

AUGSBURG NOW



INSIDE



Strengthening community
Inspired design
The best is ahead
Welcome to America

CULTIVATING
CONNECTIONS

SPRING—SUMMER 2018 | VOL. 80, NO. 2



NOTES FROM PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW

On unexpected connections

There are many ways in which higher education is a leap of faith. Students come to campus brimming with curiosity and promise. Faculty and staff meet them where they are and seek those connections that lead to genuine learning. And, if all works as intended, promises are kept, learning happens, and our mission to educate students to be informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders is advanced.

Easy, right? Or maybe not, because more often than not, those promises, that learning, and our mission are embedded in the daily, mundane, and sometimes messy interactions and intersections that define our lives together.

One of the cornerstones of our educational leap of faith is the importance of the unexpected conversations and experiences that transform our learning and our lives. These serendipitous moments are at the heart of every aspect of our work at Augsburg. Serendipity is built into our curriculum, which emphasizes experiences in which students face the unexpected—in the classroom, the laboratory, the neighborhood, and around the world—with the belief that they will be changed and equipped for their vocations. It's in campus life, where our remarkably diverse students are challenged in their daily interactions with each other to imagine what a vibrant democracy looks like—the unexpected ways in which people of different backgrounds and faiths and

perspectives learn to live together.

And it's also in the ways we are designing campus spaces and facilities, including the remarkable Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion—which is highlighted in this issue of Augsburg Now. Nearly half of Augsburg's faculty now call the Hagfors Center home, and, day by day, they are interacting with each other, forging new and unexpected relationships that are leading to new courses, new research projects, new ways of connecting students and faculty to the neighborhood. Students are making themselves at home in the building, enjoying departmental neighborhood spaces as well as group study rooms. There is an energy in the building that is itself serendipitous—who knows what unexpected connections will be forged to keep our promises, expand learning, and advance our mission.

What are your serendipitous moments at Augsburg? Send them to me at augpres@augsborg.edu, and we'll share what we learn in a future issue of Augsburg Now. In the meantime, thank you for taking the leap of faith that defines an Augsburg education!

Faithfully yours,

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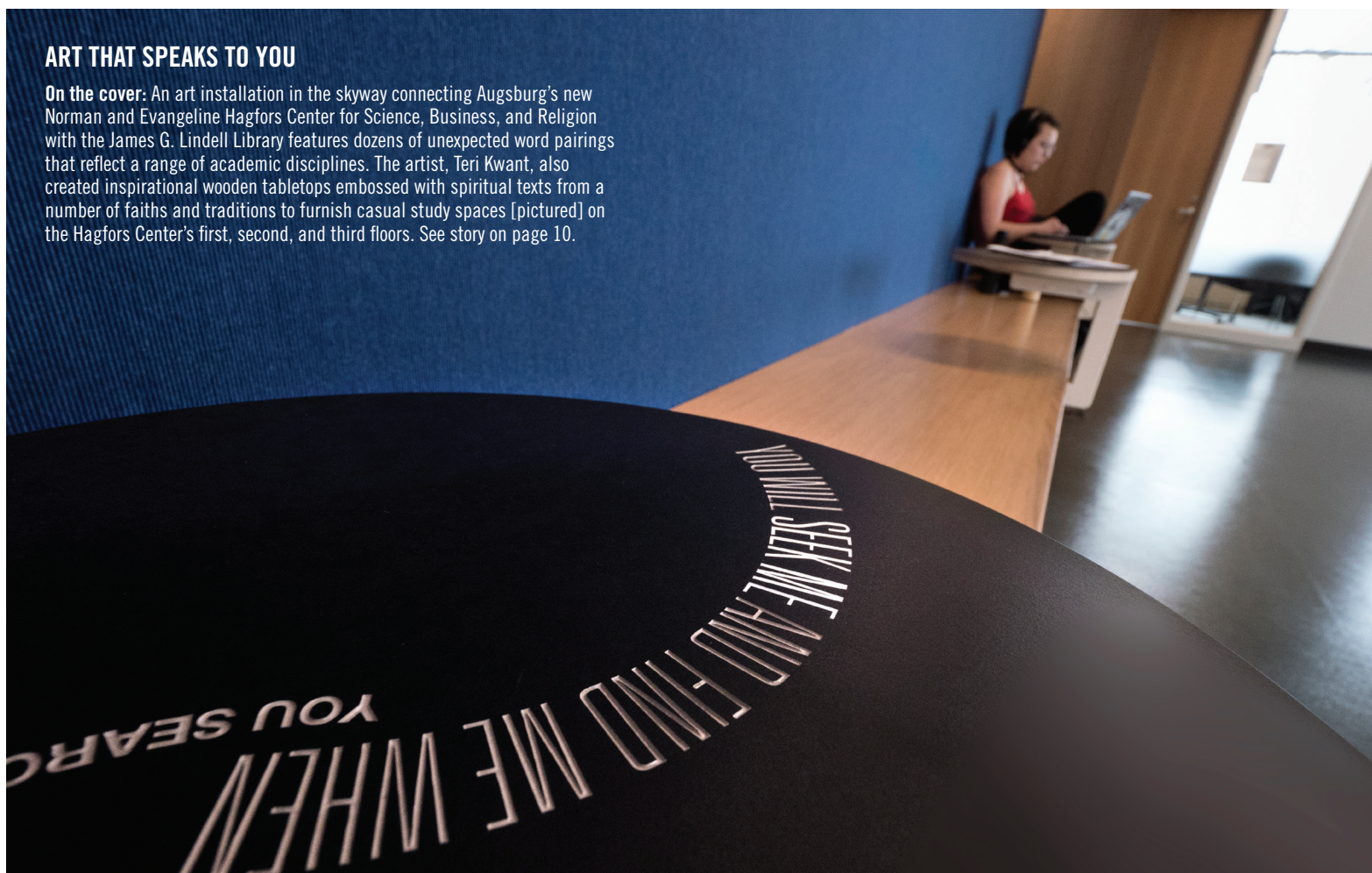
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AUGSBURG NOW

Spring—Summer 2018

ART THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

On the cover: An art installation in the skyway connecting Augsburg's new Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion with the James G. Lindell Library features dozens of unexpected word pairings that reflect a range of academic disciplines. The artist, Teri Kwant, also created inspirational wooden tabletops embossed with spiritual texts from a number of faiths and traditions to furnish casual study spaces [pictured] on the Hagfors Center's first, second, and third floors. See story on page 10.



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*All photos by Courtney Perry
unless otherwise indicated.*

Send address corrections to:
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AROUND THE QUAD



Leah Phifer teaches Political Statistics and Methodology during Spring 2018.

Augsburg instructor featured in TIME MAGAZINE

The January 29 issue of Time magazine acknowledged the record-breaking number of women engaged in political campaigns this year and featured photos on its cover of nearly four dozen women running for office. With them was **Leah Phifer**, an Augsburg adjunct faculty member who teaches courses on politics, policy, immigration, and political methodology.

Phifer, who at the time was running for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor nomination for the 8th district seat of the U.S. House of Representatives, was approached for the Time magazine cover story because of her involvement with VoteRunLead, an organization that provides candidate training to women of all parties for local and state level offices.

Phifer has served Minnesotans through her work at the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.



HONORING Retiring Faculty

Several faculty members retired following years of dedicated service to Augsburg University.

Augsburg is grateful for their commitment to advancing the University's mission within and beyond the classroom.

JEANINE GREGOIRE

Associate Professor, Department of Education—with the University since 1996

DONNA PATTERSON

Assistant Professor, Department of Education—with the University since 2006

KATHRYN SWANSON

Professor, Department of English—with the University since 1985

—— Board of Regents —— **HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP**

Augsburg's Board of Regents was awarded the 2017 John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership for efforts including initiating an inclusive, five-year strategic planning effort and leading the institution's largest-ever capital campaign.

The formal recognition came in April at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges National Conference on Trusteeship held in San Francisco. This year's honorees were chosen from approximately 40 nominations nationwide.

"Traditionally, governing boards have stayed out of the public eye except when something goes wrong," said Richard Legon, president of the association's board of directors. "But it is important that we honor the best of us and inspire good governance practices in others. These boards' stories represent some of the sharpest and most innovative thinking in the sector."

Now in its third year, the award is named for higher education leader John W. Nason, recognizing his work as chair of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council in helping more than 4,000 interned students continue their college studies across the U.S. during World War II.

AUGSBURG RECEIVES FUNDING FOR RIVER SEMESTER

Augsburg University received \$30,000 from Pentair for the River Semester, a high-impact educational program that combines rigorous coursework with an immersive field experience. Sixteen students will travel in four large voyageur-style canoes and camp alongside the banks and on the islands of the Mississippi River between Minneapolis and Memphis, Tennessee, from August to December 2018. All participants in this hands-on learning experience will earn 16 credits.



PHOTO BY
STEPHEN GEFFRE



COMMENCEMENT 2018

Augsburg celebrates first commencement as a university.

Augsburg University celebrated students completing degrees in the traditional undergraduate, adult undergraduate, and graduate programs during commencement ceremonies held April 28. The morning ceremony recognized 441 undergraduate students, and the afternoon ceremony honored 497 adult undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students. The class of 2018 was the first class to graduate from Augsburg University.

