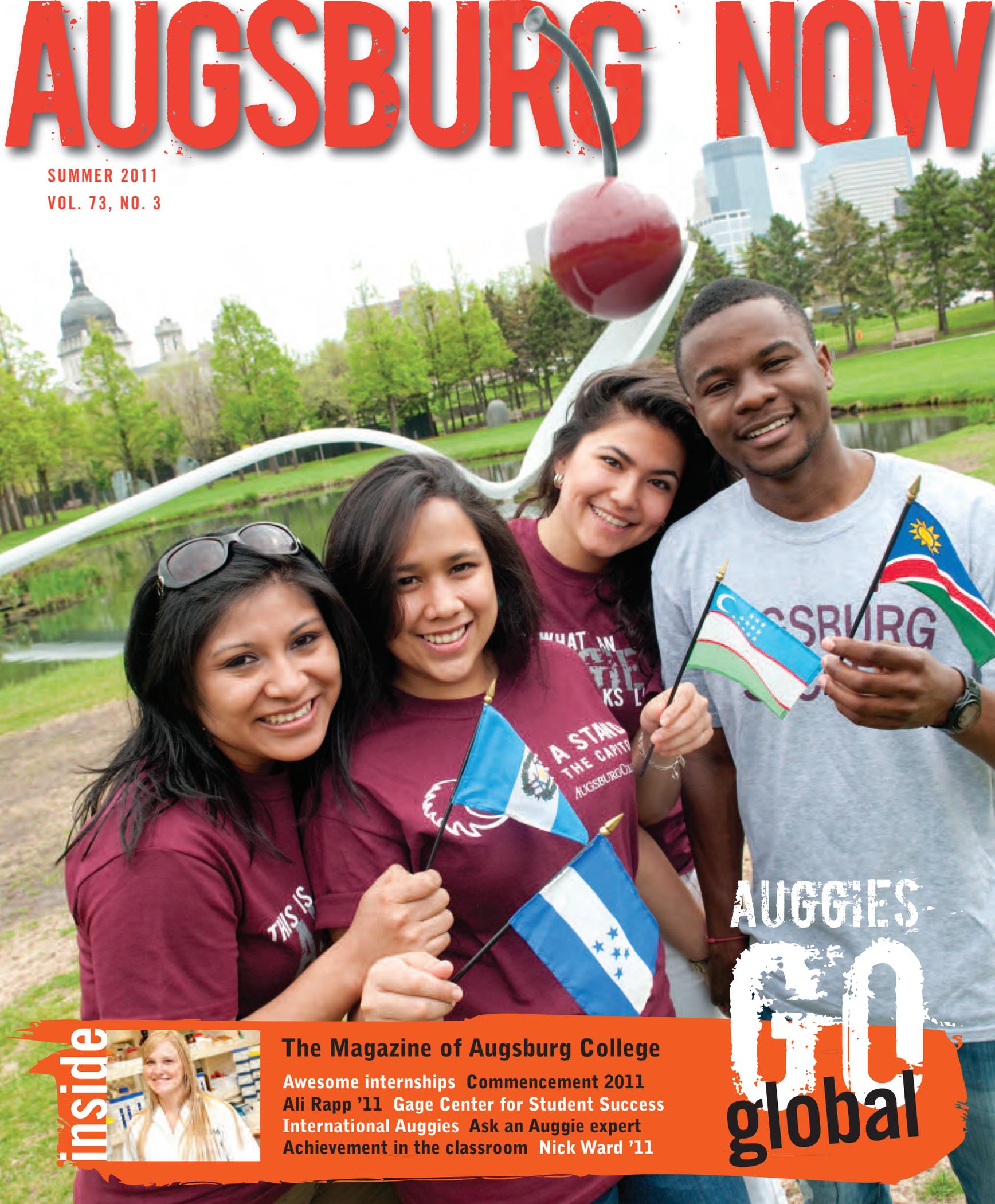


# AUGSBURG NOW

SUMMER 2011  
VOL. 73, NO. 3



AUGGIES  
**GO**  
global

inside



**The Magazine of Augsburg College**

Awesome internships Commencement 2011  
Ali Rapp '11 Gage Center for Student Success  
International Auggies Ask an Auggie expert  
Achievement in the classroom Nick Ward '11



# NOTES

## from President Pribbenow

### Education off the main road

**A**s I write these words for the summer issue of the *Augsburg Now*—which includes stories illustrating Augsburg’s vision of educating global citizens—I am in Oslo, Norway, attending an international conference on the links between higher education and democracy, and also spending time with Augsburg students studying peace and conflict mediation at the University of Oslo. I am struck by how relevant Augsburg’s longstanding commitment to what I call an “education off the main road” is to preparing our students for life in the 21st century. A simple story illustrates my point.

In a trip last fall to Augsburg’s Center for Global Education (CGE) campus in Windhoek, Namibia, I remember looking out at the sparkling lights as I was hosted at a dinner in an ultra-modern restaurant high above the city. All was well, it seemed, as I waited for my dinner companions to arrive.

But the view from our perch above the city, nestled in an obviously affluent subdivision of the burgeoning city, belied my experiences earlier in the day. I had witnessed the remnants of an apartheid system. Formerly separate cemeteries for whites, colored, and blacks. Housing that was clearly demarcated by tribal class. Primary and secondary schools stratified by social class. A sprawling tin village—the so-called “informal settlements”—in which tens of thousands of Namibians lived in squalor, unable to find work after they arrived in the city and were left to their own devices to survive. Health clinics with waiting rooms full of women seeking both prenatal care and HIV tests. Non-governmental organizations struggling to serve the needs of indigenous people whose rights were neglected. The stark contrasts of the day were mind-bending.

My dinner companions arrived—a labor activist and a teacher working to improve education for indigenous people—and as I described our day in Windhoek, one of them commented that he was

grateful I had witnessed these contrasts because too many outsiders come to Namibia and travel only “the main road,” from which all seems well. I had left that main road and experienced the real Namibia.

My experience that day was a snapshot of what our CGE students encounter each semester in Namibia as they participate in intense experiences that open their eyes to the life-transforming dynamics of life in this developing country. Through extended homestays in both urban and rural areas, internships with organizations doing important social and educational work, classes that feature speakers who have firsthand experience of the tensions in Namibia’s life, and opportunities for significant interaction with Namibian people and culture, our students experience life off the main road in this remarkable country, just 22 years after it declared independence.

And when these students return home to the U.S., we know they carry with them knowledge and experiences of this place and its good people that will shape the decisions they make about their own lives and what they might be called to do in the world. Some may return to Africa, perhaps as medical workers or teachers. But most will not, and, for them, we trust and know that their experiences off the main road in Namibia will help them understand their own privilege in an increasingly complex world—privilege that must be named and then put to responsible use in the search for equity and justice, both in their personal lives and in the systems they inhabit.

Off the main road in Namibia, off the main road wherever Augsburg offers its distinctive education for global citizenship. I’m only beginning to understand how critical our work as a college is in transforming the lives of students and contributing to a different vision of our common future as global citizens.

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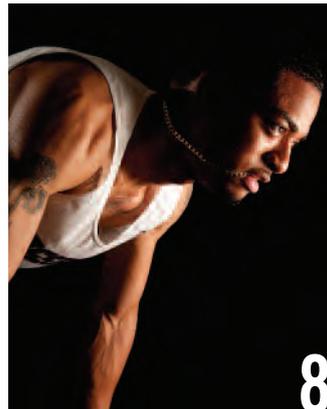
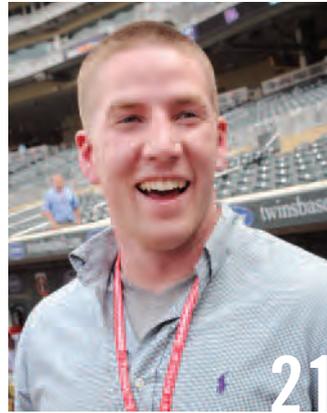
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On the cover

International Auggies Gloria Xinico Morales, Alom Martínez, Zebokhon Tursunova, and Gottlieb Uahengo have fun at a Minneapolis landmark, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's *Spoonbridge and Cherry*.

All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.

## NEWSNOTES



### Urban Debate League success at nationals

Two teams from the Minnesota Urban Debate League (UDL), part of Augsburg's Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning, were among the top 10 teams in the country at the National Urban Debate League (NAUDL) tournament in New York in April. A student debater from each of the two teams—Washburn and South high schools—placed seventh and eighth respectively in individual speaker competition.



### Newberry Library Fellowship to Michael Lansing

Michael Lansing, assistant professor of history, received the Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History for 2011–12. The fellowship will support the ongoing work of his book-length research project on the Nonpartisan League.



### Norma Noonan honored for long-term direction of the MAL program

Norma Noonan was honored this spring after stepping down as director of the Master of Arts in Leadership (MAL) program.

Throughout her 18 years of directing and teaching in the program, Noonan has been both a leader and a shaper of leaders. Since the mid-'90s, Noonan has had an exceptionally steady hand in leading the ongoing development of the MAL program and the Leadership Center. Students have appreciated her accessibility, encouragement, and clarity. Although she is leaving the director position, Noonan will continue to teach at Augsburg and support the College's commitment to leadership.



### National fellowship and scholarship awards

#### Fulbright Awards, 2011-12

- Katie Edelen '11, majoring in chemistry, biology, and environmental studies, received a Fulbright Research Grant to Norway. She will study and carry out research at the Peace Research Institute of Oslo. (See story page 10.)
- Jennifer Oliver, a graduate student in education and former financial aid counselor in the Enrollment Center, received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Germany.

**Goldwater Scholarship**—Math major Austin Wagner '12 received Honorable Mention for a Barry S. Goldwater Scholarship.

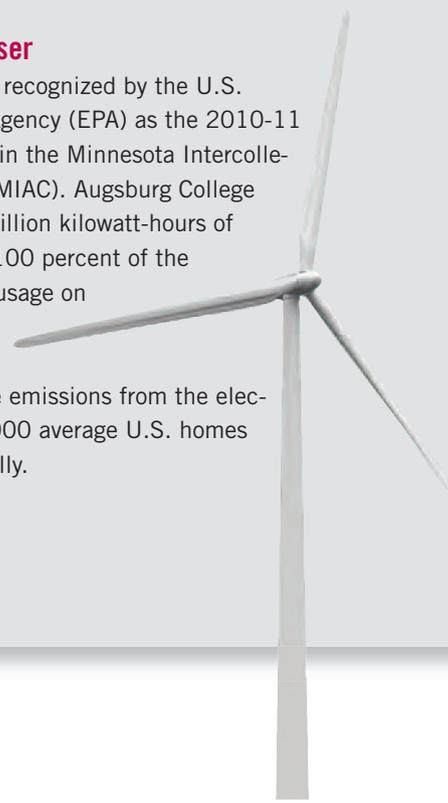
**Newman Civic Fellows**—Claire Bergren '12 was honored by Campus Compact for her community work around racial justice and social issues linked to poverty.

**Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship**—Katie Edelen will pursue graduate study in environmental management in 2012–13.

**Udall Scholarship**—Kathy DeKrey '12, an environmental studies and political science pre-law double major, has been awarded a Udall Scholarship for 2011–12.

### Top green power purchaser

Augsburg College has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the 2010-11 top green power purchaser in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Augsburg College purchased more than 13 million kilowatt-hours of green power, representing 100 percent of the school's annual electricity usage on the Minneapolis campus. This is the equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity use of more than 1,000 average U.S. homes or nearly 2,000 cars annually.



## Presidential Award for Community Service



Augsburg is one of six higher education institutions in the nation to receive the **2010 Presidential Award for**

**Community Service** from the Corporation for National and Community Service. This is the highest award given that recognizes institutions for their commitment to and achievement in community service, and Augsburg is the only Minnesota school to receive this honor. In three previous years, the College has been named to the President's Honor Roll with the additional designation of "With Distinction."

During the 2009-10 school year, Auggies contributed nearly 200,000 hours of community service to programs, including course-based service-learning, Bonner Leaders, Campus Kitchen, community gardens, GEMS/GISE/STEM summer programs, Urban Scrubs Camp, and more. More than 1,700 students and 200 faculty and staff participated in service-learning last year.

## Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Awards



Augsburg College earned two \$10,000 grants from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council for programs recognized for providing "high-quality, age-appropriate arts education."

**Medieval Minnesota:** This one-week boarding camp for students ages 14 to 17 reimagines life during the Middle Ages. Students study medieval history, the Crusades, castle design, and the history of labyrinths. They also learn to build a medieval costume, juggle, dance, fence, and entertain. The camp, in its fifth year, attracts students from across the United States and Canada. For more information, go to [www.augsburg.edu/medievalminnesota](http://www.augsburg.edu/medievalminnesota).

**Centro Youth Workshop:** This summer photography workshop provides 10 youths from metropolitan Latino/Chicano communities the opportunity to develop technical and artistic photography skills. The program, which is in its second year, is a partnership between the College and Centro, a Minneapolis-based social service nonprofit. Learn more at <http://overexposuremedia.org/>.

## EXCELLENCE *in* research



Courtesy photo

In April 2011, Jeremy Anthony, a senior mathematics major, represented Augsburg College in the Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill event. This event, held each year in Washington, D.C., showcased the research of 75 undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the country.



