.

Brooks travels the country training police on what he regards as groundbreaking science-backed best practices for lineups. "I don't think there's been as wide of an impact in other areas of investigation as in how we deal with eyewitness memory," he said.

In mid-May, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz signed bipartisan legislation that requires uniform science-backed eyewitness identification practices for all law enforcement, which goes into effect in early 2021.

Still, the eyewitness identification best practices face resistance. "Some of it is individual police jurisdictions just not wanting to be told how to do things," Steblay said in an interview with Yahoo News. "Sometimes police or prosecutors say they don't want rules to be so rigid, because then if we just violate one of the rules, then that ruins our prosecution or we can't catch the bad guys or whatever. So they feel like it's undermining their ability to do the good job that they should do.

"I don't see it that way," Steblay said. "I just think these are not difficult changes." Steblay views the recommended lineup reforms as a means to strengthen eyewitness evidence and reduce the likelihood of a mistaken identification.

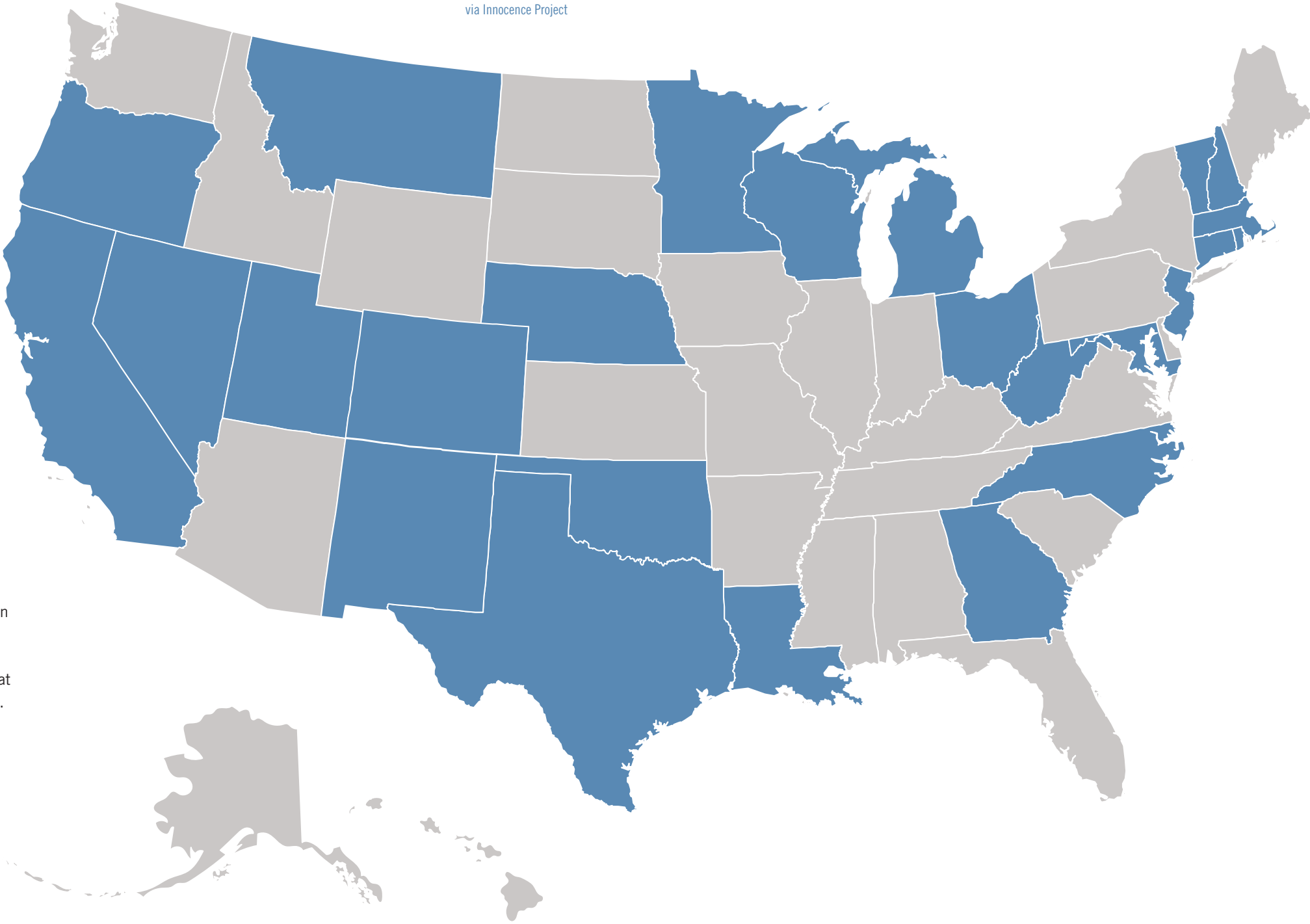
The Innocence Project, a nonprofit founded in 1992 to exonerate the wrongly convicted through DNA testing, has worked to pass laws throughout the country that embrace the scientifically supported best practices advanced by Steblay and Wells.