AROUND THE QUAD



AUGSBURG NAMED CHAMPION SCHOOL by Special Olympics Minnesota

This fall, Augsburg was honored as Champion School of the Year by Special Olympics Minnesota. The award is given to a school or university that outperforms expectations in terms of student leadership, campus involvement, and unified sports—a program in which athletes with intellectual disabilities train and play sports together with partners without intellectual disabilities.

According to Devin Kaasa, competition and training manager for Special Olympics Minnesota, Augsburg was selected for the many ways it supported the Special Olympics organization in 2016–17, including:

- Participating in a unified rivalry with Hamline University, where the universities competed in flag football and unified basketball;
- Engaging in significant volunteer activity, including at the Fall Games, where the Auggie football team filled volunteer spots in bocce and softball;
- Holding a “Respect Campaign” and inviting Special Olympics Global Messenger Patrick Elmore to speak about his experience of school bullying;
- Hosting “Special Olympics Week at Augsburg” in January 2017 with multiple activities and events; and
- Taking the Polar Plunge at Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun) to raise funds.

“Augsburg went above and beyond with its participation, and continues to exceed expectations with the program,” Kaasa said.



Pribbenow appointed to Governor’s Workforce Development Board

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton has appointed Augsburg University President **Paul Pribbenow** to a three-year term on the Governor’s Workforce Development Board. The board represents key leaders from business, education, labor, government, and community-based organizations to advise the governor on Minnesota’s workforce system.

“I’m proud to represent the state’s private higher education sector as a member of this board,” said Pribbenow, “and to have Augsburg engaged in an integrated effort linking government, employers, education, workforce centers, and employees to sustain a vibrant and equitable Minnesota economy.”

The board, which meets quarterly, analyzes and recommends workforce development policies to the governor and the Minnesota legislature to ensure a globally competitive labor pool for the state.

Augsburg continues to be top producer of U.S. Fulbright students

In February, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs listed Augsburg University as one of the top U.S. colleges and universities in producing Fulbright students in 2017–18. Augsburg ranked No. 9 among 22 master’s institutions, the fifth time Augsburg was ranked on the list. The Fulbright program offers recent graduates and graduate students opportunities for research, study, and teaching in more than 140 countries.

Since 2007, Augsburg University has had 28 Fulbright students selected for their academic merit and leadership potential.





PHOTO BY ELIZABETH FLORES, © STAR TRIBUNE

Interfaith TOUCHDOWN

This winter, as the world's attention focused on Minneapolis and U.S. Bank Stadium during Super Bowl LII, Augsburg also took a turn in the spotlight. Faith leaders from across the Twin Cities and a former Minnesota Vikings star gathered at Augsburg's Edor Nelson Field to film a football-themed video organized by the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee. The purpose was to raise funds and awareness to end homelessness through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to promote unity across faiths, races, and politics.

Augsburg launches #LOVELOCALWATER initiative

Augsburg University is phasing out the use of bottled water to demonstrate a commitment to consume local tap water readily available to everyone on campus. Augsburg's Environmental Stewardship Committee launched a #LoveLocalWater initiative in May 2017. This new policy aims to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions, and supports the provision of water as a human right, not a commodity. Since February 1, bottled water purchases have no longer been reimbursed or available at most events.



Visit augsburg.edu/now to learn more about Augsburg's green initiatives.





ON THE SPOT Understanding the sharing economy with Jeanne Boeh

When Super Bowl LII came to Minneapolis in February, an estimated 125,000 people descended on the Twin Cities for the big game. But where did they stay? How did they get around? Increasingly, consumers opted into the “sharing economy”—choosing services like Uber and Airbnb.

So what exactly is the sharing economy? And how does it impact traditional industries, as well as the economy in general? Augsburg University Professor of Economics and Chair of Business Administration **Jeanne Boeh** weighs in on the increasing popularity of collaborative services.



Q: What is the sharing economy?

A: The sharing economy allows individuals and groups to make money from underused assets like their cars or homes. Some economists speak of a new triple bottom line consisting not only of financial returns but also environmental and social benefits by connecting people and resources. The sharing economy also includes nonprofits sharing space or personnel with each other.

Q: Why are people drawn to participate in the sharing economy?

A: Money is the primary motivating factor in many of the commercial enterprises

such as VRBO (lodging) and Turo (cars). Nonprofits are increasingly attempting to share services and equipment not to increase revenue but rather in an effort to reduce costs so that more of their budget can be used for their core mission.

Q: How have new platforms influenced traditional industries like hospitality and transportation?

A: Home sharing sites such as Airbnb or VRBO have had an additive effect. Uber and Lyft have served as a substitute for cabs, drastically reducing the volume of business for traditional taxis—I’ve heard by even as much as two-thirds in Los Angeles.

Q: Are there drawbacks for providers and/or consumers?

A: Commercial sharing sites work well for those who are middle income or above, but people with lower incomes will have difficulty accessing most platforms without smartphones or technological prowess. Credit cards are often required by these services, also hampering the ability of low-income consumers to access them.

VRBO has attempted to minimize potential problems for both sides of a transaction by offering insurance options. For renters it serves to ensure that the rental

will be available and as advertised. On the owner side, damage deposits are collected just as in a traditional rental. Consumers can also buy additional insurance at a low cost to cover any expensive accidental damage. The rapid increases in these markets make it clear that, overall, both providers and consumers are benefiting.

Q: The Super Bowl was in Minneapolis in early February and there were widely publicized predictions of a huge uptick in sharing economy participants. Did we see that?

A: Airbnb reported \$3.7 million was spent on housing during the Super Bowl as a record-high 5,500 listings became available in the Twin Cities. The average last-minute rental was \$286 per night. It helped the city because there were simply not enough hotel rooms available. Super Bowl visitors also spent hundreds of millions of dollars on food, shopping, and transportation.

One must always be careful to not overemphasize the impact of such events on the underlying economy, especially in the long run. However, the homeowners and workers who earned extra money during the Super Bowl will continue to contribute to the local economy as they spend those earnings.



Go to augsburg.edu/now to learn the future of the sharing economy.

Treasures in the science labs

Augsburg's new Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion features 24 labs and 6,000 square feet of student-faculty research facilities.

In the process of moving equipment from Science Hall into the Hagfors Center, Augsburg faculty members and students sorted through devices spanning a variety of applications and a range of eras. One of the oldest pieces of "lab equipment" still in use is a Waring blender from the 1950s. Although these gadgets were initially created as a kitchen tool, **Matthew Beckman**, associate professor of biology, said these blenders are used in student experiments to break up tissues and show that bacteria mate by exchanging genetic material.

The newest lab device moved into the Biology Department was a NanoDrop spectrophotometer, which measures how much DNA or RNA a solution contains by calculating the amount of UV light it absorbs. Although initially purchased for genetics research, the device is broadly used by biologists and chemists at Augsburg. While it's unlikely that faculty members or students have access to a spectrophotometer in their homes, Beckman said he does keep a Waring blender in his kitchen. As the saying goes, they don't make 'em like they used to.



Associate Professor of Biology Matthew Beckman

Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award winners

Augsburg annually recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to creating an engaging academic environment. The 2018 recipients of the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning awards are:

Teaching

Dallas Liddle, Associate Professor, Department of English

Elizabeth Klages, Instructor, Political Science

Scholarship

Mary Lowe, Associate Professor, Department of Religion

Service

Lois Bosch, Professor and MSW Program Director, Department of Social Work

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM minneapolis

SAVE THE DATES:
September 13–15

The **Nobel Peace Prize Forum—Minneapolis** will mark its 30th anniversary in September. Hosted and presented by Augsburg University, the Forum is a platform to educate and inspire a new generation of peacemakers through the exemplary work of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. This year's program is created around the work of the 2016 Laureate, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, who was instrumental in bringing the South American nation's 55-year civil war to an end, and the 2017 Laureate, The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, whose work drew attention to the consequences of nuclear weapons use and supported passage of the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.

Visit peace.augsburg.edu for ticket, schedule, and presenter information.



[L to R]: Dallas Liddle, Mary Lowe, Lois Bosch, and Elizabeth Klages.

BUILDING BONDS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Father and son **JOHN EVANS '82** and **KRISTIAN EVANS '19** find volunteer opportunity unites their Augsburg legacy and desire to serve

BY LAURA SWANSON LINDAHL '15 MBA

This year, John and Kristian Evans started their Thursday mornings off right ... and left.

At the 6 a.m. DinoMights practices in the Augsburg Ice Arena, young players sometimes put their hockey skates on the wrong feet or jerseys on backward, focusing more on catching up with teammates than on the logistics of assembling picture-perfect uniforms. As a volunteer coach, Kristian describes the weekly 10-minute rush to outfit 20 elementary schoolers for the ice as “pure chaos.” After he and his fellow coaches ensure that skate laces are cinched tightly against players’ tiny ankles and the kids are safely in their gear, these volunteers prepare for a new challenge: channeling the young athletes’ enthusiasm into a successful practice.

“It’s crazy how much energy the players have in the morning,” Kristian said. “It’s never a problem to wake them up; it’s always me who’s the sleepy one.”

Fortunately, the players’ spirited attitudes are contagious, according to the Auggie,

who is studying communication, marketing, and political science. “They act like a shot of caffeine,” he said.

...

