

AUGSBURG NOW



INSIDE



Navigating uncharted waters
Playing it forward
An exploration of faith

**HIGH-IMPACT
LEARNING**

SPRING 2016 | VOL. 78, NO. 2



NOTES FROM PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW

On serendipity in education

I vividly recall the moment in 1977 when a conversation with a religion professor at Luther College, my alma mater, offered me a way of thinking about my vocational journey that has changed my life. When I admitted my doubts about following my dad's path to the ministry, the professor shared his own journey to divinity school and the study of theology, the sort of study I had begun to explore in his class. The rest is history, as they say. I went on to study ethics and theology in divinity school and to pursue my own calling for leadership in higher education.

A moment of serendipity that changed my life—unexpected, unplanned, and so very meaningful—made possible by a teaching and learning community and a teacher that created the opportunity for such moments.

Such serendipity in education is a hallmark of the educational experience at Augsburg. I'm sure you have your own stories of the faculty or staff member, maybe the fellow student, or perhaps the community member who offered you the insight, the experience, the counsel, or the challenge that shaped your path.

This issue of Augsburg Now reminds us of the people and experiences that continue to offer Augsburg students the promise of serendipity in their education. From award-winning teachers and researchers like Phil Adamo of the History Department and Henry Yoon of the Psychology Department to inspiring guest speakers like LeVar Burton (yes, the “Star Trek” and “Reading Rainbow” star) and Dr. Donald Warne (an American Indian medical doctor challenging us to pay attention to public health issues on reservations). From nationally recognized efforts like our StepUP® program for students recovering from addiction to the Nobel Peace Prize Forum

that inspires all of us to be peacemakers in our communities. Serendipity in education happens for all of us because of these people and programs, and because of this College's deep commitment to such experiences.

One particular moment from last fall stands out for me. Our groundbreaking River Semester gave 12 students the educational experience of a lifetime as they spent the entire semester on the Mississippi River (see page 16). When I went to St. Louis to meet with the River Semester students and faculty halfway through the semester, I heard tale after tale of serendipitous experiences along the river. But then one student took me aside and said that for Associate Professor Joe Underhill, who organized the class, this was the trip he had always dreamed about, given his passion for the river. And, the student continued, Joe could have done the trip with his family or friends—surely an easier way to spend nearly four months on the river? Instead, the student said, he chose to do it with us, his students. He chose to do it with his students.

That, my friends, is the “stuff” of serendipity in education. Teachers who choose to create the space for serendipity to happen—in the classroom, in the cafeteria, on the playing fields or performance stage, even on the Mighty Mississippi. May it always be so.

Faithfully yours,

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AUGSBURG NOW

Spring 2016



Augsburg College students walk through Lindell Library—a building that will connect to the future Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion. Learn more about the Hagfors Center on page 3.

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On the cover: Auggies paddle past the Gateway Arch in St. Louis as part of a semester-long journey following the Mississippi River from St. Paul to New Orleans. See page 16. Photo by Whitney Curtis.

Correction: In the Fall 2015 issue of Augsburg Now, the story “From Riverside Ave. to Riverside, CA” omitted that **Matthew Dunn '08** was among several recent Augsburg College graduates to pursue an advanced degree at the University of California-Riverside.

All photos by Stephen Geffre unless otherwise indicated.

AROUND THE QUAD



Hip-hop pioneer and best-selling author **Chuck D** addresses hundreds of attendees at the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation.

IGNITING PASSION, FINDING HARMONY

Convocation Series
sparks conversation

The Augsburg College Convocation Series each year offers the community a chance to hear from leaders and visionaries who spark important discussion and educate about the challenges and opportunities of today's generation. The first event in 2016 was the **Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation** in January, featuring **Chuck D**, leader and co-founder of the legendary rap group Public Enemy, and his presentation, "Race, Rap, and Reality: Supporting Our Youth in the Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as They Face the Unique Challenges of Today."

The **Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics** in February welcomed **Dr. Donald Warne**—professor and chair of the Department of Public Health in the College of Health Professions at North Dakota State University, and senior policy advisor to the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board—whose presentation was "Traditional Lakota Approaches to Health Disparities: Connecting People and the Environment."

The **Koryne Horbal Lecture** in March featured **Nekima Levy-Pounds**, attorney, law professor, and president of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP.



Courtesy Photos

AROUND THE QUAD



Exterior rendering of the Hagfors Center

CONSTRUCTION STARTS

THIS SPRING College moves forward on new academic building

In May, Augsburg College will begin the construction of its newest and largest academic building, the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion. The interdisciplinary Hagfors Center embodies Augsburg's commitment to **student learning, urban placemaking, and thoughtful stewardship.**

The building design features classrooms and labs that are configurable to support experiential learning as well as other teaching and learning formats. These spaces will be constructed on a modular framework that allows for flexibility to meet the College's long-term needs.

The building will anchor the west side of campus and welcome the College's neighborhood with an "open arms" design facing the adjacent residential community and embracing the on-campus community gardens. The Hagfors Center also will be the most environmentally friendly building on campus, seeking a LEED Silver certification for its sustainable design.

As part of the building planning process, Augsburg constructed life-size models of two proposed configurations for faculty and staff offices. The office concepts were on display in Lindell Library so community members could stop by to check out the look and feel of the spaces. Students (and even some faculty members) made themselves at home in the offices by taking time to study, check email, and read, all the while bringing new meaning to the phrase, "open-door policy."



Mock-up offices

The first classes will be held in the Hagfors Center in January 2018. Go to augsb.org/hagforscenter to keep track of project developments.

TICKETS ON SALE



NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM

Children's rights advocate to keynote peace-building event

Augsburg College will host the 28th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum June 6–8, inviting global leaders and the general public to explore pressing peacemaking issues faced by people across the globe.

This year's forum will honor and feature a keynote address by **Kailash Satyarthi**, joint winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. For decades, Satyarthi has been tireless in his advocacy for child rights, education,

and child labor reform in India. While in Minneapolis, Satyarthi will join other peace-building experts to explore human rights and democracy, disarmament, sustainability, and inclusivity.



Courtesy Photo

Get tickets and learn more at nobelpeaceprizeforum.org.



Twin Cities middle schoolers participate in a Somali debate initiative led by the Minnesota Urban Debate League.

Signature urban debate program REACHES MILESTONE

Minnesota Urban Debate League participants dominate 2016 state championship

Augsburg College's Minnesota Urban Debate League program provides services, support, and materials to more than 750 students engaged in competitive academic debate at 40 high schools and middle schools across the Twin Cities metro area. This year marked the first time that the state debate championship featured two teams from the Minnesota Urban Debate League: St. Paul's Highland Park and Minneapolis' Washburn high schools.

Led by Executive Director **Amy Cram Helwich** and Faculty Adviser **Robert Groven**, an Augsburg communication studies professor, the program helps increase school engagement and connectedness, which boosts young people's confidence in their academic abilities. The program's impact is shown through a 100 percent on-time high school graduation rate and a 99 percent college acceptance rate for debaters. "No other out-of-school program accomplishes such significant gains," according to Groven.

Historyapolis project wins ALICE SMITH PRIZE

[Top to bottom]: **Kirsten Delegard**, who serves as a scholar-in-residence in the Augsburg College History Department, and **Michael Lansing**, associate professor of history, were presented the Alice Smith Prize for best public history project completed in the previous calendar year by the Midwestern History Association. The Historyapolis Project was created when Delegard realized that the citizens of her hometown of Minneapolis craved complex stories about the city's past that would help them understand how it became the wonderful and intricate place that it is today.



Augsburg students are deeply involved with the project, which aims to make the city's history accessible and helps instigate community dialogue around challenging aspects of local history. Visit historyapolis.com for more information.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Lynch

The Historyapolis Project invites Augsburg College students and community members to conduct research to help interpret the history of Minneapolis. [L to R]: Citizen-researcher **Rita Yeads** and **Anna Romskog '15** view city planning photographs from the 1930s in the Minneapolis City Archives at City Hall.

AROUND THE QUAD

Professor Phillip Adamo peers out of his office in Memorial Hall.



Phillip Adamo named 2015 Minnesota PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Augsburg College's **Phillip Adamo**, professor of history and director of the Honors Program, was named the 2015 Minnesota Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Adamo was recognized for his accomplishment in a proclamation by Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges who declared November 19, 2015, "Dr. Phillip C. Adamo Day in the City of Minneapolis."

Adamo is the second Augsburg College faculty member to be honored by Carnegie/CASE. In 2004, Professor Emeritus of Sociology **Garry Hesser** earned the prestigious award.

Augsburg deemed a 'best value' college

Augsburg College was named No. 6 on Best Value Schools' 2015 list of 20 Best Value Colleges or Universities in Minnesota. Rankings are based on graduation rate, net price, acceptance rate, and 20-year net return on investment.





ON THE SPOT

Henry Yoon examines addiction risk

Augsburg College Associate Professor **Henry Yoon** oversees the biopsychology major and leads the Augsburg Biopsychology Lab. One area of his research involves studying disorders related to the inability to inhibit socially inappropriate or even illegal behaviors such as the use of illicit substances that can lead to addiction. Yoon uses neurophysiological techniques including EEG to capture and analyze the brain's electrical activity to identify telltale signs of biological or genetic risk for substance dependence.

Yoon works collaboratively with the StepUP® Program, Augsburg's residential recovery community, and the University of Minnesota's Department of Psychology. Ultimately, Yoon's research may help refine the biological tools used in the diagnosis of substance addiction.

Q: What prompted your interest in studying addiction?

A: Substance use disorders are both common and costly—many of us have personal issues with substance use or know someone who does, including our family members. Plus, addiction is often connected to other major psychiatric disorders in systematic ways. It is important to understand the core factors underlying addiction for intervention and treatment purposes.

Q: One of the brainwaves you focus on—the P3—has been studied in relation to childhood disruptive disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, adolescent substance dependence, and adult antisocial behaviors. What's the link among these areas?

A: Collectively, these disorders reflect a tendency toward behavioral disinhibition, which may be expressed in various ways over development through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Evidence shows that this tendency is highly heritable—in other words, influenced by genes. The P3 brain measure is significant because it may signify who is at risk for these disorders. For instance, my colleagues and I showed that P3 is itself highly heritable and can be used to predict who will develop these types of disorders over a 12-year span. So, we reason that the P3 can serve as a red flag.

