

AUGSBURG NOW

Student-athletes advocate for causes beyond the sports arena

Augsburg Associates' roots and decades of service

A smartphone app aims to de-escalate traffic stops

Photos: Augsburg then and now

INSIDE





NOTES FROM PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW

On the “new normal”

As we enter a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for our return to campus for our 152nd academic year at Augsburg, I am often asked what we have learned during the past 16 months that will be part of a “new normal” for our community.

Certainly there is much that we have learned about the use of technology for teaching and learning, and for doing our administrative work—technology that will be an abiding and effective tool for the ways we work into the future. We also have learned important lessons about public health and not taking for granted our individual and common well-being. And then there are lessons about the fragility of our economic lives and the need to be laser-focused on our mission as we make decisions about revenue and expenses.

But perhaps the most important and striking lesson we learned during the pandemic is that all of the work we have done the past few years to chart a strategic path for Augsburg—work that culminated in the creation in Fall 2019 of Augsburg150: The Sesquicentennial Plan—provided us with a framework for both navigating through these unprecedented times and for pursuing a sustainable future for our university. In other words, our planning deliberations, grounded in Augsburg’s mission to educate students to be “informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders,” got it right as we named our highest aspirations and our strategic priorities.

In particular, I am proud of the vision we cast for our future, which says that “As a new

kind of urban, student-centered university, we are educating Auggies as stewards of an inclusive democracy, engaged in their communities and uniquely equipped to navigate the complex issues of our time.”

Consider the claims we make in this vision statement: to embrace our urban setting, to keep students at the center of our lives, to pursue democratic engagement, and to equip our students to take on the most complex problems we all face. And we honored those claims as we lived through the pandemic: responding to the many needs of our students and neighbors as we kept each other safe and healthy; focusing on the flexibility our students required as they pursued their education primarily online; working together as a community of faculty, staff, and students to navigate an uncharted path; and leaning into the incredibly complex issues raised by the pandemic so that we might all learn from them.

As I begin my 16th year as Augsburg’s 10th president, I am so proud of our community and excited about the future we will create together. It may not be normal, but it will be grounded as always in our mission and vision. Enjoy this issue of Augsburg Now with its engaging stories that make my case for Augsburg’s future.

Faithfully yours,

PAUL C. PRIBBENOW, PRESIDENT

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AUGSBURG NOW

Spring–Summer 2021



Augsburg MBA alumni created an app to make traffic stops safer. See the story on page 16.

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On the cover: Augsburg University celebrated graduates with an in-person commencement ceremony Tuesday, June 8, at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Read more on page 2.

All photos are by Courtney Perry unless otherwise indicated.

Send address corrections to
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AROUND THE QUAD

AUGSBURG CELEBRATES GRADUATES with virtual and in-person commencement ceremonies

On Monday, May 3, Augsburg University celebrated commencement virtually with the release of a prerecorded video ceremony. The event included remarks from several presenters and personalized slides for graduates displaying photos and messages that the students submitted. The viewers posted comments to the videostream as they watched the event, and students took to social media to share their graduation posts using the hashtag #AuggieGrad.

On Tuesday, June 8, Augsburg held an in-person commencement for the classes of 2020 and 2021 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Because the 2020 commencement ceremony was virtual in alignment with public health guidelines designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many graduates from the Class of 2020 opted to participate in the 2021 in-person ceremony, where attendees were asked to wear face masks and stay physically distanced from guests of different households.

Visit [YouTube.com/AugsburgU](https://www.youtube.com/AugsburgU) to find video recordings of Augsburg's virtual and in-person events.



DID YOU KNOW?

The traditional undergraduate Class of 2021 is Augsburg's most diverse graduating class with 45.6% Indigenous students and students of color, an increase of more than 20% over the past three years.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS BENEFIT AUGSBURG AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Grants help shape Augsburg's teaching and learning community

In late 2020, the Council of Independent Colleges' NetVUE program awarded a two-year, \$40,000 grant to Augsburg President **Paul Pribbenow**. The grant will help the university explore whether and how the academic, faith, and moral commitments that have shaped its identity inform and reflect its aspiration to be anti-racist and inclusive. The project will engage 12 members of the community—students, faculty, and staff—who will write a collection of essays that will be a blueprint for moving forward in these efforts.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Toxicity Reduction program awarded **Michael Wentzel**, associate professor of chemistry, a grant of nearly \$15,000. The grant will be used in a two-year project to develop green chemistry as a unifying theme throughout Augsburg's chemistry curriculum. While a number of green chemistry principles are woven into the curriculum, this work will coalesce these principles into a clear message across multiple courses, including courses taken by non-majors. Chemistry majors will end their studies with a new capstone course on green chemistry and toxicology.

In addition, **David Hanson**, assistant professor of chemistry, is now in his third year of a four-year project funded by a \$384,080 grant from the National Science Foundation (Award Number 1761638). Hanson is studying the formation and growth of new particles in the atmosphere. The results of his experiments are expected to lead to improved accuracy in predicting the influence of new particle formation on climate, health, and visibility.

VISIT AUGSBURG'S URBAN ARBORETUM A GREEN OASIS IN THE CITY

See the Augsburg University campus transition from summer to fall

With the widespread availability of vaccines and effective public health measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, many students, faculty members, and staff are returning to on-campus activities with modified operations.

Augsburg invites you to visit our beautiful Minneapolis campus to experience the diverse array of trees on a self-guided tour, complete with a map and descriptive signs, or a guided tour.

The urban arboretum was made possible by generous donors and continues to provide environmental benefits, educational opportunities, and aesthetic appeal for Augsburg and the surrounding community.

- Find a list of trees and a self-guided walking tour map, covering Augsburg's campus and Murphy Square, at augsborg.edu/arboretum.
- Want an in-person walking or golf cart tour of the urban arboretum, Hagfors Center, or other campus features? Contact Interim Vice President for Advancement **Amy Alkire** at alkirea@augsborg.edu.




Board of Regents approves PRESIDENT PRIBBENOW'S CONTRACT through 2027

In its March meeting, the Augsburg University Board of Regents' executive committee unanimously approved a multiyear contract renewal for President **Paul Pribbenow**, who joined the university in 2006 as its 10th president.

"In an era when five- or six-year presidencies are common in higher education, President Pribbenow's long-term leadership of the university has enabled Augsburg to achieve remarkable things," said **Matt Entenza**, chair of Augsburg's Board of Regents. "The university has become one of the most diverse private institutions in the Midwest during his tenure and has welcomed record-breaking first-year classes in the past two years. The university is fortunate to continue to have Paul's transformational leadership through 2027."

Pribbenow is recognized as a leading figure among the nation's higher education private institutions and is an engaging teacher on ethics, philanthropy, and American public life.



 Learn more about Pribbenow's work and presidency at augsborg.edu/president.



Meme stocks, Robinhood, and what to know about the stock market today



In early 2021, stocks of the companies AMC, BlackBerry, and GameStop made headlines—but not just for performing well. In a matter of days, some of these stock values increased by up to 30 times their previous price before a smartphone app called Robinhood restricted trading, angering some investors and propelling the situation into greater media attention. What happened, and what could that mean for people interested or invested in the stock market?

Augsburg University's Associate Professor of Business **Marc McIntosh** brings his financial expertise to help us understand some of these rapid changes and see the big picture of today's stock market.

Q: What are “meme stocks,” and why have they become notable lately?

A: A meme stock is any stock that's seen its price skyrocket due to excessive trading volume from retail investors, mostly fueled by people on social media (primarily Reddit, TikTok, and Twitter). There are a lot of reasons why meme stocks have been so popular. It's partly pandemic-related, since some people had more time to gamble and speculate and may have extra money on hand due to government stimulus payments. Also, social media forums have made it a lot easier to follow trends. In the case of GameStop, the price had a tremendous run almost solely due to Reddit posts.

Q: What can we learn from what happened with AMC, BlackBerry, and GameStop stocks? What does that tell us about the stock market and how people are interacting with it?

A: It's important to distinguish between gambling and investing. The vast majority of people buying these stocks are gambling that their price will go up based on rumors and social media posts, which can be very dangerous. It's really the equivalent of going to the racetrack and betting on horses or going to Las Vegas to play the slot machines. Investors, however, do much more research based on the fundamental financials of the company and assess the potential of the company based on either their analysis or input from

a trusted, professional financial advisor. In other words, it's OK to invest in a meme stock, but make sure you've done your due diligence on the company's growth prospects. For example, does GameStop really have cutting edge technology, or is its business model antiquated?

Q: Are tools like the investing app Robinhood (which offers no-fee stock trading) just a trend or an indication of a new direction for the world of investing?

A: Robinhood is here to stay. The good news is that the app is extremely user-friendly, and the average investor can now make money in the stock market in ways that, until recently, were only available to institutions like pension funds and mutual

funds. There has been a democratization in stock market investing. The bad news is that there are now lots of ways to lose money in the stock market if you or your financial advisor don't have a fundamental knowledge of accounting and finance. Finally, the ugly part is that not only are gains magnified in a short period of time but losses are as well. If used wisely, Robinhood can be a tremendous way to build wealth through stock market investing.