It’s helpful that DinoMights practices leave Kristian with a boost of energy. The third-year student was enrolled in a full course load at Augsburg this fall and used his time outside the classroom to intern at a U.S. senator’s office, serve as a sports editor for the Augsburg Echo student newspaper, do play-by-play announcing for Auggie soccer teams, and promote the Nobel Peace Prize Forum—Minneapolis as a student member of the Forum’s marketing team.

Volunteering for DinoMights, Kristian said, was a way to carve out time in his schedule for one more thing he loves: hockey. DinoMights builds relationships with at-risk youth in South Minneapolis through hockey teams and training, tutoring and academic support, mentoring, and spiritual development opportunities. As one of approximately a dozen nonprofit

organizations that lease athletic space at Augsburg each year—from the Cedar-Riverside Community School to the Minnesota Sports Federation broomball state tournament—DinoMights benefits from access to quality facilities that are otherwise scarce in the Twin Cities.

...

A passion for hockey—and for Augsburg—runs in the Evans family.

John, for instance, has been skating at the university for nearly 40 years. The Augsburg Athletic Hall of Famer played for Auggie men’s hockey teams that won four Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships in 1981 and 1982.

While earning two national titles was a thrill, John now looks back on his college days and acknowledges that it’s the relationships he developed with teammates, classmates, and faculty members that truly influenced his life. “It’s





Kristian Evans '19 helps a member of the DinoMights Squirt team prepare for hockey practice. Players are 10 or 11 years old.



[L to R]: Kristian Evans '19 and John Evans '82



the friendships you remember," he said.

Decades ago, John chose to attend Augsburg because he wanted to live and work in Minnesota's urban core and was drawn to the school's pioneering emphasis on experiential education.

Today, as fathers and sons go, John and Kristian appear to be more alike than different. Both men played hockey in Norway; John signed a pro contract after Augsburg, and Kristian played there following high school. When Kristian was searching for a college after his junior hockey eligibility expired, at first he thought he'd go to school anywhere but Augsburg, wanting to venture farther afield than his dad and mom, **Joan (Moline) Evans '83**. Kristian's desire to take an entirely new path soon gave way to the revelation that Augsburg's metropolitan location and commitment to community involvement were a perfect fit for him, as well.

And, much like his father, Kristian values the power of Auggie friendships. In January 2017, he was diagnosed with

cancer, underwent surgery to remove a tumor, and began chemotherapy treatments to rid his body of any remaining cancer cells. He continued to attend Augsburg full time and learned to lean on his roommates for support, whether he needed help shaving his head after he began to lose his hair or someone to accompany him to chemo appointments.

"I have friends who'd walk with me in the middle of winter to the East Bank hospital where I received care and sit with me for three hours before they had class," Kristian said. "You don't get that with every group of people, and that fact is never lost on me."

With his cancer in remission, Kristian sees his role with DinoMights as a way to strengthen an important network for Twin Cities youth who face challenges ranging from navigating life as first-generation Americans to living in

single-parent households.

"It's amazing to be part of a group that says, 'We understand that you're going through some tough stuff, and we will help you in whatever aspect of your life means the most—whether that be through athletics or through faith or through education,'" he said. "That's why we build communities of support—so that when one of us falls, there are other people who are willing to step in."

For Auggies like John and Kristian who've come to embrace Augsburg's commitments to vocational discernment and civic engagement, DinoMights is just one example of the power of transferring the University's educational framework to a real-world application.

"If you can make one corner of your community better, then you can say you're doing your part," Kristian said. "This is what Augsburg teaches when it comes to vocation." ■

**THIS IS
WHAT
AUGSBURG
TEACHES
WHEN IT
COMES TO
VOCATION.**



The Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion is the largest academic building on campus. It houses multiple academic disciplines, including biology, business administration, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental science, mathematics and statistics, physics, psychology, and religion. Several of these departments previously occupied space in Science Hall, which is located across 21st Avenue.

INSPIRED DESIGN

ROOTED IN AUGSBURG'S HERITAGE AND BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

BY REBECCA JOHN '13 MBA

"Augsburg sees science as a search for meaning, a collaboration with nature, and a quest for quantitative understanding."

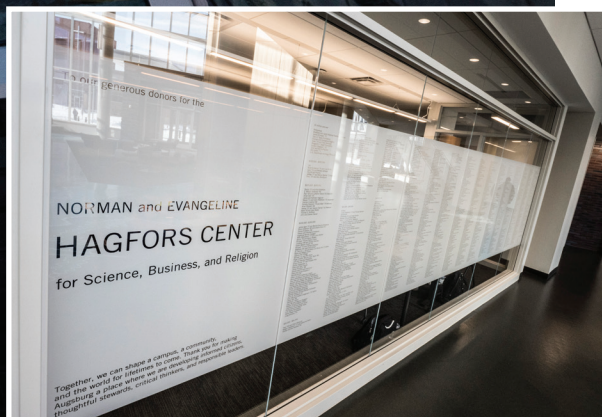
This statement was captured in a 2007 "science credo" authored by Augsburg faculty in the sciences. The credo proclaimed that Augsburg's science programs should:

- Emphasize science in context, seeking out and developing intersections among departments and programs.
- Underscore the purposeful practice of science as an essential ingredient to citizenship.
- Use Augsburg's urban setting to highlight the relevance of science in our call to serve our community.

This visionary thinking sparked the imagination of faculty leadership across disciplines and led to a vision for a new building concept: a center for science, business, and religion that would not only replace Augsburg's outdated science facilities, but would foster interdisciplinary collaboration and embody Augsburg's commitment to its community.

That vision came to life this past January with the grand opening of the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion, a signature academic building that celebrates Augsburg's historic roots, contemporary relevance, and promising future.

The Hagfors Center was made possible by the generosity of more than 1,200 donors, whose names appear on a glass wall outside one of the ground-floor classrooms.



EXPRESSIVE OF HISTORY, RESPONSIVE TO PLACE

COLORFUL ACCENTS

The exterior colors of the Hagfors Center reflect Augsburg's Norwegian heritage, connect the decades of architecture represented on campus, and espouse the vitality of Augsburg's urban setting.



NEIGHBORHOOD

The Hagfors Center design complements the colorful residences in the neighborhood surrounding Augsburg.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HGA ARCHITECTS

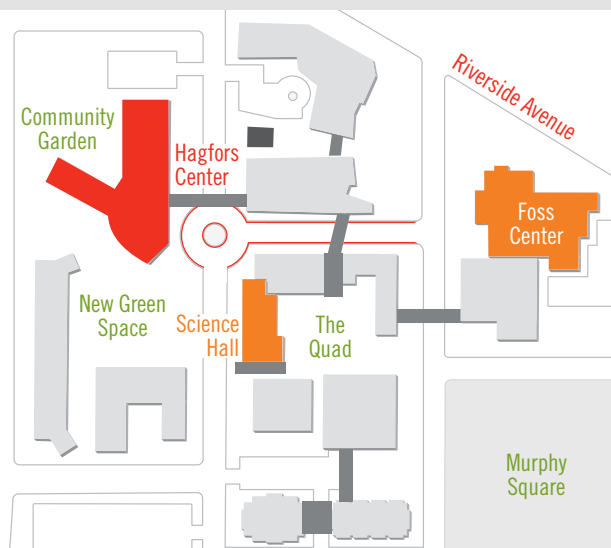
CAMPUS

From Old Main to Oren Gateway Center, Augsburg's campus comprises architectural styles from various decades.



PLACEMAKING

The Hagfors Center front doors open onto a brand new roundabout at the west end of South 7th Street, with a direct view to the main entrance of the Foss Lobeck Miles Center and the atrium of Hoversten Chapel. Inside the building, the west wing extends from the lobby at a diagonal that runs parallel to Riverside Avenue. It connects with the north wing in an "open-arms" embrace of the community garden, where neighbors and members of the campus community grow food, build relationships, and engage in hands-on learning experiences. (See story, page 28.)



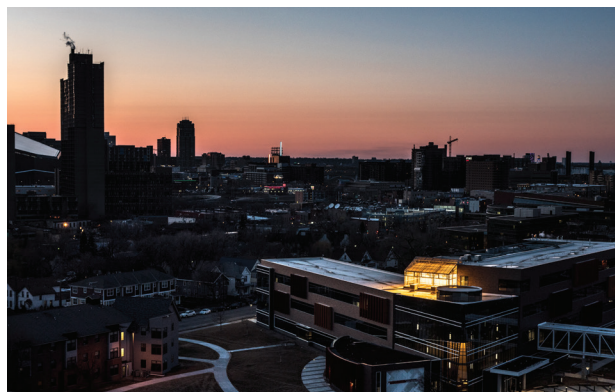


HERITAGE

Inspiration for the color accents comes from images of brightly colored homes and buildings in Bergen, Norway.



The Hagfors Center anchors the west side of campus, providing new green space that will connect with the quad after the removal of Science Hall and create an open east-to-west pedestrian flow through to Murphy Square.



A CELEBRATION OF CULTURES AND FAITH TRADITIONS

Gundale Chapel is named for **Elnar Gundale '33**, who emigrated from Norway to the United States in 1930 and studied at Augsburg College and Seminary. He was ordained in 1937 as a Lutheran Free Church pastor and served several parishes for nearly 60 years. He and his wife, Catherine, raised six children (four of whom attended Augsburg). Their daughter, Evangeline, and her husband, Norm, are the named benefactors of the Hagfors Center.

