

AUGSBURG NOW

SUMMER 2009
VOL. 71, NO. 3



FACULTY
IN
focus

inside



The Magazine of Augsburg College

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Sociology shines Making peace
Joyce Pfaff retires Writing a living faith



NOTES

from President Pribbenow

Teaching, the liberal arts, and paying attention

I had a revelation a few years ago about liberal arts education while listening to a presentation by a religion professor at a small liberal arts college. He described his work over a couple of years with a small group of Muslim students to develop a new, introductory religion course on Islam. As I listened to his engaging story, I was reminded of what I believe deeply about the challenge we have in the 21st century when most of our students are more worried about education for a career than about learning that stretches the imagination and offers them the skills, knowledge, and values to live in a complex world. What this faculty member taught me is that to genuinely embrace liberal learning, we each need to pay attention and practice extreme patience, deep humility, and a suspension of disbelief—all attitudes and characteristics that are rare in our culture (and in our colleges).

He told a story of how he—on the cusp of retirement—set out to learn as an amateur. He admitted the mistakes he made in describing Islam to students. He described his childlike efforts to learn a bit of Arabic. He described being corrected in class by one of the Muslim students. He talked about misconceptions of the Islamic faith and tradition that he (and we) needed to debunk. What I learned from him was that education in the liberal arts—a core pillar of our mission at Augsburg—is about so much more than what we learn; it is about why and how we learn. Liberal arts learning—whether in the traditional disciplines or in professional studies—is about the love, patience, and humility it takes to learn to pay attention.

Simone Weil has said, “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.” A liberal arts

approach to education—no matter the subject or topic—is well-suited to cultivate attention — “And attention, like listening, engenders genuine and lasting learning.”

Brad Sullivan, who teaches at Western New England College, has recently challenged all of us who care about education to consider attention as a topic of focused inquiry. Sullivan’s argument is that the ways of knowing most conducive to the purposes of a liberal arts education—grounded in a historical perspective and having their genesis in personal engagement, inquiry, and critical consideration—are inextricably bound up with the cultivation of attention. “Experience-centered, inquiry-centered liberal arts learning helps them to cultivate and practice the kinds of attention that will make them intelligent observers, diligent critics, and thoughtful actors on the stage of human life.”

As this issue of *Augsburg Now* illustrates through the stories of our faculty and students, we know and practice this sort of liberal learning at Augsburg College with all of our students—no matter their age, area of study, or life experience—and we are dedicated to making this learning more and more accessible to all those who desire and need this rare education to live meaningful and productive lives in the world. What a joy it is to share in this noble work and to celebrate those here at Augsburg who offer examples for all of us of the vocations to teach, learn, and pay attention.

PAUL C. PRIBBENOW, PRESIDENT

Editor
Betsey Norgard
norgard@augsb.org.edu

Creative Director
Kathy Rumpza '05 MAL
rumpza@augsb.org.edu

Creative Associate-Editorial
Wendi Wheeler '06
wheelerw@augsb.org.edu

Creative Associate-Design
Jen Nagorski '08
nagorski@augsb.org.edu

Photographer
Stephen Geffre
geffre@augsb.org.edu

Webmaster/Now Online
Bryan Barnes
barnesb@augsb.org.edu

Director of News and Media Services
Jeff Shelman
shelman@augsb.org.edu

Sports Information Director
Don Stoner
stoner@augsb.org.edu

Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communication
David Warch
warch@augsb.org.edu

Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations
Kim Stone
stonek@augsb.org.edu

www.augsburg.edu

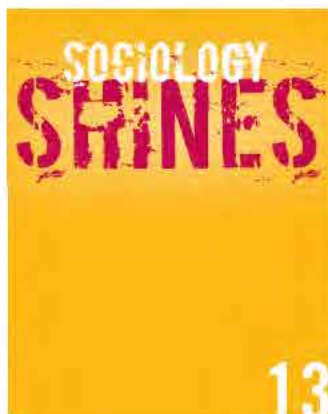
Augsburg Now is published by
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Opinions expressed in *Augsburg Now*
do not necessarily reflect official
College policy.

ISSN 1058-1545

Send address corrections to:
Advancement Services
CB 142
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
healyk@augsb.org.edu

E-mail: now@augsb.org.edu
Telephone: 612-330-1181
Fax: 612-330-1780



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On the cover

Five faculty members featured in this issue paused to pose in Lindell Library: (clockwise from top) Jacqueline deVries, Bill Arden, David Murr, Don "Gus" Gustafson, and Michael Lansing.

All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.

around the QUAD

Honored for distinguished teaching and learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning annually recognizes exemplary work by faculty and staff in support of teaching and learning at Augsburg College. Awards are based on evidence of student learning and student satisfaction provided by students, colleagues, and documentation.



Mentoring/Advising Award—**Susan Nash**, Nursing (Rochester) (left) and **Dale Pederson**, Biology (center)

Teaching Award—**Tracy Bibelnieks**, Mathematics (right) (See story on page 32.)

Congratulations, faculty!

The following tenure and promotions were approved by the Augsburg Board of Regents, effective on September 1, 2009.

Tenure granted
Jody Sorensen, Mathematics

Promotion to associate professor
Michael Schock, Social work

Tenure granted and promotion to associate professor
Robert Cowgill, English
Colin Irvine, English
M. Elise Marubbio, American Indian studies

Tenure granted and promotion to professor
Kristin Anderson, Art

Recent veterans gain big tuition benefits

This tuition bill is awfully modest: \$33 per Weekend College class. It's an example of Augsburg College's continued commitment to veterans.

While Augsburg has provided a tuition discount to veterans for some time, the College's decision to join the Yellow Ribbon Program, which is part of the new Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, means that a number of former soldiers will be able to earn an undergraduate degree for a very minimal price.

Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, Augsburg has entered into a dollar-for-dollar matching agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to increase benefits for veterans who have served active duty roles after Sept. 11, 2001. For a veteran to be eligible, he or she must have served 36 months of active duty after 9/11, or have been discharged because of disability after serving at least 30 days.

Veterans who are eligible for full G.I. Bill benefits receive \$326.92 per credit toward their education. Beginning this fall, tuition for a four-credit WEC class will be \$1,675. After the G.I. Bill benefits (\$1,307.68), Augsburg's 10% discount (\$167.50) and the V.A.'s matching (\$167.50), the remaining

out-of-pocket costs are less than \$33. That means that veterans eligible for full benefits can take a full year of WEC classes for less than \$200 in tuition.

Veterans enrolled in the day undergraduate or graduate programs are also eligible for the same tuition discounts and the Yellow Ribbon Program. Because tuition is higher in these programs, a veteran with full Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits will have to pay about \$250 per class in the Augsburg MBA program, for example.





Advent Vespers adds a fifth service

Advent Vespers celebrates 30 years this year—and has grown so much that a fifth service is being added on Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available beginning November 1.

Advent Vespers 2009

Friday, Dec. 4, at 5 and 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2, 5, and 8 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

www.augsburg.edu/adventvespers

Center for Democracy and Citizenship joins Augsburg

The Center for Democracy and Citizenship, an organization with a reputation across the globe for innovative thinking about public engagement, became part of Augsburg College on July 1.

Led by co-directors Harry Boyte and Nan Skelton, the center had been part of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

The center's work is grounded in the belief that a healthy democracy requires everyone's participation and that each of us has something to contribute. This work builds on a long tradition of people of all ages working together for the common good.

For both sides, the move is about partnering with another organization that shares similar values. Boyte said, "Augsburg is rare in that it has a strong connection to place, in this case an urban setting and Cedar-Riverside. We're absolutely convinced this is the way of the future and Augsburg is going to be a pioneer."

The center will work with the dean of the College to begin to integrate its work into the Augsburg curriculum.

JEFF SHELMAN

Roberta Kagin is doubly honored



Music therapy program director Roberta Kagin works with a student at the annual VSA arts festival.

Roberta Kagin, director of the music therapy program, was honored in May for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Music Therapy by the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University. She has been pursuing her doctoral

degree in music therapy and received the award that honors a graduate student who has made significant contributions to the discipline and profession of music therapy.

She was also honored by the Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) with Honorary Life Membership, presented at their convention in early March.

Kagin is the longtime director and one of the original architects of Augsburg's music therapy program, which was founded in 1975 and is the only program among Minnesota's private colleges.

College mourns the death of Gracia Christensen



Lilly Gracia Christensen, professor emerita of English and widow of Bernhard M. Christensen '22, '25 Sem, Augsburg's fifth president, died in St. Paul on April 21 at the age of 97.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a daughter of Norwegian immigrant parents, she graduated from Hunter College and received a master's degree in English from Radcliffe College.

Christensen came to Minneapolis in 1935 when she and Bernhard married, and he

returned to Augsburg to teach and later to serve 24 years as its president. During that time, as the wife of the president, she hosted students, faculty, and visitors to the College, including the king of Norway. She was also active in community organizations and a frequent speaker, writer, and editor.

For over 50 years, she was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Congregation and a church leader. She taught religious education in the Minneapolis Public Schools and was a teacher at Lutheran Bible Institute.

In Augsburg's English Department, where she served on the faculty for 16 years, she is remembered for her counseling and mentoring of many students.

Christensen is survived by a sister, Evelyn; a brother, George; three daughters, Nadia, Marya, and Sonya; and other family and friends. A memorial service was held on June 21 in Hoversten Chapel.

BETSEY NORGARD

Commencement on May 2, 2009

The theme for this year's Commencement ceremony was an appreciation for science as both a method and discipline for exploring the world and shaping public policy, and as a hallmark of a liberal arts education.

On Saturday, May 2, the College celebrated with the families and friends of 407 day students and 23 physician assistant master's degree students eligible to graduate, including 17 international students from 11 countries.

Kerry A. Emanuel, professor of atmospheric science and director of

the Program in Atmospheres, Oceans, and Climate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presented the Commencement address, "Science and Beyond," and received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Graduating senior Ashley Weston received the Marina Christensen Justice Award, recognizing the student who has demonstrated the caring and service to others in the community that is found at the core of Augsburg's mission. Weston's leadership in campus ministry, as a Lilly Scholar, and at the East African Women's Center is remarkable.



To read Kerry Emanuel's commencement speech, go to www.augsburg.edu/now





Commencement on June 28, 2009

On Sunday, June 28, the College celebrated with the families and friends of weekend and graduate students. A total of 451 students were eligible to graduate. This included 167 weekend undergraduates, 10 evening nursing hospital students, 51 Rochester students, and 223 master's degree students—10 in education, 24 in leadership, 11 in nursing, 139 in business, and 39 in social work.

The Commencement speaker was Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota and a member of Augsburg's Board of Regents. In his address, "Designing Our Communities' Future: The Promise of the Scientific Mind," he told graduates that they are our messengers of the future, and encouraged them to be active messengers, leaders who speak for those without a voice, and to use knowledge to advance society.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) head and undersecretary Jane Lubchenco received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for her remarkable career as a scientist and public servant.

Weekend student Duane Huisentruit received the Richard J. Thoni Award, given to a graduating weekend student who exemplifies the same spirit of community involvement that Rick Thoni did in his long career at Augsburg. Huisentruit majored in religion with a minor in American Indian studies. He worked one-on-one as a mentor with Buddhist youth and with Native American youth in the Twin Cities metro area and plans to work in northern Minnesota as an educator with Ojibwe youth.



To hear Eric Jolly's commencement address, go to www.augsburg.edu/now



AUGGIES on stage

For most of the year, we see Auggie student-athletes on the field, on the court, or on the ice where they display their tenacity and strength. And we see them on campus, learning in the classroom, or volunteering in the community.

But once a year, Auggie student-athletes trade their uniforms and gear for suits and dresses at the annual Auggie Awards. This festive event gives students, coaches, faculty, and staff the opportunity to celebrate the year's accomplishments on and off the field.

Meet the student-athletes who were honored at the 2009 Auggie Awards. Congratulations and Go Auggies!

Jennifer Castillo SOFTBALL FEMALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Castillo led the Auggie softball team this season with a .403 batting average. She started all 43 games and earned All-MIAC and MIAC Rookie of the Year honors. Castillo was one of just three first-year players to be named All-MIAC and was ranked ninth in the conference in overall batting average, eleventh in on-base percentage, and led in defensive assists (104).

Nick Ward TRACK AND FIELD MALE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Ward won the MIAC outdoor title in the 100-meter dash (10.97 seconds) and placed sixth in the long jump. His 100-meter dash win marked the first title for Auggie men since 2005, and he is one of only two MIAC male first-year athletes to win titles in the outdoor meet.

Jordan Berg FOOTBALL MALE HONOR ATHLETE

As quarterback of the Auggie football team, Berg earned All-MIAC honors and was named to the D3football.com All-West Region second team. Last season, he broke the single-season school record with 297 completions in 499 attempts for 3,226 yards and 25 touchdowns against 14 interceptions (attempts, yards, and touchdown totals all second-best in single-season in school history). He was also a Gagliardi Trophy regional finalist.



