

A woman with light brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, is positioned in the lower-left foreground. Behind her and extending towards the top right are several white orchids with vibrant purple centers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Augsburg Now

A PUBLICATION FOR

AUGSBURG COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FALL 2007 VOL. 70, NO. 1

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**Making orchids  
more affordable**

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# Notes

from President Pribbenow on...

## Collaborating with our sister colleges and universities

You'll read in this issue about a special program organized last spring to celebrate the musical legacy of the American composer, William Bolcom. The program, called "Illuminating Bolcom," is a fine example of the sorts of remarkable opportunities our students enjoy as a result of our collaborative relationship with sister colleges and universities in the Twin Cities. Organized with our partners in the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC)—Augsburg, the College of St. Catherine, Hamline University, Macalester College, and the University of St. Thomas—this special program gave our students and faculty unprecedented access to performances, master classes, and informal experiences with a world-class musical talent.

What a privilege it has been for me to experience the many collegial and genuinely collaborative relationships that exist between Augsburg and its sister colleges and universities. Surely it is a sign of abundance that we can partner with higher education institutions that perhaps once were seen primarily as competition for students. Today, I believe these same institutions are modeling the sort of collaborative efforts that lead to innovation, a careful use of important resources, and a perspective on life in the world that eschews the sort of scarcity thinking and living that our culture promotes. We care deeply at Augsburg about living with a sense of abundance, and here are several collaborations I would like to lift up.

We participate with the other 27 colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in regular gatherings for administration and faculty members. In addition, many of the ELCA institutions participate together in insurance partnerships, tuition savings programs for parents, and tuition exchange programs for faculty and staff. Our partnerships also are sources of good ideas and best practices for our institutions, even as we celebrate our common links to the Lutheran church and its abiding commitment to vocation and education.

We are proud charter members of the Minnesota Private College Council (MPCC), which serves as an advocacy, fundraising, and public affairs partnership for 17 private colleges and universities in Minnesota. Together we have a significant impact on creating awareness of, and access to, higher education in our state.

ACTC is an innovative partnership begun more than 35 years ago that allows our students to register for courses on all five campuses; that organizes joint programs like the "Illuminating Bolcom" series; and that has created administrative partnerships that save our schools more than \$2 million annually on supplies and services.

Our athletic conference, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), is one of the premier small college conferences in the country and includes 13 of Minnesota's private colleges and universities.

There are several other national organizations in which we proudly participate: Campus Compact, which brings together colleges and universities dedicated to the public and civic role of our institutions; the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), to which we turn for best practices in teaching, learning, and administration, and tuition exchange opportunities for our faculty and staff; the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), our lobbying consortium in Washington, DC; and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), working with us to promote the continuing relevance of liberal arts education in the 21st century.

Surely these various partnerships and collaborative relationships point to the remarkable opportunities we have to enhance the Augsburg experience for all of our students and to model a way of working together, across institutional boundaries, to serve the public good.

Paul C. Pribbenow, president

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*All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.*



## NOTEWORTHY

### Teaching and learning awards

The Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning Awards honor significant contributions to teaching and learning at Augsburg by faculty and staff in the areas of teaching, mentoring and advising, and services to students.



The 2007 awards went to: Doug Green, professor of English, for teaching; to Susan O'Connor (center), associate professor of education, for mentoring and advising; and to Lois Olson (left), director of the Center for Service, Work, and Learning, for service to students.

### Congratulations, faculty!

#### Tenure granted

Keith Gilsdorf, economics

#### Tenure granted and promotion to associate professor

Phillip Adamo, history  
Lori Brandt Hale, religion  
Stella Hofrenning, economics  
Barbara Lehmann, social work  
David Matz, psychology

### Kent Bodurtha receives Rossing Physics Scholarship

Senior physics major Kent Bodurtha was awarded one of the two new \$10,000 Rossing Physics

Scholarships awarded for 2007-08 by the ELCA Foundation. Junior Reid Larson was named a first alternate and received \$3,000 for academic expenses.

The Rossing Physics Scholarships were established by gifts from Dr. Thomas D. Rossing, who taught at Northern Illinois University and St. Olaf College. They seek to encourage top physics students to attend ELCA colleges and universities, to help ELCA schools recruit top physics students, and to encourage students at ELCA schools to consider majoring in physics. This is the third year they have been awarded by the ELCA Foundation.

### Two students participate in international music program

Meghan Sherer, who graduated in May, and senior Krista Costin were accepted to the Festivalensemble Stuttgart, a choir that is part of the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart, founded and directed



Meghan Sherer '07

by conductor and artistic director Helmuth Rilling. They spent a month in Germany from Aug. 17-Sept. 13, with all expenses paid, together with a worldwide group of about 100 selected musicians.

The performances included Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5. The first two weeks, the choir rehearsed in southern Germany and then traveled for two weeks, performing in various festivals. In addition to the European Music Festival Stuttgart, they sang in the Rheingau Music Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn, and in Dresden, Halle, and Berlin.

For several years, Augsburg has been one of the 24 audition sites around the world, and this is the first time that any Augsburg students have been accepted.

Sherer performed with Augsburg's Gospel Praise, and was a soloist with the group at the June Commencement. She graduated cum laude in May with a Bachelor of Music degree in music performance.

Costin toured with the Augsburg Choir last year to Germany and the Czech Republic, and was a soloist at their Leipzig concert.



Krista Costin '08



Theatre arts professor Darcey Engen '88 worked with five colleagues to stage a presentation about their journeys and experiences of being mothers.

### Darcey Engen leads "The Mother Project"

A collaborative theatre project, staged at the Open Eye Figure Theatre in August, told the stories of six mothers from different ethnic backgrounds and traditions, across generations, who all tried to juggle their identities as care-giver, teacher, parent, worker, and leader.

Darcey Engen '88, assistant professor of theatre arts, led the collaboration of mothers—Jeany Parks, Nanci Olesen, Maria Asp, Sonny Case, Erin Carlson Sutton '03, and herself—who created the work through writing exercises, recounting their individual journeys through motherhood.

According to Engen, the women were drawn to "The Mother Project" because each had grown restless seeking a place where their experiences could be told, and not finding it in literature, television, drama, or cinema.





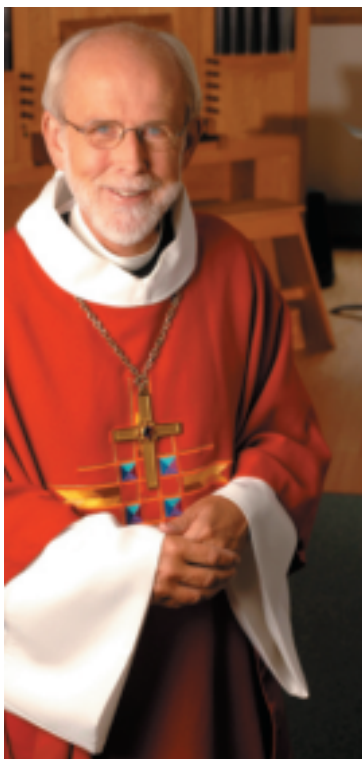
The 1997 physician assistant class, shown here as they graduated from Augsburg's new program, reunited for a 10th-anniversary celebration in September, after treating probably more than one million patients during the decade.

## Physician assistants celebrate 10 years

Augsburg's Physician Assistant Studies program celebrated the 10th anniversary of its first graduating class at a reception and dinner on Sept. 15. Members of the graduating Class of 1997 attended, along with other graduates and faculty.

"It was truly special to have so many classmates and original faculty join us to celebrate," said David Barlow, a graduate of the Class of 1997 and current assistant professor in the program. "We're fortunate to be part of a fabulous profession that makes a difference in so many lives."

One of the program's early faculty members who couldn't attend wrote, "In general terms, [the 1997] class most likely recently passed the one million mark in patients seen."



Bishop Mark Hanson '68

## Mark Hanson re-elected presiding bishop

Rev. Mark Hanson '68 was solidly re-elected presiding bishop of the ELCA for a second six-year term on Aug. 7, at the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. He is the third presiding bishop of the ELCA, is the second to be re-elected, and is the second Augsburg graduate to serve in the ELCA's highest elected office.

"Six years ago I said that I do not view this as an election won but a call received," Hanson told the assembly. "I view what you have done today [as] the affirming of that call to which I continue to hold with great humility and deep gratitude."

Prior to his election as presiding bishop in 2001, he and his wife, Ione (Agrimson) '68, lived in the Twin Cities where he was bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Several of their children have attended Augsburg.

## Sharon Patten, social work, is mourned

The Augsburg community mourns the death of Sharon Patten, associate professor of social work at Augsburg for 16 years, who died from cancer in hospice care on Aug. 25.

She was instrumental in the development of the Master of Social Work program, particularly in creating the Program Development, Policy, and Administration concen-

tration. She also served on the Institutional Review Board and was its chair for over a number of years.



Sharon Patten

Star Tribune/Minneapolis-St. Paul 2007



Dan Schueller '83

## Coping with the bridge collapse

Dan Schueller '83 was on his normal bike commute from work along West River Parkway on August 1, when fate placed him as one of the first persons on the scene of the monumental collapse of the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River, just a mile from Augsburg's campus.

After hearing a crack and seeing a cloud of dust in front of him, from the rubble he began to hear crying and moaning. "That's what kicked me into gear," he told the *Star Tribune* in an audio slide show. "I knew I had to climb up there and see if I could help somebody." He left his bike, and was able to assist a number of people out of their cars and onto safe ground.

Tragically, Sherry Engebretsen, who worked for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and is the mother of Augsburg first-year student Jessica Engebretsen, was one of the 13 people killed in the bridge collapse. Several Augsburg staff were near the bridge when it fell, and at least one of them helped rescuers with victims on the wreckage.

In the week that followed, Augsburg provided space on campus for the American Red Cross to set up a Family



Courtesy photo

One of the first persons on the scene of the bridge collapse, Dan Schueller '83 helped people out of their cars to safe ground.

Assistance Center, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis, for families and friends waiting for news about their loved ones.

During that same week, a public meeting of area and neighborhood business owners, with state, local, and federal officials was held at Augsburg to discuss how to help the local businesses cope with the effects of restricted traffic and detours.

The effects of the bridge collapse will endure long beyond the clearing of the wreckage spanning the river. Schueller said that when he attended a meeting of the weekly support group of bridge survivors, he was "very saddened to see so many people with bad backs and still having a hard time dealing with what happened."