Q: What are reliable principles or tactics for people just beginning to get involved in the stock market?

A: Many famous investors such as Warren Buffett and John Bogle have argued convincingly that it's very difficult to pick stocks that will outperform the overall market. In fact, there are several academic studies that prove that it's almost impossible for the average mutual fund manager to “beat” the overall market. So, the sensible strategy is to put long-term savings into a broad-based market index fund. Many retirement plans have fund options indexed to the S&P 500 or the total stock market.

Q: What should Augsburg Now readers keep in mind about the stock market today and in the near future?

A: First: On average, investing in the S&P has delivered returns higher than 10% since 1929. This dwarfs the returns you get by putting money in a savings account or investing in high-quality bonds. For the long haul, it's important to have this return to retire comfortably. Second: The time people spend in retirement is getting longer as life spans have expanded due to health care improvements, so people need a huge nest egg to live comfortably—possibly into their 90s. Third: Due to the magic of compounding and starting earlier in one's life, achieving this nest egg can be relatively simple. If average 25-year-olds invest \$2,000 in the stock market a year (such as in an index fund that achieves 10% average returns), they could have more than \$1 million when they retire at age 65. Wow!

AROUND THE QUAD

AUGSBURG STUDENTS EARN FULBRIGHT AWARDS



This year, three Augsburg students earned Fulbright awards, and one has been named a Fulbright alternate candidate.

Citlaly Escobar '21 and **Ciashia Shiongyaj '21** both won Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships to Taiwan. **Shamsa Ahmed '21** won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea.

Terrence Shambley '21, an alternate Fulbright English Teaching Assistant candidate, will teach English in Laos if additional funding becomes available.

The Fulbright Program was created to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the program.

Augsburg to launch CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNICITY STUDIES department, major

Augsburg University is developing a new Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies Department.

The new department aligns with Augsburg's mission and responds to a proposal developed by a group of students, faculty, and staff that was presented to the administration and approved by the faculty this year. A group of students, led by Black women, made similar (as-yet unrealized) demands after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

The department aims to meet the needs of today's students with culturally relevant courses and pedagogy that both centers and equips them to think critically about their experience in the world. It will advance the university's public mission through connections with the community.

This year, the plan is to hire three new faculty in Pan-African, Latinx, and Asian American studies. Once they're hired, Augsburg will review next steps, as well as how other departments can connect their own courses and faculty to the new department.

THE AUGGIES WHO REFUSE TO 'KEEP POLITICS OFF THE FIELD'

*How Augsburg's student-athletes use their platform
to advocate for causes beyond the sports arena*

BY KATE H. ELLIOTT





PHOTO BY WARREN RYAN

Forward/midfielder
Olivia House '20

IN 2016, FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

Olivia House '20 knelt during the national anthem before one of her first Auggie soccer matches. She was alone—the only Black person on the team, and the only person kneeling on either side of the field. For four years, House continued to kneel as a respectful gesture to highlight pervasive racial injustice. Fans and opposing players ridiculed her, she was the first on the bus after away games, and teammates unintentionally bruised her with microaggressions: “You’d look so pretty if you straightened your hair.” “So-and-so acts way Blacker than you.” “I always forget you’re Black.”

“Even though I was vocal and open about what I stood for, my teammates didn’t see even half of who I was. I left so much of my identity at the door because there would be too

many questions, too many things I’d have to explain about my identity and community,” said House, a designer and art director for a creative agency in Chicago. “Having to code switch from diverse classrooms and social advocacy groups to being the lone Black person on the team was exhausting.”

Augsburg is among the most diverse private colleges in the Midwest—with students of color making up the majority of the last four incoming undergraduate first-year classes. On campus, House said she found her vocation: “to demonstrate the power of design to communicate stories and create a platform for voices who haven’t been heard.” And yet, her experience demonstrated more work is needed, even at the most equity-minded of institutions, and particularly in athletics, where 71% of student-athletes are white, according to a 2020 Augsburg internal survey.

“Me simply stepping onto a soccer field as the only Black player is political in and of itself, without me saying a single word,” she said. “Had I ‘just played the game’ and ‘kept politics off the field,’ I would have perpetuated the myth that athletes’ sole purpose is to entertain. You can’t ask us to put all of our lives on display except for our thoughts and opinions. It doesn’t work like that.”

Since House’s first year, the women’s soccer team has welcomed other student-athletes of color, and multiple soccer players and coaches have begun kneeling during the national anthem as matters of diversity and justice have remained prominent in conversations both on campus and across the United States.

Augsburg Women’s Soccer Head Coach **Michael Navarre** watched House address a crowd on the quad in September 2020 as a speaker at Augsburg Bold, a series of presentations for students to hear about important topics for the broader community. After House detailed a summer of racial justice protests and rubber bullets, of murals and oral history projects, Navarre commended House as the spark that ignited the team and inspired other student-athletes to take a stand.

“At the time, we felt as though we were supporting Olivia and our other players of color, but it wasn’t until the killing of George Floyd—just a few miles from Augsburg—that we truly began the difficult work that needed to be done,” said Navarre, who has led the women’s soccer team for 23

seasons. “That self-reflection and education illuminated how much more we could have been for Olivia and others, and how much more we are now because of her. Our team is driven to be leaders for social justice advocacy and action.”

‘An age of athletic activism’

Days after the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, Navarre asked the women’s soccer players to connect virtually each week to discuss topics and resources shared on what has become an 11-page document of articles, podcasts, self-assessments, and videos to spur awareness, community engagement, and education.

Midfielder **Jenn Bobaric '22** designed a Black Lives Matter patch, and the team collaborated to design a warm-up shirt that read “Auggies against injustice.” The team supported several fundraisers and donation drives in honor of Floyd and Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old biracial Black man who was fatally shot by police during a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. **Molly Conners '22** led a collection of personal items and clothing for neighbors who frequent Augsburg’s Health Commons locations, which are nursing-led drop-in centers that offer resources and support.

Taylor Greathouse, women’s soccer volunteer assistant coach and human resources assistant, said the team took to social media as a way to educate and advocate for others. “Instagram, in particular, was a way for our players and our program to demonstrate our alliance to diversity, equity, and inclusion,” Greathouse said. “For example, we have student-athletes personally impacted by the unrest in Myanmar and Colombia, and we wanted our shirts, statements, and discussions to address issues of injustice around the globe.

“I have learned more in the last two years about my own privilege than I have in my lifetime. It’s not enough for individuals to view diversity merely as racial diversity. We are doing ourselves and our students a disservice if we do not first educate ourselves about intersectionality,” Greathouse said, referring to the study of intersecting identities and dimensions of social relationships.

Across the Athletics Department, teams created T-shirts,

facilitated discussions, visited memorials, and engaged in community activism. Augsburg Athletics partnered with Augsburg Day Student Government to hold a town hall featuring the voices of student-athletes of color and other members of the Augsburg community. **Chris Dixon**, the university’s first director of athletic diversity and inclusion, facilitated this and other discussions and opportunities for community engagement.

“When I arrived in 2019, I knew my position was an important one, but little did I know just how vital it would be to help our student-athletes, coaches, and staff process, learn, grow, and begin to heal—together,” said Dixon, who also serves as assistant coach for the men’s and women’s track and field teams. “We are in an age of athletic activism, and Augsburg is invested in this work to bring awareness and take a stand. We empower our students, coaches, and staff to have difficult conversations and use their status as leaders to advance causes that matter.”

‘We can’t wait for the tide to shift’

To focus the department’s efforts and conversations, Augsburg Athletics formed a Diversity and Inclusion Task Force in Fall 2020. The group of coaches and staff works closely with university administration and student-athlete advisory groups. Major initiatives include rewording of the national anthem introduction, offering training sessions, and developing a self-reported race survey of Augsburg student-athletes that revealed 71% of student-athletes are white, 12% are Black, 8% are Latinx, 5% are multiracial, and 4% are Asian. Results from a similar survey of coaches and staff are pending.

“We didn’t need surveys to point out that we lack diversity in athletics, but we wanted to get a self-reported baseline to assess how our students perceive themselves and the department,” Dixon said. “This work is personal to me as a Black father the same age as George Floyd when he died. Athletics has always been a battleground for people to advance causes. We reach audiences who might not be exposed to these issues otherwise, both in the locker room and in the stands.”

AUGGIES AGAINST INJUSTICE

Dixon said that, although it's difficult to turn inward and recognize gaps, Auggies are eager to learn and adopt best practices in recruiting and building inclusive team cultures. "We celebrate diversity efforts at the national and international levels of these sports, but we can't wait for the tide to shift. We are striving to be more present in diverse neighborhoods and partner with programs that introduce these sports to people with a range of backgrounds."