THE AUGGIE AWARDS

Soccer

MALE OUTSTANDING TEAM

Softball

FEMALE OUTSTANDING TEAM

Golf

MALE MOST IMPROVED TEAM

Softball

FEMALE MOST IMPROVED TEAM

Women's Cross Country

ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR



For more information about the Auggie Awards, go to www.augsburg.edu/now

Royce Winford

FOOTBALL

MALE OUTSTANDING ATHLETE

Winford earned All-MIAC and MIAC Player of the Year honors this season as a wide receiver/cornerback. He also made the D3football.com All-West Region first team and All-America first team and was named the D3football.com West Region Offensive Player of the Year. He tied school records for career touchdowns (41) and receiving touchdowns (40), and was second in school history in career receptions (247) and receiving yardage (3,282).

Maggie DeGroot

SOCCER/BASKETBALL

FEMALE OUTSTANDING ATHLETE

DeGroot earned All-MIAC honors and made the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team this season for soccer. As goalkeeper, she also made the NSCAA/Adidas All-Central Region second team and earned a NSCAA/Adidas Scholar All-Central Region honorable mention. DeGroot holds Augsburg career records for goalkeeper wins (37-19-16), career goals-against-average (0.68), shutouts (36) and career win-loss percentage (.627).

Tiffany Magnuson

HOCKEY/SOFTBALL

FEMALE HONOR ATHLETE

Magnuson was named All-MIAC in women's hockey and softball. In hockey, she led the team in every scoring category this season—nine goals, 10 assists for 19 points. She was named to the All-MIAC first team for the fourth straight season and was also honored with the MIAC Sheila Brown Award, given to a senior who displays consistent sportsmanship and contributes to her team's success.



it takes an

AUGGIE

Keeping students on track

Raymond Kidd '09 transferred to Augsburg to study music business. As a student, he always felt supported and challenged by the Augsburg faculty and staff. He said Brenda Hemmingsen, office manager in admissions, literally took him by the hand and led him to his classes on his first day. "All relationships here are like that," Kidd said. "My professors lifted me up ... they challenged me to ask questions and to explore."

John and Peggy Cerrito, faculty members in business administration, played a major role in bringing Kidd to Augsburg. "Peggy helped me get here, advised me what to do and where to go, and kept me on track," Kidd says. The Cerritos also started the Amin E. Kader Business Scholarship, which Kidd received this year.

"An extra dollar goes a long way for a [college] student," Kidd says. "It meant I could live more comfortably and take care of everyday needs so I could focus on being a good student."

After graduation, Kidd plans to work and save money for graduate school.



Peggy and John Cerrito, with Ray Kidd '09

Scholarships that honor faculty

Augsburg faculty support students in many ways. In addition to sharing their knowledge and experience in the classroom, they advise students, help them connect with alumni and others outside the College, and often establish lasting friendships with their students.

One very significant way faculty support Augsburg students is through faculty-named scholarships. At present, 10% of Augsburg's scholarship donors are current and former members of the faculty, and last year those scholarships provided nearly \$60,000 in financial aid directly to students.

Here are stories of four students who received scholarships created by or in honor of Augsburg faculty. In addition to the financial support from scholarships, these students have been aided along their paths by faculty who have enriched their experiences at Augsburg.



Robert Karlén and Kathleen Herling '09

fostering

student development

For **Kathleen Herling '09**, a music therapy major from Onalaska, Wis. and recipient of the Robert Karlén Scholarship, studying at Augsburg allowed her to identify and explore her passion for helping others with music.

Herling wanted to study music but was not interested in teaching or performing. Her high school piano teacher suggested music therapy, a career she hadn't considered. "It sounded like a good fit," Herling said.

As a student, Herling played clarinet in the Augsburg band and orchestra. She's enjoyed performing and working with the music department faculty. "They are always there to help."

Herling met Robert Karlén, professor emeritus of music at

Augsburg, at the brunch for donors and scholarship recipients held each spring. She invited Karlén and his family to her senior clarinet recital. "I was happy to share my hard work with him."

To complete her degree requirements, Herling is participating in an internship at a geriatric facility in Dayton, Ohio, this summer. She was introduced to geriatric therapy through her practica experiences at Augsburg and likes the field because of the slower pace. "I get more time with clients," she said. "I can hear their stories and really get to know them as people."

The Robert Karlén Scholarship was created by merging smaller music scholarships to honor Robert Karlén's distinguished career, with the leadership of Robert Karlén and Merilee Klemp.

Defining the student experience



Jeanne Boeh and Bernhard Fleming, with Sarah Black '09

Sarah Black '09, an economics major from Cottage Grove, Minn., received the Professor Jeanne Boeh and Mr. Bernhard Fleming Economics Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 2005 to encourage students seeking an economics degree. Boeh has been a faculty member at Augsburg since 1990.

Though Boeh was not Black's official faculty adviser, the two did talk often about Black's education and career goals. "Dr. Boeh doesn't give general advising," Black said. "It's personalized. She really got to know me and worked with me to define my experience." Black also appreciated the relevant, real world examples Boeh brought to the classroom.

Black received the scholarship prior to her semester abroad in Ecuador. As a middle-income student, she didn't qualify for need-based financial aid but needed additional funding for her study abroad. Black is grateful for the "phenomenal experience" she had in Ecuador and for the opportunity to learn about non-traditional economic development in another country.

In addition to her semester in Ecuador, Black participated in a short-term study abroad program in the Czech Republic and Poland with Stuart Stoller, associate professor of accounting. She was also an orientation leader, served on student government, and worked in a variety of offices on campus.

Black hopes to attend graduate school to study applied economics or public policy.



Shonna Fulford '09 and Myles Stenshoel

Helping students succeed

The Augsburg faculty did more than teach Shonna Fulford '09, a political science major from Perham, Minn. They helped her achieve her dreams. "They are truly there to teach you what they know, to let you discover things you may never have otherwise, and to help you succeed in everything you want to do."

Fulford said she never felt like a burden to her professors and believed they were always glad to assist her. "They have helped me by just being there, ready and waiting, to help each and every student that walks through their door."

At Augsburg, Fulford was the welcome desk supervisor in Christensen Center, was involved in student government, served as an orientation leader, and was elected Homecoming queen.

"It means so much to me that there are people and organizations out there that give to students and encourage us to finish our schooling," said Fulford. She received the Myles Stenshoel Scholarship, established by professors Norma Noonan and Myles Stenshoel for upper-class students pursuing careers in political science.

After graduation, Fulford plans to attend graduate school. She said her dream job would be to return to Augsburg as the dean of students or vice president of student affairs.

WENDI WHEELER '06



around the Quad SPOTLIGHT

Joyce Pfaff '65

Retiring after 43 years—and still in love with teaching

It could be said that Joyce Pfaff '65 loves many things, like biking and running all over the country, sailing in the Caribbean, or hiking in Colorado. But none of these activities brings her as much joy as teaching.

Her love for teaching, though long lasting, was not immediate. As a student from 1961 to 1965, Pfaff majored in health and physical education; she and a group of high school friends had planned to get their degrees and then work together in the same school. When it came time for her student teaching experience, however, Pfaff discovered that the classroom was not for her.

She “ran away” to Europe following graduation in order to escape her parents’ insistence that she find a teaching job. How she got back to Augsburg, she says, was “totally an accident.”

When she returned to the states in late August 1966, she believed she’d stayed away long enough to avoid getting a teaching job in a public school. But Pfaff was desperate for work, and Ernie Anderson, the health and physical education department chair, was desperate for a swimming and gymnastics instructor. He called Pfaff, and she agreed to take the position—but only for one semester.

Just a few weeks into the term, she was back in Anderson’s office asking what she needed to do to keep teaching at Augsburg forever. It was her students, she said, who caused Pfaff’s change of heart.

This spring, Pfaff retired after 43 years of teaching at Augsburg College. At her May retirement celebration, she thanked her former students for making her teaching dream come true. “You were not the high school girls who would come to class wearing their nylons under their shorts, trying to avoid getting their hair messed up or ruining their makeup with sweat,” she said. “You actually enjoyed sweating and working out.”

This enthusiasm extended beyond the classroom to the volleyball court, gymnastics mat, basketball court, and softball diamond. As students, Pfaff and others had been involved with the Augsburg Women’s Recreation Association, a pre-Title IX opportunity for women to be involved in organized athletic activities. Augsburg had also had a women’s basketball team, the Auggiettes, started by LaVonne Peterson '50. Because there was not an organized

intercollegiate women’s athletics program, the Auggiettes played in the Minneapolis park leagues and eventually played other college teams in the area. In the 18 years Peterson coached the team, they won 154 games and lost only 6.

In the mid-1960s and into the '70s, Pfaff’s students demanded to play. Nancy (Soli) Mollner '75 and Marilyn (Pearson) Florian '76 came to Pfaff’s office and asked when volleyball practice would start. “I said ‘Tuesday’ because I didn’t have the heart to tell them we didn’t have a team,” Pfaff said. So the team began practice the following Tuesday.

Pfaff knew nothing about coaching volleyball, but she led the team to the Minnesota state tournament. “They were great, and they just kept winning.” At the end of the season, Pfaff said she wanted to get the team a “real” coach. She hired Mary Timm, who would go on to coach many teams, including the most successful women’s softball team in Augsburg history. “We paid her a pittance,” recalls Pfaff, “but she didn’t care.”

Though Title IX had been enacted by that time, women’s athletic teams faced opposition from athletic directors who felt women’s teams competed for funding and resources. Pfaff said the female athletes had to beg for practice time in the College’s facilities and were sometimes kicked out by the men. Female coaches and athletes made or supplied their own uniforms and sold concessions at men’s games to help pay their expenses.

Mollner was unable to attend Pfaff’s retirement party but shared her thoughts in a letter read at the reception. Mollner thanked Pfaff for providing opportunities for women to participate in athletics. “You made it possible for the athlete in me to emerge,” Mollner wrote. She noted how Pfaff coached when there wasn’t a coach, found uniforms when there were none, and how she charged ahead when Augsburg women needed a champion in court. She added, “Augsburg women’s athletics is your legacy.”

Several of Pfaff’s colleagues and former student-athletes spoke at her retirement celebration, sharing lessons they had learned from Pfaff. Joyce (Engstrom) Spector '70 said she learned that she, as a little person, would not be exempt from physical



education courses, despite a note from her doctor. Pfaff simply would not take “no” for an answer.

Taking her first HPE course was not only fun for Spector, it was “the beginning of developing more self-confidence.” She went on to join the Women’s Recreation Association at Augsburg and to participate in canoeing and camping trips. As did other students, Spector stayed in touch with Pfaff after graduation.

Jane Helmke ’83 learned from Pfaff that there are no barriers, only challenges. “Joyce cared that her students got it right,” she says. She cared so much about Helmke passing her life-saving test that Helmke jokingly said Pfaff intentionally tried to drown her. “Teaching was not something she did. It is a part of who she is.”

In her 43 years at Augsburg, Pfaff served as an instructor, department chair, director of women’s athletics, and a coach. When the College was reevaluating its liberal arts program, Pfaff helped ensure that health and physical education courses had a place in the program. She developed the Fitness for Life and Foundations of Fitness courses and taught a popular intermediate cycling course that explored the many biking trails of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area.

Pfaff also designed and taught, with her husband, Doug, an interim sailing course in the Virgin Islands. She taught an exercise class for Somali women in the Cedar-Riverside community. And in the fall of 2008, she and Doug went to the United International College in Zhuhai, China to teach and develop a fitness center for faculty, staff, and students.

At her retirement reception, after she and several friends had completed a 43-mile bike ride, Pfaff shared joyful memories of teaching and a reminder of the challenges she and other women faced in Augsburg’s history. “I am hopeful that our current coaches and athletes know they are standing on the shoulders of Augsburg women athletes and their coaches from the past who struggled and fought so very hard for the privilege to participate on an intercollegiate athletic team.”

Though she is officially retired, Pfaff says she will stay close to Augsburg and will perhaps come back to teach. Those who know her well know that it would be nearly impossible for Pfaff to stay away from a place she loves so dearly.

WENDI WHEELER '06

AUGGIE voices

An accountant or a pastor?

Cody Warren was introduced to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing on vocation in the seminar taught by Professor Lori Brandt Hale (see page 29). He developed his research into a departmental honors project, "More Than the V-Word: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Vocation at Augsburg College," which he also presented at the Great Plains Undergraduate Theological Conference. Following are excerpts from his senior chapel homily on April 16, 2009.

We may certainly rejoice today! Tax Day has officially come and gone. ... Many of us find taxes burdensome, confusing, and just plain annoying. But, I love them. I simply cannot get enough of tax season ...