— Betsey Norgard



Robert S. Herforth, biology professor, set a high example for his students of the importance and quality of research.

## Retirees gave more than a century of teaching years

Three long-time Augsburg faculty members, whose combined years of service amount to more than a century and a decade, retired in June. All of them have served under four Augsburg presidents, and two of them spent virtually their entire classroom careers at Augsburg.

**Robert S. Herforth**, professor of biology, came to Augsburg in 1967, from graduate work at the University of Nebraska. His research there focused on hereditary disease in fruit flies. Discoveries that he made

pointed out errors by leading scientists in existing scholarship, for which he received university honors.

Over the years, Herforth taught animal physiology, developmental biology, genetics, and molecular biology; and he always stressed research.

As a freshman at Augsburg, associate biology professor Dale Pederson '70 was in Herforth's classes. At Herforth's retirement celebration, Pederson recalled Herforth's fly lab, especially noting the quality of the technical drawings done by art professor Phil Thompson. Pederson called Herforth's scholarship "exemplary."



Retired colleague Esther McLaughlin spoke about team-teaching general biology with Herforth and remarked about his patience.

For enjoyment in his retirement, Herforth's colleagues and friends presented him with an iPod filled with recordings of bird songs.

how one should be in the world."

Griffin ascribed an "epic quality" to Kingsley's career, and noted that Augsburg presidents have sometimes recognized her as quite an "adversary." Colleague Don Steinmetz mentioned that



Mary A. Kingsley retired after 43 years of teaching Spanish and sharing her passion for social justice issues.

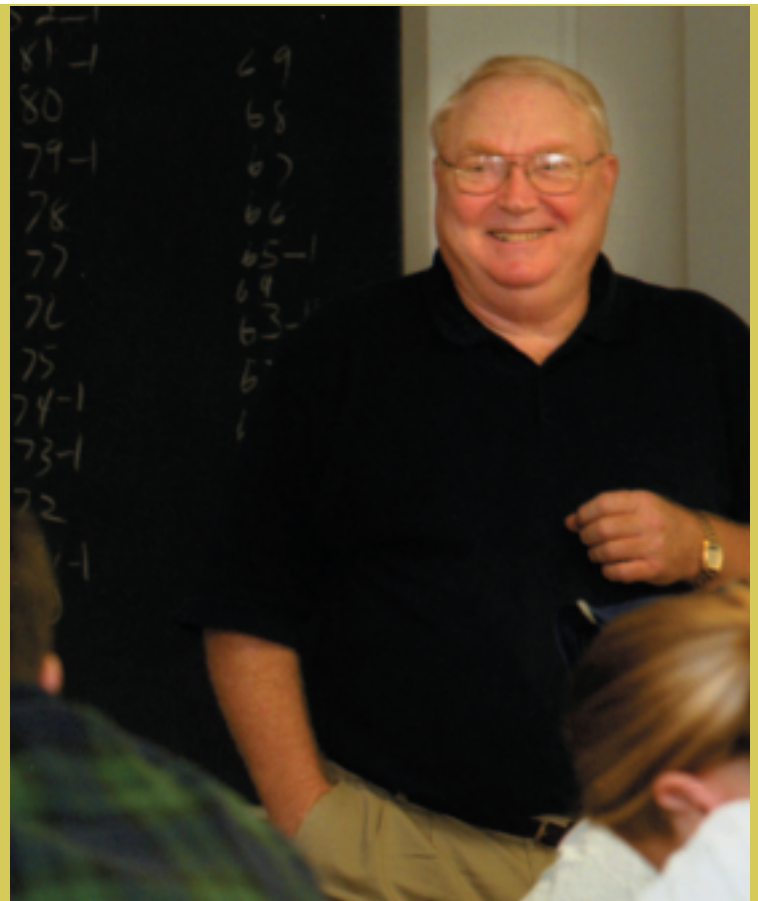
**Mary A. Kingsley**, associate professor of modern languages, came to Augsburg in 1964 and has taught Spanish here since. She served many terms as department chair, taking occasional breaks when it was held by a colleague.

Former English faculty professor Joan Griffin commented on Kingsley's "passion for justice, especially if it's an underdog that has been wronged." She said that Kingsley "has engaged generations of students about

department faculty have always preferred to have Kingsley on their side.

In the early days of the Center for Global Education, Kingsley and her husband donated a house in Cuernavaca, Mexico, to Augsburg, which was used as the center's base of operation for some time.

Kingsley is enjoying her time in retirement at their cabin in the Apostle Islands.



Al Kloppen, health and physical education, connected with students both in the classroom and on the playing field as a football coach.

**Alvin L. Kloppen**, assistant professor of health and physical education, came to Augsburg in 1976 from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., where he had been defensive football coordinator. He served both as Augsburg's head football coach and HPE faculty member for 10 seasons. He later served as an assistant football coach while still teaching.

In 1977, he was named Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) "Co-Coach of the Year" when the Auggies finished the season with an upset win over powerful Concordia College (Moorhead).

Assistant athletic director Paul Grauer commented on Kloppen's tenure at Augsburg. "Al Kloppen had a ready smile and a funny story for everyone he encountered during his days at Augsburg. As a coach, Al was a tireless worker who always looked for innovative strategies and techniques which would give his team the greatest chance for success.

"In the classroom, Al had an engaging approach which enabled him to connect with his students. He was there to give support and encouragement to all his students and especially to those who may have taken 'the road less traveled'."



## Medieval Minnesota: Summer camp at Augsburg College

This summer, from August 5 to 11, 10 students from across the country flocked to Augsburg to learn about and, above all, experience the Middle Ages. They came for Medieval Minnesota, the weeklong summer camp for students ages 14 to 17 that encourages them to re-imagine medieval life.

For seven days, students worked and played together, learning everything from swordsmanship to Renaissance dancing, from calligraphy to bookbinding, from period music to storytelling. By the end of the week, they had researched and created medieval characters and built period costumes that they wore to a graduation performance at the famed Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Edward Peterson, 14, a student from Wilmington, Del., performed the rousing “Saint Crispin’s Day” soliloquy from Shakespeare’s *Henry V*. Other students, coached by music professor Merilee Klemp, performed a French love song about Robin Hood and Maid Marian, written by the 13th century troubadour Adam de la Halle. With the help of theatre professor Darcey Engen, the entire group wrote and performed in its own version of a Robin Hood play.

The students also got a taste of college life. In addition to many of the classes being taught by Augsburg professors, they stayed in Urness Hall, were guided in research by Lindell reference librarian Bill Wittenbreer, and ate all their meals in the cafeteria.

Every day they went to classes and workshops, from eight in the morning until eight at night. Just before bed they would unwind playing medieval board games—not Dungeons and Dragons, but Hnefatafl, a strategy game played by the Vikings! They also watched Augsburg’s first-ever Robin Hood Film Festival.

Medieval Minnesota was recently featured in *Renaissance* magazine (vol.12 #2, issue 54), a national publication that features articles on history, as well as news from Renaissance festivals across the country. The story brought students to the camp from a number of states, including Delaware, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Two of the students who attended the 2006 camp are now enrolled as first-year students at Augsburg. Even the youngest students at this year’s camp have Augsburg on their list of possible colleges for the future.

“The camp is meant to be educational and fun, in and of itself. But it’s also part of our



Photos courtesy of Phil Adamo

recruitment plan for the major here at Augsburg,” said Phil Adamo, associate professor of history and director of the College’s Medieval Studies program. “We hope to have more students at the camp next year. Some of these will be returning students, and others will be their friends,” Adamo said.

Medieval Minnesota held a sold-out benefit on October 5 to

provide scholarships for the camp. That’s when former Monty Python member Terry Jones, who is also a well-respected medieval scholar, presented “Medieval Lives.” His presentation attempts to combat the image of the Middle Ages as a time of ignorance, misery, and superstition. Jones’ talk surprises and provokes, and makes you think, and leaves you smiling.

At the end of the “medieval camp,” e-mail addresses were exchanged, as well as hugs. The students had only one question for each other: “Are you coming back next year?” There may be new students next year, and different students, but Medieval Minnesota will still inspire them in their love of history.

For information on Medieval Minnesota, go to [www.augsburg.edu/medievalstudies](http://www.augsburg.edu/medievalstudies)

— Bethany Locke ’11

Bethany Locke is a Medieval Minnesota alumna, assistant counselor, and now is a first-year Medieval Studies major.

From around the country, 10 high school students spent a week at Augsburg immersed in the history, culture, and customs of the Middle Ages—all part of Augsburg’s Medieval Studies program. (Back row, L to R) Joe Piper, Jack Randleman, Edward Peterson. (Middle row, L to R) Alyssa Perra, Kelly Ryan, Ben Davidson, Liz Ryan, Cambria Rosales. (Seated, L to R) Kayla Fratt, Jessica Larson.





Second-year physician assistant studies student Kate McKenzie spent time with a couple at Augustana Apartments as part of a graduate course that trains physician assistants, social workers, and nurses to become better skilled in meeting the various needs of older adults.

## Preparing for the 'age wave'

In a new five-week summer course, Augsburg physician assistant (PA) students explored issues of aging in preparation for the anticipated needs of the nation's baby boomers as they become senior citizens.

The new course, Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on Aging, focuses on building geriatric skills for professional social workers, nurses, and physician assistants. The goal is for older adults to be cared for by teams of healthcare providers working collaboratively to address needs comprehensively and holistically.

Meeting one-on-one with older adults to learn about their needs has been part of the PA study curriculum for several years, but this course is the first to consider aging from an interdisciplinary approach. In the future the course will also include graduate social work and nursing students, and upper division psychology students.

To shape the program, physician assistant studies professor Beth Alexander and social work professor Christina Erickson partnered with Augustana Apartments and Health Care Center, a nearby community of senior apartments, assisted living, and long-term care. Together with Augsburg alumna Patty

Crawford, director of resident services at Augustana, Alexander and Erickson set up three sessions at Augustana where students could learn by directly interacting with residents.

At a preliminary session, an interdisciplinary panel broadly looked at issues to offer an appreciation of the diversity of older adults' lives.

At the second session, the PA students spent the morning one-on-one with Augustana residents who are living independently. The students developed interviewing, listening, and relationship-building skills by asking open-ended questions to assess the residents' social, psychological, spiritual, and medical needs.

Second-year PA student Kate McKenzie met with a couple beginning to deal with health issues. "This has been very challenging ... for the couple," says McKenzie. "Fortunately [they] have wonderful and supportive children who visit often and help out a lot."