Q: Despite recognition of the biological and genetic nature of substance use disorders, social stigmas persist. Could improved scientific literacy play a role in reducing these stigmas?

A: I think a cautionary tale from my field's history can help address this question. In the 1940s-70s, the concept of the "schizophrenogenic mother" was popular in the psychiatric literature. This term implied that mothers who interacted with their children in a cold, rejecting, and aloof manner caused schizophrenia in those children. Another version of this, in relation to autism, was the "refrigerator mother," which carried a similar implication.

Later scientific research rejected these incorrect and harmful notions and instead showed that such disorders largely involve genetic/biological factors. The same trend can be observed with regard to addiction. For instance, it is now known that substance use disorders are influenced by genetic background to a degree comparable to other complex medical conditions such as diabetes or coronary heart disease. Of course environmental factors are also important, but overall this shows that combating addiction is not a matter of willpower or flawed character.



Go to augsburg.edu/now to learn more about Yoon's research.

StepUP[®] Gala breaks fundraising record

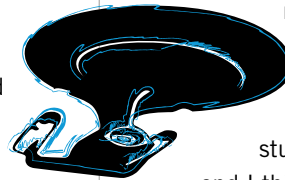
Each year, Augsburg College's StepUP Program supports dozens of students as they achieve academic success and sustain lives of recovery from substance use disorders. Augsburg is home to the largest collegiate recovery community in the United States, and its work receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, individuals, and families.

The program received a noteworthy boost this year when its philanthropic



[L to R]: Broadcaster **Don Shelby** joins U.S. Sen. **Amy Klobuchar** and Augsburg College President **Paul Pribbenow** at the StepUP Gala.

gala raised \$419,000 from ticket sales, sponsorships, and individual gifts—a sum that nearly doubled the amount raised the previous year. Former WCCO TV anchor **Don Shelby** was the master of ceremonies and the featured keynote speech was by **Anne Thompson Heller '08**, a StepUP alumna who has founded and championed recovery organizations at collegiate, state, and national levels.



Research, study, and offer your two cents

In March 2015, **Melissa Motl**, circulation coordinator in Augsburg's Lindell Library, started posing questions to students on a whiteboard as a way to gain more information about how students use and view the library. She asked questions like, "What can you get at the library that you can't get anywhere else?" and "What would you like to see the library do differently?" It garnered such great feedback that she decided to continue asking questions as a fun and interesting way to find out more about Auggies.

"We have some really creative and thoughtful students here at Augsburg, and I think that's why we always get great responses. Some are thoughtful, and some are silly or witty," said Motl.

One of Motl's favorite questions so far has been, "Star Wars or Star Trek?"



"YOUR LACK OF
FAITH DISTURBS ME"
—DARTH VADER

Star Trek
Voyager!



HZP

Whoever came up
with this question
is EVIL!! You can't
make me choose! :(



★BOTH★



Sports Extravaganza sets record, ELEVATES SPIRITS

At the 15th annual Sports Extravaganza, Augsburg College physical education and exercise science students used knowledge gained in the classroom to deliver smiles to a record 307 grade-school and middle-school children with physical, cognitive, and learning disabilities. For the event, Auggies created activity stations in the Augsburg athletics dome and assisted children as they played.



The Star Tribune published several Sports Extravaganza photos and described participants' enthusiasm as "Flying high without leaving the ground." Visit augsburg.edu/now.

PLAYING IT *FORWARD*

AUGGIE COACHES CREATE CYCLE OF GIVING BACK

BY CHRISTINA HALLER

Division III athletics is the sweet spot for student-athletes—they compete on teams and nurture deep, meaningful relationships with their coaches and peers, and at the same time have the freedom and time to explore other activities and passions while having a strong focus on academics. These reasons, among others—the competition, camaraderie, discipline, and love of the game—are why more than 500 Augsburg students participate in varsity and intramural sports every year.

The welcoming and supportive Augsburg College Athletics Department has had a profound impact on many student-athletes, which in return has sparked a desire in many former players to give back to youth as leaders, mentors, and friends. Here is a glimpse into the lasting influence of Auggie athletics on alumni through the decades.





Whitney Restemayer '10 is the first woman in the state of Minnesota to coach a team to a hockey state title, the 2015 Minnesota State High School Girls' Hockey Tournament Class A Championship.



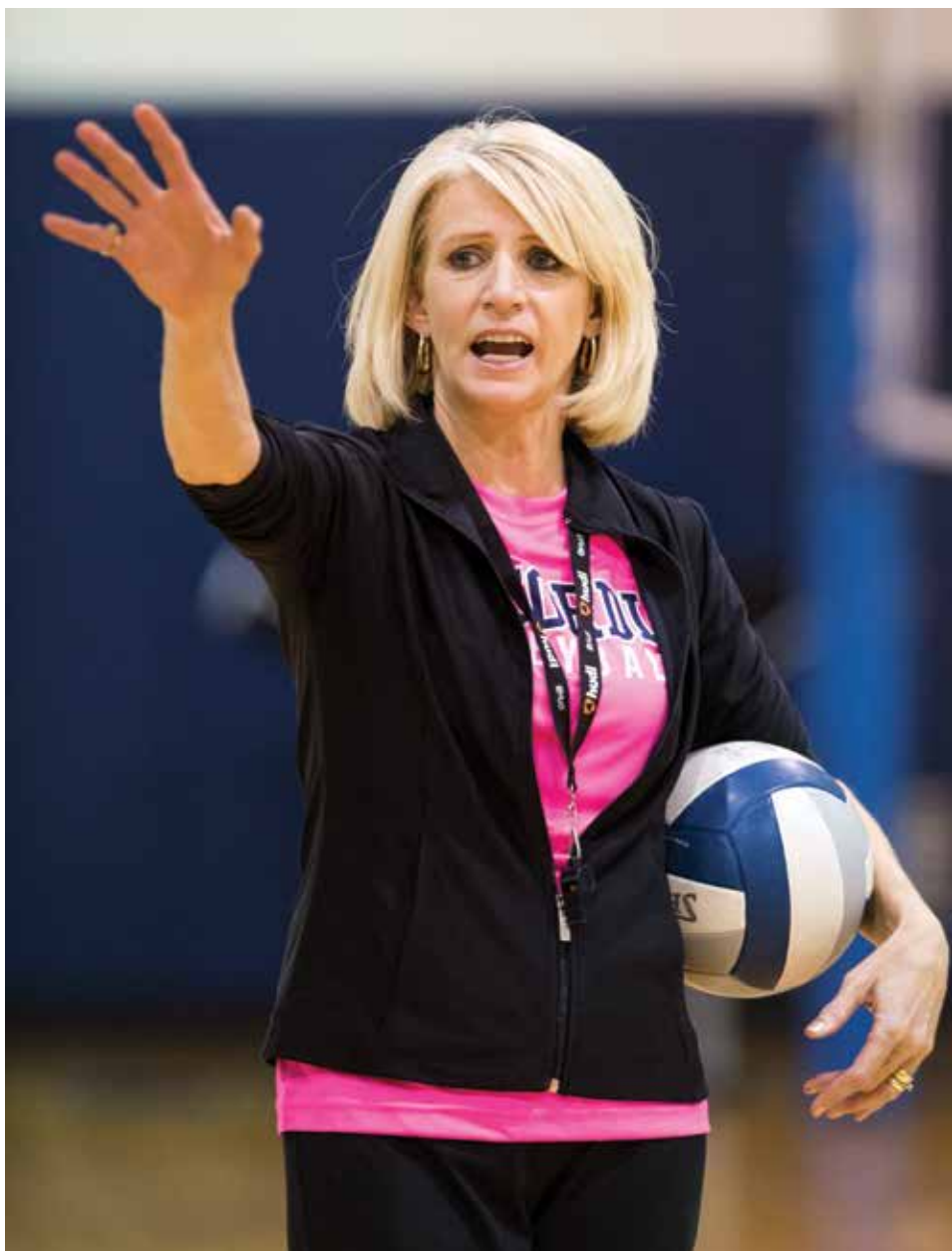
I've always enjoyed working with kids, teaching the game, and mentoring players off the field. Being a student-athlete at Augsburg taught me many valuable lessons and allowed me to strengthen my leadership skills. Many people from my athletic upbringing have influenced the way I teach young men about soccer and life. I must admit, Auggie soccer coaches **Greg Holker**, **Jonathan Schaefer**, and **Nate Hitch** had a profound influence on me during college.

The most gratifying thing about coaching is seeing my boys grow into young men and become contributing members of the community. I was a kid who was influenced in so many positive ways by several people in my athletic path. For me to have the opportunity to give back a fraction of my time is the most gratifying thing in the world.



VAN HONG '11

Enterprise risk analytics consultant at Deloitte & Touche LLP in Minneapolis; youth soccer coach at Park Valley United and co-founder of Spam F.C. College Scholarship Foundation in St. Louis Park, Minnesota



SUE (MEIER) ZIEGLER '80

Physical education and health and wellness teacher and head volleyball and track coach at Lincoln Lutheran Middle/Senior High School in Lincoln, Nebraska



I was involved with basketball and track as an Auggie. I would credit the whole Augsburg Health—Physical Education Department and coaches for supporting me—people like longtime athletic director and men's basketball coach **Ernie Anderson '37** were always looking out for athletes' best interests. I believe I received a quality education in a Christian environment, and feel blessed to be in a similar situation now. I hope I have had an impact on helping shape young people's lives through education and athletics, too.

Students teach me life lessons every day. The impact that they have had on my life has been invaluable—on relationships, commitment, and learning. I love seeing where my former students and athletes go on in the next step of their lives—from college to starting their families to excelling in their careers.





Everything I got from sports as a player—the love of the game, the friendships, the teamwork, the cohesion—sparked a desire in me to coach. I started playing sports at a young age and experienced coaches who I really clicked with, and I knew that I wanted to be able to give back to athletes in the same way. I had a great experience at Augsburg. Playing two sports, being a health and physical education major, and working within the Athletics Department allowed me to meet many people who had a great influence on my life.