A renewed fascination with the tax code began when I volunteered with AccountAbility Minnesota, a nonprofit that prepares tax returns for low-income individuals at no cost. I was amazed at the impact a simple tax return could have on a family. Many of the people I assisted received a refund of almost one-third of their annual income. This is much needed money to pay for housing, health care, and food. ... This started a desire to learn more and continue to assist others.

... My first semester at Augsburg I was presented with the "v-word"—vocation. Not only was I planning for fun [in college], I was planning for my vocation. When I first came to Augsburg, I was 110% sure that my call, my vocation, was to be a pastor.

So, fast forward to AccountAbility Minnesota and enter crisis mode for Cody Warren. Could it be? Could my vocation actually change? Am I really called to be a pastor? Or maybe a tax accountant? I was lost, confused, and disheartened. Luckily, I was introduced to the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and now I am saved. I am exaggerating, a little.

For the past year I have been reading, writing, and at times it feels like breathing Bonhoeffer. Through my research I have come to appreciate a broader, more dynamic understanding of vocation that Bonhoeffer speaks to in his manuscripts. Bonhoeffer writes about vocation as the place of responsibility in the world. As Christians we have the responsibility to serve our earthly roles, like career and family. But we also have an ethical responsibility to serve our neighbor and take up the cross of Christ. When these responsibilities meet, liberated by grace, we find our vocation. And this, for me, this new understanding was life changing. Not only can my vocation be expressed as a tax accountant, my understanding is now expanded to know that this could change many more times in my life. My original understanding of vocation was too limited—it did not take into account the dynamic nature of faith or vocation. Maybe one day I will be a pastor, or a professor, or even a dad.



Cody Warren '09 found insights to his questions about vocation in the works of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Vocation is not about creating Excel spreadsheets, it is about faith.

Vocation is lived in the fullest through responsibilities but also through an act of faith—faith in the sense that we are called by grace to the responsibilities of Christ and the world. Our vocations may be dynamic, forever changing, and forever shaped by the call of Christ to serve.

So, as I acknowledge my love of tax, and wave my nerd flag, I also throw myself completely into the arms of God, knowing that through faith, my vocation is in the here and now, not two steps into the future and not solely expressed in one form. It is thus, with great joy, I proclaim: Here I am, Lord.

CODY WARREN '09

Augsburg's Sociology Department enjoys a reputation for being accessible to its students, ironically, in one of the most inaccessible department suites on campus. Getting to the department in the "tower" on the fourth floor of Memorial Hall means walking up the last flight, beyond the reach of the building's elevator. Given the accolades the department has received lately, however, they're the first to say it's worth the walk.

SOCILOGY SHINES

THE EVOLUTION OF A DEPARTMENT

During the past academic year, the stars seemed to shine on the Sociology Department as faculty received awards and grants, and the department itself was recognized for excellence. The high point arrived in April, when 15 faculty, students, and alumni from the department traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, to accept the inaugural department award for teaching excellence from the Midwest Sociological Society. The story of how the stars came to shine really begins more than a decade ago.

Reshaping a department

When Professor Diane Pike was hired at Augsburg in 1981, she entered a department with four faculty colleagues, all of whom were at least 15 years her senior. She knew then that she'd be spending the second half of her career in a different department than her first half.

As Pike's colleagues began retiring in the mid-1990s, she and Professor Garry Hesser, who was at the younger end of that age span, began to envision a new department. "It was a unique opportunity to think about what the department could be," says Pike. "How do you take a solid department and move it to the next level of energy and excellence?"

The key was taking time and paying attention to hiring the right faculty. They looked for specific skills and interests, and considered how each individual person could strengthen the department. As a new person was hired, he or she joined the interview team to find the next right person to eventually fill four positions with Pike and Hesser—James Vela-McConnell, Tim Pippert, Lars Christiansen, and Nancy Fischer.

Pike says this process adds to the community of the department and reinforces their strengths. "It moved from a very congenial department to what was a truly collaborative department—which is not the same thing."

Putting students first

Peer collaboration is the department's *modus operandi*, but that doesn't mean that all six faculty act and think alike. All decision-making is done by full consensus, requiring willingness to compromise, faith in each other, and trust. Hierarchy and seniority are not important in the department's culture.

It works, says associate professor Lars Christiansen, because there's a shared commitment to the department and to the success of students. Pike adds, "We try very hard for students to see that

This page (left to right):

LARS CHRISTIANSEN

Specialties: Urban sustainability, transportation systems, sociology and philosophy of education

Distinctions: Co-designer of Sustainable Cities, one of the first green study-abroad courses in U.S., supported by the Canadian government to be affordable for students

Interests: Year-round bike commuting, a degree in music theory and composition

NANCY FISCHER

Specialties: Sociology of sexuality, urban sociology, sociology of law

Distinctions: Chair of the American Sociological Association's Section on Sexualities, new chair of the metro-urban studies program

Interests: Vintage clothing and patterns aficionado, working on a research project on the secondhand clothing industry and its consumers

GARRY HESSER

Specialties: Community-based research, civic engagement as Sabo Professor of Citizenship, urban planning, sociology of religion

Distinctions: 2004 Carnegie-CASE Minnesota Professor of the Year, 1998 Thomas Ehrlich Award from National Campus Compact

Interests: Active member and former council president of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, serving Cedar-Riverside neighborhood

we, the faculty, are all in this together to help the student. We see it as our collective responsibility to do whatever is best for the students." The faculty know their students and are able to teach better by continually sharing information about them.

Students are able to experience a variety of teaching styles and observe healthy tensions and debates over issues within the discipline, which Christiansen believes is important. Students know that the faculty are there for them—if they want to apply to graduate school, for instance, the faculty "grad school machine" rallies to help them select schools, write multiple drafts of their application, and find the best fit for their skills and interests.

The system works, says Tim Pippert, associate professor and department chair. The percentages and numbers of sociology majors from Augsburg accepted into graduate school are the highest among the five Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities.

Sociology students enjoy a number of traditions and events that bring the department together. The department hosts lectures, annual Graduate School Nights and Careers in Sociology Nights, and inducts students into Alpha Kappa Delta honorary society, plus arranges on- and off-campus activities.

A teaching focus for student success

In 2002 the department faculty, as a team, redesigned the sociology major curriculum, basing it on what they believed was important for their graduates to understand about the discipline. They continually review in detail how students move through the sequence. Changes are made to courses and schedules and new options are added—all plotted on a specially color-coded scheduling board.

Last year the first regularly-scheduled travel course, Sustainable Cities in North America, took students to study environmental challenges and solutions in Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, B.C. Christiansen and assistant professor Nancy Fischer, who designed and led the course, received a Faculty Enrichment Grant from the Canadian government to support continued development of the course for next year.

In another new venture, Christiansen is one of six faculty who will teach Fate of the Earth, a new integrated and team-taught interdisciplinary course to be offered to first-year students in the fall.

All six sociology faculty are involved in teaching, research, and service, which informs their teaching and often provides opportunities for student collaboration:

- Lars Christiansen has studied liberal arts colleges that use alternative methods of student evaluation;
- Tim Pippert has researched the representation of diversity in post-secondary school promotional brochures;



- James Vela-McConnell is writing a book about diverse friendships;
- Nancy Fischer incorporates work and research from her leadership of the Sexuality Section of the American Sociological Association in her classes;
- Diane Pike, as part of her work in teaching and learning, led the development of the assessment practices for their curriculum that serve as a model for other departments;
- Garry Hesser is recognized nationally in the fields of experiential learning and service-learning and consults at colleges across the country.

The scholarship of teaching, i.e., the systematic inquiry into issues of effective teaching and learning, as Pike explains, has been integral to the Sociology Department's culture. She says that sociologists, in their professional organizations, were in the forefront of paying attention to the importance of teaching and learning and thinking about it in a scholarly way.

At Augsburg, Pike co-wrote the grant to establish the Center for Teaching and Learning and became its director in 2003. "There's been a terrific synergy, where I feel like my sociology makes me a better faculty development director, and the faculty development work has made me a better teacher," she says.

Pike has received both regional and national recognition this year for teaching and learning. In November she was awarded the 2008 Stewart Bellman Award for Exemplary Leadership from the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning. In August, she receives the 2009 Hans O. Mauksch Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education, awarded by the American Sociological Association.

Staying happy and moving on

One principle Christiansen believes is important for the success of the department—as important as being student centered and collaborative—is that they must stay happy doing what brings them satisfaction. He says they teach better and wouldn't be able to succeed without it. "When we're excited, the students are excited."

So, how do the stars stay aligned for the next 15 years? "We're in a solid place right now," Pike says. "The challenge becomes how to sustain that vitality as our careers evolve and how that is reflected in curriculum as the needs of students change. It continues to be a dynamic challenge."

This page (left to right):

DIANE PIKE

Specialties: Sociology of organizations, senior seminar, sociological theory

Distinctions: Teaching terrific students at Augsburg, American Sociological Association Hans O. Mauksch Award

Interests: Avid reading, running (slow but frequently), and being a foodie (cooking, baking, eating)

TIMOTHY PIPPERT

Specialties: The American family, social stratification (race, class, gender), homelessness

Distinctions: Publication of *Road Dogs and Loners: Family Relationships among Homeless Men*

Interests: Being an "avid" dad—camping, hiking, playing soccer, and searching for the world's best slice of pie

JAMES VELA-MCCONNELL

Specialties: Social psychology, social stratification

Distinctions: Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, as a graduate student

Interests: Fiction, movies, cycling, photography



SOO DHAWOW WELCOME
NYOB ZOO
BIENVENIDOS

Imagine if we were to treat one another as sacred beings. Imagine a community where everyone feels welcomed and respected. The Wakanheza project teaches that there are simple actions we can each learn to welcome youth and help them feel appreciated in our communities.

MAKING PEACE IN THE COMMUNITY

Pictured: Three Auggies working on the Wakanheza project
(L to R) Grit Youngquist '79, Professor Christina Erickson, and Serita Lee '07.

The work of a teacher often goes beyond the classroom, outside the lab, and past the boundaries of the institution. At Augsburg, engaging with the community presents unique opportunities for faculty scholarship, and faculty find natural connections to live the mission of the College through community outreach.

For Christina Erickson, associate professor of social work, this outreach takes shape in the Wakanheza project. "Wakanheza," the Dakota word for "child," is most closely translated as "sacred being" in English. The Wakanheza (pronounced wah-kán-ja) project aims to prevent violence by creating welcoming environments for children, young people, and families.

In Ramsey County, Wakanheza is a project of the Department of Public Health that has been successfully implemented in a number of organizations including businesses, shelters, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, schools, faith communities, and in social service agencies.

In the public school system, Wakanheza principles were expressed in the way teachers and administrators communicated with students. They made conscious efforts to smile at students and to greet them throughout the day. Schools also created welcoming environments, particularly for parents who needed to bring small children with them to meetings. Books, tables, and rugs made safe play spaces for children in meeting rooms and waiting areas.

Erickson asked to become a member of the project team after reading about it in the *Ramsey County Update*. She wanted to take on a research project, one she could work on with students, and Public Health needed a research partner.

Grit Youngquist '79, the Healthy Youth Development Program coordinator at Public Health, explains how Erickson's participation is helpful to the project. "All along, we've worked to incorporate feedback to be sure that our work is informed by research and that we are constantly learning," she says. But the department has had neither the personnel nor the funding to conduct the extent of research they would like.

At the time Erickson became involved, the project was beginning in six Title I public schools in the Saint Paul system. With Serita Lee '07, a social work major, Erickson conducted qualitative interviews with teachers and administrators. Erickson and Lee's research article, "A Community Prevention Approach to Peaceful Schools: Application of Wakanheza," will be published in the journal *School Social Work* in fall 2009.

Erickson says people respond to Wakanheza because the principles are intuitive. "It's not a class you take or a module you com-

plete. It's infused into the lifeblood of the organization—the cook, custodian, and the executive director all practice Wakanheza." Because the program becomes integrated into an organization in this way, it is sustainable and changes as people, conditions, and environments change.



The Wakanheza Project team (L to R): Darleen Simmons, Kathy Hedin, Marian Trautman, Don Gault, Christina Erickson, Grit Youngquist '79, Emily Alewine, Serita Lee '07, Tim McGuire.

"I work with Wakanheza because it is developed by our community and for our community, and it utilizes all of the elements of evidence-based practice for community change," Erickson says.