"When we began our work, a handful of states had embraced best practices. Today more than half of the states in the country have adopted key eyewitness identification reforms," said Rebecca Brown, the nonprofit's policy director.

Stebly hopes more police departments will enact these reforms. "We have at least part of the answer to how police can reduce mistaken identification and wrongful convictions." ■

States where core eyewitness reforms have been implemented through legislation, court action, or substantial voluntary compliance:

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin via Innocence Project





# Gage Center for Student Success



## IN MEMORIAM: EDWIN 'SKIP' GAGE

The Gage family is part of a legacy that has supported valuable student services that are crucial to Augsburg University's identity and community.

**Edwin "Skip" Gage** passed away Wednesday, February 26, 2020. Skip and his wife, **Barbara Carlson Gage**, have been integral to the Augsburg community for many years. All four of their children attended Augsburg, including alumni **Geoff Gage '89** and **Rick Gage '96**. Barbara served on the Board of Regents, including four years as chair of the board and as co-chair of Augsburg's Access to Excellence campaign.

Skip and Barbara initiated the Center for Learning and Accessible Student Services and contributed substantial time and gifts to the StepUP® Program. Skip believed the values taught as part of the fabric of Augsburg's community have been as important as the educational experience and the culture of family and service that is imparted to all of Augsburg's students.

Through the Gage family's leadership, CLASS was established. In 1989, Skip and Barbara commissioned the first study that evaluated learning disability programs at the college level. They partnered with Augsburg faculty to build a learning disability endowment program, and Skip led the drive to raise \$500,000 in addition to \$500,000 his family pledged.

Skip and Barbara have supported many campus projects throughout the years, including Anderson Plaza, the Gage Center for Student Success, the Gage Family Art Gallery, the James G. Lindell Library, and the Scandinavian Center, which cultivated knowledge and interest in Scandinavian culture on campus for 15 years. In 2016, the Gage family was honored with the Toby Piper LaBelle Award for their consistent support of young people in recovery.

In his professional life, Skip built what came to be known as the Carlson Marketing Group. He served as chair and then chair emeritus of the InnerCity Tennis Foundation and worked with Barbara in many community efforts with the Banyan Community, Northside Achievement Zone, and Urban Ventures.

Skip's vision aligned with Augsburg's institutional calling and reinforced the university's commitments to global perspectives, living faith, active citizenship, and meaningful work. Skip and Barbara's gifts and leadership over the years have sustained Augsburg's commitment to serve its students and neighbors.

"The Gage family has and continues to have a significant impact on the Augsburg community," said **Donna McLean**, former Augsburg director of leadership gifts. "Thanks to the generosity of the Gage family, the lives of so many students have been meaningfully enhanced through CLASS and other campus programs that provide impactful learning experiences." ■



## OPERA TAKES THE STAGE

Sesquicentennial project shares story through song

The Augsburg University Department of Music had a unique opportunity to produce and perform "Tienda," a new chamber opera by Augsburg Assistant Professor of Music **Reinaldo Moya** and opera lyricist Caitlin Vincent, which premiered February 21 and 22.

This production, presented as a part of Augsburg's sesquicentennial celebration, was performed in Foss Center's Hoversten Chapel and included a cast of student singers, the Augsburg Choir, and the Augsburg Orchestra. The opera tells the story of Luis Garzón, a Mexican musician who immigrated to Minneapolis in 1886 and opened a small Mexican grocery store, or tienda, in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the 1920s. Garzón's store served as a community hub for new arrivals from Mexico, many of whom had fled the Mexican Revolution and found work toiling on the sugar beet farms of rural Minnesota. "Tienda" explored the immigrant experience: what must be left behind—and what cannot be forgotten—on the journey to a new home.

