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Augustana

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

WINTER 2023



Artist Aykeem Spivey '24
shares his time and talent
to commemorate
Rock Island teacher

page 16

Augustana College

Augustana College Magazine

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Editor | Debbie Blaylock

Designers | Quan Vi and Zach O'Connell

Writers | Nicole Lauer and Beth Roberts

Class Notes | Christine Loula '88 and Kelly Read '02 Noack

Sports News | Trevor Jossart

Views expressed in *Augustana College Magazine* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy of Augustana College.

Website | www.augustana.edu

Email

Editorial | debbieblaylock@augustana.edu

Class notes | christineloula@augustana.edu
and kellynoack@augustana.edu

Our Mission

Augustana College, deeply rooted in the liberal arts and sciences and an inclusive expression of Lutheran higher education, is committed to offering a challenging education that develops the qualities of mind, spirit and body necessary for students to discern their life's calling of leadership and service in a diverse and changing world.

ON THE COVER

Aykeem Spivey '24, art/psychology double major

Photographer: Zach O'Connell



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Augustana completed three major projects in 2013. Learn how the Old Main renovation; the reconceptualization of the Tredway Library; and a new stadium and supporting facilities for Viking football enhanced Augustana's integrated student experience.



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One of the most iconic places on campus, the Slough is stunning in all seasons and treasured for many reasons. The images submitted by alumni and friends of the college in the recent Slough Photo Contest render a place where memories are made.



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Spivey's memorial mural replaces tears with joy

Art/psychology double major Aykeem Spivey '24 donated his time and talent to create a mural at Rock Island Center for Math and Science in honor of Kris Hays, a beloved teacher who passed away in 2022. Although Spivey never met Hays, this unexpected opportunity and experience made an impact on him.



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Mentors, friends and professional connections do matter

The post-Augustana journeys of three graduates of the last decade — Andrew Brimeyer '15, Madison Williams '20 and Janice Wu '18 — are quite different, yet similar in one way that has been quite impactful.



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Alumnae mentor first-year students in new academy

Twenty-nine students of Augustana's Class of 2027 make up the inaugural cohort of the Brenda Barnes Leadership Academy. Alumnae will help these students develop leadership skills, inspired by the life of Brenda Czajka '75 Barnes.

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Our mission in sharper focus



“I was able to share that for Augustana and schools like it, producing research is secondary to producing thoughtful, conscientious citizens who will serve and lead their communities and professions.”

Sometimes the best way to gain a deeper appreciation of something is to take a step away from it.

This fall I had my first opportunity to visit Sweden as president of Augustana College, something all of my predecessors had done, though not all of them as president. For me, it meant a chance to visit Uppsala University, the oldest seat of higher learning in Scandinavia and a constant presence in Augustana’s own history.

I had been invited to present a lecture at Uppsala on how American higher education deals with free expression and academic freedom, especially when those are in tension with student interests. Our Swedish and European colleagues are interested in talking about this, even with their own traditions of free speech. That’s because while their world-renowned, centuries-old institutions are outstanding in many ways, they still have a few things to learn from mission-driven liberal arts colleges in the United States, including this one. By their own admission, they know how to produce great research but they are less familiar with the fundamental process of education and development of critical thinking.

While one of my hosts expressed well-deserved pride that the scholarly legacy of Uppsala included great innovators like Linnaeus, Berzelius and Celsius, I was able to share that for Augustana and schools like it, producing research is secondary to producing thoughtful, conscientious citizens who will serve and lead their communities and professions. My colleagues at Uppsala found this amazing. They were impressed that I not only admitted that our goal was something other than research, but that I embraced it.

Truly and comprehensively educating students — whether in Uppsala or Rock Island — means they will be able to thrive even in the midst of difference; in other words, thrive in the world they will enter. The people I met at one of the world’s great universities loved the whole concept of pushing students to hear views other than their own. They appreciated that this sometimes involves messy topics, but always with an eye towards impactful citizenship. And we reflected on how both our missions approach the topic of working for the common good, but in different ways.

At Uppsala they add to the body of knowledge. At Augustana we add to the body of leaders and influencers.

Stepping away helped bring this mission more sharply into focus, and for that I am very grateful.

Likewise, as my first full calendar year comes to a close at Augustana, allow me to express my thanks to all of you for supporting Augustana and its students, and wish you the very best for 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Kathryn Talentino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Andrea Kathryn Talentino
President of the College



The Slough Path was a showstopper this fall.

City drains Slough to make improvements

In mid-November, crews from the City of Rock Island began draining the Slough in order to relocate a water pipe. Don't worry ... it's only temporary!

The project, which will move a primary water line from under the Slough to under the Slough Path, will allow for easier access to the pipe in the event of future needed repairs.

Kirk Anderson '93, chief financial officer and vice president of administration, said the work is being done to ensure the Slough is well maintained for many decades.

"We've partnered with the city on this planned improvement

to ensure minimal disruption to campus and to pave the way for a healthy and vibrant Slough going forward," he said.

The city-funded project is aimed at preventing another incident like the one in June 2017, when an old city pipe under the Slough collapsed, draining the Slough and flooding parts of lower campus.

The Slough Path is expected to remain open for campus and community use through the fall semester, with a short closure planned during the January term as the project moves into its final phase. Work is expected to be completed in early January, when the Slough will be restored.

Class of 2027 arrives in big numbers

Augustana welcomed 790 new students this fall, including 723 first-year students and 67 transfer students.

It's the college's second-largest class in 163 years when first-year and transfer students are combined, said Kent Barnds, executive vice president and chief enrollment officer. The Class of 2027 includes 574 U.S. and 149 international students.

"This also represents a more than 23% increase in new student enrollment over the last year," he said. "We proudly welcome this new class of Augustana Vikings, and we're excited to see them begin their journey of engaging in our top-notch academic programs and more than 150 student activities."

This year's incoming class was selected from a record pool of 8,217 applications, and enrolled students are from 22 states and 32 countries. This is Augustana's largest enrollment since fall 2019 and marks a clear and convincing rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Barnds.

Augustana's total fall enrollment is 2,480 students — including 2,442 undergraduate students and 38 graduate students enrolled in the college's speech, language and pathology master's program.



On Oct. 2-3, Augustana hosted Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar **Dr. Corey D.B. Walker** of Wake Forest University. Dr. Walker presented a public lecture on the climate change crisis, participated in class and seminar discussions, and met informally with students and faculty. Here, **Peyton Heisch '23**, sustainability manager at Augustana, escorts Dr. Walker on campus.



Professor Peter Xiao, not one to miss a chance to have some fun, painted himself into a corner in "Sighting Augie (the Bald Spot)."

Xiao celebrates first solo art show on campus

Augustana Professor Peter Xiao credits an initial push by former Provost Wendy Hilton-Morrow '94 "to fill the hall with art" and the "tireless work" of Art Chair Vickie Phipps as the catalysts for the first faculty solo art show on campus in decades.

More than 30 of Xiao's paintings are featured in his "Sighting at Augie" exhibition in Wallenberg Hall, inside Denkmann Memorial Building. On display through March 2024, it is the longest-running show in Xiao's career.

"My works are selected from the last 15 years to days ago because showing in the old Denkmann library catty-corner from where I've taught over three decades must be a

retrospective for my life and my time here," Xiao said. "I'm on clouds right now. I'm very grateful to have a solo show on campus."

In looking back on his 33-year teaching career, Xiao acknowledges how working with students has helped him stay grounded and allowed him to learn about himself and others. "My society is young people," he explained.

"Events and challenges large and small in our daily lives, local and global, fellow beings' responses to them, especially the young with their fresh energy and mindset ahead of our great unknown future, inspire me and keep me in the game," Xiao said.

Swenson Center receives National Endowment for the Humanities grant

A \$50,000 grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities will study how the records of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana can be better preserved.

Dr. Dag Blanck, director of the Swenson Center, said two consultants — one archival and one architectural — will come to the Denkmann Memorial Building to explore ways in which the facilities that house archives for the study of Swedish-American history and relations can be improved through an assessment of the environmental conditions; mechanical systems; and the walls, windows and roof of the structure.

Archival materials include letters, diaries, books and several hundred newspapers focused on the time period of 1840-1930, when 1.3 million Swedes made their way to the "new world." Annually, more than 600 people access the

Swenson Center resources, including in-person and digitally. In addition to academic research, the center also assists individuals researching their own Swedish-American genealogy.

"We are very concerned about continuing to be good stewards of the materials given to us," said Dr. Blanck, speaking from Uppsala University in Stockholm, Sweden, where he serves as professor of North American Studies and director of the Swedish Institute for North American Studies. Since becoming Swenson Center director in 1985, Dr. Blanck has divided his time between the Quad Cities and Uppsala.

