

Augustana College

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Augustana Magazine

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Winter 2019

### Winter 2019

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# Augustana

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2019



The world at  
their feet with  
**AUGIE CHOICE**  
pages 18-21





# Augustana College

**Augustana College Magazine**  
**Series 119 | Volume 2 | Winter 2019**

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**Our Mission**  
Augustana College, rooted in the liberal arts and sciences and a Lutheran expression of the Christian faith, is committed to offering a challenging education that develops qualities of mind, spirit and body necessary for a rewarding life of leadership and service in a diverse and changing world.

**COVER:** Always up for an adventure, **Ivan Starenko '20** went paragliding over Interlaken, a Swiss town surrounded by the Alps, last spring. Starenko was participating in the Innovation and Invention Learning Community in the Alps with Augustana faculty Dr. Joshua Dyer and Dr. Samantha Keehn.

After studying on campus the history of physics and engineering in Europe and ways in which location, innovation and technology have impacted music in the region, the students toured southern Germany, Bern (Switzerland) and Salzburg, Austria, for three weeks. Starenko used his Augie Choice for this program (more Augie Choice experiences, pages 18-21).

Not to be outdone by his students, **Dr. Joshua Dyer** (above) also took in the view.



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## 'Rugby found me'

Tom Billups '87 came to Augustana to play football, but instead found a sport that took him across the Atlantic Ocean and led to a Hall of Fame career as a player and a coach.



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## Want to give back? Here's how

Besides wearing Blue & Gold everywhere they go, there are countless ways alumni can share their time, talents and gifts to strengthen the Augustana experience for current and future Vikings!



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## AUGUSTANA NOW Campaign Update

Last year was a record year for Augustana in terms of fundraising and philanthropy. But there's more work to be done to reach AUGUSTANA NOW's \$125 million campaign goal by December 31, 2020.



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## The world at their feet with AUGIE CHOICE

Alumni and students share favorite photos from their study abroad experiences, made possible in part with Augie Choice funding. The college has invested \$9 million in the last decade to assist more than 4,000 students in pursuing an immersive learning experience.



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## Phrigs? Where did they come from?

The beloved Old Main dome teapot is a classic "phrig," but what's behind that strange word? Alumni want to know! Andrea Curry '20 digs into the archives and comes up with more phrigs and a possible answer.

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## A last best place



“Ensuring Augustana remains one of the last, best places in higher education requires the commitment of all members of our community.”

One of my favorite books over the years has been *The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology*, edited by William Kittredge and Annick Smith.

The book is a wonderful exploration of the peoples, history, geography and literature of the State of Montana that combine to make it one of the last, best places in the United States. Having started my academic career as a law professor in Montana, I agree with this characterization. Kittredge borrowed the idea from Abraham Lincoln, who in his annual message to Congress delivered on December 1, 1862, referred to the United States as the “last, best hope of earth.”

Within higher education, liberal arts colleges certainly deserve the badge of the last, best place.

Nowhere else in America do students study together in intentional community with faculty in small classes, most with fewer than 20 students. These are places in which students live together, study together, and recreate together in a way that creates an ideal environment for growing in mind, spirit and body. Faculty members are primarily members of the college, not siloed departments, together focusing on providing students with an outstanding experience. And the learning outcomes at our liberal arts colleges result in much deeper disciplinary knowledge, and much better preparation for success.

At Augustana, we leverage our living, learning community to create higher-order outcomes of collaborative leadership, creative thinking, ethical citizenship and intellectual curiosity.

Ensuring Augustana remains one of the last, best places in higher education requires the commitment of all members of our community—students who embrace the liberal arts, faculty and staff with an uncommon commitment to crafting an education that responds to the differing needs of our students, a board commitment to ensuring fidelity to mission, and graduates committed to supporting their alma mater.

Together we are stewards of Augustana, one of the last, best places in higher education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven C. Bahls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven C. Bahls  
President of the College



# 2019 rankings and recognition

#92  
of 233  
LIBERAL ARTS  
COLLEGES  
NATIONALLY

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

#69  
IN BEST  
VALUE SCHOOLS

#43  
IN FIRST-YEAR  
EXPERIENCES

BEST  
FOR THE MONEY  
BY COLLEGE  
FACTUAL  
#1  
OUT OF 41  
PRIVATE ILLINOIS COLLEGES

PRINCETON REVIEW  
BEST  
IN THE  
MIDWEST  
2019

TOP 10  
IN ALL DIVISIONS FOR NUMBER OF  
ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

#1 IN CCIW AND ILLINOIS

## Recognized for commitment to diversity, inclusion

Augustana College has received the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

This honor recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

"Receiving the HEED award from *Insight into Diversity* is a high honor for Augustana," said Dr. Monica M. Smith, vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion at Augustana. "I was ecstatic because it is a testament to our appetite to do the work, and confirmation of our commitments and competence in diversity, equity and inclusion."

Augustana cited three examples, among other efforts, to *INSIGHT Into Diversity*:

- **Employee recruitment:** Augustana instituted policies to enhance recruitment of employees from underrepresented groups. The policies require a diverse pool of candidates; an equity guide on search committees; and diversity, equity or inclusion questions included in interviews.
- **Student Leaders for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (SLIDE):** This leadership initiative aims to unify students who are passionate about diversity, inclusion and equity. The program provides workshops and events designed to develop cultural competence and increase students' leadership skills and understanding of social justice and advocacy.
- **PACE (Preparation, Awareness, Community, and Engagement) Multicultural Mentorship Program:** A yearlong program for first-year historically underrepresented students, PACE begins with an orientation that gives students the opportunity to acclimate to campus; meet student leaders, faculty and staff mentors; and gain leadership skills.



## Done! Hanson addition: on time, on budget

After 14 months of construction often halted by challenging weather conditions, the \$8.5 million, 22,000-square-foot expansion to the Robert A. and Patricia K. Hanson Hall of Science opened on time and on budget.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the first day of classes Sept. 2, 2019.

"It's evident that this expansion was built with the learning experience in mind, through flexible classroom design, the use of collaborative spaces and monitors to share work, and, of course, laboratories for study and discovery in the sciences," said Dr. Wendy Hilton-Morrow '94, provost and dean of the college.

The labs and classrooms accommodate the changing learning styles of students and teaching styles of faculty, and the demands of employers who expect high levels of proficiency, problem-solving and collaborative leadership in today's college graduates. Floor-to-ceiling windows in the classrooms bring the beauty of campus inside.

"We are honored to have contributed to Augustana's tradition of success," said Jim Russell, president and CEO of Russell Construction. "This building expansion is transforming not only the learning styles of current and future students, but also the overall aesthetic feel of their remarkable campus."

The building is the latest in a series of capital projects at Augustana in recent years, including The Gerber Center for Student Life, the renovation of Old Main and Emmy Carlsson Evald Hall, and an upgrade to the track and football stadium.





# College recognized for efforts to support survivors, prevent assault

For its efforts to improve the response to victims of sexual assault and develop prevention programming on campus, Augustana received the Moxie Award, given by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Family Resources in the Quad Cities nominated Augustana for the award.

“We’ve had the deep privilege of partnering with Family Resources and Emilee Goad as our sexual health and violence prevention coordinator, who works tirelessly and collaboratively to make our campus a safer place for all students and a supportive place for survivors,” said Dr. Jessica Schultz, associate dean.

In 2018, Augustana made a significant contribution to change how survivors are served, beyond the Title IX specific requirements, to provide survivors more effective ways to reduce the impact of trauma. The college has increased its prevention awareness efforts by offering a bystander intervention class for students, educational events that help students define and understand consent and healthy relationships, and sexual assault awareness events like Denim Day and Take Back the Night.

Through its Sexual Health and Violence Prevention Committee, Augustana works to improve the information and resources available to survivors and to keep up to date with Title IX needs.

“Augustana strives to constantly improve and truly listen to the needs of the victims by including different voices and engaging and involving students in the process,” Goad said. “Not only locally but at state level, Augustana is setting precedent for the constant improvement of services for survivors of sexual assault.”

Accepting the Moxie Award on behalf of the on-campus organizations were Dr. Jessica Schultz, associate dean, associate professor, deputy Title IX coordinator, member of Sexual Health and Violence Prevention Committee; Dr. Jessica Nodulman, assistant professor, member and former chair of Sexual Health and Violence Prevention Committee; and Kaitlyn Watkins '21, member of Title IX Student Advisory Committee.

## What’s that **big A** in the Quad?



With the addition on the north end of Hanson Hall of Science (upper left), the local fire marshal gave the college two options: a road through the Quad or a circle large enough for emergency vehicles to turn around. So here’s the turnaround, officially named the Viking Plaza (thanks to the 1,200 alumni, students, faculty and staff who voted), which unofficially has become a popular meeting place on campus.





This fall Augustana welcomed **102 international students (representing 22 countries or entities by citizenship)** in the Class of 2023. Here they are with (left to right) Juanita Trevino-Perez, international student advisor, and Xong Sony Yang, director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. The college has surpassed its goal of having international students represent 10% of the student population by 2020.

## Brodahl renovation/ expansion on schedule

On Oct. 15, 2019, Augustana began accepting applications for its Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Program (MS-SLP) for the June 2020 inaugural graduate class. The accreditation decision by the CAA\* is anticipated to be delivered by mid-March 2020, at which time the MS-SLP program will notify applicants of accreditation status and acceptance decisions.

The 24-month master's program will include extensive coursework, clinical practice at the college's on-campus Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing, and two full-time clinical externships.

To support the new program, the Betsey Brodahl Building currently is being renovated and expanded to more than double its size by June 2020. The cost is \$3.5 million.

An anonymous lead gift of \$500,000 enabled the college to name the clinic the Barbara A. Roseman Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing. Professor Emerita Barbara Roseman was passionate about the outreach to the community provided by the clinic, and the opportunities it provided for Augustana students to solve problems for clients in the Quad-Cities area.

Those interested in making a gift to support the MS-SLP program/Brodahl expansion may call 309-794-7545.

*The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Program (MS-SLP) at Augustana College is an Applicant for Candidacy by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology\* of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, Md., 20850; 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.*

## Trustees update



CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
**John Murabito, Class of 1980**  
Cigna Corporation  
EVP, human resources  
and services  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
(newly elected)  
**Wiley S. Adams, Class of 1982**  
PGIM, VP and chief legal officer  
Newark, New Jersey

### NEW TRUSTEES

**Diane Gustafson Hill, Class of 1966**  
Northwestern University, School of Communication,  
senior lecturer (retired); Barrington, Illinois

**Rick John, Class of 1979**  
The Sedona Group, president; Moline, Illinois

**Allyson Martinez, Class of 2013**  
William Blair & Co., investment strategist; Chicago, Illinois

**Robert Mitchum, Class of 1975**  
Network Services Company, president and CEO (retired);  
Downers Grove, Illinois

**Tom Weigand, Class of 1985**  
IWI Ventures (Noodles & Company), founder;  
Verona, Wisconsin



## AC train car on the track at Augie's

Augie's Booze and Schmooze is the best kind of neighborhood establishment (think "Cheers"). Our Chicago-area alumni—intrigued by the bar's name—have been customers for many of its 22 years. So last summer, it was dedicated as the official Augustana Chicagoland bar, and our own blue-and-gold car was hitched to the bar's popular miniature train. See for yourself at 1721 W. Wrightwood!

## Two new positions focus on student success



Farrah Roberts

Augustana has created two positions with the goal of helping students of all backgrounds achieve high levels of learning, graduation and success.

**Farrah Roberts** is the college's first director of student well-being and resiliency. She will focus on developing, planning, implementing and evaluating programs to address student well-being, including but not limited to resiliency, substance abuse and suicide prevention.



Kam Williams

Roberts most recently was the director for the Davenport Community School District Project AWARE Mental Health program. She earned her master's in human relations and organizational development from the University of Oklahoma.

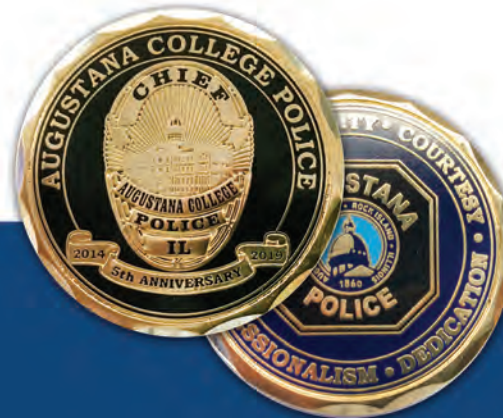
"With student success and a positive experience being foundational elements for colleges, it's important to provide programs and services that support those desired outcomes, and with this position, Augustana is committing to that," said Dr. Wes Brooks, vice president and dean of student life.