In their final visit to Augustana, students examined specific cases of long-term care residents, reviewing their medical charts and discussing their needs.

For McKenzie the class made an impact. "Combining social work, nursing, and physician assistant perspectives on older adult care has helped create a balanced picture of what geriatric care is truly all about," she says. "There is so much more than meets the eye!"

The course began as part of a three-year, \$50 million project on gerontology funded by the Hartford Foundation with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Augsburg is one of 72 social work programs across the country selected to prepare social workers to improve the care and well-being of older adults and their families.

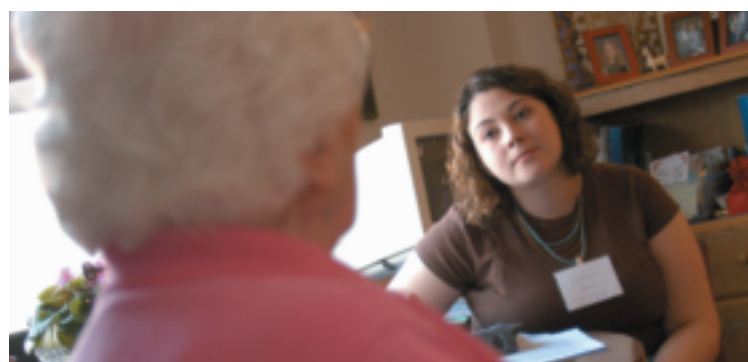
Alexander also recognized the need to better train physician assistant students in this area. She also recognized how often PAs, social workers, and nurses work together in caring for older

adults and the growing need for more specialized skills.

Augsburg added the interdisciplinary collaboration as part of the College's initiative to build bridges across programs. The opportunity to partner with Augustana, within a mile of campus, also engages these programs with its neighbors in the community.

"The course has changed my opinion of geriatric care altogether," McKenzie says. And, meeting the residents of Augustana was something that will remain dear to her.

— Betsey Norgard



Elizabeth Baker interviewed a resident to help understand how the role of a physician assistant fits into a multidisciplinary team of health providers caring for older adults.



## SPORTS

### Augsburg College names 2006-07 Senior Honor Athletes, athletic award winners

Seven Auggies earned Senior Honor Athlete designation, the highest honor the College gives its senior student-athletes for accomplishment, leadership, and character on the playing field and in the classroom. Three Auggie student-athletes were named Senior Athletes of the Year. The awards were voted on by coaches in Augsburg's men's and women's athletic departments.

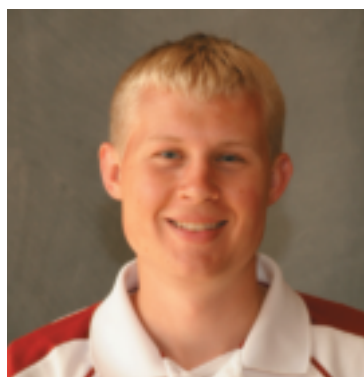
### 2006-07 Senior Honor Athletes



**Emily Anderson**, a biology major and chemistry minor with a 3.39 grade-point average, finished her career as one of the top forwards in Augsburg women's soccer history. She earned All-MIAC first-team honors in her sophomore and junior seasons. Anderson earned ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District third-team honors in 2005 and was an Academic All-MIAC honoree in 2004. She has been a Dean's List honoree and was a member of the Tri-Beta national biology honor society.



**Jared Evans**, a health and physical education major with a 3.27 grade-point average, earned All-American honors three times as a 149-pound wrestler at Augsburg, finishing seventh his sophomore season, fourth his junior season, and fourth in his senior season. He was a part of Augsburg teams that won national titles in 2004-05 and 2006-07. He earned National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-America honors in his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons.



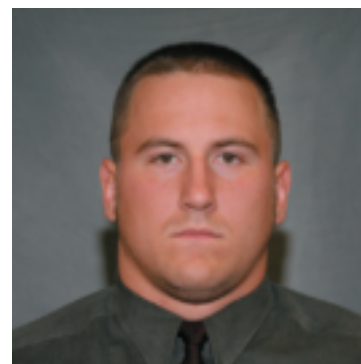
**Erik Helgersen**, an accounting and finance major with a 3.51 grade-point average, was a key member of an Augsburg men's golf program that showed tremendous growth during his four seasons. Helgersen cut his stroke average nearly five points from his freshman to his senior campaigns and earned All-MIAC honors with top-10 finishes in the league meet three times.



**Andrew Johnson**, a business administration and economics major with a 3.72 grade-point average, was another key member of the Augsburg men's golf program. He cut his stroke average almost four points from his freshman to his senior campaigns. He earned All-MIAC honors this season, finishing fourth at the 2006 conference meet. He was also a Cleveland Golf All-America Scholar last season.



**Christopher (Crittter) Nagurski**, a business management major with a 3.30 grade-point average, was one of the top scoring hockey forwards in the MIAC throughout his career. Nagurski earned All-MIAC first-team honors his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. In 2006-07, Nagurski finished second on the team in scoring with 40 points, as the Auggies returned to the conference's postseason playoffs after a three-year absence. He also earned Preseason All-USCHO honors from U.S. College Hockey Online twice.



**Andrew Neumann**, an elementary education major with a 3.46 grade-point average, shined in both football and wrestling. In football, he was named to the All-MIAC first team in both 2005 and 2006 and was an all-region selection by D3Football.com and Football Gazette. In wrestling, he competed twice at the NCAA Division III national tournament as a heavyweight, earning All-American honors, among others. He received National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American honors in both 2006 and 2007.



**Shannon Olson**, a marketing and communications major (public relations/advertising emphasis) with a 3.66 grade-point average, was a defender of an Augsburg women's soccer team that qualified for the MIAC postseason playoffs three straight seasons. Olson earned All-MIAC first-team honors her senior season and Academic All-MIAC honors in 2005 and 2006. She was a multiple Dean's List honoree.



## 2006-07 Senior Athletes of the Year

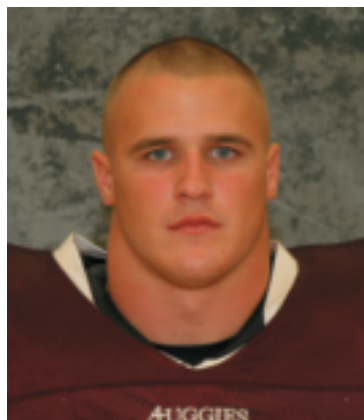


**Aaron Johnson**, a health and physical education major, was one of the top forwards in Augsburg men's hockey history. He earned All-American honors twice, as a first-team selection his junior and senior campaigns. This season, he earned MIAC Player of the Year honors and was one of two NCAA Division III players selected to compete in the 2007 NCAA Pontiac Frozen Four Skills Challenge at the Division I men's hockey Frozen Four. He was also named a Preseason All-USCHO Division III West Region honoree this season by U.S. College Hockey Online.



**Marcus LeVesseur**, a health and physical education major, was one of the top competitors in the history of small-college wrestling. He became the first Division III

wrestler to win four individual national championships and the second college wrestler (with Cael Sanderson at Iowa State) to finish his career unbeaten and untied, with a 155-0 career record. He also played parts of two seasons of football at Augsburg as a quarterback, and in 2004 he set all of the school's single-season rushing records.



**Mike Matson** was one of the top linebackers in the MIAC during his football career, earning All-MIAC second-team honors in 2005 and first-team honors in 2006, while also earning All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team honors his senior campaign. In 2006 he was named to the Preseason All-Division III first team by Lindy's *National College Football Preview* magazine, and in both 2006 and 2007 he earned D3Football.com and Football Gazette honors.

For more about Auggie athletics go to [www.augsburg.edu/athletics](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics).

Betsy Norgard



On Sept. 8, the football jersey of Scott Hvistendahl '98 was formally retired. He is pictured here with the Gagliardi Trophy as outstanding NCAA Division III player in 1998, and shown with Jostens representative John Abel [left] and coach Jack Osberg [right].

At a halftime ceremony on Sept. 8 during the game against Northwestern College (Roseville, Minn.), the No. 30 football jersey of Scott Hvistendahl '98 was formally retired.

Hvistendahl is one of the top Division III receivers in history, having won, among many honors, the Gagliardi Trophy in 1998 as the division's outstanding player. In the last game of his career, he broke NFL legend Jerry Rice's record for receiving yardage with 285 passes for 4,696 yards received.

The ceremony marks the 10th anniversary of the 1997-98 football season in which the Auggies captured the conference championship and reached the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. Hvistendahl's honor was held during this Northwestern game because he serves as an assistant coach at the school.

The Auggies went on to win the game, 31-26.

— Don Stoner

## Augsburg men's soccer team has the trip of a lifetime in Argentina

The Augsburg College men's soccer team had the experience of a lifetime in August, traveling to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for an 11-day training and competition trip. Twenty-seven players, along with five Augsburg staff members and several parents and family members, made the trip to Argentina.

The soccer players trained at the CEFAR Academy (Centro Entrenamiento Futbol Alto Rendimiento/Center for High Performance Football Training), a private training facility. In addition, the Augsburg group toured the city of Buenos Aires,



The Augsburg and CEFAR teams pose for a photo after the team's first game in Argentina.

experience gained from the trip was invaluable for the squad.

"This experience will be one that will last a lifetime," said Augsburg head coach Greg Holker. "Our guys played some of the best

The team also attended two professional soccer matches in Buenos Aires and experienced the passion that Argentines hold for the sport. They were lucky to have the unique opportunity to tour the training facilities of Boca Juniors, one of the top teams in Argentine professional soccer.

"Every day in Argentina is about soccer—it is not just a way of life, but a way to make a life," Holker said. "Generally speaking, if a young boy growing up in Buenos Aires does not make it in a club, he is likely to fall victim to a life of delinquency. When they play, they are not only playing for passion, but for their lives."



Former Argentine professional soccer player and coach Jorge "Coqui" Raffo coaches the Auggie players. Raffo is the director of the CEFAR Academy, where the Auggies stayed during their trip to Argentina.

often termed as the "Paris of South America."

The Auggies played four games against strong club competition, and though the team only scored one goal in the four contests, the

soccer they have ever played, and faced opponents with qualities they are unlikely to see again. On top of this, they experienced a culture that is not all that different from our own in the United States, with the exception of its incredibly strong sporting passion."



James See (9) brings the ball forward during Augsburg's game against a River Plate reserve team. David Long (6) trails the play.