The multicolor glass sculpture that hangs in the Gundale Chapel incorporates textile designs from contemporary and ancient cultures and religions. The sculpture also includes glass panels without patterns—suggesting the future of Augsburg yet to unfold—as well as smudges, blurring, and distress to imply imperfection in the world, past and present.



“Trans.Perspective,” the sculpture in the Gundale Chapel, was created by artist Bebe Keith and sponsored through the generosity of Augsburg Board of Regents Chair **Jeffrey Nodland '77** and **Becky (Bjella) Nodland '79**.



From one specific location in the Gundale Chapel, the 3-D sculpture takes on the shape of a cross—a perspective not viewable from any other spot in the room. See a video at [augsburg.edu/now](https://www.augsburg.edu/now).

COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING LONG-TERM INNOVATION

UNBOUNDED STUDY

For many years, several Augsburg science departments had dedicated learning and gathering spaces in Science Hall. Augsburg incorporated these “department homes” throughout the new building—providing interactive learning spaces for all science, business, and religion students and faculty. The building also boasts multiple casual learning spaces, which are popular among students of all majors. In fact, during finals week in December 2017—before the building was even officially open—students filled the whiteboard walls in these spaces with notes and equations as they studied together for semester finals.



PHOTO BY GAFFER PHOTOGRAPHY

HANDS-ON LEARNING

The Hagfors Center's expanded labs provide space for real-world experiments that take longer than a traditional 4-hour lab period. Its grow rooms allow students to cultivate plants for lab courses using modern plant science methods. There are modern meeting rooms for presentations with local businesses and entrepreneurs, aquaria that provide a hands-on experience with marine aquatic creatures like algae and sponges, and a food lab where students study the physics, chemistry, and social impact of our food systems. There's even a collaborative makerspace where students build rockets, explore 3-D printing, and more.



PHOTO BY GAFFER PHOTOGRAPHY



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The Hagfors Center is designed to meet the standards for silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, a globally recognized symbol of sustainability. The building has two green roofs—one on a flexible, ground-floor learning space and one above the front entrance canopy.

During construction, Augsburg exceeded its goal of awarding more than 10 percent of the project's contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses. To ensure the building can adapt to evolving needs over the coming decades, each wing was built on a standard grid that allows walls to be reconfigured to create larger or smaller spaces as requirements change over time.



UNEXPECTED PAIRINGS

In the skyway that connects the Hagfors Center with the James G. Lindell Library, custom glass etchings bridge disparate disciplines, both figuratively and literally. The etchings, which also make the skyway glass bird-safe, feature unconventional word pairings, such as “define divinity” and “love density,” that are designed to make people think. The skyway was funded through the generosity of **John R. Paulson** and **Norma L. Paulson**, whose family also sponsored the skyway link from Sverdrup Hall to Lindell Library.



Learn more about the art in the Hagfors Center at augsborg.edu/now.



The skyway glass art, “Both/And,” was created by artist Teri Kwant and sponsored through the generosity of Augsburg Board of Regents member **Karolynn Lestrud '68**.



ACCOLADES AND KUDOS

2018 Project of the Year

—Design Build Institute of
America-Upper Midwest Region

“... Hagfors Center exceeds
expectations.”

—The Echo, January 19, 2018

“The Hagfors Center makes
Augsburg more competitive.”

—Neal St. Anthony,
Star Tribune, March 3, 2018

“Augsburg is one of the most
thoughtful, reflective partners
that we’ve ever had.”

—Bill Blanski, design principal, HGA Architects,
Finance & Commerce, January 19, 2018

“We focused on our heritage
... experiential learning, our
diversity, and our call to serve.
That resonated.”

—Mike Good '71, Augsburg regent emeritus and campaign
chair for the Center for Science, Business, and Religion,
Star Tribune, March 3, 2018

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Building Blocks: The Hagfors Center at Augsburg



Augsburg University's Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion holds 139,000 square feet of classroom space. (Staff photo: Bill Klotz)

BY FRANK JOSSI

Name: The Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion at Augsburg University

Address: 700 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

Website: www.augsburg.edu/hagforscenter/

Opened: December 2017

Cost: \$73 million

Architect: HGA Architects and Engineers

Contractor: McGough Construction

Property description: Combining three disciplines that sometimes collide with one another, the Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion creates an attractive gateway to the Augsburg University campus on 21st Avenue South.

reflective of arms embracing the Cedar-Riverside community — holds 139,000 square feet of classrooms, labs, staff offices and communal spaces. It serves the school's more than 3,500 students.

Outside, the four-story building, which replaced a surface parking lot, has a brick façade highlighted by color-coated square bay windows that signify the location of different academic departments. Those colors, commonly found on buildings in Norway, reflect the university's Norwegian Lutheran heritage, said HGA design principal Bill Blanski.

The Hagfors' grounds hold several environmental features, among them a graywater pond, a community garden on the back side and a seating area in the front shaped like a double

helix. An elm tree in the middle garden of the building holds a drop-off. Green roof sections of the building.

Moving inside, the building's glass-enclosed atrium area has seating areas behind glass curbs. A small suspended chapel where students practice their faith for better grades holds windows taken from car

Augsburg's communication student, Rebecca, the school has a commitment to sculpture to painting muraled sculpture installation of musical notation

The V-shaped building —

Reprinted with permission of Finance & Commerce ©2018

MERCE

Friday | January 19, 2018

Augsburg University



orms, labs, staff offices and communal spaces at 700 21st

anchors the
a circular
roofs cover
building.

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classrooms
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John, points out
s made a passion-
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painting (includ-
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tion of Martin Lu-

ther's "A Mighty Fortress is our
God" — overlaid with symbols
of the elm's cell structure.

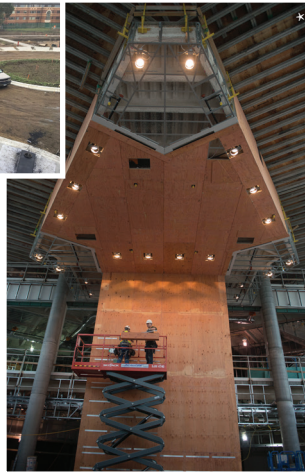
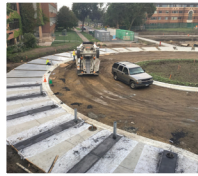
Tenants: The building holds
eight academic departments:
Biology, business, chemistry,
computer science, physics, psy-
chology, math, and religion.

Intriguing tidbits: The
Hagfors building is a critical
element in the college's master
plan, designed by Minneap-
olis-based oslund.and.assoc.,
said Blanski. The Science Hall
across from street from it will
be demolished in the future in a
move that will add more green
space, he said.

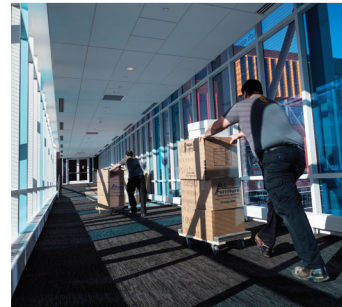
The architect enjoyed
working with the college's
leadership. "Augsburg is one of
the most thoughtful, reflective
partners that we've ever had,"
Blanski said.

START TO FINISH

From groundbreaking to grand opening,
construction of the Hagfors Center took
22 months, and was completed on time
and under budget.



• GROUNDBREAKING APRIL 2016



• GRAND OPENING JANUARY 2018

* PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHEN GEFFRE
+ PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCGOUGH CONSTRUCTION

THE BEST *IS AHEAD*

Athletic Director **Jeff Swenson '79** plays a new role helping plan Augsburg's 150th anniversary festivities

BY GITA SITARAMIAH



Since arriving in 1975 as a first-year student, Jeff Swenson has built a storied legacy at Augsburg University.

Swenson was a national wrestling champion as a student and joined the Augsburg coaching staff upon graduation. He then spent 25 seasons as one of the most successful amateur wrestling coaches in the U.S. As athletic

director since 2001, he has led the athletics program through a period of unprecedented growth and improvement.

Now, Swenson is playing another key role at Augsburg as Sesquicentennial Steering Committee co-chair, shaping the anniversary festivities planned for the 2019-20 academic year. In a recent interview, Swenson shared his

perspectives on the University's 150th anniversary as well as the importance of academics and civic engagement for student-athletes and why he's proud to be an Auggie.

Despite all of the achievements for Augsburg and Swenson, he feels the best is still ahead. "I've never been more excited about Augsburg than I am today."



YOU ARE A CO-CHAIR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE. WHAT DO YOU HOPE THIS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY WILL DO FOR AUGSBURG?

It's a great time to celebrate our rich history: 150 years, wow! That's really something special. I'm hoping the sesquicentennial allows us to celebrate the past but also to look toward the next 150 years of Augsburg University. It'll be a great time to bring people together: faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the institution. Selfishly, I'm looking forward to celebrating athletics' place in the school's history. In the past two decades, we were the first university in the state to start a women's hockey team and a women's lacrosse team. Last year, we made the playoffs in eight out of 10 sports—the most ever in school history.