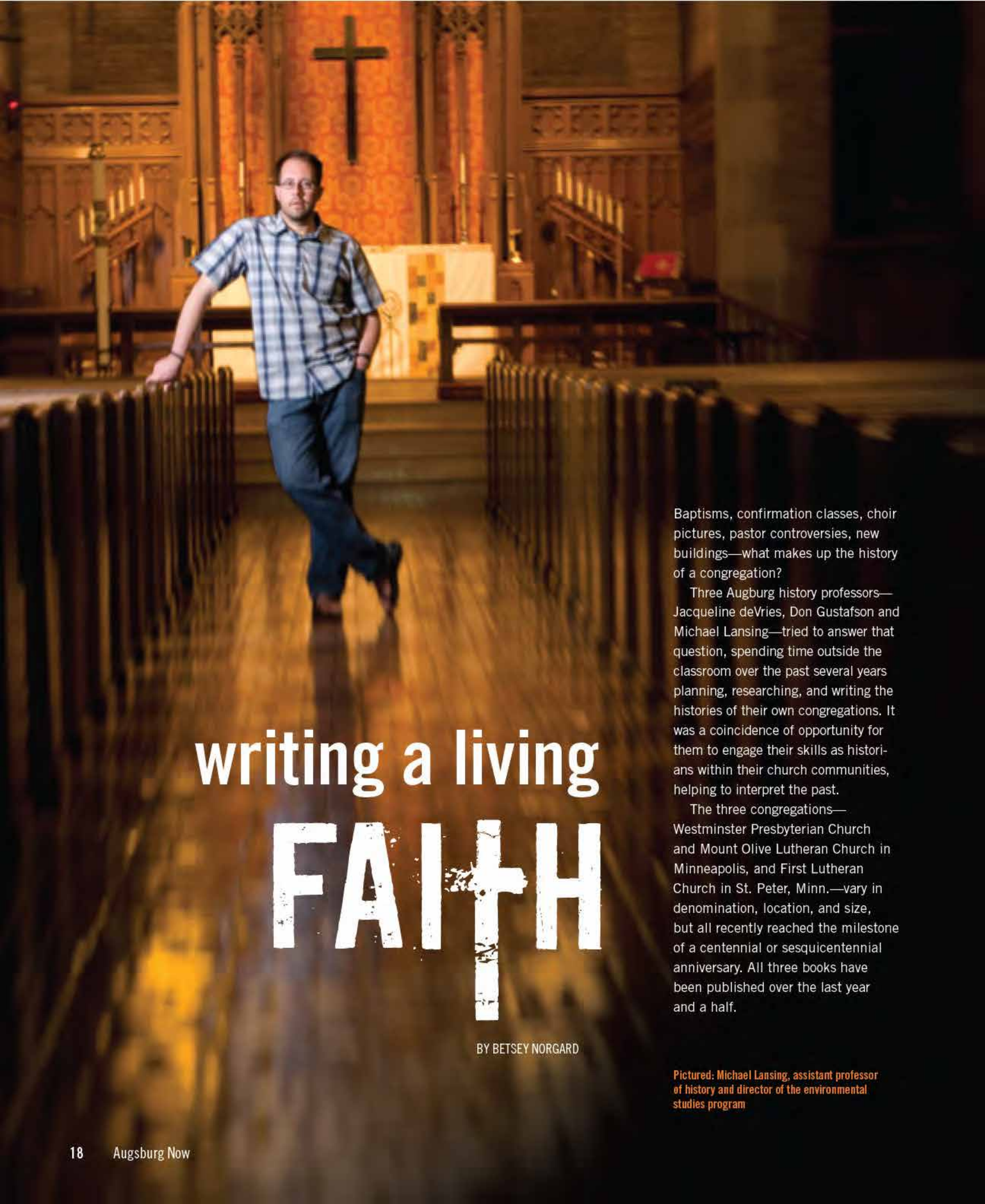
Through her involvement, Erickson hopes to add to the body of knowledge in understanding peace-producing programs and to help disseminate the knowledge of Wakanheza to many groups and organizations. Her participation has been invaluable, Youngquist says. "Having peer-reviewed published research about Wakanheza gives the project more clout. In some organizations, this kind of credibility has opened doors for more conversations."

Donald Gault, Healthy Communities Section manager says Erickson has challenged Public Health to think more deeply about how Wakanheza works and encouraged them to implement the project in other ways. Both Gault and Youngquist say Erickson has been a generous and thoughtful team member. "She's always taking initiative and suggesting ways she can help the project," Youngquist says.

WENDI WHEELER '06



To learn more about the Wakanheza Project, go to www.augsburg.edu/now



writing a living FAITH

BY BETSEY NORGARD

Baptisms, confirmation classes, choir pictures, pastor controversies, new buildings—what makes up the history of a congregation?

Three Augsburg history professors—Jacqueline deVries, Don Gustafson and Michael Lansing—tried to answer that question, spending time outside the classroom over the past several years planning, researching, and writing the histories of their own congregations. It was a coincidence of opportunity for them to engage their skills as historians within their church communities, helping to interpret the past.

The three congregations—Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and First Lutheran Church in St. Peter, Minn.—vary in denomination, location, and size, but all recently reached the milestone of a centennial or sesquicentennial anniversary. All three books have been published over the last year and a half.

Pictured: Michael Lansing, assistant professor of history and director of the environmental studies program

"Thanks be to God for these stories, and for the hundreds like them—stories of those who have worshiped and served God over the years at Westminster Presbyterian Church ..."

LIVING FAITH: STORIES FROM THE FIRST 150 YEARS

Jacqueline deVries, associate professor and chair of the History Department, co-wrote *Living Faith: Stories from the first 150 years*, for the sesquicentennial of the large, downtown Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Michael Lansing, assistant professor and director of the environmental studies program, wrote *The Faith of Our Forebears: 100 Years at Mount Olive Lutheran Church* for his congregation in Minneapolis.

Don Gustafson, professor, and a third-generation member of First Lutheran Church of St. Peter, created *Three Sundays at First: A Story of Our Congregation*, for its 150th anniversary.

Historians to the task

Historians are really storytellers—and, as deVries says, "As a historian, you have certain skills that you can share in recording and telling and helping people to reflect on the meaning of their stories."

That said, none of the three volunteered to be an author.

Both deVries—who co-wrote Westminster's *Living Faith: Stories from the first 150 years*—and Lansing served on church committees charged with creating histories.

Pictured: Jacqueline deVries, associate professor of history



In both cases, they began by helping the congregation understand the importance of oral histories and archives.

DeVries set up a professional training project at Westminster that collected approximately 75 oral histories. Lansing, who wrote *The Faith of Our Forebears: 100 Years at Mount Olive Lutheran Church*, joined a church heritage committee that had already begun a process of collecting oral histories to contribute to a historical narrative. Both helped their committees appreciate the complexity and work of interviewing, asking the right questions, and transcribing the work for an archive.

That work turned into an author assignment. DeVries was on the committee that interviewed outside writers for the job, none of whom pleased the committee. A Sunday morning sermon about a former, prominent preacher, whose intriguing story piqued her interest in the church's past, led DeVries to realize she should be the writer.

When Lansing joined the committee as a relatively new congregation member, he resisted signing on as writer. But he saw the need and felt a desire to serve—and was reassured by the committee that he was the right person because he would see things others couldn't.

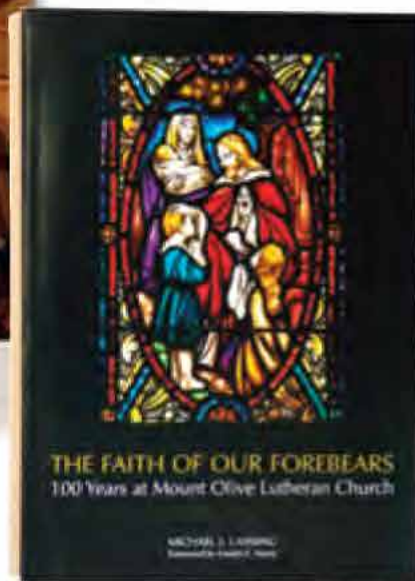
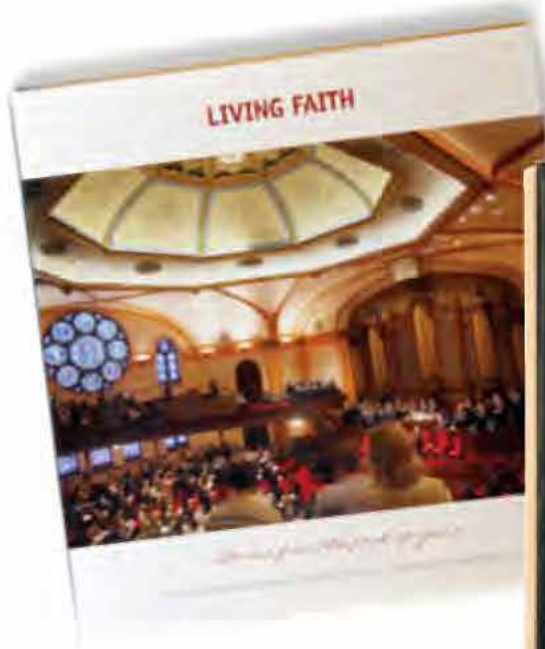
But, for Lansing, that meant "getting up

to speed on all kinds of things I knew nothing about." Mount Olive's distinctive history and identity sent him delving into church history—first to examine both ELCA archives and the congregation's former Missouri Synod affiliation. He also researched the liturgical movement within the Lutheran Church to understand how the congregation developed "a powerful push for intentional liturgical recovery paired with progressive social ministries in the neighborhood." This hooked him into the project.

While Lansing as a relative outsider fit well for Mount Olive's history, Gustafson, as an insider, was a natural to write *Three Sundays at First: A Story of Our Congregation*, for First Lutheran. He was recruited for the job, considered it a compliment, and felt it would be a snap—until he realized the amount of records and faced the job of "turning lists of data into a meaningful account." Then the task became more daunting.

Organizing the histories

Neither Westminster nor Mount Olive had organized archives, and Lansing realized that first collecting and securing the church's records "was an even more important legacy the committee could leave." The oral histories in both churches were crucial to learn how the congregations developed.



Then the writers faced the task of shaping and organizing the histories.

DeVries and Lansing took a thematic approach, looking at the big picture, turning points and context. In the introduction to Lansing's book, he says, "Investigating different facets of Mount Olive's history in specific milieus—relations with the broader Lutheran church, architecture and liturgy, congregational life, and social ministry and missions—helps us to better understand not only what happened but also how and why Mount Olive became what it is today."

Gustafson chose to build a more narrative history around three pivotal incidents in the congregation's 150 years, all of which happened on a Sunday, and the chronology fills in between these moments. It is "not the final word but rather is expected to provoke questions about as well as appreciation for our shared heritage, to prompt a nod of the head in agreement, and also sputters of protest."

Ultimately, all three historians had to deal with controversial or painful moments in the congregation's past. For instance, DeVries and her committee decided that the story of two pastors who had an affair and left the congregation had to be included. Gustafson included the concern some members had about having a gay pastor.



Lansing was advised to “flatten out a controversy” in Mount Olive’s fairly recent past. They all chose words carefully and/or referred readers to the archived oral history.

Navigating the writing process

Inevitably, some tensions on the church committees arose over writing styles and documentation. With a very readable book as the goal, there probably was some nervousness about putting the task in the hands of academics.

The three professors focused on readability, use of subheads, photos, and design that would attract readers—in part to disarm stereotypes about scholarly faculty. “We as writers tried very hard to say something historical but also something simple,” says DeVries.

Of the three, Lansing’s is the most scholarly, a good match for a congregation that includes 35 seminarians as members. His history focuses on the congregation’s distinctive historical role in the schism of the Missouri Synod and leadership in pursuing a distinctive liturgical tradition. His book is very readable, and, instead of footnotes, he included end notes with documentation. DeVries was asked not to use footnotes. She protested, seeking their inclusion as proper documentation for future historians, but was overruled by the project’s editor.

Given the many personal relationships that he has in his parish, Gustafson decided that he would not quote anyone without their subsequent permission, hoping that this would encourage candor during his interviews.

Paring the volumes of information and choosing the stories was challenging. Gustafson says he could have written much more, “but part of being a historian is not to tell it all.”



Pictured: Don Gustafson, professor of history

The legacies remain

The three histories have all generated praise for their writers. Especially satisfying are comments about fairness, honesty, and charity in which church members and situations are portrayed, especially difficult ones. Some readers commented on how much they learned. Gustafson says this history is probably the first one being read, since earlier families actually lived the history of the church.

In April, when Mount Olive celebrated its centennial, Lansing was asked to give the keynote speech at the banquet. He sought to interpret their history from the eyes of a relative newcomer and as a historian. He suggested that history can be dangerous in terms of stifling innovation while trying to live up to the legacies, and in terms of measuring others against the rigors of their liturgy and tradition. It struck a chord and made people think.

Beyond the books themselves, perhaps even greater legacies were left. All three churches now have organized archives with oral histories. DeVries sees these oral histories as “not only important for posterity, but important for building the connections among church members, because it was church members interviewing other church members.”

Because the three books are all different, their uses are also different. The coffee table-quality of *Living Faith: Stories from the first 150 years* lends Westminster’s history to fundraising and recruiting new members to the congregation.

Lansing’s history of Mount Olive documents its distinctive denominational history and will remain of interest outside its parish. In the Introduction, he says,

“Because the congregation engaged so many cutting-edge trends in 20th-century Lutheran life, the parish’s history rises above the local and parochial.”