"Denkmann Hall is a beautiful building, but it has some issues — climate control, humidity, water — all things you don't want to have near the archives," he said. "We have unique and rare items. They must be preserved well."



Top: Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms greets President Andrea Talentino, Erik Bergren '25 and Dr. Kimberly Murphy as they canvass Rock Island neighborhoods. Below: More than 100 members of the Vikings football team knocked on doors one day for the inventory project.

Augustana partners with Rock Island for water lines survey

Students, faculty and staff took to the streets this summer as part of a partnership with the City of Rock Island. A 2021 Illinois law requires cities to inventory lead service lines, implement replacements and coordinate financing strategies to fund the work.

Augustana President Andrea Talentino and Dr. Dianna Shandy, provost and vice president of academic affairs, joined student researchers one day as they canvassed Rock Island neighborhoods to encourage residents to complete a questionnaire to determine whether their drinking water pipes are copper, galvanized or lead.

More than 100 Augustana Vikings football players took a break from practice to assist the inventory project. The players knocked on doors as part of the final canvassing event before student research assistants moved to the next phase of the project, which includes data analysis and predictive modeling.

By September, crews from Augustana had knocked on the doors of 7,200 homes — more than half the doors in the city. They canvassed about 50% of unknown lines, meeting the threshold for higher accuracy for the predictive modeling phase.

Erik Bergren '25, an economics and public health double major, is one of the student leaders working on the project.

"The predictive modeling is about only having data from x number of homes," Bergren said. "We'll use historical records and the data we did get to build a model to predict where the problem pipes are — not just lead, but galvanized too. We'll use the data to help the city determine which areas we believe need replacing if we only have x dollars and we can't replace all the areas — what would make the largest impact on areas with kids."



Students are learning lessons they could not have gotten any other way, according to President Talentino. "From a variety of majors and backgrounds, they tell me the project is building their skills in public speaking and advocacy, resource management, financial accounting, community development and the list goes on," she said.

Augustana honored with fourth DEI award



Dr. Lisa Durant-Jones

Augustana is one of only two private colleges in Illinois and among only nine liberal arts colleges nationwide recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine's Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. This is the fourth time Augustana has received this distinction.

Augustana was one of 108 institutions to receive the national honor, which recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

This commitment is shared throughout the campus community, and not relegated to a single office.

"Augustana is proud to continue to acknowledge and respect a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture where students of all backgrounds are not only welcome, but engaged," said Dr. Lisa Durant-Jones, interim vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion.

In addition to being recognized with four INSIGHT awards, in 2021 Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine recognized Augustana for its campus-wide diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Augustana's current student body is comprised of 2,480 students, including 40% domestic students of color and international students.

Choir heads west on tour in March

The Augustana Choir, under the direction of Dr. Jon Hurty, will perform concerts in California on March 21-25, 2024. Alumni and friends of the college are invited to hear the choir perform traditional and contemporary choral works.

March 21, 7 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Santa Barbara, Calif.

With the University of California-Santa Barbara choir, directed by Brent Wilson

March 22, 7 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Church
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

March 23, 7 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, Calif.

March 24, 2 p.m.

St. Andrew's By-the-Sea United Methodist Church
San Clemente, Calif.

March 25, 7 p.m.

Village Community Presbyterian Church
Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

Established in 1931, the Augustana Choir has been conducted by Dr. Hurty since 1996. The choir has performed at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, and Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York City, as well as many major cathedrals and concert venues in Sweden, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan, Korea, Spain, France and the Czech Republic.

Note: The Augustana Symphonic Band will tour the Midwest March 24-27, 2024. Performances are being scheduled.



Augustana trustee **Shelby Olson '79** returned to campus to lead a Lunch and Learn for sociology and anthropology students interested in careers in the social sciences. Olson, who majored in psychology and sociology, is principal of CareerLife Directions LLC. She advises individuals ranging from college seniors preparing for their first job search to later career stage professionals and senior leaders. Among other topics, Olson talked with students about how they can highlight their skills in job interviews and how to discern missing skills they may need to compete for a job and how to fill that gap.

Jaeke Award winners serve as role models

The Harold T. and Violet M. Jaeke Award for Employee Excellence recognizes and honors individuals who through their work reflect exceptional commitment to the mission of Augustana, and who serve as role models for their colleagues and for students. This year's winners were:

- Administration
Brianne Berogan – Director of Advancement Services and Data Analysis
- Dining Services
Teresa Rusch – Baker and Cake Decorator
- Facilities/Public Safety
Tom Phillis – Chief, Augustana Police Department
- Faculty
Karen Aumuller – Professional Faculty, Clinical Supervisor, Instructor of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Externship Supervisor
- Office Personnel
Leticia Martinez – Office Assistant, Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity

New York Times names Augustana top college for economic diversity

Augustana ranked in the top 21% of The New York Times' list of U.S. schools with the greatest economic diversity, indicating that Augustana is accessible to students from a broad range of income levels.

Kent Barnds, executive vice president of external relations, said Augustana is committed to making a top-quality liberal arts education affordable to all students.

"It's our mission to continue making strides to ensure achieving an Augustana education is accessible to every student," Barnds said.

Augustana was one of only nine private Illinois colleges to make the list, which ranks the most-selective universities according to Barron's Profiles of American Colleges and other metrics.

Augustana was 24th among national liberal arts schools, and 61st overall among the 286 colleges on The New York Times' College Access Index list. The index measured economic diversity by analyzing the share of students receiving Federal Pell Grants. Pell Grant recipients are typically from families earning less than \$50,000 annually.

The maximum award in 2023-2024 is \$7,395, and the award amount depends on a student's financial need, costs to attend school, full- or part-time status and plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

This year Augustana has more than 550 Pell Grant recipients, with the number of first-year and transfer recipients seeing a 39% year-over-year increase.

Alex Jones '16 shows off her winnings from the GOLD alumni bingo game during Homecoming 2023. Not surprisingly, bingo was a hot ticket for alumni of the last 10 years.



SAVE THE DATE

Join us **Oct. 4-6** for Homecoming and Family Weekend 2024!

In the 2024 U.S. News and World Report's rankings of best national liberal arts colleges, Augustana placed:

36

IN BEST
UNDERGRADUATE
TEACHING

67

IN BEST
VALUE SCHOOLS

100

AMONG BEST
NATIONAL LIBERAL
ARTS COLLEGES

120

IN TOP
PERFORMERS ON
SOCIAL MOBILITY

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Joe Langridge '25

CROSS COUNTRY

Two cross country runners qualified for nationals after the Midwest Regional Championships. On the women's side, **Emma Odle '24** advanced after earning a 24th place finish with a time of 22:18.6. For the men, **Joe Langridge '25** qualified after placing 18th at regionals, coming in at 24:52.4. This season marked the first time in 26 years that a male and female runner represented Augustana at nationals. Odle finished 70th, and Langridge was 112th in their races.

FOOTBALL

The Vikings captured eight wins this season, the most since 2005, and a bowl bid. Eight Vikings, including five fifth-year players, were named CCIW All-Conference: **Tim Swaney** (first team); **Nick Harper**, **Darren Oregon '26** and **Chase Tatum** (second team, defense); and **Bobby Inserra**, **Cain Johnson '24**, **Brayden Macdonald** and **Tyler Rivelli '24** (second team, offense). In post-season play, the UW-Platteville Pioneers outscored the Vikings 36-10 in the third annual Culver's Isthmus Bowl at Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium.

MEN'S WATER POLO

The men's water polo team claimed its second straight Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) East title, defeating the Austin 'Roos by a score of 13-4. With the win, the Vikings improved to 15-6 and finished the year 8-0 against conference opponents. The team qualified for the 2023 USA Water Polo National Tournament, which they hosted at Augustana on Dec. 2-3. (Go to athletics.augustana.edu to see the results.) Seven Vikings were named to the ALL-MPSF East teams. Honored were **Declan Hutton '26**, **Ian Palmroos '27**, **Joseph Addison '24** and **Oskar Bannister '26** (first team); **Colin McDowell '25** (second team); and **Mark Addison '26** and **Rhys Lomax '27** (honorable mention). Hutton also was named MPSF East Player of the Year, and Palmroos earned the Newcomer of the Year award.

WOMEN'S GOLF

For the second consecutive season, the women's golf team finished in second place at the CCIW Championship. **Avery Frick '24** led the Vikings with a fourth-place overall finish to earn CCIW All-Conference honors. **Sarah Bond '27** surged into the Top 10, finishing seventh to also earn All-CCIW honors. The team will now shift to the spring portion of their schedule.