L to R: Isanti mayor George Wimmer, Senator Al Franken, and Clayton McNeff '91, vice president of research at SarTec Corporation.

## SENATOR FRANKEN visits Ever Cat Fuels

On April 21, U.S. Senator Al Franken visited Ever Cat Fuels in Isanti, Minn., which can produce three million gallons of biodiesel each year using the Mcgyan Process. In 2008, the discovery of the Mcgyan Process began with student research by Brian Krohn '08, along with chemistry professor Arlin Gyberg. The process received its first patent in March 2011.

## Augsburg receives second grant for Travelers EDGE

Augsburg received a second gift from Travelers Insurance for their Empowering Dreams for Graduation and Employment (EDGE) program. This program focuses on college recruitment and retention of low-income and first-generation students. In Minnesota, the focus is specifically on students graduating from the St. Paul Public School district.

The \$100,000 grant will be used for Augsburg's Travelers Pathways program for financial literacy training, which is open to all students. Current Augsburg juniors and seniors who graduated from a St. Paul public high school may be eligible to apply for a \$5,000 annual scholarship, which brings with it opportunities for job shadowing, internships, and mentoring.



## In Memoriam: Jessica Nathanson

Jessica Nathanson, assistant professor and director of the women's studies program and the Women's Resource Center at Augsburg College, died April 5 of breast cancer. Nathanson's passion for and knowledge of social justice and gender issues was instrumental in shaping the women's studies community at Augsburg. Nathanson earned a BA from Wesleyan University and an MA and PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She co-edited the book *Mother Knows Best: Talking Back to the "Experts"* and enjoyed a wide following as a blogger on feminist issues. The following is an excerpt of an original spoken word piece read by Lucrechia Grant '11 at the multifaith service in Hoversten Chapel to remember and celebrate Nathanson's life.

An excerpt from

### There are so much things to say

By Lucrechia Grant '11 For Jessica Nathanson

There are so much things to say right now  
There are so much things to say

There are so much things to say right now  
There are so much things to say

...

Friends, let me tell you

If we had the time to recall every moment where in which this woman made me feel like I could levitate, I swear it'd take all day...

This is a piece about praise today because,  
if there was bad between us  
I just can't remember it  
I never knew I could float with pride this way.

I came in here rusty and naïve, too big for my own britches  
You saw a light in me and followed it  
My writing then, was sloppy, holey and dishonest

There are times when writing for an audience is just plain perjury  
And every time I lifted my pen from this paper in disbelief  
Turned my palms up in discouragement  
You calmly, proclaimed that

#### **"That must be the oppression talking."**

That day I thought my heart would beat right through my ribcage  
I never imagined that someone might get it  
Get me, get this  
I love you, for the tears you allowed me to cry, often and  
The beauty you believed me to write

And I can't help believing that we were meant to be  
in a space like SVERDRUP 207  
warm and complicated  
in the differences between us

age, race, class, time, distance  
there is love in that and we confronted it daily  
learning that  
oppression sometimes smells like privilege and  
power doesn't always have to be dominance

you are my best memory about this place and  
I know we're not done  
Cuz you African dance through my dreams  
Reminding me of the freedom I already keep, on my tongue  
You're in my windpipe  
Part of the cadence and confidence in my voice  
You're the social justice in my strut

I won't lower my head in fear again  
Eyes forward ready to stand completely still with another  
You gave me grace, honored me with respect  
Not just a Black woman on a stage to you...clap me a round of  
"thanks and that was beautifuls"  
But she knew the truth.  
Knew I was a Queen, believed my words and told me.

There are so much things to say

I have so much to say, but I can say nothing fully at all.

Thanks for all the books and  
Reminding me that I can do this  
Thanks for believing in feminism enough to teach it.  
Thanks for loving us as much as you did  
Thanks for loving me

It's not over, we're not done  
You'll see

Because

This place became a home for me because you were in it  
It is better because you graced it  
Because you believed it I am better  
Jessica, thank you!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIRING TENURED FACULTY

### **Nora Braun, Business Administration**

Nora Braun has been described as a role model for successfully balancing the demands of professional and personal responsibilities with incredible patience, integrity, and humor during her 14 years at Augsburg. A few of her contributions include participating in the College's accreditation program, chairing a keystone collaborative, helping to design the business keystone course, and being involved in the initial design process for the Augsburg Master of Business Administration program. Braun enjoys writing and is the author of a children's book that explores the life of the middle child.

### **Francine Chakolis, Social Work**

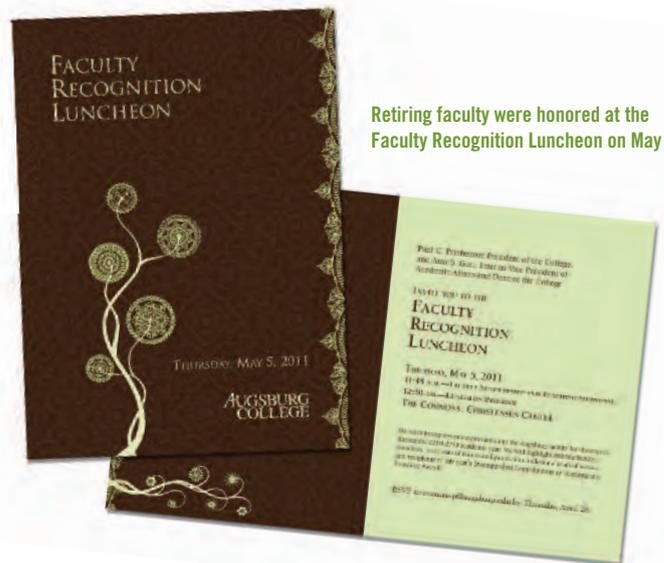
Francine Chakolis graduated from Augsburg in 1978. Since 1983, her dedication to her colleagues and students has taken many forms. Always a proud Auggie, Chakolis was a formidable leader and the first director of the Master of Social Work program in the 1990s. Her colleague Tony Bibus used these words to describe Chakolis, "...spouse, mother, family, and COMMUNITY, with capital letters. She is also a teacher, activist, fighter, administrator, leader, and social worker."

### **Dan Hanson, Communication Studies**

A 1986 graduate of the Weekend College program, Dan Hanson began taking classes when he was a vice president at Land O'Lakes. A dedicated colleague and teacher for 23 years, Hanson developed several courses, including the communication studies keystone course and a course for the Master of Arts in Leadership program. He is the author of several books, including *A Place to Shine* and *Room for J: A Family Struggles with Schizophrenia*. Hanson has devoted his energy and years of experience and expertise to the development of his students in both undergraduate and graduate program classes.

### **Lynne Lorenzen, Religion**

At a reception honoring Lynne Lorenzen's 22-year career at Augsburg, Professor Bev Stratton referred to Lorenzen as a trailblazer. A tireless advocate for gender rights on campus and in broader communities, Lorenzen's collaboration on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) first sexuality task force 20 years ago laid the groundwork for the decision to recognize lesbian and gay clergy in committed, same-gender relationships. She played an important role in the design and development of the Augsburg/Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC) women's studies program. An active member and leader in the Lutheran church, Lorenzen's classes at Augsburg also reflected her interests and focus on theology, church studies, and feminism.



Retiring faculty were honored at the Faculty Recognition Luncheon on May 5.

### **Bruce Reichenbach, Philosophy**

Bruce Reichenbach began his teaching career at Augsburg 43 years ago. Students have always been at the top of his priorities, and they received the very best of Reichenbach's passion and deep commitment to learning. He organized and led the writing team for the Lilly Grant and then served on its advisory board. As a logical outgrowth of the Lilly Grant to explore vocation, he worked on the development of an extended orientation for first-year and second-year faculty. Reichenbach is a prolific scholar, having written a dozen books and many articles, and is regarded for his expertise in helping faculty understand how to teach critical thinking.

### **Charley Sheaffer, Computer Science**

Charley Sheaffer has been involved in several curricular development efforts in his department since he joined the College in 1997. He helped revise the computer science major to include the programming languages and compilers sequence. He was a co-creator of a three-credit cognitive science course, which was instrumental in increasing confidence among many students about their ability to handle college-level work. His colleague Larry Crockett said, "If the measure of a person is finally the ability to retain a gracious sense of humor in the face of all that life can present, then Charley is a remarkable person indeed."

### **Nan Skelton, Center for Democracy and Citizenship**

As co-director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC) at Augsburg College, Nan Skelton led the center's external public work in civic education, reclaiming neighborhoods, and the democratic renewal of education. She is a co-founder of the Jane Addams School for Democracy; and she has been an architect of the Neighborhood Learning Community and, more recently, Learning in Cities (also called Sprockets), pioneering new approaches to learning and education. Prior to joining the CDC in 1994, Skelton served as assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education and provided leadership with the National Governors Association.

# my AUGGIE experience



## Floating on the social media bubble

If you're a friend of Ali Rapp '11 and weren't a frequent visitor to the communication and film studies office where she worked on campus, you maybe "saw" her on Facebook and Twitter. And if you didn't attend a class or go to a local restaurant with her, you may have kept up with the goings-on of Ali Rapp's life—and maybe still do—through her blog, "No, I am a Cat."

Rapp was the social media intern for Augsburg's admissions office since 2007. In this position, she maintained her own blog and managed other student bloggers on *Homemade*, the College's unobstructed window on student life.

The student bloggers kept prospective and current students entertained and up-to-date with real-life posts about classes, favorite professors, internships, experiences abroad, papers and projects, social events, and general commentary on life as an Auggie.

Homemade follows a national trend among college admissions offices to engage and recruit students using social media. A May 2009 article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* cites data from the Center for Marketing Research at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. It shows that in fall 2008, 61 percent of admissions offices were using social-networking sites and 41 percent had blogs, up from 29 percent and 33 percent, respectively, in 2007.

Rapp thinks Homemade is an easy way to give new students a view of Augsburg that they might not get through visits with admissions staff. "Incoming students aren't dumb," she said. "They know that things go on that no one talks about. I think they appreciate our honesty."

Staying afloat in the social media bubble is more than writing and editing posts and reminding bloggers to blog. It's also about using other social media tools such as Facebook and the microblog tool Twitter to raise awareness of the blogs. Throughout her internship, Rapp became more adept at promoting Homemade using unique accounts on those social media sites.

Rapp said the key to staying on top of social media is to remember that it is always changing. "For me it's a matter of realizing I can't stop learning. If I stay off of Twitter and Facebook for too long, I will lose some of it."

To be sure, social media is growing in importance not only for recruiting new students but also for keeping current students, alumni, donors, faculty and staff, and the community engaged in the life of the College. Many campus departments including the Enrollment Center, Campus Kitchen, the bookstore, and the dining service rely on social media to keep students informed. Auggie Eagle is on Facebook, too.

In the fall, Rapp will begin graduate studies at the University of Minnesota in communication studies with a focus on critical media

studies. She hopes to continue research started as an undergraduate on computer-mediated communication and to explore the role of social media in the communication studies field.

And just in case you're wondering, "No, I am a Cat" has no meaning. At least none that Rapp can remember. She doesn't have a cat at her Minneapolis home. She does, however, have a dog named Per. If you were following her social life through social media, you may have read about him on her blog, too.

WENDI WHEELER '06

## Keeping up with social media @Augsburg College

Throughout Augsburg College, many departments and programs are finding that one of the best ways to stay in touch with prospective and current students, alumni, and the community is through social media.

### BLOGS YOU MIGHT LIKE:

Homemade—[www.augsburg.edu/homemade](http://www.augsburg.edu/homemade)

President Pribbenow's blog—follow at [www.augsburg.edu/president](http://www.augsburg.edu/president)

### FACEBOOK PAGES YOU SHOULD "LIKE:"

Augsburg College—the official page of the College (2,879 followers)

Augsburg College Alumni Association—all the alumni news you need, and a great way to connect with your Auggie friends (336 followers)

Augsburg College Homemade—you guessed it (285 followers)

Auggie Eagle—be Auggie's friend (1,251 followers)

### FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:

@AugsburgCollege (1,088 followers)

@paulpribbenow (258 followers)

@auggieshomemade (107 followers)

Number of followers listed are as of July 2011.



# AUGGIES on the track

## More than an all-around guy

At Augsburg, Nick Ward '11 worked hard to be an all-around student-athlete—one who was as dedicated to his studies as he was to setting records on the track. In his last year of college, he put in extra time to add one more accomplishment to his list: All-American athlete.

A physics and mathematics major originally from Milwaukee, Wis., Ward says he had no intention of participating in college track and wanted instead to focus on academics. Then a couple of his first-year friends talked him into joining the track team.

Augsburg track and field coach, Dennis Barker, says Ward was a very coachable athlete and a good listener. "He always tried to absorb and understand the concepts behind what I asked him to do," Barker said. "I think that's partly the way he thinks as a physics student."

Barker was impressed with Ward's commitment. "I don't know anyone who studies as much as he studies," Barker said. He speculates that track offered a chance for Ward to let loose after spending long hours in the lab and the library. "I think track and field maybe comes more naturally to Nick than physics, but that never stopped him from excelling," Barker said.

Being a member of the Auggie track team turned out to be a good choice for Ward. One of the top men's sprinters in school history, he earned his first trip to national competition this spring when he competed in the men's 55-meter dash at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) indoor championships in Columbus, Ohio. Ward's qualifying time of 10.73 seconds in the men's 100-meter dash was the 17th-fastest among the 22 entrants in the event.