AUGSBURG ATHLETES ARE INTENTIONALLY CALLED STUDENT-ATHLETES. HOW DO YOU SUPPORT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT?

They're students first. Every one of our athletes gets a day off of training and games. Professors do understand the demands of students involved in athletics, and they work with the students to help them succeed. Ultimately, our goal is that all students graduate in four years. We want to recruit prospective students and tell them and their families that our students graduate in four years with high achievement in their courses. Our student-athletes' cumulative GPA averages 3.23, and we're proud of that.

I UNDERSTAND THERE IS INCREASED COLLABORATION BETWEEN STUDENT-ATHLETES AND OTHER STUDENT GROUPS. WHAT'S BEHIND THAT, AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE WILL DEVELOP FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP?

It's very intentional, and it's one of my goals, along with President **Paul Pribbenow**. Our 2017–18 student body president **BK (Bashiru Kormah) '19** really pushed for it. BK is on the Augsburg men's soccer team, and he organized a gathering at the president's house of student-athletes and members of other student groups to talk about experiences and collaborative opportunities. Fostering an even more unified campus culture is hugely beneficial, and I think we're doing that. We're very involved with living out the University's mission in the daily life of athletics.

AUGSBURG IS CALLED AS AN INSTITUTION TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR. WHAT'S THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ATHLETICS?

Community service can have a major lifelong positive impact on student-athletes.

I will always remember one of my community service opportunities as an Augsburg student. I held a boy who had a severe cognitive disability. I bounced him on my knee, and my objective was to get him to smile. To this day, I remember that experience as much or more than any of the football games or wrestling matches I was in.

The Augsburg athletics experience is really well-rounded. All of our student-athletes and coaches participate in at least one community service activity each year. **Jane Becker**, our head volleyball coach, is our director of athletic community service and engagement. Because of her efforts, we do many more community service activities than in the past. In the 2016–17 academic year our athletes finished with 4,652 community engagement hours and participated in the largest food drive on campus, collecting 410 pounds of food. We are on track to reach or exceed that amount for 2017–18.

AS AUGSBURG PREPARES TO COMMEMORATE 150 YEARS, WHAT STANDS OUT FOR YOU?

All the relationships stand out for me—from the time I was a student-athlete here and then throughout my career. I've seen 10 buildings constructed on campus, worked for four presidents, and held nine job titles, but it would all come down to the relationships more than anything else, including relationships with my coaches, students, faculty colleagues, and my teachers.

HOW HAS AUGSBURG EVOLVED AS THE UNIVERSITY APPROACHES THE SESQUICENTENNIAL AND WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUGGIE?

I love that Augsburg is student-centered. We're at the forefront of society's changes. We're inclusive. We're accepting. We're innovative in our work. I think the focus in those areas has enabled us to stay ahead of our competition and is why students continue to choose Augsburg. ■



WELCOME TO *America*

Augsburg alumna
Katia Iverson '12
orients newcomers to
the United States amid
mounting uncertainty
and narrowing policies

BY KATE H. ELLIOTT

Katia Iverson refuses to say “maybe.”

She used to say it a lot, as a novice caseworker, unwilling to share disheartening news. But experience has vanquished the word from her vocabulary.

“When a mother asks whether her kids qualify for assistance, and you respond with, ‘Well, maybe’ when you know the answer will become a ‘No,’ you give those families false hope,” she said. “It’s much better to be direct and clear: ‘Yes, we can help’ or ‘No, we can’t,’ and if we can’t, let’s not waste time and instead figure out a solution—together.”

Iverson is part of a team of 15 “ex-maybe-ers,” who each year assist roughly 400 people—from world-class bodybuilders and doctors to farmers, models, and priests. She and her colleagues guide this cross-section of humanity through securing living arrangements, establishing benefits, landing jobs, and plotting out bus routes to school. Her clients couldn’t be more varied—some are single, while others have 13 children; some speak five languages, while others

cannot read or write.

But they all share the same status: refugee.

Each fled their home country because of persecution based on race, religion, ethnicity, social group, or political opinion. They applied for refugee status from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which verified their claims. They applied for resettlement in the United States through a years-long screening process before the U.S. Department of State invited them to pursue a direct path to citizenship.

They arrived on planes, welcomed by strangers.

“No one wants to be a refugee,” said Iverson, a team manager for the Minnesota Council of Churches’ Refugee Services. “Many have lived in terrible conditions and experienced unimaginable trauma. Nearly everyone dreams of returning to their homeland—to the family and friends who speak their language, observe their customs, and prepare familiar foods.

“Being a refugee is their last option.”



Katia Iverson '12 encourages a new arrival from a refugee family as he practices his English.



The 90-day challenge

Refugees resettling in the United States come through a state agency or one of nine voluntary agencies that have cooperative agreements with the State Department to provide reception and placement services. Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services has welcomed immigrants to Minnesota since 1985, and Iverson has done so on its behalf since 2013.

"The clock is ticking from the time refugees walk off the plane. We have 90 days to help them start their lives in Minnesota," said Iverson, who has welcomed hundreds of refugees to America's shores. "The federal government provides slightly more than \$900 per person to get each family started, but we rely on the support of faith communities, nonprofits, and individual volunteers to help these newcomers gain self-sufficiency."

Iverson is glad to work in one of the more welcoming U.S. states, with Minnesota having resettled more than 90,000 refugees since 1970. But increasingly critical rhetoric around refugees has made life on the front lines tough as the 28-year-old struggles with landlords hesitant to rent to "those people" and discrimination at new arrivals' workplaces or schools.

Increasing day-to-day challenges thicken amid confounding regulations and tightening policies. For the 2018 fiscal year, for instance, the federal government has capped refugee admissions nationwide at 45,000—the lowest in decades—and arrivals aren't even on pace to reach half that number,

according to the United Nations.

"There is fear and uncertainty, but for me, the toughest part of the job remains the short window of time I have with families," Iverson said of her three-month timeline. "To make real progress, clients need to be open, but they have been telling their life story—almost on autopilot—for years, and trust doesn't come easily for many of them, especially with strangers."

Building trust among the doubtful

Ahmednor Farah has seen Iverson knock down walls of resistance. For four years, the native Somali worked alongside Iverson as a resettlement case manager and interpreter. Katia can flip a switch, he said, from boundless compassion—crying alongside a despairing client—to sober sincerity when she has to administer doses of reality. Clear boundaries within an expanse of empathy is the job.

"Katia's role is challenging, and only a person with her integrity can

"Katia managed to learn Somali, as the majority of her clients were Somalis, and she pushes back at the systems working against these families to make sure they receive equitable and just support."

Her family has witnessed Iverson's devotion. Younger brother, **Luke Iverson '15**, roomed with Katia for several years. He comforted her when she would worry about "families not making it" and understood when Katia had to cancel plans in order to meet a new arrival or help negotiate with a landlord.

"Sometimes Katia would leave the house at 11 p.m. to head to the airport, but she'd always be at work by 8:30 a.m. the next day, following up with those clients or others," said Luke, a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial in downtown Minneapolis. "Her life is unconventional, but it is the times of deep connection and joy that I believe feed her the most and remind her why she is doing this work in the midst of a climate that fights against her and these families."

It's all worth it, Katia said.

Minnesota has the highest number of refugees per capita nationwide, according to the U.S. Census and refugee-support agencies. With 2 percent of the nation's population, Minnesota has 13 percent of its refugees.

deliver the way she delivers," said Farah, who now works as a human services representative for Hennepin County, where he said low-income families, including refugee arrivals, apply for food and cash benefits.

"There is challenge and sadness in my job, but the positive far outweighs any negative. The resilience of these families is incredible. They are so present and bring with them long-held traditions—how to heal when we don't



Iverson helps refugee families through the steps of resettling in Minnesota, from renting a house to helping children acclimate to their new homes.

have a doctor nearby or how to provide emotional healing to one another—that adds a richness to our world. They invite me into a deep foundation of wisdom, and that is a gift.”

A heart for service, a passion for others

Katia was meant for this work. From a young age, her parents drove their four children from the predominantly white suburbs of Minneapolis to engage in missions in the Phillips neighborhood and other low-income areas.

This focus on service inspired Iverson to enroll at Augsburg University, nestled among some of the state’s most prominent refugee settlements. She was an international relations major until her introductory class focused on “the way nations and leaders interacted rather than the humans living in those nations,” Katia said.

Mid-year, the then-first-year student headed to the Nobel Peace

Prize Forum, during which world leaders and peacemakers interact with students and community members. Waiting for a keynote to begin, Katia struck up a conversation about career options with fellow Auggies sitting near her.

A voice popped into the conversation: “I’m Professor Frankie Shackelford, and I’m developing a new major: cross-cultural studies. You should consider it.”

Katia spoke with the professor of Norwegian—and continued to talk for four years—about the influence language has on our world and the insight people gain when they imagine life through others’ perspectives.

“I continue to rely on the lessons I learned at Augsburg as I consider the impact of my work and what I bring to each home,” said Katia, who went on to participate in the Forum’s Peace Scholars program and graduate magna cum laude. “I am constantly analyzing the energy

I bring, the questions I ask, and the way I ask them. I strive to be respectful and curious, to dress appropriately for each culture, and to make clients laugh.