## AUGGIES CONNECT



## Other sesquicentennial projects

To commemorate Augsburg's 150th anniversary, the university invited faculty and staff to apply for funding to support unique projects that aligned with their interests and expertise while uplifting Augsburg's mission, academic excellence, and traditions. These projects showcased the university's history, its distinction in the arts, and its high-quality scholarship. Learn more about sesquicentennial projects at [augsb.org/150](https://augsb.org/150).

## STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Give to the Student Emergency Fund at [augsb.org/giving](https://augsb.org/giving).

A Student Emergency Fund was established in March to support Augsburg students with financial relief as we all grapple with the challenges of COVID-19. In these disruptive times, many students are experiencing the loss of income and jobs as segments of the economy shut down, struggles to provide for their families, obstacles in returning home to out-of-state residences, and uncertainty about their ability to finance their Augsburg education.

With this fund, students are able to request emergency funding for basic needs, including food, rent, transportation, and medication. They may also request funding for academic materials—such as books, supplies, laptop computer rentals, and wireless internet—to ensure their education is not impacted by a lack of attainable resources.





# AUGGIES IN NATION'S CAPITAL

## BEGIN SERIES OF ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Last October, a group of Augsburg alumni gathered in Arlington, Virginia, for a dinner and reception hosted by **Jeff Peterson '63**. At the end of the gathering, **Jessica Spanswick '10** suggested the group should spend more time together.

Spanswick coordinated the group's next gathering for a social hour and trivia in Washington, D.C., the following month. That's how the informal DMV-area (the district, Maryland, and Virginia) Augsburg alumni group was born. With help from Augsburg's Institutional Advancement team, they were able to invite even more Auggies in the area to attend social hours, networking events, and dinners.

In February, Augsburg staff met with the group to discuss how to increase alumni involvement across the country and support the university through Give to the Max Day 2020.

Want to plan an alumni gathering in your area when pandemic health precautions allow? Email [alumni@augsborg.edu](mailto:alumni@augsborg.edu) to receive help reaching out to fellow Auggies.



Auggies meet in the Washington, D.C., area.



L to R: **Chris Bogen '09**, **Robyn Hiestand '98**, **Kari Arfstrom '89**, **Jonathan Chrastek '10**, **Jessica Spanswick '10**, **Katie Pendo '10**, **Kaia Chambers**

COURTESY PHOTOS



# AUGGIES,

what program do you want to lift up for Give to the Max Day 2020?

Give to the Max Day 2019 was a huge success for programs across campus!

**\$421,000 RAISED**  
**1,656 DONORS**

Auggie passion is the fuel that drives strong donations on Give to the Max Day, and that's why it's Augsburg's biggest fundraising day of the year. It's exciting and inspiring to hear your personal stories about Augsburg and why you're passionate about supporting a particular project.

What do you want to lift up at Augsburg? Send in a 45- to 90-second video of yourself sharing what you were most passionate about at Augsburg, and you might be featured in the next Give to the Max Day campaign.

Send in a video, volunteer, or help lead a project in November by contacting **Chris Bogen '09**, campaign coordinator, at [bogen@augsborg.edu](mailto:bogen@augsborg.edu) by September 1, 2020.

# LIFELONG AUGGIE FRIENDSHIPS

Connections that flourished at Augsburg span across years and miles

[L to R]: **Derek Francis '08**, **Bryan Ludwig '08**, **Greg Hildebrandt '08**, and **Sama Sandy '08** brought their families together for an evening of fun earlier this year. The group members tout themselves as the "1107 Family," named for the number of the room they shared in Mortensen Residence Hall. The Facebook post from their meetup shows how a friendship between four Auggies became a close-knit group of 17.



A group of Auggies who celebrate life milestones together gathered for the 70th birthday of **Sue Gibbons Casey '71** [front, center]. She's surrounded by [clockwise] **Pam (Hermstad) Santerre** (attended Augsburg 1968–69), **Ginny (Dahlen) Baali '72**, **Kris (Parbst) Rohde '72**, **Kathy Quick '72**, **Nancy (Olson) Hrdlicka '72**, and **Linda (Engstrom) Akenson '72**.

These Augsburg alumni and "5th Floor Girls" of Urness Tower initially reunited after their graduation at mini-reunions and holidays. In recent years, they took trips to destinations like Boston; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; and Stillwater, Minnesota. Pictured are [front, L to R]: **Stacy (Waterman) Newton '01**, **Sara Thedinga '01**, **Merry-Ellen (Krcil) Bryers '01**, and **Ann (Peterson) Fisher '01**. [Back, L to R]: **Amy Carlson '01**, **Laura Waldon '01**, **Emily (Brinkman) Waldon '01**, **Jaime Kingsley Loso '01**, and **Erica Huls '01**.





ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**1938** The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference featured **Edor Nelson '38** in the Legendary Leaders series released on its website and social media. Nelson, who passed away in 2014, was an instructor for the health and physical education department for 32 years, coached Augsburg's baseball team from 1946 to 1979, and led the program to seven MIAC titles. He also was Augsburg football's head coach, and he helped start the men's wrestling program and relaunch men's hockey.

**1953** **Leland Fairbanks '53**, MD, was selected as the Commissioned Officers Association Retiree of the Year by the United States Public Health Service. The award, which recognizes excellence in service and volunteer activities, was presented during a virtual meeting in June. Fairbanks' career has included work focused on family health, holistic care, smoke-free communities, and training other health professionals.

**1976** The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference featured **Marilyn Pearson Florian '76** in the Legendary Leaders series. Pearson Florian coached women's basketball and volleyball at Augsburg and also was the women's athletic director. During her tenure, Augsburg added four MIAC women's sports, including cross country, golf, ice hockey, and swimming and diving. She also initiated the induction of women into Augsburg's Athletic Hall

of Fame in 1988 and created an athletic lettering program for female student-athletes in 1989.

**Augsburg Athletic Director Jeff Swenson '79** shares his optimism about Augsburg's new women's wrestling program. See story on page 10.

**Chad Shilson '93** comments on Augsburg's women's wrestling program, in which his daughter, **Emily Shilson '23**, competes. See story on page 10.

**Shelly Boyum-Breen '97** connects the launch of Augsburg's women's wrestling with the need to tell more sports stories that include females and diverse communities. See story on page 10.

**1999** Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, hired **Martin Hlinka '99** as an assistant coach for its men's hockey program. After his work as an assistant coach with the Salzburg Red Bulls junior program, Hlinka served as a lead on-ice skills instructor with Synergy Hockey in St. Louis. Hlinka scored 125 points in 85 games from 1995 to 1999 while on Augsburg's hockey team, and he also played football, earning All-American status as a kicker. Hlinka played professional hockey for 15 years in the American Hockey League, United Hockey League, and Germany.

**2003** **Nick Rathmann '03** completed his final term on the Augsburg

Alumni Board of Directors. He has been on the board for the past seven years, serving in executive leadership roles for four years, including a two-year term as board president. Rathmann now continues volunteering his time by serving on the A-Club board.

**2004** **Jason Edwards '04** has been teaching sixth grade science and reading at Discovery Middle School in Fargo, North Dakota, for 11 years. He also coaches girls cross country and track and field at Fargo Davies High School. The USA Track and Field Association chose him as the Coach of the Year for Girls Cross Country, and he is the North Dakota representative for the "40 under 40" coaching award from Coach and Athletic Director magazine. While at Augsburg, he competed in cross country and track and field, earning school records in the indoor 600 meter dash and indoor 4x400 meter relay team.

**2005** **Andrea (Ladda) Brown '05** received an award for her accomplishments with the City of Minneapolis' Police Conduct Oversight Commission regarding the body-worn camera policy, which led to the discovery of ketamine abuse by paramedics and police officers. Her work also led to the creation of the MPD dashboard, where race disparities statistics and officer misconduct have been made public and searchable, and the co-responder model—mental health professionals accompanying police officers responding to

calls—which started as a pilot program in Minneapolis and is now used in New York, Texas, and Utah. [Editor's note: These events occurred prior to the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.]

**2008** Artist **Alison Price '08** was featured in the Minnesota Women's Press regarding her new series of art, "Witnessing Waves." Price, a child of two immigrant parents, talked about a stump along the Mississippi River and how the river's waters aided migration to the region. This piece of nature influenced Price's collection, which started during her time at Augsburg. "The series is imbued with symbolism. DNA strands weave along the riverbanks and through the roots and ground, reminding us of our interconnectedness with all, reinforcing the idea that we are fundamentally tied to each other and the planet," Price said.

**2015** **Tanner Wiseman '15** and friends from Lakeville, Minnesota, filmed the series "Destination Fear," which aired on the Travel Channel last fall. The show follows the group's cross-country road trip where they stayed overnight in 10 haunted places. The group began making videos together for YouTube in middle school and high school, and this show indulges their passion for exploring abandoned places.

**Legal assistant Sean Adams '17** researched eyewitness identification procedures with an Augsburg faculty member. See story on page 18.