Last season, Ward won the conference titles in the men's 55-meter dash and men's long jump at the MIAC indoor championships, while finishing second in the men's 100-meter dash and winning a conference title as part of the 400-meter relay at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC)

outdoor championships.

In his first-ever appearance at the NCAA championships in May, Ward clocked a time of 11.07 seconds to record a 20th-place finish in the event. As one of the top sprinters in Augsburg school history, Ward will end his career having earned seven MIAC titles, 12 All-MIAC honors, and eight All-MIAC honorable-mention honors, to go along with eight school records.

Off the track, Ward completed his studies with a 3.2 grade point average and conducted summer research in physics as a McNair Scholar and also through the North Star STEM Alliance program. He credits his academic success to faculty and staff who encouraged him, namely his physics adviser Ben Stottrup, Tina Tavera from the McNair Scholars program, and Rebekah Dupont who advises North Star STEM students at Augsburg.

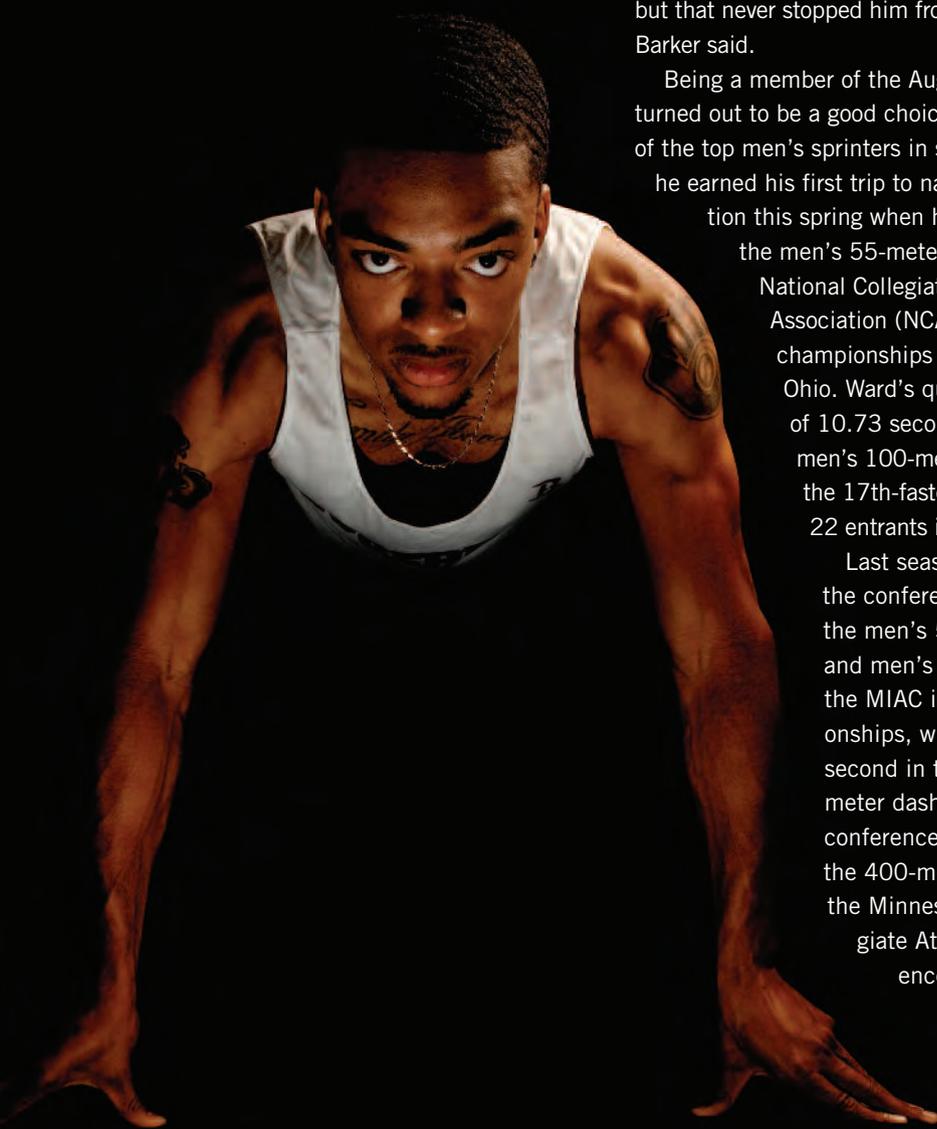
"They pushed me throughout my whole college career, making me apply for internships and for research opportunities off campus. I guess they motivated me to keep going," he said. Ward applied to three graduate school programs and was accepted into the master's program in electrical engineering at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro.

"Nick has such a great attitude and is always so excited about the opportunities he has," Barker said. "I think he feels very fortunate to be at Augsburg, studying in a stellar physics department and being on the track team. I think he's enjoying life here."

After four outstanding seasons and a successful academic career, Ward's goal for the end of the season was to be named an All-American in the 100- and 200-meter dashes and in the long jump. Unfortunately his name was not on the NCAA Division III list, but that doesn't change the fact that Nick Ward is an impressive student and athlete.

For Ward, a somewhat shy young man, talking about his accomplishments is one thing that does not come easily. "I guess I'm just trying to be an all-around guy," he said.

WENDI WHEELER '06 AND DON STONER



# it takes an AUGGIE

## Visionary leadership in support of student success

In 1984, Skip and Barbara Gage's oldest son, Geoff, made an unexpected choice. Though he had been determined to attend school in California, the high school senior decided after a tour of the Augsburg campus that he preferred to become an Auggie. At parent orientation the following fall, Skip and Barbara joined the campus community for the first time.

"We couldn't have been more pleased with the nurturing and caring environment provided at Augsburg," Skip said.

While they remained proud Auggie parents (all four of their children attended classes at Augsburg, and two graduated from the College), it didn't take long for Skip and Barbara to take a more active role in the community. Just two years later, Augsburg President Charles Anderson asked Barbara to join the board of regents, where she served for 12 years, including four years as chair of the board.

During the early years of Barbara's service, she and Skip approached President Anderson to discuss ways to expand student support.

"We've had distinct experience with learning differences in our family," Skip said, but at that time, little research had been done on learning differences at the college level. In fact, according to the Gages, Augsburg and the University of Colorado, Boulder, were

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**"We were so thankful that we had found a school that actually had ways to help students with learning differences," Barbara said. "We were excited to help make the program larger and able to meet the needs of more students."**

---

the only two colleges they found that provided support services to students with different learning abilities.

Passionate about this cause, Skip and Barbara commissioned a \$30,000 study on programming to support learning differences. Based on this study's findings, the Gages, together with the Carlson Family Foundation, committed half a million dollars and raised another half a million to institute a new program at Augsburg, which evolved into the Center for Learning and Adaptive Student Services (CLASS). This program provides services to help all students—regardless of learning style, preference, or need—reach their full potential at Augsburg.

"We were so thankful that we had found a school that actually had ways to help students with learning differences," Barbara said. "We were excited to help make the program larger and able to meet the needs of more students."



Courtesy photo

Barbara and Skip Gage

Skip and Barbara have supported other campus projects through the years, including the Scandinavian Center, Lindell Library, Anderson Plaza, and the Gage Family Art Gallery. And, with their newest gift, the Gages once again reveal their enthusiasm for student support and innovative programming.

The Gage Family Foundation and the Carlson Foundation last spring announced that they will collectively contribute \$900,000 toward the creation of the Gage Center for Student Success—a centralized place where all students can go to enhance their learning and achieve their academic goals. Construction for the center started this summer in Lindell Library. The center will be on the link level, creating space at the heart of the campus for the CLASS program as well as numerous other academic success programs.

Barbara noted the importance of having the learning center near the College's technological resources and at a centralized location.

"The center will be a part of the students' daily lives," she said. "[The students who use the center] will become advocates of learning."

The Gages believe that Augsburg's leadership in student success is due in part to its mission for service.

"Augsburg has been wonderful in being inclusive in working with students of different needs," Barbara said. "I'm so proud to be a part of it."

KAYLA SKARBAKKA '09

# AUGGIE voices

## Treating the system instead of the symptoms

Katie Edelen '11 wanted to be a doctor from the time she was five years old. She watched surgery on the Discovery Channel before nap-time and begged her parents to let her be present at the birth of her two younger siblings.

It wasn't until she was in college and working with doctors in India that Edelen realized she did not actually want to be a doctor.

Soon after she arrived at Augsburg, Edelen began looking for an opportunity to volunteer abroad to gain medical experience helping people in war-torn countries. She had been interested in Doctors Without Borders, so she contacted native health non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to find volunteer opportunities. In her junior year, Edelen landed in Chennai, India, where she shadowed doctors in government hospitals and another who brought internal medicine services to refugee camps, slums, and villages.

"What really spoke to me were all the people who had been exposed to water-borne, preventable diseases because of unsafe sanitary conditions," she recalled. Though she had been interested in environmental issues before traveling to India, there she began to see in a new way the consequences of peoples' actions on the environment. She saw that issues related to health, education, poverty, and social justice were connected to environmental problems. "That is when I started to become interested in treatment of the systematic inequalities as opposed to putting a band-aid on the problem," she said.

This experience led Edelen to pursue other opportunities centered

on water and its role in society. She took a course on environmental and river politics led by Augsburg political science professor Joe Underhill. She traveled to Uganda and worked with villagers on water access and conservation, even starting a "safe water and hygiene club" in the primary school.

This summer, she will be in Norway on a Fulbright fellowship researching the correlation between armed conflict and water hazards and scarcity at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo. Following her time in Norway, Edelen will pursue graduate work in environmental studies on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

A triple major in chemistry, biology, and environmental studies, Edelen said her education and experiences abroad have solidified her desire to work in the area of policy analysis and research. "I really see my vocational work and my background bridging the different realms of sciences and the humanities together to address problems," she said. "The nexus between science, policy, and society can be messy and convoluted, but that's what really excites me about it."

Edelen said her parents instilled in her the importance of taking initiative, encouraging her interest in medicine even before she began grade school. "I've always had a desire to make a difference in the world somehow. That's what really motivates me. I want to use my gifts as a way to help the world."

WENDI WHEELER '06

 To read more about Katie Edelen, go to [www.augsburg.edu/now](http://www.augsburg.edu/now).



# “PROBLEM” STUDENTS BECOME PROBLEM SOLVERS

BY WENDI WHEELER '06

Visualize young people in our public schools making positive change in their communities. Who comes to mind? Probably not middle school students in the special education classroom—kids with emotional and behavioral disabilities who have difficulty paying attention and communicating with each other or their teachers.

Typically, students in special education are labeled as troublemakers. They are marginalized, silenced, and given little choice in their daily school tasks. But a partnership between Augsburg College and Fridley Middle School hopes to change that. By giving students a voice in their education and allowing them to focus their time and energy on an issue they care about, this program has turned “problem” students into public problem solvers.

## Public Achievement in special education

Piloted in the 2010-11 academic year, Augsburg’s program at Fridley Middle School (FMS) is a partnership involving Augsburg’s Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC), the Augsburg special education faculty and students in the Master of Arts in Education (MAE) program, and teachers and students from the school.

The project began when Susan O’Connor, associate professor of special education at Augsburg, heard Dennis Donovan and Nan Skelton of the CDC speak about the Public Achievement model. This model for youth civic organizing was developed by the CDC’s Harry Boyte. In the classroom, Public Achievement serves as an empowerment tool that allows students to create change in an area that they select and take ownership of as a group.

To O’Connor, Public Achievement seemed like a fit for special education classrooms. “It was like the self-advocacy tool we are always encouraging teachers to use with their students,” she said. “The kids with EBD (emotional/behavioral disabilities) are kids that typically don’t have a voice in their school work. They’re told what to do. They’re told how to act.”

O’Connor and Donna Patterson from the Augsburg special education faculty learned how to implement Public Achievement in the classroom. They looked for a location to pilot the project and settled on FMS because two of the special educa-

tion teachers—Michael Ricci ’07 and Alissa Blood ’07—are graduates of Augsburg’s teacher education program. Finally, they hand-picked five MAE students from the Critical Issues seminar course to work with the middle school students and then began weekly classes at Fridley in the fall term.

## A new way of teaching and learning

The Public Achievement model identifies classroom teachers as coaches and places all responsibility for decision-making and action on the students. The middle school students identified two projects: one concerning alternative energy and another on homelessness.

In each project, the students were responsible for designing every aspect. They created timelines, conducted research, contacted experts and members of the community to schedule speaking engagements or field trips, and communicated about their projects with faculty and students in their school.

Cheryl McClellan, an Augsburg MAE student, worked with the “Solar Heroes” team on installing solar panels to light the school’s flag and a solar thermal to heat water for domestic uses at the school. “The idea is, the students decide who gets invited to be a part of the project. They find out how to contact people, send them an e-mail or call, and follow up with them,” McClellan said. At the end of the year, Solar Heroes had not been able to finalize the projects but pledged to con-



Forward, a North Minneapolis shelter that provides services for families with children who are experiencing homelessness.

Krebs saw her role in the classroom as a facilitator. “I learned how to be flexible and how to let the students’ voices shine.” For students with special needs, she says this is an important part of the learning process because “so many times, people tell them what to do.”