In Fall 2020, the women's hockey team gathered at George Floyd Square, where 38th Street and Chicago Avenue intersect in Minneapolis. The 24 student-athletes, coaches, and staff walked around in silence as they took in the flowers, pictures, and artwork that **Michelle McAteer**, women's hockey head coach, described as "a mix of pain, sorrow, and inspiration."

"Our players were shocked at the long lists of African Americans killed by police, going back 20 years. We huddled and listened to each other, and the athletes' perspectives were so powerful," McAteer said.

The team also gathered on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January. Alongside McAteer, Assistant Coach **Ashley Holmes** shared information she learned during a diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

"We recognized we are two white women, and it was not easy or comfortable, but that is the reason why we should be doing this," McAteer said. "We need to make these types of discussions more natural and ongoing. Avoiding talk and action because it's not natural or easy is a big part of the problem. We're not trying to lecture or convince but share information we've learned in a meaningful way."

McAteer said players have begun kneeling for the national anthem, sharing information on social media, and educating family members and friends. The team routinely partners with the DinoMights, an organization that mentors Minneapolis youth through hockey.

Women's hockey forward **Lilia Scheid '22** said this year changed her. "I've learned that I need to make my voice heard in the community because making change takes every single one of us," she added. "I've learned what it means to be 'not racist' versus 'anti-racist.' Staying silent only hurts marginalized groups even more, so it's important to have these tough conversations and speak out against

racial injustice."

Women's lacrosse has been equally engaged. Teammates wore rainbow jerseys in support of a transgender player, who helped lead a discussion about transgender issues and terms. Augsburg Women's Lacrosse Head Coach **Kathryn Knippenberg** said the team is working to be more than performative allies. "If one of my athletes feels called to protest but doesn't have a ride, I will pick them up or find them a ride. If they want to kneel or don't want to kneel, they know they have my



support," she said.

"Yes, we are here to win, but we are also here to equip student-athletes with valuable life skills, to prepare them for conversations and experiences they are facing and will continue to face," she said. "We want them to live out Augsburg's mission to be informed citizens, thoughtful stewards, critical thinkers, and responsible leaders who are engaged in meaningful, transformative work."

Allowing vs. actively supporting

All Augsburg teams agreed to adopt new wording to introduce the national anthem before each contest: "Augsburg University Athletics would like to recognize that the American experience has not been the same for everyone under the flag. As we continue the fight for equality and justice for all, we now invite you to respectfully express yourself for the playing of our national anthem."

"It's not easy getting an entire department and body of student-athletes to agree on wording, but it was an important initiative of our Diversity and Inclusion Task Force," Dixon said. "By having these words in front of the national anthem, we are acknowledging that we—as a university—actively support people in how they want to express themselves. There's a difference between this statement and simply 'allowing' people to kneel or whatever."

Coaches and staff are expected to complete the Augsburg Diversity and Inclusion certificate program, which requires 18 credits of specified training and encourages additional training for advanced standing each year. In 2020, coaches and staff completed the NCAA Division III's LGBTQ OneTeam Program, which stresses the importance of LGBTQ inclusion in college athletics and provides an overview of common LGBTQ terms, definitions, and concepts. The peer-driven educational program, which Dixon facilitated, also shares best practices to ensure all individuals may participate in an athletics climate of respect and inclusion, regardless of gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

"Social justice issues are incredibly important to us in

the Athletics Department, and when our student-athletes are actively engaged in educating themselves about the current and historical context of what is happening and they are attempting to use their platform as student-athletes to create awareness and positive change, I feel incredibly proud of them," said **Kelly Anderson Diercks**, who served as associate athletic director and director of compliance until July 2021. "Our student-athletes bring many identities and intersectionalities to Augsburg and their respective teams. To be the best we can be, we need to be able to show up fully as our true selves. This means we need to have spaces to talk about all those identities and intersectionalities and how the events facing our world play out differently for us all."

Recognition of these different identities and experiences led to Dixon's position; Augsburg hired him as part of a 2019 NCAA Ethnic Minorities and Women's Internship Grant, which the university also received in 2012. In 2014 and 2021, the department received the NCAA Strategic Alliance Matching

Grant, which also supports the hiring and mentorship of ethnic minorities and women in athletic leadership positions.

Alicia Schuelke '20 MAE, former assistant coach for men's track and field, said students are thrilled with Dixon's enthusiasm and vision for the role.

"In a world where, many times, the odds are stacked against us, leaders of color provide hope and strength," said Schuelke,

a physical education teacher at Columbia Academy Middle School in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. "I came to Augsburg for the MAE program, but I was pleasantly surprised to find how diverse the campus is, and it is my absolute favorite part of my learning experience.

"If we can move the needle toward a more diverse group of leaders that better represent our country's demographics, then students of color will begin to understand that the sky's the limit in terms of their own hopes, dreams, and aspirations."

House said she is encouraged by the department's work to advance equity and inclusion. She appreciates the university's willingness to be vulnerable and invite her and other people of color to share their experiences during this raw, unsettling time. But, as any athlete knows, one must dedicate lots of hours and effort to see results.

Augsburg Athletics is putting in the work. ■

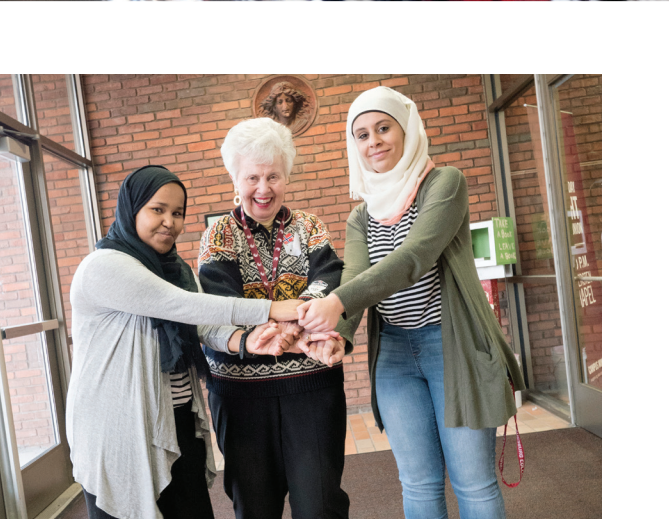
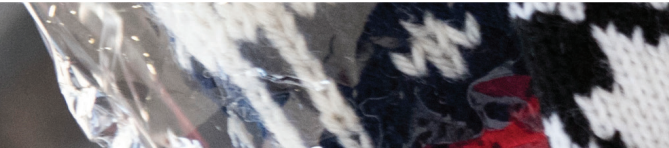
"Yes, we are here to win, but we are also here to equip student-athletes with valuable life skills, to prepare them for conversations and experiences they are facing and will continue to face."

—**Kathryn Knippenberg**

Kathryn Knippenberg (right) has served as head coach of Augsburg University Women's Lacrosse since 2014.



ARCHIVE PHOTOS



Augsburg Associates fostered community connections and raised funds to support the university's work.

THE SCANDINAVIAN WORK ETHIC

that inspired the Augsburg Associates' decades of service

Though the Augsburg Associates group has ended, the impact of volunteer work over 37 years resonates

By Lisa Renze-Rhodes

Community volunteerism is so much a part of the fabric of Norwegian life that they have a special name for it: dugnad.

Pronounced doog-nahd, it's the tradition of neighbors gathering for all kinds of communal pursuits—planting and tending to a community garden, spending time chatting with elders at a senior center, or painting a school building. Dugnads are something everyone not only plans for, but looks forward to.

Since the mid-1980s, Augsburg University has been home to a team of women who drew on their Norwegian or broader Scandinavian heritage to create their own dugnad. The group became known as the Augsburg Associates and helped to raise significant funds for their community.

Now, after 37 productive years of service, the Augsburg Associates are disbanding. But their legacy will live on for decades to come.

THE SOUNDS OF SERVICE

"The intent, when it started, was to help out on campus where they needed help," said **Eunice Dietrich '65**. "The original Associates were spouses of faculty members and other women who had an ear to what was going on."

Dietrich, a former Associates board chair who earned a degree in home economics at Augsburg, said assistance was needed across all facets of campus life. From stuffing envelopes for alumni and donor mailings to setting up a "nice meeting space" for the university's Board of Regents when they gathered, the Associates saw needs and then filled those voids.

But it didn't take long for the work to morph from occasional events to addressing a situation requiring a sound solution.

PROJECTS FUNDED OR SUPPORTED BY AUGSBURG ASSOCIATES

- Trash and Treasure Sales
- Welcome party for the 2011 visit of Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway
- Velkommen Jul buffets and boutique sales
- Norwegian coffee at Taste of Augsburg Homecoming events
- Christensen Center's welcome desk construction
- Foss Center's Green Room renovation
- Christensen Center's Augsburg Room and Marshall Room renovations
- Lindell Library's special collections room creation
- Hoversten Chapel's Dobson pipe organ purchase
- Christensen Scholars program funding
- Various scholarships



President **Paul Pribbenow** (center) talks with King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway during their visit to campus in 2011.