**Austin Conery '17** researched the reliability of eyewitness testimonies and now uses his experience to understand and apply studies in his role at a mental health provider. See story on page 18.

**2018** **Chung Eang Lip '18** wrote about his career path in the public health field for Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health student voices webpage. He focused on the importance of kindness and storytelling on his journey to becoming a public health professional.

**Natalie Johnson '18** contributed to National Science Foundation-funded research that evaluated the reliability of eyewitness identification. See story on page 18.

McCleave, who outlined the organization's efforts to highlight the history of Native boarding schools and the impact they had on Native communities.

**Diana Pierce '16 MAL** narrated and produced a documentary, "Country Music: Made in Minnesota," which aired on Pioneer PBS last September. The half-hour documentary touches on stories about artists from the Minnesota communities of Alexandria and Dovray; as well as the WE Fest in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and the Flame Bar in Minneapolis. The program features interviews with artists from Detroit Lakes, Minneapolis, and Pipestone, Minnesota, plus other figures who contributed to the development and popularity of country music in the state.

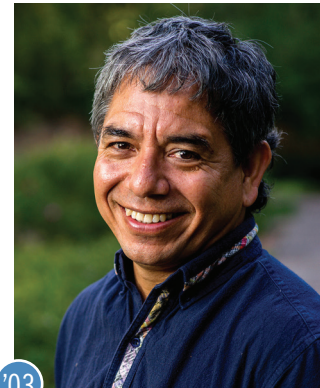
GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**Christine Diindiisi McCleave '13 MAL** is the executive director of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, formed in 2012, which seeks justice and healing for Native American children and their descendants. The organization recently received a \$10 million grant from the Kendeda Fund that will support a new 10-year plan focused on education, advocacy, and healing. MPR News interviewed Diindiisi

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

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

AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



'12

'07

'09

'03

'10

**'12** **Eric Arlein '12** and **Theresa (Bulger) Arlien '14** welcomed a daughter, Cora, last July.

**'07** **Jenessa (Payano) Stark '07** graduated from Yale University with her Master of Science in Nursing with specialties as a certified nurse midwife and women's health nurse practitioner. To fulfill the health professional shortage area service obligation of her National Health Service Corps scholarship, she is moving to Navajo Nation to work as a full-scope midwife at a tribally run Indian Health Service hospital in Arizona. She will be accompanied by her

husband and children, including a son, Zaiel, whom the family welcomed in January.

**'09** **Kristin (Daniels) Overton '09** and husband, Jesse, welcomed the birth of twin boys, Mattis and Henry, last September.

**'03** **Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin '03** delivered a convocation address at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, last October. He is a founding member of the National Fair Trade Federation, started the fair-trade Peace Coffee Company, and is president and CEO of Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, a Minnesota-based

nonprofit organization that works to develop regenerative food supply chains and to advocate against extractive agriculture. Haslett-Marroquin is also the author of "In the Shadow of Green Man," in which he tells stories from his upbringing in Guatemala and shares his vision for regenerative farming practices.

**'10** **Sylvia Bull '10** (pictured on the right) was ordained as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pastor in 2017 and has served as associate pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, for three years.

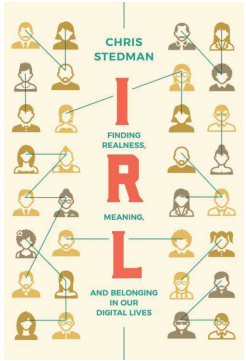


ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Augsburg University Men's Wrestling hosted an alumni night in February, celebrating the national championship anniversaries of the teams from 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2010 before a wrestling match against Concordia College—Moorhead. Photo by Caleb Williams.



**Chris Stedman '08** wrote a new book that will be published in October. The book, "IRL: Finding Realness, Meaning, and Belonging in Our Digital Lives," explores being human in our increasingly digital world and is available for pre-order.



Augsburg University Men's Basketball hosted an alumni reunion in January that included a pick-up game, lunch, watching the men's team take on Concordia College—Moorhead, and a social hour. Auggies from several generations joined in the festivities. Auggie alumni lead the men's basketball programs at both Augsburg and Concordia. Assistant Coach **Charlie Scott '07, '15 MAL** and the Auggies defeated the Cobbers, who were led by Head Coach **Grant Hemmingsen '07**.