Molly McInnis, an Augsburg MAE student, said the program has taught her a new way of teaching. “I have learned how to let the students make the decisions and drive their own project,” she said. “I can’t come in and be a teacher—I need to listen to them and let them lead.”

Blood said the program was beneficial to her students because they struggle with taking responsibility. “This program has given them a sense of power and responsibility and taught them that what they think and do matters. They are much more committed and have a sense of pride in what they are doing.”

By giving students the power to choose the issues they want to work on and the methods of solving problems, Donovan said the students have developed the capacity to become public problem solvers. That means they work to solve problems affecting the

tinue working on fundraising initiatives for the solar panels.

For many of the students, these were tasks they had never been entrusted to perform. In addition to learning about how it feels to be empowered, McClellan said students also came to understand that community organizing and advocacy is not always

easy work. “You get a lot of ‘no’s,’ but they are learning the skills to move forward.”

Kayla Krebs is one of the Augsburg MAE students working with “Team Making a Way,” the class focused on homelessness. Her students went to the State Capitol to speak with legislators and also made fleece blankets to donate to Families Moving



## Augsburg-Fridley Public Achievement Team

Back Row [L to R]: Dennis Donovan, Stephen Keeler, Cheryl McClellan, Alissa Blood, Steph Bloxham, Heidi Austin, \*Barbara West

Middle Row [L to R]: Michael Ricci, \*Susan O'Connor, \*Dee Vodicka, \*Elizabeth Ankeny, \*Donna Patterson

Front Row [L to R]: Molly McInnis, Becki Hamlin, Kayla Krebs

\*Augsburg College Faculty

**“THIS PROGRAM HAS GIVEN THEM A SENSE OF POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY AND TAUGHT THEM THAT WHAT THEY THINK AND DO MATTERS. THEY ARE MUCH MORE COMMITTED AND HAVE A SENSE OF PRIDE IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.”**

ALISSA BLOOD '07

public and are doing it in a public way. The students created displays for cases outside their classroom, logos and posters for their projects, appeared on the FMS Friday radio broadcast, spoke at a luncheon at Augsburg, and held a public presentation at the school. “Kids that are marginalized really rise to the top when they are given power,” he said.

“In education, we say it’s not an achievement gap—it’s an empowerment gap,” Donovan said. “We have to ask ourselves how we can empower teachers and students to learn about things that are meaningful to them and have a voice in their education.”

### Lessons for teachers

One of the most important reasons for implementing this Public Achievement project was to drive institutional change, O’Connor said. “We want these students to be seen in a more positive light, not as trouble-makers.” She added that the Fridley students were noticed by their administrators and peers, recognized publicly for their work, and asked to contribute to future discussions.

Another goal of the project was to bring lessons learned by the Augsburg students and faculty into the special education curriculum at Augsburg. The faculty are creating a three-year plan to integrate into the special education curriculum and hope to develop a Public Achievement coaching course that can be used in other departments.

Donovan is excited to see how this project will affect Augsburg’s special education curriculum and students. “I think Augsburg students are going to be different teachers because of this experience,” he said. A former public school administrator, Donovan is passionate about working with teachers and helping them acquire new skills for the classroom.

Helping the Fridley students find their voice and become more visible in their middle school community are outcomes that also had a strong impact on the Augsburg students who will one day lead their own classrooms.

Heidi Austin, an Augsburg MAE student who worked with the Solar Heroes group, said that as a future teacher, this program makes her very hopeful. “It is so important to give kids an opportunity to see that they can make a difference,” she said. “I came in thinking there wasn’t going to be much progress with this project, but I’ve been totally blown away with what they’ve done.”

Speaking to the Augsburg community at an event in May, McClennan said this project transformed the FMS culture, the students, and also transformed her personally in a way she hadn’t anticipated. “At my core I am a better parent, a better citizen, and a better teacher,” she said.

She commented that the students have felt empowered by their accomplishments and the public recognition they received. “I have learned that these kids who are so often silenced have a strong voice.”



 To read more about the Fridley Middle School Public Achievement project, go to [www.augsburg.edu/now](http://www.augsburg.edu/now).



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GUERRERO  
TWIN CITIES

### ERICA LIPPITT '12



Erica, a Weekend College student, studied abroad in Mexico to learn Spanish.

**A**ugsburg's Office of International Programs (OIP) for more than 25 years has provided internationally recognized and award-winning programs to students who seek cross-cultural and hands-on learning abroad. The office also brings international students to campus.

"Increasingly, a global perspective is critical to a liberal arts education," said Orval Gingerich, assistant vice president for International Programs and director of the Center for Global Education. "Intercultural experiences—at home and abroad—are a way to bridge global and local issues."

During the 2009-10 school year, nearly 275 students studied abroad. At the same time, Augsburg's Minneapolis campus was home to nearly 100 international students from about two dozen countries including Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Tanzania, Togo, and many more.

In this edition of *Augsburg Now*, we present a snapshot of the stories of students with ties to Guatemala, Germany, Mexico, China, Vietnam, Kenya, and Yemen. Some traveled from Augsburg to other parts of the globe. Others came to Augsburg and the Twin Cities from far away home countries. Still others have graduated and are on to the next chapters of their stories.

To learn more about OIP and its programs, go to [www.augsburg.edu/oip](http://www.augsburg.edu/oip).

● Cuernavaca, Mexico

● San Lucas Sacatepequez, Guatemala

GLORIA XINICO MORALES '12



Gloria, an international student from Guatemala plans to study in Namibia this fall.

# AUGSBURG ARE EV

## MAX BREGENZER '12



Max has traveled, studied, and lived in four countries, but was born and raised in Germany.

Würzburg, Germany

## IBRAHIM AL-HAJIBY '14



Ibrahim hopes one day to return to his home in Yemen to start a non-governmental organization.

Sana'a, Yemen

Guangzhon, China

Hue, Vietnam



Holly, a student at United International College in China, came to the U.S. to study education at Augsburg.

JIAHUA (HOLLY) HUANG '12



FAIZA ABBAS MAHAMUD '11

Faiza went back to her home country of Kenya as an exchange student to help African women.

Nairobi, Kenya

Windhoek, Namibia

## DAT NGUYEN '11



Dat, a recent graduate and international student, will be a graduate student at Dartmouth.

# EVERYWHERE

BY STEPHANIE WEISS

# GLORIA XINICO MORALES

## A girl of the world

Gloria Xinico Morales has worked so hard at Augsburg since arriving during 2008 that she twice won outstanding student of the year awards—once during her sophomore year and again her junior year.

The hard work that earned Xinico Morales these honors is fundamental to her personality. She doesn't give up. She doesn't quit.

Xinico Morales was 18 when she first applied for—and was denied—a student visa. She wanted to study at Augsburg College, a school she has known of for her whole life because her father is director of the Center for Global Education in Guatemala. Xinico Morales wasn't deterred by the denial.



Top: A view of the mountains from Gloria Xinico Morales' hometown of San Lucas Sacatepequez, Guatemala.

Bottom: Xinico Morales, left, is the oldest of three children. Here she is shown with her brother, Manuel, and sister, Nickte.

Courtesy photos



She waited the three months before she again could apply, and this time was approved. But the whole process pushed her college plans back by a full year. And as if that wasn't enough, her visa was delivered to the wrong city the day before she was to fly to the United States. She drove to the city to pick up her visa.

"After waiting one year and one week, I had two days to get here, unpack, and settle in," Xinico Morales said. "I'd never been outside of Guatemala before."

But she still didn't get to start at Augsburg right away. She said that by working with admissions staff, they decided she should study English for three months before starting college. It was a good plan.

"Going to Global Language Institute was very helpful," she said. "When I did start at Augsburg, it seemed the teachers talked really fast. I wasn't comfortable with English, homework took a lot longer."

She kept plugging away. She joined the Spanish club and quickly was an officer. She joined Allied Latino/a Augsburg Students, and finally the International Student Organization of which she now is president. That's not even all of it, though, because Xinico Morales said she can't say 'no.'

Being a student from another country can be challenging and students sometimes grapple with living life in two cultures. Xinico Morales grew up in Guatemala and was raised Catholic. She looks for answers to questions about varied perspectives in part through self reflection.

"My life is like a tree," Xinico Morales said. "The roots are the morals my parents taught me. When things get messy, that's where I go. The trunk is my immediate family that is there for me no matter what. Then there are the leaves. The leaves go away and come back as I grow and change."

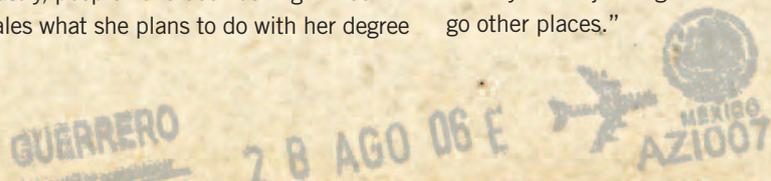
Lately, people have been asking Xinico Morales what she plans to do with her degree

in international relations and minor in political science. She doesn't know the answer.

"Minneapolis is my second home. My life is built here, but Guatemala is where I belong, all my roots are there and my heart is there," she said. "But I've become a different person and don't fit there."

She hopes that she'll find the answer in Namibia, in southern Africa, where she'll study in the fall as an exchange student.

"Namibia is a neutral place, a different country, a different continent," she said. "It will help me make a decision from far away. Or maybe I'm just a girl of the world and I'll go other places."



# MAX BREGENZER

## Living life to the Max

Max Bregenzer has traveled, studied, and lived in four countries—Germany, Spain, Argentina, and the United States—and he might not yet be done.

Bregenzer, 22, was born and raised in Germany and now works in his home country for a large grocery wholesaler. The company, called Edeka, also is sending him to school. He studies for three months, then applies what he's learned for three months. He'll do that for a total of three years and at the end will have a

holistic perspective of the company. It was through this model that Bregenzer came to Augsburg.

He researched schools in the U.S. and found that Augsburg offered the classes he wanted, including human resources and project management, problem-solving for business, and international business. He said he also was lured by the arts and outdoor activities.

"I learned about theatre and was totally surprised that everyone is biking here in the winter," he said.

This isn't the first time Bregenzer has studied or lived abroad. He spent a year of high school in Spain. Then he went to Argentina to work with street youths as part of his civil service.

Bregenzer is the oldest of three boys, and his family since about 1869 has owned a group of bakeries and cafés within 40 miles of his home city. You can see all the tasty-looking treats his family makes at Maxl Bäck (<http://maxlbaeck.de>).

He hasn't shut the door on the idea that he might someday work in the family business, but for now he is focused on learning and practicing regional store management.



# ERICA LIPPITT

## Family teamwork creates a world of possibility for WEC student

Some people buy home study courses to learn Spanish. Some enroll in Spanish classes. And some people, like Erica Lippitt, go all the way to Cuernavaca, Mexico, to live and study.

"I definitely achieved what I wanted in only four months," said Lippitt, a single working mother and Weekend College student. "My son's family is from Cuba and they say that my Spanish is getting good. We can communicate, and I understand them."

Studying at the Center for Global Education's Mexico location was possible because Lippitt's family pulled together. Her parents offered to care for her son, and Lippitt's brother helped, too. Her father, a Lutheran pastor, even got a night job so the family could afford daycare for Lippitt's son.

"My parents pushed me," she said. "They showed me this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Lippitt originally enrolled at Augsburg during 2001 for business administration. She said she left the school—also her mom's alma mater—because

**Erica Lippitt visited the pyramids of Teotihuacan in Mexico City and the Xochicalco pyramids in Cuernavaca, Mexico, with friends she made on her travels.**

*Courtesy photos*

she wasn't focused. Lippitt moved to Florida to work and while there, met her son's father.

"I left Florida to escape an abusive relationship," she said. "My dad is a pastor, and I wasn't raised to live like that. I had to leave."

When Lippitt returned to Wayzata, she returned to Augsburg where she earned a 4.0 grade point average while working as many as 30 hours a week and raising her son.

"It shows I am more focused, more determined. I am here because I want to learn, not because I have to be here."

Studying in Cuernavaca also opened new possibilities and ways of thinking. Erica now knows she wants to work in human resources for an international company. She'd also like to live and work in Mexico for a time so her son can experience living in a Spanish-speaking country. And finding ways to help other women is on her radar screen, too.

"I've gained so much strength from my experience, that if there is something I can do to help other women, I'd like to," she said.

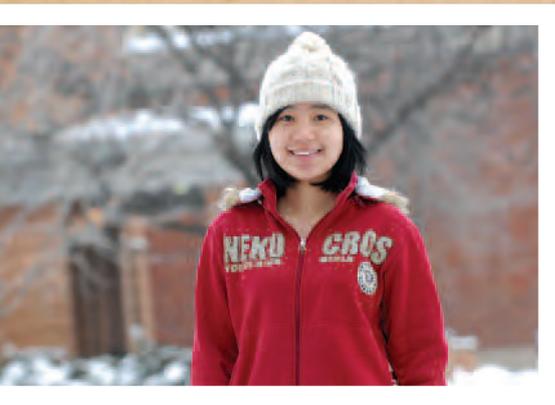


## JIAHUA (HOLLY) HUANG

### Holly is a regular Minnesotan

In the 12 months Jiahua Huang was in the United States, she became a typical Minnesotan. Holly, as she prefers to be known in the U.S., liked the Minnesota State Fair and shopped at the Mall of America. And she got sick of snow.