I have been very lucky to achieve a lot of success in my short coaching career. Being able to be a part of something so great on ice allowed me to also be a part of something great off the ice. The relationships that I have developed with many of the girls I have coached is second to none.



WHITNEY RESTEMAYER '10

Physical education teacher at Challenger Elementary School and assistant girls' softball coach and head girls' hockey coach at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, Minnesota



JAMELL TIDWELL '05

Assistant administrator, athletic director, and middle school football and track coach at Valley Middle School of STEM, and high school wrestling coach at Apple Valley High School in Apple Valley, Minnesota



I feel like God put athletics in my life to keep me out of trouble so that I could get to where I am today. If I didn't have wrestling in my life, there's no way I'd currently be working toward my doctorate. I didn't have a dad growing up, so when I was a student-athlete at Augsburg, Auggie wrestling coaches **Jeff Swenson '79**, **Sam Barber**, and **Donny Wichmann '89** took me under their wings and taught me how to be a student, how to be an athlete, how to be a man, and how to be successful.

I hope that by being a coach, I can show kids that, through athletics and working hard in school, you can achieve anything. I always tell my players, you have to be a student first and an athlete second. ■

— AN — EXPLORATION OF FAITH

PRESTIGIOUS \$467,000 GRANT FOSTERS STUDENTS' ENGAGEMENT IN YOUTH THEOLOGY INSTITUTE

BY STEPHANIE WEISS

“Jesus is in the generosity business,” said **Amber Kalina '15** when she quoted from Walter Brueggeman’s theology of abundance at an Augsburg College chapel service. “That means being constantly alert to any mismatch between the generosity of God and the needs of people.”

Certainly, Augsburg was given a great and generous gift this winter when the College was awarded a prestigious three-year Lilly Endowment Inc. grant of \$467,000 for the Youth Theology Institute. This residential summer camp program explores deep and meaningful questions of faith and vocation through classes, service work, and reflection. The competitive grant ensures that this program will continue the work of helping young people discern their vocations.

Kalina’s homily was part of a visit to her home state of Minnesota to pursue the next step in her vocational journey: Attending seminary to become ordained as a minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The journey of this youth and family ministry graduate, however, started in the the summer of 2010

when she was a junior in high school in Perham, Minnesota. It was then that she attended Augsburg’s Youth Theology Institute at the encouragement of her youth pastor.

“I would grill my youth director about everything. He had heard about the Augsburg College Youth Theology Institute, and he encouraged me to attend because I just couldn’t stop asking questions,” Kalina said. “At the Institute, I was challenged and pushed to think about and explain what I actually think about faith.”

DIVERSE EXPERIENCES IN A DIVERSE ZIP CODE

The 13-year-old Youth Theology Institute engages young people in grades 10-12 in deep theological questions and vocational discernment through community-based and classroom learning, worship, reflection, and solitude. The program, which has touched more than 200 young people since its inception, is an example of how Augsburg College lives out its vision to educate people for lives of purpose across disciplines and beyond the classroom.

“This grant supports Augsburg’s continued commitment to intentional diversity and to modeling what it means to be a Lutheran college of the 21st century, located in the heart of one of the nation’s most diverse ZIP codes. It

equips young people with theological and vocational skills and helps them learn what it means to practice their faith, with its commitments to education, radical hospitality, and serving your neighbor,” said Augsburg College **President Paul Pribbenow**.

LEARN, PRAY, AND PLAY TOGETHER

Since its inception in 2004, the Youth Theology Institute—a program of Augsburg’s Bernhard M. Christensen Center for Vocation—has explored themes germane not only to the College, but also to current events.

Augsburg’s emphasis on interdisciplinary learning shaped the 2015 program, which explored interfaith action, a deeply compelling topic for participants and the College, particularly given Augsburg’s setting in the midst of a neighborhood with a growing Muslim population.

The Lilly grant will allow the Augsburg College Youth Theology Institute to expand upon its history of success while increasing programmatic goals, including:

- Development of a cohort of youth ministers from regional churches, synods, and multicultural and ethnic-specific congregations, interested in enhancing vocational discernment and theological reflection among youth.

Amber Kalina '15 serves Abundant Life Together, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This Alt Year program in Toledo, Ohio, provides young adults a chance to explore in community subjects including vocation through reflection, leadership, relationships, and service.



Photo by Mark Chamberlain

- Growth in the number of participants from 20 in 2016 to 40 by 2019 while also strengthening relationships with attendees, their families, their pastors, and their churches.
- The creation of a mentor program to allow college-age students to help high school students develop practices and skills for theological reflection.
- An increase in connections to the four synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that form Augsburg's governing structure—Minneapolis, St. Paul, Southeastern Minnesota, and Northwest Wisconsin.
- Continuation of scholarships for Youth Theology Institute alumni to attend Augsburg College.

**"We learn together,
pray together, play together,
explore the city together, and
discern God's work in our
world together."**

— Jeremy Myers

Youth Theology Institute program director
and associate professor of religion

Participants in the program are respectfully challenged in every activity to dig deep into their perspectives and biases to uncover their beliefs.

"We learn together, pray together, play together, explore the city together, and discern God's work in our world together," said Associate Professor of Religion **Jeremy Myers**, the Youth Theology Institute program director.

For her part, Kalina hopes the grant prompts others like her to find their paths.

"Young people are so eager to learn," Kalina said. "But if there is nothing at home to welcome their questioning or to guide them, it is difficult. Home church congregations have to be involved. Participation from our churches provides a chance for all of us to show young people that abundance exists in Christian community and that abundance is meant to be shared with everyone."

Augsburg College will welcome the 2016 class of Youth Theology Institute students to campus from June 19–24. Participants from across the country will explore meaningful questions related to social and environmental justice, the role of the congregation in these questions, and how one can both love and be frustrated by community.

To learn more, visit augsburg.edu/acyti. ■



Navigating uncharted waters

First-ever River Semester pushes boundaries of experiential learning

By Kate H. Elliott

The River Semester was billed as an experiential learning opportunity: engage in a full load of political, environmental, and physical education courses—reinforced by a research project—while canoeing down the Mississippi River from its headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. But for the 12 Augsburg College students, two faculty members, teaching assistant, and two guides who completed the first-of-its-kind trek from August to December, it was so much more.

For it was on those waters that the crew learned to appreciate the quiet, to be curious about the world around them, and to seek knowledge. They learned to be prepared, to make friendship a fine art, and most importantly to enjoy the

moment. And they didn't just learn about the river so much as become enamored of it, so much so that many of them feel unsteady back on solid ground.

The Mississippi became their muse, teacher, personal trainer, and confidante. They dreamt alongside its calming waters and paddled through its more turbulent channels. Soon, its problems became their problems: urban stormwater runoff, the economic decay of river towns, and invasive flying carp smacked them—literally—in the face. And so, what started as an interesting, immersive experience has become a sobering call to restore and protect one of the United States' most iconic natural wonders.



Ricky Taylor '17, a film and graphic design major, captured the crew's three-month journey and many of the social, economic, political, and cultural forces gripping the river as he gathered footage for a feature-length documentary. He plans to premiere "Learning to Listen: Our Semester on the River" this summer.

"We learned by living, meeting the people, and witnessing the issues that illustrate the complexities plaguing the river," Taylor said. "We met Carl, a shrimper who once walked on land that is now six feet beneath water, and we paddled past sediment that was filling in the river's largest lake (Lake Pepin near Red Wing, Minnesota). We read about levees being 'big bad wolves' but then saw them protect families just trying to make their way through life. A portion of Louisiana is being swallowed up by the ocean, a culture disappearing into the Gulf of Mexico, largely due to agricultural practices that help feed our nation.

"Somewhere along the way, I slipped out of the boat and into the Big Muddy. Every day I think about the river—about the paddling, the friends, the food, the learning—longing to be back there. Mud runs through my veins, and the only word I can find to describe the experience is 'love,' and that's not a word I take lightly."

A gripping odyssey

The trip had all the elements of any good adventure story:

There was a steadfast leader, **Joe Underhill**, who has been engaged in environmental politics for 30 years and had been dreaming about this trip for almost as long; an epic journey paddling nearly 700 miles in 24-foot handmade cedar-strip voyager canoes; and a compelling cast of characters, including the student who'd never camped, the chipper morning person, and a student about to drop out who found his calling en route. There were unexpected moments, including an emergency appendectomy outside Mark Twain's hometown, an open mic night harmonizing with the locals of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and a visit to the Michael Brown memorial in Ferguson, Missouri. And finally, there were lots of emotions—all of them, really.

Underhill knew the trip would be an odyssey in every sense of the word. The professor of political science, environmental studies, and international relations had been planning



“Mud runs
through my
veins

—Ricky Taylor '17

and networking for 15 years to realize the River Semester. He tested the waters in 2001 by organizing a three-day field trip from St. Cloud, Minnesota, to St. Paul. Five-day and 10-day excursions followed before he proposed the semester experience in 2012.

“This is where Augsburg stands out from other institutions,” said Underhill, who has organized interdisciplinary trips throughout the world. “Augsburg values experiential learning, place-based pedagogy, and innovative approaches so much that it wasn’t a matter of ‘if’ we can make this happen but ‘how.’ Yes, we had three years of sorting out logistics, but the College continues to empower and support faculty to engage in this type of work, and you only have to talk with one of these students to grasp the impact.”

Once logistics were in place, Underhill’s years of contacts at organizations such as the National Park Service rushed in to participate—offering guest lectures, exclusive tours of historic sites, hot meals, and lodging. Wilderness Inquiry, a Minneapolis-based outfitter that has partnered with Augsburg for years, provided logistical expertise and risk management planning as well as guides, food, and equipment. **Erik Ophaug**, a Wilderness Inquiry program manager, said the outfitter is proud to be at the forefront in creative endeavors that increase students’ access to and connection with the natural world.

“This was the longest expedition we have run, in terms of number of days on the river, in our 40-year history of supporting educational and expeditionary outdoor adventures,” Ophaug said. “It was inspiring to watch these students truly soak up and process all of the little moments that make up the culture, politics, ecosystem, and history of the Mississippi River watershed.”