Gustafson’s narrative history is given to all new church members and can be reprinted easily.

What did the three historians learn in these projects? DeVries says, “When you work on a church history like this, it’s far closer, and it makes you confront your role as an objective historian ... and also your service to not just posterity, but to people you sit next to in the pews every day.”

Gustafson quipped that “it is far easier to write about dead people on another continent than about living people one might meet tomorrow at the grocery store.” And, he’s already collecting materials for First Lutheran Church’s 200th anniversary.



Westminster Presbyterian Church Minneapolis

Approx. 3,000 members; founded 1857

Settled by people of Scottish and English descent, Westminster is a large, downtown church, characterized by strong lay leadership, that has played a major role in the building of Minneapolis, and from the 1880s has served immigrant communities.

Living Faith: Stories from the first 150 years, published 2007



Mount Olive Lutheran Church Minneapolis

Approx. 400 members; founded 1909

Founded by English-speaking Germans and later accepted into the Missouri Synod, Mount Olive became part of a breakaway group in the 1940s and later in the schism with Missouri Synod in the 1970s. From the 1930s, it has developed a strict liturgy and strong music tradition, while becoming active and progressive concerning social issues.

The Faith of Our Forebears: 100 Years at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, published 2009



First Lutheran Church St. Peter, Minn.

Approx. 800-900 members; founded 1857

Founded by Swedish pioneers, First Church became English-speaking by the early 1900s. It has enjoyed close ties with Gustavus Adolphus College during its history and is proud of former pastor and Augsburg alumnus Rev. Herbert Chilstrom '54, who became first presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Three Sundays at First: A Story of Our Congregation, published 2007

Faculty are at the heart of an Augsburg education. Augsburg's nearly 200 full-time faculty and more than 200 part-time faculty teach in three locations, seven days a week, to learners of all ages, both undergraduate and graduate. What they all share in common is a passion for teaching and a genuine desire to help each student achieve his or her best. Just what a small, liberal arts school like Augsburg expects.

In this Faculty in Focus section, we invite you to meet 9 professors from various parts of the Augsburg community. Some are alumni who have returned to teach, and others came to Augsburg at different points in their careers. We asked each of them why they teach here and what they do outside of the College to stay current in their fields.

We hope you enjoy meeting them.

BETSEY NORGARD WENDI WHEELER '06 JEFF SHELMAN

AUGSBURG FACULTY IN FOCUS



DAVID '92 MURR

After a journey that included two years in Tanzania with the Peace Corps, graduate studies at Boston University, post-doctoral work at Dartmouth College, and a year-long stint working in space policy with the U.S. State Department, 1992 graduate David Murr is back where he started.

But instead of taking physics classes in the basement of Science Hall, he's teaching them. Instead of working on research as an undergraduate student, he's directing students in summer research as an associate professor of physics.

Being active in the world of space physics, Murr certainly had options. He could have worked at a research facility. Or he could have secured a position at a large research university.

But after experiencing some of those settings, returning to Augsburg last fall seemed like a natural fit. Why Augsburg? Simply put, he wanted a little of everything. He wanted the ability to teach. And he wanted to do research.

He didn't want to be at a place where he spent all of his time in a laboratory. And he also didn't want to be at a place where he would teach, but the focus of the institution was in research.

"I was in search of a place that was serious about me spending most of my time teaching and working with students and some of my time doing research," Murr says.

And that's his situation at Augsburg. While there is monitoring of activity in space that is ongoing, Murr spends most of his time during the academic year teaching students. Over the summer, he gets to spend close to four months doing little more than research, a part of his job that he enjoys, but not in a steady diet.

"There really is nothing like the ability to completely shift gears," says Murr. "I have a different job in the summer and for a little while between semesters."

By the time the summer ends, however, Murr is ready to get back into the classroom. And ready to embrace what Augsburg is.

"One of the words that comes up all the time is gritty," Murr says. "It's a place willing to get its hands dirty and work on problems. As an educator, life could be easier if you limit yourself to Dartmouth students. But there is something wonderfully genuine about the students and the people who choose to work here."

JEFF SHELMAN



DARCEY '88 ENGEN

"Here at Augsburg, we're a college that's open and right in the middle of the world around us, rather than being closed off," says theatre arts professor and department chair Darcey Engen. "At the heart of our theatre program we're always asking, 'What can we do academically that affects the world around us?'"

Engen is a 1988 graduate from Augsburg's theatre arts program. What she learned as a student is what she still considers the department's strength—that students learn everything about theatre, not just acting. They learn the technical side of lighting, set design, and even things like how to finesse closing the house doors just as the curtain goes up.

This all comes together as they work directly with professional theatre artists, including the most renowned in the Twin Cities.

"They leave Augsburg as artists, not just actors," says Engen.

Relationships with theatre students begin before they enter Augsburg and last long after. The department recruits high school students, welcomes them into the program, and mentors them into careers as they become alums.

Engen has strong relationships with high school drama teachers, some of whom are Augsburg alumni. The theatre department willingly shares technical

resources and offers workshops to support local high school productions. As a recruitment initiative each year, Engen coordinates Theatre Connections Day, inviting high school students to Augsburg to attend a production, meet students and faculty, and sit in on classes—and several students eventually enroll.

Theatre students and faculty become a close-knit community. Engen's first-year seminar is a cohort of 15 students who study, attend plays, and learn together.

"We push them to their absolute capacity, and they step up to it," says Engen. "We're there with them, all the time, analyzing what they're good at—and we push them toward what they're not good at or what they're afraid to attempt."

Engen is continually amazed at what theatre graduates can do. "Alums only four or five years out, together as a group, are producing an entire production of *Hamlet*—because they know how to do everything."

Engen also writes and performs. She was recently on stage with two colleagues in "I'm Telling," a collaborative story project with performance and song she wrote in which the three of them, from different backgrounds, tell their own stories about the experiences of motherhood—all personal, yet universal.

Each time she's on stage, Engen says, "I'm seeing my own identity, both the joy and pains."

BETSEY NORGARD



Bill Arden wants Augsburg's nontraditional students to know he's been on their side of the desk. The business and MIS professor finished both his master's degree in physics and his MBA while working full time and going to school at night.

Arden found his way to teaching after working for more than 30 years in engineering, marketing, management, and consulting. The night after teaching his first class in a management program at the College of St. Scholastica, he said he was hooked on teaching. "I left class that night thinking I hadn't had so much fun in years!"

For four years, Arden has taught in all of Augsburg's programs—in the day program, in Augsburg for Adults evening and weekend classes, and in the graduate program. His experience as a student, combined with his professional career, gives Arden a unique perspective as a faculty member in Augsburg's adult programs.

Arden says he enjoys the Augsburg for Adults classes most. "The students bring their life and work experiences to the classroom." His favorite classes at Augsburg are those where students feel comfortable with a lot of back-and-forth discussion. "My best classes are the ones where my students don't take what I say as gospel and feel free to disagree with me. That way we all learn."

While this is more common in the adult and graduate program classes, he says it sometimes happens in day classes. "Those times are particularly exciting because I get to see the world through the eyes of a younger, diverse generation with experiences very different from mine."

Arden enjoys teaching at Augsburg because the small-college atmosphere gives him the chance to get to know his students better and allows him to interact with his colleagues. "And," he added, "it's only two miles from home."

WENDI WHEELER '06



VIVIAN FENG

The first semester she began college, assistant professor Vivian Feng found herself in a chemistry lab doing research. "That's what kept me in chemistry," she says. "I had an excellent mentor who taught me so much—of chemistry and life—and that's what a liberal arts education offers."

After finishing her doctorate, Feng found her dream job, teaching at the University of Puget Sound, another small, liberal arts college. But, she ended up moving to Texas where her husband found work, and she began teaching at University of Texas, Austin.

"Luckily, I got a position at UT that mimicked a small college environment," Feng says, introducing first- and second-year students to research skills and lab experience. She says she was able to mentor some great students, but the overall large university atmosphere wasn't her goal. A new job search brought both her and her husband to the Twin Cities.

And Augsburg seems a perfect fit. "It's liberal arts, and seeing the way faculty and students interact is just what I've missed."

That interaction benefits both. For students, Feng says, "it's important that you teach something through the research experience. For her, "it's intellectually challenging and keeps me updated in the research field."

This summer Feng received a faculty-student team research

fellowship from the University of Minnesota. She and a student, sophomore Casey Ernst, collaborate with a material chemist and several graduate students at the university.

Their project involves creating a new type of magnetic nanoparticle that could be used in pharmaceuticals, for example, to target the delivery of chemotherapy drugs to specific sites. The collaboration gives Feng access to equipment and facilities Augsburg can't afford, and Ernst can work closely with both Feng and graduate students.

"Casey is thinking about graduate school, so this chance to work side-by-side with graduate students helps her find out early if this is right for her," Feng says.

With Professor Arlin Gyberg, Feng also co-advises another student's summer research in biodiesel fuels, introducing Feng to current research in this field and Augsburg's collaboration with SarTec Corporation.

Feng looks forward in the fall to team-teaching the natural sciences keystone course, the final seminar for seniors that reflects on how science connects with faith, vocation, ethics, and society. "I enjoy getting to know students from a different angle. The course helps prepare them for dealing with controversial issues in society related to science," she says.

A photograph of Kristin Anderson, a woman with short brown hair, sitting in blue stadium seats. She is wearing a dark blue jacket over a light blue shirt. The background is blurred, showing more rows of seats and stadium lighting.

KRISTIN ANDERSON

At first glance, Scandinavian art and the Metrodome might not have a lot in common. But after listening to associate professor Kristin Anderson, maybe altar paintings and baseball really do have some similarities.

"They are accessible, they're well known, they aren't elitist," Anderson says. "It's art of the people. It's popular and functional. It makes sense to the masses."

Which is part of the reason why Anderson wrote her dissertation on the Metrodome, the domed stadium that is barely more than a long Justin Morneau home run away from the Augsburg campus.

Anderson has spent hours studying the history of the building, how it has impacted the Twin Cities and the teams that play underneath the Teflon bubble. Like many baseball fans, Anderson won't miss going to the Metrodome after the Twins move to Target Field next season.

"It might have worked out better if they paid as much attention to the design as they did to the money," Anderson says. "It might have survived for more than 30 years. The focus was to have it be on time and under budget. The result is a cheap building that no one loves."

"The concerns about finances meant the teams couldn't

succeed [financially]. It kept the teams from making enough money. Nobody was happy, they were never happy and, of course, everyone wants to get out."

Explaining and teaching students about why things throughout the Twin Cities were designed the way they were is one of Anderson's favorite things. Each summer, she teaches a course titled *Designed Environment*, which uses art and architecture to study the history of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

In the class, which features almost no traditional classroom time, students travel the Twin Cities, visiting sites ranging from Lakewood Cemetery to the Tangletown neighborhood in South Minneapolis to downtown buildings to the Mall of America.

"Tangletown was really a suburban development," Anderson says. "The reasons people moved there are the same reasons people are now moving to St. Michael."

Anderson says learning about design—and the thought behind the design process—is enlightening for the students.

"The Mall of America surprises them," Anderson says. "They don't think about the design aesthetics, getting you in there, keeping you in there, and getting you to spend money."

JEFF SHELMAN

To Lori Brandt Hale, what sets Augsburg apart is the way the mission and vision of the College are real, authentic, and lived out every day. This allows students across all disciplines to engage in the big questions of meaning and purpose, of faith and responsibility.

As associate professor of religion, Hale pushes students to explore what they believe and what's really important to them, knowing the claims they embrace determine the choices they make both now and later in their lives.

As Augsburg's director of general education, Hale oversees the Augsburg Core Curriculum (AugCore), the required courses that connect students to the College's mission and vision and pre-

pare them to become responsible citizens.

"What's exciting about a place like Augsburg," says Hale, "is the ability to have such direct impact on student life, to foster engagement, and then to see students go out and make a difference."

Hale stays in contact with former students. She treasures e-mails from students who speak about their current lives and work in ways that beautifully express exactly what Hale hopes they learned as they explored vocation—despite often dubbing it the "v-word."

Hale brings an additional dimension to her teaching. As an international scholar of the work of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, her seminars on Bonhoeffer have introduced students to new understanding about the search for meaning and vocation. Cody Warren '09 was one student who focused on Bonhoeffer's perspectives on vocation

and responsibility. His senior chapel homily about Bonhoeffer appears on p. 12.

"One of the things about Bonhoeffer that's so attractive for me," Hale says, "is that he speaks well beyond the boundaries of the academy; he's somebody who speaks to everyone." He remains a "living legacy," and she often presents Bonhoeffer to church groups seeking context for contemporary issues.

Hale co-authored a book, to be published in October, in the Westminster John Knox Press' Armchair Series—*Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians*—that introduces Bonhoeffer to lay audiences.