To view daily stories from the trip, along with student-athlete diaries and more than 1,200 photos from the trip, go to [www.augsburg.edu/athletics/msoccer/2007argentina/index.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/msoccer/2007argentina/index.html).

— Don Stoner

Photos by Don Stoner



Andrew Seidel plays the ball during an Augsburg scrimmage against a CEFAR squad.



## SUPPORTING AUGSBURG

### Putting your IRA to work for Augsburg

**Vera (Thorson) Benzel '45** had decided to establish a family scholarship through her estate—until she learned of the advantage of gifting a portion of her IRA now.

She and her late husband, Jerold '51, met at Augsburg. After she graduated with a major in English, Augsburg offered her a job teaching secretarial studies in its business department. After raising her family, she also taught at the Minnesota School of Business. At Augsburg she graduated with a minor in music, and for many years enjoyed her time directing church choirs.

The recently established Benzel Family Scholarship honors Jerold and Vera and their children, David '71 and Ann (Benzel) '78 Rieck, who both attended Augsburg. Since all of their careers have included business, their new scholarship will assist students who are studying business.

**Robert '50 and Ruth Ann Paulson** decided to use an IRA to fund a new endowed scholarship, which will provide encouragement and financial assistance to students in graphic design and photography.

Bob and their son, Loren, were both photographers who chronicled the life and culture of Nordic cultures, both in the five nations and among their descendents in Minnesota. In business together for many years, they were the official photographers for at least two Norwegian royal visits. They were also known for the colorful calendar they produced annually in Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish versions.

After Loren's death in November 2006, they established a fund in loving memory of him for students who are art majors studying graphic arts and design. In addition, they established a second endowed scholarship in Bob's name to assist art students interested in photography.

**Making a gift using your IRA**  
The Pension Protection Act of 2006 presents a special giving opportunity—but only until the

### Making a gift to Augsburg

It's easy to make a donation to Augsburg College.  
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#### Gifts online

Go to [www.augsburg.edu/giving](http://www.augsburg.edu/giving) to make a secure credit card donation. You can use the form to make a one-time donation or to set up recurring gifts.

#### Gifts by phone

To make a donation by phone, call Kevin Healy, director of advancement services, at 612-330-1619 or 1-800-273-0617.

#### Gifts by mail

You can mail your gift to:  
Development Office, CB 142  
Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55454

#### Matching Gifts

Many employers and organizations have matching gift programs, and if you are a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member, you are eligible for additional matching opportunities through the GivingPlus program.

For complete information about making a gift, including the types of giving and giving programs, go to [www.augsburg.edu/giving](http://www.augsburg.edu/giving).

end of this calendar year. The law allows individuals aged 70 1/2 or older to make immediate gifts to qualified charitable organizations, including Augsburg, from funds they transferred directly from an IRA.

If you are interested in making a gift like this, you will not have to pay taxes on the amounts transferred. You can transfer any

amount up to \$100,000 on or before Dec. 31, 2007.

The transfer counts toward your minimum required distribution as long as you have not yet received your 2007 distribution. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.

The best part of a gift from an IRA transfer is that you can witness the difference your philanthropic dollars make now for students at Augsburg College.

For information, call the Development Office at 612-330-1613 or 1-800-273-0617.

—Betsey Norgard

Judy Petree



David Benzel '71 and Ann (Benzel) '78 Rieck (pictured here when they visited campus in September) together with their mother, Vera (Thorson) '45 Benzel, have established an endowed scholarship honoring their family from the transfer of funds from an IRA.



President Pribbenow enjoyed talking with Robert '50 and Ruth Ann Paulson, as they established two endowed scholarships, one that is in memory of their son, Loren.





# SUMMER activities

**During the summer,** students and faculty can be found in interesting and varied activities—research, internships, travel, summer jobs, and more... .

Here are just a few examples of where Auggies spent their summer days this year.

# COOKING UP an internship

Senior Emily Johnson used her summer job at camp as an internship to learn about the business side of running a camp and understanding the importance of leadership skills.



**For a number of summers,** Grand Rapids, Minn., native Emily Johnson and her friends spent time at Camp Hiawatha, a Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) camp in northern Minnesota. After high school, she found a way to keep returning to camp while earning money for college—working as an assistant in the camp kitchen.

Last year, when spring came around, she received a call asking if she would consider taking over as head cook at Camp Vermilion, VLM's other camp, following the retirement of the longtime cook. She accepted ... with trepidation.

"I made all the mistakes there were," Johnson says, as she talks about what she encountered in figuring out what to serve, how to make it, and how much food to order each week.

This year she returned as head cook, and everything just fell into place.

Johnson is a business management and economics major, set to graduate next May. She plans to use her management experience, combined with a love for the outdoors, to own and manage her own resort some day. After

**“It was good for me to take what I’ve learned in my classes and apply that knowledge...”**

graduation she intends to seek a job at a resort in the Pacific Northwest. She'll bring added expertise in scheduling events from her student work on campus in the Event Services office.

Johnson decided to shape this summer's camp experience into formal learning to fulfill her required internship. She learned and wrote about aspects of business management in her work—how the camp runs as a business; how she could avoid unnecessary costs in ordering food; and how the kitchen staff manage and communicate important camper issues, like food allergies.

"It was good for me to take what I've learned in my classes and apply that knowledge ... away from school," Johnson says. "It's amazing how much of it comes into view when you're in the midst of it. ... I also learned how difficult being a good manager is."

Her work involved long hours and a lot of planning to feed campers who vary in age from kindergarten to ninth grade at nearly a dozen different sessions all summer. She was

usually in the kitchen by 6:30 each morning, enjoying a brief calm before the day's routine began.

Figuring out what foods the campers would relish, and how much to make were among Johnson's greatest challenges. Once she figured out some of the tricks to adapt and multiply recipes, she enjoyed borrowing some of her mother's recipes to try out on the campers. Most of the time they worked well.

What she learned included leadership training—values such as patience, compassion, and standing up for yourself—as well as business savvy.

"I even felt I was able to contribute to conversations about business matters," Johnson concludes. "That was a good feeling."

—Betsey Norgard



# OBSERVING Orchids

Chemistry major Caryn Quist partnered with a local supplier to obtain the orchid stems needed to study chemical reactions that would help her understand how the costs of growing orchids might be reduced.



**With a national wholesale value of \$100 million**, potted orchids are second in popularity only to poinsettias, and the wholesale value is much greater. Thus, discovering how to best propagate low-cost orchids is big business.

The orchid breeder of Orchids Unlimited in Apple Valley thought so as well, so when junior chemistry major Caryn Quist approached him about sponsoring her summer research project, he jumped on board. In the initial stages of her project, beginning in January, Orchids Unlimited was the sole provider of orchid stems for research. Quist's research focused on determining the total content

of phenols (a class of chemical compounds) produced in vitro under varying light and temperature conditions by phalaenopsis, a genus of approximately 60 species of

“ **It's really exciting, taking this risk and knowing I could make a contribution.** ”

orchids. Other student researchers included Steve Eichten, studying adjustments with light quality in orchid propagation, and Nick Nelson, researching ways to manipulate the germination

process of Ladyslippers. Mark Strefeler, associate professor and department chair of biology, led the research team.

“Research is about going into the unknown,” Quist says. “It's really exciting, taking this risk and knowing I could make a contribution. ... It has certainly begun to change the way I observe and formulate questions about the natural world around me, and has given me a chance to see a slightly different side of academia. I feel really fortunate to have had this research opportunity.”

While the summer research didn't uncover any great discoveries, Quist considers it time well spent. “I learned how

to do tissue cultures, and learning the process itself took a lot of time. We also ran into contamination issues, which slowed things down. ... This fall, I expect more results.” Quist will continue her research through the coming year and eventually pass it on to a younger student.

Through its Summer Research Program, Augsburg's Office of Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) students are given opportunities to explore theoretical and practical questions in depth under the mentorship of Augsburg faculty.

For more information on summer research projects and URGO, go to [www.augsburg.edu/urgo/](http://www.augsburg.edu/urgo/).

— Bethany Bierman



# MUSIC

to help the  
brain heal

Senior music therapy major Holly Tapani studied the importance of multidisciplinary support for students with brain injuries to give them the best college experience.



**Last semester**, in one of Holly Tapani's music therapy courses, music and movement were incorporated into the learning of two Augsburg students who are survivors of traumatic brain injury. She immediately saw the benefits of music therapy to their learning, and she began imagining ways to also improve their overall college experience.

Tapani understands the urgency of this work. More and more young people are recovering from brain injury, which is coming to be known as the "signature" injury of the Iraq War. The holistic therapies designed to go beyond the medical needs and address the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical aspects of brain injury are totally

inadequate to treat the increasing numbers of survivors in rehab centers. And not many colleges are prepared to support brain injury survivors who want to pursue higher education.

“ **This is just the small beginnings of the program** ”

Tapani sought funding through Augsburg's Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) program to formally study the activities of the music and movement class—an opportunity to carry out needed research that can help future students.

She interviewed the two brain-injured students who participated in the class—both of whom have been successful academically despite their impairments from brain injury. Tapani asked them about the various types and levels of support they've received from campus resources, as well as from families and friends.

The students reported general satisfaction in addressing their physical and cognitive needs, but they felt they lacked many of the social and emotional experiences typical of college students.

Tapani proposed a program that pairs student survivors one-on-one with a student mentor who can manage the multiple aspects of support, beyond classroom tutors, for the

survivors and help to make their college experience more normal.

“This is just the small beginnings of the program,” Tapani says, but it will help colleges understand a need to develop the staff and knowledge to offer broader support to this growing population of students. In order to launch the mentor program, a benefit concert in September featured the trendy pop-rock band, The Abdomen.

Next year, Tapani will complete a six-month internship, hopefully at a rehabilitation center, and graduate. Her long-term goal is to specialize in neurologic music therapy, further pursuing her interest and research in working with brain injury survivors.

— Betsey Norgard

# AUGGIES at AMNICON

Courtesy photo

(L to R) 2007 grads Erik Hinderlie, Ted Fabel, Brett Cease, and senior David DeBlock spent the summer as canoe and backpacking guides at Camp Amnicon.



**Three recent** Augsburg graduates and one senior spent their summer working as guides for canoe and backpacking trips around the heartland of Northern Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Erik Hinderlie '07, Ted Fabel '07, Brett Cease '07, and David DeBlock '08 were guides at Camp Amnicon, an outreach of Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. For 40 years, Amnicon has offered both

adventure trips—kayaking, backpacking, Voyageur-canoeing—and retreat programs for youth and adults. "What makes Amnicon so

“Many of these kids have never had the opportunity to spend a week of their lives outside before ...”

unique is its strong commitment to getting the majority of its campers from at-risk groups throughout the state, whether from inner-city, reservation, or

foster agency programs," says Cease.