Guide **Emily Knudson ’15** had paddled with Underhill on a 10-day canoe trip as part of a River Politics course her senior year. When she learned the semester-long excursion wouldn’t materialize until after she would graduate, the determined triple major in environmental studies, English literature, and Spanish secured a job with Wilderness Inquiry in hopes of gaining a staff position on the trip, which she did. Charged with almost every logistical task, from planning mileage and booking campsites to grocery shopping and monitoring weather conditions, Knudson also served as a supplemental instructor and intern for Augsburg. She led study sessions and presented lectures in their outdoor classrooms (or the nearest city’s laundromat or public library in bad weather).

“Educational experiences like this are important because they make you think so much more deeply about the course content. Instead of memorizing facts about the lock and dam system for a test, we were paddling through the pools the dams created, hearing stories from locals, and camping on the islands built to replace those flooded out decades earlier. In a couple years, I will forget almost everything I memorized, but I will never forget my learning in action,” said Knudson.

Self-discovery on the riverbanks

Glen Gardner ’17 was considering taking a year off from school when he saw the River Semester publicized in the cafeteria. He signed up, and somewhere along the pilgrimage, the Montana native realized he wants to teach art. Gardner is back at Augsburg this semester, majoring in studio art and art education.

“Having the time to unplug and reflect about my life helped me realize my passion for art education. I have always been interested in the arts, but I hadn’t really thought about teaching until I discovered that I loved spreading the feelings I find in art to other people as much as I enjoy making art,” Gardner said. “I want to extend my knowledge and passion beyond myself and use art to promote living in a way that is not wasteful to the world.”



- ☑ Guitar
- ☑ Headlamp
- ☑ Rain gear
- ☑ French press
- ☑ Rubber boots



Visit augsborg.edu/now to learn which items the River Semester crew couldn’t live without.

Hearing this, Underhill is proud. Provoking self-exploration was not his motivation for organizing the trip, but the sense of vocation students found down river is certainly the journey's most fulfilling outcome. Admittedly, he took a leap of faith selecting the crew. He didn't pick a team of students with similar interests, backgrounds, maturity levels, and outdoor experience. He picked a team that reflects Augsburg's commitment to nurturing a diverse community of resilient, driven, and faith-filled citizens. As you can imagine, the initial weeks included some whining and a few cold stares, but before long, this dynamic group evolved into a harmonious tribe.

Forging lasting bonds

Taylor was nervous about the trip, not because of the physical demands or the elements (he was an Eagle Scout and grew up a "river kid" in north-central Wisconsin). As the crew's videographer and documentarian, Taylor was most concerned about getting his new Nikon, Sony video camera, and two GoPros wet. But even more so, he was terrified of the quiet—for those moments when people would start sharing information about their lives. He was finishing up his second semester at Augsburg in the College's StepUP® Program, the nation's largest residential collegiate recovery community.

Now sober for two years, Taylor said he burned bridges between himself and others before he entered recovery.

"My peers on the River Semester were some of my first friends in a long time. It was truly a fresh start," he said.

"On the trip, I heard things that were strange to my ears: 'Ricky, you're a good person,' 'You're kind,' and 'I'm amazed by you.' I always looked around, thinking, 'Are you sure you're talking to me?' It was the first time in years that I felt good, felt worth, and felt confidence. People trusting and caring for me is more precious to me than anything, and I developed everlasting bonds with this crew."

Brian Arvold '80 witnessed that closeness when he welcomed home his daughter, Hannah, who was one of the first two students to sign up for the trip. When the crew stepped off the train at a welcome home rally in mid-December, Arvold said, the students ran into their families' arms, and then they all ran back—to each other.

"It was touching for all of us to see," said Arvold, who was waving a canoe paddle painted with "River Semester" as the train slowed to a halt. "You may want a lot for your child, but lifelong friendships are at the top of the list. Knowing that these students will be there for each other through life's ups and downs is comforting.

"We'd talk to Hannah along the trip, and we could hear her growing more socially and culturally aware, but we also detected a real sense of confidence. Paddling that entire river empowered our daughter as she was placed in settings where she had to stand up for herself, push through, and create solutions. Augsburg is truly on the forefront—a small college doing great things. It's neat to see them embrace learning without four walls."

Wading through analysis, navigating partnerships

Hannah Arvold '18 was able to channel her professional pursuits into a research project focused on nutrition and the environmental impacts of farming. On the first leg of their trip, she calculated the caloric intake and expenditure of her peers, noting which foods provided the best sources of energy. Near the end of their voyage, she recorded the agriculture industry's negative impacts on the river, including gasoline and pesticides seeping into groundwater. "Caring about the health of your body," Arvold said, "is just as important as the health of the land it is grown on.

"I created an 'I ♥ the Mississippi' bumper sticker and gave it out to people along our trip for freewill donations," Arvold said. "We donated \$500 of the money raised to purchase science equipment for the International School of Louisiana where we presented many of our research findings to more than 160 fourth- and sixth-graders."

Each student conducted a research project, and many of them involved collaborations with external partners throughout the United States. **Noah Cameron '17** worked with Minnesota artist Monica Haller, known for the "Veterans Book Project," which captures interviews and data from dozens of soldiers, refugees, and journalists affected by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cameron used a hydrophone to record underwater noises while on the river and then paired them



with social and cultural recordings, which he plans to use for future collaborations with Haller.

“It seems that intense, mindful listening is a difficult task nowadays, and some people have no reason to listen. I was given a reason, and I learned much about the nature of sound, silence, noise, and listening,” the political science major said. “My project acknowledges that the river has something to say, which it certainly does. One thing the river told me was that it is polarized; its waters are either filled with the sounds of mechanical engineering or with quiet ecological or hydrologic characteristics.

“Similarly to how I thoughtfully listen to the systems of the river, I realized that we—as a society—should thoughtfully listen, which is not the same as agreeing, to our government and each other. I viewed the river like our government—this massive, daunting entity that we seem to have little effect on. However, as we moved down that river and as we took classes about both the nature of the river and the nature of democracy, we learned that we do affect that river, and we do affect our government.”

Blair Stewig '18 connected with the river on a molecular level, studying how the concentrations of various chemicals influence ecosystems. Throughout the trip, she collected water quality data like that of the National Park Service’s “State of the River Report.” She also collaborated with Reuben Heine, a geology professor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, to gather sonar data about subaqueous dunes, or sediment bed forms at the bottom of the river.

“My main focus was on the accumulation of nitrates in the Mississippi and its effect on the Gulf of Mexico. The molecule, commonly found in fertilizers, seeps into the river system from agricultural and urban runoff, feedlots, sewage treatment plants, and more. This excess results in a ‘Dead Zone’ in the Northern Gulf of Mexico each late spring and summer,” said Stewig, who is majoring in biology and chemistry. “What does that mean? An influx of nutrients results in an algae bloom. When these algae die, they sink to the bottom of the ocean, where they are consumed by bacteria, which depletes the area of oxygen. Some marine life sense the lack of oxygen and leave, but others die as a

result. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Dead Zone costs the U.S. seafood and tourism industry \$82 million per year.”

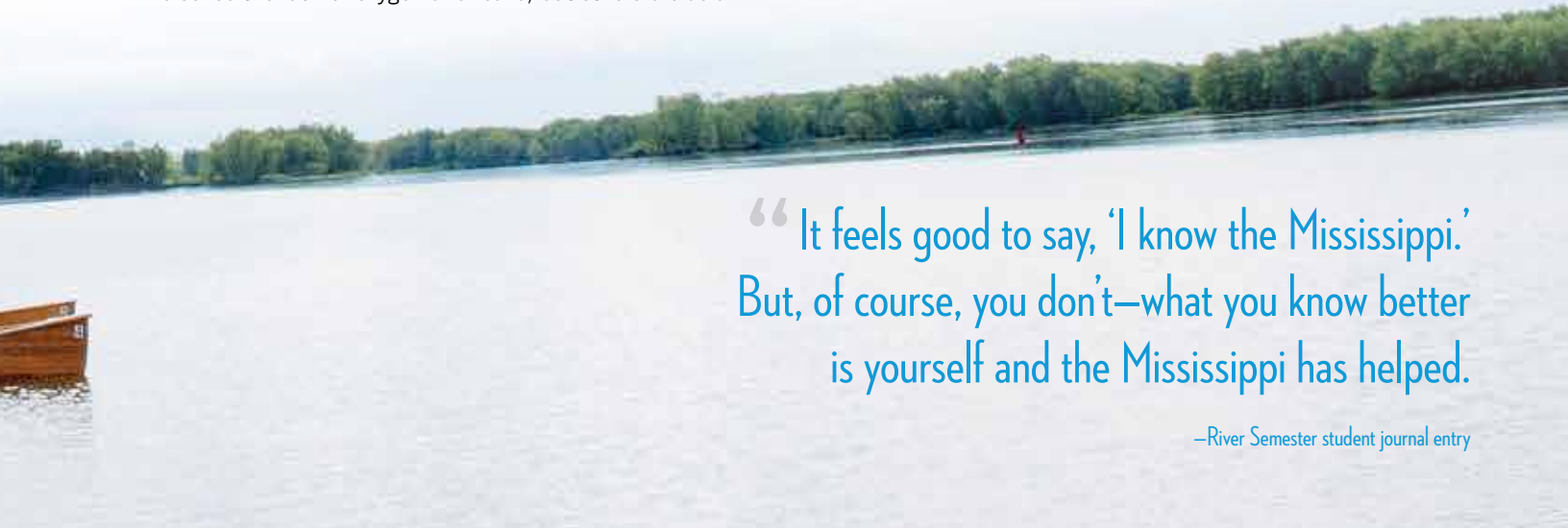
Lark Weller, who collaborated with Stewig on behalf of the National Park Service, said Stewig’s data will inform brochures and fact sheets about excess nitrates in a river system that provides water for upwards of 15 million people. The research these students conducted is compelling, Weller said, but their connection to the river is even more impressive.

“I suppose it’s possible to complete a college degree without really ever understanding the broader context of the world around you—but not for River Semester students. It is clear the experience dramatically changed the lives of every single student who accepted the challenge. They have returned with a new and expansive sense of self, place, and world,” said Weller.