Huang, a student at United International College (UIC) in China, came to the U.S. to study education at Augsburg College.



*Jiahua Huang was originally excited for snow, and her friends were jealous that she was able to experience winter. By April, though, she was ready for springtime.*

who went to [rural private colleges] said they were bored. But, when I got here, I asked where all the people were. I went to the State Fair, and I liked it a lot—all the people.”

Huang was raised near Hong Kong. She has two older sisters and an older brother. Many families in China have only one child, but some are able to afford more children.

“My parents wanted another boy, but got another girl,” she said. “Many friends would think from my name that I am a boy because my name means ‘handsome’.”

Huang struggled with classes at first. “English is so hard,” she said. “I would listen to the professor, and I didn’t know what he was talking about. I would read the textbook, and I didn’t know what I was reading.”

She also worked hard to become comfortable with cultural differences in the classroom.

“In China, you raise your hand and stand up to participate,” she said. “Here, all the students talk. I wish I were more confident in class—I feel comfortable talking, but it also feels like I am being impolite.”

Despite growing tired of the snow, Huang said she would like to return to Minnesota. She wants to go to graduate school at the University of Minnesota and teach Chinese while staying connected with her new friends in Minnesota.



**Dat Nguyen, right, performs with folksinger Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, and Mary**

Success in the sciences started for Dat Nguyen when his photographer father lectured him on the solar system. It was 1995 and the two were taking

pictures of the total solar eclipse in Vietnam. Nguyen was more interested in how the

camera and solar system worked than in the photos.

Nguyen, who is Buddhist, said that his success also can be traced to selling candy at his mother’s store, and performing improvisational theater with American students visiting Vietnam in 2004. It was through these experiences that Nguyen learned to break out of his comfort zone.

“As a Buddhist, we aren’t real loud or active. You have to break out of your shell and contribute,” Nguyen said.

The American students that Nguyen’s family hosted invited him in 2005 to an improvisational theater camp in Colorado.

“I didn’t expect to be invited to America when we hosted the students,” he said. “But I’ve found that if you do something voluntarily, without expectation, something automatically will come back.”

In Nguyen’s case, that “something” turned out to be life-changing relationships that resulted from his theater performances in Colorado. He met Peter Yarrow—of Peter, Paul and Mary—and later sang backup with Yarrow when the singer was in Vietnam for a fundraiser. He also connected with a group of families who offered to sponsor his education by providing his tuition, health insurance, and a stipend.

In the sciences, Nguyen credits his success to the strong advising, encouragement and opportunities provided by his Augsburg professors, all of whom encouraged him to explore his curiosities and broad-ranging scientific interests.

He will continue to feed his unlimited curiosity this fall as a graduate student at Dartmouth, where he has earned a full scholarship. He said he is looking forward to continuing his studies in a setting similar to Augsburg College—one with a smaller department where he can connect and interact with many people.

**DAT  
NGUYEN**

**Unlocking  
possibilities  
and potential  
at Augsburg**

# 11 FAIZA ABBAS MAHAMUD

## A life that defies definition

Faiza Abbas Mahamud moved a lot when she was young. First her family moved from war-torn Somalia to Kenya. Then the family moved four times in Kenya, including living at one time in a refugee camp.

All the moving meant Mahamud wasn't able to have one set of friends with whom to spend time, connect, and grow up. But she did have one constant—a dictionary.

"As a child, textbooks had to be purchased. We couldn't buy books, but we always had a dictionary. I feel like this is a tradition in our home," she said.

The moving stopped in 2004 when Mahamud's family came to Minnesota.

"My aunt put her life on hold to help us," Mahamud said. "Aside from God, if it weren't for my mom's youngest sister, it would be hard for us to have a stable life."

Mahamud graduated from Roosevelt High School in 2007, then enrolled at Augsburg College. She went back to Kenya during 2010 as an exchange student to work for a United Nations agency in a variety of roles, including as a premarital counselor.

"When I went back to Kenya, I was a totally different person," she said. "I wasn't the girl who wanted to get away from this country. Where is home for me? When I was in America, I would say 'I'm going home.' When I was in Kenya, I kept calling Minnesota home."

Mahamud, now a U.S. citizen, graduated in spring 2011 with majors in English and women's studies and with a minor in chemistry. She's now exploring options for graduate school but isn't ready to confine herself only to the United States.

"I want to be in Africa to help women who don't have that second helping hand like my aunt," she said. "I want to be in a position to make a difference in the lives of women and children."

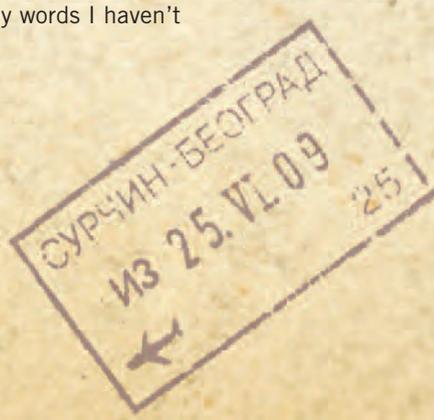
And she still needs to finish reading the dictionary.

"I spent so much time reading and using the words I learned," she said. "But there are so many words I haven't gotten to."



During her trip to Kenya, Faiza Abbas Mahamud learned bead-making from the women of Narok who sold their goods at Maasai Mara.

*Courtesy photos*



# 14 IBRAHIM AL-HAJIBY

## Life in the United States: Different, but not weird

Ibrahim Al-Hajiby's time in America is a study in contrasts.

He first came to the United States during 2007 as a high school exchange student. He crossed the globe from Yemen's capital city of Sana'a to Cloquet, Minn.—in the dead of winter.

"I always seem to come to Minnesota in the winter," he said. "In Cloquet, I loved McDonald's double cheeseburgers. I would eat one every day. Even in winter, I'd ride my bike and the wheels would just spin in the snow."

Volunteerism and politics are different, too.

"I live in one of the most conservative countries in the Middle East, and we have a tribal culture," said Al-Hajiby, 20. "In Yemen, our schools are focused on academics—there isn't the focus on serving the community."

Al-Hajiby volunteered time since first arriving in the U.S. and next year will serve as an officer of the International Student Organization.

Al-Hajiby said that a key to his success in America is to embrace wherever he is living, and to be open to new experiences and people.

"One of my host moms and I have a slogan: 'It's not weird, it's different'," Al-Hajiby said.

Al-Hajiby said he misses and worries about his parents and sister but is glad that his brother also is in Minnesota



Ibrahim Al-Hajiby said two of his favorite foods in the United States are hot dogs from The Wienery and double cheeseburgers from McDonald's.



Al-Hajiby is shown wearing the traditional clothing worn by men in his home country of Yemen.

Courtesy photo

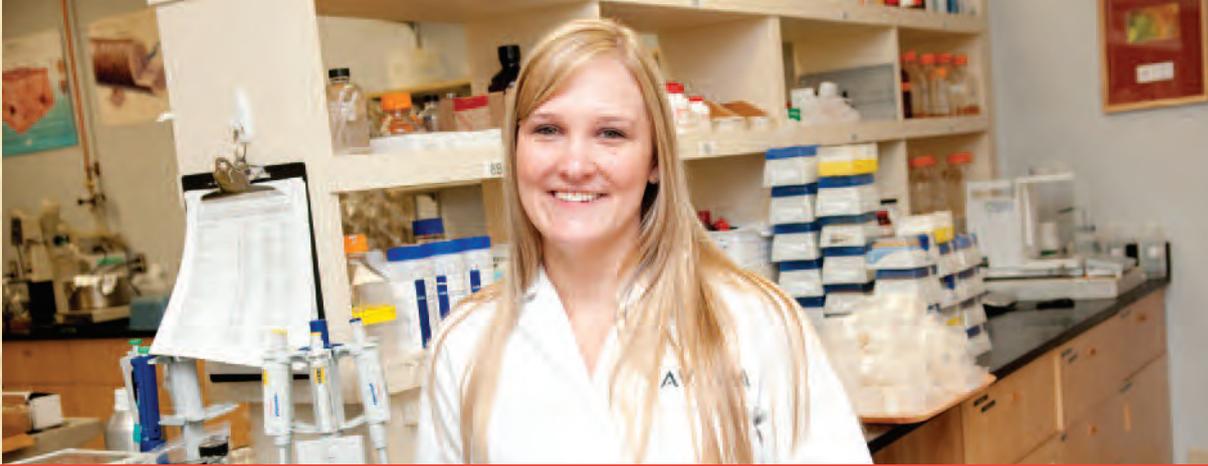
this year. His country is in turmoil with protests against the government, and some demonstrations turn deadly.

"I know people who have been killed," he said. "My parents' last words on the phone are that they are glad my brother and I are here and that we are safe."

Al-Hajiby is an honors student in chemistry and recipient of Augsburg's International President's Scholarship. He hopes one day to return to Yemen to start a non-governmental organization.

"I really want to go back at one point and make a change," Al-Hajiby said. "I feel like God has chosen me to pursue such a fine education so I can go back and help."





## REAL EXPERIENCE IN THE WORKING WORLD



BY WENDI WHEELER '06

**INTERNSHIPS, ONCE A NECESSARY STOP ON THE CAREER PATH OF ASPIRING PHYSICIANS, ARE NOW COMMON FOR MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS. WE TALKED TO FOUR AUGGIE INTERNS ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.**

**INTERNSHIPS PROVIDE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES** for college students to gain hands-on experience in their fields. In addition to practical training, internships can give students an inside view of a business or industry and help them broaden their professional networks. The internship experience often validates a student's career choice, but it can also lead them to consider options they hadn't before.

Today an internship is part of many students' college experience and perhaps a must for those hoping to be hired after college. According to a May 2011 *Washington Post* article, internships are common for 75 percent of U.S. college students.

There are a number of reasons why students should and do take on internships, said Lois Olson, executive director of the Clair and Gladys Strommen Center for Meaningful Work at Augsburg. "Students get excited about what they are learning in the classroom and want to apply it in another setting." Often, she said, students will tell her that an internship experience helps them better understand lessons from the classroom. "They say, 'Now I understand why we needed to learn that.'"

One of the most significant reasons for doing an internship relates to getting a job after college. "A prominent message from employers is that they want practical applied experience related to a student's major on

their résumé," Olson said. "They want to know they are making a good hiring decision."

In fact, completing at least one internship during college can have great value beyond the learning experience. According to the 2010 Student Survey published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 42 percent of graduates with internships who applied for a job received an offer compared with only 30 percent for students who had no internship experience. In addition, students with internships tended to receive higher starting salary offers.

As for internships leading to a job offer, Olson said technically a job cannot be promised in an internship situation. "Most students hope it will lead to a job," she said. Olson added, "The reality is that many organizations will look to their interns to fill open positions should the opportunity arise."

The prominence of internships and the rise of importance in the hiring process means students should start thinking about an internship early. Olson said students who want to do an internship in their junior year should start the process of planning in their sophomore year. "The competition has really changed. It's not as easy as making a phone call anymore," she said. Because the process takes longer, Olson encourages students to dedicate as much time and attention to it as they would when applying for a job.

Here we profile four students whose unique and challenging internships have given them insight into their chosen career fields and also helped them grow as future leaders.

# DAN BRANDT

Major: marketing  
Internship: Minnesota Twins public affairs office

## What are you doing?

I bring the children of major donors and long-time season ticket holders onto the field for batting practice so they can see what happens and meet the players. I also coordinate a few of the opening pitches.