Janey Castoe '24

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Janey Castoe '24 was named the CCIW's Goalkeeper of the Year to go along with first-team honors. Castoe was first in the CCIW in both save percentage (.868) and shutouts (9). She also ranked second in goals against average as one of just two players allowing less than one per game. Women's soccer wrapped up the season with a 10-5-4 record.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Anna-Maria Huebel '27 received the CCIW's First-Year Student Athlete of the Year award and was named All-CCIW first team. Huebel, from Vienna, Austria, went 3-3 at No. 1 singles in conference play. She also was part of a 5-2 doubles record this season.



Emily Schipper '24

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Women's volleyball finished 23-8 this season — the Vikings' best record since 2016. Four players were named to the CCIW All-Conference teams: **Emily Schipper '24** and **Grace Vranicar '24** (first team) and **Amelie Baehr-Ross '24** and **Syd Krueger '24** (second team).

For all the latest scores and news: athletics.augustana.edu

Football Vikings celebrate 8 wins plus bowl bid



Meet the Vikings' fifth-year players (from the left): Brayden Macdonald, Jacob Uhlmann, Sidney Maroon, Cole Romano, Jordan Vesey, Chase Tatum, Tim Swaney, Bobby Inserra and Nick Harper. (Daniel Skold not pictured.)



"Yes, they all had a personal reason for why they came back, but the ultimate decision was because of the guys in the locker room, and that is special."

– Coach Steve Bell

maturity and leadership, especially in adverse moments.

"Any time that you have guys who have seen hundreds and hundreds of game snaps and have been through the ebbs and flows of different types of games, it gives you an opportunity to have success," Coach Steve Bell said. "My hope is that our younger players have paid close

Augustana's football team broke loose for an 8-2 run in regular season play and a 7-2 third-place finish in the CCIW, thanks in part to the return of 10 fifth-year players this season.

The 10 athletes took advantage of their extra year of eligibility granted by the NCAA due to the COVID pandemic.

"I've been playing football since I was 7 years old, so yes it was hard for me to turn down an extra year to play," said Daniel Skold, offensive lineman. "I love football, and I had a feeling of what this team was capable of and just felt the need to come back to try and reach that potential."

Coaches say the fifth-year players brought not only experience to the playing field but also a

attention to how to react in certain situations to establish growth throughout the program because the fifth-year players have shown the template on how to create a work ethic to produce and expect success. I feel we have a very talented roster returning next fall that is highly motivated to build upon this year."

Linebacker Tim Swaney chose to play a fifth year because of a season-ending injury last year.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I could come back and play another season," he said. "I also believed that our team would be successful because of what all the fifth years and true seniors have built over these last couple of years. The camaraderie that you build within this sport is like no other."

Swaney's best memory of being a Viking is beating Washington University in St. Louis 35-17 this season.

"That was a huge win for our program because it finally allowed us to have a chance to have an opportunity for post-season football," he said. "Also, we were the first Augustana football team to beat them since they joined the CCIW. To be a part of that and stamp ourselves into the record books is a great feeling."

The time spent with teammates is what Skold will never forget. "I have built the best friendships of my life and lived with my current roommate for five years and consider him my brother — and that's what I take away from this more than anything," he said.

Coach Bell understands and appreciates the fifth-year players who chose to stay with the program an additional year.

"It shows an unbelievable love and respect for their teammates and a belief in what we preach as a football program," he said. "Yes, they all had a personal reason for why they came back, but the ultimate decision was because of the guys in the locker room, and that is special."



Has it really been 10 years?

Three major projects

By Kent Barnds, executive vice president of external affairs

Ten years can seem like an eternity on a college campus, yet a decade can also go by in a flash. It's amazing to me that a decade has passed since Augustana's campus landscape was fundamentally transformed through the completion of the renovation of Old Main; the reconceptualization of Tredway Library and how its spaces could better serve 21st-century college learners; and a new stadium and supporting facilities for Augustana Vikings football.

While each of these places feels central to our learning/student life environment now, just a decade ago we were removing construction fences, ticking items off punch lists, and moving into new and renewed spaces.

I was fortunate to be a firsthand witness to each of the three projects because during this time, I was staffing the Campus Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees. I also led the task force for what is now called the Gerber Center, and was on the planning and construction team for the Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex. I had the privilege to interact with a number of the donors who helped make these transformations possible.

It's worth reflecting on each of these three projects and their impact on Augustana's integrated student experience 10 years later.

Old Main

The renovation of Old Main was long overdue when it finally occurred. This beloved icon in the center of our campus had become tired, cut up into many little boxes to accommodate utilitarian purposes, and had lost its original luster. I recall being told by tour guides and staff members that Old Main was to be avoided on campus tours. The quality of the building no longer matched the quality of what happened inside.

The idea of renovating Old Main was a no-brainer, but the process did not move forward without controversy. When initial costs came back, a former trustee suggested that the college would be better off tearing down Old Main and



Old Main

The idea of renovating Old Main was a no-brainer, but the process did not move forward without controversy.



completed in 2013 transformed the Augustana student experience.

replacing it with a new academic building for what it would cost. We can all rejoice that we didn't follow that path!

Instead, the college committed to what was to be a multi-year renovation of the building that would include a year of exterior renovation in 2011 followed by two years of interior renovation. We would complete the west end one year and the east end the next.

However, the faculty in Old Main convinced the administration that they would all prefer to move out of the building for an entire year if the full renovation could be completed in that timeframe, rather than try to manage multiple years of moves.

The faculty's vision and sacrifice was noteworthy, and to this day I recall some of the strange office spaces made available to faculty during this year of displacement. But it was the best for the project and allowed for opening the new interior and welcoming faculty back in the fall of 2013.

Three things about Old Main have always impressed me: the Old Main Forum, which was designed to evoke memories of the original chapel; the innovation of a small window near the ceiling of the interior offices that allows for natural light in all offices in the building; and the reuse and emphasis on historic features of the building, including the stained glass windows, the iron columns and the interior tiled floors.

What a gorgeous renovation! *(continued on next page)*





Ken Anderson Academic All-American Club

Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex

The second campus improvement that opened in the fall of 2013 was the Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex, including a new football stadium — Lindberg Stadium — and the Ken Anderson Academic All-American Club. The three-story grandstand includes team facilities with a spacious locker room, training and videotaping facilities, and team meeting rooms on the ground level. There is seating for 1,800 Augustana fans.

When it opened, Viking coaches said there wasn't another place in NCAA DIII that felt more like a big-time facility.

What many don't know about this project is that it started when former President Steve Bahls visited

Each project built upon the success of an existing facility and made the most of its location.

Charlie Lindberg '50 to ask him to consider a gift to endow the college's debate program. Well, Charlie had a different idea. He asked President Bahls if he was open to renovating the existing stands on the south side of Erickson Field. President Bahls expressed his interest, but said the college wasn't in a position to support a renovation financially.

Shortly thereafter, the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation committed to an initial gift of \$8 million to finance what is now the Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex.

The pinnacle of the project was repositioning the home stands to the north side. But there were additional reasons why this was one of the more challenging projects the college has undertaken in the last 20 years. The site was narrow and complicated, and the project was time-bound because of scheduled home games.

From the get-go, there were many who expressed concern about the reorientation of the home stands and the likelihood that the sun would be in fans' faces during afternoon games.

Ten years later, I now hear comments about how amazing the views are of campus, with Old Main, Ascension Chapel and the Peter J. Lindberg, M.D., Center so clearly in view.

And on those cold November afternoons, I know that many Viking fans are basking in the sun while the visiting fans are 20 degrees cooler in the south stands.

Lindberg Stadium, the suites in the stadium, the locker room and the Ken Anderson Club set a new standard for Division III football facilities and transformed Augustana's campus. My favorite spot is on the patio — where I can go to cheer on the team.



Gerber Center

For me it's most difficult to imagine Augustana without the Gerber Center, which has become the central hub for our community. It was quite a planning journey from a stand-alone student center with no food to the *agora* (central public space in ancient Greece) and then to the Center for Student Life and ultimately the Gerber Center.

This structure and concept took courage and collaboration because Augustana was embarking on something that was very unusual at the time. Combining dining, student activities and the library had no real precedent, especially with a library as the centerpiece.

I recall a cartoon in the Observer that contrasted competing visions, cleverly depicting the "Thomas Tredway Fun Center" and "The Thomas Tredway Endless Book Collection." The project was not an easy sell in the beginning, that's for sure.