Memories keep rollin’ along

The next leg of this journey: The documentary. Taylor produced several short videos chronicling the trip, which are at augsborg.edu/river, and he’s looking forward to sharing the experience through his forthcoming feature-length film. For now, the River Semester crew continues to process the issues they know and to reflect upon their moments together: rows of sleeping bags dotting the shore as they looked up at an ebony sky studded with millions of heavenly diamonds; waking at 3 a.m. to paddle from darkness to dawn; and swaying in hammocks tied to the tall willow trees of remote river islands.

So, if you see members of this motley crew sleeping outside, don’t judge. They’re just longing to be back on the water, where they grew stronger and a bit wiser, having realized that the issues gripping the Mississippi River are as sophisticated as its ecosystems. That enlightenment has influenced the way they now see the world, with varying shades of compromise and understanding. They reenter their lives with renewed purpose, fueled by an empowering sense of community, the ability to adapt, and the ache for life’s next adventure. ■



“It feels good to say, ‘I know the Mississippi.’
But, of course, you don’t—what you know better
is yourself and the Mississippi has helped.

—River Semester student journal entry

From trickling headwaters to the WIDE AND MIGHTY OCEAN

River Semester participants share memorable events along the river

Beginning in 2003, Augsburg College Associate Professor **Joe Underhill** began incorporating short Mississippi River trips—three-, five-, and 10-day excursions—into his environmental politics curriculum. He first presented the idea of a semester-long trip to College leadership in 2012, and then three years of logistical discussions and planning followed. This past fall, Underhill and biology instructor **Thorpe Halloran** shoved off from St. Paul with 12 students, two guides, and a teaching assistant. Here are a few highlights from their journey.

1 **AUG. 28-30:** Held an orientation at the Mississippi River headwaters to introduce courses, review canoeing and water safety basics, and discuss topics such as American Indians' perspectives on the environment and sustainability.

2 **SEPT. 1:** Chris Coleman, mayor of St. Paul, joined nearly 100 Auggies, family members, and high school students at the launch of the nation's first-ever River Semester. Dozens of attendees paddled in a flotilla of 24-foot voyageur canoes to South St. Paul.

3 **SEPT. 5-7:** Studied the water quality and impact of farming, including increased sediment load on the river. Sampled water alongside fisheries biologists with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"Without a current and with a brutal head wind, paddling Lake Pepin was probably one of our most challenging days." —Lily Moloney '15

4 **SEPT. 12-17:** Joined faculty and students from Winona State University for stream ecology labs and discussion on the impact of the lock and dam system.

5 **OCT. 3:** A rough paddle through the pool above Lock and Dam No. 13, one of the widest pools on the upper river. The crew struggled through fierce winds to avoid submerged tree stumps left over

from before the dam was built. One of the canoes sustained a bad crack, which the crew repaired at camp.

6 **OCT. 7-10:** Met with local farmers and a nonprofit environmental group that organizes river cleanups, tree plantings, and other conservation efforts. The crew also engaged a field lab with Reuben Heine, geography professor at Augustana College in Illinois.

7 **OCT. 20-21:** When the crew paddled into author Mark Twain's hometown, **Izzie Smith '18** began to suffer from stomach pain. By midnight, she had been diagnosed with appendicitis, and the next morning she had surgery. Two weeks later, Smith rejoined the group in Memphis. Even with all the excitement, the team still engaged in a lively discussion about Huck Finn and literary figures born along the Mississippi.

8 **OCT. 29:** The last morning of their journey on the upper river, the crew woke up at 3 a.m. to paddle for a few hours in the dark to catch the sun rise over the river. They ended their sunrise paddle on the Mississippi's banks north of St. Louis, from which vans shuttled the crew past the Chain of Rocks, an exposure of bedrock in the Cuivre River.

9 **NOV. 2:** As part of Underhill's course, Democracy in the American

Heartland, students traveled to the Michael Brown Memorial—the site of the August 2014 shooting death of a black teenager by a white policeman, which prompted national commentary on racial discrimination and gun control. President Paul Pribbenow joined the group for a tour through the city and discussions with residents.

"Standing at that memorial in the middle of the road was a deeply unsettling experience—there was no way it could or should have been otherwise." —President Paul Pribbenow

10 **NOV. 16:** The team paddled past expansive sandbars and islands full of wildlife at the confluence of the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers. Waters in this area can rise and fall as much as 70 feet and swirl around canoes.

11 **NOV. 26:** Thanksgiving in New Orleans: The crew enjoyed an abundance of fried turkey and comforting side dishes at their hostel as they visited with fellow travelers from more than a dozen countries.

12 **DEC. 11:** Travel by train to Chicago. *"The train back to Chicago was spent doing a lot of work on our finals, but it was also a time to reflect on everything we experienced on the trip." —Blair Stewig '18*



1
ITASCA STATE
PARK, MN

2
HARRIET ISLAND, ST. PAUL

3
LAKE PEPIN

4
WINONA, MN

5
CLINTON, IA

12
CHICAGO, IL

6
QUAD CITIES

7
HANNIBAL, MO

8
LOUISIANA, MO

9
FERGUSON, MO

10
CHOCTAW ISLAND, TN

11
NEW ORLEANS, LA



DEC. 14-15 The crew traveled by train from Chicago to the Twin Cities and joined in a “good-bye” hug upon arrival at Union Depot in St. Paul.



As part of the River Semester welcome back celebration, Augsburg graphic design and typography students created an interactive gallery exhibit chronicling the voyage. Learn more at augsborg.edu/now.

AUGGIES CONNECT

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear alumni and friends,

Today's Augsburg College students seek to make a difference, and it's been a privilege to interact with them as they gather to meet alumni, discuss vocation, and pick up targeted professional advice at recent events. Last fall, the Clair and Gladys Strommen Center for Meaningful Work hosted a Career and Internship Fair and welcomed young Auggies who sought to make connections with employers and internship hosts.

Shortly after the event, nearly two dozen Augsburg alumni returned to campus to join panel discussions about their academic and career stories across a range of disciplines and professions. These events were part of a five-week major and career exploration series that provided nearly 175 students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of degrees and occupations. This series was made successful thanks, in part, to the Augsburg College alumni who served as panelists. Thank you to all Auggies who shared your vocation and insight with students!

Most recently, I was humbled by the talent, drive, and thoughtfulness I saw all around me at the annual Alumni-Student Networking event in February, where hundreds of alumni mingled with current students and faculty, received free professional profile photos, and listened as alumni addressed the importance of informational interviewing, mentoring, and using social media to connect. Regardless of where we are in our professional lives, I think we all have something to offer to or gain from such events.

Events like these make me proud to be an Auggie. If you shared your experiences with students in the past year, you helped to inspire Auggie pride.

Whether you're connecting with students, networking with graduates of all class years, contributing to The Augsburg Fund to support College initiatives, or planning a gift to fund an endowed scholarship, we are so grateful.

As Augsburg moves into the future, alumni can help the College live out its vision—to educate students for lives of purpose—across the disciplines, beyond the classroom, and around the world.

You can engage your employer in identifying Auggies as candidates for employment, internships, or mentorships by posting opportunities at your company on the AugPost job board found at augsborg.edu/alumni.

I joined the alumni board because I wanted to see Auggies help other Auggies and make a difference. Each time I attend an Augsburg event, I learn more about what current students are up to, and I want to do everything I can to help them succeed. Won't you join me?

JILL WATSON '10 MBA, ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Courtesy Photo

UNIQUELY AUGSBURG TRAVEL IN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA JANUARY 3-15, 2017

In January, English Professor **Kathy Swanson** and her husband, Jack, will lead an educational trip through Thailand and Cambodia. After arriving in Bangkok, travelers will tour the Grand Palace, visit the temple at Wat Po (the Reclining Buddha), shop for tropical produce, and sample local cuisine cooked on boats at a floating market. From there they will continue to Chiang Mai to ride elephants, perfect their culinary skills with a cooking class, and volunteer at an orphanage. The trip will conclude in Siem Reap, Cambodia, at Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world.

This thought-provoking tour has been customized specifically for Augsburg alumni, parents, and friends, and there's still time to learn more and participate. Contact **Katie Koch '01**, director of Auggie Engagement, at kochk@augsborg.edu or **612-330-1178** if you are interested in learning more about Augsburg's travel opportunities.



To learn more, go to
augsborg.edu/alumni/travel.

AUGGIES CONNECT



Capstone dinner celebrates SUCCESSFUL BUILDING CAMPAIGN

This winter, as part of the annual Advent Vespers festivities, Augsburg College held a dinner to celebrate the successful completion of the largest capital campaign in the institution's history and to recognize the generosity of all who made the Campaign for the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion possible. More than 200 donors attended, including members of the Board of Regents and many alumni supporters.

President Paul Pribbenow offered his sincere thanks to Norman and Evangeline Hagfors and all donors to the new building. Chair of the Board of Regents Dr. Paul Mueller '84 shared his gratitude and recognized the incredible leadership and commitment of Mike Good '71 [pictured above], who served as national chair for the campaign that exceeded its \$50 million goal.

ALUMNA COMBINES CREATIVITY AND CHEMISTRY through career at 3M

After becoming involved with the 3M STEP program as a high school student, Audrey Sherman '97 [pictured] became an inventor at age 20. Now a scientist with 3M, Sherman is credited with nearly 80 patents, some created with other Augsburg alumni working at the Minnesota-based company.



Sherman's most recent patent is for a versatile material with the potential to improve cosmetics, insulation wrapping, and electronics. Two of her favorite patents involve using pressure-sensitive adhesives to transport light and making a solvent-free duct tape. She also helped discover a new solution for restickable diaper tape. Sherman feels that her Augsburg minor in art has been an important factor in pursuing her inventions, enabling her to blend creativity with her skills in chemistry. Today she mentors St. Paul high school students interested in science and gives talks to junior-high and middle-school students about careers in science and technology.



Share your ideas for AUGSBURG'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Augsburg alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and staff are invited to help celebrate the College's 150th anniversary in 2019. What aspect of your Augsburg history would you like to celebrate during the sesquicentennial year? Were you connected to a team, a club, or a department that made a difference? Would you like to see a reunion for your favorite activity—whether it was the Echo newspaper staff, a sport, Lutheran Youth Encounter, the Augsburg Choir, or theater? How best would you like to honor Augsburg's past, present, and future?

Visit augsburg.edu/150 to submit your ideas and find monthly updates on planning already underway for the sesquicentennial celebration.