**Adrienne Kuckler Eldridge '02** joined the staff of Augsburg's Christensen Center for Vocation. She coordinates the theology and public leadership undergraduate program, is the program director for the Augsburg Youth Theology Institute, and is the director of the Public Church Scholars program, an accelerated degree pathway that allows students to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and public leadership and a Master of Divinity in five years. The program is a partnership between Augsburg and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for students who are called to ministry and public leadership as an ordained pastor.



The City Pages publication featured the work of **Jose Luis Villaseñor '99** and the nonprofit organization he founded, Tamales y Bicicletas, which exists to empower youth, develop healthy Latinx and immigrant communities, promote sustainable transportation, increase access to healthy foods, and improve the environment. The organization's community garden in south Minneapolis provides space to teach urban farming and lay the groundwork for sustainable local food.



In September, City Pages featured **Dua Saleh '18** for their work in poetry, rapping, and singing. Saleh released "Nûr" in 2019, and "ROSETTA" in 2020, EPs produced by Psymun, the St. Paul, Minnesota, producer whose connections with mainstream hip-hop provide broader exposure for Twin Cities performers. As the recipient of the Cedar Commissions emerging musicians program, Saleh performed "Strings and Heart Beats," a project described as "an immersive Afrodiasporic experience."



**Mark Muhich '89** was hired as managing attorney to supervise public defender services in Minnesota's Carlton and St. Louis counties. Muhich is a Hibbing, Minnesota, native who has been a part-time public defender at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Virginia, Minnesota. Muhich previously taught political science and criminal justice at Mesabi Range College and taught in the law enforcement program at Vermilion Community College.



**Kelsey Crockett '06** and wife, Stacey, welcomed a child, Mason Avery Crockett, into their family in January. Kelsey continued his software management work when the family moved from Nashville to Dallas for Stacey to begin a doctoral program at the University of Texas—Southwestern.



**P. C. Hillstrom '07**, director of educational equity at Osseo Area Schools, received two statewide honors this year: the Outstanding Administrator of the Year award from the Minnesota Indian Education Association and the Ron McKinley "All My Relations" award from the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership. Hillstrom has worked for Osseo Area Schools since 2015.



AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



**Joe Seehusen '00** married Kathryn Tighe on a ranch in Grand Lake, Colorado, in September. The couple resides in the Denver area, where they work in real estate. Seehusen encourages his Auggie friends to reach out the next time they're in Colorado.



**Tori Bahr '09**, a medical doctor at the complex care clinic of Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, was presented with Augsburg University's 2019 First Decade Alumni Award in January. Bahr previously worked at the University of Minnesota Medical Center's Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Program, where she became chief resident. Bahr's new position at Gillette Children's Hospital includes treating patients with medically complex diseases, using advanced technology, and championing transition care.



**Brent Stolle '03** and **Bethany (Schneck) Stolle '05** welcomed their second son, Isaac, in February 2019. Isaac joined his three-year-old brother, Weston. Bethany is the design research lead for Blackboard, an education technology company. Brent works for Nvidia as a software engineering manager. The family lives in Kirkland, Washington.



**Derrin Lamker '97** was named Augsburg University Football head coach in December. Lamker played baseball, basketball, and football as an Auggie student-athlete. During his football career, he was the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference MVP and led the Auggies to a MIAC title in 1997, the same year he received Kodak All-American Honors. Lamker was named the Northwest Suburban Conference Coach of the Year in 2007, 2013, and 2014 during his tenure as head coach of Osseo High School, where he coached for 11 years and won a class 6A state championship. Before taking the head coach position at Augsburg, Lamker also served as offensive coordinator and head coach at Edina High School. Augsburg University Football hosted an alumni gathering in January to hear from Lamker and to meet the incoming coaching staff, which includes **Greg Clough '86**, defensive coordinator, and **Jack Osberg '62**, volunteer coach. Alumni who graduated between 1971 and 2019 attended.



**Alissa Nollan '09** married James Nystrom in St. Anthony, Minnesota, last July. The wedding party included **Jennifer Nollan '89**, **Whitney (Holman) Mead '10**, and **Katie Pendo '10**.



**Mike Polis '10** welcomed a second child, Sophia June, in January. His first child, Lydia Mae, loves being an older sibling. Polis is in his second year of real estate and is excited for another year of selling and buying homes.



In December, **Michelle Basham '00** was elected as the new president and CEO of YWCA Minneapolis. Basham previously was the executive director at The Bridge for Youth, served as CEO of YWCA Delaware, and held leadership positions at CommonBond Communities, FamilyWise, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She also co-founded the Nonprofit Emerging Leaders Academy.