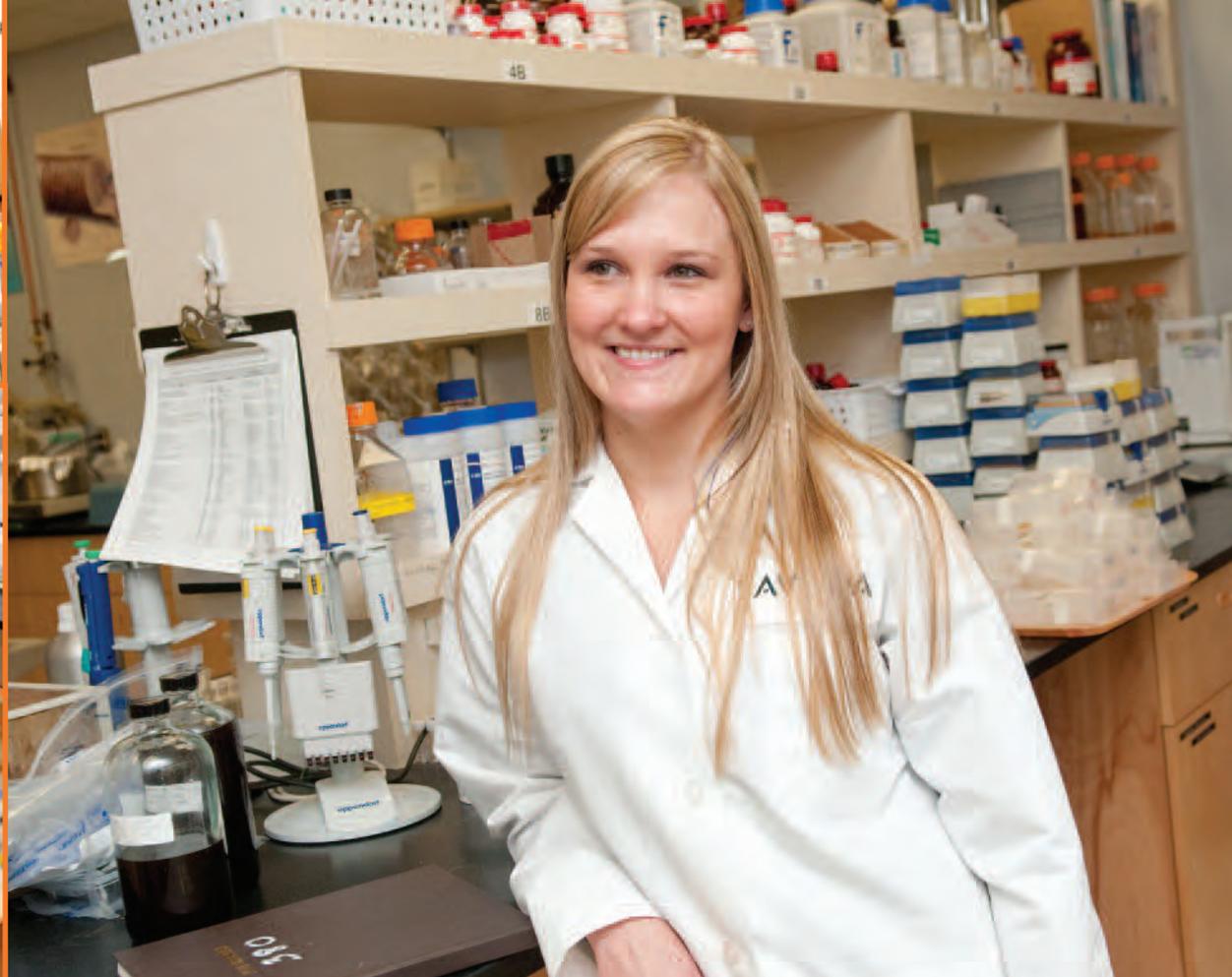
## What have you learned?

I have learned how much goes into the presentation of a professional sporting event. There is so much that you don't see or hear about that's behind the scenes to make a baseball game run.

## What is the value of your internship?

I have had a lot of unique experiences—meeting people, networking, and doing things out of the ordinary that most people don't get to do. At some point I would like to have a career in this field, but it is very competitive.





# '11

## KRISTI VINKEMEIER

**Major: chemistry, biology minor**  
**Internship: Aveda Corporation/SarTec Corporation**

### **What are you doing?**

My internship is a joint project between Aveda and SarTec Corporation. We are using the Mcgyan reactor technology to synthesize new surfactant precursors from renewable resources. Surfactants are an important class of molecules and integral to the performance of shampoos, conditioners, and soaps. This new surfactant will be produced almost exclusively from renewable resources and is expected to be fully biodegradable.

### **What have you learned?**

When you work in lab class, your professor says, "This is what you need to do, this is how you do it, and this is what you are going to get." In industry, you don't know what you are going to get. You have to keep strict notes. In lab you assume you'll remember minor details, but in the real world you can't remember from the first time to the fifth time. In industry, it's not always clear as day what is going to happen. The learning curve is much greater.

I've also learned about myself. Before this, I told everyone I didn't like research. Now I love it. I need change, so research and development and the variety of tasks I've been able to do are a lot of fun. Originally I was strongly interested in becoming a physician assistant, but I have started to explore the idea of getting my master's or PhD in chemistry.

### **What is the value of your internship?**

I can't explain how awesome an internship is. The companies are willing to work with a student who is learning. I wish everyone could have this opportunity. You learn so much about working with people in a real chemistry lab.

If I went to a big school I don't think I would have had the same opportunities as I have had here. Augsburg has great affiliations with companies. Here, the chemistry department [faculty] got to know me and know what I am interested in.

# TOM THAO

Major: sociology

Internship: Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)

## What are you doing?

I have been researching the area around the proposed stops along University Avenue on the Central Corridor Light Rail line. I have looked at the cost of developing high-density housing units in the area. I have also looked at government policies that were changed, such as some zoning policies and parking regulations. I have had to look at the background information of the proposed stops and give their story.

## What have you learned?

I am getting more into urban planning and learning about the policies involved in implementing a big project into a city.

## What is the value of your internship?

I would like to have a career in urban planning, so it's been beneficial to go into the field and get to know people. I hope I can build up my résumé these next few years and then get a master's in urban regional planning. But right now it's about building the connections.





# '11 GEOFFREY GILL

**Major:** youth and family ministry, psychology minor  
**Internship:** Seeds of Change at St. Paul Central High School

**What are you doing?**

Seeds of Change is an after-school program directed toward African American males. We try to give them the support they need in their education and in their personal lives.

Our main goal is to get the families involved in the kids' lives. A lot of their parents don't go to conferences and don't know about their kids' grades. We are inviting the parents to a family night where they come and get involved in conversations. We are doing a small play to portray their experiences in school and life. It's a chance for them to literally tell their parents what is going on in their lives. At the end we give the parents an opportunity to talk about what they saw.

My goal is to be a support for the students. I first of all want to be a listening ear and hear where they are in life and be with them. They talk about how they moved around all their life and they never had a stable home. A lot of them don't have fathers in their lives. They talk about how their relationship with their parents isn't good and how they have seen their parents at their lowest points. They didn't know how to handle it so they found a way to cope. You see kids who get into drugs because it's the only way that makes them feel normal. Some of them don't go home sometimes; they just ride the bus all night.

**What have you learned?**

It has helped me immensely. I've been put in a leadership position as the artistic coordinator. I've learned how to be a leader, how to make decisions, and how to lead a group. It's different leading a group of people who are going out to do volunteer work or working with kids, but having your own employees and needing to delegate and make sure they stay on top of it is different. It's been totally new for me. I've learned the importance of being consistent and organized and on time. If you're slacking on something, it starts to show.

**What is the value of your internship?**

It has prepared me for the real world. When I walk into a new job situation, I am confident that I will be able to step in right away. I feel comfortable working with young people because through the youth and family ministry major we were taught to focus on what youth really want—not just from a religious perspective but on a human level. When I come into a situation I am able to understand what a person really wants.

# 2011 commencement



## Commencement by the numbers

**3,655**  
tickets redeemed

**150** faculty lined **7 ½** Street  
and applauded graduates as they processed

sandwiches served at post-commencement receptions

**5,200**

**210** minutes  
of music, speeches, recognition, and applause

**2** drummers

Bob Stacke, professor of music, was unable to lead the procession in May due to an injury, so he enlisted the help of Andrew Myers '10.

**314** steps  
from Christensen Center  
to Si Melby front steps

**3** honorary degrees conferred

**Kwok Siu Tong**, founder of United International College in Zhuhai, China  
**The Reverend Kjell Magne Bondevik**, former Prime Minister of Norway and founder and president of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights  
**The Reverend Ishmael Noko**, general secretary (retired) of the Lutheran World Federation

**718**  
participating graduates  
(May and June)

number  
of  
**70**  
volunteers

**8** Doctor of Nursing  
Practice graduates

**6 bows** on Colin Stanhill's beard, photo featured in the May 8 *Pioneer Press*.  
**1 bow** on President Pribbenow's neck (at each ceremony)

**18 FLAGS**

representing countries of international students graduating

# DNP

The first graduates of Augsburg's Doctor of Nursing Practice program are prepared to bring new perspectives to the nursing practice.



**Back Row [L to R]: Kristin McHale '08 MAN; Susan Loushin '03 BSN, '06 MAN; Mary Ann Kinney '04 MAN; Kaija Freborg Sivongsay '08 MAN  
Front Row [L to R]: Joyce Miller '02 BSN, '05 MAN; Katherine Baumgartner '05 MAN; Jean Gunderson '03 MAN; Deb Schuhmacher '04 MAN**

At this year's June commencement, Augsburg College graduated its first cohort of students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The DNP program, which began in 2009, is the College's first doctoral program.

The DNP curriculum focuses on transcultural nursing in community life, and the program has given students new perspectives on treating people and illness.

Katherine Baumgartner '05 MAN has been a member of the nursing faculty since 2005. For her, the DNP program was a logical fit to expand her journey and practice and to strengthen and deepen her knowledge in transcultural nursing. An ongoing focus of her study and practice has been providing training and skill building for health promoters in indigenous communities in rural Guatemala.

Baumgartner said the DNP program reminded her that her own experiences matter and encouraged her to go forward with her work in Guatemala. "I learned that the practical wisdom borne from my own experiences is not to be minimized," she said. "That's not a classic outcome but is so important to my work."

Joyce Miller '02 BSN, '05 MAN also has taught for the past five years in the Augsburg nursing program. Her career focus has always been on leadership, she said, and she felt the DNP program would add a different dimension of care to her practice.

"This program has changed the way I look at the world and pa-

tients and the way I envision health care," Miller said. "I ask who isn't being cared for and how we can make sure everyone is being cared for in the same way."

Miller said she has learned to value "metis," a term that refers to collective wisdom, and to respect its role in the nursing practice. "There is tremendous wisdom that we can learn from indigenous healers," she said. The nurses learned from the practices of healers in Mexico, Africa, and Native American traditions. "This program has given me the ability to stand back and respect everyone for who they are and what they bring," Miller said.

Jean Gunderson '03 MAN was one of the first students to graduate from Augsburg's nursing master's degree program and is also one of the first doctoral graduates. A public health nurse for the majority of her career, Gunderson says she has dedicated her whole life to creating systems of care that resonate with cultural diversity.

"This program has been lifelong learning for me," Gunderson said. She added that the program has transformed her models of care and helped her recognize diverse ways of knowing. She also said she has been moved to honor and recognize indigenous wisdom and to work in partnership with healers.

Both Miller and Gunderson said that being "pioneers" of the DNP program has been rewarding. "We jumped right in with huge faith and helped to co-create the program," Gunderson said. "We felt like we were partners."

## FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear fellow alumni,

It is with great honor and a humble acceptance that I will serve as your Augsburg Alumni Board president for the 2011-2012 academic year. Having been a part of the Alumni Board for three years, I am very fortunate to have been selected to lead our alma mater in connecting and engaging alumni. It is my goal to

help create fun and efficient programs that will not only get you connected but will keep you engaged!

I grew up playing golf, and I absolutely love the game! My favorite times are when I am heading off that first tee with either family or a group of buddies and we are reminiscing or razzing one another about past memories that bring a few laughs. It's that type of bond that keeps us connected and eager to reunite.

When I think of family, Augsburg is a place I keep close to my heart—the friends that I made and the new friends that continue to emerge. Over the past few years, the Young Alumni Council has helped reunite old and new friends with the Young Alumni Summer Series of events, attended by 1,500 alums. We have had a blast putting this program together and have enjoyed watching its success. Following Auggie Eagle on Facebook and Augsburg College on Twitter have been fantastic ways to stay in touch and relay information when groups are getting together.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2011 graduating class! I look forward to seeing you at the 2011 Young Alumni Summer Series. We have another engaging and entertaining set of events in store for you, including Canterbury Park on

August 5 and a Minnetonka boat cruise on September 15! Register at [www.augsburg.edu/alumnievents](http://www.augsburg.edu/alumnievents) or 612-330-1085.

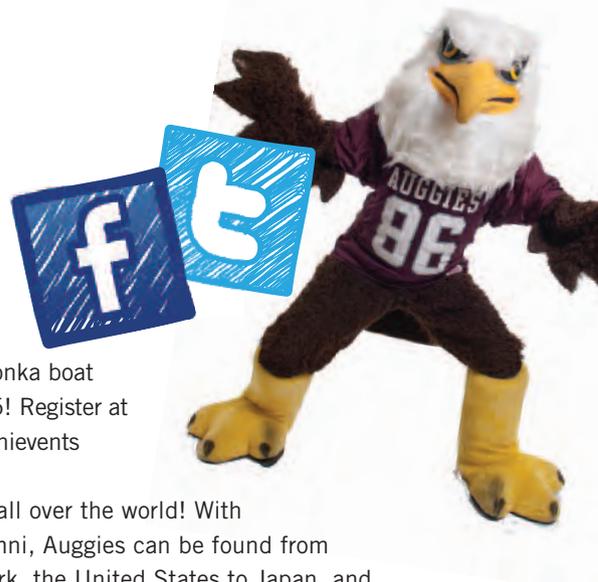
Auggies are literally all over the world! With more than 25,000 alumni, Auggies can be found from New Zealand to Denmark, the United States to Japan, and Minneapolis to San Diego. We are everywhere doing good things for our communities! The Alumni Board is rolling out a networking program, Augsburg Builds Connections, which will enable alumni professionals to provide information, encouragement, and support to current students and recent graduates. This flexible volunteer program will allow alumni mentors to connect with students via e-mail, phone, or face-to-face meetings and assist them in navigating their career path and achieving their professional goals. Read more about this program on the next page. Now, assisting Auggies is as simple as ABC!