Augsburg Associates oversee food and drinks at Velkommen Jul in 1992.

cleaned, pressed, and readied for a chance at a new life.

The items were enough to fill a semitrailer, then eventually two.

“Every Wednesday night, I’d have people come over, and we’d sort everything,” Cobb said. “All the dishes in one box, all the clothes in another, the sporting goods in another corner.”

Then when the date of the sale neared, items were transferred from the trucks to the site of the sale.

“The football team would come, and for two blocks we would line up next to each other and pass boxes into the gymnasium.”

The first sale raised \$600, Cobb recalled. The next year: \$4,000. Then \$10,000, \$15,000, and \$28,000.

When everything was done and counted, the Trash and Treasure Sales netted a quarter of a million dollars. And Augsburg got its organ.

WELCOME KING, QUEEN, AND CHRISTMAS

Norwegian words echoed off the walls of classrooms and hallways when Augsburg was founded, so there was little surprise, though great delight, when King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway visited campus in 2011. The Associates were there to mark the day with special care—while wearing traditional Norwegian bunads, the proud folk outfits worn by men, women, and children on such occasions of cultural significance.



Anne Frame (left), the late spouse of Augsburg’s ninth president, **Bill Frame**, was also a member of the Augsburg Associates. Read more about Anne’s life and work on page 32.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS

But before Their Majesties graced the campus, the Associates had already begun making sure the heritage of the school’s founders was celebrated and remembered.

Velkommen Jul, an annual celebration welcoming the seasons of Advent and Christmas, took hold with attendees donning thick, gorgeous Norwegian sweaters and sampling delicious traditional foods including krumkake cookies. The celebration has become a loved tradition in the Augsburg community, even among students who don’t necessarily have Scandinavian heritage.

Money raised at Velkommen Jul and through estate sales and other efforts ultimately went to fund scholarships as well as the Christensen Scholars, a cohort of students who explore theology, faith, and vocation while engaging in community-based learning experiences.

That, said Augsburg University President **Paul Pribbenow**, is a lasting legacy for the organization: “Over many years, the Augsburg Associates have been faithful and generous supporters of Augsburg. Through their tireless efforts, the Associates have raised scholarship funds and have helped countless students pursue an Augsburg education.

“The annual Velkommen Jul celebrations, graciously hosted by the Associates, highlighted our Norwegian roots,

even as they welcomed new generations of diverse students, faculty, and staff. Personally, I am deeply grateful for the members of the Associates who have supported me and my family over the past 15 years as we worked together to advance Augsburg’s mission,” Pribbenow said.

Though the time of the Associates’ dugnad has come to a close, some of the group’s members are continuing their volunteerism with another group: Augsburg Women Engaged. Since it was formed by a group of Auggie women in 2009, AWE has strengthened connections in the Augsburg community and encouraged philanthropy to keep the university’s hands-on education accessible to a broad range of students. These overlapping commitments shared by AWE and the Augsburg Associates demonstrate the deep-seated commitment to service that is so emblematic of Auggies of all stripes.

For the women doing the work, the Associates were more than a service organization—they were family.

“You give and you get, you feel good about what you’ve done. You don’t start out for that reason, but oftentimes when you’re volunteering, you get more out of it than what you give,” Dietrich said. “These women were so dedicated and did this work with such joy.” ■



Augsburg Associates roll lefse, a traditional Norwegian potato flatbread, for Velkommen Jul in 2011.



Can a smartphone app **DE-ESCALATE TRAFFIC STOP ENCOUNTERS** between drivers and police?

BY GITA SITARAMIAH

Auggie-created TurnSignal app provides an attorney on demand so everyone gets home safely

Childhood friends and Augsburg University Master of Business Administration alumni **Andre Creighton '19 MBA** and **Mychal Frelix '19 MBA** understand the fear of driving while Black and being stopped by police.

They both grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and knew the family of Philando Castile, a Black man who was fatally shot by an officer during a 2016 traffic stop in nearby Falcon Heights.

"The interest in creating change started with Philando Castile. That was the initial gut punch," Creighton said. "Flash forward to George Floyd in 2020, and it was like ripping off a Band-Aid to a wound that hasn't healed. We decided we had to do something."

Creighton, an accountant, and Frelix, who was in sales for Sony Electronics, left their stable day jobs in 2020. They teamed up with attorney Jazz Hampton, who is also an adjunct professor at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and the three Black men launched a new company providing a technology-based solution to de-escalate traffic stops by police.

Andre Creighton '19 MBA (left) and **Mychal Frelix '19 MBA** were motivated to leave their stable jobs in 2020 to focus on launching the TurnSignal app.

TIMELY LAUNCH

The motto says it all: “Drive with an attorney by your side.”

TurnSignl provides real-time, on-demand legal guidance from attorneys to drivers, all while drivers’ smartphone cameras record the interaction. The mission is to protect drivers’ civil rights, de-escalate roadside interactions with police, and ensure both civilians and officers return home safely at the end of the day.

As is true of many startups, the three co-founders wear multiple hats. Hampton serves as CEO and general counsel. Creighton is the chief financial officer and chief operating officer while Frelix is the chief revenue officer and chief technology officer.

When Daunte Wright was shot and killed by a police officer during a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, in April, that only accelerated their pace to bring the app to market. “This has been an issue plaguing Black and brown communities,” Frelix said. “We’re thankful to have the ability and skill sets to get this off the ground.”

They introduced the TurnSignl app in May after they were able to leverage the

public awareness of police stops ending tragically to raise more than \$1 million to bring the app to market.

HOW TURNSIGNL WORKS

Users open the app and immediately get connected to an attorney vetted by TurnSignl to guide them in order to de-escalate the encounter. Service launched in Minnesota and will be expanding to 10 states by the end of 2021. The founders also have created a foundation to provide service for those unable to pay for the app, which is available on the Apple and Google app stores. They expect the foundation to support 25% of the app’s user base.

While the app is intended for anyone, there is increasing attention to how Black drivers are treated by police.

Twin Cities NBC affiliate KARE 11 reported in May that new data shows that the majority of drivers pulled over this year by Minneapolis police for minor equipment violations are Black: Black drivers accounted for more than half of those stops despite making up only about 20% of the city’s residents, according to city data.

In St. Paul, Black drivers were almost four times more likely to be pulled over by police than white drivers, according to a Pioneer Press analysis of data from 2016 to 2020. Asian, Latino, and Native American drivers were stopped at roughly the same rate as white drivers, the Pioneer Press reported.

The TurnSignl founders say their product is more than just an app. It’s a signal for change. “There’s no better opportunity to impact change than this moment, now,” Creighton said.

Defense attorney Taylor J. Rahm is one of the lawyers who has joined TurnSignl to be on call for motorists. “Anything we can do to make sure these situations are safe and that no one gets harmed is something I hope any lawyer would want to get involved with,” he said.

Sometimes, a motorist making sudden movements is interpreted as cause for alarm and can be construed by an officer as the driver going for a weapon or drugs, leading to potential conflict.

“With TurnSignl, you have a lawyer on the phone to help individuals know their rights but also importantly know how to handle the situation so nothing goes wrong,” Rahm said. “The benefit is that the officer knows that there’s an attorney on the phone telling the person, ‘This is what you should do during the stop.’”

The TurnSignl app has the potential to make traffic stops safer for police as well as motorists, said Mylan Masson, retired director of the Hennepin Technical College law enforcement program and a former Minneapolis Park Police officer. “Every traffic stop can be dangerous for police officers,” said the police training expert. The TurnSignl app “could give someone a calming sense that, ‘I’m not here alone.’”

Business owner Phil Steger offers the app as an employee benefit for

his 14-person Brother Justus Whiskey Company in Minneapolis, believing TurnSignl’s attorneys can act as mediators to keep a traffic stop from escalating into danger.

“If you think you’ve been stopped unlawfully, most people don’t know that they still have to cooperate,” said Steger, who was previously an attorney for law firm Dorsey & Whitney. “You can still be taken to jail.”

A TurnSignl attorney can advise in real time: “Every defendant has the right, if they think they have been stopped unlawfully, to challenge the case in court later,” he said.

BUSINESS PROJECT FOR ‘THE TIMES WE’RE IN’

As the TurnSignl founders prepared to launch the company, they turned to Augsburg’s MBA program to assist them in developing the business plan.

“A key part of the Augsburg MBA experience is that we want students to have practical experience and apply critical thinking,” said **George Dierberger**, associate business professor and director of the MBA program.

Students in the MBA program grapple with real-world challenges faced by local businesses via a management consulting project, which supported TurnSignl’s launch. This is just one of the many MBA program experiences in which students collaborate on projects, case studies, presentations, and simulations.

The TurnSignl project represents Augsburg’s goals to be socially conscious, said **Mike Heifner ’21 MBA**, who worked on the pricing strategy of the TurnSignl business plan. “This was a good example of how capitalism could

bring social value to society,” he said.