Hale currently is an active leader in both the English Language Section of the International Bonhoeffer Society and in the Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group within the American Academy of Religion.

She is helping to organize the 2009 Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics, with the topic "Genocide: Past and Present." On October 9, at Augsburg, lectures will be presented about genocide in Armenia and Nazi Germany, about gender-violence among Native Americans, and about ways to become active in the fight against current genocide. The lectures are free and open to the public. For information, e-mail hale@augsb.org.

BETSEY NORGARD



LORI BRANDT HALE

JOYCE MILLER

'02, '05 MAN



Joyce Miller considers herself a nursing “pioneer” at Augsburg. She was in the first group of nurses in the bachelor degree completion program in Rochester in 1998. Then she was in the first group of nurses to begin the leadership track in the Master of Arts in Nursing program in 2002, and now she’s in the pilot group of students in the post-master’s degree program that will become Augsburg’s Doctor of Nursing Practice upon accreditation.

At each point in her educational journey, she expanded her worldview and discovered a caring, healing paradigm. She began to understand a nursing model that considers a broader relationship with patients, in which nurses don’t treat just a patient’s physical symptoms, but rather the whole person—mind, body, and soul—keeping aware of their social and cultural needs.

In 2004, when a faculty position opened in Rochester, Miller saw an opportunity to give back to Augsburg. “Having gone through the Augsburg undergraduate nursing program myself, I am able to relate to what it’s like being a student,” Miller says. “This definitely helps guide how I teach. I try to evoke excitement in learning by exploring new ways of thinking and transforming their nursing practice.”

She teaches two of the first-year nursing courses that students take in the bachelor’s program—Trends in Nursing and Nursing Theory and Research. In the Trends course, the students have the opportunity to visit the Augsburg Central Nursing Center at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a center that provides free health care to the community.

“For many students, that’s the first exposure to homeless individuals,” Miller says. “Most students in the program work in a hospital setting and are unfamiliar with community healthcare needs and concerns. I want them to begin to experience healthcare issues beyond the medical model.”

Both as student and professor, Miller continues to take advantage of experiential opportunities. This past winter she traveled to Nicaragua with the students taking a community health immersion and says the experience “not only changed them, but myself, too.” In her post-master’s program, she studied non-traditional healing practices among indigenous populations in Oaxaca, Mexico. This spring during an inner city immersion in downtown Minneapolis, she spent the day with a homeless person.

On top of her full-time teaching at Augsburg, part-time study, and part-time clinical research position at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Miller also serves on Augsburg’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, just recently completing a year’s term as president.

“When I joined the board five years ago, I thought it was a great way to give back to the College” Miller says. “The opportunity to serve on the board and become president has been a phenomenal experience.”

BETSEY NORGARD



BILL GREEN

Much has changed at Augsburg since the last time Bill Green taught a history class. Paul Pribbenow began his work as Augsburg's president. The Oren Gateway Center was completed and opened. The school has expanded offerings in several areas.

"I miss being on campus," Green says. "I miss the give-and-take, I miss the collegiality. I miss the sounds of the weights in the weight room."

For more than three years, Green has been on leave from the Augsburg faculty. Instead of teaching Auggies history, Green has served as the Minneapolis Public Schools' superintendent. It isn't a job Green ever envisioned holding, but when the former superintendent left the position under less-than-ideal circumstances, Green went from school board member to interim superintendent to permanent superintendent.

The school board wanted a superintendent familiar to people in Minneapolis. They wanted a leader who would provide some stability. And they wanted someone who could help the district regain the trust of the community.

"I got this job by answering the phone; I shouldn't have done that," Green says with a laugh. "I've enjoyed it much of the time. This is probably the most diverse school district I'm aware of in terms of race, ethnicity, class, where people live. We are constantly trying to make decisions that are for the good of the whole. But in a district so diverse, that's hard."

While Green hasn't taught at Augsburg since the spring of 2006, he will soon return. In July, Green announced that he will not seek an extension to his original three-year contract with the school district. And after the 2009-10 school year, he will return to his post at Augsburg.

"I don't really think of this as a career change," Green says about his tenure as superintendent. "I've never seen myself as an administrator." Even before the announcement, he knew there would be a time when the district needs a different type of leader.

And a little more than a year from now, Green will be back at Augsburg, a place he says looks a little different from afar. "When I drive by there, I'm amazed at how beautiful it is, how different it looks," Green says.

JEFF SHELMAN

In high school, Tracy Bibelnicks played the alto saxophone. At Arrowhead Music Camp near Duluth, Minn., she met Miles “Mity” Johnson, celebrated conductor of the St. Olaf College band.

“We were in rehearsal,” she recalls, “and we just weren’t getting it. The piccolo player had an important part, and just didn’t get it.” Mity stopped the rehearsal, stepped off the podium, stood for a moment, and then stepped back on the podium. Without saying anything, he began to sing the piccolo part. “I remember being captivated by the deep and powerful insight into the music Mity conveyed as he sang.”

That was the first time Bibelnicks understood teaching as a way to translate one’s passion into an educational experience for others. “I left camp inspired and committed to pursue music.” She said to herself, “I’m going to St. Olaf to major in music and I will be the principal saxophonist in the St. Olaf Band under Mity.”

That’s exactly what she did. She did not, however, major in music.

She ventured into mathematics, she says, “to get credit for advanced placement she had at the University of Minnesota.” After deciding not to major in music, the only constant from one semester to the next was a sequence of math courses. At the end of her sophomore



TRACY BIBELNIEKS

year, she took a mathematics theory course for majors. Her professor asked her why she was taking the course. "My reason," she says, "was no more than [because] it was the next course in the sequence. I thought he was going to tell me I had no business being in the class." Instead, he said she was excelling in the course and suggested she be a math major. With that, he said, she could go to graduate school, get a PhD, and teach.

The idea of teaching reconnected her with the desire to understand something deeply and use her passion for the subject to teach others. "My teaching style," she says, "conveys my passion for the relevance, beauty, and application of mathematics. I hope that it draws students into learning mathematics. More than that, however, I hope it draws them in and motivates a desire to reflect on their own passion and talents, mathematics or otherwise, and encourages students to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead."

After graduate school at Clemson University in South Carolina, Bibelnieks was an assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Minnesota for four years. She then worked as an analytics consultant for IBM.

Then Bibelnieks took four years off from corporate work to raise three sons and a family of goats, rabbits, and chickens in rural Wisconsin. During that time, she continued to stay connected to the teaching community, serving as a substitute teacher in the local high school and working with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on K-12 teacher professional development in mathematics.

She found her way to Augsburg after returning with her family to St. Paul. She was hired for a one-year position at Augsburg at a time when the Mathematics and Education Departments were revisiting how preservice K-6 teachers were being trained to teach math. She jumped in feet first, she said, investing time to familiarize herself with the research and best practice. "It was almost like completing another graduate degree," she remarks. With Matt Haines, a professor of mathematics, and Linda

Stevens of the education department, she worked to create a professional development program for local charter-school teachers. At the end of her first year at Augsburg, she accepted a tenure-track position in the Mathematics department.

Bibelnieks says teaching teachers to teach mathematics is more than just teaching them more mathematics. "You have to understand how math is understood by children, then translate that into strategies, tools, and lessons that allow for multiple representation of concepts and deep student learning."

Last summer, Haines, Stevens, and Bibelnieks were awarded a Minnesota Mathematics and Science Teacher Academy grant from the Minnesota Department of Education to provide a professional development program for 6th- to 8th-grade teachers in the St. Cloud and Elk River school districts. Augsburg partnered with Resource Training and Solutions under the direction of Augsburg alumna Rebecca Koelln '76, '91 MAL. Together, they provide training and technical assistance to help teachers understand and implement content standards, master the use of multiple instructional approaches, and improve instructional practice as related to student learning and assessment of student learning through use of Lesson Study.

This summer she continues to work with Haines, Stevens, and Koelln to offer a second year of the Teacher Academy. She also recently assumed the position of director of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League.

Bibelnieks knows there are many opportunities for her outside of higher education. But leaving teaching is simply not an option.

She'd miss the students who fuel her passion for teaching. "They continue to challenge me to bring experiences into my classroom that are meaningful and engaging." She adds, "Teaching is a significant part of who I am."

WENDI WHEELER '06

The personality of place

Gus' office

In summer 1974, history professor Don "Gus" Gustafson took a paintbrush and a can of green paint and colored his walls to match his personality. Then the self-proclaimed "pack rat" began to stuff his office with knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, and tchotchkes collected on his travels and received from students.

More than 35 years later, neither Gus' walls nor the personality of this sandal-clad, longest-tenured professor at Augsburg have faded.

Rocking chair

Purchased for \$5 at an estate sale in 1966, his large rocking chair has been a constant companion in Gus' office. The wolf skin that now covers the chair was bought at a little antique shop in Jordan, Minn. It was added to his office after the cats on his farm outside of St. Peter scratched on it one-too-many times.



Che Guevara

The photo of a mural located near the Plaza de la Revolución in Havana came from Steven Grande '03, and the Che finger puppet came from Libby Merrill '05. Che is a major figure in Gus' history seminar course.



China clock

Given to him by Paul Cumings '06, the clock actually does not work. But tiny murals of Mao and the masses holding their little red books are too cool to not display.



Xi'an terra cotta warriors

Picked up on the street near Xi'an, China. Upon closer inspection one knows why they were sold on the street—they're broken.



Burned maiden

A kitschy little statue bought in the early '70s in Athens, Ga., at a strange souvenir shop that had suffered a major fire. Gus says she's one hot lady.



Gus ginger ale

A gift from his wife, Bev, to add to Gus' "things with my name on it" collection. Not seen in this photo is a stack of "Gus" books.



African sculpture

A traditional African icon of womanhood. Gus keeps it because his master's thesis was on Africa.



Tiger beer

Brought back from Singapore by Sudy Rao '97. He and Bev collect tiger things.





Climber of the Great Wall

An "official" certificate, proving that Gus climbed the Great Wall of China. Alas, the "Witnessed by" line is blank.



Group photo

Photographs of the last group of students Gus took to India in 1991. One side shows the day they arrived in India, and the other side was taken after three months' exploration of Indian culture. After some quick tabulating, Gus figures he's visited more than 50 countries.



AUGGIE

alumni news

From the Alumni Board president



July 2009

Greetings, alumni and friends,

I write this letter on a beautiful summer day, thinking about what the hundreds of graduates from the day undergraduate program, as well as the Augsburg for Adults undergraduate and graduate programs are doing now. Are you searching for employment, maybe traveling, or perhaps lucky enough to be working in a great job? Graduates, I hope that as you embark on your career path, you always remember your vocational calling.

The Latin root of the word vocation means voice. In the words of Parker Palmer, vocation should be looked at not as "a goal to be achieved, but as a gift to be received." You received this gift through your educational experience at Augsburg.

Today you may not fully comprehend the true value of your education, but as your life unfolds, the true meaning of vocation will be revealed. So my advice to you is always to seek opportunities that develop, explore new ways of being, appreciate differences in others, develop connections, engage in meaningful work within your community, and find new ways of knowing to promote a purposeful life. Most of all, continue to be a lifelong learner.

With the close of the school year in June, my tenure as your president also came to an end. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the alumni and have confirmed my belief about the College's commitment to promise an education like no other. I turn this column over to a new leader, Daniel Hickie, who will represent you next year.

Good luck to you all and take care,

JOYCE P. MILLER '02 (BSN-ROCHESTER), '05 MAN
OUTGOING ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



(L to R) Bottom-row 1: Joyce Miller '02, '05 MAN; Daniel Hickie '95, president; row 2: Nancy Nordlund '91, '07 MAL, secretary; Buffie Blessi '90, '97 MAL; John Stadler '07 MAL, president-elect; row 3: Sharon Engelland '87; Holly Ebneth-Knutson '03, '07 MBA; Misti Allen Binsfield '93; row 4: Jennifer M. Carlson '91; Chris Hallin '88; Maggie Tatton '01; row 5: Lee Anne Lack '67; Michael Loney '03. Not pictured: Rob Wagner '02, treasurer; Calvin Hanson '98; Julia Mensing '00, '07 MBA; Carolyn Spargo '80.

Welcome, new Alumni Board members

Six new members joined the Alumni Board for two consecutive three-year terms at the board's meeting on June 16.

Sharon Engelland '87

Major: Communication

Employer: Automatic Data Processing

Holly Ebneth-Knutson '03, '07 MBA

Major: International Business

Employer: Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly

Maggie Tatton '01

Major: Communication

Employer: Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP

Misti R. Allen Binsfeld '93

Major: Political Science

Employer: Fishman, Binsfeld & Bachmeier, PA

Michael Loney '03

Major: Business Administration

Employer: Medtronic

Jennifer M. Carlson '91

Major: Communication

Employer: Perficient, Inc.

To learn more about serving on the Alumni Board, contact Kim Stone at stonek@augsborg.edu or 612-330-1173.