Yet, we at Augustana created something truly special, which has become the centerpiece of how we build community and experience each other as partners, peers and mentors. Augustana benefited from the right leaders, all of whom believed in a vision of shared, collaborative spaces made for today's students.

Carla Tracy, who was director of the Thomas Tredway Library; Ken Brill, director of student life and leadership; and Garry Griffith, director of dining services, all spent countless hours outlining needs and wants and finding points of overlap and collaboration to create the vision that became the Gerber Center.

Nearly 40,000 square feet in the existing library was renovated and another 35,000 square feet was added for new dining facilities and a student center.

Three common values guided the vision: don't screw up the library; create spaces where students will want to spend their time; and give a little here and there to help turn the vision into a reality. This innovative project included a number of sustainable aspects and some construction features, including geofoam, mechanical systems, gray water reclamation and the hydroponic wall. All were pretty nifty and customized for the site.

During the planning for the project, it was described as creating a place at the heart of residential liberal arts education — study, play and breaking bread. President Thomas Tredway called it "the living room of campus."

I'd like to think that we accomplished this task, and that a decade's worth of Augustana students have benefited from the vision of the Gerber Center — to develop and sustain a community of student scholars and to create spaces that provide a sense of belonging for all.

While each of these projects had different origin stories and pathways to completion, they share a few things in common. First, each project built upon the success of an existing facility and made the most of its location. Next, the efforts reinforced activity zones (academic, athletics, student service/academic) that were defined by the college's first Campus Master Plan. Each introduced spaces where students could go "to see and be seen," which has become



an important emphasis on all capital projects since.

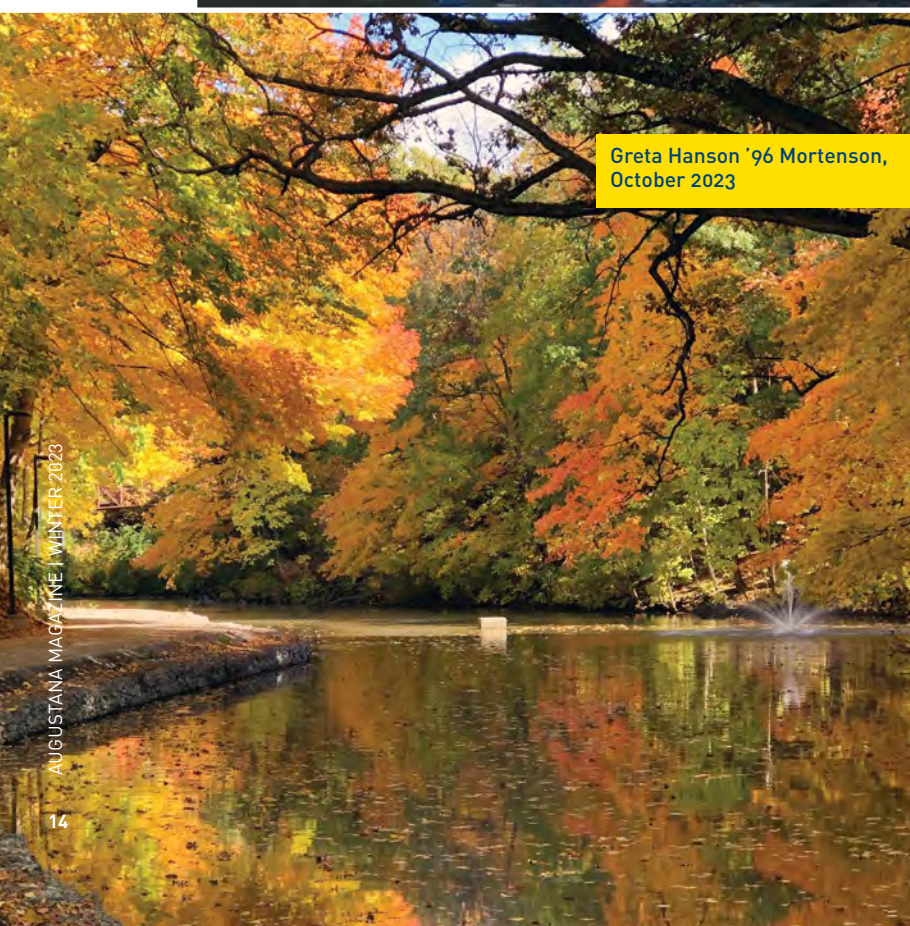
The college worked with the designers and contractors for each building to be as sustainable as possible, while being fiscally responsible.

Finally, these three projects attracted significant philanthropic support from enthusiastic donors. Alumni and friends of the college provided the funding to restore Old Main to its former glory, equip it with technology and ensure it remained the heart of the campus for years to come. The Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex attracted the largest capital gift in the college's history at the time. The Center for Student Life was ultimately named the Gerber Center in honor of 1975 graduate Murry Gerber's generous philanthropic support of the college.

I'm grateful to be part of a team that continuously seeks out ways our Augustana spaces can be re-imagined to serve the needs of our students today and tomorrow.

Slough spirit

One of the most iconic places on campus, the Slough is stunning in all seasons and memorable for many reasons. These images were submitted by alumni and friends of the college in the recent Slough Photo Contest, held in recognition of the Slough drainage and restoration project (page 3).



Greta Hanson '96 Mortenson,
October 2023



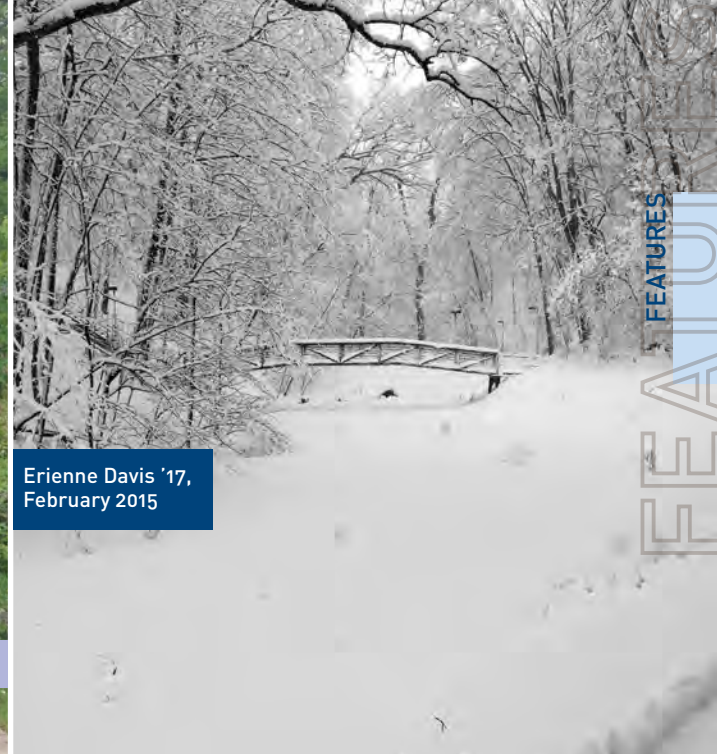
Alexis Hutson '17, Senior Slough Jump 2017



Ashley Marcinkus '20, October 2018



Alexis Hutson '17, May 2014



Erienne Davis '17,
February 2015



Anne Earel '01, October 2019



Josh Chamberlain
'22, October 2019



Joni Anderson '97 Lawson
submission: Morgan Weeks
'17 ice fishing, February 2016



Kevin Lauridsen,
Homecoming
Cardboard Regatta
Race 2023

Spivey's memorial mural replaces tears with joy

At first, he hesitated. Then he remembered what his mom always tells him: "If you ever feel you're not qualified for something, always do it anyway."

So yes! That was Augustana senior Aykeem Spivey's answer when his art professor, Peter Xiao, emailed him over the summer to ask if he would paint a memorial mural inside the Rock Island Center for Math and Science. The mural would commemorate Kris Hays, who taught in the district for more than 20 years. She passed away from cancer a year ago.

"Aykeem, you should do this," Spivey remembers his professor telling him. "I think you want to do this."

"But this was so different, so new," said Spivey, an art/psychology double major. "I'd never done anything as big as this, and the context of what it was for seemed so meaningful to so many people, and that was 110% intimidating, but I said yes."

In early November, Hays' family members, friends and co-workers gathered to celebrate the 20-foot by 10-foot mural Spivey designed and painted for no fee. Those who

knew Hays recognized the personal touches Spivey made sure he brought to the mural.

"I didn't know her, but through painting this, I feel like I got to know her," he said. "And from what I've been told, the small connections she and I shared are special because you really just can't make that up."