Augsburg graduate student **Stephanie Oliver ’21 MBA** hopes the TurnSignl app will open new conversations and foster a different way of thinking about how police and civilians interact during traffic stops.

“This project was my first choice because of the times we’re in,” she said.

Oliver’s role in the MBA group was to analyze the research and data about traffic stops nationally by race. What she found was a system with inconsistent reporting about race and traffic stops across states. What was clear was that even after accounting for those inconsistencies, the disparities were apparent in stops involving people of color.

One of the studies she reviewed was the Stanford Open Policing Project, which analyzed data from nearly 100 million traffic stops and found significant racial disparities in policing and, in some cases, evidence that bias also played a role.

This didn’t surprise Oliver. Her husband is Black and was frequently pulled over when they first moved to their Twin Cities suburb years ago. Once, the police even questioned her then 5-year-old daughter about whether he was actually her father.

“I ask why I’m being pulled over when officers approach my vehicle, and they get angry at me,” Oliver said. “But I have a right to know why I’m pulled over.”

She worries about her two young Black sons but is optimistic that the TurnSignl app can start to change the dynamics during a police stop. “I know when my daughter goes to Augsburg this fall, I’m going to get this app for her.” ■

DATA ON DRIVERS AND POLICE TRAFFIC STOPS

Key findings from the national data research **Stephanie Oliver ’21 MBA** gathered for the TurnSignl business plan:

- On average, **legal intervention death rates for Black men were 4.7 times higher** than those of white men from 1979 to 1988, and 3.2 times higher from 1988 to 1997. (2002 American Journal of Public Health study)
- **Black men are 3 times more likely than other races to die from the use of police force.** Oliver said this was particularly alarming as Black males make up only about 6% of the total U.S. population. (2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Vital Statistics Data 2010–14)
- When driver race/ethnicity was visible, **Black drivers were nearly 20% more likely to be the subject of a discretionary traffic stop** than were white drivers. (2014 San Diego State University research)
- Among males aged 10 years or older who were killed by police use of force, **the mortality rate among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic individuals was 2.8 and 1.7 times higher**, respectively, than that among white individuals. (Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Use of Lethal Force by U.S. Police 2010–14)
- **Search rates for whites are significantly lower**, at around 18% of the traffic stops, while search rates for Blacks and Hispanics total about 82%. (Compiled from Stanford Open Policing Project data for Connecticut; Illinois; North Carolina; Rhode Island; South Carolina; Texas; Washington; and Wisconsin; and municipal police departments in Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans; Philadelphia; Plano, Texas; San Diego; and San Francisco)



TurnSignl co-founders [L to R] **Mychal Frelix ’19 MBA**, attorney **Jazz Hampton**, and **Andre Creighton ’19 MBA** plan to expand the app’s services from Minnesota to 10 more states by the end of 2021.



The TurnSignl app is available on the Apple and Google app stores.

AUGSBURG

Then Now

BY JOHN WEIRICK AND
STEWART VAN CLEVE, DIGITAL ARCHIVES AND
RESEARCH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

For 152 years, Augsburg has both changed and remained the same. Though the Augsburg community looks much different outwardly—campus layout and buildings, student body demographics and style of clothing, technology and teaching methods—the Auggie spirit continues to inspire faculty and staff to cultivate a vibrant learning environment in which students can engage in meaningful hands-on experiences. Enjoy these glimpses into the Augsburg of the past and the university of today.



Auggies shoot hoops in Old Main gymnasium, circa 1945.



Augsburg women's basketball plays against the College of Saint Benedict in Si Melby Hall, 2018.



An image of Augsburg's campus and the Minneapolis skyline in 1967, stitched together from three frames of an aerial camera shot in a promotional film.



Part of Augsburg's campus—including Old Main, two residence halls, and the Norman and Evangeline Hagfors Center for Science, Business, and Religion—in 2018.



The Augsburg community poses in front of Old Main in 1931.



The Class of 2023 gathers in front of Old Main in 2019. This fall, group photos are planned for the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2025.

ARCHIVE PHOTO



The camera club in 1957 included [L to R] **Jerry Matison '59**, **Stan Quanbeck '59**, and **James Nichols '58**.



An Auggie wears virtual reality goggles in a new media class in 2019.

ARCHIVE PHOTO



Georg Sverdrup and **Sven Oftedal**, who each served as Augsburg's president, speak at a gathering of students in the first Old Main building (which was demolished to build Science Hall and Sverdrup Hall), 1897.



A procession in a chapel service January 24, 2020.

ARCHIVE PHOTO



Augsburg women's track and field student-athletes prepare for a race (left, 1985) and hit the track (right, 2021).



ARCHIVE PHOTO



Students work in a television studio, possibly in the basement of Memorial Hall (above, 1976), and at a video shoot in Foss Center (right, 2019).

COURTESY PHOTO



ARCHIVE PHOTO



Students attend a Pan-African Student Union cookout in Murphy Square (left, 1998) and an event in the park to welcome students back to campus (below, 2019).



AUGGIES CONNECT

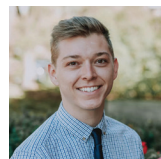
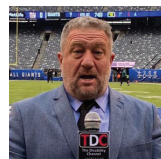
ALUMNI BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Augsburg University Alumni Board is an opportunity for alumni from all programs and class years to build relationships with each other and the university today. Members connect with institutional leaders, faculty, students, and staff to better understand and support Augsburg's mission. We are excited to welcome the newest members to the board!

Pictured top to bottom:

- Dave Stevens '90
- Navid Amini '19 MBA
- Willie Giller '19
- Arianna Antone-Ramirez '20
- Berlynn Bitengo '21

Learn more about the alumni board.
augsborg.edu/alumni



COURTESY PHOTOS

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

In 2020, Augsburg University's Institutional Advancement staff sponsored a series of virtual financial conversations hosted by Augsburg alumni with expertise in constructing a will and financial planning. The virtual events—called Where There's a Will, There's a Way—had such positive engagement from alumni that the events were hosted again this summer.

Want to learn more about making a will and financial plans?
Visit augsborg.edu/alumni/blog and search for "Where There's a Will."

FRENCH HOUSE FRIENDS

In 1966, seven women moved into French House, a Minneapolis building adjacent to Augsburg's campus that housed the remaining incoming first-year women who could not be accommodated in the residential housing on campus. They called themselves "the leftovers" and became fast friends who still get together at least once a year.

The French House Friends traveled twice to Washington, where **Linda Larson '70** lives, and Larson has traveled annually to Minnesota, where the other six women live. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has gathered monthly via Zoom videoconferencing, and they are eager to gather in Minnesota this fall.

"Augsburg fostered quality friendships that have remained with me today," said **Mary (Loken) Veiseth '70**.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured in 2018 [front, L to R]: **Diane Lempke '69**, **Mary (Loken) Veiseth '70**, **Linda (Radtke) Karkhoff '70**, **Paulette (Olson) Odegaard '70**. [Back, L to R]: **Susan (Olson) Williams '70**, **Mary Ellen Buss '70**, **Linda Larson '70**.



ON THE HORIZON VIRTUAL EVENTS STRENGTHEN AUGSBURG COMMUNITY

Last year, On the Horizon virtual events with President **Paul Pribbenow** engaged more than 500 Auggies and raised generous support for the Student Emergency Fund, the President's Strategic Fund, student scholarships, and other key university efforts. This virtual event series was created to keep the Augsburg community up to date with the university's ongoing work and adjustments during the pandemic. Five more On the Horizon events in the series were hosted during Spring 2021 with specific groups, such as retired faculty, former regents and regents emeriti, and current and former alumni board members.

Find video recordings of the events at YouTube.com/AugsburgU.

100 NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AUGSBURG STUDENTS

As part of Augsburg's ongoing Great Returns fundraising campaign, the university set an ambitious goal of establishing 150 new endowed scholarships. As of Spring 2021, the university had received 100 new endowed scholarships! Augsburg is presenting water droplet sculptures to the first 150 donors who establish new endowed scholarships. These handmade sculptures represent the impact that donors make in the Augsburg community. When a water droplet hits the surface of a pond, the droplet causes a ripple that continues to expand.



To learn more about establishing a scholarship, contact:

Amy Alkire
Interim Vice President for Advancement
612-330-1188 | alkirea@augsborg.edu

AUGGIES CONNECT

A private Facebook group

JUST FOR AUGGIES

Be a part of live virtual events, and interact with alumni, faculty, staff, students, and university leaders.

1. Log on to Facebook.
2. Search for "Auggie Connections."
3. Select "Join group."
4. Answer membership questions so we know it's you.
5. Create a post to introduce yourself.



Join the Auggie Connections private Facebook group.

facebook.com/groups/auggieconnections

You chimed in:



ALUMNI ARE THANKFUL FOR AUGSBURG RESOURCES

Augsburg Now staff asked the university's Instagram followers for the resource they most appreciated as a student. Here are a few of their responses, edited for length and clarity.