AUGGIES CONNECT

ALUMNI ASSIST STUDENTS

on their path to
physician assistant
career

In the classroom and in the field, Augsburg College alumni help today's physician assistant students gain a glimpse into the professional world they're preparing to enter. Through clinical work and course instruction, alumni share their experience in a high-demand field.

Augsburg's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program was the first of its kind in Minnesota and admitted its inaugural class in 1995. The full-time graduate program educates generalist physician assistants oriented toward service to underserved populations in rural and urban settings.



[L to R]: Augsburg College alumnus **Tom Towle '14 MPA** leads then-students **Scott Harder '15 MPA** and **Christina Pekoske '15 MPA** through the steps of starting an IV.

The physician assistant (PA) concept has evolved over time but continues to increase in relevance. In alignment with health care industry demand, the PA's role continues to expand.

The Augsburg PA program's long history in Minnesota is advantageous, according to **Jenny Kluznik '13 MPA**, assistant professor of physician assistant studies. PA students spend approximately half of their graduate program in a didactic—or classroom—phase. The latter half of the program is spent in the community where students complete clinical rotations that change every five weeks. Augsburg's PA alumni serve as educators and lecturers for a course series in clinical medicine and also serve as hosts for the hands-on field work.

Meredith Wold '07 MPA is a guest lecturer for the program and an adjunct faculty member. She works as a hospitalist PA with an internal medicine team at Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

As an undergraduate, Wold was focused almost

exclusively on medical school, but during her final year in college she was struck by the teamwork she witnessed between a doctor and a PA in surgery.

Now, after nearly a decade in her profession, Wold values the team-based work of taking care of hospitalized patients.

She weaves clinical episodes from her career into her lectures, which serve to remind students of the whole patient—not just the upcoming exam.

Melissa Oeding '10 MPA, another guest lecturer, agrees.

"As a recent graduate, I can relate to the student experience, understand how students learn, and provide real-world insight and advice regarding what to expect as a practicing PA," said Oeding, who works at Minneapolis' Hennepin County Medical Center.

She's stimulated by the chance to sit on the other side of the lectern.

"It renews an excitement for my work and career and reminds me just why I started out in the program," she said. "I feel extraordinarily blessed to have been trained and trained well at Augsburg."

Guest lecturer **Olga Trouskova '13 MPA** sought out Augsburg's PA program in part because of its emphasis on serving the underserved.

"I went into medicine to provide answers and to heal," Trouskova said. "Now I understand that great medicine cannot happen without building relationships and trust with my patients."

She also is a hospitalist PA at Regions and, during her weeks off, serves as a family practice PA at Westside Community Health Services/La Clinica, a community clinic.

Trouskova makes a point of including real patient stories in her presentations to remind students that PAs treat patients, not diseases.

For students, there's no match for hearing these types of lessons from alumni, according to Wold.

"It shows a level of alumni commitment toward the program and the next generation of Augsburg PAs," she said. "Early on after graduation I felt a duty, a professional responsibility really, to give that back."

And teaching is its own kind of gift, according to Trouskova.

"By teaching others, I have learned as well," she said.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1960 Lowell "Zeke" Ziemann '60 continues to write. His newest book, "Gunslingers and Baseball," is a collection of Western historical fiction, essays, and baseball stories. It is available on Amazon.

1965 From his time at Augsburg, **Allen Anderson '65** fondly remembers his music professor **Leland Sateren '35**, the Burgundy Singers, dorm life, and choir tours. Today, Anderson is still involved with choral music and enjoys golf, woodworking, activities in his community and at his church, travel, and participation in Lutheran Men in Mission. He and wife, Joyce, have two children who graduated from Augsburg. They travel to New Zealand on occasion to visit their son and his family.

Gary Blossberg '65 says that his current position is "reclined." He is retired after 26 years as a finance manager at General Electric and 23 years in the U.S. Navy. He thanks chemistry professor **Courtland Agre** for sharing his wisdom when he said: "You don't need to know everything; you just need to know where to find the answers." Blossberg still sings with the Centennial Singers, the Masterworks Chorale, and other groups. He is proud to be a father and grandfather.

Connie (Ekeren) Cameron '65 teaches at Honors Mentor Connection, is on the Fringe Festival Board, sings in the St. Joan of Arc Choir, and is involved in politics, travel, and the League of Women Voters. Her fondest memories of Augsburg include the Kappa House girls, professor **Anne Pederson's** literature

wonderful teachers and role models. Among Dietrich's most treasured Augsburg memories are the excellent convocation speakers and the great friendships she made. Today, she and husband, Franklin, enjoy their grandsons, their involvement at Central Lutheran Church, and traveling. She also volunteers with

literature; and professor of history **Carl Chrislock '37** for his effective use of anecdote to enliven history. Dyrud spends his time reading, golfing, and traveling. He and wife, Marilyn, have three children who are all involved with theater, and they enjoy seeing their children's work.

In October, **Janis "Matty" Mathison '69** was honored by the American Planning Association's Wisconsin Chapter as its Citizen of the Year for her leadership in working with local residents and planners to promote healthy living and active lifestyles in eastern Wisconsin's Shawano County. Last year was the third year of Bike the Barn Quilts, an area bike tour that she spearheaded.



From the [NOW@Augsburg blog](http://NOW@Augsburg.blog).
Visit augsburg.edu/alumni/blog to read more.



classes, and her roommate of four years **Carol (Welch) Langness '65**. Cameron thanks the team behind the Christmas smorgasbords; **Ailene Cole**, speech professor; **Orval Haugsby**, math professor; **Leland Sateren '35**, music department head; and **Phil Quanbeck Sr. '50**. She and husband, Bill, have three sons and one grandchild.

Eunice (Bergman) Dietrich '65 thanks home economics faculty **Ruth Segolson**, **Ruth Sonsteng**, and **Katherine Peterson** for being

daughter, Kari, at Dakota City, the 1900s village in Farmington, Minnesota. The Dietrichs also have a son, Hans.

The faculty members who most influenced **David Dyrud '65** as a student were philosophy professor **Paul Sonnack '42** for his intensity; New Testament Greek and Latin professor **Mario Colacci** for his flamboyance; professor of English **Gerald Thorson '43** for his Hush Puppies (Dyrud's favorite shoes); professor of English **Anne Pederson**, for her affection for

Mark Gjerde '65 retired in 2004 from 3M. He enjoys traveling with wife, **Jan (Lunas) Gjerde '68**, and spending time with their grandchildren at a lake home. He remembers **Gerald "Jerry" Pryd '66** and **Paul Dahlen '66**, his friends who died in a plane crash while they were Augsburg students. Gjerde was influenced by professor of math **George Soberg '26** and professor of philosophy **Paul Sonnack '42**. The Gjerdes lived in Brussels from 1995-97 while Mark worked for 3M. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



[L to R]: The men and their previous careers: **Arden Flaten '60** (science teacher), **Myron Carlson '60** (pastor), **Don Gilberg '60** (band teacher, piano tuner), **Iver Christopherson '60** (high school principal), and **Neuman Berger '60** (attorney).

1960 This group of alumni were friends during college but had little contact since graduating. They were reunited at the 2015 Homecoming celebration and barely scratched the surface in terms of catching up. Now retired, the five Auggies plan to get together again soon.



1974 The National Tile Contractors Association recently honored **Janet (Durkee) Hohn '74** with its Tile Person of the Year award. Hohn was the third woman to receive this honor in the six decades it has been presented. For more than 20 years, Hohn has operated a one-person, high-end residential tile and stone installation company. She has served as president of the Twin Cities Local Tile Contractors Association, as a board member and technical methods and standards committee member for NTCA, and most recently as chairperson of the NTCA training and education committee.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

One Augsburg College memory treasured by **Glenn Hamberg '65** is the teaching style and effectiveness of **W. LaMarr Kopp** in German class. Other faculty members who influenced Hamberg as a student were **Mario Colacci** from the department of New Testament Greek and Latin, **Courtland Agre** from chemistry, **Gerald Thorson '43** from English, and **Paul Sonnack '42**. Hamberg's present interests include crossword puzzles, computers, movies, Jeopardy, volunteering, travel, and spending time with his grandchildren and wife, **Sandra (Edstrom) Hamberg '66**.

Jerry Hamlin '65 works part time. He likes to volunteer and to travel in his free time. He treasures his memories of Augsburg basketball games, the convocation with Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, and feeling like every day was a good day. He was most influenced by **Donald Gustafson** and **Carl Chrislock '37** in history, and **Sheldon Fardig** in education. Hamlin and wife, Jari, have four children and 10 grandchildren.

James Harbo '65 has a full-time dental practice in New York. He enjoys visiting his two grandchildren in Pennsylvania, doing church work, reading theology, participating in a book club, and aging well! He fondly remembers his dorm friendships, baseball, Augsburg Choir concerts, and soaking up the culture of Minneapolis. The past 50 years have heightened his appreciation of his years at Augsburg where, he says, there was "much goodness and inspiration." Harbo and wife, Amy, have three children.

Today you can find **Peter Jacobson '65** woodworking, volunteering, or traveling. He and wife, Lynne, have two children and two grandchildren. His fondest memories of Augsburg include dorm life all four years, Augsburg basketball, being a resident assistant, and spending afternoons in the physics lab. He was most influenced by physics professor **Theodore "Ted" Hanwick**.

Sharon (Dittbenner) Klabunde '65 plays in a mountain dulcimer band, and loves to travel and garden. She remembers chapel time from her days at Augsburg and also living in a house as a freshman where, she says, there were three women to a room who shared one dinky closet. She enjoyed working in the cafeteria.

Carol (Welch) Langness '65 and husband, Gary, spend every January to April in the East African city of Iringa, Tanzania, along with their synod partners in the Iringa Diocese. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Julie (Gudmestad) Laudicina '65 and husband, Joe, love to travel and recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a cruise on the Danube River. She also enjoys gardening, reading, leading a book club, and living in New York City. She has been a civil wedding officiant for 10 years and has married more than 300 couples from around the world. Some

of chapel, serving as student body president, and Augsburg's emphasis on vocation, service, and faith active in love. Luoma is a minister of education at Hope Lutheran, The Villages. He is a Via de Cristo coordinator, a Diaconate teacher, and likes to travel and bowl. He and wife, **Gracia (Nydahl) Luoma '66**, have two sons. Their oldest son, Aaron, passed away in January 2015.