**Kam Williams** joins Augustana as its first director of disability services. In this role, she will connect students with academic accommodations such as assistive technology, readers, note-takers and more. Williams also will communicate with faculty and staff in providing professional development programming opportunities to better serve students in and out of the classroom. Her work will extend to creating social spaces on campus to ensure accessibility for students.

"Adding this position is a great step forward in our campus community's goal to making Augustana a welcoming and inclusive place for all students," said Dr. Mike Egan, associate dean of academic affairs.

Williams most recently served as the director of academic support programs and student disability services at Monmouth College. She earned her MBA and MAED from Ashford University.

An average of **1,257** fans crowded into the Carver Center for home games during the 2018-19 men's basketball season—**FOURTH IN THE NATION** at the NCAA DIII level for attendance. That's nearly four times that of the national DIII average and more than double the DII average. **Go Vikings!**



Five years ago, the Augustana Board of Trustees made the decision to create the **Augustana Police Department** to enhance the **safety** of the campus community. This challenge coin was minted to commemorate that decision.



## Ask the librarian! She lives down the hall

On college campuses it's not unusual to meet people who say they "grew up in the library." But Augustana instructor/librarian Maria Emerson says she grew up in a residence hall. This alone suggests she's a good fit for the college's faculty-in-residence program, in which a faculty member lives for three years in Swanson Commons, providing a resource and helpful presence for the sophomores living there.

As a child, Emerson lived for 13 years among students at Hope College in Michigan, where her mother was a resident director in the halls. "College students don't see children often, so I got a lot of attention," she recalled.

This summer she moved with her husband Lee Villalpando, their 4-year-old daughter Scout and dog Storm into an apartment in a wing of Swanson Commons. Emerson is excited about closer connections with more students, especially after serving as a first-year advisor last year.

"In the library I spend some time with them," she said, "but it will be nice to be able to form more solid relationships."

In Swanson, she will be available for advice and support. She'll arrange social gatherings and programs to help students through their important second year, when many are choosing majors.

The faculty-in-residence program has been a huge success, according to Director of Residential Life Chris Beyer. Introduced in 2016, the program is part of the college's strategic effort to better connect the academic, co-curricular and residential sides of each student's experience.

Augustana's inaugural faculty in residence was Dr. Kathy Jakielski, professor of communication sciences and disorders. She lived in the Swanson Commons apartment with her husband David Yordy and their two cats for three years.

Dr. Jakielski said she feels more of a connection to students now "because I understand that they're really not that different from my generation, or from anyone's generation." (However, she was surprised to learn that students today really do write seven-page essays on their phones.)



Maria Emerson,  
Lee Villalpando  
and Scout at  
home in Swanson  
Commons



Dr. Jacob Bancks

## New opera to give voice to cancer survivors

Dr. Jacob Bancks, associate professor of music, is writing a new opera for the Quad City Symphony Orchestra (QCSO) that will be performed in May 2020.

It is the first time in its 104-season history that the orchestra has commissioned a new opera. The QCSO is partnering with Living Proof Exhibit, a nonprofit that provides therapeutic benefit of the arts to people impacted by cancer.

"Opera's always been something I've wanted to do," Dr. Bancks told the *Rock Island Dispatch-Argus* newspaper, noting he's penned vocal pieces, including a dramatic work for six singers as his University of Chicago doctoral dissertation in 2011. "I've written song cycles, other vocal music and choral music, so I'm well prepared."

The opera, titled "Karkinos," will tell the story of an empress (representing a cancer patient) who's forced into battle with the unseen monster Karkinos (cancer) on the night before her coronation. The monster will be symbolized by a 24-voice offstage choir, including some cancer survivors, with a chamber orchestra of 15 players.

## 7 inducted into TOV Hall of Fame

Six student-athletes and a head coach were inducted into the Tribe of Vikings Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2019.

Honored this year were two former NCAA DIII individual track & field national champions, CCIW Players of the Year and All-Americans from both football and basketball, an All-American baseball player who led the nation in hits and total bases in 2007, and a standout who set 11 school records in softball and volleyball and earned All-CCIW honors in both sports.

Joining them is the school's all-time winningest wrestling coach, who won 12 CCIW championships in his 13 seasons with the Vikings.

The six former student-athlete inductees are: **Tom Anthony** (2005-football), **Rick Harrigan** (2006 basketball), **Samantha Knox** (2007-softball and volleyball), **Meghan Voiland McMillan** (2007-track & field), **Marc Blakeley** (2008-baseball) and **Ted McMillan** (2009-track & field). **Kevin Puebla**, the Vikings' head wrestling coach from 1987-2000, will enter the Hall of Fame as an honorary member.

The McMillans are the second married couple in the Tribe of Vikings Hall of Fame—joining LeRoy Brissman '32 and Jane Brissman—but the first couple to be inducted in the same class.



# Knowlton Center, pool to open 2021

“If you ask most people on Augustana’s campus where the pool is, they probably couldn’t tell you,” said Dan Lloyd, head men’s and women’s swimming/diving coach. “That’s about to change.”

With an anticipated opening in 2021, the Austin E. Knowlton Center for Innovation in Health, Wellness and Human Performance will support the college’s new kinesiology program, as well as academic health and wellness programming, and include an aquatic center that will be one of the top swimming facilities in the CCIW.

Kinesiology is the study of physical activity and human movement, and their impact on health, society and quality of life. “Our new kinesiology program is designed to introduce students to broad ideas within a liberal arts context and prepare them for a variety of careers, and for careers that are growing,” said Dr. Kimberly Murphy, program co-coordinator and chair of the biology department.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, students with a kinesiology background could fill jobs in five of the 20 fastest-growing occupations.

The Knowlton Center will be located next to Carlsson Evald Hall and directly south of the Carver P.E. Center. The building will feature classrooms, faculty offices, team spaces, a joint resource area and exercise laboratories in addition to the aquatic center.

“The idea that we’re bringing physical parts of campus together for a shared vision is truly exciting,” Dr. Murphy said.

The aquatic center will include a 25-yard pool and therapeutic pool. With the new facility, the college will be able to add women’s varsity water polo, and expand its existing men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams and men’s club water polo.

A challenge grant of \$8 million from the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation will partially fund the academic programming and capital investment for the \$18-million building. The grant requires college leaders to raise additional funds from other donors, foundations and government agencies.







## 'Rugby found me'

One afternoon at practice, Vikings tight ends coach Cecil Youngblood '76 tapped sophomore Tom Billups on the shoulder. "You should play rugby," Youngblood told him.

In Billups' mind, that's the day "rugby found me." Coach Youngblood was involved with the Quad City Irish, a rugby union club across the river in Davenport. Never one to back down from a challenge, Billups showed up at a practice. A year later, in 1985, Billups in part led the QC Irish to the 7s national championship.

It was the beginning of an illustrious rugby career as a U.S. international player, captain and head coach of the U.S. National Team, and member of the U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame. Today, Billups '87 is associate head coach for the varsity rugby program at the University of California, Berkeley—his 21st season with the nationally ranked Golden Bears. All because of a tap on the shoulder.

Successful as a lineman for the Grayhounds of Burlington (Iowa) Community High School, Billups saw college as a way to keep playing football. "I was the first of my family to go to a four-year institution, and I'll be candid...football was behind my drive to go," he said.

One of Billups' older friends from high school, Dave Sandercock '86, had made the football team at Augustana. When Vikings Head Coach Bob Reade came to Burlington on a recruiting trip his senior year, Billups said he "begrudgingly met with me" and didn't make any promises. "He told me I'd get a good education at Augustana, but that they would win with or without me," Billups remembers. "It was the right thing to tell me."

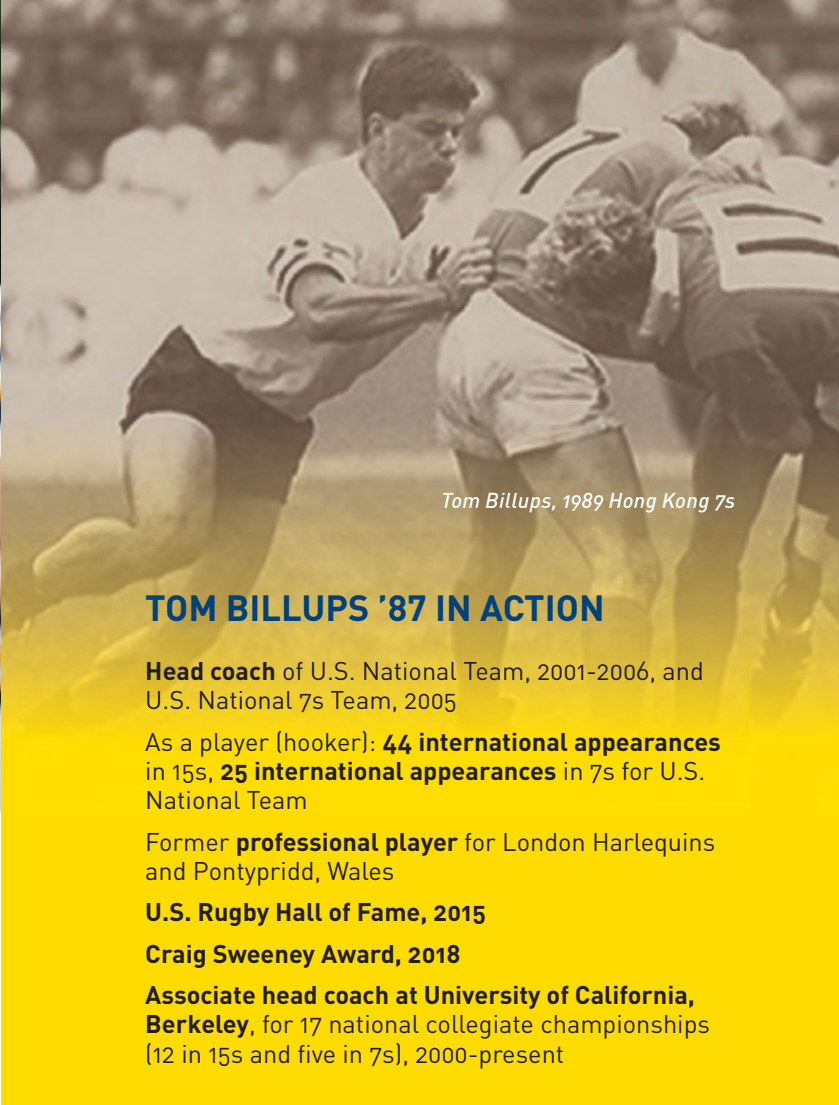
He arrived for tryouts at 5 foot 8 and 180 pounds. "I quickly realized I was embarrassingly undersized with limited athletic ability," he said. But, just like in high school, his heart and relentless work ethic got the attention and respect of his coaches and teammates.

Billups made the team, and then was asked to be part of the "traveling team" after the first-string guard broke his arm in practice during a school recess. Billups was the only player still on campus who wasn't on the two-deep roster. He filled in, and made the traveling squad. Although he rarely started, Billups was a four-year letter winner during the Vikings' run of four consecutive national championships and ended his collegiate football career 49-0-1. He received the Jerry Freck Award as Augustana's Most Inspirational Player on the gridiron in 1986.

"We called him Sgt. Billups because he was a natural leader," Coach Reade told the *Quad-City Times* in 2003. "He was a natural champion and had that complete desire to never give up. Size was not a handicap to him. Nobody wanted to be opposite him in practice. He's just built like a rock."

### Off the football field

Like many 18-year-olds, Billups didn't know what direction his life would take when he arrived at Augustana. He only knew



Tom Billups, 1989 Hong Kong 7s

## TOM BILLUPS '87 IN ACTION

**Head coach** of U.S. National Team, 2001-2006, and U.S. National 7s Team, 2005

As a player (hooker): **44 international appearances** in 15s, **25 international appearances** in 7s for U.S. National Team

Former **professional player** for London Harlequins and Pontypridd, Wales

**U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame, 2015**

**Craig Sweeney Award, 2018**

**Associate head coach at University of California, Berkeley**, for 17 national collegiate championships (12 in 15s and five in 7s), 2000-present

he wanted to play football. Fortunately, he was surrounded by people to help him find his way. There was a sense of community within the student body, he said, and he remains friends with five of his teammates who lettered and traveled all four years together, and who all believed in “team first.”