With all of this, I can't help but be excited for the future. I wish you well and look forward to getting connected this year.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT WAGNER II '02**  
ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

P.S. The Alumni Board would like to welcome our new members: Kathy Amos '87, Heather Cmiel '02, Kate Loyd '05, and Jerry Poland '92



## Alumni Board of Directors 2011-12

Standing (L to R): John Stadler '07 MAL (past president); Jennifer M. Carlson '91; Sarah Grans '01; Chad Darr '04; Sharon Mercill '09; Tracy Anderson '95 (secretary); Julia Mensing '00, '07 MBA; Michael Loney '03 (treasurer); Kate Loyd '05; Chris Ascher '81 (president elect); Kathy Amos '87; Jerry Poland '92; Dale Hanka '60; Robert J. Wagner II '02 (president); Misti Allen Binsfeld '93; Daniel Hickie '95

Seated (L to R): Holly Ebnet Knutson '03, '07 MBA; Sharon Engelland '87; Chris Hallin '88

Not Pictured: Heather Cmiel '02; Lee Anne Lack '67; Nancy Nordlund '91, '07 MAL; Carolyn Spargo '80; Maggie Tatton '01

# ABC

## Augsburg Builds Connections

### Alumni mentoring volunteer opportunities will begin this fall

#### CONNECTIONS HELP GRADUATES DISCOVER WHAT'S NEXT

After college, many graduates ask, "What am I going to do now?"

Since he graduated from Augsburg, Cory Allen '07 has helped several Auggies answer this question and find ways to share their gifts and talents with the world.

"Augsburg is great about helping you understand your vocation, but it's difficult to go the rest of the way," he said. "You have to push yourself to discover what is next."

Allen works with students and graduates to help them understand their strengths and their weaknesses, what they do well and where they can improve. He said that knowledge might help in a person's career but will also be beneficial in other areas of their lives.

One recent graduate who has benefitted from Allen's mentorship is Joe Lichtscheidl '11. Allen helped Lichtscheidl improve his résumé and also gave him an "in" with a local company.

Lichtscheidl said having a mentoring relationship with an alumnus who has gone through the job search is extremely helpful. "I feel that it keeps me from stressing out about getting a job in this tough economy because I have someone who has gone through it to help."

Sama Sandy '08 reconnected with Allen at a Young Alumni Summer Series event, and the two continued communicating after that

night. Sandy said mentorship is a mutually beneficial relationship because both parties learn from each other.

He added, "Mentorships are a fantastic way of networking in every sense because you are able to learn more about a person, potentially provide advice or assistance during times of struggle, and also get to be a part during the times of triumph."

For Allen, mentoring and working with others is simply "organic." He said, "I think it's my responsibility to pass on my knowledge and experiences, and it's incredibly rewarding to see students go from the start of their senior year to a successful career."

#### SUPPORTING FELLOW AUGGIES IS AS EASY AS ABC

The Augsburg Builds Connections (ABC) program is one of the many volunteer opportunities available to Augsburg parents and alumni. Volunteers in the program meet or correspond with students or graduates who are in the process of applying for a job or are interested in a career in their industry.

Augsburg alumni and parents who participate in the ABC program have the opportunity to help Augsburg students navigate their career path. To learn more about Augsburg Builds Connections, go to [www.augsburg.edu/alumni/abc.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/alumni/abc.html).



### Auggie alumnae seek to engage women through AWE

In late 2009, a group of Auggie women gathered to respond to a challenge: how to effectively engage more women in the life of Augsburg College. They created AWE: Augsburg Women Engaged.

In Spring 2010, Augsburg graduates convened to share their insights about meeting this challenge. These alumnae shared two key pieces of advice. First, alumnae desire to re-establish or strengthen meaningful connections with classmates, faculty, current students, and the College community. Second, women desire to make an impact in whatever they do.

We invite all alumnae to be part of making strategic connections for the coming years for Auggie women. Participate in whatever way best suits your interests, circumstances, and availability. Contact any of the Advisory Council members or Donna McLean, director of development initiatives, [mclean@augsborg.edu](mailto:mclean@augsborg.edu) or 612-330-1556, to find out how you can be involved.



AWE women gathered at Augsburg House on Wednesday, June 1. Pictured [L to R]: Lisa Zeller '81, '89 MAL; Donna McLean; Shelby Andress '56; Buffie Blesi '90, '97 MAL; Cassidy Titcomb; Sherilyn Young; Kari Eklund Logan '82

**The AWE Advisory Council members are** Shelby Gimse Andress '56; Buffie Blesi '90, '97 MAL; Lisa Svac Hawks '85; Kari Eklund Logan '82; Jennifer Hipple '09; Lori Moline '82; Roz Nordaune '77; Heidi Wisner Staloch '93; and Lisa Zeller '81, '89 MAL. We thank them for accepting the challenge to engage more women in the life of Augsburg College.



## SUMMER SERIES

To register for the Young Alumni events or to see the full calendar of events at Augsburg, go to [www.augsburg.edu/alumni](http://www.augsburg.edu/alumni)



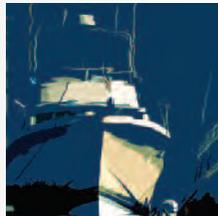
**Friday, August 5, 5-7 p.m.**  
**AUGGIE NIGHT AT THE RACES**

**Canterbury Park**

1100 Canterbury Road, Shakopee  
Free admission, picnic buffet, and reserved seating

**Thursday, September 15, 6-8 p.m.**  
**BOAT CRUISE ON LAKE MINNETONKA**

Join other Young Alumni donors for a sunset boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka with complimentary appetizers and beverages. Not a donor? Don't miss the boat! Become a donor today at [augsburg.edu/giving](http://augsburg.edu/giving).



**Thursday, October 20, 7-8:30 a.m.**  
**EYE-OPENER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™**

**Town & Country Club**

300 Mississippi River Blvd. N., Saint Paul  
\$5 includes full breakfast buffet and networking

**Friday, October 21, 6-8 p.m.**  
**HOMEcoming 2011: AUGGIE HOURS**

**Republic (formerly Preston's)**

221 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis  
Two complimentary beverages and appetizers provided

# the AUGSBURG MBA

## 10% Auggie discount

In an effort to attract Augsburg's finest back to campus to continue their education, the Augsburg Master of Business Administration (MBA) is offering a 10% discount on MBA tuition to graduates of any of Augsburg's undergraduate programs including Weekend College. The discount applies to students who begin the MBA program in September 2011 and will be applied to each course in the MBA program. Admission requirements and deadlines for the Augsburg MBA can be found at [www.augsburg.edu/mba](http://www.augsburg.edu/mba) or by calling 612-330-1101.

The Augsburg MBA is an accredited MBA that has recently become a formal candidate for global business accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs (ACBSP). Consider coming back to Augsburg for a two-year MBA program grounded in the liberal arts with a focus on local, national, and global business issues.

## Augsburg LIVE! webinar SEPTEMBER 21

Augsburg's President Paul C. Pribbenow has traveled this year to ten cities and six states to engage the Augsburg community in discussions about the College's mission, vision, and vocation, and to foster opportunities to advance the College's key strategic initiatives. Alumni who have had the opportunity to hear from the president have left with a greater sense of pride in their alma mater and excitement for the future of the institution.

The Augsburg LIVE! webinar is your chance to hear firsthand from President Pribbenow. Log in at [www.augsburg.edu](http://www.augsburg.edu) on Wednesday, September 21, at noon CT for a 30-minute conversation with President Pribbenow. See images of the campus master plan and hear stories of student success and excellence.





## involved in monitoring Japanese nuclear facility

After the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan, **Augsburg alumna Cynthia Jones '81** was called upon to monitor nuclear safety of the affected Fukushima Daiichi nuclear site.

Jones, a physics graduate and Augsburg College regent, is a senior staff member in the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and worked as part of NRC's 24-hour Operations Center team in the aftermath of the earthquake.

During mid-May, the NRC transitioned this 24-hour monitoring to a Japanese regulatory office. Since that time, Japanese officials have been managing the recovery process for the site.

Because of Jones' early involvement in the response, she now is presenting at scientific conferences. During late June, she chaired a special session at the national Health Physics Society meeting in Florida on the response to the events.

For continuing information on NRC activities in response to this event, go to [www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-info.html](http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-info.html).

Augsburg  
alumni  
experience

# the EMERALD ISLE



Courtesy photo

Early in May, Auggie alumni and friends journeyed through Ireland on an alumni tour led by Phillip Adamo, director of the medieval studies program and history department chair.

Highlights from the group's travels include a Dublin cruise on the river Liffey and sites such as the Rock of Cashel and Holy Cross Abbey. Travelers experienced the majestic landscapes at the Cliffs of Moher and explored the ancient fort of Dun Aengus on the Aran Islands. Traditional Irish music was enjoyed in the village of Dingle and the bustling city of Galway.

The travelers are pictured in front of Kylemore Abbey, a working Benedictine abbey in the countryside of the Connemara.

**Front Row [L to R]:** Phil Adamo, Fritz and Linda Morlock, Marya (Christensen) Farrell '63, Jessica Motschenbacher '08, Jean Moucha, Sara Naegeli, Sandi Prince '05, Ted Naegeli, Clodaugh Horner (Irish guide)

**Back Row [L to R]:** Trace Regan, Mary Ellen Kelly, John Greenfield '66, Mary Jo Greenfield, Bob Farrell, Jennifer Carlson '91, Sue Tesmer '74, Nancy and Richard Borstad, Amanda Storm

## Journey to the Holy Land With Religion Professor Philip A. Quanbeck II JANUARY 3-14, 2012

Travel with a community of Augsburg alumni and friends under the leadership of religion professor Philip Quanbeck II and Dr. Ruth E. Johnson '74. Discover the geography, places, and people of the Holy Land. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Caesarea, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, and much more. Woven into the itinerary are several opportunities to dialogue with local community leaders who give voice to the complex history and geopolitical issues of the region. Return home with a broader and deeper understanding of a land considered holy by the world's three monotheistic religions.

To register or request more information call 612-330-1525 or e-mail [alumni@aughsburg.edu](mailto:alumni@aughsburg.edu)



Courtesy photo

# ALUMNI class notes

**57** Rev. Alfred Kaupins celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination on June 11.

**72** Mark Shepperd's choral piece, *Come Join Their Song* (published by Beckenhorst Press) won the 2010 VocalEssence & American Composers Forum Christmas Carol contest. The world premiere performance was given by VocalEssence at their Welcome Christmas concerts in December 2010 and will be re-broadcast in December 2011 on American Public Media. Mark has served as minister of music at Woodbury Lutheran Church in Woodbury, Minn., since 1990.

**98** Beverly Bushyhead earned master's degrees at Hamline University in nonprofit management

and public administration. Bev hopes to do some research and policy work after her graduation.

**Ann Jenkins** has accepted a position as an intake investigator with Allen County Children's Services in Lima, Ohio.

**Matt Butler** licensed his invention, the ROLLORS® lawn game, to Maranda Enterprises. Matt conceived of the game while he was serving in the Air Force in Afghanistan. The game has sold more than 25,000 copies.

**Julie Johnson**, with **Doug Otto '05** and Drew Druckrey, released *The Banks of the Little Auplaine*, an experimental roots album that mines historic Upper-Midwestern folk music. Julie

Johnson & The No-Accounts trio performed the song collection at a CD release show at the Open Eye Theatre in Minneapolis in April.

**99** **Kyran (Christianson) Cadmus** graduated in May 2010 with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Colorado State University. She finished her Master of Public Health degree in April 2011 through the University of Minnesota. Kyran lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with her husband, Pete.

**00** **Mauris DeSilva** received recognition for a study on controlled delivery of antibiotics to wounds. His team of researchers received first place for their work at a poster competition.

**Meg (Schmidt) Sawyer** married Jim Sawyer on October 9, 2010 in Shoreview, Minn. Meg works for Youth Encounter, a Christian nonprofit youth ministry organization, as the business communications executive.

**04** **Deanne M. McDonald** graduated with an MFA in musical theatre from Minnesota State University Mankato.

**07** After serving for almost three years as a bicycle courier in New York City, **Jenessa Stark** moved to El Paso, Tex., to study midwifery at Maternidad La Luz midwife school. She was also featured in "Triple Rush," a *Travel Channel* series about New York City bicycle messengers that aired this spring.

## AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



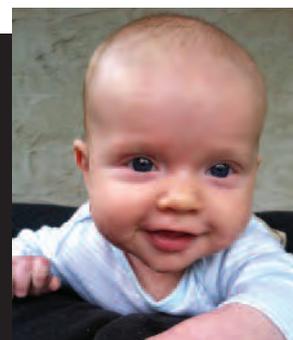
**99** **Sarah (Ginkel) Spilman** and Damion Spilman welcomed Elizabeth (Libby) Frances Spilman on December 6, 2010. She joins big brother Zane, 5.



**00** **Mac Gordon** and his wife, Nicki, welcomed son Foster on March 9.



**01** **Carrie (Lind) Cabe** and Chris Cabe welcomed their first child, Liam Christopher, on March 20.



**06** **Sara Schlipp-Riedel** and **Aaron Riedel '07** welcomed son Aidan Theodore on February 22.



**71-73** Members of the Chi House lived together at Augsburg and have met annually since graduation. The group received mittens hand knit by Lennice Keefe. Making them was on her "bucket list." Pictured [L to R] are **Julie (Hagberg) Swaggert '73**, **Marilyn (Moxness) Hall '71**, **Carol (Pederson) Jorgenson '72**, **Mary Lynn (Monson) Oglesbee '72**, **Lennice "Sparkie" (Nordaune) Keefe '72**, **Jill Steele '72**, and **Mary (Boraas) Janotta '73**. Not pictured: **Suzanne (Olson) Swanson '73**.