Located next to the classroom where Hays taught, the mural's outdoor scene features animals, sunflowers, butterflies and two people sitting in butterfly chairs reading books on imagination and on being unique. Hays' favorite color purple (also Spivey's) is featured, as well as how deer would eat the sunflower seeds she planted at the school and how she inspired her students to be their authentic selves — something that especially resonates with Spivey.

"I don't think Aykeem understands the gift he has given us — one that will carry Kris' legacy for years to come," said Shaya Smith, a fourth-grade teacher who taught across the hall from Hays' classroom for nine years.

"If you are lucky enough to spend time with Aykeem, you can tell he is kind, creative and sort of a unicorn out in this world. Kris would adore him, which makes it even more special."

Coming full circle

Spivey never anticipated he would be painting a mural at an elementary school for two weeks last summer and during the first few weeks of his senior year at Augustana. And for someone who didn't used to like painting that much, he's shocked to still find himself painting every day.

Now that the mural is completed, he is devoting more time to his two Senior Inquiry projects.

For his art Senior Inquiry with Professor Xiao, he's painting a series of portraits of strangers and people he knows who have made an impact on him. His psychology Senior Inquiry with Dr. Jamie Nordling is more research-oriented. Spivey is looking at graduate programs in art therapy.

"Art therapy has been on my mind since I got to Augie," Spivey said. "But I was more interested in the research than the art part. I didn't think I'd be this into art when I got here, but I think it's only encouraged the idea of doing art therapy even more. So it's all starting to come full circle."

He credits his mentor, Professor Xiao, with continually encouraging him to keep painting, to keep figuring himself out through the canvas. "One day it just clicked, and those words have stuck with me ever since," Spivey said.

Professor Xiao is convinced Spivey is headed for the big time. "He's the future," Professor Xiao said. "If he goes to New York or L.A. to expand his opportunities, he has the personality, scope and talent to be famous."

Healing through art

At the reception to celebrate the completion of Spivey's mural, some of Hays' family members were moved to tears by what he created in Hays' memory.



Shaya Smith, one of Kris Hays' teaching partners, thanks Spivey at the reception.

"It was amazing to see something I made make a person feel that way," Spivey said. "That's something I'd love to be a recurring thing ... 100%."

Spivey said the opportunity to paint the mural impacted him more than he expected. Others felt the same.

"Watching the mural unfold was quite healing," Smith said. "The families during conferences came to see it, and I could hear them talking about Mrs. Hays. Teachers who normally don't come to our hallway came to look at its progress with smiles and stories as well."

"Joy has replaced our tears, and that would make Kris happy."



Spivey's memorial mural incorporates many of Kris Hays' personal interests — animals, sunflowers, butterflies and books.

Mentors, friends and professional connections do matter

By Leslie DuPree

Three successful Augustana grads, three different careers, three different stories.

But not entirely.

Establishing a career takes knowledge and skills, no question. But Augustana also taught Andrew Brimeyer, Madison Williams and Janice Wu another thing: Mentors, friends and professional connections matter, too. And that reaching out and listening to others is its own kind of knowledge:

- Brimeyer found his path to teaching after long conversations with his roommate and coaches about values.
- Williams' class assignments required networking. Then she found she positively enjoyed asking advice from people in her chosen profession of sports journalism.
- Wu battled imposter syndrome at Microsoft with a series of personal get-acquainted meetings with each of her new co-workers.



Andrew Brimeyer '15, English literature and business management double major

After Augustana, Andrew Brimeyer earned a master's in education at Notre Dame. He's been teaching junior high students at Annunciation Catholic School in Denver the past seven years. Most of his students are the children of immigrants and refugees.

He's also the cross country coach and founder/director of Denver Urban XC, which encourages students of color to get involved in running.

Not one to miss a chance to network, Brimeyer attended a conference last winter called the Boulder Running Clinic, and met coaches from all around the country. Some have had national champions and are sending their runners to Division I colleges.

"I think the most important thing is to just not be afraid to approach those people," he said. "Because at the end of the day, they're just people."

"And if you go up and you are curious and you ask questions, they love talking to you. And so that's a huge piece of advice I have for anybody going into any field: Just find people whom you really admire in your field and don't be afraid to ask them questions. Most of the time they're going to be willing to help you out, and you're going to grow."

Brimeyer reflected that coaches and faculty at Augustana helped him clarify his values and find a path for them in teaching and coaching.

"My time at Augie made me realize that whatever it is that you're doing, there's got to be something bigger to it," he said.

Coach Paul Olsen taught him that running cross country is more than just running.

"Every time we're out there, we're celebrating life, and to me, that's important," Brimeyer said. "In all of my work I try to make sure that there's joy and passion, because that will carry over to the kids."

He is grateful for the guidance he received at Augustana in searching for a passion and for something that was "more than just a job."



Andrew Brimeyer, teacher and cross country coach, founded Denver Urban XC.



Earlier this year, Madison Williams wrote a feature on Sister Jean from Loyola University Chicago for Sports Illustrated.

Madison Williams '20, multimedia journalism and mass communication major and French minor

Madison Williams took her Augustana diploma and a master's in journalism from Northwestern University straight to Sports Illustrated as a breaking news writer in 2022.

When she arrived at Augustana, she had a career in sports journalism in mind and set to work making it happen. She was a sports reporter for the Augustana Observer for three years, and then sports editor. Her Senior Inquiry was an analysis of DIII sports.

Williams knew she wanted to go to a small school, but she worried that she wouldn't have as many opportunities there.

"I actually got to do a lot more than I probably would have at a bigger school," she said. "They gave me the opportunities right off the bat."

Her biggest opportunity was covering Viking men's basketball, where she learned the tools of her trade from professional journalists.

"I'm at the media table, you know, 18 years old!" she said. "It was a really cool experience for me to see all the interviews and then my sophomore and junior year, we hosted DIII March Madness. I was able to be around professional sports journalists, people coming in from all over to report on the teams."

Williams brings everything she learned to work every day: how to write a lead, how to talk to sources and what questions to ask.

She also brought her interest in networking.

"I did it a lot because it was cool to just be able to talk to people who are doing what I wanted to do," she said. "I thought that would be helpful for me to hear their perspective."

Williams became skilled at sleuthing out the contact information of people she wanted to know. And then she just emailed them her questions.

"I wanted someone who would actually take the time to give me meaningful advice, and I definitely think I got that," Williams said. "One of the funny things is though, I had reached out to a writer at Sports Illustrated, and now she's my co-worker."

She added, "When it comes to networking, just be willing to ask any questions. Even if you think they might not all want to answer."

Williams wants to help tell meaningful stories for people who might not otherwise have an outlet.

"Even if it is a sports story that may seem silly, there are things in the sports world that are very serious," she said. "That's what journalism does: We tell the stories that people need to hear about."

She's also been thinking more about working in a male-dominated field. At Augustana, she noticed she was the only woman reporting on DIII basketball.

So when Mattel announced that Barbie's Career of the Year in 2022 was "Women in Sports," Williams had an idea. She interviewed the NFL's first woman coach, Jen Welter, for her thoughts on opportunities for women to have careers in sports.

Mattel sent Williams a note thanking her for a story inspiring the next generation of girls.

"It was something that I never really thought about because I'm so young into my career," Williams said. "So I'm not saving a life or anything, but I do want to inspire people."

(continued on next page)



Madison Williams reported from the 2022 College Football Playoff National Championship Game in Indianapolis.



Janice Wu is a communications manager handling public relations for Microsoft's Azure cloud platform.

Janice Wu '18, business administration-management, business administration-management information systems

Janice Wu's family immigrated to the United States when she was 6. The daughter of a "tiger mom," Wu set her sights on becoming a neurosurgeon. Though she worked hard to prepare, she wasn't accepted at her top choice medical school.

"I had failed. The best undergraduate medical program didn't want me," Wu writes in her blog. "I wasn't good enough. That's what I believed for many years."

But then as she began to look at other schools, invitations to apply to Augustana in her mailbox caught Wu's attention. Counselors told her she would be a good fit.

She walked onto campus a pre-med student and walked off campus a business grad.

"It was a completely different path than the one I had planned for myself when I was 14, but it has brought me on an entirely new adventure ... to Microsoft," she said.

Today, Wu is a communications manager, handling public relations for Microsoft's Azure cloud platform.

"One of the things they tell you in school, aside from getting good grades and leadership roles, is to network," she said. "The concept of networking has always been awkward to me. You mean you want me to go up to a random stranger who doesn't know me and ask them to help me with, arguably, one of the most important things in my life – my career?"