“Laughter is universal to all people, and it is key to my work. Intercultural interactions provide constant opportunities to laugh when we say or do something a bit off,” she added. “But when both the client and I come with a generous spirit, the response is laughter rather than offense or anger.”

Refining her skillset

Katia is comfortable being uncomfortable, which she credits to those formative mission experiences that empowered her to become a peer mediator in elementary school and then the first white student on the Maple Grove Senior High School Diversity Council.

She embraced new opportunities at Augsburg—traveling abroad

and enrolling in the Bonner Leaders Program, now the LEAD Fellows Program. Her brother, Luke, joined Katia in the service-based, work-study experience that empowers undergraduates to integrate civic engagement and leadership development into their studies. Katia said the experience honed her ability to adapt, problem-solve, and relate to others.

Every year, more than 70 courses at Augsburg include an embedded service-learning component. Students average 25 hours per semester in service-learning experience directly connected to course objectives and learning goals.

Elaine Eschenbacher '18 MAL, director for Augsburg's Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship, said the Iversons' experiences reflect the transferable skills and culturally relevant outcomes the program is designed to inspire.

"Our LEAD Fellows are engaged in long-term, in-depth community-based work, and these opportunities are funded, which opens the door for many students who are often unable

to engage in service learning because they need to pay the bills," said Eschenbacher, who guides the 35-40 fellows each year. "Community partners are confident in our students, and some have empowered undergraduates to develop programs like an eight-week nutrition education class for Somali mothers. This is real, impactful work."

Progress emerges from collaboration

At Augsburg, the two eldest Iverson siblings shared a focus on those in need but it is a bond with younger sister, **Natalie Iverson**, that has emerged as of late. Natalie is a secondary ESL teacher at Hmong College Preparatory Academy, a K-12 charter school in St. Paul. As it turns out, several of Natalie's students are from families Katia serves as a case manager.

"It makes me realize how powerful it would be if all systems were in communication, where a teacher could talk to a family's caseworker and vice versa. I update Katia about a student,

and she communicates it with those families, making the families feel seen, welcomed, and supported," said Natalie, who works with students 11-20 years old. "I can offer her my advice as an educator when she's got families struggling with school, and she can offer me perspective when I am lesson planning."

Earlier this year, for example, Natalie mentioned to Katia that she was teaching English vocabulary about household problems families might need to communicate to their landlord. Katia offered Hmong, Karen, and Thai language resources related to tenants' rights, then followed with an age-appropriate presentation she modified from one designed for parents.

The sisters maintain that immigrants are the greatest gift our society never knew it needed, and that we should lean into their stories and customs, rather than fear the unfamiliar. Katia urges people to do what they can, from welcoming a new family to the neighborhood, teaching English, writing elected officials, or sponsoring a refugee family through church. The possibilities are endless, Katia said, and there is a way for everyone to welcome others to our nation and set them up to become successful citizens.

It's not work; it's a calling

Has this work changed Katia? Yes.

"Although her life is busy, and she is always moving, there are so many still moments of intimate spirituality in her work," Natalie said of her sister. "Her work allows her to see people in all stages of their lives, both in a literal sense, and in a vulnerable, human sense. And I don't think anyone can stay the same because of that." ■



Ahmednor Farah and Iverson show a newly relocated refugee family how to ensure the gas burners on the stove are safely turned off.

AUGGIES CONNECT

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

COURTESY PHOTO



Dear alumni and friends,

The Augsburg University Alumni Board supports the University's mission by finding meaningful ways for our members to contribute their time, talent, and treasure. Members meet regularly to create and enhance events where Auggies can network, collaborate, and serve together.

Our focus this year has been on

connecting alumni with current students. At an annual networking event in February, attendees took part in mock interviews, had their headshot photos taken by a professional photographer, and met with other Auggies working in their industry. Most importantly, students and alumni shared their experiences and stories, often creating long-term connections.

Another way the Alumni Board worked to foster connections between Augsburg students and graduates was through piloting a new program called Auggie Take Out. The program matches alumni participants with students who have an interest in their occupation. The alumni volunteers take the students out for informational interviews over coffee or lunch as a way to initiate a mentorship.

I had the chance to participate and enjoyed connecting with a second-year student on the football team who is interested in sports medicine. I was impressed by the questions he asked me and the ways Augsburg is helping him plan for his future career.

As you consider opportunities to remain engaged with the Augsburg community, I encourage you to join the Alumni Board at an event that's part of the Auggies in the City series. Learn more about the event series on page 27, and mark your calendar for upcoming outings to see the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota United FC, and Minnesota Lynx. Visit augsburg.edu/alumni/events for details and discounted tickets.

I invite you to join the Alumni Board as we continue to advance the Augsburg mission through events and networking. We work hard, and we have just as much fun.

Go Auggies!

NICK RATHMANN '03, ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



HOMEcoming

October 11–13, 2018

Interested in organizing your reunion?

Call the office of Alumni and Constituent Relations at 612-330-1085 or email alumni@augsb.org.

augsburg.edu/homecoming





Alumna's homegrown art featured in Hagfors Center

Having grown up in rural Wisconsin, **Amy Rice '93** had always anticipated a life of farming. From a young age, she had an appreciation for art and enjoyed depicting the beauty of nature in her sketches.

"I made art my whole life, but never let myself dream or be so bold as to think I could do it as more than a hobby," she said.

When selling her produce at farmers markets, Rice would display sketches of her flowers and tomatoes, incorporating information about the plants into her sketches. She used the drawings as a backdrop for her produce stand to entice more customers. Soon, her art became popular at the market, and people started inquiring about purchasing her work. When Rice realized that she could earn more from her art than from her crops, she decided to turn her hobby into a profession.

In 2015, when Augsburg University launched an Art and Identity campaign, an initiative to bring original artwork into the new Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion, Rice was already working on a long-term project to draw and write about every plant on her 40-acre northern Minnesota plot. Rice's project connected science and religion by combining the documentation of plant life with the use of liturgical papers to form a type of collage. She also incorporated letterpress samples and her own Augsburg homework into the art pieces, making the project a perfect submission for the Art and Identity campaign.

When potential sponsors were invited to view sketches of the art selected for the Hagfors Center, **Stephen K. '67** and

Sandra L. Batalden were immediately attracted to Rice's "Six Minnesota Wildflowers to Meet and Know" sketches.

"We immediately liked her work," said Sandra, who shares with Rice an appreciation for the letterpress printing featured in the works. "Not only is she using original materials in her paintings, but the unusual botanical subject matter seems to fit perfectly in a building [that hosts] the life sciences.

"In addition to botanical accuracy, Amy's drawings transport us into an entirely new realm as leaves and flowers become frames for musical scores or other chosen texts woven into each piece. What a creative, beautiful expression for a university of the 21st century."

Rice's artwork is displayed on the fourth floor of the Hagfors Center. Each of the plants depicted is native to Minnesota, and five of the six grow in the St. Croix River Valley where Augsburg students do ecological research. The five are snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*), eared false foxglove (*Agalinis auriculata*), spatterdock (*Nuphar variegatum*), obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), and sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*). The sixth wildflower, the Minnesota dwarf trout lily (*Erythronium propullans*), grows in only three counties of Minnesota and nowhere else in the world.



Amy Rice '93 is represented exclusively by the Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis.

COURTESY PHOTO

AUGGIES paint the town maroon

Beginning this past fall, alumni, parents, students, and friends have had the opportunity to attend a number of events in the new Auggies in the City series that offers discounted tickets and Augsburg-specific programs to popular Twin Cities activities. The series includes arts and cultural programming, family-oriented outings, and athletic events.

“Auggies love to explore and appreciate the community in which we live. We have had families, couples, and Auggie friends enjoy a variety of activities, ranging from zoo and museum visits to sports events and theater performances,” said **Katie Code '01**, Augsburg director of alumni and constituent relations.

The theater events have been a sellout success and included tickets to the Tony Award-nominated musical “Waitress,” fan-favorite “A Christmas Carol,” and the family singalong extravaganza “Annie.” The events were complemented with unique, Augsburg-specific receptions or activities. For example, **Darcey Engen '88**, associate professor and chair of Theater Arts,

hosted a discussion at the “Waitress” pre-performance pie buffet about the significance of the all-female production team.

For Auggies with children, popular family-friendly events included an afternoon at the Minnesota Children’s Museum with an Augsburg party featuring Auggie Eagle, coloring books, bow tie making, and a photo booth. Another event attracting families was the interactive learning session at the Minnesota Zoo at which a zookeeper brought animals to the Augsburg reception—including a lizard, a porcupine, and a chinchilla—for children to see and touch.

Additionally, Auggie families and friends have embraced Minnesota

sports as part of the Auggies in the City series. In January, Auggies watched the Minnesota Wild take on the Ottawa Senators, and four attendees won a drawing to ride the Zamboni machine. A number of current Augsburg University men’s hockey players attended the event and mingled with former Augsburg hockey team members. Events this summer included a St. Paul Saints game and—still ahead—a Minnesota Twins game in July and a Minnesota United FC match in August.



For more information or to buy tickets for upcoming events, go to augsb.org.edu/alumni/events.