NIKKI DARST '15

The wonderful librarians!



BRITTANY KIMBALL '13

The CLASS office helped me to be successful while [I was] undergoing cancer treatment.

MARGARET ALBERS '21

The openness and willingness of professors to help students along the way.

EVE TAFT '18

Center for Wellness and Counseling. I'd probably never have gotten mental health treatment otherwise.

ANNA COX '22

Student government! I learned how to advocate for myself and others.

ARIANNA ANTONE-RAMIREZ '20

TRIO/SSS and Multicultural Student Services.

DESTYN LAND '19

Residence Life. Shoutout to the best supervisors ever, Eric, Ryan, and Seth.



Follow @augsburguniversity on Instagram.

1950

Auggie launches national hockey award

Charles "Chuck" Bard '50 has always been a sports enthusiast. At Augsburg, Bard played football and baseball, notably serving as the second baseman on Augsburg's 1947 and 1948 MIAC championship teams. However, the sport that Bard loved most—and the sport that brought him the most notoriety—was one he never played: hockey.

Hockey wasn't played widely when Bard was in school. By the time he started college, Augsburg had a hockey team. However, Bard already played football and baseball, and student-athletes were limited to participating in only two sports. Bard attended as many Auggie hockey games as he could and enjoyed watching the players out on the ice.

After graduating in 1950 with a degree in physical education and a minor in journalism, Bard continued his passion for sports by co-founding the Decathlon Athletic Club in the late 1960s. Located in Bloomington, Minnesota, it was the first private athletic club in Minnesota outside of downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul.

By 1978, Bard was still an avid hockey fan and a proud owner of Minnesota North Stars hockey season tickets. But he noticed that hockey didn't have an award to honor the best collegiate players in the nation like other sports, so he decided his athletic club would start a nationally recognized hockey award. After consulting with the Los Angeles athletic club that started the John Wooden Award for outstanding collegiate basketball players, Bard established the Hobey Baker Award, named after a hockey legend. In 1981, the first Hobey Baker Award was given to Neal Broten. Broten played center for the University of Minnesota and the "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Olympic hockey team, which took gold at Lake Placid, New York, in 1980.

Since that first award, the Hobey has honored 40 hockey players from around the United States. The award is given to a player who best demonstrates "teamwork, dedication, integrity, exceptional play, humility, and above all, character."

In 2007, Bard visited Augsburg's campus to recognize longtime men's hockey coach, Ed Saugestad '59, who was a Hobey Baker Legends of Hockey honoree.



COURTESY PHOTO



The 1947 and 1948 MIAC championship baseball teams were recognized at a Hall of Fame banquet in 1985. Pictured are [front, L to R]: Charles "Chuck" Bard '50, Ken Walsh '48, Art Marben '47, Roger Leak '50, Marvin Johnson '49, Jennings Thompson '51, Jeroy Carlson '48. [Back, L to R]: Edor Nelson '38 (coach), Ralph Pearson '49, Duane Lindgren '48, Arnold Henjum '49, Robert Howells '50, Bobb Miller '48.

1974

Augsburg alumna and former regent joins University of Minnesota's Board of Regents

Ruth Johnson '74, MD, was elected to the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents 1st Congressional District seat. Johnson studied chemistry and biology at Augsburg, where she earned a bachelor's degree with summa cum laude honors; graduated from what is now Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine; and completed her residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. She served 16 years on Augsburg's Board of Regents, was the chair of academic and student affairs, co-chair of the campaign cabinet, co-founder of the science advisory board, and vice chair of the regent's committee. In 1996, Johnson was named a distinguished alumna of Augsburg.

edu Read the full story on the alumni news blog: augsburg.edu/alumni/blog.



COURTESY PHOTO

Read more Class Notes online and submit your alumni news.

augsburg.edu/alumni



2018



SAVE THE DATE:
ALL-SCHOOL REUNION

Mark your calendar to join us for the All-School Reunion in Fall 2022.

1986

'Underestimate me; that will be fun'

Tamra (Pederson) Pyrtle '86 excelled in school and in her career, yet she always made time for the playfulness of science and math.

At Augsburg, Tamra pursued a chemistry degree. This was a significant challenge, particularly for a student with a double minor in mathematics and German. But Tamra's persistent nature helped her earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry, graduating with honors in 1986.



Tamra (Pederson) Pyrtle '86 and her horse, Bravo.

"Obviously she was not afraid of a challenge. There is a saying of which she was particularly fond: 'Go ahead, underestimate me; that will be fun,'" said Brett Pyrtle, Tamra's husband.

Tamra's exceptional knowledge wasn't always reserved for schoolwork. One night in 1983, she and her friends convinced members of the Augsburg football team to carry a Volkswagen Beetle into the student center. Tamra was able to direct the crew so they could do this without taking the doors off the entry. The geometry of this feat was lost on the maintenance staff, who had to remove the entrance doors to get the vehicle back out.

In her first professional job, Tamra was hired as a lab supervisor for Buckbee-Mears St. Paul. She was the first college graduate to hold the position, and she learned quickly how to balance her academic knowledge with practical skills required to meet the fast-paced demands of metal-etching production. She also learned how to stand up for herself in a plant where she was the only woman in technical management.

After a few other positions handling instrumentation in a consulting lab, supervising etched metal operations, providing quality assurance analysis, and teaching advanced placement chemistry, Tamra joined Medtronic's neuromodulation division as a senior quality engineer. She was quickly promoted to principal quality engineer and developed a reputation as the go-to resource for tough quality engineering and analytical challenges.

Despite her technical jobs, Tamra continued to pursue fun applications of science, and she particularly loved how science and nature intersected. It was no surprise to her family when she sold her collector car to buy a thoroughbred horse named Bravo. Tamra learned as much as she could about veterinary care and medicine so that she could regularly administer Bravo's shots herself.

The communication between Bravo and Tamra was something special, said her parents, Wayne and Lynette Pederson. Bravo perked up when he saw Tamra coming and even recognized her vehicle. They had conversations and seemed to know what the other was saying.

On December 13, 2018, Tamra passed away at the age of 55 after battling cancer for more than two years. She left behind her husband of 24 years, Brett; her parents, Wayne and Lynette; her brother, **Carey Pederson '88**; and her sister, **Kristin (Pederson) Merkel '91**.

"All three of our children are Augsburg graduates, and our family ties to Augsburg run deep," said Wayne. "Augsburg was a significant contributor to Tami's success. We wish for other students to have the opportunities Tami had, and what better place to provide some assistance than at Tami's alma mater."

Wayne and Lynette, along with Brett, established the Tamra Lynn Pederson Pyrtle Endowed Scholarship at Augsburg. This scholarship will be used to support students interested in pursuing a major in chemistry and who maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.

1993

Tammera Diehm '93 ranked as a leading attorney

Tammera Diehm '93 was recognized as a distinguished leader in her field by Chambers USA, one of the world's leading guides to the legal profession. Diehm's work encompasses numerous aspects of real estate transactions, including buying, selling, leasing, development, and financing. She helps local and national clients of varying sizes navigate the complexities that come with owning and occupying real estate, such as zoning, land use, government approvals, and regulatory compliance.

Like a true Auggie, Diehm aims to unlock the full potential of her team through motivational coaching and support.

"I want to give our firm members the ability to build their own careers, offering flexibility and support while maintaining our firm's core values and commitment to client service," Diehm said.

Accounting roles add up for Paula Diaz '03, Northview Bank CEO


Paula Diaz '03 has been named president and CEO of Northview Bank, which has branches across Minnesota. After graduating from Augsburg with a degree in accounting, Diaz has enjoyed a robust career in finance. Starting out as a public accountant, she went on to become the finance director of Cummins NPower. She has been at Northview Bank since 2014, where she was the CFO prior to stepping into her new role.

"Paula is prepared to be the new leader for Northview Bank. Her experience, knowledge, and people skills make her the logical choice," said Ron Carlson, former president of Northview Bank.