Her achievements had come from hard work and skills, not contacts, because she was the child of an immigrant family who didn't know anyone in their community. However, once she entered college, she saw that a lack of connections was a disadvantage.

"So network I did," Wu writes in her blog. "I started with on-campus events, because that wasn't so awkward to me.

These people were students here once, I can relate to them. Then I went on LinkedIn."

In the meantime, she and Connor Woolf '17 won the 2017 Rogers Business Plan Competition at Augustana. The Advertising Developers Club gave her the presentation skills and portfolio pieces that set her apart at job interviews. "I am confident the marketing plans and business plan played a role in helping me land my job at Microsoft!" she said.

Typically, Wu threw herself into networking as diligently as she studied, and turned a chance encounter into a pivotal internship.

Wu, working a summer job as a restaurant hostess, noticed a vice president at ADP at a luncheon and introduced herself. She talked about studying at Augustana as a business major, and her goal to work in technology.

"To my surprise, she said, 'Add me on LinkedIn.' I sent her a message asking if she wanted to meet up. A week later, we went out to lunch." And a few months later, Wu had an internship at ADP (Automatic Data Processing, Inc.).

"I'm a firm believer of creating your own luck," she said. "I guess that's what my professors meant when they said, 'Go network.' Networking means making opportunities for yourself."

Wu took her newfound networking skills to her job at Microsoft in 2018. Right away, she set up 30-minute meetings with each person in her work circle.

"I was intimidated by my new teammates, and I wanted to formally introduce myself before I felt comfortable asking for their input on a project," she said. "These meetings helped me get to know them as a person and helped them get to know me.

"Each and every single person you talk to helps you grow. That includes the person you share a cubicle or desk with, your manager, your manager's manager, the receptionist, and yes, even the big bosses of the company."



Ensemble Room

Take a look! Bergendoff Hall transformed



Hamann Concert Hall

The three-phase renovation of Bergendoff Hall of Fine Arts, home to Augustana's music and art history programs and the Center for Visual Art, is complete.

The goal of the renovation was to advance the building to match the quality of the academic programs housed inside. Improvements included more modern classrooms, practice spaces, performance venues, common spaces, faculty offices and more.

Julie Hamann '82 Elliott was a lead supporter of the Bergendoff renovation and issued a dollar-for-dollar \$1 million challenge to jumpstart the fundraising. An anonymous donor contributed \$2 million for improvements in December 2021.

Hundreds of donors made the \$11.2 million transformation possible, which began in the summer of 2021.

A rededication ceremony took place during Homecoming Weekend in October.



Student Lounge



Rehearsal Room

Alumnae mentor first-year students in new academy



Members of the Brenda Barnes Leadership Academy explored the Quad Cities with President Andrea Talentino (back row, gold jacket).

Twenty-nine students of Augustana's Class of 2027 make up the inaugural cohort of the Brenda Barnes Leadership Academy (BBLA). These first-year, high-achieving female students are taking part in community-building events and mentorship experiences to help them become leaders.

"Brenda Czajka Barnes was a leader with a vision for the world that included the empowerment of women to make change in the world," said Augustana President Andrea Talentino. "The launch of the academy this year continues her legacy and will inspire the brightest young women from Illinois to follow in her footsteps and impact their professions, families and friends in the same way that Brenda did."

After Barnes graduated from Augustana in 1975, her unrivaled work ethic took her from business manager at Wilson Sporting Goods in 1976 to president and CEO of Pepsi-Cola North America 20 years later. In 1997 she left Pepsi-Cola to spend more time with her children. She returned to the corporate world as COO of Sara Lee in 2004.

A year later, she was promoted to president and CEO of Sara Lee, then the largest female-run Fortune 500 company. In 2010, Barnes was ranked 10th on Fortune magazine's Most Powerful Women list.

Throughout her life, Barnes generously shared her time, talents and gifts with the college to ensure that Augustana students have the same transforming experience she had. She served 16 years as a college trustee, including five years as the board chair.

"I credit Augie for so much of what I have," she said in a 2012 interview with Augustana College Magazine. "I give back what I can to a place that gave so much to me."

Barnes passed away in 2017, remembered by Augustana as an inspirational leader who knew it was important for young women to have mentors. The academy aims to instill the leadership and perspective of its namesake.

All BBLA members have been matched with mentors — Augustana alumnae who will meet in person or virtually once a month with their BBLA mentee to provide support and perspectives from their career experience.

Courtney Wallace, Augustana's assistant vice president for enrollment management, said the mentorship relationship will carry through the participants' first year at Augustana.

"We know as professionals how important networking and finding mentorship or sponsorship is," Wallace said. "We know students these days may be less comfortable in those situations, so we want to make sure these women feel comfortable and understand

the value and perspective a great mentor can provide."

BBLA events held this fall included a session on emotional intelligence and helping participants find their authentic selves.

Augustana alumnae interested in becoming a future BBLA mentor may contact Courtney Wallace at courtneywallace@augustana.edu.



In 2012, Brenda Czajka '75 Barnes met with Hilary Timmerman '13, Ly Pham '12 and Courtney Grob '12 to talk about ways to balance work and family, the role of a CEO, the importance of hard work to attain their goals, and more.

'16 grad combats newborn mortality in rural Kenya

USAF Captain Jackie Jastrzebski '16 Lockett is so proud of her Augustana classmate Dr. Alyssa Nelson '16 Motzel that she wanted to share her story. "She's a hero — she's my hero," said Lockett, who wrote the following tribute. "She's the ultimate example of what can be achieved with hard work and an Augie education."

Alyssa Nelson arrived on campus in 2012 with aspirations to one day save young lives. She never imagined her Augustana education and unwavering determination would lead her to rural Kenya to combat endemic newborn mortality.

Earlier this year, Dr. Alyssa Nelson Motzel, who had just completed her second year of pediatrics residency through Authority Health at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, left for Mutomo, Kenya.

Located roughly 140 miles southeast of Nairobi, Mutomo is one of the poorest districts in the country with most

medicine — she jumped at the opportunity to impart her experience in saving young lives to others in Kenya.

By developing curriculum to teach neonatal resuscitation protocol (NRP) to medical practitioners at the Our Lady of Lourdes Mutomo Hospital, Dr. Motzel was determined to not only provide continuing medical education for her peers, but also help them continue to train others.

Dr. Motzel's curriculum taught physicians and nurses alike to spring into action upon the birth of a newborn having difficulty breathing and suffering from birth asphyxia.

Through lecture and hands-on training, staff learned NRP. In one session, Dr. Motzel's team received real-world training when she used the protocol to save a newborn's life.

While she may never know the full effect of her efforts, the American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that adequate



Dr. Alyssa Motzel and Lilian Kemunto, a pharmacist at the Our Lady of Lourdes Mutomo Hospital



Dr. Motzel developed a curriculum to not only teach neonatal resuscitation protocol to her medical peers in Mutomo, Kenya, but also help them to train others.

homes lacking electricity and plumbing. Residents endure long, severe droughts coupled with sudden flash flooding.

The number of maternal deaths in the sub-county where Mutomo is located is exceedingly high, and one in eight children do not live to see their fifth birthday. Birth asphyxia, one of the leading causes of newborn mortality in Kenya, occurs when a newborn's brain does not receive enough oxygen before, during or right after birth.

Dr. Motzel expressed interest in a variety of medical disciplines before her time at Augustana, but a college-sponsored medical mission trip to Nicaragua during her junior year helped solidify her passion for pediatrics.

Fast-forward eight years — after earning a doctorate in osteopathic medicine and practicing thousands of hours in

NRP skills can reduce early newborn mortality by up to 47%.

In addition to her goal of reducing newborn mortality, Dr. Motzel performed a variety of medical procedures outside the realm of pediatrics while in Mutomo. From a gallbladder removal to Cesarean sections, and snake bites to meningitis, she approached each patient with the confidence she began building at Augustana more than a decade ago.

Dr. Motzel internalized the power of teamwork early on as a biology and pre-medicine major at Augustana. She credits the college's collaborative approach to learning for her ability to problem-solve as a member of a team today.

As the practitioners she taught in Mutomo continue to teach others, this alumna's impact will last long after her time in Kenya.

CLASS NOTES

Received July 3–Oct. 15, 2023

1958

Phillip Hubbard wrote a book, "From Death Row To Freedom: The Struggle for Racial Justice in the Pitts-Lee Case," about a celebrated murder case (1965-1975) that he handled as a public defender with another attorney. It was published in June 2023, by University Press of Florida.

1965

Tinka Kulzer Bloedow married Don Werdick on May 13, 2023.