Jake Stangel, Times of London

For 12 years, **David Raether '78** wrote for TV comedy sitcoms, including "Roseanne." After building his career, he took a break to focus on his family and found the job market had changed completely when he attempted to return to the field. After struggling and becoming homeless, he says, he discovered that he was far more resourceful and resilient than he had ever dreamed. Raether delivered a TEDxAmherst talk and wrote a book about his experiences titled, "Tell Me Something, She Said."



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of her memories of Augsburg include listening to choir practice, freezing at football games, enjoying her many friends, and participating in student government and chapel. She was most influenced by faculty members **Phil Quanbeck Sr. '50**, professor of religion; **Anne Pederson**, professor of English; and **Philip Thompson**, professor of art. She also remembers **Dean of Students Glen Johnson** and **Dean of Women Fern Martinson**. Laudicina would most like to thank her parents, both Augsburg alumni, for encouraging her to live and learn with a strong set of values.

Bette (Bodin) Leeney '65 and husband, Jack, love their home in Florida. They have a pool and use it a lot. She likes to garden and to welcome the family, mostly in the winter! Her treasured memories of Augsburg focus on the good values she learned and kept with her. She remembers the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and how difficult that was. She admired **Dean of Students Peter Armacost**, who supported her when her father passed away. Her psychology and social work professors inspired her to get her master's degree in social work. She and **Marie (Bergh) Sandbo '65** met freshman year and have remained friends for 50 years. They share the same birthday.

As a student, **John Luoma '65** was influenced by **Mario Colacci**, professor of classical languages; **Carl Chrislock '37**, professor of history; and **William "Bill" Halverson '51**, professor of religion. He treasures memories

LeRoy Martinson '65 retired in June 1998 after 33 years of teaching math and coaching skiing. Now he stays active with tennis, volleyball, and five grandchildren. He lives with wife, Micki, in Cross Lake, Minnesota. His memories of Augsburg are of his math teachers, his coaches, and student teaching with **Ms. Anderson**. He was influenced by professor of math **George Soberg '26**, professor of physical education **Howard "Howie" Pearson '53**, and **Coach Edor Nelson '38**. Martinson is a member of the Minnesota State High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

Dan and Mary (Tildahl) Meyers '65 met during their freshman year at Augsburg. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary, Dan has worked for AdvisorNet Financial for 50 years, and it's been 50 years since he graduated from Augsburg. Dan remembers playing basketball and baseball, and he was influenced most by **Ernie Anderson '37** and **Edor Nelson '38**. He would thank **Milt Kleven '46**, if he could, for funding his scholarship. Dan keeps busy with work, golf, reading, and basketball. Mary enjoys walking, reading, caring for a grandson, and traveling. She treasures the friendships she made at Augsburg and meeting Dan there. **Carl Chrislock '37** and her world history class helped her realize she wasn't a history major. Mary says that Augsburg has been an influence in their lives for 50 years. Whether they return for athletic games, homecoming or concerts, it always feels like coming home. The Meyers have two children and three grandchildren.

Larry Nelson '65 thanks **Theodore "Ted" Hanwick**, of the Physics Department, for his challenging and thorough classes. Nelson's Augsburg education provided a solid foundation for his career in science education. He enjoyed teaching various areas of biology, in addition to wilderness-based experiential education. His fondest Augsburg memories are of morning chapel, convocations, studying in the library, concerts, sporting events, and social activities. Nelson says Augsburg also prepared him for continued spiritual growth. Today, he likes to travel, read, garden, volunteer, do house maintenance, and spend time with his family. He and wife, Marilyn, have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Becky (Walhood) Nielsen '65 remembers her good friends from Miriam House. She and husband, **Steve Nielsen '64**, have three daughters, 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Their granddaughter, **Morgan Kenny '17**, attends Augsburg.

Lois Peterson '65 would thank **Mimi Kingsley**, professor of Spanish, for telling her that she had "a gift for language." Peterson is fluent in Spanish, and she visited Mimi in Chile prior to her death. Today, Peterson enjoys traveling and has been to Costa Rica, Mexico, Norway, and Spain. She remembers being in a class **Bill Halverson '51** taught in Old Main when the news came of President John F. Kennedy's death, and watching the Beatles for the first time while in The Grill. She loves life in Denver, where her children live nearby. **Leland Sateren '35** most influenced

Sharon (Bjugstad) Ronning '65, and she has spent her life involved in music. She sings in the Masterworks Chorale, directs a church choir, and teaches piano. Other activities include knitting, spending time at her cabin, and enjoying her four children and eight grandchildren. She met husband, **Don Ronning '66**, in the Augsburg Choir. Don passed away in 2000.

Marie (Bergh) Sandbo '65 and husband, **Hans Sandbo '63**, will celebrate 50 years of marriage this year. Marie likes to travel, spend time with grandchildren, and serve on the Heritage Committee at church, all while continuing to run a small business from home. Her treasured memories of Augsburg include the friendships made and her studies in library science. **Don Gustafson**, **Martha Mattson '28**, **Ruth Aaskov '53**, **Dick Husfloen '60**, and **Pat Parker** are the faculty and staff who most influenced Marie. Two of the Sandbos' three children graduated from Augsburg.

Terry Simonson '65 and wife, Patricia, live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where he serves as a half-time chaplain at a residence for seniors. Three generations share their home, and his three granddaughters are the joy of his life. The memories of Augsburg that he treasures are good times spent with roommates and learning Greek and Latin (his major). **Erwin Mickelberg '54** was influential in Simonson's decision to attend Augsburg. These days, he is interested in quantum physics and continues to explore the subject.



for the past 12 years. Previous to this role, he served parishes in central and eastern North Dakota.

1991 On October 13, 2015, **David Johnson '91** was promoted to Colonel in the North Dakota Army National Guard. He is a senior Army chaplain for the state. Johnson also is an ELCA pastor serving as a full-time chaplain for the North Dakota Army National Guard. He has been serving in this call



2006 **Heather Finholm '06** (Nystrom) and husband, Jeffrey, announce the adoption of their twin sons, Joseph and Matthew, born April 30, 2015, and adopted on July 27, 2015.



2007 **Lázaro G. Payano Stark** was welcomed into this world at home with the help of his midwives on April 3, 2015. He is the son of **Jenessa Payano Stark '07** and Geomar Payano Stark. The family resides in south Minneapolis.



This fall, seven Auggies served on the varsity football coaching staff at Osseo (Minnesota) High School and helped lead the team to its first Class 6A state championship. The group of Augsburg alumni included **Jack Osberg '62**, **Derrin Lamker '97**, **Mark Joseph '01**, **Andy Johnson '04**, **Jordan Berg '09**, **Royce Winford '09**, and **David Tilton '12**.



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ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Win Stiefel '65 taught school in Alaska and now lives with wife, **Gracia (Olson) Stiefel '66**, in Glennallen, Alaska. He spent 10 years teaching at a Bible college and 10 years in Russia helping Evangelical churches. These days he drives a school bus, enjoys 10 grandchildren and a great grandchild, cuts firewood, and volunteers at missions. He remembers traveling with the wrestling team, canoeing on the Mississippi River, and listening to the Basin Streeters. If he could thank someone, it would be the old man outside Cedar Ave. Mission who asked him and others whether or not they were saved.

Steve Strommen '65 likes to spend his days playing "Old Timer" softball, bird hunting, appreciating winters in San Diego and summers at a Minnesota cabin, performing home renovations, and enjoying his family and grandchildren. He has many memories from athletics at Augsburg, including three championship basketball teams and a championship in baseball. The most influential people during his time at Augsburg were **Carl Chrislock '37** and coaches **Ernie Anderson '37** and **Edor Nelson '38**. He and wife, Chynne, have two children and five grandchildren.

Sharon (Topte) Taeger '65 and **David Taeger '65** recently moved to Camrose—a city in Alberta, Canada—after living for 19 years in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Sharon likes to read, paint, and socialize. David likes to listen, watch, and marvel at the growth and development of children, especially their four grandchildren. He also enjoys reading and being with friends. David received his M.Div. from Northwestern Theological Seminary. He was most influenced by **Mario Collacci** and **Carl Chrislock '37** while at Augsburg. Sharon and David have two children.

Virg Vagle '65 would thank **Ernie Anderson '37**,

Edor Nelson '38, and **Ed Saugestad '59** for being influential during his time at Augsburg. Vagle enjoys golfing, traveling, and being with his grandchildren. He and wife, Pat, have seven children and 12 grandchildren.

Lyndy West '65 fondly remembers playing in the concert band and in the Basin Streeters, a group that performed for Augsburg basketball games. He entered Luther Seminary after graduating from Augsburg and served parishes in Los Angeles, inner-city Chicago, and Minnesota. He officially retired in 2012. He says the smartest thing he ever did was to marry Diane Haas in 1969. They have four children and four grandchildren. They like to bike, travel, read, participate in music at their church, and lead polka services. He thanks his parents for encouraging him and his siblings to attend Augsburg.

1967 John Schwartz '67 is in his sixth season with the acclaimed Apollo Chorus of Chicago, which was formed in 1872. Schwartz serves as vice president of its board. Auggie singers in the Chicago area can audition to join this 130-member chorus. Details can be found at Apollochorus.org.

1975 Glen Teske '75 is enjoying the adjustment to retirement after working for 40 years in the IT department at Hennepin County. Among his treasured memories as a student at Augsburg are business administration classes, tutoring other students, and the friendships he made. He also remembers playing four years of basketball and winning the MIAC conference title in 1975. He thanks professor of history **Khin Khin Jensen**, adviser and professor of business **Keishiro Matsumoto**, mentor **Jeroy Carlson '48**, and coaches **Butch Raymond '63** and **Erv Inniger** for their impact on his life.

1979 Laura (Rolfe) Matuska '79 has been selected as WeCAB's part-time community outreach fundraiser. WeCAB provides door-to-door supplemental transportation in the Westonka and eastern Carver County service areas for people who are unable to drive to medical appointments, church, social events, the grocery store, or the food shelf. Matuska has significant experience working with seniors and clients, providing case management to support transitions through all levels of senior living. She has launched volunteer programs, developed a hospital-based domestic abuse intervention program, and is a successful grant writer. Matuska also has worked with many volunteers in a variety of positions.