COURTESY PHOTOS



AUGGIES CONNECT

GENEROSITY BLOSSOMS

in Augsburg's community garden

This spring saw the unveiling of the Medtronic Community Garden at Augsburg University. Nestled in the center of the open-arms design of the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion and facing the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, the innovative garden supports food sustainability and the community's need to grow, sell, and eat healthy food. The garden was designed by Oslund and Associates, award-winning landscapers who describe the reimagined community garden for Augsburg University as "a place on campus to celebrate the diversity of plants, people, and the community it serves."

The innovative style of the community garden attracted interest from Fortune 500 company Medtronic, which donated \$100,000 to officially name it the Medtronic Community Garden.

"The Medtronic Foundation focuses on expanding access to quality chronic disease care among underserved populations worldwide, as well as supporting health initiatives in communities where Medtronic employees live and give," said Sylvia Bartley, global director of Medtronic Philanthropy.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Sylvia Bartley, global director of Medtronic Philanthropy [L], takes a moment during the Hagfors Center grand opening celebration to talk with Augsburg Chief Sustainability Officer **Allyson Green** about the Medtronic Community Garden, which is nestled between the two wings of the building.

"We are proud to sponsor the transformation of the Augsburg University community garden in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, where access to healthy foods is scarce," Bartley said. "Providing opportunities for communities to cultivate their own natural foods is one of the ways the Medtronic Foundation strives to improve the lives of communities around the world."

According to **Allyson Green**, chief sustainability officer and program coordinator of Augsburg University's Campus Kitchen program, the redevelopment of the garden has been an opportunity to further Augsburg's ongoing sustainability work. Promoting food security, reducing food waste, and feeding students through Campus Kitchen programs are just some of the benefits of the on-campus community garden.


Another key feature of the garden is the consistent design for the planter beds—some of which are raised to make the garden accessible to individuals with mobility constraints,

while others are traditional, ground-level planters. These distinct planter beds create a physical language that make them recognizable as part of the community garden, which will eventually enable Augsburg to expand the gardens in small pockets to additional locations across campus.

The redesign project also widened the pathways between planters and introduced a series of benches throughout the garden to create a welcoming environment for gardeners and nongardeners alike, transforming the west edge of campus into a public green space for Augsburg and its neighbors.

Medtronic provided \$100,000 to fund Augsburg's community garden expansion that will improve accessibility, provide additional space for increasing plot demand, and enhance sustainability through compost management and other initiatives. The community garden expansion reflects Augsburg's commitment to stewardship of natural resources, student leadership around issues of nutrition and wellness, and development of public spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally sound.


ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

 The chapel in Augsburg's new Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion is named for **Elnar Gundal '33**. See page 13.

1943 Legendary high school coach and veteran **Stan Nelson '43** was honored in September by the Anoka, Minnesota, community. Following his World War II service, Nelson coached in Anoka for more than 30 years and won conference championships in '55, '62, '63, '64, '72, and '76, including 33 consecutive wins from '62 to '64.


1960 Retired ELCA pastor **Rev. Byron Schmid '60** received his Swiss citizenship and was honored when he returned to Switzerland in September for the 750th anniversary of Rubigen, his ancestral village. He has done extensive genealogical work to document his family history and lead family tours in both Switzerland and Norway.

1968 **50-YEAR REUNION** HOMECOMING 2018

 Board of Regents Member **Karolynn Lestrud '68** sponsored an art installation for Augsburg's newest skyway. See page 15.

1969 **Glen Peterson '69** began teaching in Stillwater, Minnesota, in 1969 and taught for 40 years at Lakewood Community College in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. He spent many years coaching and was the director of the ski/snowboard school at Hyland Hills Ski Area in Bloomington, Minnesota. In retirement, he continues to help with instructor training. He and his wife, **Kathy (Palmer) Peterson '70**, met at Augsburg, and daughter **Jessica Peterson '09** also attended Augsburg.

1976 In November, **Larry Morgan '76** was presented with the Lifetime Recognition Award by the Twin Cities Compensation Network for his work in compensation and human resources.

 Augsburg Board of Regents Chair **Jeffrey Nodland '77** and **Becky (Bjella) Nodland '79** sponsored a sculpture now on display in the Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion. See page 13.

1978 **40-YEAR REUNION** HOMECOMING 2018

John Karason '78 was among 100 Macy's employees chosen for a national choir to premiere "Home For Christmas" by composer Wesley Whatley during the 2017 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. The choir rode atop the new Macy's Singing Christmas Tree, caroling from Central Park to Herald Square. Grammy-nominated conductor Judith Clurman led the choir, and Broadway director Stephen Nachamie oversaw production.

 Athletic Director **Jeff Swenson '79** shares his perspective on Augsburg's upcoming 150th anniversary. See page 18.

1982 **Rev. Scott Snider '82**, priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, was named ecumenical and interreligious officer for the diocese in July 2017. Snider is also the pastor of three Illinois parishes in Pierron, Grantfork, and Pocahontas.

 **John Evans '82** finds a volunteer opportunity unites his Augsburg legacy and desire to serve. See page 8.

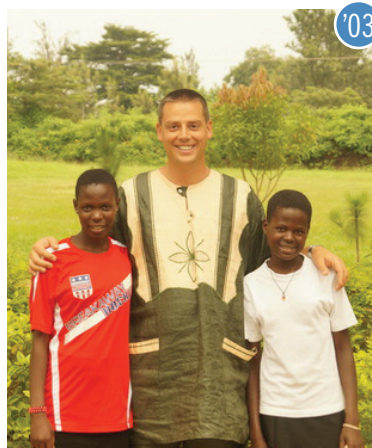
1987 **Scott Anderson '87** retired from the City of Bloomington (Minnesota) Public Works Department in September after 30 years of service. Anderson currently owns the Scott L. Anderson Agency, LLC, an independent insurance agency in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

1990 **Alisa "Al" Holen '90** received tenure at the University of Southern Indiana and is now an associate professor of art and design, ceramics. She also was selected as one of the featured artists in the 2018 American Pottery Festival at the Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis. She and her father, Professor Emeritus **Norman D. Holen**, were honored to present their exhibition, "Nature/Nurture," at the Northern Clay Center this past October.

1993 **25-YEAR REUNION** HOMECOMING 2018

2000 **Guillaume Paek '00** was named interim athletic director at Burnsville High School, Minnesota. He was previously the athletic director at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis.

AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS



'03 **Brian Kuhl '03**, an associate at Mayer Brown law firm, and his wife, Jesca Kuhl, generously donate their money to build homes in Uganda. The couple met while Brian worked as a teacher in the Peace Corps. In addition to paying for two homes that house roughly 15 Ugandan children, the Kuhls also have paid for schooling for these children and more than a dozen others.

'07 **Grant Hemmingsen '07** is the new men's basketball head coach at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Grant worked his first college coaching job with his brother, George Hemmingsen IV, at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. Grant [at left] is shown with his father, George Hemmingsen III, before a Cobbers basketball game.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2001 **Trang Dinh '01** was awarded the 2017 Excellence in Servicing Award from NorthMarq Capital. Dinh has 15 years' experience as a portfolio analyst and asset manager, and is a respected, knowledgeable, and accomplished professional in her field.

Mark Peterson '01 recently concluded a successful season of coaching his son, Charlie, on his first- and second-grade soccer team.

2005 **Allison (Cornell) Broughton '05** and **Matt Broughton '06** welcomed new baby, Nicholas James, on June 10, 2017. Nicholas joins big brother Calvin, age four.

Timothy "Tim" Stowe '05 is the principal for Westwood Elementary School in Zimmerman, Minnesota. He previously served as principal and technology coordinator at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, Minnesota.

2008 10-YEAR REUNION HOMECOMING 2018

Brian Krohn '08 is launching a smartphone app called Soundly. Developed with funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, the app is designed to help people who snore through a voice-activated game that strengthens the muscles in the upper airway.

Newly promoted high school guidance counselor **Derrick Smith '08** received the THRIVE Teacher of the Year award for his work with middle- and high-school students. He teaches math and social sciences to eighth, ninth, and 10th graders of diverse backgrounds at a nontraditional Christian school in Augusta, Georgia.

2009 **Andrew "Andy" Kent '09** has joined the University of Minnesota's hockey program as the team's

volunteer goalie coach. Kent has spent the last six seasons as the volunteer goaltending coach with the Gopher women's program and will continue to work with both teams. He served as the goaltending coach for Finland's Women's National Team at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, and also served as the goaltending coach for the Augsburg men's team from 2013 to 2017.

2010 In October, **Joe Finstrom '10** opened Lithium Mastering LLC, a mastering and music production studio in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Finstrom teaches at the Wirth Center for Performing Arts and plays cello in the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra. After graduating from Augsburg, Finstrom attended the Institute of Production and Recording, where he earned an associate degree in audio production and engineering.

 **Katia Iverson '12** and **Luke Iverson '15** describe the joys and challenges of helping new arrivals acclimate to life in the U.S. See page 20.

2013 **Grant Niver '13** founded Surrender Salmon in Minneapolis in 2016. Surrender Salmon specializes in distributing wild sockeye salmon from Alaska to Twin Cities restaurants, meal delivery services, and farmers markets.

2017 **Katelyn "Katie" Davidson '17** is the new sports and education reporter for the Pierce County Herald in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. While a student at Augsburg, Davidson worked at the League of Minnesota Cities in St. Paul, in the communications and public affairs department. She also worked part-time with Minnesota United FC professional soccer club in the public relations department.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

Tell us about the news in your life—your new job, move, marriage, and milestones. Visit augsb.org.edu/now to submit your announcements.