1966

Judith Salmon Kaur retired as emeritus professor of oncology after 29 years of teaching, practicing and cancer research at Mayo Clinic.

1967

Ann Boaden writes fiction, poetry and articles that appear in a variety of literary journals and magazines (including on occasion the Augustana College Magazine!). Her YA novel, "Fritiof's Story," begun as a collaboration with the late Augustana geology professor Dr. Fritiof Fryxell, Class of 1922, was released in 2017 by Augustana Historical Society Publications.

1968

Rick Sandway married Mary Beard on Jan. 28, 2023, in Ascension Chapel.

Toni Mitchell Tollerud retired as professor emerita, Northern Illinois University, in 2020, after teaching for 30 years.

1970

Ray Schroeder received the honorary doctorate in Humane Letters on May 23 at the 2023 Commencement Ceremonies of the University of Illinois

Springfield (UIS). He is professor emeritus of communication at UIS and continues as senior fellow for the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). In July, he was honored with an inaugural national award by UPCEA — the Ray Schroeder Leadership Award for the Advancement of Digital Learning.

1972

Mark Bloom retired after working 30 years at the Cook County (Chicago) Medical Examiner's Office.

Leroy Marsh is in his 51st year of teaching at Munster High School in Munster, Ind. He coached football there for 45 years and was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

Wayne Miller was honored in October by the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois with the 2023 "True Friend Award."

Norm Peterson retired from Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rhinelander in 2013, but he continues to serve the community as the deputy chief of the Town of Pelican Fire/Rescue and as an emergency medical responder.

Mona Wells Welvaert is teaching part-time at Augustana in the mathematics and computer science department.

1975

Marilyn Finke Broccolo retired as an area coordinator, K-12 education, in May 2022.

Carl (Marty) Lindquist and his wife, Kim Conner, climbed Africa's highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro, in February (19,341 ft.).

1976

Gary Shank retired from pastoral ministry on May 31, 2023.

1977

William Farrow was appointed by the board of Cboe Global Markets as lead director. He has served on the board since 2016. He is the owner of Winston and Wolfe LLC, a privately held technology development and advisory company.

1978

Dixie Thuline Burress retired as treasurer of the International Trumpet Guild, after 13 years.

Jeffrey Stafford retired in 2022, after 40 years as director of the Robert R. Jones Public Library in Coal Valley, Ill.

1979

Christopher Johnson retired in September 2022.

1980

Jeffrey Howell retired in January 2023 from Music & Arts after 23 years as an educational representative providing music instruments and services. Previous to that, he worked for 17 years in the brokerage industry.

Deborah Skowronski Howell retired in December 2022 as a senior regulatory specialist at Ecolab after 42 years in the chemical industry at Ecolab and Nalco Chemical Company.

1981

Jane Dalton was promoted to full professor of art education at the University of North Carolina Charlotte in May 2023. She recently had a book published, titled "The Mindful Studio: Cultivating Creativity and Well-Being in the Art Classroom."

1982

Ann McGovern Pedersen recently participated in a Summer Study Abroad Program in Bordeaux, France. The program was with College

of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Ill. She works part-time as the business office coordinator at Village of Glen Ellyn, Ill. She is also Augustana's 1982 class representative and joined the Augustana Alumni Association Board this fall.

Mark Pedersen works part-time at Penske Trucks, West Chicago, Ill. He is an active volunteer at Faith Lutheran Church and Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, both in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

1984

Cheryl Draeger is the pastor of a small house church, Ecumenical Fellowship Church, with an outdoor chapel named Goose Hollow Meditation Garden in Davenport, Iowa, which is open to the public.

Lori DeVore Dryg is serving a three-year commitment on the Augustana Alumni Association Board. She supervises the Pediatric Therapy Center at Genesis Health System in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Jon France came out of retirement to be the city manager of Baker City, Ore.

Susan Schipper Rezin joined Northern Illinois University's Rebuilding Democracy Lecture Series to kick off its fourth season. She is an Illinois state senator, and was selected as one of the 2020 Women of Excellence Award honorees by the National Foundation for Women Legislators.

Lisa Morris Tierney retired from Brenart Eye Clinic in December 2022, after practicing optometry for 35 years.

Beth Venn is the executive director of Neltje Center for Excellence in Creativity and the Arts at the University of Wyoming.

1986

Susan Modder Harvey attained the level of FT (Fellow in Thanatology) through the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She continues to specialize in grief and loss in her private practice as a psychotherapist.

Meg Grenke Knapper retired from teaching after 36 years of service in the Davenport Community School District.

John Swanson is the pastor for Hope Lutheran Church in Milton, Wis.

1987

Kevin McKee published his first book, "Dear Jon: Emails to a Drummer." It's a *vade mecum* that painstakingly recounts a quarter century of email exchanges between two college acquaintances and their favorite drummer, Jon Schwartz.

1988

Lynda Simmons-Pierce is president and CEO of Global Accent Reduction Services, which provides services to professional athletes in the MLB, NBA, NHL and China NBA.

Donna Knurek-Soderman completed her administrative services credential in June. She is employed by the Alvard Unified School District in Riverside, Calif., as a secondary instructional coach.

1990

Melissa Schlosser Owens received her master's in biology from Miami University in December 2022, with a research focus in environmental conservation.

1991

Clyde Grady is a member of the Augustana Alumni Association Board.

1993

Clark Collins was appointed by the governor as an inaugural member of the State of Wisconsin Physician Assistant Board.

Rafael "Ray" Estrada is running for Congress as the Republican candidate in Illinois' 17th District.

1995

Kristina Hansen Boardman was appointed deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, making her the agency's first woman to serve in the role.

Charlie Kyle is the superintendent for Burr Ridge (Illinois) School District 180.

1997

Mark Nelson is the director of track & field and cross country and head track coach at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill.

Audrey Wheeler Adamson is the executive director of the Career Center and Quad Cities Outreach at Western Illinois University.

1998

Jennifer Gruening Burge earned her Doctorate of Education from Bradley University.

Ivory Clark is the 2023-2024 principal for Summit School, a private special education program in Elgin, Ill.

Deidre Erlenborn Dobbels is a clinical assistant professor of speech-language pathology at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill.

2000

Nathan Ament is vice president for enrollment and dean of admission at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill.



Oldest grad at Homecoming: At the age of 98, Ken Clauson '48 celebrated his 75-year class reunion at Homecoming in early October. His daughter, 1972 grad Elaine Clauson Hewes, also attended, along with several family members. A resident of St. Charles, Ill., Clauson has attended almost all of his five-year reunions through the years. He says he plans to return to campus in 2025, when he is 100. Clauson is a retired vice president with Goldman Sachs.

2002

Michelle Leonard Greenwood received the 2023 Educator of the Year award from the Rock Island-Milan School District #41.

2003

Angelique Hedman Minett is the national chair of the Scouts BSA program. She is the first woman to hold this position.

2004

Jessica Harrison Berek earned her Doctorate of Education in 2021. She serves as the dean of health sciences at Kishwaukee College.

James Juliano published his debut novel, "Dead Eleven," with Dutton Books.

2005

Kristi Vana Cobble and her husband, Chris, had a daughter, Addalyn, on March 19, 2023.

2006

Brent Spitzer and his wife, Jessica, had twins, Scarlett Jolene and Benjamin Van, on Nov. 21, 2022.

2007

Abby Razer was one of 16 chosen for the 2023 cohort of the L.E.A.D. (Leading, Empowering, Advocating, Developing) SIU Carbondale Initiative, a select group of faculty and staff interested in learning more about higher education leadership and the complexities of operating a public university in today's world.

2008

Jen Windmiller is senior associate director of athletics at Bethany College in Bethany, W.V.

2010

William Hatchet displayed an art exhibit, managed by Quad City Arts, in the Airport Gallery at the Quad City International Airport.

Max Petersen joined the Department of Medicine, in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Lipid Research, as an instructor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

2011

Jordan Conerty was named head of school for Champaign's Academy High. He is also an instructor in the University of Illinois' Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

The literary magazine **Julia Nusbaum** founded, HerStry, was featured nationally on The Babblery and on the PRX exchange. The episode features an in-depth exploration of women's storytelling, from talking about the roots of HerStry, to the reasons why women still need a space — a brave space — in which to share their stories with each other.

Taylor Pouliot Zelnio was named a Rising Star at the 2023 Women of Distinction Awards, by McKnight's Long-Term Care News. She is director of resident services at Crest Healthcare in Skokie, Ill.

2012

Laurel Householder Boyer and her husband, Tyler, had a son, Felix Owen Boyer, on Aug. 24, 2023.