Homecoming 2009

Augsburg Experience: September 28-October 3

Join fellow Augsburg alumni, students, and friends in a fun-filled week of Homecoming events and activities. Homecoming 2009 begins with a pep rally and fireworks on Monday, Sept. 28. The week will be filled with events including a health fair, a silent auction and luncheon put on by the Augsburg Associates and the Athletic Hall of Fame banquet.

The weekend activities kick off with the homecoming convocation and the 50th reunion on the morning of Friday, Oct. 2, an event that will also recognize the First Decade, Spirit of Augsburg and Distinguished Alumni Award winners. President Pribbenow will host a convocation luncheon that afternoon.

Friday evening will feature the Welcome Back banquet, giving alumni an opportunity to reconnect with former classmates. In addition, a number of Augsburg Experience sessions are slated for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. An alumni book signing and sale will also be held Friday afternoon. If you are a published author and would like to participate, contact Laura Forgey, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 612-359-6491.

This year's annual Pre-Game Picnic in the Park on Saturday, Oct. 3 includes carnival booths operated by student groups and fun for the whole family. Following the picnic, the football team will take on Hamline, a battle for the traveling "Hammer" trophy. The Auggies won each of the four previous meetings when The Hammer was on the line.

Back by popular demand is the Auggie Block Party. Following the football game, alumni, students, and friends join together on 7th Street to enjoy food, entertainment, and camaraderie. Special reunion locations will be set aside for the 40th, 25th, 10th, and Young Alumni reunions. In addition, affinity reunions will take place at the Auggie Block Party for the Physician Assistant program and MBA alumni. The Rockin' Hollywoods will provide the entertainment, playing songs from the '50s until today.

Homecoming 2009 is a great time to reconnect with your alma mater and former classmates. For a complete schedule of events, including times and locations, visit the www.augsburg.edu/homecoming. You can also join your reunion group on Facebook by searching Augsburg College Reunion.

Class reunions

Class of 1949

Class of 1959

Classes of 1968, 1969, 1970

Classes of 1983, 1984, 1985

Classes of 1998, 1999, 2000

Classes from 2004 to 2009

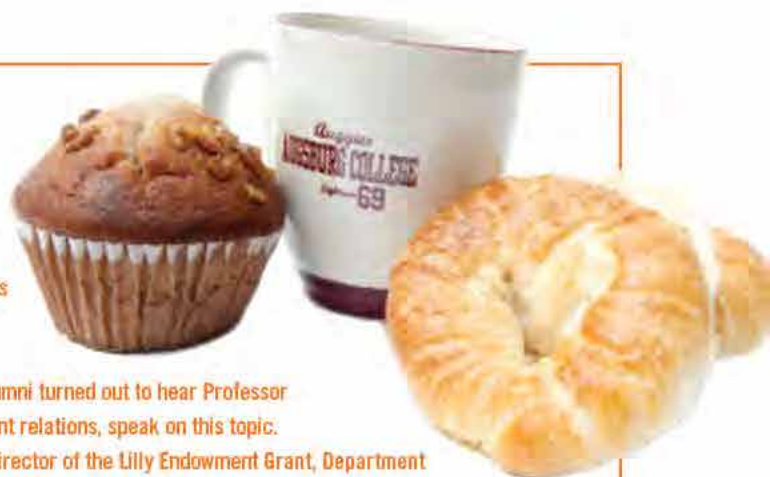
Eye-Opener Breakfast series

The new Eye-Opener Breakfast series, co-sponsored by the Offices of Corporate and Foundation Relations and Alumni and Constituent Relations, has been a big hit among the College's professional alumni. The Eye-Opener Breakfast series is designed to meet the needs of Auggies who are currently employed at Twin Cities corporations, and features topics of interest to business people. The first breakfast, held in April at Town and Country Club in St. Paul, focused on the timely issue of "The New Federal Fiscal

Recovery Package: What's in it for Minnesota Families and Businesses." More than 50 alumni turned out to hear Professor Jeanne Boeh, chair of the Economics Department, and Jay Benanav, director of government relations, speak on this topic.

The second Eye-Opener Breakfast in July featured Augsburg professor Mark Tranvik, director of the Lilly Endowment Grant, Department of Religion, who spoke on the topic, "The Difference Between a Career and a Calling" to more than 70 Auggies.

The series provides networking opportunities with fellow Auggies in the work world. Due to the great success of the first two events, the series will continue on a quarterly basis. The next one will be held on Oct. 27. Visit the Alumni Association website at www.augsburg.edu/alumni for information about future events.



AUGGIE

alumni news

Young alumni—we are your voice!

The Young Alumni Council, representing grads from 1999-2009, was formed to advise the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations. The council has met monthly to provide a collective voice in the planning of the monthly Young Alumni Summer Series and the Recent Grad Reunion at Homecoming, October 2–3.

The Young Alumni Council focus is to provide dynamic social and learning opportunities for Auggies while keeping them engaged with their alma mater. This volunteer committee not only assists the alumni office in the planning and execution of events, but also takes responsibility for attendance and the engagement of their fellow alumni. Their first event on May 15 at the Corner Bar drew more than 100 alumni.

Are you interested in getting involved? The Young Alumni Council meets each month at Oren Gateway Center. Contact Amanda Storm at alumni@augsborg.edu or 612-330-1178 for information. Join our groups on LinkedIn and Facebook—Augsburg College Young Alumni & Recent Graduates—and on Twitter @acyoungalumni.



The Young Alumni Council—(standing, L to R) Amanda Rueb '09, Kate Loyd '05, Andrew L. Johnson '07, David Lange '08, Holly Ebnet-Knutson '03, '07 MBA, John Goodale '02, Missy Motl '06; (seated, L to R) Maria (Mitchell) Helgersen '07, Shannon Olson '07, Nick Swanson '09. Not pictured: W. Charles Sletten '09, Robert Wagner '02, Agnes Kigwana '09, Teresa Barnhill '08, Julia Mensing '00, '07 MBA, Emily Johnson '08.

Upcoming young alumni events



August 6
Canterbury Park
5:30 p.m., free



September 9
Brit's Pub
5:30-8:30 p.m., free



The first Young Alumni Summer Series event was held at the Corner Bar in Minneapolis.

Meet Pat Grans— Augsburg's volunteer coordinator



For Pat Grans, volunteering is a passion. As the new volunteer coordinator for the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations, she helps Augsburg alumni and friends find opportunities

that spark their passions and connect them with the College.

Since April, Augsburg students have been meeting one-on-one with alumni in Project IGNITE, a program funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to reconnect Auggie alumni with the College. The students learn more about the role Augsburg has played in the alum's life, both as a student and an alum. The students also talk about opportunities for volunteering, and alumni who are interested are contacted by Grans.

Grans is also developing a program to track the time and work of current alumni volunteers so that their service can be recognized. She is contacting past volunteers and meeting with program directors who have strong volunteer groups already in place to help them track and recognize the service given to them by volunteers.

Volunteering is a great way to stay connected to Augsburg and former classmates. If you have questions or interest, contact Grans at volunteer@augsborg.edu or 612-330-1329.

augsborg

THEN



50 years ago ... Commencement 1959

More than 100 graduating seniors, together with their friends and families, celebrated their commencement outside in the Quad, luckily enjoying a day of beautiful sunshine.

Rev. Clifford Johnson handed out the diplomas, stepping in for President Bernhard Christensen, who was on leave to study abroad.

Not seen in the above photo is Augsburg Singers director Leland Sateren, who directed the choir while standing in the middle of a flower bed.

Discover Italian treasures

NOVEMBER 2-12, 2009

Join fellow Auggies for travels through Italy, studying Italian art, history, culture, and cuisine, on a tour led by art professor Kristin Anderson. \$2,990 from the Twin Cities, plus gratuities and airport taxes. Contact the alumni office at 612-330-1085 or alumni@augsborg.edu. Hurry before the tour fills!

MAL travels to Norway

JUNE 5-15, 2010

Join the Master of Arts in Leadership community and families for an educational and cultural tour of Norway, visiting fjords, Oslo, Bergen, and Stavanger. Preference to MAL graduates and students. Information meeting on Sept. 28, 6 p.m. RSVP to Patty Park at 612-330-1150 or parkp@augsborg.edu.

ALUMNI class notes

57 Rev. Marshall D. Johnson had two books published in 2008 by Augsburg Fortress—*The Apostles' Creed*, a commentary, and a work by Martin Luther that he edited, *Day by Day We Magnify You*.

Rev. Alfred Kaupins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and his wife, Skaidrite, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on December 31.

68 Ronald Nilsson, Wheaton, Ill., is a professor emeritus and the retired director of the Career Services Center of the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Ill. He retired in 2002 and received the Donald Hunt Lifetime Achievement Award from the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association in October 2008.

71 David Siedlar married Xiao Gui Fang of Huaian, China, in the Jiangsu Province Marriage and Orphans Bureau on Aug. 24, 2007. He is the China correspondent for WBZ News Radio in Boston, and he contributes to the radio talk show "Nightside with Dan Rea." In Huaian, he established a translation service, mostly translating pharmaceutical English into understandable language.

76 Julia Blixrud has worked for the Association of Research Libraries since 1996 and is heading the strategic initiative of scholarly communication to understand and influence the forces affecting production, dissemination, and use of scholarly and scientific information. Since 1999, she has telecommuted from her home in Lawrence, Kansas.

77 Linda Carlson-Wescott and her husband, Rick, own a business for RV, truck and equipment repair, and collision and painting in Fife, Wash. Linda takes care of resources and accounts payable and receivable. They live in Gig Harbor, Wash.

81 Christine (Sheldon) Halvorson is a freelance writer, editor, and owner of Halvorson New Media, LLC, and also writes for a small public relations firm. She is married to

singer/songwriter Ken Sheldon, and they live in Hancock, N.H.

Joan (Maland) Mussa is senior vice president for advocacy and communication at the U.S. office of World Vision, a relief, development, and advocacy organization in nearly 100 countries. She and her husband, Mohammed, and their three children live near Seattle, Wash.

85 Tommy Terpening returned to Key West, Fla., to become the buyer and merchandise manager for the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory.

86 Lisa Baumgartner was the speaker at the WEC and Graduate Educator Workshop Retreat at Augsburg on June 9. Her research and writing focus on adult learning and development and issues of diversity.

Jeff Luke is the new principal of Worthington Middle School in Worthington, Minn., which he has already served for a year as assistant principal.

87 Scott Miller, an Area Learning Center English teacher, was named the North Branch (Minn.) School District Teacher of the Year. He has taught there for nine years. He is also a published author, and he and his wife raise and have raced sled dogs.

91 Tom Feely, an Edward Jones financial advisor, in Sparta, N.J., became a principal with the firm's holding company, The Jones Financial Cos., LLLP. He was among the 27 of 36,000 associates chosen as a principal.

Katie Knutson received the Twin Cities Media Network 2008 Diamond Award for "Marketing/Promotions Person of the Year," for her work as sales marketing manager at WCCO-TV.

Jeff Ronneberg was honored in April with a University of Minnesota Excellence in Education Leadership Award, one of 25 nationwide. He is the assistant superintendent of Spring Lake Park (Minn.) District 16,



94 Will Stute, a partner in the Faegre & Benson LLP litigation practice in Minneapolis, has been named a recipient of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* 40 Under Forty Award, honoring 40 of the region's top young business and civic leaders. His practice includes complex business litigation, principally in the areas of financial institution litigation and securities litigation/arbitration.



95 Katarzyna (Pruchnik) Niles and her husband, Joseph, welcomed **Joseph Dariusz**, on Nov. 22, 2008. Joey joins older sister, Helena Violet. They live in Isanti, Minn.

and is slated to become superintendent at the end of 2009.

Darbi Worley has appeared weekly at The Bleeker Street Theater in *Shoot the Messenger*, with Lizz Winstead. She also appears regularly on *Conversations with Carlos Watson* and *House Smarts* on NBC, and has a recurring role in *All My Children*. www.darbiworley.com

92 Lisa Zahn has been home-schooling her two children, Elijah and Rose. She lives in St. Cloud, where her husband, George, is a music teacher. She has also started an herbalist practice from her home.

93 Yvonne Barrett '00 MSW, was named in May as program officer for the Minnesota Community



98 Andry (Andriambololona) Jurcic and her husband, Matt, exuberantly announce the birth of their son, **Maxwell Matio**, born May 11.



96 Maureen Parker and Martin Marrandino were wed on October 25, 2008, at Broadway Covenant Church in Rockford, Ill., home church of the bride. The Marrandinos live in Dixon, Ill. Maureen is a board-certified music therapist at KSB Hospital 2-East inpatient psychiatric unit and the music director at the First United Methodist Church in Dixon. Martin also works at KSB and is going into the nursing program at Sauk Valley College.

Foundation and The Saint Paul Foundation, giving her primary accountability for grantmaking activities within the human services field.