"Many of these kids have never had the opportunity to spend a week of their lives outside before. ... I have never seen such profound change and positive growth come out of a week

of a young person's life than the work I get to take part in at Amnicon," Cease continued.

The groups visit areas including

Lake Superior, the Brule and Namekagon Rivers, the Sylvania Wilderness, and the Apostle Islands. On some trips, campers paddle as a team in 34-foot Voyageur canoes on Lake Superior or in Voyageurs National Park.

"Being canoe guides is undoubtedly one of the most inspirational havens in our lives," says Cease of the experience he and the others have had. "It is because of places like Amnicon that I am continually reminded of the importance of building an intentional and caring, supportive community, like that which was modeled at Augsburg."

To read more about Camp Amnicon, go to [www.amnicon.org](http://www.amnicon.org).

—Bethany Bierman



# ADVENTURES IN HAITIAN MUSIC



Bob Stacke

After teaching for years about work songs in various cultures, Stacke traveled into the Haitian hills and recorded sugar cane workers playing a variety of homemade instruments.

**This was** Bob Stacke's fifth summer trip to Haiti as a volunteer band director and music teacher, but this year's adventure he calls one of the most spectacular things he's ever done.

For Stacke, Augsburg's band director, associate professor, and music department chair, one big difference in this year's sojourn was the chance to spend the first two weeks there with his photographer daughter, Sarah Stacke, who is a staff photographer for the Minnesota House of Representatives. Another was that being with her also made it easier for him to pursue his own hobby, which also happens to be photography.

Their first adventure, and Sarah's assignment, was a week in Port Salut, where she shot photos for a non-

governmental organization providing health care in southwestern Haiti.

Bob's highlight was traveling into the hills there and listening to the call-and-response work

“**I think I learned more than they did.**”

songs of the sugar cane workers. He says for years he's been teaching about the cultural role of work songs in marking rhythm and giving structure to tedious work, but this was the first time he's heard it live in the field. He documented the workers, their instruments, and songs in both photos and recordings.

Sarah's second assignment was photographing projects of Yéle Haiti, an organization started several years ago by Grammy-Award winning Haitian recording artist Wyclef Jean. His foundation provides resources and inspiration targeted at Haitian youth, with music infused throughout.

Yéle Haiti's programs include food distribution, health care, education scholarships, films, sports, and music programs, which involve thousands of people and reach far into the poorest and most violent Haitian neighborhoods.

But Bob's primary reason for being in Haiti was to teach band and percussion at the Holy Trinity Episcopal School summer music program in Port-au-Prince. Professional musicians and music students keep returning as volunteers to

teach in this summer program, working with Haitians ranging in age from elementary kids to young people well into their twenties.

“This experience was so much fun,” Bob says. “I teach them Western music all day, and all night they teach me how to play their music. I think I learned more than they did.”

He describes their music as incredibly complex and driving, with meters that defy barlines, and with countermelodies and melodies laid on top.

Next year he'll likely return to Haiti. But before that, he'll lead a two-week study trip for Augsburg students to Jamaica to reconnect with the second of his three favorite Caribbean music traditions—Haitian, Jamaican, and Cuban. ■

— Betsey Norgard



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# Immersed in Bolcom

by Betsey Norgard

Augsburg students Kristen Lueck and Bri'Ann Wright struggled for weeks to feel comfortable with the four-hand piano piece they would play in concert, with the composer in the audience. Little did they know it would be a world premiere.

For several weeks in the spring, music students and faculty in the five Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC)—Augsburg, Hamline, Macalester, St. Catherine, and St. Thomas—enjoyed a rare experience to explore and absorb the musical genius of a single composer, William Bolcom, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and four Grammy awards. Through master classes, concerts, and coaching, they interacted collectively and one-on-one with this most interesting and eclectic composer.





The centerpiece of the Bolcom festival was a huge, multimedia concert, including video images of William Blake's illustrations for his poems, showing here "The Tyger."

Bolcom's popularity is often attributed to the accessibility and variety of his music, often an eclectic borrowing across musical genres. *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, for example, includes a country western rendition of "The Shepherd," and ends with a raucous, Bob Marley-reggae interpretation of "A Divine Image."

Beyond composing, Bolcom keeps a busy performance schedule accompanying his wife, Joan Morris, a versatile mezzo-soprano cabaret singer. (Minnesotans may be surprised to discover that Bolcom wrote "Lime Jell-O Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise," a cabaret tune made popular by Morris and often played in the context of Minnesota local culture.)

Ragtime music is another of Bolcom's musical passions, and the recordings he made in the 1970s of Scott Joplin's music are often considered the force behind the revival of ragtime music and the inspiration for the rags that Bolcom himself composed.

## Exploringgenius

ACTC faculty and music students enjoyed more than a dozen opportunities to connect with William Bolcom in lectures, coaching sessions, and performances. For his consideration, they prepared selections of his works for voice or instrument, for solo performance or in ensembles, as in the following highlights:

It was all part of the "Illuminating Bolcom" festival, organized by Philip Brunelle and his Twin Cities ensemble, VocalEssence, and involving many of the area's top performing arts organizations. Star Tribune music critic Michael Anthony predicted that this festival might prove to be the Twin Cities' "classical event of the year."

## Versatilecreativity

William Bolcom is a down-to-earth pianist, teacher, and composer—and clearly was grateful and completely engaged in the two-week attention to his work. A child prodigy pianist by age 5, he began studying music at the University of Washington at age 11, and went on to study with composers Darius Milhaud and Olivier Messiaen. Since 1973, he has taught at the University of Michigan.

"Illuminating Bolcom" presented a diversity of his gospel, chamber, classical, and stage music. The festival centerpiece was a multimedia concert at Orchestra Hall, "Songs of Innocence and of Experience," presenting the 46 poems of William Blake's collection of the same name, set to music by Bolcom. The 2005 recording of this work won four Grammy awards.



Courtesy photo

May music graduate Bri'Ann Wright (right) and music therapy major Kristen Lueck (left) played a 30-year-old piano piece by Bolcom (center) that turned out to be a historic performance.

**Lecture/Recital**—At the University of St. Thomas, Bolcom lectured about his own process for composing the music in Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. The evening recital, which he attended, focused on performances of the same Blake poems set to music by a variety of other composers, and included performances by Augsburg students—sopranos Meghan Sherer, Kaila Frymire, and Evelyn Tsen; and tenors Andrew Kane and Brian Halaas; accompanied by Kirsten Bar (oboe), Melody Buhl (clarinet), and Jerusha Sunde (piano). The program also included faculty soprano Janet Gottshall Fried, and Sonja Thompson, who provided accompaniments.

**Student Composer Master Class/Band Rehearsal**—Senior music performance pianist Bri'Ann Wright was a student in Carol Barnett's music composition class that Bolcom visited. She and classmate Adrian Moravec were writing and preparing a piano film score accompaniment to the 1920s German silent film, *Pandora's Box*, being shown on campus. The task was daunting—to compose, play, and improvise music to fit the film. Playing their score for Bolcom proved invaluable, as he gave them tips for how to use the piano more effectively with film.

**Faculty Chamber Music Concert**—At Hamline University, in a concert titled "A Little Night (Chamber) Music," faculty from all five ACTC colleges, including Augsburg faculty Merilee Klemp (oboe), Jill Dawe (piano), and Angela Wyatt (saxophone), performed a series of Bolcom's chamber works all containing night themes. Rebroadcasts of portions of this concert on Minnesota Public Radio extended its listening audience.

**Lecture in Music History Class**—Just as Klemp's music history class was completing a study of 20th-century music, they had a visit from Bolcom, one of the composers they had been studying. Roberta Kagin, associate professor of music and director of the music therapy program, attended the class and observed that "Students opened their music history textbooks and were reading about him, as he stood in front of them."

**"Songs of Innocence and of Experience"**—Three Augsburg faculty members—Klemp (oboe), Bob Stacke (percussion), and Matt Barber (percussion)—played for "Songs of Innocence and of Experience," the centerpiece concert at Orchestra Hall. Faculty member Steve Lund was the orchestra contractor. It was a gigantic performance, illuminating in vivid sight and sound the poetry of William Blake, with 13 soloists and three choirs, supported by an orchestra of 95 players. All through the concert, striking video images based on Blake's own illustrations for his poems were projected on a huge screen.

The music has been called "monumental"—46 numbers, with sound ranging from classical to ballad to gospel to country western. Stacke, associate professor and chair of the music department, called it "about the hardest music he had ever played, but just amazing."

## Surprise premiere

**Schubert Club Courtroom Concert**—Wright and classmate Kristen Lueck had an even more amazing personal Bolcom experience when they played in the concert sponsored by the Schubert Club, featuring ACTC students.

For that concert, they had been given a four-hand Bolcom piece, called "Abendmusik," which he had written for his piano teacher, married to an astronomer.

"It's a cosmic, ethereal piece; very slow, with chords appearing all over the piano, out of the air," says Wright. It's also "very difficult, obscure, and abstract," she continues, "and you can't wrap your ears around it easily."

Lueck says that in practicing it, they counted for months just to get the rhythm and timing in their brains. Only a few weeks before the coaching session with Bolcom preceding the concert, she says, the piece had "just begun to gel in our minds and fingers."

At the coaching session, Lueck says, Bolcom was very laid back. He made some random remarks and confirmed their dynamics for portions of the piece. He also made a passing comment that in 30 years he hadn't seen that piece again nor heard it played.

Wright and Lueck opened the concert with "Abendmusik." When Bolcom was asked to explain the piece to the audience, he mentioned that it had never been performed.

"So," declared emcee Randall Davidson, Augsburg's fine arts manager, "this is a world premiere!" Wright and Lueck were then brought back on stage for accolades and hugs.

"It was an huge, overwhelming honor," Lueck said of the performance, "and a privilege to work with Bri and [Bolcom]. ... Playing for him was an affirmation of our work." And a very lucky day for two unsuspecting college music students.

Students Tammy Smith (flute) and Nikki Lemire (harp) also played in that concert, performing two selections from Bolcom's "Celestial Dinner Music."





Courtesy photo

Senior Tammy Smith received coaching from Bolcom, along with recent grad Nikki Lemire on harp, for his piece they would play in concert.