Trailblazing Auggie Abdulkadir Sharif '20 continues geopolitical studies at Georgetown

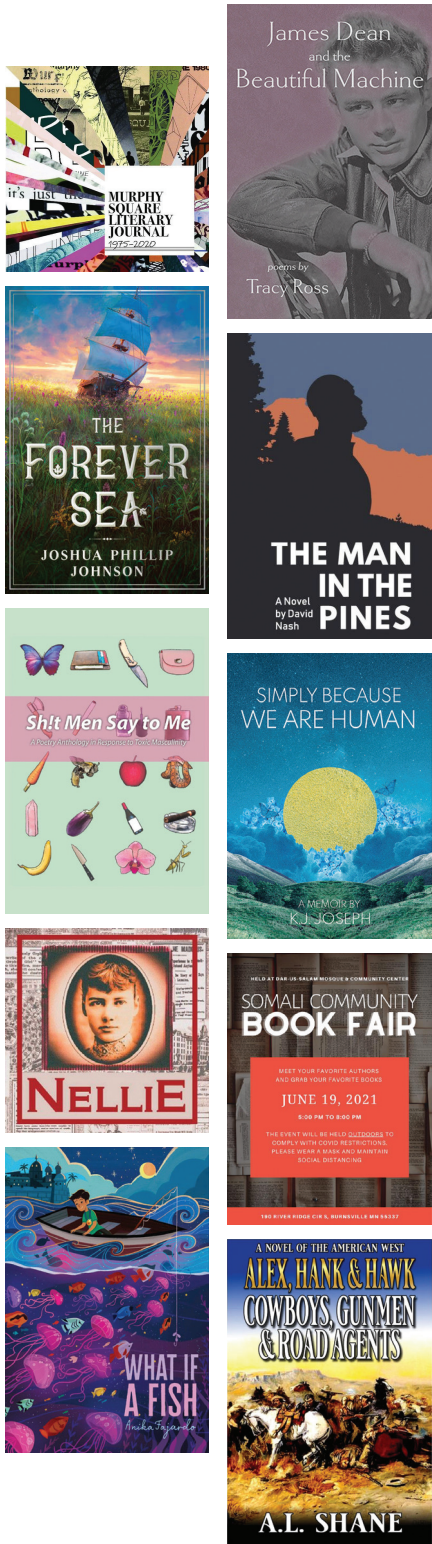
Abdulkadir Sharif '20 studied political science and international relations at Augsburg and became Augsburg's first student to win the Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship. He also received a Fulbright Scholarship, a Boren Scholarship to study Swahili in Tanzania (which he accepted instead of a Critical Language Scholarship, which he also won), and a Gilman Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to study in Namibia and South Africa. Sharif also participated in Princeton University's Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship. He planned to teach English in Malaysia through the Fulbright program before travel plans were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and he was reassigned to the Netherlands. He is pursuing a master's degree in global politics and security with a full scholarship to Georgetown University.

Read more Class Notes online and submit your alumni news.

 augsburg.edu/alumni

2003

2020



Recently published Auggies

Augsburg alumni, faculty, and students have published literature and earned the public’s attention during the past year.

- **Lowell “A.L. Shane” Ziemann ’60**—“Alex, Hank & Hawk: Cowboys, Gunmen & Road Agents: A Novel of the American West”
- **David Nash ’06**—“The Man in the Pines,” a novel and soundtrack
- **Joshua Phillip Johnson ’17 MFA**—“The Forever Sea,” a novel
- **Robby Steltz ’18 MFA**—“Nellie,” a short play that earned second place in the Virginia State One Acts competition
- **Khadijo “JoJo” Abdi ’19 MFA**—One of the main authors that participated in the first Somali Community Book Fair in Burnsville, Minnesota
- **Tracy Ross ’19 MFA**—“James Dean and the Beautiful Machine,” a book of poetry
- **Kristine Joseph ’20 MFA**—“Simply Because We Are Human,” a memoir
- **Cole W. Williams ’22 MFA**—Poems published in “Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine” and “Sh!t Men Say to Me: A Poetry Anthology in Response to Toxic Masculinity”
- Faculty member **Anika Fajardo**—“What if a Fish,” a novel that won the Minnesota Book Award for Middle Grade Literature
- “Murphy Square 1975–2020: A Sesquicentennial Sampler of Literature by Augsburg Students”—Professor Emeritus **Doug Green** said, “More than 40 recent students from 2016 through 2019 served as co-editors, haggling over selections drawn from the entire digital archive of Murphy Square [Augsburg’s student-created literary and visual arts journal]. **Megan Johnson ’19** designed the volume.”

Read more Class Notes online
and submit your alumni news.

 augsburg.edu/alumni



Remembering and honoring Auggies

Below we recognize the individuals whose notifications of death Augsburg received between January 1 and July 14, 2021.

1940s

Hazel (Soiseth) Durfee ’41, Tampa, Florida, age 102, on March 10.

Ebba A. (Johnson) Brooks ’42, Duluth, Minnesota, age 101, on January 12.

Evelyn H. (Sonnack) Halverson ’43, Edina, Minnesota, age 100, on February 14.

Helen D. (Arnseth) Torvik ’44, Moorhead, Minnesota, age 98, on April 29.

Marilyn L. (Rykken) Michaelson ’47, Coralville, Iowa, age 94, on June 10.

Mildred A. (Thorsgard) Strand ’47, Remer, Minnesota, age 95, on March 28.

Marian J. (Halverson) Tilleson ’48, Orfordville, Wisconsin, age 94, on March 6.

Gloria V. (Swanson) Duoos ’49, Cambridge, Minnesota, age 94, on January 19.

Robert S. Duoos ’49, Cambridge, Minnesota, age 97, on January 11.

1950s

Emmet T. Oein ’50, Alexandria, Minnesota, age 93, on May 14.

Alfred M. Sannerud ’50, Ham Lake, Minnesota, age 97, on June 28.

Dorothy E. Twiton ’50, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, age 92, on April 27.

Robert L. Boxrud ’51, Hettinger, North Dakota, age 92, on March 18.

Allard J. Christenson ’51, Mahnomon, Minnesota, age 92, on February 25.

Merlin A. Johnson ’51, Grantsburg, Wisconsin, age 90, on February 2.

LaWayne N. Morseth ’51, Minneapolis, age 93, on January 10.

Donald C. Thorson ’51, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, age 92, on January 9.

Marjorie A. (Haley) Eliason ’52, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 90, on January 29.

Astrid (Braaten) Ongstad ’52, Devils Lake, North Dakota, age 91, on April 10.

James S. Hamre ’53, South Pasadena, Florida, age 89, on January 3.

Harriet R. (Bruder) Holtmeier ’53, Waconia, Minnesota, age 91, on May 29.

Valborg Huglen ’53, Newfolden, Minnesota, age 96, on January 15.

John R. Lingen ’53, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, age 90, on April 28.

Vernon S. Stenoien ’53, Woodstock, Illinois, age 89, on March 4.

Maryan A. (Knutson) Froland ’54, Granite Falls, Minnesota, age 88, on April 26.

Edward O. Nyhus ’54, Minneapolis, age 88, on April 30.

Merton C. Phillips ’54, Salem, Oregon, age 88, on January 28.

Louis P. Rolf ’54, Faribault, Minnesota, age 91, on March 22.

Jerome C. Trelstad ’54, Santa Maria, California, age 89, on April 24.

Norma J. (Sorenson) Fretheim ’55, Federal Way, Washington, age 87, on April 30.

James A. Johnson ’55, Sun City, Arizona, age 88, on June 21.

Rodney O.J. Erickson ’56, Moorhead, Minnesota, age 86, on March 16.

Lucile M. (Kunkel) Matison ’56, Glenwood, Minnesota, age 88, on April 1.

Thomas M. Warme ’57, Moneta, Virginia, age 85, on March 17.

Elyce E. (Lundquist) Arvidson ’58, Minneapolis, age 84, on April 1.

Harland P. Danielson ’58, Cadott, Wisconsin, age 89, on June 6.

Richard L. Feig ’58, Minneapolis, age 84, on February 1.

Bonita M. (Griep) Ram ’58, Timberon, New Mexico, age 84, on February 20.

Curtis M. Lake ’59, Waldport, Oregon, age 90, on March 10.

James W. Wennerlind ’59, Minneapolis, age 89, on March 12.

1960s

Marlene L. Studlien ’60, New Hope, Minnesota, age 82, on June 17.

Darrell G. Wiese ’60, Northfield, Minnesota, age 84, on January 9.

Dennis J. Johnson ’61, Minneapolis, age 81, on March 26.

Bruce W. Abrahamson ’62, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 80, on April 28.

Donald E. Brynildson ’62, Garrison, Missouri, age 85, on May 6.

Ingolf B. Kronstad ’62, Kirkland, Washington, age 80, on February 10.

Bonnie E. (Lassila) Curtin ’63, Minneapolis, age 79, on January 3.

Gloria J. (Odegaard) Schlechter ’63, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, age 79, on January 13.

Robert F. Soli ’63, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, age 83, on January 10.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles M. Piper '64, Northfield, Minnesota, age 85, on March 27.

Carol R. (Strand) Pattee '66, Silverton, Oregon, age 78, on February 8.

Dennis B. Reiman '66, Farmington, Minnesota, age 78, on April 19.

Steven L. Erickson '67, Stanchfield, Minnesota, age 76, on June 28.

Duane M. Ilstrup '68, Rochester, Minnesota, age 74, on February 9.

Suzann B. (Johnson) Nelson '68, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, age 74, on March 14.

Judi E. (Romerein) Tsudo '68, Minneapolis, age 74, on March 18.

Erland J. Nord '69, Elbow, Canada, age 91, on January 5.

1970s

Ross L. Jacobson '70, Janesville, Wisconsin, age 72, on June 7.