Brothers **Dave Kerkvliet '95** and **Tim Kerkvliet '01** were featured on the Education Minnesota website when they introduced four band students of Sebeka, Minnesota—where Dave teaches—to the rock band 311 at a performance at The Armory in Minneapolis. Dave has taught band for 24 years and is a lifelong musician and fan of rock bands. He connected those passions and organized this meeting between his students and lead singer and guitarist Nick Hexum and drummer Chad Sexton prior to 311's performance.





## IN MEMORIAM

**Clarence T. Hoversten '41**,  
Hendricks, Minnesota, age 101,  
on November 6.

**Eileen M. Quanbeck '46**, Sioux  
Falls, South Dakota, age 95, on  
January 27.

**Dorothy C. (Quanbeck) Johnson '48**,  
North Branch, Minnesota, age 92,  
on February 18.

**Henry W. Roufs '49**, San Diego,  
age 97, on October 10.

**Kermit F. Hoversten '50**, Austin,  
Minnesota, age 91, on January 29.

**Russel M. Smith '50**,  
Lakeville, Minnesota, age 91,  
on November 21.

**Raymond P. Strot '51**, Minneapolis,  
age 91, on December 29.

**Marjorie K. (Danielson) Johnson '53**,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, age 88, on  
December 4.

**Wilmer J. Oudal '53**, Eagle River,  
Alaska, age 88, on February 2.

**Leroy M. Petterson '53**,  
Rochester, Minnesota, age 88,  
on December 17.

**Herbert W. Chilstrom '54**, Green  
Valley, Arizona, age 88, on  
January 19.

**Donald J. Dill '54**, Eau Claire,  
Wisconsin, age 86, on  
December 15.

**Beverly M. (Jorgensen) Olander '55**,  
Rochester, Minnesota, age 86, on  
November 18.

**Wanda E. (Warnes) Olson '56**,  
Lewiston, Minnesota, age 84, on  
November 14.

**Glenn C. Thorpe '56**, Mendota  
Heights, Minnesota, age 85, on  
February 8.

**Robert G. Jamieson '57**, Edina,  
Minnesota, age 86, on January 16.

**Phyllis G. (Knudson) Seim '58**,  
Stillwater, Minnesota, age 83, on  
January 24.

**Joseph P. Nystuen '59**, Cold  
Spring, Minnesota, age 82, on  
November 10.

**Margaret A. (Lundahl) Ruesch '59**,  
Worthington, Minnesota, age 83,  
on December 30.

**M. Kenneth Gjerde '61**,  
Fairfield, Montana, age 83,  
on December 22.

**Ruth (Stenson) Kalpin '61**,  
Alexandria, Minnesota, age 80,  