May music graduate Bri'Ann Wright (left) and music therapy major Kristen Lueck (right) walked off stage to applause, not yet realizing they had just performed a world premiere by one of the country's leading composers.

## Learners together

A collaborative grant from ACTC, conceived by Davidson, funded the various activities that aimed to involve faculty and students from at least three ACTC schools at each event.

Klemp says that the ACTC collaboration afforded valuable opportunities for everyone involved. Students and faculty were learners together as they worked with a master teacher. Students became music professionals as they worked side-by-side with their own teachers to prepare Bolcom's music for master classes and performance. And, student and faculty from the five colleges collaborated to sample a wide variety of the musical genres that make up this composer's life work.

The Bolcom festival and the ACTC grant also encouraged students and faculty in disciplines outside of music to examine

Bolcom's settings to the Blake poetry. At Augsburg, this included students in the Honors Program and British literature course who explored the poetry from the perspectives of the music.

Davidson was thrilled with the impact of the Bolcom festival. "Rarely has an American composer been celebrated like this," he says. "The festival has given our students extraordinary access to Bill Bolcom, and will remain an important point of reference in their lives for years to come; there is no substitute for first-person experiences. Augsburg's participation helped build deep and lasting partnerships within the Twin Cities' world-class arts community and a premier fine arts program at the College." ■

To read more about the Bolcom festival, go to [www.illuminatingbolcom.org](http://www.illuminatingbolcom.org).



Courtesy of Guyanese Outreach

Guyanese Outreach founder Ruth Singh helps a child learn to read.

# Faith, vision, and a call to Guyana

by Betsey Norgard

Ruth Singh's story is about paying attention to a vision. It's about answering a call. And it's about how life can bring this about unexpectedly.

For the past 13 years, Singh has been responding to a call she received from the Lord to return to her native Guyana to help her home country meet its basic needs in poverty. As she has traveled back and forth in these years, the vision has been transformed from strictly

providing humanitarian relief to creating programs that help people escape systemic poverty through education.

Singh first came to the U.S. from Guyana in 1957 with her husband, who was studying on a scholarship. She studied home economics at Augsburg, and has fond memories of Dean Gerda Mortensen's days on campus. The Singhs returned to Guyana in 1960, but stayed only three years. When they came back to the Twin Cities in 1963, Singh concentrated on raising her four sons.

In 1979, the Singhs divorced, and Ruth decided to return to school. With good skills in sewing and embroidery, she studied and

substitute taught at vocational and technical schools, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in industrial technical education at the University of Minnesota and securing a full-time teaching position in apparel arts at Minneapolis Technical College.

During this time, she began to dream of going back home to help the Guyanese people living in poverty, a vision she planned to follow in her retirement.

Singh's life changed, however, with auto accidents that left her with long-term disabilities, unable to continue teaching. In 1993 she felt compelled to address the vision and answer the call.

She made plans to return to Guyana, together with two of her sons—John, who graduated from Augsburg in 1983, and Earl. "As long as this is what I am called to do, they would support me," she says.

Singh tells of feeling fearful that she had nothing to offer the Guyanese officials, whose help she needed to secure resources and locations for her work.

"Lord," she recalls praying, "address my fears ... you could let me help You [in Guyana] by helping me walk boldly into those [government] offices."

Three months later, she had plans to teach women to sew. It was clear that she would not move to Guyana but keep her house in the Twin Cities and travel back and forth, so that she could collect shipments of materials to help meet basic needs in her home country.

In 1995, her fledgling organization, Guyanese Outreach (GO), sent its first container of relief items—clothing, toys, medical and dental supplies, and other basic necessities. She recruited women for her sewing classes, with the initial meetings taking place in Hindu temples, and began teaching and sharing the gospel with them—without electricity, on pedal sewing machines, and with many women who couldn't read or understand to sew with patterns.



Back home, GO found a home base at Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church, and partnered with several other congregations, including Hope Lutheran Church, to collect the materials and money to begin expanding their work.

In 1997, GO secured an old building in Guyana, without roof, windows, or doors. Several spaghetti dinners later in Minnesota, they had raised funds to help repair and rehabilitate it as a vocational center.

In the past decade, the work of Guyanese Outreach has exceeded all expectations. Beginning with sewing and computer classes in the two rooms at this building, they have added after-school reading programs, additional sewing and crafts classes for all ages, Internet access for the community, and a library of more than 6,000 books. In addition to teaching out of their Vo-Tech building, they arrange for a number of after-school satellite locations, mostly in churches.

In the shift from humanitarian relief to job training classes and teaching, it is Singh's firm belief that "the way to help this generation and future generations is to help them through education."

In 2005, after-school classes were launched for primary students ages 6-11 to build functional literacy through reading, writing, and spelling. They focus on phonics, in cooperation with the local school system. The goal is to help students succeed on the Grade 6 examination, thus enabling more children to enter the secondary level track rather than vocational education. So far the program has served around 500 children, and continues to expand to other villages as funding becomes available.

Since the children come at the end of their school day, often hungry, Singh forged a partnership with Food for the Poor to provide the children a cup of

warm milk and some snacks when they arrive. The program also gives monthly basic food staples to the families of participating children.

A second primary-level program, TOPS, targets children who were not able to pass the Grade 6 exam. GO teaches them sewing and crafts to build their vocational skills and self confidence for making a good living. A future plan for GO is to address the special needs of these TOPS students and return them back to the normal track to receive their school diplomas.



Teacher Olivia Phillips' after-school reading class at the Streams of Power Church always begins with a warm cup of milk.

Computer classes teach the basics of computer literacy to all ages, and Singh says there are few government offices there that don't have workers who were past students in GO's computer classes.

One of GO's newest programs teaches sex education to teenagers, using the abstinence curriculum developed by Dr. James Dobson, in order to confront the high rates of HIV/AIDS, the highest in the Western Hemisphere except for Haiti.

All of GO's classes are offered at no cost to the participants, except for the higher level computer classes, which have a very modest fee. The only paid employees at GO are the local staff in Guyana. The teachers, for the most part, are untrained in teaching. GO provides training in phonics, reading, or their subject material, plus a small stipend.

Teams of GO volunteers travel to Guyana for short terms, and recently more mission trips are being arranged, mostly through STEM (Short Term Evangelical Missions).

GO also partners in-country with NGOs, and is working with both VSO and Peace Corps volunteers to set up classes, train teachers, and provide some management.

Ruth Singh's vision doesn't end here. GO's space and resources are now stretched to the limits, and for several years they have been negotiating with the government and searching for a new location. GO's ongoing Gateway Project proposes a new 17,000 sq. ft. architect-designed center that offers space for classes as well as for mission groups, and is just waiting for sufficient physical and fiscal resources.

In the Twin Cities, Guyanese Outreach has a volunteer board, currently headed by John Olson. His first involvement with GO was packing crates of supplies to send to Guyana.

Two years later, he joined the board, and now heads plans for the Gateway Project. On Oct. 7, a benefit concert featuring Christian music group "downhere" was held.

Singh continues to travel back and forth to Guyana, more and more frequently dealing with various government offices as their program expands—something that may now be easier than those first offices she tried to boldly enter 13 years ago.

"We're small," she asserts, "but the fruits we yield are phenomenal." ■

Guyanese Outreach





# SOCIAL WORK *for* SOCIAL justice

by Holley Locher, together with  
Michele Braley '96 MSW and  
Nils Dybvig '96 MSW

**a**uthor Thomas Friedman coined the phrase, "the world is flat," to describe the process by which society has become global and interdependent. In this context, social workers are obligated to address social injustices at every level and be culturally competent and responsive to people from all corners of the world.

Two Minneapolis social workers have traveled many miles to do this. In 1996, after graduating from Augsburgs Master of Social Work program, husband and wife Nils Dybvig and Michele Braley quit their jobs, moved to the State of Washington, and decided they would quit their jobs again in 10 years. So, in September 2006 they took a year's leave from their jobs and left for Barrancabermeja, Colombia, in the Magdalena Medio region of oil production, mining, and agriculture.



They are volunteers with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), an organization that devotes the same amount of discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking as armies devote to war. CPT places violence-reduction teams in crisis situations and militarized areas around the world. To date, Braley and Dybvig have been working primarily in rural areas with Colombians who have been threatened with violence and feel more comfortable with an international presence. And violence is definitely something that Colombians have lived with every day—for at least 40 years.

In the early 1960s, amidst a climate of great social and economic inequality, two left-wing guerrilla groups (the FARC and the ELN) formed, partly in response to the struggle for access to land rights on behalf of poor farmers. In the 1980s, large landowners and drug traffickers privately funded paramilitary groups (still in existence) that oppose the guerrilla groups. While these paramilitary groups often work in concert with the Colombian military, they are not officially affiliated with the government and are, therefore, able to use aggressive—often horrifically cruel and violent—tactics. The paramilitaries are responsible for 70% of the human rights violations against civilians.

It is sad to note that many of the casualties in Colombia's war are not members of any armed group, but civilians. Guerrilla groups accuse civilians of collaborating with the Colombian military and paramilitaries and vice versa. It is a vicious cycle that claims the lives of nearly 3,000 Colombians each year. In the last 20 years, over 3.6 million people have been forcibly displaced by violence or the threat of it—more than in any other country of the world except Sudan.

The United Nations now calls the situation in Colombia the worst humanitarian catastrophe in our hemisphere. Through Plan Colombia the U.S. has sent \$4.7 billion to Colombia since 2000, 80% of that as military aid. CPT works to educate others about

the role of U.S. tax dollars in Colombia and works through Congress to convert this funding into social and economic development funding. In June the U.S. House of Representatives passed a revision to Plan Colombia that reduces military aid and increases development aid; similar actions occurred in the Senate.

Braley and Dybvig spend their days attending meetings and visiting with people in rural areas. For instance, Braley tells of one weekend that she and her husband spent in a small community on the Opón River.

"This is a community that was violently forced off their land several years ago," she says. "CPT was invited to Colombia to assist this community in returning. Currently, a team from CPT takes the two-hour canoe ride to the community every week to spend time with the people. Most of the time is spent in people's homes, but we also stop to talk to any armed groups in the area to let them know who we are, and to ask them to respect the rights of the local people."

The goal for a visit Dybvig made to an indigenous community was "to make them [the people] more visible by publicizing their struggles in an area that has a strong presence of both the FARC and the paramilitaries."