Besides teammates and coaches, Billups remembers professors who took an interest in him, including Dr. David DeWit in chemistry and Dr. Bob Tallitsch in biology.

“Dr. DeWit didn’t know anything about sports, but he would ask me questions about the equipment we used on the team, like the blocking sleds,” Billups said. “He knew that’s what I was interested in, and he just wanted to make a connection.”

Billups also remembers Dr. Tallitsch inviting him and teammate Lynn Thomsen '87 over to his house because he needed them to move his doghouse in his backyard. When they saw the size of the doghouse, they knew it was an excuse to have them over for a Sunday night meal and good conversation.

“It was a rough freshman year,” Billups said. “What Dr. Tallitsch saw in me and Lynn and other students was that we were good kids who were trying hard, and he wanted to help.”

### On the rugby pitch

So during the fall, Billups played football on a DIII national championship team. In the spring, he was on the rugby pitch. Breaking his nose a couple of times did not deter him from the sport that soon became his passion.

“Rugby needs cooperation, communication with 15 players

—and grit,” Billups said. “That fit my mentality. You have to be relentless to get up off the ground and keep running for 80 minutes...there’s limited substitutions, only through injuries. We were a good match for one another.”

Two years after graduating from Augustana with a degree in psychology, the small-town Iowan went to Scotland to play with the U.S. Cougars. He also traveled with the USA Eagles to the Hong Kong 7s (a form of rugby with seven players instead of 15; 7s is the Olympic form of the sport).

In 1993, Billups was playing rugby for the U.S. National Team. In that same year, he became the first American player to play professional rugby when he signed to a two-year contract with the London Blackheaths. He played with the Harlequin F.C. and Pontypridd RFC, Wales, as a professional.

Jason Leonard OBE, a former Harlequin and British Lion, said, “Billups had all the attributes to play as a modern-day hooker: strength, speed and a huge stamina. He was the fittest player on the team.”

Leonard shared Billups’ advice to younger teammates when they competed together on the Harlequins: “He told them that just because they were being paid, that doesn’t mean you are a professional. A professional, he said, wants to improve as a player and a person every day of his life. To be better every day than the day before—that’s what being a professional meant to Tom.” (usrugbyhalloffame.org)

### On the sidelines coaching

After retiring as a player in 1999, Billups joined the staff of the U.S. National Team and was head coach from 2001 to 2006. In addition to coaching the Eagles, Billups managed the U.S. national 7s team program and coached the 2005 U.S. 7s team.

Billups currently is associate head coach for the varsity rugby program at the University of California, Berkeley, after joining the staff in 2000. A certified strength and conditioning specialist, Billups has been in charge of the team’s strength and conditioning since 2003. The Golden Bears have won 17 national collegiate championships (12 in 15s and five in 7s) during his tenure.

“Coach Billups embodies everything U.S. rugby and the game of rugby stands for: hard work, grit, professionalism and an undying commitment to improvement,” said Kort Schubert, the 2002 Cal Athlete of the Year and a Bear for five consecutive national collegiate championship seasons. (usrugbyhalloffame.org)

Admired by many for his enthusiasm, attention to detail and dedication to the game of rugby, Billups was inducted into the U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame in 2015—one of only a few inductees honored for achievements as both a U.S. National Team player and coach. In 2018 he became the 14th recipient of the Craig Sweeney Award, which is presented to a former National Team player who has contributed significantly to the game while displaying exemplary character on and off the field.

“It’s such a privilege to coach,” Billups said. “Some say the meaning of life is to find your gift; the purpose of life is to give that gift away. I feel fortunate to have been able to do just that these past two decades at the University of California, Berkeley.”

Billups says his Augustana experience and his coaches—from middle school to high school to Coach Reade, Coach Youngblood and Coach Bob Schmulbach—are “forever in my story.”



# WANT TO GIVE BA

## SHARE SPIRIT

### WEAR YOUR BLUE & GOLD

Wear your Augustana apparel when you're out and about. You never know when you'll run into a fellow grad. Need to purchase Augie apparel? See what's new at [augustanabooks.com](http://augustanabooks.com).

### REQUEST AN A AND SHARE YOUR STORY

We want to know where your Augie A has taken you! Request a free A at [augustana.formstack.com/forms/getyoura](http://augustana.formstack.com/forms/getyoura). Take a picture of yourself with the Augustana A and send a story of your path since graduation to [alumni@augustana.edu](mailto:alumni@augustana.edu).

### BE A SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADOR

Tell us what you love most about Augustana on your social media channels.

### NOMINATE A CLASSMATE

Tell us who think should receive an Alumni Association Award for service, contributions, achievements and so much more at [augustana.edu/alumni/awards](http://augustana.edu/alumni/awards).

## SHARE TIME

### BE A CLASS REP

This is a great way to be "in the know"! You'll have advance knowledge of the latest news about Augustana so you can share it in an annual letter to your classmates.

### NETWORK AND SOCIALIZE

Attend an Augie event in your area. Interested in planning an event or Augie outing in your city? Contact [alumni@augustana.edu](mailto:alumni@augustana.edu).

### JOIN 'EM

We're always looking for alumni with good ideas who get things done! Share your talents with the GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Council or the Alumni Association Board.

### MOTIVATE 'EM

Encourage classmates to join you in supporting the college, whether by staffing a college fair, recommending a prospective student, talking to a class, offering an internship ... so many ways to be engaged.

### RALLY 'EM

Serve as a member on your Reunion Committee for Homecoming.



**NETWORKING:** Melinda Pavek '92 shared her business card with students after her lecture "The U.S.-Japan Relationship: Your Questions Answered" on campus in September. Pavek is the director for science, innovation and development, economic and scientific affairs, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo. This is the second time Pavek has returned to campus to speak with students.

*Photo by Kayley Larson '21*



**LEADING THE BOARD:** John Murabito '80, executive vice president of human resources and services of Cigna Corporation, has been a member of Augustana's Board of Trustees since 2013 and currently serves as the board's chair. He and Tammy Bissman '81 Murabito have provided generous philanthropic support to the college.

# CK? HERE'S HOW

## SHARE NEWS

### UPDATE

Make sure the college has your email address and most current contact and work info. Need to update? [augustana.edu/update](http://augustana.edu/update)

### BRAG A LITTLE

Tell us what's new in your life! Marriage, jobs, awards. We'll share your note in the monthly alumni e-news and the biannual *Augustana College Magazine*. Go to [augustana.formstack.com/forms/class\\_notes](http://augustana.formstack.com/forms/class_notes) to submit your news and photos.

### READ

Check out the website, read the alumni e-news and *Augustana College Magazine*, and stay informed about all that's happening at your alma mater!

## SHARE IN OUR MISSION

### MAKE A GIFT

Invest in the mission of Augustana and help ensure our students' success. Every gift, regardless of the amount, makes a difference! Visit [www.augustana.edu/generositymatters](http://www.augustana.edu/generositymatters).

Also, *U.S. News & World Report* considers alumni participation rates when evaluating and ranking colleges and universities. Rankings can affect reputation, reputation can affect enrollment, and enrollment can affect revenue from tuition. High levels of alumni participation also can inspire major donors, corporations and foundations to increase their support. People want to invest in institutions others are supporting.

For more details on way to engage with the college, contact Kelly Read '02 Noack, director of alumni relations, at [kellynoack@augustana.edu](mailto:kellynoack@augustana.edu) or 309-794-7474.



**SHARING HIS STORY:** Basketball standout **Chandler Collins '09** had the Carver Center crowd's attention once again as he shared his Augustana experience at the Quad Cities AUGUSTANA NOW fundraising event in October. "I'm so much of who I am outside of my 9-to-5 because of this campus," Collins said. "I met friends like Alex Washington at this campus who stood with me at my wedding, and I know that I'm the man I am because of Augustana." Collins earned his J.D. at Drake University Law School, and is a policy advisor at Iowa Department of Public Safety.



**ESTABLISHING A FUND:** Alumni who participated in the 1989 East Asia program established the Dr. Norm Moline Fund for Asian Study. Here, **Matt Johnson '91** and **Izumi "Zoom" Yoshida '92** celebrate with **Professor Emeritus Dr. Norm Moline '64**, who was surprised with the honor at the 1989 Asian studies program reunion during Homecoming. The fund will support students with demonstrated financial need who major or minor in Asian studies, or who study abroad in Asia. *Photo by Megan Laufer '21*



# WANT TO GIVE BACK? HERE'S HOW



This fall Alicia Waite '10 (right) described the "special magic" at Augustana in her welcome letter to a member of the Class of 2023. Waite was maid of honor at the wedding of her first-year roommate and best friend, Ashley Crawford '10 Negele.

## Welcoming first-year students ...

Alumni wrote words of advice (no eye contact with squirrels) and encouragement (take a deep breath) in letters to welcome members of the Class of 2023. A letter was placed in each first-year student's room on move-in day. Here's one of our favorites from Alicia Waite '10:

*Dear newly minted Augie student,*

*Welcome to college! I realize that someone who graduated college when you were probably 9 seems crazy old to you, but to me Augie feels like yesterday.*

*My random roommate I received my first year (living in Andreen first floor) is to this day my best friend. A few years ago I was her maid of honor. We keep in touch several times a week and she is practically a sister to me. We have seen each other through ups and downs in our lives, and I am grateful to Augie for introducing me to her.*

*One day during our first year, someone left us a message on our white board outside of our door that they had lived in our room 40 years ago and are best friends to this day.*

*There is a special magic at Augie for people to make lifelong friendships. My friends from Augie are my "Augie Family" to this day. Even if that roommate/stranger standing on the other side of the room right now isn't destined to be your best friend, you will find so many incredible people here who will be in your life for a very long time!*

*We loved the dorms despite it being a small space. I am sure they have changed in the last decade. Back in our ancient days of college, we had to use Ethernet cables to get on the internet (Google it). Our cables had to be like 20 feet long so we could sit up in our lofted beds with them. Then you would bring your cable with you to the library. I am hoping they have installed WiFi since then around campus.*

*Enjoy your time at Augie! This is the time you get to explore who you are, take classes that excite you, go steal some lunch trays and sled down the hills (maybe wait for some snow), build a cardboard boat and sink into the slough during Homecoming, build some awesome butt muscles climbing all of the stairs, make lifetime memories and become who you are going to be!*

*Augustana solidified my decision to become a physician. Without Augie, I am not sure I would have gotten into med school, much less survived it. Augie may seem like a small liberal arts school, but the faculty are passionate about teaching and will inspire you like you won't believe. Your four years here will prepare you well for whatever you choose to do after college and beyond.*

*Now take a deep breath, put your twin xl sheets on your bed and buckle up for an exciting ride!*

*Alicia Waite, Class of 2010*

*P.S. Don't make eye contact with the squirrels.*

## ... and helping seniors land jobs

More than 90 Augustana students attended the Chicago Accounting and Finance Interview Day in Oak Brook, Ill., this fall. Thirty-seven firms/companies, including KPMG, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) attended, but what might be the most impressive number of the day was 33—the number of Augustana graduates who represented their firms at the event.

"This illustrates the tremendous support our alumni give to current students," said Dr. John Delaney, chair of Augustana's accounting department. "Our alumni are energized to continue helping our students get jobs in Chicagoland. We are in the planning stages of developing an accounting/finance alumni group in Chicago with one goal of continuing support of events like the one held in Oak Brook."

Augustana's accounting department, career development office and alumni led by Bob Mitchum '75 took the lead in organizing the event. President Steve Bahls was the guest speaker. Students from not only Augustana but also Carthage College, Millikin University, Monmouth College, North Central College and North Park University were invited. Nearly 250 registered; the firms/companies conducted 200 interviews by the end of the day.

Lucas Simon '20, accounting/business administration major, interviewed with four companies. "Having so many alumni at each company allows us to connect with them for valuable career advice and job opportunities," he said.

It was a tip from an alumna that led to Simon receiving a full-ride scholarship to complete a masters of accounting at the University of Illinois. This scholarship is funded by the James A. Sikich Visionary Scholarship Fund, established with the Illinois CPA Society in memory of the founder, and former CEO and managing partner of Sikich LLP.