Kara Malmgren and her spouse, Michael, live in south Minneapolis with their 5-year-old son, Aidan. She completed her studies as a professional classical homeopath (RSHom) at Northwestern Academy of Homeopathy and did her residency in the student clinic in Edina.

Bill Vanderwall, St. Paul, started Vanderwall Associates in 2008, a consulting firm focused on serving the nonprofit and government sectors around strategic planning, program development, needs assessment, and affordable housing development. bill.vanderwall@gmail.com



99 Kelly Woods was presented a Milken Educator Award at a ceremony in Los Angeles, as one of 70 teachers across the country. She teaches third grade and is a Teacher Advancement Program Instructional coach at Nellie Stone Johnson Community School in Minneapolis.



02 Tracey (Burns) Cross was presented a Milken Educator Award at a ceremony in Los Angeles, as one of 70 teachers across the country. She is a math coach at Galtier Magnet Elementary School in St. Paul.

Boise, Idaho. He and his wife, Candice, have two children, Ashley and Aiden.

96 Ryan Carlson, St. Paul, completed his MBA with a concentration in manufacturing systems from the University of St. Thomas in August 2008. He is senior staff product engineer at Seagate. rc-and-lauren@yahoo.com

97 Lars Dyrud's research at the Center for Space Physics at Boston University about space particles entering Earth's atmosphere was discussed in a *Discover* magazine blog in April.

Janet (Running) Rowe and her husband, Greg, welcomed a new baby girl, **Sophia Louise**, born on Feb. 8. She joins her very proud big sister, Kayla.

98 Amanda Wood was appointed by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty to the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education. She lives in Grand Rapids, Minn., and is a mental health case manager with the Northland Counseling Center, and a volunteer firefighter as well as a chemical assessment team member with the Grand Rapids Fire Department. The board reviews fire service training needs, establishes standards for educational programs, and establishes qualifications for fire service training instructors.

00 Dr. Dawn Evon Anderson, Memphis, Tenn., graduated from medical school at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and is beginning a residency in internal medicine.

Karen Joyce joined Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in June as a financial representative in their Southwest Wisconsin Regional Financial Office in Eau Claire.

01 Trisha (Andrews) Farrell began serving at Lakeside Christian Camp in Pittsfield, Mass., on January 1. She is the director of programming, and her husband, Greg, is the director of food services at the camp.

04 Deanne McDonald has been studying for an MFA degree in musical theatre at Minnesota State University Mankato.

Lauren Wood graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in May 2008. She is an associate at the Minneapolis firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ceresi LLP where she works in business and intellectual property litigation.

05 Kirsten Anderson accepted a short-term volunteer position in February, teaching English in rural Bolivia at Unidad Académica Campesina-Carmen Pampa, in the college's ecotourism program.

Laura Bunkowski graduated in June with a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Matt Kleinschmidt has worked since 2006 as a contract specialist for Bruker AXS, Inc., an analytical x-ray manufacturer, and generated a

13.5 % growth over last year. He owes his success to his Augsburg experience and the application of LEAN techniques in the workplace.

Mark Matzek was named Augsburg's wrestling head coach, after serving since July 2008 as interim coach.

06 Andrew Estrem and Belinda Painschab were united in marriage on June 28, 2008, in Hoversten Chapel. Andrew works for First Investors, Inc., and Belinda works at the Wayzata Public School District. They live in Minnetonka. Auggies in the wedding were **Breanna (Barkosky) Sroka '06**, **Mike Matson '06**, **John Streefland '07**, **Andy Nelson '06**, **Tony Madline**, and **Aleah Tebben '07**.

Sara Holman-Nash, Omaha, Neb., began a new job in February as marketing coordinator for HDR, Inc. and will be writing/composing engineering proposals for the company. She formerly was a copywriter at THT Designs.

07 Maria (Mitchell) married **Erik Helgerson** and they live in downtown Minneapolis. Maria works at fahrenheit360, a career resource for young professionals.

08 Teresa Barnhill began in April as a substitute teacher at the St. David's Center for Child and Family Development in Minnetonka, Minn.



07 Jen (Winter) married her high school sweetheart, David Lenart, on May 31, 2008, in Hoversten Chapel. Auggie **Kirsten Hiemstra '08** was in the wedding party. Jen will pursue a Master of Arts degree at the University of Chicago Divinity School in the fall.

94 Jennifer (Nielsen) Lathrop has been pursuing a Master of Arts degree with a concentration in children, youth, and families at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She has worked as a graphic designer in the seminary's communication office, and worked with children, youth, and families at a church in Mounds View.

95 Eric Peterson and his wife, **Laura (Peterson)**, welcomed their new son, **Eli Benjamin**, into the world on Feb. 4. Eli's big brother, Noah, is 4.

Andy Wichmann was named to the Paradise (Calif.) High School Hall of Fame, where he was a varsity wrestler. He is an industrial engineer with Micron Technologies, Inc. in

AUGGIES

ARE GOING PLACES

See you at the State Fair!

Stop by the Augsburg booth in the Education Building
Aug. 27-Sept. 7

Signals and military intelligence— seven years in the Army

When Lewis Nelson graduated in 2000 he intended to become a high school history teacher. Instead, he spent the next seven years in the middle of history being made.

Reading about wars in history classes had instilled a deep sense of patriotism, and when 9/11 struck, Lewis decided to enlist in the Army. He had learned about language training that guaranteed a military intelligence job and other benefits, so he knew what to ask for in the recruiter's office. A huge benefit was repayment of his college loans by the government.

In October 2001 Lewis began basic training and continued with language school in Monterey, Calif., to study Korean, his mother's language. There he met and married his wife, Holly Downs, who was training to be an Arabic linguist, but left the Army to raise their family.

Lewis was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Ft. Campbell, Ky., and spent the next five years in signals intelligence—collecting signals and translating, locating, and analyzing them. He was responsible for training his own unit's soldiers and developed the methods to gather and present intelligence, often while testing new equipment on the streets in Iraq.

By the end of Lewis' second deployment to Iraq in 2005–06, he had designed training courses and written manuals, tested new tools and equipment, and conducted over 200 tactical missions to help locate weapon caches and capture some of the most-targeted insurgents in eastern Baghdad.

To avoid further separations from his family, then with two children, Lewis accepted an Army teaching assignment in San Angelo, Texas. As a Korean cryptologic instructor, he taught soldiers to become subject-matter experts on North Korea, including classified signals intelligence.

"One of my favorite aspects of the military has been the ability to teach new soldiers, and now that will be my job every day," Lewis wrote in June 2007.

Last November, after 15 months of teaching the Korean course, supervising a tactical signals intelligence course and developing a 10-week training course, Lewis was medically discharged because of knee injuries suffered in training.

He worked for several months as an intelligence analyst contractor for the Army, providing targeting support for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In June, he began a new job, using his knowledge as a Korean cryptologic linguist to provide military analysis about the Korean peninsula for a government agency near Washington, D.C.



In a July 2007 ceremony at Ft. Campbell, Ky., Lewis Nelson '00 received the Knowlton Award for exemplary intelligence work, presented by Colonel Ritchie, U.S. Army Intelligence. He has received more than a dozen awards, medals, and ribbons for excellence.



Lewis and his wife, Holly Downs, with their kids—Benjamin, 5; Arianna, 4; and Gwendolyn, 1.

Lewis and Holly now have three children—Benjamin, 5; Arianna, 4; and Gwendolyn, 1. They live near Charlottesville, Va.

Lewis also started his own web design company, Gumi Design. "Gumi" is the Korean word given by Lewis' great-grandfather to his dad, which literally means "beautiful region," but is also related to the Chinese character meaning "America."

"This [web design venture] is relevant," says Lewis, "because my very first web site was the Augsburg Athletics web site, in 1996." He says he has gotten much better over the years.

Lewis can be contacted at lewis@nelsondowns.com.

BETSEY NORGARD



In Memoriam

Formo, Jerome '37, Roseville, Minn., age 93, on April 9, 1983 Distinguished Alumnus. Memorials to Augsburg College Scholarship Fund.

Jergenson, Rev. Conrad S. '37, '40 Sem, Minneapolis, age 94, on March 31.

Haaland, John E. '39, Albuquerque, N.M., age 94, on April 15.

Molvik, Rev. Maurice '39 Sem, Karlstad, Minn., age 95, on Feb. 9.

Aadland, Arthur O. '41, Westbrook, Minn., age 91, on May 20.

Dalland, Carl A. '44, Brooklyn Park, Minn., age 86, on Aug. 18, 2008.

Blikstad, Rev. Paul '47, Salem, Ore., age 86, on April 21.

Bagley, Emil J. '49, Crookston, Minn., age 82, on Dec. 29, 2008.

Dyrud, Rev. Amos O. '49 Sem, Crystal, Minn., age 93, on Feb. 15.

Rittenhouse, Carol (Brekken) '49, New Hope, Minn., age 81, on April 29.

Vane, Rueben '49, Three Rivers, Calif., age 85, on Dec. 24, 2008.

Andersen, Ethel (Anderson) '50, Vacaville, Calif., age 81, on Sept. 6, 2008.

Landahl, Robert '50, age 85, on Nov. 6, 2008.

Odegard, Robert D. '51, White Bear Township, Minn., age 78, on July 3, 2008.

Storley, Rev. Calvin J. '51, '54 Sem, Bloomington, Minn., age 79, on Jan. 28.

Waller, Orlette (Hjelle) '52, Golden Valley, Minn., age 78, on Feb. 14.

Rundquist, Bertil '56, St. Cloud, Minn., age 78, on Feb. 3.

Unseth, Rev. Malcolm W. Jr. '56 Sem, on April 25.

Heggem, Kenneth '59, Marcell, Minn., age 72, on Jan. 21.

Knutson, Charlotte (Batalden) '59, Colorado Springs, Colo., age 70, on Nov. 27, 2008.

Boyum, Arne H. '60, Peterson, Minn., age 70, on May 12.

Peterson, Marvin '63, Forest Lake, Minn., age 67, on Feb. 3.

Wieggers, Haven F. '65, Bloomington, Minn., age 67, on April 25.

Cathy (Vorland) Donnelly '73, Melbourne, Australia, on Nov. 17, 2007, of cancer.

Larson, Bruce '87, Hutchinson, Minn., on April 27, 2007 of a heart attack.

Christensen, Lilly Gracia, St. Paul, age 97, on April 21, professor emerita of English and wife of Bernhard M. Christensen.

Wick, Gunnar, St. Louis Park, Minn., age 88, on June 11, Augsburg parent and recipient of 2000 Spirit of Augsburg Award.

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. You can also submit news to the Augsburg Online Community at www.augsburg.edu/alumni.

Full name

Maiden name

Class year or last year attended

Street address

City, State, Zip

Is this a new address? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home telephone

E-mail

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

Employer

Position

Work telephone

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

If yes, class year

Spouse's name

Maiden name

Your news:

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



my **AUGGIE** experience

Betsy Norell '10 Music therapy

As a first-year student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., Betsy Norell was majoring in communication studies and singing in the choir. But she had no idea what she wanted to do with her education.

Then her brother suggested she look into the field of music therapy. "I job-shadowed some music therapists here in the Twin Cities, and I fell in love with it." So she transferred to Augsburg and jumped right into the music therapy program.

In her first year at Augsburg, Norell has worked on three research projects, including one with visiting professor, Dale Taylor. Taylor, a professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is known in the field for his study of the biomedical theory of music therapy, which examines the physiological effects of music on the human body.

Together, Norell and Taylor are studying saliva. More specifically, they are studying the presence of salivary immunoglobulin A,

or SigA, an immune system indicator present in saliva. They are looking to see if the level changes after a music therapy session to show how music affects the immune system.

Norell appreciates the opportunity to work with an expert in the field and to explore where "music meets science," she says. "It's cool to step out of my comfort zone and into the lab." Ralph Butkowski, an instructor in the biology department at Augsburg, has also been working with Norell on her summer research project and is helping her analyze the samples she collects.

The support and direction of all the faculty have been helpful to Norell, but she especially enjoys the hands-on experience of watching her professors work with clients in actual music therapy sessions. "It's the best way to learn," she says.

"To hear their miracle stories is amazing," Norell adds. "They are an inspiration."

WENDI WHEELER '06



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"I appreciate and value the impact of my Augsburg education on my life and on my career ... that's why I give back—to help provide opportunities for future students. That's why I give now and that's why I'm giving in the future by including Augsburg as a beneficiary of my estate."

GARY TANGWALL

Gary Tangwall '80 is a senior financial consultant with the Landmark Group of Thrivent Financial.



To see photos from the work being done,
go to www.augsburg.edu/now.

Campus Beautification

On June 5, Augsburg staff and student workers took a break from business as usual and picked up paint brushes, shovels, racks, and various other tools to participate in Campus Beautification Day. The event was created in 2008 as a way to give back to the campus community and to help build fellowship among co-workers.