On an 11-day trip in April, Braley and Dybvig traveled to Mina Caribe, a rural mining village to bring an international presence to a five-day leadership training school, followed by a general assembly of more than 100 miners and farmers. Dybvig wrote, "we took a bus for three hours, then a taxi, then traveled an hour by boat, then another taxi, then two hours by four-wheel-drive truck, and finally three more hours by mule."

When Army soldiers showed up as the assembly was to start, tension increased. The local residents had already been victims to harassment and detentions; and a mining federation leader had



Courtesy photos

Much of Braley's time is spent getting to know community members and attending their meetings, which often focus on health and economic issues.

been killed earlier by the same battalion. Several hours of discussions that CPT and other organizations had with the Army sergeant, plus calls from the government's human rights ombudswoman to the battalion's commanding officer, finally resulted in orders for the Army to leave town.

Braley and Dybvig have noted many similarities between the work they do in Colombia and social work in the U.S. They assert that while the violence in Colombia is motivated by different reasons and while community organizers risk their lives nearly every day to bring about change in their communities, some of the outcomes and struggles are analogous to those in Minneapolis. In one instance, after speaking with several young men engaged in illegal fishing, Braley says "... these men reminded me so much of the men dealing drugs in Minneapolis. [They have] limited education, attraction to easy money, and the idea that their life could end by violence at any time. So why bother to play by the rules?"

They also see similar practices among women's organizations in both Colombia and the U.S. that move people from poverty to self-sufficiency. According to Braley, "To walk into their offices or talk with their staff, you could not tell the difference from one of our programs in the U.S., if it weren't for the language." That is, until she says that the director of the organization received so



Michele Braley and Nils Dybvig apply their social work and peacemaking skills to support rural communities in Colombia threatened by the military presence and illegal armed groups.

many death threats that the government was forced to drive her around in an armored vehicle for her protection, as a human rights issue.

Braley believes they are immersed in "what I think is some valuable social justice work where we are definitely challenged to use our social work skills. ... We are lucky to partner with great Colombian organizations, and it is interesting to learn how they provide social services to a rural population plagued by violence and the legacy of 40 years of an armed conflict in this country."

"The work of CPT is very much in line with our social work values; we work in communities where we are invited, and our presence allows others to make changes in their lives." Braley says. "We don't come in with answers. And, we work to change policies in our own country that are impacting the situation here."

Dybvig and Braley were back in Minnesota for two months during the summer, but decided to spend one more year with CPT and returned to Colombia in early September.

To follow their work, go to [www.nilsandmichele.blogspot.com](http://www.nilsandmichele.blogspot.com).

*Holley Locher is program coordinator in the Master of Social Work program. Michele Braley has served as an adjunct professor in the Social Work Department.*



## From the Alumni Board president ...

### Greetings fellow Auggies,

There is something special about fall. While during summer we typically take time away from school and work, fall is when we return to our routines and reconnect with friends and colleagues.



And so it is with the Augsburg Alumni Board. We enter fall with high aspirations for achieving our strategic goals, which are primarily centered on making connections with various campus and affinity alumni groups, participating in campus events, and ensuring that we tell the stories of our alumni.

In order to achieve these goals, we need your help!

- Become an Alumni Board volunteer for special projects or participate in alumni-sponsored events
- Talk to your Augsburg friends and classmates about getting involved in the greater alumni association
- Nominate special alumni or friends of the College for Distinguished Alumni, First Decade, or Spirit of Augsburg awards
- Participate in the Career Networking event with current students
- Sign up for Augsburg's online community at [www.augsburg.edu/alumni](http://www.augsburg.edu/alumni)
- Become a member of the alumni association

The alumni association is not just a group of people who sit on the board. It is about providing an avenue for expression of our gifts and talents. It is about making a difference and conducting "real work." And, finally, it is about you!

So, are you interested in reconnecting with old friends and making new ones? Do you need more information about what we are doing and where we are going? If so, contact Heidi Breen, at [breen@augsb.org](mailto:breen@augsb.org).

Welcome!

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

Buffie Blesi '90, '97 MAL  
President, Augsburg Alumni Board

## New members join Alumni Board

At the June meeting of the Augsburg Alumni Board, Buffie Blesi '90, '97 MAL, began her term as president. The other officers are: Joyce Miller '02, vice president; Carolyn Spargo '80, secretary; Chad Darr '04, treasurer; and Barry Vornbrock '96 MAL, past president.

Three new members joined the Alumni Board at this meeting:

**Daniel Hickie '95** graduated with a major in journalism and a minor in economics. At Augsburg, he wrote for the *Echo* and interned with the Career Services Office, where he worked on a monthly newsletter for graduating seniors. He also worked off campus with autistic adults and children to help them develop socialization skills.

Hickie owns and operates Fortis Agency, a full service insurance brokerage, in Brooklyn Park. On the Alumni Board, he would like to help further Augsburg's mission in the community.

**Jim Kline '01 MAL**, served as a student representative on the Graduate School Committee. He received his bachelor's degree from Southwest College in Winfield, Kan.; he is a retired Marine Corps colonel, and has 35 years of leadership and management experience.

Kline is vice president of operations at SICO America Inc. in Minneapolis, and is responsible for the operations of three factories and product development. He is serving on the Alumni Board to show his support for liberal arts education.

**Lee Anne (Hanson) Lack '67** had double majors in German and English. While attending Augsburg, she wrote for the *Echo*, sang in the Women's Choir, was involved in theatre, and helped plan many events, including the Honors Day Assembly, Religious Emphasis Week, and the Spring arts event. Known as having a knack for making people laugh, she values diversity, justice, and kindness.

Lack is an assistant financial associate in charge of financial products and service sales at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Golden Valley. On the Alumni Board, she wants to remain connected in a meaningful way and make a significant contribution to the school she loves.

The mission of the Alumni Board is to support and serve Augsburg College in its stated mission and to actively promote involvement of alumni and their giving of time and resources to the College and the Alumni Association.

## Experience Spain and Portugal—March 2008

You are invited to join an Augsburg alumni group to visit Portugal, Morocco, and Spain, from March 27–April 6, 2008.

The 11-day tour begins and ends in Lisbon, Portugal, and includes two nights in Lisbon, two nights in Madrid, two nights in Tangier, two nights in Seville, and one night in Granada. All along the way stops will be made for site visits.

The land portion of this trip is \$1499 each based on double occupancy. A few single supplements are available for an additional \$319. Airfare is additional, and can be booked by you or arranged for you. Current airfare with Trafalgar Air is approximately \$995.

For further information and a brochure, contact the alumni office with your name and address at [alumni@augsborg.edu](mailto:alumni@augsborg.edu). To reserve a place on the tour, a \$200 deposit is required; if you choose Trafalgar Air for your round-trip airfare, an additional \$100 is needed. Reservations must be made by December 10 and space is limited.

This tour is sponsored by Augsburg A-Club, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Augsburg.

## Visit Greece and Turkey—October 2008

Alumni and friends are invited to join religion professors Phil Quanbeck II, accompanied by his wife, Augsburg regent Dr. Ruth Johnson, and Mark Tranvik for educational travel in October to the cradle of western civilization and early Christianity, Greece and Turkey.

The tour begins in Istanbul, the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Empires and travels along the Aegean coastline to the port of Kusadasi. From there, a two-night cruise through the Greek islands of Patmos, Rhodes, and Santorini arrives in Athens.

This study tour explores the history, culture, and legacy of the Greco-Roman world and cities associated with the Apostle Paul and the rise of early Christianity in the Greek and Roman context. The tour looks at the legacy of the Byzantine Empire and considers the rise of the Islamic empire of the Ottoman Turks, with some attention to modern Turkey. The tour concludes with Athens and Corinth, with a visit to the Parthenon on the Acropolis and Mars Hill.

The tour includes visits to museums, open air archaeological sites, and modern cities, with expert local guides. The tour leaders provide lectures and insight from their previous travel in this region and their fields of study and expertise.

For further information contact Phil Quanbeck II at 612-330-1006 or [quanbeck@augsborg.edu](mailto:quanbeck@augsborg.edu).



Granada, Spain



Athens, Greece



Santorini, Greece



## 1951

**Rev. Leonard E. Dalberg**, Buellton, Calif., is a retired pastor and was named California's Volunteer of the Year by the California Association of Homes and Services for the Aged. His wife, **Annabelle (Hanson) '52** continues to serve as church organist. She began playing the piano for Sunday School as a teenager 65 years ago. The photo shows them at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis in August 2006.



## 1968

**Gretchen (Strom) Schmidt**, Ventura, Calif., has retired and began an 18-month road trip in July with her husband in their "fifth wheel." At the end of the trip, they'll settle in South Carolina.

## 1978

**Julie Anne (Johnson) Westlund**, Duluth, Minn., has been director of career services at the University of Minnesota-Duluth since 1988. This year she received the John Tate Award for Excellence in Advising from the University of Minnesota. [jwestlund@umm.edu](mailto:jwestlund@umm.edu)

## 1981

**Karla (Morken) Thompson**, Pine Island, Minn., is a physical therapist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. In June 2007 she was certified as a clinical specialist in orthopaedic physical therapy and celebrated 26 years at Mayo Clinic. Her son, Danny, is an Augsburg sophomore.

## 1982

**Laura (Lam) Redding**, Samois-sur-Seine, France, has published *Late Blossom*, a chronicle of wartime Viet Nam, and a memoir of life, loss, and love. She is a refugee from Viet Nam, who graduated with a degree in business administration.

Princeton University has identified *Late Blossom* as required reading for a new graduate course on the Viet Nam war era, and a university in Japan is also interested in using the book in their Southeast Asian Studies Department. In Paris, several book clubs have selected it for reading, and a French translation is expected soon.

Read more about Laura and *Late Blossom* at her blog, <http://lauraonvietnam.blogspot.com>



## 1989

**Jody K. Johnson** earned a master's degree in community counseling at University of Wisconsin-River Falls and works as a child protection social worker. She and her husband, Mike, have four children, ages 7 to 14. The two youngest are adopted from India and Korea and have special needs.

## 1992

**Heather (Wagner) Rand**, Duluth, Minn., was a candidate for the District 3 Duluth City Council seat. She works as Duluth planning commissioner and chair of the citizen committee that developed the Duluth Comprehensive Land Use Plan. She is also a Duluth heritage preservation commissioner and a higher education commissioner.



## 1994

**Carley (Miller) Stuber**, and her husband, William, Shakopee, Minn., welcomed the birth of their daughter, **Carolyn Sophie**, on March 30, pictured here with big sister Kirsten, 23 months.