When the scholarship fund was established, 2003 grad Drew Long, a senior planner at Sikich, emailed Dr. Delaney and Karen Tolf '77 Petersen, assistant director of development and engagement, in case Augustana students would be interested. Thanks, Drew!

# AUGUSTANA NOW

TOTAL GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS TOWARD AUGUSTANA NOW AS OF 9/30/19

**86** CLOSE THE GAP  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**43** ENDOWED  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**4** ENDOWED CHAIRS  
AND 14 ADDITIONAL  
ENDOWED FUNDS

**11,903**

DONOR  
HOUSEHOLDS  
HAVE MADE

**64,722**

GIFTS AND  
COMMITMENTS  
TO THE CAMPAIGN

On the evening of Oct. 11, 2018, Old Main's dome was lit blue to signify the beginning of the public phase of AUGUSTANA NOW, the college's ambitious \$125 million fundraising campaign.

A year later—almost to the day—nearly 200 alumni and friends of the college gathered in the Carver Center to celebrate the success of the campaign so far and look forward to reaching the goal by December 2020, at which time the dome will turn gold.

Basketball Coach Grey Giovanine and Chandler Collins '09, a former player who went on to law school, rallied the crowd as they shared personal stories of challenges, resilience, victories and lifelong friendships.

"I could tell you dozens of stories like Chandler's—young people who came to Augustana and were transformed, and went on to live great lives of distinction," Giovanine said.

"So I think you've got to ask what's going on here," he said. "These young people come to our campus as 17- and 18-year-olds and for four years, they're surrounded by faculty, staff, administrators, coaches that teach them, advise them, model for them, nurture them, encourage

them, and challenge them, and four years later, they are transformed. They have a skill set, a self-awareness and a moral compass that will lead them for the rest of their lives. That's what's going on here."

Giovanine continued, "If there is a cause that moves you, act on it.... Thank you for all you do for this very special place called Augustana."

When AUGUSTANA NOW, A Campaign for Success in the World, for the World was publicly launched in 2018, alumni, friends, corporate donors and foundations already had given \$75 million during the campaign's initial quiet phase. Since then, gifts and commitments totaling nearly \$25 million have been received, bringing the campaign total to \$99,270,413 as of Sept. 30, 2019.

"AUGUSTANA NOW and its priorities have really caught the attention of our alumni and friends of Augustana," said Kent Barnds, executive vice president for external relations. "Efforts like Close the Gap resonate with our alumni and donors, who clearly want an amazing liberal arts education to be available to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds." *(continued next page)*



"In addition, the Abrams Challenge and the Abrams Challenge 2.0 have promoted the establishment of new and growing endowed funds, which is essential to the long-term financial health of the college. But, most importantly, we have seen the active engagement of more alumni and younger alumni."

Since the launch of the campaign, nearly 12,000 donor households have made 64,722 gifts and commitments.

Some changes already made possible by this generosity include the 22,000-square-foot addition to Hanson Hall of Science; the hiring of the college's inaugural vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion; and a new major/minor in data analytics. Each of these accomplishments reflects one of the campaign's four goals, which align with a direction of the Augustana 2020 strategic plan.

The campaign's goals are:

**Improve affordability.** Augustana must be accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. The campaign will grow financial aid to expand access and make campus improvements that will ensure the best students consider Augustana as their top choice.

**Prepare graduates who are ready for the world.** AUGUSTANA NOW redoubles the college's commitment to students' career preparation, development and ability to create pathways to success. In addition to generosity, the college is asking alumni to connect with current students to help them develop their network.

**Offer innovative learning experiences.** Augustana must offer deeply engaging, personally guided learning experiences that help students reach their potential. Supporting innovative learning might include investing in faculty-student research experiences, upgraded or new learning spaces such as the plans for Bergendoff Hall, travel opportunities and more.

**Promote diversity, equity and inclusion.** AUGUSTANA NOW will further build and develop support for students of diverse, historically underrepresented backgrounds, so that all students are empowered to make a difference in their lives and in the world. Generosity will help expand resources and programming so that a sense of belonging and intercultural understanding are part of the fabric of every Augustana student's experience.

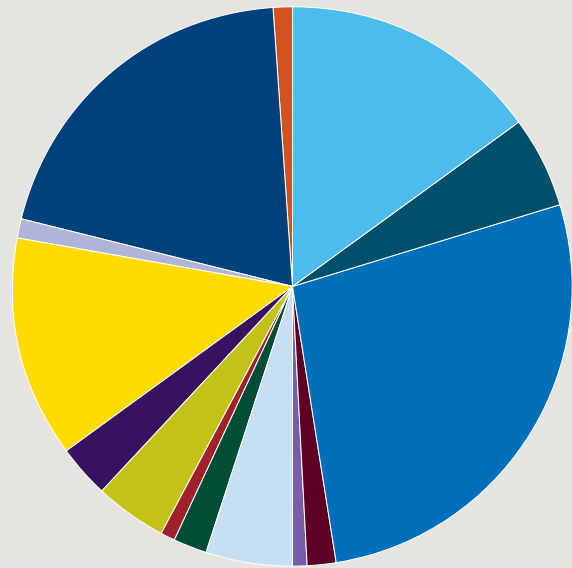
"We're very appreciative of how our alumni have responded to the campaign," said President Steve Bahls. "Last year was a record year for Augustana in terms of fundraising and philanthropy. Generous donors made six- and seven-figure gifts. And a whole new group of equally generous first-time donors gave gifts of \$5, \$10 and \$20.















"We are hopeful that we will reach our goal and in doing so, continue providing incredible experiences for our students for generations to come and build on Augustana's reputation as one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the Midwest."

From now until December 31, 2020, every gift made to Augustana will be counted toward AUGUSTANA NOW, A Campaign for Success in the World, for the World.

# \$99,270,413

TOTAL GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS TOWARD AUGUSTANA NOW AS OF 9/30/19



	ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS \$14,972,382
	ENDOWED CHAIRS \$5,616,050
	OTHER ENDOWED FUNDS \$27,268,101
	BERGENDOFF HALL OF FINE ARTS \$1,777,471
	BETSEY BRODAHL BUILDING ADDITION \$936,670
	HANSON HALL OF SCIENCE EXPANSION \$5,248,045
	BRUNNER THEATRE CENTER \$1,777,245
	CARVER STRENGTH CENTER \$208,333
	OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS \$4,217,726
	CLOSE THE GAP SCHOLARSHIPS \$3,468,204
	AUGUSTANA FUND \$13,242,796
	AUGUSTANA ATHLETICS AND TRIBE OF VIKINGS \$397,835
	OTHER ANNUAL FUNDS \$20,041,883
	GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$97,672

## On the road with Steve and Jane

During the past year, President Steve Bahls and Jane Easter Bahls visited nearly 30 cities to update alumni on AUGUSTANA NOW: A Campaign for Success in the World, for the World.

“Jane and I traveled around the country to share our dreams for keeping Augustana strong during these turbulent times in higher education,” President Bahls said. “We are humbled by the support of so many alumni, who want to give back to the college that has been so meaningful in their lives. Their stories of how Augustana helped shape their lives inspire us all.”

Many alumni hosted or sponsored an event in support of the campaign during the past year. The largest group—Dr. Russell Wheeler '65, Ross Heath '82, Dr. Jim '67 and Judy Anderson '67 Kuhagen, Rich Jensen '74 and Beth Goodrich—hosted the East Coast’s marquee campaign event at the National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

In late November, President Bahls concluded the AUGUSTANA NOW tour with receptions in Houston, Dallas and Austin, Texas.



Celebrating AUGUSTANA NOW in cities across the country (top left, clockwise): Aimee Taylor '07 and Wayne Sutton '97 in Denver; Kathy and Rod Johnson '58, and Nancy Booras '58 Coin in Naples, Fla.; Eric Mozwez '15, Timothy Johnson '15 and Adam Populorum '15 in Chicago; the Rev. Barbara Lundblad '66, Diane Gustafson '66 Hill and Janet Ahlstrom '66 Moline in Rock Island; Jane Easter Bahls and Mary Espelie '64 Kvamme in Denver; and Steve Bahls in Lisle, Ill.

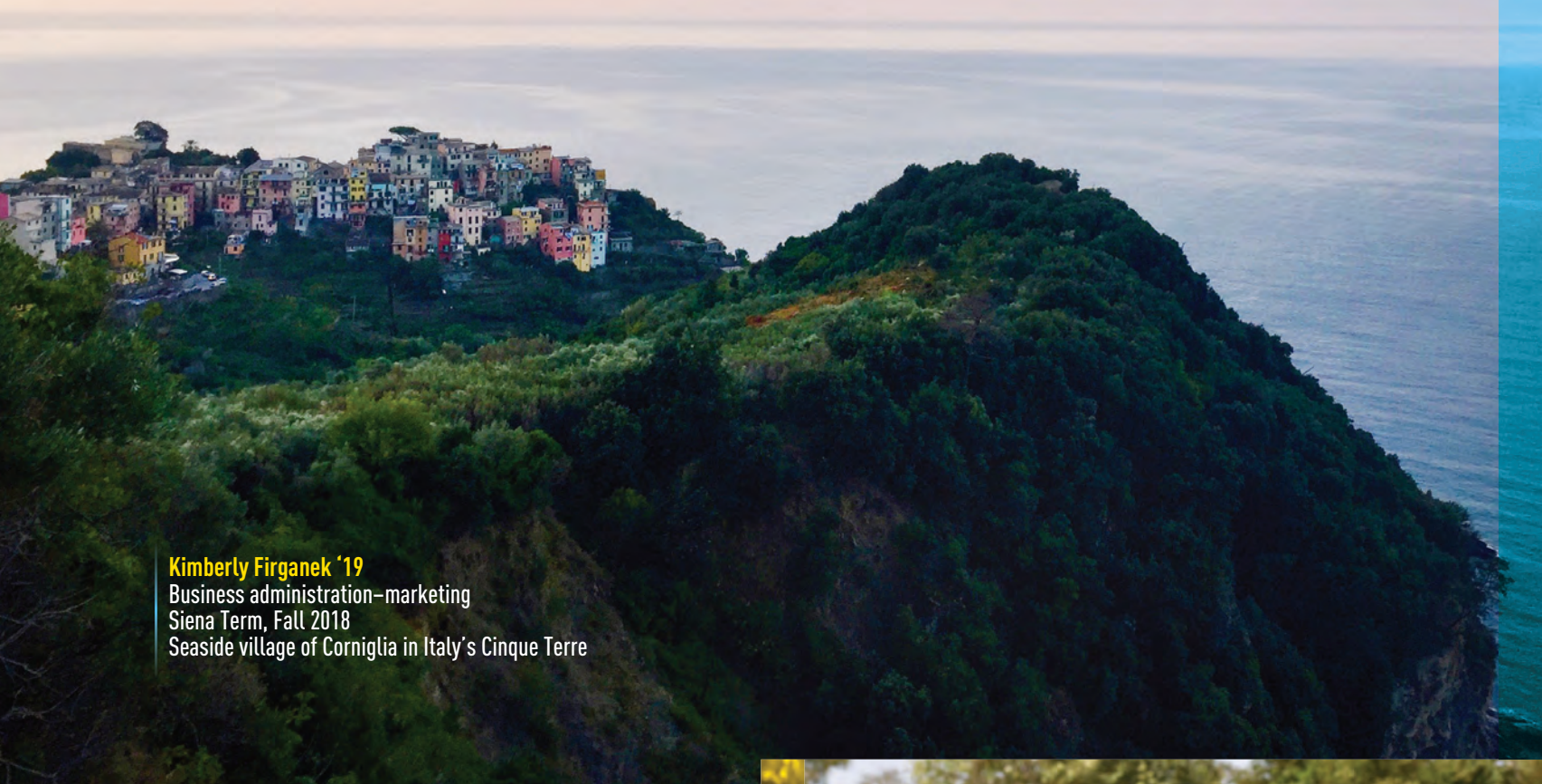


# The world at their feet with **AUGIE CHOICE**

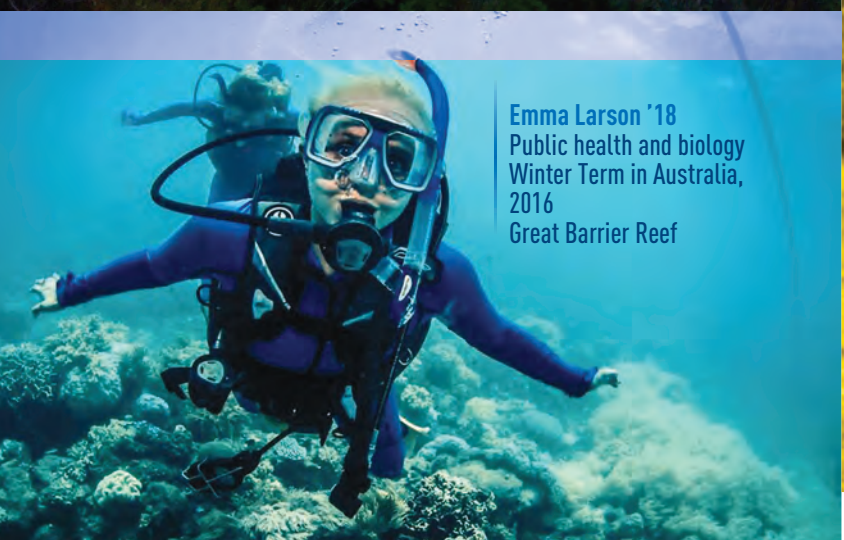
## Alumni and students share photos from their journeys

Every year Augustana students pack their bags, bid the campus community farewell and embark on an adventure of a lifetime. From Nicaragua to Switzerland, India and Australia, they travel the world to enhance their academic and professional skills—all while experiencing new countries, cultures and languages. Upon graduation, many of them describe their study away experience as one of the most rewarding and pivotal times of their college career.