AUGGIE SNAPSHOTS

'94 **Eloisa Echávez '94, '98 MAL**, executive director of La Oportunidad, a social services organization in Minneapolis, was honored by the Minnesota Vikings in September as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. She received a \$2,000 grant, which she donated to La Oportunidad.

'96 **Margaret Johnson '96** has committed to a year of service with Minnesota Math Corps. She will tutor students in Roseville, Minnesota, in eighth grade math.

'15 **Alisha Esselstein '15** and **Tyler Dorn '15** welcomed their son, Liam, on August 14.

'11 **Kia Burton '11** is Augsburg's new alumni engagement program associate. Burton most recently worked at the MHC Culinary

Group assisting the accountant and the sales team. Prior to that, she was a sales coordinator at the St. Paul Hotel, in St. Paul, Minnesota. As an Augsburg student, Burton was a member of the Pan-African Student Union, worked as a Summer Bridge program mentor for TRIO/Student Support Services, and served as a residence advisor in Urness Tower. She was also an Auggie Guide and worked in the James G. Lindell Library for four years.

'79 Mortensen Hall roommates [L to R]: **Karen (Sougstad) Richard '79**, **Laurie (Nelson) Orlow '79**, **Sue (Johnson) Drakulic '79**, and **Deanna (Stanger) Feldner '79** reunited in September.

'14 **Nial Nelson-Hopkins '14** is currently employed by the San Diego Padres in

their production department. Nelson-Hopkins received a 2017 Emmy Award for his part in producing a commercial advertisement for Padres membership.

'74 As of this past September, **Tom Koplitz '74** [right] and **Bill Nelson '74** are both in the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. They were co-captains of the 1974 Augsburg baseball team.

'67 **Sue Nelson '67** received the President's Award from the U.S. Tennis Association in October. Nelson organizes the Iowa All Stars event, a one-day tournament designed for athletes who compete in the Special Olympics.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Laura (Swanson) Lindahl '15 MBA recently was promoted to assistant director of marketing management in Augsburg University's marketing and communication division, which serves both Augsburg University and Luther Seminary. In her new role, she will continue to serve as editor of Augsburg Now.

Heather (Smith) Pokrzywinski '16 MPA was hired by Essentia Health in the Moorhead (Minnesota) Clinic as a physician assistant.

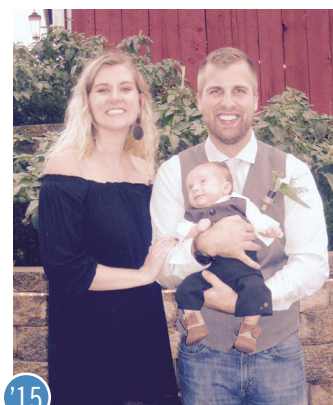
 **Elaine Eschenbacher '18 MAL**, director of the Sabo Center for Democracy and Citizenship, describes how Augsburg's LEAD Fellows Program shapes students and alumni. See story, page 20.



'94



'96



'15



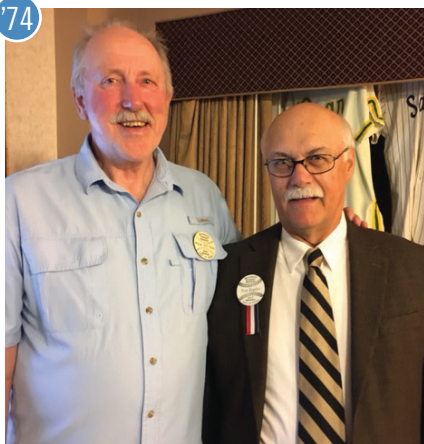
'11



'79



'74



'67

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth C. (Gudim) Wold '41, Mankato, Minnesota, age 100, on December 13.

Hazel L. (Lanes) Angell '42, Carmichael, California, age 97, on November 4.

Sigfrid D. (Aadland) Lybeck '42, Fostoria, Ohio, age 98, on January 10.

Carl H. Woyke '44, Minneapolis, age 95, on February 28.

Edryce Y. Johnson '46, Fresno, California, age 92, on January 2.

Borghild M. (Rhol) Gabrielson '47, Sun City, Arizona, age 95, on December 13.

Agnes V. (Valvik) Larson '47, Rochester, Minnesota, age 94, on January 4.

Clifford V. Aaze '48, Bloomington, Minnesota, age 89, on September 12.

James W. Adair '48, Florence, Montana, age 92, on September 11.

Duane G. Lindgren '48, Ponsford, Minnesota, age 93, on February 1.

Margaret L. (Nelson Foss) Nokleberg '48, Northfield, Minnesota, age 92, on January 1.

Sylvia J. (Kolden) Strong '48, Olympia, Washington, age 94, on November 3.

Calvin E. Larson '49, Rochester, Minnesota, age 93, on December 20.

Dorothy L. (Solheim) Schalk '49, Racine, Wisconsin, age 90, on February 13.

Robert G. Eftedahl '50, Appleton, Wisconsin, age 89, on September 28.

Stanley R. Erickson '51, Aitkin, Minnesota, age 90, on January 4.

Hubert C. Hanson '51, Lady Lake, Florida, age 92, on November 27.

Harland A. Nelson '51, Duluth, Minnesota, age 89, on January 31.

Marjorie L. (Lindberg) Sveen '51, Naples, Florida, age 88, on February 5.

Evelyn I. (Breckey) Swenson '51, Yakima, Washington, age 88, on October 9.

Glen F. Gilbertson '52, Edina, Minnesota, age 87, on October 17.

David J. Robinson '52, Maple Grove, Minnesota, age 87, on July 24.

Alyce M. (Larson) Thureen '52, International Falls, Minnesota, age 95, on December 18.

Joyce D. (Jorgensen) Eckhoff '53, Benson, Minnesota, age 86, on March 10.

Kristian Frosig '53, Lynnwood, Washington, age 89, on January 16.

Lester D. Grafstrom '53, Salol, Minnesota, age 87, on January 16.

Elaine L. (Hamberg) Elness '54, Duluth, Minnesota, age 86, on November 12.

Paul R. Britton '55, Corona, California, age 84, on November 17.

Mavis J. (Johnson) Holland '55, Hendricks, Minnesota, age 84, on February 17.

Kenneth W. West '55, Reedsburg, Wisconsin, age 85, on December 6.

Robert D. Larson '56, Everett, Washington, age 87, on January 1.

Harris W. Lee '57, Edina, Minnesota, age 88, on December 27.

James D. Plumedahl '57, New Brighton, Minnesota, age 83, on September 8.

Joyce G. Boyum '58, Minneapolis, age 86, on December 9.

Janet M. (Niederloh) Christeson '58, Georgetown, Texas, age 81, on January 18.

Lois R. (Mackey) Davis '58, Prairie Farm, Wisconsin, age 86, on January 4.

Jerome F. Peterson '58, Princeton, Minnesota, age 81, on January 25.

Robert C. Westerlund '58, Brainerd, Minnesota, age 83, on September 21.

Janet L. (Andersen) Fredrick '59, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, age 79, on October 9.

John D. Wilsey '60, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, age 79, on February 20.

Jean C. (Floren) Honken '61, Harley, Iowa, age 80, on February 17.

Ella S. (Warnes) Lerud '62, The Dalles, Oregon, age 77, on January 16.

Carol J. (Jeckell) Arkell '63, Lamberton, Minnesota, age 77, on November 27.

Carolyn E. (Johnson) Johnson '63, Fullerton, California, age 76, on November 7.

Barbara A. (Johnson) Miller '65, Marinette, Wisconsin, age 74, on October 18.

Timothy J. Leaf '69, Minneapolis, age 71, on December 2.

Robert J. Radebach '71, Eagan, Minnesota, age 81, on February 3.

Marilyn K. Bush '72, Bloomington, Minnesota, age 69, on October 3.

Burton L. Haugen '72, Walker, Minnesota, age 67, on February 1.

James E. Carlson '73, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 66, on April 18.

Mary E. (Benesh) Lundstrom '73, Lafayette, Indiana, age 66, on September 30.

George S. Mathison '75, Brooklyn, New York, age 64, on September 24.

Mark R. Johnson '76, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, age 64, on November 23.

Jane L. (Palumbo) Aubuchon '82, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 58, on February 3.

Mark A. Fulfs '89, New York Mills, Minnesota, age 55, on December 15.

Timothy P. Krenz '89, Lakeville, Minnesota, age 56, on December 31.

Mayrlo D. (Grodnick) Kincade '91, Farmington, Minnesota, age 50, on February 17.

Teresa M. (White) Shanks '92, Shakopee, Minnesota, age 47, on February 18.

Marcus Spiro '19, Redmond, Washington, age 22, on January 25.

The "In memoriam" listings in this publication include notifications received before March 15.



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Following creative whims

Described by National Public Radio as “a singer, rapper, poet, author, speaker, and all-around mogul,” renowned recording artist Dessa visited Augsburg University this spring to engage students and community members in a conversation about making a life and a living in music. During her talk, Dessa emphasized that creativity, resourcefulness, and honest enthusiasm are essential components of a musician’s journey. “Indulging one’s imagination is part of the task of being an artist,” she said.