**02** **Brooke (Stoeckel) Whaylen** and Courtney Whaylen were married September 11, 2010 in Edina, Minn. Shelly Laugerman '04 and Erica Champer '04 were also in the wedding party. Brooke works as a hospitality sales director at an area convention and visitors bureau, and Courtney works in IT security software.



**09** **Emily (Tischer) Fields** married Tom Henry Fields III on August 28, 2010 in Rochester, Minn. Other Auggies in the wedding party included Killa Martinez-Aleman '08, Caris Warnock '09, and Kasi (Clauson) Lange '08.

**08** Emma Stensvaag returned to the states in December 2010 after completing 27 months of service for the U.S. Peace Corps in Mozambique.

**10** Leann Vice-Reshel has been accepted into the doctoral program in clinical psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego, Calif. She will begin the program in September 2011.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**Timothy (Tim) Van Rooy '89 MAL** and **Rob Wagner '02** (new alumni board president) were chosen to help build a community with families in need through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador. They helped build homes with families in need thanks to a multiyear, multimillion dollar partnership between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™ and Habitat for Humanity International.

**Patrick Troska '94 MAL** was appointed executive director of the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation. In addition to providing leadership for the organization's overall strategy, Patrick will be the lead contact for the foundation's grantmaking strategies related to housing and transit.

**Nicolas Thomley '06 MBA** has been named one of the 2011 Minnesotans on the Move by *Finance & Commerce*. The award honors professionals who are poised to make business history of their own during the coming years.

**Chris Wolf '09 MAN** recently published "A Head Injury Teaching Module for Pre-Hospital Assessment" in the February 2011 issue of *Military Medicine Journal*. Susan Nash, Augsburg College associate professor of nursing, was co-author.



## ENGAGING WITH THE SCIENCES

- **Beer Brewing 101** with physics professor Ben Stottrup. Saturday, September 17, 2-4 p.m. Great Waters Brewing Co., 427 Saint Peter Street, Saint Paul
- **Stargazing and Minnesota Starwatch Class** with WCCO Radio meteorologist Mike Lynch and astronomy professor Mark Bransford. Saturday, October 1, 7-9:30 p.m. Quarry Hill Nature Center, Savanna Room, 701 Silver Creek Road, Rochester

For more information and to RSVP, go to [www.augsburg.edu/engage](http://www.augsburg.edu/engage) or call 612-330-1085.

# Homecoming 2011

## October 16-22

Join Augsburg alumni, parents, students, and friends in a fun-filled week of events and activities.

New events have been added to this year's schedule, including the **Student and Alumni Networking Event** following the **Sabo Symposium** on Wednesday, October 19, and the **Alumni Art Exhibition** on Friday, October 21.

**Homecoming Convocation** will kick off the weekend's events on Friday, October 21. At convocation, we will recognize the First Decade, Spirit of Augsburg, and Distinguished Alumni Award winners, as well as members of the class of 1961. Don't miss opportunities for fellowship and reminiscing at the **Homecoming Convocation Luncheon** that afternoon or later that evening at Republic (formerly Preston's).

Experience the **Best of Augsburg** on Saturday, October 22, by attending a brief lecture from three of Augsburg's outstanding faculty members: Garry Hesser (sociology, metro/urban studies), robert tom (studio art), and David Murr '92 (physics).

This year's **Taste of Augsburg** pregame picnic on Saturday will include carnival-style booths operated by student, parent, and alumni groups. Following the picnic, cheer on the Auggies at the football game as they take on St Olaf.

The **Auggie Block Party** is back by popular demand! Following the game, gather in the parking lot to the north of Si Melby Hall to enjoy food, entertainment, and camaraderie. The activities don't end there—after the block party, attend the **Hognander Music Scholars Reunion Concert** at 6 p.m. in Hoversten Chapel.

Homecoming weekend truly has something for everyone. For more information and to see a complete schedule, go to [www.augsburg.edu/homecoming](http://www.augsburg.edu/homecoming). We look forward to seeing you there!

## GO AUGGIES!



# ASK AN AUGGIE EXPERT

# GREG FITZLOFF

## Certified barbecue cook-off judge

After retiring five years ago from a career in teaching and economic development, Greg Fitzloff started checking items off his bucket list. Now he travels around the country tasting chicken, ribs, beef brisket, and pulled pork as a certified barbecue cook-off judge. We caught up with him at his cabin “up North” to find out more about this delicious-sounding job!

### How did you become certified as a barbecue judge?

Since I retired five years ago, I’ve been doing a lot of volunteer work. I met a gentleman who was a caterer but also cooked for a living. He would call me and I would go over when he was testing recipes, and he said I should become a judge.

There are a couple of professional societies for barbecue cooks, and they have a certification class and process for judges. I found out more about it and said, “Why not?” If you will, it kind of ended up on my own personal bucket list.

### Why is a judge so important?

As the contests become more popular, the key is to draw in top teams, and they want to be sure the judging is done correctly. In the last several years there have been more people involved, and the prize money has grown significantly in the professional circuit. A winner in a recent contest won \$10,000. That’s why the judging is so important.

### What criteria do you use in judging barbecue?

It is fairly structured, but you are looking for three things. First is appearance—how the meat actually looks. Does it look like something you want to eat right away? Presentation is so important. The second is tenderness—is it cooked correctly? Each category has a slightly different process, but the questions are: Is it done? Is it cooked all the way through? Does the meat pull off the bone? And the final thing is the taste. Can you taste the meat? Does it taste good? We’re trying to judge to a certain standard, not based on what we like personally.

### Have you had any judging mishaps? Tasted an especially bad barbecue?

Even though these are supposed to be really good cooks, they make mistakes. The most difficult category is beef brisket, and they usually make one of two mistakes. They overcook it to the point where it’s absolutely overdone, and once that happens, there’s nothing you can do about it. Or if they cut it with the grain, that meat is literally the consistency of shoe leather. We are supposed to taste it, but if you can’t get a bite out of it you can’t taste it. That’s always somewhat comical.

### What’s the key to a perfect barbecue?

Two key words: low and slow. Cook it on low heat, 200 to 225 degrees, and slow. It takes time—anywhere from a couple of hours to 12 to 16 hours depending on the size and cut of meat.

### What are your favorite summer barbecue side dishes?

I think the classics tend to go best. In the South and Southeast you see barbecue beans with a great variety of tastes. Further north and in the Midwest you see potato salad and cole slaw, of course. The other thing we’ve discovered over the years is that after you’ve been tasting barbecue all day, the thing that goes extraordinarily well is ice cream. I don’t know why. That nearest Dairy Queen generally gets a big hit after a contest.



Would you like us to feature you in a future issue? E-mail [now@augsborg.edu](mailto:now@augsborg.edu) and tell us about your area of expertise!



## In Memoriam

- Rev. Hamar Benson '34**, Auburn, Wash., age 100, on November 27.
- William A. Benson, Jr. '42**, Minnetonka, Minn., age 90, on April 11.
- Dr. Henry Staub '43**, Minneapolis, age 91, on March 8.
- Maria E. (Sandness) Berryman '47**, Minneapolis, age 89, on February 26.
- Melvin Haven '47**, Mesa, Ariz., age 88, on December 8.
- Gordon D. Ahlquist '48**, Robbinsdale, Minn., age 88, on February 24.
- Paul D. Arnold '48**, Milaca, Minn., age 85, on April 20.
- Vincent S. Dahle '49**, Shoreview, Minn., age 83, on April 18.
- Donald H. Hegg '49**, Minneapolis, age 86, on March 10.
- Lillian L. Stadelman '49**, Pound, Wis., age 90, on April 27.
- Jeanette Jacobson Martinson '49**, Decorah, Iowa, age 85, on March 15.
- Quentin G. Quanbeck '50**, Sioux Falls, S.Dak., age 83, on February 18.
- Don L. Ortler '51**, Coon Rapids, Minn., age 82, on October 1.
- Donald R. Oscarson '52**, Northbrook, Ill., age 81, on April 23.
- Ralph Kirchoff '53** on January 6, 2010.
- Edwin T. Johnson '55**, Walton, N.Y., age 91, on May 7.
- Marshall D. Johnson '57**, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., age 75, on January 26.
- Jerry D. Carlson '59**, New Brighton, Minn., age 75, on December 20.
- Harold W. Schilling '59**, Annandale, Minn., age 80, on May 8.
- Viola (Anderson) Aaseng '69**, Eau Claire, Wis., age 86, on August 20, 2010.
- Ronald A. Berg '69**, Arden Hills, Minn., age 64, on April 20.
- Thomas P. O'Meara '71**, Minneapolis, age 63, on November 28.
- Terrance L. Blue '72**, Minneapolis, age 61, on February 15.
- Richard W. Kelley '72**, Minneapolis, age 64, on August 25, 2010.
- Nancy (Krusemark) Kruse '76**, Eden Prairie, Minn., age 56, on November 30.
- Janice O'Brien '87**, Burnsville, Minn., age 68, on June 21, 2010.
- Lucas R. Johnson '07**, New Hope, Minn., age 27, on April 3.

## Send us your news and photos

Please tell us about the news in your life, your new job, move, marriage, and births. Don't forget to send photos! (Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi or a 1MB file.)

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

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

Full name

Maiden name

Class year or last year attended

Street address

City, State, ZIP code

Is this a new address?  Yes  No

Home telephone

E-mail

Okay to publish your e-mail address?  Yes  No

Employer

Position

Work telephone

Is spouse also a graduate of Augsburg College?  Yes  No

If yes, class year \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name

Maiden name

Your news:

I know a student who is interested in attending Augsburg.

# 67 GENE HUGOSON

## Auggie tills a different field to success

Gene Hugoson credits his success to a lifetime of farming and a liberal arts education. He said that his grounding in a range of topics—politics, communication, science, geography—allowed him to bridge diverse issues and backgrounds in each of the public service positions he’s held.

“The idea of a liberal arts background was perfect for what I’ve done,” Hugoson said. “My knowledge is 15-miles wide and half an inch thick.”

Hugoson, who earned a social sciences teaching degree from Augsburg College, recently was appointed a senior fellow for the University of Minnesota’s Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership. He will collaborate with farmers and farm groups, state and federal government, and businesses to find improved ways to maintain food security.

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**“The idea of a liberal arts background was perfect for what I’ve done,” Hugoson said. “My knowledge is 15-miles wide and half an inch thick.”**

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One project on which he will focus is the development of a plan for the prevention, isolation, control, and economic recovery from foot-and-mouth disease in the domestic livestock herd. This project includes working with a multistate education consortium.

“Part of my role is to use past contacts and experiences to tap into relationships at the federal level,” he said. “It will be a challenge and will test my mettle. But we need that broad base of information and understanding at the table.”

Prior to his work at the University of Minnesota, Hugoson served as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). It’s a post he held for nearly 16 years and through three gubernatorial administrations. And again, he credits his education for this success.

“Most of my colleagues in other states were agriculture school grads. Veterinarians,” he said. “Mine was social science and education—in reality, it was perfect. It is key for these kinds of roles.”

Hugoson also credits his success to a lifetime of farming. He



farmed while at MDA. He farmed before that, during the five terms he was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Even in his new post, he still farms 600 acres of corn and soybeans located less than a mile from the East Chain, Minn., farm on which he was raised.

“I kept farming out of necessity to keep my day job,” Hugoson said. “The governors said they wanted a real farmer. I think being a farmer turned out to be a huge plus. I have credibility with the farming community. I can stand up and talk about what it’s like to be in the combine all night because of threatening weather or at the elevator selling my beans.”

As much as farming has helped Hugoson succeed in his public leadership roles, it also has other rewards.

“Farming also is my relaxation,” Hugoson said. “In the tractor or combine, I can see what I accomplish right behind me. That’s not always the case at the office. It’s nice to see corn combined or tilled earth.”

STEPHANIE WEISS

an  
**AUGSBURG** legacy



Courtesy photo

Harriett Kurek celebrating her 90th birthday.



Courtesy photo

## Harriett Kurek

Harriett Kurek, a long-time member of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, generously included a gift of \$250,000 to Augsburg College in her will. “She was a very giving, caring person to her family and to her community,” said her niece, Joyce Nyland. Senior Pastor Jane Buckley-Farlee said Kurek loved the way Trinity is involved the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and appreciated how Augsburg shares that commitment with Trinity and welcomes the congregation on its campus.

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1-800-273-0617 [www.augsburg.edu/giving](http://www.augsburg.edu/giving)



## 2010 Presidential Award for Community Service

In the summer, Augsburg's laboratories and classrooms come alive with the enthusiasm of our neighborhood youth. Aspiring scientists and future healthcare professionals learn through programs like Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science (GEMS) and Guys in Science and Engineering (GISE), as well as the Urban Scrubs camp (pictured here). These are three of the programs for which Augsburg was recognized this year with the 2010 Presidential Award for Community Service. (See story on page 3).