on November 10.

**Donald N. Myhres '61**, Lee,  
Illinois, age 95, on November 13.

**Robert J. Ilstrup '62**, Minneapolis,  
age 82, on September 25.

**Ellen A. (Paulson) Keiter '64**,  
Charleston, Illinois, age 77, on  
December 10.

**Jeanne S. (Wanner) Morreim '66**,  
Cloquet, Minnesota, age 76, on  
January 26.

**Janice K. (Thompson) Crockett '68**,  
Shakopee, Minnesota, age 73, on  
January 15.

**Thomas L. Docken '69**, Stacy,  
Minnesota, age 73, on  
December 9.

**Virginia K. (Golberg) Baynes '70**,  
Portland, Oregon, age 71, on  
September 14.

**Marilyn J. Gisselquist '73**,  
Minneapolis, age 90, on  
February 21.

**Zee Anne A. (Zimmerman)  
Reishus '73**, Wood Lake,  
Minnesota, age 68, on  
January 24.

**Diane L. Loeffler '75**, Minneapolis,  
age 66, on November 16.

**Walter J. Bradley '78**, Davenport,  
Iowa, age 63, on February 9.

**Katharine E. Skibbe '79**,  
Minneapolis, age 62, on  
October 7.

**Irene W. (Waslien) Stemmer '88**,  
Wayzata, Minnesota, age 93, on  
November 8.

**Bruce A. Vassar '93**, Edina,  
age 57, on December 6.

**LouJean J. (Gulbransen) Reid '94**,  
Austin, Minnesota, age 73, on  
January 20.

**Lee (Gilbert) Schotzko '04**, Afton,  
Minnesota, age 49, on October 1.

**Benjamin M. Blair '14**, Decorah,  
Iowa, age 31, on January 26.

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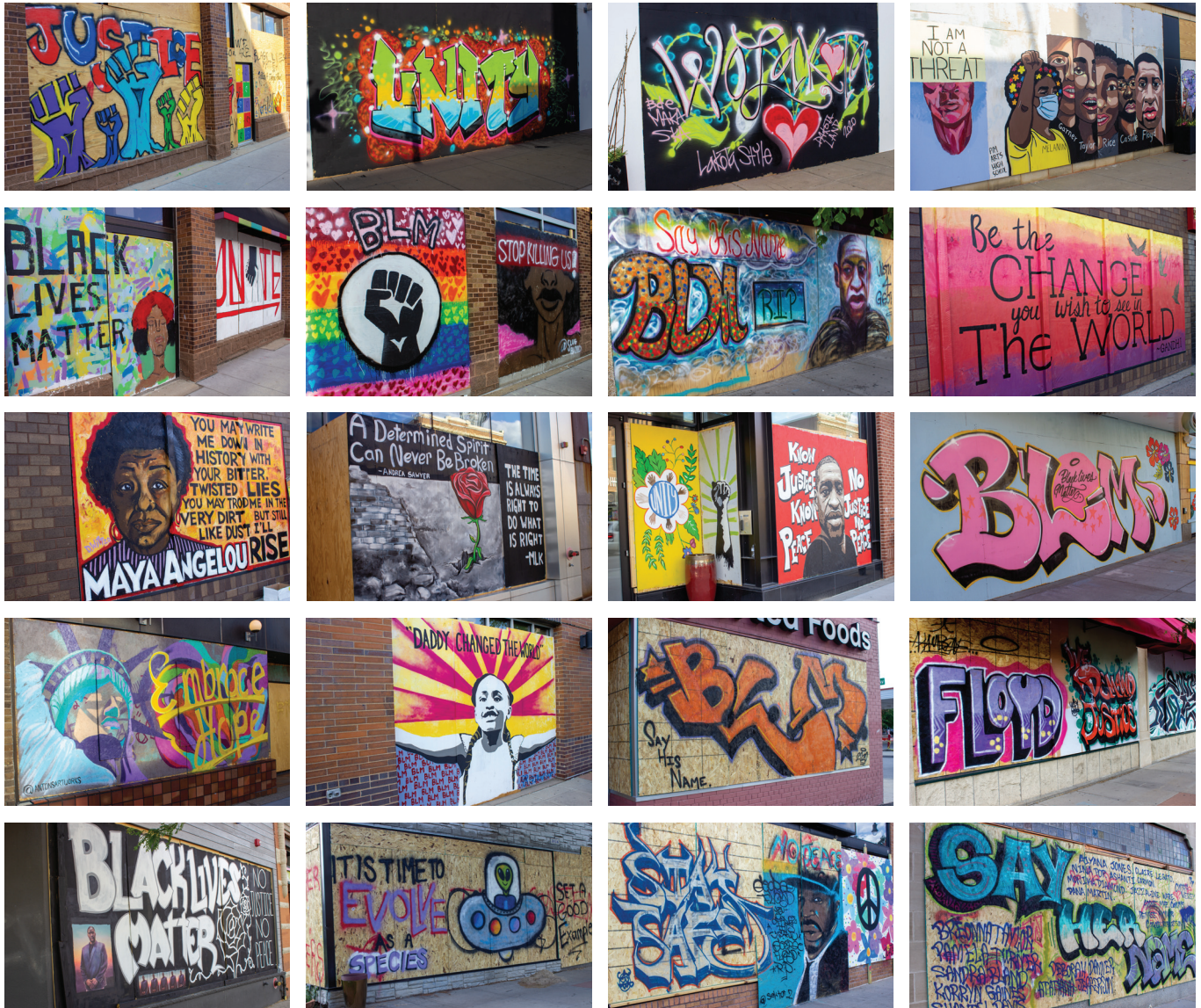
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*The "In memoriam" listings in this publication include notifications received before March 1.*





COURTESY PHOTOS

## Pieces of history

After the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and protests calling for justice in Minneapolis and around the nation, **Molly Montana '23** went to Lake Street to capture the work of local artists that emerged on walls and plywood boards covering the windows of numerous businesses. “I wanted to tell the story of the pain and rage that people of color have felt,” she said about the images she captured for a photography class project. “I wanted to capture something meaningful, and these displays were just that. They are a piece of history.”