With Augie Choice, students can receive up to \$2,000 for study away, research or an internship. Augustana has invested \$9 million during the last decade to assist more than 4,400 students who wanted to pursue an immersive learning experience. More than half of these students used their Augie Choice to study abroad. While each journey is personal, students return with many different stories to tell, oftentimes through the lens of a camera.



**Kimberly Firganek '19**  
 Business administration–marketing  
 Siena Term, Fall 2018  
 Seaside village of Corniglia in Italy's Cinque Terre



**Emma Larson '18**  
 Public health and biology  
 Winter Term in Australia,  
 2016  
 Great Barrier Reef



**Rachel Lee '19**  
 Biology  
 West Africa Trip  
 Winter 2017  
 Mole National Park, Ghana





**Jacqueline Kwasigroch '19**  
Anthropology  
East Asia Term, Fall 2016  
Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the  
Himalayas, near Lijiang, China

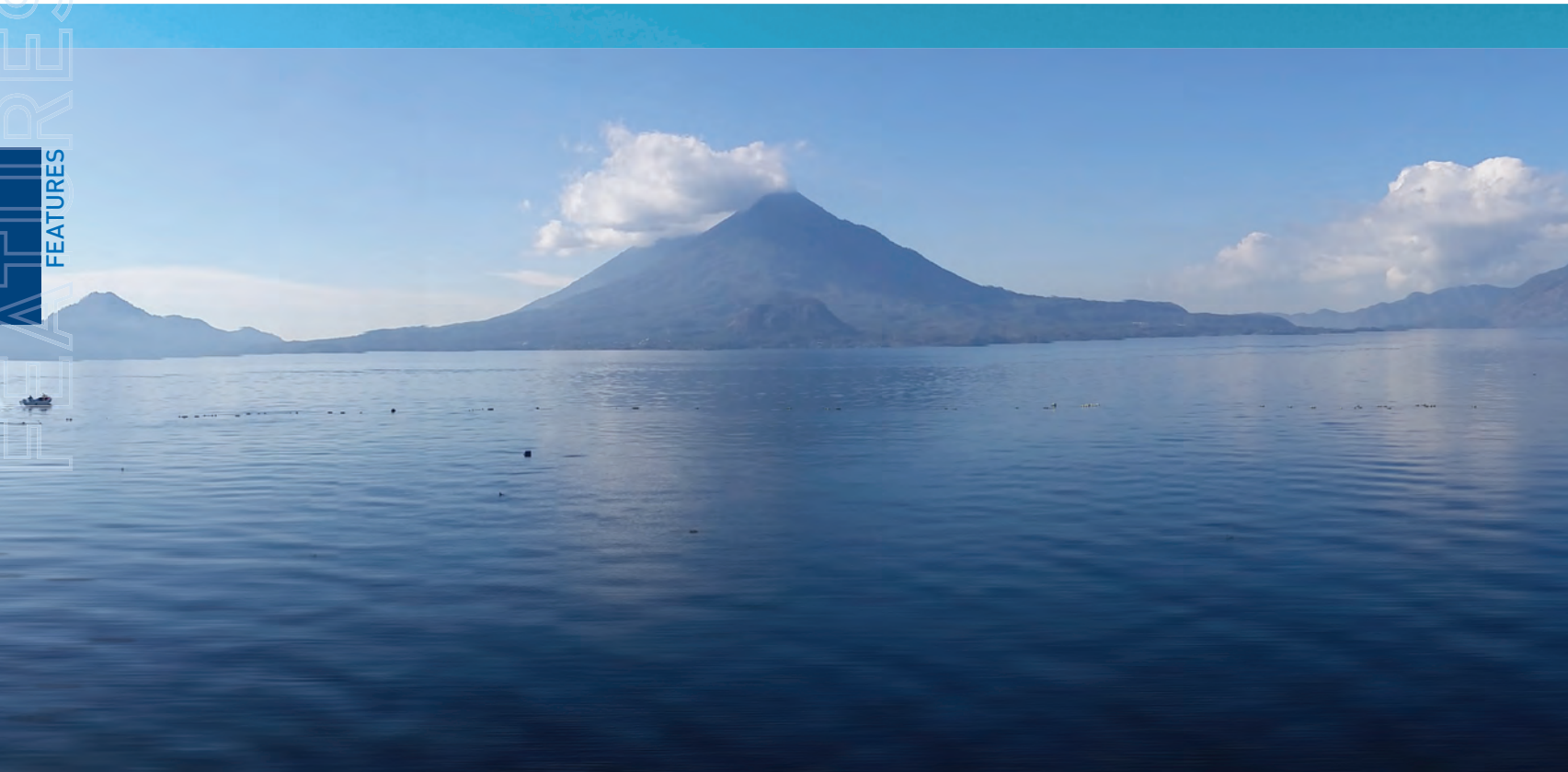


**Marisa Hollems '17**  
Communication sciences and disorders  
Ireland Term, Spring 2015  
Cahergall Stone Fort, Ring of Kerry, Ireland



**Sam Paulson '20**  
Business administration—finance, international business  
Siena Term, Fall 2018  
Vatican in Rome, Italy





**Sydney Gilbert '19**  
Art history  
London Fall Term, 2017  
Neal's Yard in London





**Ruby Loera '15**

Neuroscience, Spanish for professional use  
Guatemala, Winter 2014  
Lake Atitlán, Guatemala



**Anthony Steidle '17**

Biochemistry and pre-medicine  
Winter Term in Australia, 2016  
Sydney Opera House at Sydney Harbour  
in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia





# Phrigs? Where did they come from?

By Andrea Curry '20

Most of us have heard the word “phrig” (or “frig”) during our days as Augustana students. Some may remember it as describing student pranks like when Old Main’s dome was infamously converted to a teapot for a day. Others, especially recent alumni, used the word phrig for spray-painted bed sheets, most commonly seen during pledging or Homecoming Week.

This summer in an alumni Facebook group, Augustana College—Around 1989, Anne Humphrey '93 wondered where the word phrig originated and how the tradition began. This brought a flurry of responses. Other alumni said they too would like to know. To resolve this burning mystery, I dug into *Augustana Observer* archives and reached out to the Augustana community and as far away as Oklahoma.

Stefanie Bluemle '02, research and instruction librarian at Augustana, wrote an article in 2010 on the teapot dome prank in which she credited the use of the word phrig as most likely originating from a slang expression for quickly fixing or adjusting a thing to work in a particular way.

The earliest mention in the *Augustana Observer* of a phrig in the context of a prank is Nov. 13, 1942: “The ‘phrigging’ of the Augustana victory bell last night seems to indicate that some of the more realistic pranksters from Ambrose foresaw the doom of their football team at the hands of the Vikings. The first men returning from the Ambrose debacle were dismayed to find the bell rope knotted and out of commission. But Don Peterson, versatile athlete from Rockford, clambered up the tower and rang out by hand the 20 tolls of the bell to announce the victory score of Augustana.”

The *Observer* reported on Feb. 22, 1945, that “Leonard Lindstone found half his bed on the fourth floor roof of Andreen after a vicious phrig.” On April 11,

1946, the newspaper stated that Trudy Lundblad’s room was “... so thoroughly phrigged Saturday night. No light, no towels, no clothes, no nothing except cracker crumbs in bed.” Also in 1946, an unconfirmed report alleged someone tried to phrig the chapel by loosening the screws of the seats in the middle section so they would collapse when the seniors sat down on Senior Recognition Day.

Other rumored phrigs included an alarm clock in chapel and the removal of chairs from certain professors’ classrooms on Monday mornings.

Crazy Connie’s Used Car Lot appeared on the morning of Oct. 25, 1950. Seven cars with “for sale” signs were parked on the lawn in front of Old Main. Most administrators, including President Conrad Bergendoff '15, were not amused. It was pretty much the same reaction when a Model T was found parked in the basement of Old Main, locked and reportedly packed with hymnals.

But it was the 1955 teapot dome phrig that received extensive media attention; even Chicago newspapers picked it up. Roald Fryxell '56, son of experienced mountain-climber and iconic professor Dr. Fritiof Fryxell '22, was the mastermind behind this prank. Experienced in climbing, Roald carefully fashioned a system of ropes, and then he and fraternity friends scaled Old Main to attach the spout and handle.

Pranking continued to remain the definition of a phrig until sometime during the late '60s to late '70s when the word changed to describe bed sheets painted by students with invitations to formal, as decorations for senior houses, with calls to action for social causes, to promote candidates in student elections, and more. The Bell Tower proved to be a perfect place to hang phrigs.

Older alumni may be surprised that today’s students still use the word phrig for spray-painted bed sheets.





Photos courtesy of Special Collections, Tredway Library

Student groups on campus are encouraged to make and display a phrig during Homecoming's Yell competition, and Greek groups make and exchange them as gifts during pledging. Laura Keene '06 Hohm still has the personalized phrig made for her by a sorority pledge during her senior year; it's hanging in her laundry room.

While researching the origin of a phrig, I discovered that the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) uses the word on its campus in the same context that we do—as painted bed sheets. Audrey Stine, author of *The Odyssey* article "Homecoming at Central," wrote: "There is so much more to Homecoming than meets the eye. It isn't just floats, there are brag boards—giant plywood signs detailing an organization's history and achievements on campus, phrigs—which are basically plain topsheets that have been painted with designs and sayings such as 'Phi Lamb loves UCO Football' or other things like that."

But wait...there's an Augie connection to the use of phrig at the University of Central Oklahoma. Augustana's Courtney James '08 was responsible for bringing the word to their campus! (See "Alumna takes 'phrig' to Oklahoma," below.)

Despite my efforts, I was unable to conclude exactly where the word phrig originated, but I'm in good company. President Emeritus Dr. Thomas Tredway '57 describes the origin of the word as nothing less than "obscure" in his book *Coming of Age: A History of Augustana College, 1935-1975*.

My best guess is that bed sheets were used in a prank in the mid '60s to '70s, and that's how the word phrig transitioned. Of course, there's no way to know for sure if "phrig" started at Augie, but there's a good chance it did—and that it will continue for many more years to come.

## Alumna takes 'phrig' to Oklahoma

Courtney James '08 was assistant director for student engagement at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) from 2010-2015. During her second year there, they wanted to add a competitive element to their Homecoming Week.

"I suggested we implement a phrig competition and have student organizations paint bed sheets," she said. "I remember using spray paint at Augie, but we hand painted at UCO. We ended up using them as the backdrop to our cheer and dance competition, which was similar to what I saw at Yell while at Augie.

"It's been about eight years since I initially implemented the idea, and they now do phrigs for a number of different campus events."

She remembers debating with her student chair over the spelling in the beginning. Should it be "phrig" or "frig"? "I was insistent that it should be spelled 'phrig,' but I didn't initially have any great reasons for it," she said. "We eventually agreed to spell it that way." James

was asked if it was because she was a member of Phi Rho at Augustana, and she wanted "Ph" from Phi and the "r" from Rho. No, she had never thought of that, but why not?