1980 The new Bill Simenson Quintet recently debuted at The Nicolet. Leader **Bill Simenson '80** (trumpet) has been performing professionally in the Twin Cities for nearly 30 years. After earning his degree in music and political science at Augsburg, he attended the University of Trondheim in Norway where he studied music at the graduate level. Catch the Bill Simenson Orchestra, a larger ensemble, once a month at Jazz Central in Minneapolis.

1981 Rob Hubbard '81 tells the story of the hilarity, irreverence, and imagination of the Brave New Workshop in his new book, "Brave New Workshop: Promiscuous Hostility and Laughs in the Land of Loons." The book, from The History Press, celebrates the marvelous, unexpected, and absurd history of this one-of-a-kind comedy institution. The owners of Brave New Workshop are John Sweeney and **Jenni Lilledahl '87**.

1987 Tammy Jo Rider '87 received a 2015 Leadership Award from the



2013 **Amanda Rowan '13** and **Jordan Lakanen '14** married August 8, 2015. Auggies in the wedding party included: **Eric Lakanen '02**, **Stephanie Nelson '13**, **Rachel Rixen '13**, and **Ashley (Carney) Wolke '13**.



man **Alex Obonor**, Augsburg Department of Public Safety officer; **Dustin Parks '16**; **Keisha Barnard '16**; bridesmaid **Alia Thorpe '15**; bridesmaid **Lily Moloney '15**; maid of honor **Rachel Shaheen '15**; ceremony musician **Becky Shaheen '11**; and officiant **Rev. Mike Matson '06**.

2015 Top row [L to R]: **Tyler Dorn '15** and **Alisha Esselstein '15** were married on June 20, 2015, at Sugarland Barn in Arena, Wisconsin. Many Auggies participated in and attended the wedding. Bottom row [L to R]: Best

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



After graduation, **Joshua Harris '08** moved to Baltimore drawn to the service opportunity of working with Alpha Phi Alpha, the oldest inter-collegiate community-service-oriented fraternity founded by African-Americans. Harris serves as managing editor of APA's journal, "The Sphinx." He works with other community leaders in Baltimore on many initiatives, including one to build a network of individuals, businesses, and organizations that can provide internships, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities for high school students. He returned to Minneapolis in fall 2015 to speak on a panel at the Augsburg Young Alumni Council's networking event at Surly Brewing Co. Harris is running for mayor of Baltimore. Learn about his campaign at harrisforbaltimore.com.



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Southeast Minnesota affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

1991 Bill Koschak '91 was hired as the chief financial officer at YA, which is an industry market leader in delivering omni-channel marketing promotions for the nation's most respected brands. Before joining YA, Koschak was vice president of finance and CFO for the convenience and foodservice business at General Mills.

2000 Lewis Nelson '00 joined the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business MBA for Executives. He blogs about the experience at wanderingveteran.com.

2007 Kati (Tweeten) Bergey '07 married Brandon Bergey on October 18, 2014. Kati teaches sixth grade for Mabel-Canton Public Schools in Mabel, Minnesota.

2012 Lauren Grafelman '12 graduated with her MBA from Hamline University in August 2015.

William "Billy" Hamilton '12 graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in May and received news that he passed the Minnesota Bar Exam in July. He began work as a public defender in training at the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office. He has found his vocation!

2014 Enrico Barrozo '14 is pursuing a doctorate in genetics and genomics at the University of Florida, supported by the McKnight Doctoral, UF Graduate School, and Top-Up fellowships.

Barrozo is studying the development of novel gene therapy treatments for human diseases caused by persistent viral infections and mutations of the genome. The goal of his research is to develop safe and effective strategies for treating these diseases. He also has worked as a Post-Baccalaureate Research Program Scholar at the University of Georgia.

2015 Hannah Frey '15 has an AmeriCorps position in the Community Technology Empowerment Project, which helps bridge the "digital divide" for new immigrants and low-income communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul. She serves at Roseville (Minnesota) Library as a digital literacy coordinator for adult technology programming and outreach.

Heidi Heller '15 has accepted a job as a historian and researcher with Hess Roise Historical Consultants.

GRADUATE

Ava Beilke '14 MBA formed her own social media consulting business, Paragon Social (paragonsocialco.com or [@paragonsocialco](https://twitter.com/paragonsocialco) on Twitter), with the desire to help individuals and small businesses excel in social media. Beilke studied communications in undergrad and pursued her MBA to round out her business expertise. She now fuses her creative skills with her business savvy to create the most effective social media efforts.



Katie Koch '01 is the new Director of Auggie Engagement at Augsburg College. Koch comes from a diverse background of performing arts management, having most recently worked at The O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University as an event and administrative manager. Koch worked for nearly five years at the Guthrie Theater as an assistant to former director Joe Dowling, where she supported the Guthrie Board of Directors and high-profile visiting artists. During her time at Augsburg, Koch was a member of The Augsburg Choir, Augsburg Concert Band, and Augsburg Jazz and Gospel Praise. She served as an admissions ambassador, a student coordinator for new student orientation in 1999 and 2000, and wrote for the Augsburg Echo.



In memoriam

Dwight E. Elving '37, Mercer Island, Washington, age 99, on September 17.

Evelyn B. (Wibeto) Stone '41, Alexandria, Minnesota, age 98, on November 26.

J. Maurice "Maury" Erickson '42, Vermillion, South Dakota, age 95, on September 10.

Helen L. (Fevold) Nelson '43, Minneapolis, age 94, June 4.

Chester E. Hoversten '44, Northfield, Minnesota, age 93, on November 16.

Joyce E. (Gronseth) Limburg '44, Apple Valley, Minnesota, age 93, on October 10.

Elise H. (Hoplin) Anderson '45, Edina, Minnesota, age 96, on October 13.

Edgar A. Emerson '46, Perham, Minnesota, age 90, on December 3.

Guilford "Guy" L. Parsons '47, Minneapolis, age 94, on September 17.

Ruth E. (Thompson) Larson '48, Clearbrook, Minnesota, age 92, on December 26.

Allen J. Moe '48, Dawson, Minnesota, age 88, on October 16.

Paul I. Roth '49, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, age 90, on November 21.

Arne Simengaard '49, Fridley, Minnesota, age 88, on November 28.

Harvard E. Larson '50, Greeley, Colorado, age 86, on September 14.

Wesley N. Paulson '51, Altoona, Wisconsin, age 88, on December 2.

Walter L. Dilley '52, Paynesville, Minnesota, age 88, on October 14.

Woodrow W. Wilson '53, Lincoln, Nebraska, age 97, on September 11.

Erling B. Huglen '54, Roseau, Minnesota, age 83, on December 19.

Allan J. Kohls '54, Minneapolis, age 87, on October 4.

Marvin S. Undseth '54, Salem, Oregon, age 90, on October 12.

Rolf Heng '55, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, age 81, on September 30.

Elmer Karlstad '55, Warroad, Minnesota, age 91, on November 14.

Alfred E. Kaupins '57, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, age 88, on November 25.

Lawrence "Larry" C. Pratt Jr. '57, St. Anthony, Minnesota, age 81, on July 12.

Eldri R. (Johanson) Salter '57, Pocatello, Idaho, age 80, on September 8.

Dennis F. Gibson '59, Edina, Minnesota, age 83, on September 5.

James K. Horn '59, Lino Lakes, Minnesota, age 83, on November 26.

Eugene "Pete" S. Peterson '59, Jackson, Minnesota, age 78, on October 17.

Peter M. Locke '60, South St. Paul, Minnesota, age 82, on November 30.

Gayle J. Arvidson '61, Newburgh, Indiana, age 84, on December 25.

Harvey L. Jackson '61, Park River, North Dakota, age 78, on September 28.

John D. Sorenson '62, Hickory, North Carolina, age 75, on November 2.

Lee E. Keller '63, San Bernardino, California, age 80, on August 27.

Joyce (Hanson) Holbrook '65, Lincoln, California, age 72, on December 27.

Edythe "Edie" (Berg) Johnson '65, Stillwater, Minnesota, age 72, on October 1.

Marilyn J. Larson '65, Estes Park, Colorado, age 73, on November 3.

Joyce A. (Schuchart) Hagerty '66, Oneida, Illinois, age 72, on December 4.

Philip "Phil" A. Walen '70, Stillwater, Minnesota, age 67, on September 9.

Russell "Jeff" J. Quanbeck '71, Bloomington, Minnesota, age 67, on December 1.

Isabella "Bella" (Frazier) Sanders '73, Park Rapids, Minnesota, age 85, on October 1.

Gregory J. Semanko '73, Dassel, Minnesota, age 64, on September 16.

Brent M. Amundson '78, Colorado Springs, Colorado, age 61, on December 3.

David C. Eitrheim '79, Menomonie, Wisconsin, age 58, on January 1.

Morgan S. Grant '82, Willmar, Minnesota, age 55, on August 28.

Kelly M. Williams '92, Edina, Minnesota, age 45, on August 25.

Thomas D. Orstad '93, Park River, North Dakota, age 51, on October 13.

Earl R. Kinley III '94, Eagan, Minnesota, age 55, on December 18.

Christine L. (Quandt) Edinger '99, Madison, Wisconsin, age 49, on December 19.

Judith A. (Gretz) Roy '99, Minneapolis, age 68, on September 24.

Traci M. Singher '12, '15 MSW, Minnetonka, Minnesota, age 44, on December 1.

Dustyn B. Hessie '13, Minneapolis, age 27, on June 15.

Augsburg College Women's Basketball Head Coach **William "Bill" L. McKee**, New Brighton, Minnesota, age 62, on August 27.

The "In memoriam" listings in this publication include notifications received before January 10.

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LeVar Burton encourages the next generation

Actor, director, writer, producer, and educator LeVar Burton—best known for his roles in “Roots,” “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” and “Reading Rainbow”—inspired prospective students to make positive change in the world. Burton’s presentation took place this winter during Scholarship Weekend, an annual event where prospective students compete for the President’s and Fine Arts scholarships.