## 1997

**Paul Cicmil**, Minneapolis, began in July as one of two undergraduate representatives (recruiters) for DeVry University in the Twin Cities at its Edina Center.

## Join the Augsburg Online Community

- Keep in touch with classmates
- Find out what's happening on campus
- Change/update your address and e-mail

[www.augsburg.edu/alumni](http://www.augsburg.edu/alumni)

## Carolyn Herman '05 and Tessa Flynn '05



**Carolyn Herman** and **Tessa Flynn**, were honored June 22 by Admission Possible as the AmeriCorps Members of the Year at Admission Possible. AmeriCorps volunteers work with this program to help economically disadvantaged students gain college admission. Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak proclaimed June 22 as Carolyn Herman Day in Minneapolis, and June 24 as Tessa Flynn Day, for serving the citizens of Minneapolis admirably, with passion, pride, and unending commitment to [their high schools] and to [their] students.

Herman worked at Patrick Henry High School and helped 34 seniors gain admission to college, and helped them raise nearly \$175,000 in scholarships. Currently she is at the University of Hyderabad in India as a Rotary Ambassador Scholar studying literature.

Flynn, worked at North High School and also helped 34 seniors gain admission to college, with nearly \$250,000 in scholarships awarded.

## Rebecca Welle '04 and Laura Olson '89



**Rebecca Welle '04** (left) and **Laura (Henning) Olson '89** (right) took a break from volunteering around the city with Meals-on-Wheels to visit the Auggieasaurus in Murphy Square. They both work at ING in downtown Minneapolis. Becky is also the women's assistant cross country coach at Augsburg.

## 1998

**Jamie Larkin** married Kelli Leick on Jan. 27, 2006; they live in White Bear Lake, Minn. On April 18, they welcomed the birth of their son, **Jack Thomas**.



## 1999

**Trudy Marie (Kueker)** married Michael Howard on May 26, 2006; they live in Woodbury, Minn. She is an RN, CCRN for Healthways and Healtheast. tmhoward@mm.com

## 2000

**Rev. Melissa (Moyle) Pohlman**, Minneapolis, was one of the presiding ministers at the daily worship on Aug. 7 at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. She is the presiding minister at Christ English Church in Minneapolis.

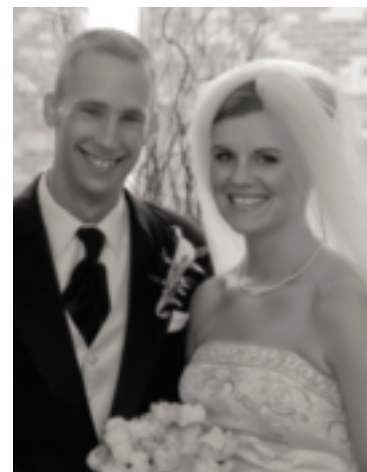
## 2004

**Kerry Lynn (Keller)** married **Cole Patrick Bryan '03** on Aug. 25, 2006; and they live in St. Michael, Minn. Cole is in purchasing and sales with Road-Rite Truck Sales. klkeller82@yahoo.com

**Harry Ford**, Brooklyn Center, Minn., is director of Emerge Villages. Its program, Fathers and Children Together (FACT), which provides transitional housing for custodial fathers and their families, received a Family Strengthening Award from the United Neighborhood Centers of America/Annie E. Casey Foundation.

## 2005

**Sara Baufield '05** married Justin Sorby on May 5 at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Wayzata, Minn. Sara is currently pursuing another bachelor's degree in early childhood development at Minnesota State University-Mankato. Justin graduated in 2004 from North Dakota State University and works as a grain merchandiser for Archer Daniels Midland. They live in Mankato, Minn.





## 2006

**Emily Soeder**, Washington, D.C., has been appointed an associate director in the White House Office of Presidential Speechwriting. For eight months, she worked for the assistant secretary in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education. During the summer she traveled to Haiti with a group working at an orphanage.

## Correction:

In the summer issue's note about **Lauren Falk '06** and her new business, Lauren B. Photography, her e-mail contact was omitted. You can reach her at [laurenbfalk@aol.com](mailto:laurenbfalk@aol.com).

## In Memoriam

**Tungseth, Rev. Erling M. '40**, Cambridge, Minn., age 89, on July 21.

**Waggoner, Sylvia (Haukeness) '47**, Seattle, Wash., on Oct. 3, 2006.

**Johnson, Wilgard "Will" '57**, Lexington, Ky., age 75, on July 25.

**Calderwood, David '50**, Birchwood, Minn., age 81, on Sept. 18, of cancer.

**Schmidt, David Has '85**, Phoenix, Ariz, age 47, on Sept. 27.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

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

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

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

Full name

Maiden name

Class year or last year attended

Street address

City, State, Zip

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home telephone

E-mail

Okay to publish your e-mail address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Employer

Position

Work telephone

Is spouse also a graduate of Augsburg College? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, class year

Spouse's name

Maiden name

Your news:



"Auggie is an action verb" t-shirts were worn by all first-year students on City Service Day.

Auggie women who participated in sports prior to 1988, when athletic letters were first awarded to women, were honored with framed "A" letters at an event in September that celebrated 35 years of varsity women's athletics at Augsburg.



## A maroon-letter day for Auggie women athletes

by Augsburg News Service and Betsey Norgard

September 28 was a special day for 78 Auggie women who competed in sports at Augsburg prior to 1988, the year in which the first athletic letters were awarded to women. They finally received their letters as well.

The dinner that evening celebrated 35 years of varsity women's athletics at Augsburg, as well as the rich history of women's athletics prior to the Title IX era. In 1972 Augsburg's varsity women's basketball and volleyball teams were started, along with gymnastics and tennis.

The celebration event started in the LaVonne Johnson Peterson Health and Physical Education Center, named for "Mrs. Pete," the longtime instructor, women's athletic director, and coach of the famed "Auggiettes" basketball team of the mid-1950s.

Following dinner, current female student-athletes led a Parade of Champions from Kennedy Center to Hoversten Chapel, accompanied by a brass band. In a ceremony there, the alumnae received framed maroon A's and a place in Augsburg's sports history.

Though the varsity era of Auggie women's athletics began in 1972, there have been women's College dating to the mid-1920s. From the 1940s to the 1970s, there were numerous intramural sports

sponsored for women, including the Auggiettes basketball team. They competed in the Minneapolis Park Board league and compiled a 125-5 record in 15 seasons from 1950 to 1965.

At Homecoming in October, the unbeaten Auggiettes team of 1956-57, celebrating its 50th anniversary, was honored with induction as a group into the Augsburg Athletic Hall of Fame.

In an article printed in the *Star Tribune* following the celebration event, assistant athletic director Marilyn Florian '76 recounted how, on her first day of classes at Augsburg, she asked then-athletic director Joyce Pfaff '65 when volleyball practice would begin, assuming there was a team. Florian said Pfaff then started and coached a team, learning the sport as she went. "She knew we had talent and desire," Florian said. "We just needed the opportunity and we're all grateful we got it." This was a sentiment echoed throughout the evening's athletic festivities.

*For more about women's athletics, go to [www.augsburg.edu/athletics](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics).*



Current female student-athletes led a Parade of Champions from Kennedy Center to Hoversten Chapel, where the alumnae athletes were honored and awarded athletic letters.



For music information, call 612-330-1265

For theatre ticket information, call 612-330-1257

For art gallery information, call 612-330-1524

## NOVEMBER

**November 30**

### **Velkommen Jul Celebration**

10:15 a.m.—Chapel Service,  
Hoversten Chapel

11 a.m.—Scandinavian treats and  
gifts, Christensen Center



**November 30–December 1**

### ***That All May Have Light***

28th Annual Advent Vespers:  
A service of music and liturgy  
5 and 8 p.m. each night  
Central Lutheran Church,  
Minneapolis  
For seating envelopes,  
612-330-1265

## JANUARY

**January 11–February 22**

### **Contemporary Native American Art**

(group show)  
Gage Family Art Gallery, Oren  
Gateway Center  
Reception: Friday, Jan. 18  
Artist talk: TBA

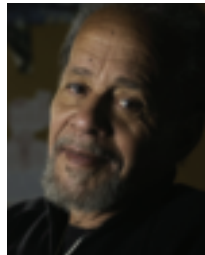
### **Barbara Harman: Prints, Mixed-Media Drawings, and Artist Books**

Christensen Center Art Gallery  
Artist reception: Friday, Jan. 18  
Artist presentation: TBA

**January 16–February 1**

### **Augsburg Art Club Exhibition**

Student Art Gallery, Christensen  
Center



**January 20**

### **2008 Convocation Series**

20th Annual Martin Luther King Jr.  
Convocation  
Ekwueme Michael Thelwell, "Visions  
of a Just Society: Dr. King's Legacy"  
1 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

## FEBRUARY

**February 1-10**

### **The Visit**

by Friedrich Durrenmatt; transl. by  
Maurice Valency  
Guest directed by Luverne Seifert '83  
Feb. 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.  
Feb. 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.  
Tjornhom-Nelson Theater



**February 15-16**

### **2008 Convocation Series**

Dr. Ned Hallowell  
Feb. 15, "Worry"  
3:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel  
Feb. 16, "CrazyBusy"  
Noon, Hoversten Chapel

**February 22–April 4**

### **Augsburg Art Department Faculty Exhibition**

Gage Family Art Gallery,  
Oren Gateway Center  
Reception: Friday, Feb. 22,  
5–7 p.m.  
Artist talk: March, TBA



**February 28-29**

### **2008 Convocation Series**

Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics  
"Reinhold Niebuhr for the 21st  
Century"  
Rev. Robin Lovin, Cary McGuire  
University Professor of Ethics,  
Southern Methodist University  
Feb. 28—7:30 p.m.,  
Hoversten Chapel  
Feb. 29—10 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

**February 29–April 4**

### **Kelly Connole, *Where the Sky Meets the Earth***

Ceramic installation  
Artist Reception: Friday, Feb. 29,  
5:30–7:30 p.m.  
Artist Presentation: TBA

## MARCH

**March 11-14**

### **The Exception and the Rule**

by Bertolt Brecht,  
transl. by Eric Bentley  
Guest directed by Warren C. Bowles  
March 11, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.  
Foss Studio Theater



## Our college in the city

Augsburg has gone through dramatic changes over the past three years, including new turf on the football field and the addition of the Kennedy and Oren Gateway Center buildings, which have given the College a new look from the air.

Photograph by Stephen Geffre.

**AUGSBURG  
COLLEGE**

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