"I am now the director of student involvement at DePaul University," James added. "Phrigs may be in our future here, too!"



Homecoming 2016 Yell Competition



## CLASS NOTES

(received as of Sept. 15, 2019)

### 1944

**Julie Johnson Reeves** could not attend her 75th reunion during Homecoming Oct. 4-6 because she was already committed to presenting a paper on "Lincoln in New Orleans" to the Topeka (Kansas) Lincoln Club. ("Yes, I'm still researching and writing at 96, thanks to Augustana," she said.)

### 1957

**Thomas Bellows** published *Singapore: A Story Unfolding* (Carey School of Law, University of Maryland) in 2017. He is a professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and was the editor of the *American Journal of Chinese Studies* from 1999-2017.

### 1962

A new track at the University of Illinois is being named after **Gary Wieneke**. The track is part of the Demirjian Park Stadium, set to open in 2021. He was a coach for 36 years, retiring from the University of Illinois in 2003.

### 1965

**Jeanette Steelandt Sorensen** retired in 2017, after more than 32 years as a speech pathologist in public schools.

### 1968

**Scott Petersen** is in his 15th year of performing in the Chicago theatrical production "Pleading for the Future," which is a distillation of the closing arguments in the 1924 murder trial of Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold in Chicago. He plays the role of the state's attorney who argues for the death penalty—while Clarence Darrow, played by another actor—pleads for life in prison.



*Congratulations to our 2019 Alumni Award winners: front (l to r) Matt Fitzsimmons, Honorary Alumnus; Dr. Norm Moline '64, Outstanding Service; Lydia Ruelas '05 Durán, Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; second row (l to r) George Drost '69 and Beth Beart '69 Drost, Richard A. Swanson Humanitarian Award; Derek Strom '02, Finest Under Forty Achievement Award; and Julie Hamann '82 Elliot and Dr. Lois Levine-Mundie '69, Brenda C. Barnes Award for Distinguished Service to Augustana. William Farrow '77, recognized for Outstanding Achievement, was unable to attend the event.*



**Richard Vantrease** and his high school sweetheart, Norma, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 2, 2019.

### 1969

**Vic Butsch** retired from the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, Conn., after 45 years. He also taught Civil War history in a local adult education program for several years. Two years ago, he co-authored and published his first book, *A Journey to the Gallows*, about Aaron Dwight Stevens, who was instrumental with John Brown in the raid at Harper's Ferry. He is planning to publish a second book about Dorence Atwater and Clara Barton titled *In the Crossfire Between Heaven and Hell*.

**George Drost** received the President's Award from the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

### 1970

**Nancy Anderson Hamming** retired from the practice of pediatric ophthalmology. She served as head of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Rush University in Chicago while working in private practice in Gurnee and Lake Forest, Ill. She also completed an eight-year term as a director for the American Board of Ophthalmology and presided as chair during her tenure on the board.

**William Moorcroft**, professor emeritus at Luther College, helps insomnia patients sleep better without drugs by using behavioral methods at Northern Colorado Sleep Consultants, LLC, in Fort Collins, Colo. New Harbinger Press recently published his book *Mindfulness for Insomnia* (co-authored by Catherine Polan Orzech).

**Kresten (Kris) Riber** retired from international school teaching in 2015.

### 1971

**Wendy Wegner Riber** retired from international school teaching in 2015.

### 1972

**Thomas Johnson** received the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Geoscience 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is principal of Thomas Johnson Associates, an environmental and water expert consulting firm based in Sausalito, Calif., and Middleton, Wis.

**Bryant Julstrom** married Ann Shuda on June 29, 2019.

### 1973

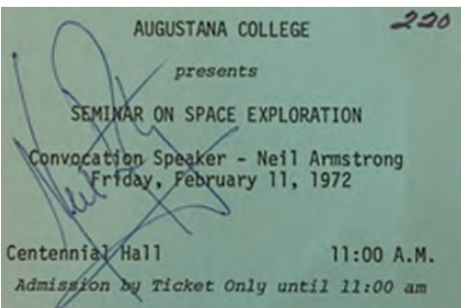
**Regina Brodell Portscheller** retired in 2013 as a foreign interactions instructor and instructional designer of homeland security courses at the U.S. Department of Energy National Training Center in Albuquerque, N.M. Since

retirement, she has enjoyed creating mixed media art, selling her work in galleries and art shows, and teaching art workshops.

## 1974

**Elizabeth Ebinger Boesen** will retire from active clinical and parish ministry on June 30, 2019, after 37 years in the LCA/ELCA.

**Kathy Anderson Janicek** is one of the conductors of RiverChoir, community singers from Iowa and Illinois, featured in concerts with the Clinton Symphony Orchestra and other area venues.



*As the nation commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing last summer, **Martha Rolf '75** remembered Neil Armstrong coming to speak at Centennial Hall way back in 1972—her first year on campus. She still has her ticket after all these years. And it's autographed!*

## 1975

**Bill Albracht** served as the 2019 Bettendorf (Iowa) Fourth of July parade grand marshal. Albracht was the youngest captain, at the age of 21, to command combat troops in Vietnam. He is the recipient of three Silver Stars for gallantry in action, three Purple Hearts, five Bronze stars and other awards for combat valor. He was a special agent

with the U. S. Secret Service—protecting six presidents during a 25-year period. He retired in 2001 as the assistant special-agent-in-charge of the Secret Service Washington, D.C., office.

**Clarence (Al) Bowman** was appointed to the Board of Directors of Heartland Bancorp Inc. and its subsidiary, Heartland Bank and Trust Co., both headquartered in Bloomington, Ill.

**Rod Johnson** retired from Deere and Company in Moline, Ill., after 41 years of service. He was involved in international logistics for most of his career.

**Rob Pfaff** has started a professional genealogy service, Chasing the Past Genealogical Services, LLC. He was a college chemistry professor for 36 years.

## 1976

**Garth Gardner** is executive vice president of Operations for Optum International, working from the company's Sao Paulo, Brazil, headquarters.

## 1977

**Nora Gottschalk Sale** retired in May after more than 30 years in development and non-profit management. Most recently, she served as senior director of development and campaign for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

## 1978

**Keith Brill** received the 2018 D. Ray Wilson Volunteer Service Award from Judson University. He is controller for Clad-Rex Steel in Franklin Park, Ill., and has been a volunteer for the Elgin Community Crisis Center for 28 years, serving on its board as president, treasurer and now vice-president.

**Paul Dennhardt** retired from Illinois State University on June 30, 2019. He continues

his freelance career as a fight director in professional theatre. Recent professional credits include *Romeo and Juliet* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, *Sweat* at People's Light Theatre in Pennsylvania, and *Macbeth, Hamlet and The Conclusion of Henry the Sixth* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

**Diane Wilson** retired in May 2019 after more than 40 years as a medical technologist (clinical laboratory professional) at Rockford Memorial Hospital/Mercyhealth.

## 1979

**Heidi Evans Klodd** and her husband, David, own and operate a vineyard/winery/event venue in Indianola, Ind.

**Paul Obrock** was installed as chair of the Illinois Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA). The PFA is an international honor organization for dentists with more than 10,000 fellows encompassing 11 regions and 86 countries.

## 1980

**Madelyn Kerback Anderson** was named to Sycamore Music Boosters Hall of Fame, and received the Advocate Award.

**Stephen Kowalsky** is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Composition at the University of Chicago.

## 1981

**Jane Dalton** was awarded tenure and promoted to rank of associate professor of art education at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. She co-edited a three-volume book series on *Contemplative Practice, Pedagogy and Research* (2019), Rowman & Littlefield, and *The Whole Person: Embodying Teaching and Learning through Lectio and Visio Divina* (2019), Rowman & Littlefield.

**Kenneth Paulus** was named president and CEO of Prime Therapeutics, Egan, Minn.

## 1982

**Gary Aiken** retired after teaching for 37 years in Texas. He spent the last 26 years teaching instrumental music at New Caney Independent School District.

**Trudy Pollard Bennorth** retired from teaching and coaching in District 204 in Naperville, Ill., after 24 years.

**Mahlon Erickson** is the 9th grade physical science/conceptual physics teacher at Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School in Oklahoma City, Okla.

**Mark Pedersen** retired from AT&T after 32 years.

## 1983

**John McGehee** was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a resident circuit judge for Rock Island County. He has served as state's attorney for six years.

## 1984

**Brent Gwaltney** is the chief executive officer of Consolidated Energy Ltd. in Wollerau, Switzerland. He and his wife, Linda Mezger '84 Gwaltney, live in Richterswil, Switzerland.

**Grant Koeller** retired from the United States Air Force Band, which includes six performing ensembles, in 2011 after 23 years of service. Currently he is a private music teacher and performer in Dayton, Ohio.

**Rick Milbourn** retired from United Technologies in 2017 after more than 33 years.

**Sue Rezin** announced her bid for the GOP nomination to run in the 14th Congressional District (Illinois) in 2020.



1985

**Rich Biesterfeld** retired from State Farm Insurance in April 2018 after a 32+ year career in IT. He currently is pursuing his interest in photography; he recently was awarded the top prize in the 2019 Amazing Arizona Photo Contest.

**David Miller** has written and produced seven full-length plays, all of which have been produced at the high school level. Six have been produced multiple times in summer stock with adult casts. Currently, he is working on a graphic novel and movie adaptation of a play. In addition, he is a writer/photographer for the *Cass County Star-Gazette* in Beardstown, Ill.

1986

**Jeffrey Frick** was selected by Washington and Jefferson College as the new vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college.

**Julie Sena Hoffman** is the director of development at The Center for Violence Free Relationships.

1987

**Lynda Schweinberger Lunday** received a M.Ed. in deaf education/special needs in 1989 from the University of North Florida. She married her husband Kevin, who was an ensign in the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Lynda received her master's in speech pathology in 1993. She continued to work as a medical speech language pathologist (SLP) in hospitals and clinics, and she had her own swallowing disorders clinic. She gave up full-time work when her husband became a Rear Admiral in the USCG. He currently is the Commander of District 14 (the South Pacific), and they are based in Hawaii. Lynda continues to work per diem as a medical SLP.

1988

**John DeCero**, president and CEO of Mechanics Bank, will be co-CEO of the new Mechanics Bank, which acquired Rabobank, N.A.'s retail, business banking, commercial real estate, mortgage and wealth management businesses.

**Collis Jones** was named to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Board of Directors. He is vice president, U.S Public Affairs Policy & Strategy, for Deere and Company.

1989

**Douglas Holtz** was called as lead pastor to Calvary Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Oshkosh, Wis., in 2018.

**Peter Novota** is a family medicine physician with Marin Community Clinics, Calif.

1990

**Paul Johnson** was hired to serve as associate state director of the Wyoming Small Business Development Center Network.

1991

**Tom Jessee** was inducted into the inaugural class of the A STEP UP Assistant Coaches Hall of Fame. It is the first Hall of Fame of its kind that specifically recognizes NCAA Division I, II and III men's and women's assistant basketball coaches. He has been an assistant coach for Augustana men's basketball for 26 years.

1992

**Laura Freeman Knoke** earned her master's of education in learning & technology from Western Governors University. She works as an itinerant teacher of students who are blind or have low vision and recently was promoted to department chair for the Fort Wayne, Ind., school district.

1993

**Patricia Gomez Castro** is the acting state's attorney for Rock Island (Ill.) County.

**Eric Rowell**, Augustana's assistant director for admissions and diversity outreach, was honored by the YWCA Quad-Cities Race Against Racism.

**Karen Schwelle** is a senior lecturer and English language specialist in the McKelvey School of Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis.

1994

**James Toppert** was re-elected to the Riverdale, Ill., School Board.

1995

**Erik Doughty** is chaplain at Augustana Health Care Center in Minneapolis.

**Maria Venegas Trigueros** earned a master's in secondary education with endorsements in ESL and social sciences. She is an EL English teacher at Rock Island High School and a member of the Moline-Coal Valley School District Board. Her son, Armando Trigueros Jr., is a member of Augustana's Class of 2023.

1996

**Kimberly Bath** married Ryan Daufeldt on Sept. 23, 2017.

1997

**Audrey Wheeler Adamson** received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her work with the Girl Scouts. She is the assistant director of student affairs at Western

Illinois University-Quad Cities and a member of the Moline School Board.

**LaVette Allen** was promoted to vice president, internal controls at Bluefin, a payments technology company in Atlanta, Ga.