Bonnie K. (Rosvold) Risius '70, Bricelyn, Minnesota, age 72, on March 3.

Charlotte M. (Nordmark) Sween '71, Plymouth, Minnesota, age 81, on May 2.

William K. Ogren '73, Minneapolis, age 70, on March 10.

Derrell C. Wistrom '74, Austin, Texas, age 74, on February 22.

Kathlyn H. (Faber) Norum '75, Alexandria, Minnesota, age 80, on June 26.

Richard G. Johnson '76, Minneapolis, age 72, on April 23.

1980s

Vivian M. (Shannon) Holman '80, Minneapolis, age 78, on February 15.

Maureen T. (Conroy) Kurtz '80, Shell Lake, Wisconsin, age 63, on July 6.

James M. Ruud '80, Minneapolis, age 78, on June 26.

Lorraine G. (Herman) Bergquist '82, Minneapolis, age 87, on March 4.

Carolyn I. (Raymond) Vickers '85, St. Paul, Minnesota, age 79, on January 21.

Stanley L. Hjermstad '88, Sanford, Florida, age 88, on January 23.

1990s

Tamera K. (Fillips) Shreve '90, Chanhassen, Minnesota, age 54, on June 21.

Brenda K. Quade '91, Rockford, Illinois, age 53, on February 4.

Dawn C. Van Tassel '95, Minneapolis, age 46, on April 7.

Darrell C. Wistrom '99, Austin, Texas, age 74, on February 22.

2000s

Christian H. Anderson '01, Shakopee, Minnesota, age 47, on April 11.

Whitney J. Anderson '09, Minneapolis, age 34, on June 17.

2010s

Kevin P. Ehrman-Solberg '15, Minneapolis, age 33, on June 12.

Elizabeth (Quackenbush) Harper '15, New Orleans, age 39, on March 3.

Cole A. Linnell '15, Rogers, Minnesota, age 29, on March 14.

Faculty, staff, and friends

Department of Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies Adjunct Instructor **James Frankki**, Minneapolis, age 59, on March 21.

Professor Emerita of Nursing **Beverly J. (Swenson) Nilsson**, Minnetonka, Minnesota, age 89, on November 10.

Center for Global Education and Experience Mexico Site Staff Member **Moisés Rios Bello**, Cuernavaca, Mexico, age 50, on February 23.

Center for Global Education and Experience Mexico Site Staff Member **Maria "Isabel" Sanchez Hernandez**, Cuernavaca, Mexico, age 48, on February 21.



LONG-TERM STABILITY FOR LIFE-CHANGING EDUCATION

SUSTAIN AUGSBURG'S MISSION THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

What is a charitable gift annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a “split gift.” Part of your gift is used by Augsburg immediately to support our mission of educating students, and part of the gift is set aside to be invested to support future fixed payments to you.

Benefits of a charitable gift annuity:

- **Added source of income**—You will receive fixed annual payments for your lifetime.
- **Long-term support to Augsburg**—Unlike an immediate income annuity, the remaining value of your annuity will go to Augsburg instead of an insurance company after you pass away.
- **Highly appreciated asset value**—By donating assets in-kind, you preserve the full fair market value of the assets, rather than reduce it by selling it and paying capital gains taxes.
- **Tax deductions**—If you itemize deductions on your tax return, savings from the federal income tax charitable deduction of the gift portion reduce your gift’s net cost.

Ron and **Linda Ott '85** chose to give a charitable gift annuity to Augsburg.

“I was always grateful for my time at Augsburg. A charitable gift annuity is a way for us to do something now that ensures Augsburg has funding. It also provides tax advantages and a little income back to us each year. Augsburg made the whole process very easy, even splitting our gift between a few different programs we want to support.”

—Linda Ott '85



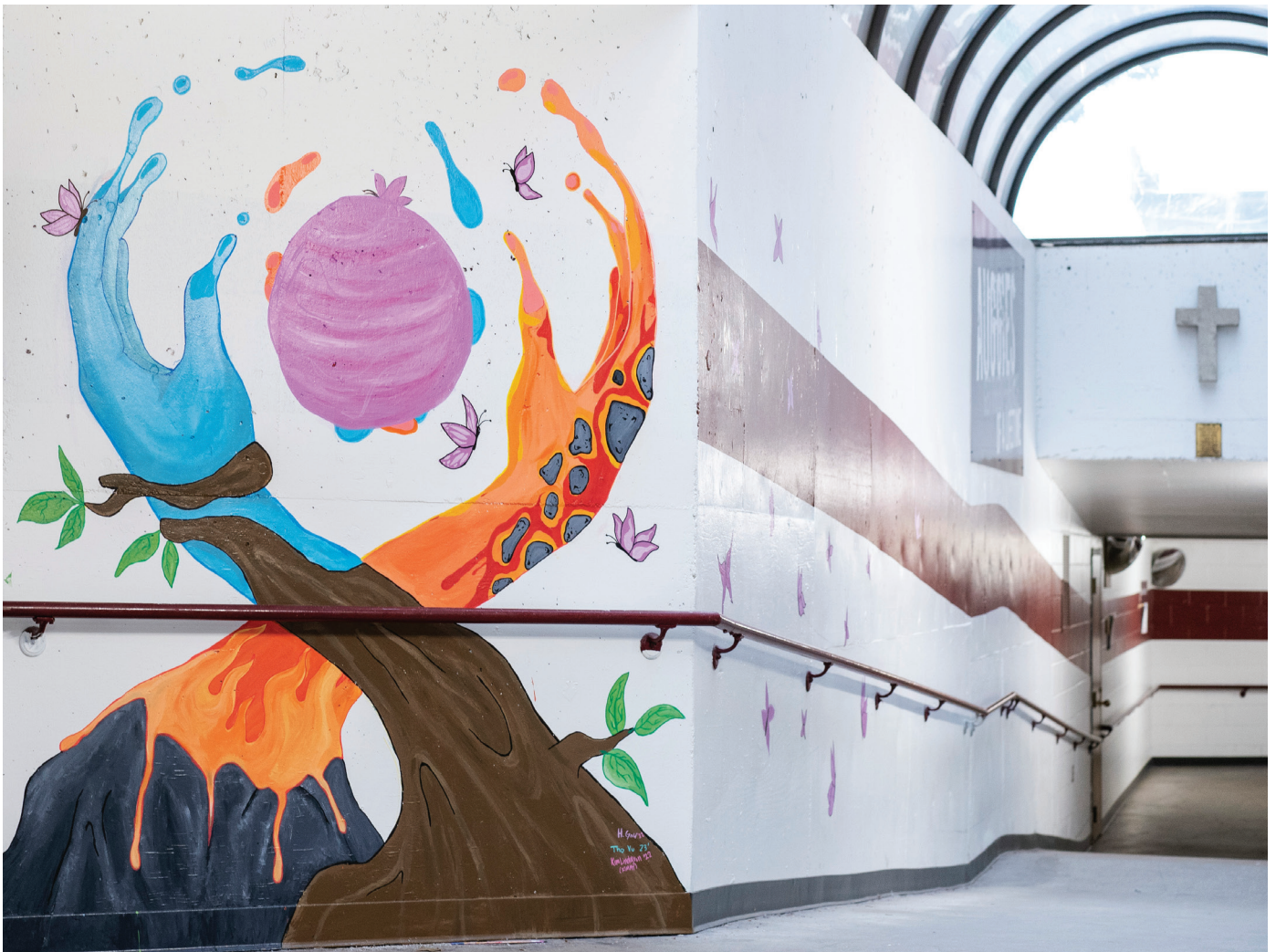
Anne Frame, 84, passed away July 13, in Red Wing, Minnesota. She was the spouse of **Bill Frame**, Augsburg’s ninth president who served from 1997 to 2006. They were a part of Augsburg’s Sven Oftedal Society, a group of generous donors who have arranged a deferred gift to the university to provide student scholarships.

Anne was involved in many parts of the Augsburg community, including as a member of the Augsburg Associates (see story on page 12). She welcomed students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to Augsburg House. She sang a folk song with Bill during a 2004 Auggie Variety Show, engaged with students at Augsburg’s Late Night Breakfast during finals week, and participated in a trip to China with Bill and other Minnesota private college presidents to increase the number of undergraduate student exchanges between the United States and China. Anne will be remembered for her Auggie spirit of dedication, generosity, and service.

Submit address changes and nominations for remembrances to alumniupdate@augsborg.edu.

We want to work with you to create a gift that best fits your circumstances. Contact us to learn more about supporting Augsburg students through a charitable gift annuity.

Amy Alkire, Interim Vice President for Advancement | 612-330-1188 | alkirea@augsborg.edu



New mural welcomes Auggies back to campus

A group of students from an Augsburg graphic systems class created a mural, "Divine Unity," in the tunnel between Old Main and Science Hall. The mural represents unity existing among differences and unique individuals creating a space of community and happiness.