**Lauren Webb-Elbaz** is the speech language pathologist at El Segundo High School in the El Segundo Unified School District (Los Angeles County).

1999

**Jane VanVooren Rogers** married Arturo Villagomez on June 7, 2019. She is a market analyst for Collabera, and a freelance writer and editor.

**Heather Dowding Tipton** earned a master's in nursing education.

2000

**Luke Cooley** is a project manager for Modern Woodmen of America in Rock Island.

2001

**Elizabeth Oakdale Davis** had a son, Carter Christian Davis, on April 4, 2019 (Christian). Nicole Habich married Michael Martin on June 21, 2019.

**Laura Licari** is an assistant professor of clinical sciences at Roosevelt University College of Pharmacy in Chicago.

**Janel Matousek Sullivan** and **Jonathan Sullivan '04** have relocated to Conifer, Colo. Janel is a speech pathologist at University of Colorado Hospital and Littleton Adventist Hospital. Jon is co-owner of Gen Con Systems, a fire protection company based in Golden, Colo.

## GOT NEWS?

Another degree, another baby, a new job, a service award, retirement? Go to [www.augustana.edu/update](http://www.augustana.edu/update) or mail your news to **Alumni Relations, Augustana College, 639 38th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201**. Class notes are featured not only in the college's biannual alumni magazine but also every month in our alumni e-newsletter!

## 2003

**Elizabeth Blazeovich Okeke-Von Batten** had a son, Julian-Sebastian, on Nov. 17, 2018 (*Karl-Marx*).

**William Dwyer** is principal of West Chicago Community High School.

**Mary Rudakas** married Tony Bonk on Sept. 9, 2017.

## 2004

**Aaron Kivisto**, associate professor of clinical psychology at the University of Indianapolis, was the lead author on a study on gun violence published July 22, 2019, in *the American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

**Woody Loverude** is the director of the Writing Center at Grace Church School in New York, N.Y., where he also teaches literature classes and coaches the boys' JV basketball team.

**Jonathan Sullivan and Janel Matousek '01 Sullivan** have relocated to Conifer, Colo. Jon is co-owner of Gen Con Systems, a fire protection company based in Golden, Colo. Janel is a speech pathologist at University of Colorado Hospital and Littleton Adventist Hospital.

**Lindsay Harden Tanquary** had a son, Dolan, on March 10, 2018 (*Scott*).

## 2005

**Jessica Baumgartner Harms** had a son, Ezra, in January 2018 (*Zoe*, 7). She is a licensed clinical social worker and therapist with the University of Illinois.

**Ashley Hillard** married David Allard on June 13, 2019.

**Annie White Ladnier** is the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in River Falls, Wis.

**Colleen Wynne Nagy** had twin daughters, Genevieve Faye and Grace Caroline, on Feb. 7, 2019.

**Mike and Alex Corson Wenz** had a son, Caleb Wenz, on April 4, 2019 (*Luke*, 10, and *Isaac*, 8).

## 2006

**Ashley Poust** earned a Ph.D. in integrative biology from the University of California Berkeley. He is employed at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

**Andrew Quain** is the head football coach at Prairie Central High School in Fairbury, Ill.

**Nick Stirrett** is an assistant coach for the Oregon State University women's soccer team.

## 2007

**Kristen Ufheil Lawson** had a son, Kaine Thomas Lawson, on Feb. 22, 2019 (*JoliAnne*, 5; *Ella*, 4; and *Scarlett*, 2).

**Sarah Konfirst Mayer** had a daughter, Emily, on April 7, 2019 (*Nathaniel*).

**Rebecca Richardson** was made a partner in the law firm of O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue in 2019. She has two daughters, Isla (born 2015) and Aoife (born 2018).

## 2008

**Katie Kluever Carton** had twins, Andrew and Jacob, in October 2018 (*Mike*; *Michael*, 7). She works for Congressman Dave Loebsack.

**Clyde Andrew Walter** was named vice president for advancement, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

## 2009

**Jeff Becker** and his father, Brian, published a book, *Tender Lions – Building the Vital Relationship Between Father and Son*.

**Brent Boyens** was promoted to senior product manager at DocuSign in Chicago.



Nikita Rohr, left, and Allison Nagy, Class of 2014

## Lifelong teammates go the distance to fight MS

With an Augustana teammate at her side, Nikita Rohr '14 ran 166 miles in six days, despite her multiple sclerosis.

She ran one segment of the MS Run the US relay from Wray, Colo., to Holdrege, Neb. The relay, called America's first and only 3,260-mile ultra relay run, raises awareness and funds for MS research.

"I was interested in it because it was kind of insane, kind of crazy," Rohr said told KWVL in Coralville, Iowa. "Usually, about a mile in is when I don't feel my legs. But I've trained myself to learn to run on legs that I can't feel."

Rohr successfully interviewed to get a leg on the relay, but with her disease, she couldn't do it alone.

So she reached out to Allison Nagy '14, who was her cross country and track teammate at Augustana. They have been running together ever since, including a few Chicago Marathons and other road races in and around Chicago and the Quad Cities.

"It was kind of up to her if I was going to be able to run it or not," Rohr said.

And so they did.

Full of admiration for her friend, Nagy said that, although MS can take away the ability to run in an instant, Rohr has run three marathons since her diagnosis. And on their MS run in June, Rohr also had to contend with six days of heat.

"I am so lucky to have been able to run alongside her as her catcher for all 166 miles and be her legs when she physically couldn't," Nagy said. "Our teammate relationship has changed from competitive running at Augie to a whole new mindset and different end goals now as together we take every step to stop MS."

"I feel that this is the kind of perseverance and service that Augustana instills in students, as she runs for those who can't."



**Rachel Gahn** married Paul Scott on Aug. 11, 2018, in Augustana's Ascension Chapel.

**Emily Jacobs** was elected as a trustee for the Village of Winfield. She is the youngest elected official in Winfield's history and the only woman currently serving on the board.

**Matt Mencarini** is a reporter at the *Courier Journal* in Louisville, Ky.

**Matthew Pruitt** is chief experience officer with VSBLTY, a leading retail software and technology company.

**Kevin Ryan** had a son, Jack, on March 31, 2019 (Olivia; Coleton, 7; Annabelle, 6; and Calvin, 4). Kevin is a managing director at Northwestern Mutual.

**David Sally** is the assistant athletic director for West Aurora High School.

## 2010

**Caitlin Diamond** married Nathan Dikun on Aug. 26, 2017. She is a pricing and contract analyst with Beltmann Integrated Logistics.

**Bobby and Dana Swanson Olson** had a son, Andy, in December 2018.

**Christopher Schilf** graduated from his Northwestern anesthesiology residency in June 2018, and is pursuing advanced subspecialty training in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C.

## 2011

**Anna Knepler** married Nick Chumbley on July 6, 2019.

## 2012

**Hilmir Kristinsson** and **Samantha Bazely '13** had a daughter, Vala, in June 2018.

## 2013

**Alyssa Anderson** received her Doctor of Optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University in 2018. She is an optometrist at Viridi Eye Clinic in Rock Island.

**Samantha Bazely** and **Hilmir Kristinsson '12** had a daughter, Vala, in June 2018.

**Asta Gustafson** is a human services caseworker with the State of Illinois Department of Human Services.

**Rylee Hall** is pursuing his post-bachelor's paralegal certification at the College of Saint Mary.

**Samantha Lach** received her unrestricted mental health counseling license, LCPC, in March 2019.

**Alexander Lawson** and **Gianna Pecora** were married on Sept. 22, 2018.

**Lauren Novak** earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois in 2017. She works at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La.

**Bailey Eilering Yeager** received her Doctorate of Dental Medicine from Southern Illinois University on June 1, 2019.

## 2014

**Jesse Alexander** was named the men's track and field coach for McPherson College in McPherson, Kan.

**Jacqueline Cozzone Arnold** earned her Doctor of Optometry from the Illinois College of Optometry in 2018. She is an optometrist at Forsight Vision in Long Grove, Ill.

**Lydia Boyle** is an occupational therapist at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.

## 2015

**Karlle Everett** is a self-directed care provider with Care Wisconsin.



*Athletic trainer Daniel Fifer '15 works with injured players to get them back in the lineup. Photo by Sarah Sachs, Arizona Diamondbacks*

## Top hitter Fifer '15 still in the game he loves

Daniel Fifer '15, Augustana's record-holder for batting average (.414), is still in the game. As the athletic trainer for the Missoula Osprey, Fifer is focused on getting injured players back on the field and staying healthy.

The Osprey, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks in the National League, is based in Missoula, Mont. It's a long way from Rock Island, but Fifer says what he learned at Augustana is with him every day.

"My bio major helped lay a foundation for my grad work, but it was more than just the biology," Fifer said. "I was able to develop communication skills; I learned about diversity and different cultures; and most importantly, I learned how to think critically. So yes, it helped with my master's work, but Augustana also prepared me for life."

After Augustana, Fifer wasn't sure if he wanted to pursue a master's in physical therapy or athletic training. He worked in a physical therapy clinic for about 18 months. What he found most rewarding was working with the athletes who came for rehab.

He enrolled in Franklin College's Master of Science in Athletic Training program. Students spend two days in class and the remainder of the week completing clinical work. He graduated in May 2018, and started as an intern for the Arizona Diamondbacks organization a few days later. That led to his current position with the Missoula Osprey.

Fifer's parents tell him he picked up sticks and started swinging at a very young age. To this day, baseball remains his passion. "To be able to continue to be in baseball working side-by-side with the athletes is an amazing experience," said Fifer, a four-year letterwinner for the Vikings.

Similar to the players he works with, does Fifer think about working his way up to the big leagues as an athletic trainer?

"Everyone is trying to get better every day," he said. "This is what made my experience at Augustana so important—it helped create a growth mindset. The development is the best part of the ride. If we can learn something each day, imagine the possibilities that we create for ourselves."

**Haley Fox** is the assistant sports information director at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

**Lorraine Stamberger** married Robert Foelske on Sept. 8, 2018. She completed her master's in natural resources and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois in December 2018.

**Rachel Vandermyde** graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. She is an associate veterinarian at Coyne Veterinary Center in St. John, Ind.

## 2016

**Jeneen Schier Anderson** is a veterinarian with the Iron Mountain Animal Hospital in Iron Mountain, Mich. She earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Illinois in 2019.

**Ryan McCormic** is a logistics officer in the United States Marine Corps.

**Anna Moorhead** is a mission ambassador at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

**Madeline Ruzek** married Maxwell McCarty on July 20, 2019.

**Jacob Soukup** is a marketing communications associate with American Hydrotech, Inc.



**Joe Flynn '19** majored in business administration–marketing and now works behind the scenes of NBC's "Chicago Fire" as a production assistant. Hit TV shows based in Chicago seem to be a draw for Augie grads (see Debo Balogun, below).



This fall **Debo Balogun '17** (left) played the role of Dr. John Polidori in the Lookingglass Theatre Company's production of "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J. *The Chicago Tribune* recently named Balogun as one of the "Hot New Faces 2019: 10 new Chicago actors you should know." He has appeared in shows with the Oak Park Festival Theatre, and Chicago's Definition Theatre and Steep Theatre. And yes there's more...fans of NBC's "Chicago Med" will see Balogun as paramedic Darren Clark this season! Balogun majored in theatre arts and psychology at Augustana. *Photo by Liz Lauren*

## 2017

**Rashaun DeBord** earned a master's in history from the University of Illinois-Springfield in May, and is employed at Washington University.

**Emily Grooms** is a school psychology intern at Black Hawk Area Special Education District in East Moline, Ill.

**Robert Rosene** is a graduate student in agricultural economics and agribusiness in the University of Arkansas College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. He successfully defended his thesis titled "Producer Preferences for Alternative Irrigation Practices in the Arkansas Delta." Upon graduation, Robert will be a data analyst at H.C. Schmieding Produce LLC in Springdale, Ark.

**Christopher Saladin** is a graduate resident advisor (RA) at the University of Minnesota.

**Alexiss Santoni** is a graduate student at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

**Connor Woolf** is a sales executive at Zillow, an online real estate database company based in the Seattle, Wash., area.

## 2018

**Ryan Powers** joined Park City Investments as a financial consultant.

**Natalie Wuest** is a virtual volunteer with the Almost Home Foundation in Schaumburg, Ill.

## 2019

**Maggie Bednarek** is an intern at the Stillman Nature Center in South Barrington, Ill.

**Alyssa Mish** is an account coordinator with Creative Group, Inc.

**Brendan Walker** is an account manager with American Marketing and Publishing.



## Deaths

*Notices received as of Sept. 15, 2019.*

**Geraldine Peterson '39 Turner** on March 11, 2019. Survivors include her son, James Turner '77.

**Jeannette Bennett '42 Carpentier** on June 7, 2019.

**Richard Peterson '42** on June 2, 2012.

**Mildred Larson '43** on Aug. 10, 2019.

**Betty Fridlund '44** on March 23, 2018.

**Marlowe Tillberg '45 Nordlander** on Feb. 26, 2019.

**Lois Anderson '46 Robjoy** on April 10, 2019.

**Marjorie Anderson '47 Carlson** on June 28, 2019. Survivors include her daughter, Lisa Carlson '75 Goodale, and granddaughter, Meredith Goodale '14.

**H. June Freitag '47 Engstrom** on Aug. 25, 2019.

**Mary Buck '47 Lindquist** on March 30, 2019. Survivors include her son, Kirk Lindquist '72, and grandson, Anders Lindquist '04.

**C. Jean Dunbar '48 Arndt** on April 13, 2019.

**Calvin Peterson '48** on April 9, 2019.

**Thelma Werner '50 Crane** on July 13, 2019. Survivors include her daughter, Martha Crane '73 Scheidler.

**Lawrence Larson '50** on Nov. 29, 2017. Survivors include his daughter, Lori Larson '78 Meneghetti.

**Doris Hillquist '50 Lundahl** on April 26, 2019.

**Miriam Burton '50 Olson** on Sept. 8, 2019. Survivors include her sister, Elsa Burton '52 Orescan.

**Harry Peterson '50** on Oct. 15, 2018.

**Ferris Noble '50 Schrock** on March 4, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Ernest Schrock; daughter, Diane Schrock '72 Prill; son-in-law, Charles Prill '73; daughter, Elaine Schrock '82 Clawson; and grandson, Kevin Prill '03.

**Robert Taube '50** on April 8, 2019.

**Marilyn Wicker '51 Cavanaugh** on May 12, 2012.

**Richard Hendricks '51** on Sept. 11, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Joan Herrstrum '72 Hendricks, and daughter, Denise Hendricks '80 Pelham.

**William Johnson '51** on March 9, 2019.

**Nils Nelson '51** on June 10, 2019.

**Shirley Briere '51 Parker** on Feb. 8, 2017.

**Arthur Roop '51** on April 8, 2018. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn West '52 Roop.

**Nancy Nylan '52 Kalweit** on March 5, 2019.

**Lloyd Melis '52** on Aug. 14, 2015.

**Letty May Walsh '52 Newman** on April 23, 2019. Survivors include her son, Craig Newman '89.

**Mardell Parker '52** on March 17, 2019.

**Donna Rein '52 Swanson** on Jan. 9, 2014.

**Lester White '52** on July 4, 2019.

**Beatrice Swanson '53 Beyerhelm** on March 27, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Carl Beyerhelm '51, and sister, Martha Swanson '59 Sundquist.

**Curt Pierson '53** on Aug. 4, 2017.

**Bette Charlene Hill '53 Renner** on Aug. 24, 2018.

**Ann Hendrickson '53 Tinsley** on July 16, 2019. Survivors include her daughter, Suzanne Tinsley '74 Butler.

**Beverly Carlson '53 Wessman** on April 20, 2019.

**Donald Baustian '54** on May 18, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Beverly Baustian.

**Annabell Larose '54 Brunell** on March 31, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Robert Brunell '52.

**Dolores Goldstein '54 Greenspan** on March 4, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Alan Greenspan.

**Carolyn Bloomquist '54 Hallin** on Nov. 11, 2018.

**Phyllis Hult '54** on Nov. 20, 2018.

**Carole Sahlin '54 Magnuson** on June 22, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Bruce Magnuson.

**Gloria Morgan '54 Paulsen** on July 30, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Donald Paulsen '55, and son, Bryan Paulsen '80.

**Mary Iverson '54 Peterson** on July 24, 2019. Survivors include her son, Jeffrey Peterson '77, and daughter, Martha Peterson '79 Eggemeyer.

**Eunice Berg '54 Stokes** on March 20, 2019.

**Jeanette Swanson '55 Miller** on Aug. 10, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Riggs Miller.

**Janice Swanson '55 Moore** on June 13, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Stanley Moore; and sisters, Constance Swanson '57 Moore and Luray Swanson '60 Wiberg.

**Othelia Johnson '56 Dillbeck** on Aug. 27, 2019.

**John Guthrey '56** on June 14, 2019.

**Joann Larkin '56 Zelm** on March 15, 2019.

**Richard Hosking '57** on March 27, 2019.

**Roy Larson '57** on Jan. 31, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Janice Kuster '56 Larson.

**Henry Power '57** on Feb. 4, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Johnson '62 Power, and son, Scott Power '85.

**Max Harksen '58** on April 3, 2019.

**Willard Hedberg '58** on March 26, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Mary Hedberg, and sister, Carolyn Hedberg '52 Vandeventer.

**A. John Robinson '58** on April 3, 2019.

**Charles Christophersen '59** on July 26, 2017. Survivors include his wife, Carol Christophersen.

**Norman Lefstein '59** on Aug. 29, 2019.

**Burdette Ringquist '59** on July 10, 2019.

**Jack Smith '59** on April 17, 2019.

**E. Robert Greenway '61** on March 8, 2019.

**Donald Kain '61** on March 31, 2019.

**Sulah Seward '61 Robinson** on May 27, 2019. Survivors include her daughter, Julie Coyne '82 McFarland.

**C. Darlene Wilcox '62 Durkee** on Aug. 22, 2013.

**Richard Housman '62** on July 15, 2019.

**Katherine Knanishu '62 McCutcheon** on March 26, 2019. Survivors include her sister, Sallie Knanishu '67.

**Robert Mindock '62** on May 21, 2019.

**Mary Johnson '62 Savely** on May 11, 2019. Survivors include her sons, Peter Savely '86 and Michael Savely '90, and daughter, Sharon Savely '89 Lantzky.

**F. Glen Erickson '63** on July 1, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Pam Erickson.

**Donnajean Jeppesen '64 Kabella** on Sept. 26, 2018. Survivors include her husband, George Kabella '64.

**Carl Palmquist '64** on June 30, 2019. Survivors include his sisters, Betty Palmquist '63 Lankers and Charlotte Palmquist '59 Shanks.

**James Anderson '65** on April 29, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Mary Anderson.

**Kathryn Peterson '65 Becker** on April 12, 2019. Survivors include her sister, LaVona Peterson '48 Farney.

**Judith Bell '65 Gustafson** on June 18, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Chester Gustafson.

**Raymond Peterson '65** on Feb. 10, 2019.

**Lawrence Pohlmann '65** on July 3, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Janet Pohlmann.

**Rolf Larson '66** on March 11, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Linda Larson, and daughter, Britta Larson '02.

**Julie Lindley '66 Rodell** on May 13, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Gary Rodell, and son, James Rodell '92.

**Lucille Kehoe '66 Siefers** on June 28, 2019.

**Martin Knanishu '70** on June 17, 2019. Survivors include his sister, Sallie Knanishu '67.

**Robert McKinley '70** on May 25, 2019.

**Linda Wilson '70 Swenson** on June 17, 2019.

**Paul Bown '71** on March 3, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Susan Brown.

**Kathlyn Johnson '72 Hall** on May 13, 2019.

**Gaylor Nelson '72** on May 26, 2019.

**Barbara Jacobs '73 Fackel** on Aug. 22, 2019. Survivors include her husband, Joseph Fackel.

**Dean Cady '74** on Aug. 8, 2019.

**Michael Hemmingson '74** on May 21, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Laurie Stelle '77 Hemmingson.

**Terrence Drengwitz '75** on May 26, 2019.

**Edward Millet '80** on April 18, 2019.

**Pamela Carlson '82** on May 5, 2019. Survivors include her sister, Eileen Carlson '79.

**Gregory Adamson '83** on June 11, 2019.

**Ross Campbell '83** on April 8, 2019. Survivors include his wife, Carol Davis '83 Campbell.

**Mary Sirevaag '91** on June 18, 2019.

**Jennifer Albert '05 Gavlin** on March 16, 2019.

## In memoriam



**Professor Emerita of English Dr. Nancy Huse** died on Aug. 31, 2019. She was 81. She earned degrees from Caldwell College and Duquesne University and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago. In 1972, she began her 40-year college teaching career at Augustana. She married the late Dr. Dale Huse, professor emeritus of English, in Ascension Chapel in 1973.

Dr. Nancy Huse helped start the Women's Studies program at Augustana in 1985. She was an outspoken advocate for social, women's and children's justice programs as a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Women's Christian Association and a United Way committee member. She also was a committee co-chair at Family Resources, Inc., Davenport, and an advisory board member for domestic violence shelters.

Academically, Dr. Huse had a great interest in children's literature and served as president of the Children's Literature Association and as a board member of the International Research Society of Children's Literature. She was a published author, including books about American writer and journalist John Hersey.



**Sister Marilyn Ring, O.S.B.**, of St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, died on Sept. 15, 2019. She was 88. Sister Marilyn served as Augustana's associate chaplain and coordinator of Catholic ministries from 1995-2012, ministering to hundreds of students.

"During her years as associate chaplain, Sister Marilyn modeled the best of the Roman Catholic tradition: deeply contemplative and passionate about social justice," said the Rev. Richard Priggie '74, campus chaplain. "She was also down to earth and loads of fun. What a privilege to have known her!"

She attended University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Notre Dame. Sister Marilyn entered the Benedictine community on Sept. 19, 1948, and made her final profession as a Benedictine sister on June 24, 1955. Her ministry including teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Illinois State University before coming to Augustana.





# HOMECOMING 2019





## 2020 ALUMNI TOUR

### Off the Beaten Path – from Yellowstone to Glacier

May 25-June 1, 2020



Explore the beauty and history of Montana and Yellowstone National Park with **President Steve Bahls** and **Jane Easter Bahls** in May 2020. **Dr. Brian Leech**, associate professor of history at Augustana, also will join the group. He will present lectures, help as a tour guide and recommend “can’t miss” destinations throughout the trip!

**Itinerary** (*subject to change*)

#### **May 25**

Arrive in Bozeman. Travel to Pray for welcome reception and dinner.

#### **May 26**

Tour the Grand Loop of Yellowstone National Park. From Old Faithful, take a one-hour drive to West Yellowstone.

#### **May 27**

On the way to Virginia City, stop at the Quake Lake Visitor Center. Then head to Butte for the evening.

#### **May 28**

Explore the unique western town of Butte with Dr. Brian Leech, Augustana associate professor of history.

#### **May 29**

On the way to Missoula, stop in Anaconda and visit Grant-Kohrs Ranch, a National Historic Site. In Missoula, check into a riverside hotel, then explore the downtown and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

#### **May 30**

Head north through the Flathead Valley and visit St. Ignatius Mission and National Bison Range on the way to Glacier National Park. At Glacier, go to the visitor center at Apgar Village on Lake McDonald for an introduction to the park.

#### **May 31**

The day begins with a guided hike to the Trail of the Cedars and Avalanche Lake (trail conditions permitting). After a picnic lunch, take an afternoon cruise across Lake McDonald. Enjoy a farewell reception and dinner at nearby Belton Chalet.

#### **June 1**

Head to the Glacier airport for a flight home after a relaxing morning.

#### **COST**

The cost is \$3,825 per person, double occupancy – includes hotel accommodations, meals (except two dinners), coach bus transportation, guided hiking activities and excursions, services of two expert naturalist guides, park entrance fees, snack/drinks in vehicles, most gratuities.

The pricing does not include air travel to Bozeman and from Whitefish, guest incidentals, alcoholic beverages (other than drinks at the welcome and farewell dinner), guide gratuities.

Trip minimum – 20 participants; maximum – 40 participants

#### **FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REGISTER FOR THE TRIP, CONTACT:**

**Off the Beaten Path** (information and registration)

800-445-2995 or 406-586-1311

[travel@offthebeatenpath.com](mailto:travel@offthebeatenpath.com)

**Kelly Read '02 Noack** (information)

309-794-7474 or [kellynoack@augustana.edu](mailto:kellynoack@augustana.edu)



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**Homecoming 2019: Phi Rhos Celebrate 100th Anniversary**