Sam Latham married Catherine Johnson on May 27, 2023.

2013

Amelia Garza graduated from Loyola University Chicago's Quinlan School of Business MBA Baumhart Scholars Program.

Shannon Slick Greenlee had a son, Beckett Greenlee. He joins big brother, Easton.

Deonna Sekikawa Klobe is an instructional designer and corporate trainer for WellBe Senior Medical.

Anna Lundine graduated from Loyola University with a master's in social work in May 2023 and is working as an ASAP adoption and guardianship therapist with Metropolitan Family Services.

Emily Margosian and her husband, Andrew, had a son, Oscar Margosian Sirota, on Feb. 6, 2023.

Robin Quinn Marrano had a daughter in March 2023.

Mike Mertel and his wife, Katie, received the Rock Island Citizen of the Year award (education). He teaches world studies at Rock Island High School. He also founded the RIHS Education Internship Program and leads the Cultural Appreciation Club.

Ashley Heppner Richter is the executive director for the United Way of Lee County.

2014

James Stratton is an investigative journalist at WISN-TV in Milwaukee, Wis.

2015

Elyzia Powers completed her Ph.D. in educational psychology in December 2022 and is currently an assistant professor of psychology at Minot State University in Minot, N.D.

Alumni to serve as trustees

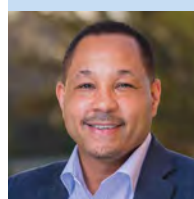
Five of the six members elected Oct. 6 to Augustana's Board of Trustees are alumni. Each will serve a term of four years.

President Andrea Talentino is grateful for these leaders for stepping up to support Augustana's mission and values.

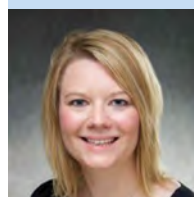
"Trustees ensure Augustana continues to educate students who are ready to make meaningful change in the world," she said. "Engaged trustees help shape the experience of Augustana students and lead us into the future."



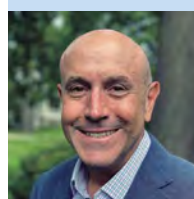
Leslee S. Hager '93 is vice president and comptroller at John Deere. She holds leadership roles with the National Association of Black Accountants for the Deere organization, the Augustana College Accounting Advisory Board, Upward Bound and Deere & Company partnership, and the iJAG Program for Rock Island High School.



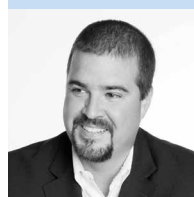
Darrell Owens '90 is senior vice president and CEO of the Lifestyle Platform at Synchrony, one of the nation's premier consumer financial services companies. In 2002, with his wife Deidre, Owens launched a diversity scholarship to help close the education gap by providing greater opportunities for students of color at Augustana College.



Brigit E. Ray '07, M.D., M.M.E. is a clinical associate professor of family medicine at The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She serves on The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine's Medical Education Council and the Graduate Medical Education Council, and chairs the Clinical Teaching Collaborative.



Daryl Roser '91 is a managing director at Accenture, currently serving as the chief financial officer for the U.S. Midwest Market Unit. He is a member of Accenture's Global and North America Leadership councils.



Matthew Stoodley '97 is a data security and privacy global black belt for Microsoft, where he works with Microsoft's Federal enterprises to learn about, adopt and deploy Microsoft's Purview Compliance offerings.



The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells is the executive director of the Network of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Colleges and Universities, a network of 27 colleges and universities of the ELCA. Wells also serves as strategic advisor for diversity, equity and inclusion for Wartburg Theological Seminary, and is currently the national president of the African Descent Lutheran Association.

2016

Marie Brzezinski received her master's in education-school counseling from Western Illinois University. She is the MS/HS counselor in the River Ridge School District in Hanover, Ill.

Nelly Cheboi served as a judge for the inaugural Forbes 30 Under 30 Local Chicago list, identifying those who are revolutionizing art, tech and business in Chicago.

Stephen Dempsey defended his Ph.D. thesis in chemistry at the University of Minnesota in February 2023 and started work as a postdoctoral researcher studying the chemical recycling of waste plastics and composites at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo., in April.

Sara Ruzevich married Matt Innocenti on Nov. 19, 2022. She is the senior family advocate and forensic interviewer with the Will County Children's Advocacy Center.

Brittany Tommila is the director of the Almost Home Humane Society in Lafayette, Ind.

2017

Victoria Lason Harrod had an article published in the Scientific Reports section of Nature.com on May 20, 2022.

Chris Saladin successfully defended his dissertation and graduated from the University of Minnesota with his Ph.D. in ancient history. He is an assistant visiting professor at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., this fall.

2018

Gustav Benson and Christianne Albers '21 were married on June 30, 2023.

2019

Shelby Burroughs Garrison graduated in May with a Doctorate of Audiology from Illinois State University. She is working at Audiology Consultants P.C. in Davenport, Iowa/Moline, Ill.

Danie Janacek is a family law attorney licensed to practice in Iowa and Illinois.

Max Maharry graduated from Washington University School of Law in May 2023. He is an associate attorney in the real estate group at Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP in Chicago.

Raisha Shrestha is marketing and events coordinator at Prada.

Brandon Wilkerson and Jill Humecke '20 were married in July 2023.

Nicholas Zammuto is an associate attorney at the Chicago-based law firm Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen, P.C. He'll work predominantly from its Rockford, Ill., location, specializing in commercial litigation, bankruptcy and professional liability.

2020

Kate Black works for the Community Foundation in Rockford, Ill.

Robert Burke is pursuing a graduate degree in urban planning and policy and serving as a teaching assistant at the University of Illinois Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.

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Augustana
COLLEGE



2023

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNERS



Alumni Association Award winners were celebrated at a reception during Homecoming Weekend: clockwise, **Dr. Alan Bridges '79** – The Outstanding Achievement Award; **Colleen Leonardo '10** – The Finest Under Forty Outstanding Alumna Award; **Dr. Wendy Hilton-Morrow '94** – The Viking Vocation Award; and **The Rev. Wayne Miller '72** – The Richard A. Swanson Humanitarian Award.

Sean Cavanaugh was promoted to director of candidate development at Hire an Esquire after being acquired by Major, Lindsey & Africa in Chicago.

Isabel Dawson is the executive director of the Puppet Co. in Glen Echo Park, Md.

Jill Humecke and **Brandon Wilkerson '19** were married in July 2023.

Alexis Karon graduated with a master's in environmental policy and management, with a specialization in environmental justice, from the University of California, Davis. He now lives and works in San Francisco, Calif.

Gregory Middleton had an article published in the Scientific Reports section of Nature.com on May 26, 2023.

Natalia Pinto is a fourth-year dental student.

Justin Verlinden received the Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award for outstanding graduate student research in psychology from

the Research Society on Alcohol. He is a cognitive neuroscience Ph.D. student at the University of Kentucky.

Allessandra West is featured in a recent volume of The Scroll, an Illinois American String Teachers Association publication. She co-wrote an article about making musical connections with students, and a photograph of her conducting is on the cover.

2021

Christianne Albers and **Gustav Benson '18** were married on June 30, 2023.

2022

Dheeray Thapa is pursuing a master's in mechanical engineering at Iowa State University.

2023

Noor Ul Ain is pursuing a Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



The Alumni Association presented the Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to members of Latinos Unidos who were on campus to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary. Dr. Natasha Flowers '95 also received the Award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, but was unable to attend the celebration.

Ella Aldridge is pursuing a master's in speech-language pathology at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Eirik Andersen is an audit associate at BDO Norge in Drammen, Viken, Norway.

Kathryn Benschish is attending Loyola University Chicago to earn a Master of Social Work.

Claire Bess is pursuing a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sofia Briggs is an integration engineer at Epic in Verona, Wis.

Abdou Allah Camara is an audit and assurance junior analyst at Deloitte.

Carly Davis is a reporter with the Adams Publishing Group in Wisconsin.

Lindsey Edwards is pursuing a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at the University

of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana-Champaign.

Zach Gooding is attending the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, pursuing a master's in business analytics.

Abigail Johnson is a French teacher at Pleasant Valley Junior High and High School in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Maja Johnson is in the Master's Programme in Scandinavian Studies at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Evan Juarez is the international admissions counselor at Augustana College.

Briana Kunstman is pursuing a Ph.D. in social-personality psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Alison Lawrence is pursuing an M.D. at the University of California Irvine.

Gabriela Loiz is in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Des Moines University.

Michaela Magee is an audit intern for Ernst & Young in McLean, Va.

Joe Marcucci is attending the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill.

Kate Martino is a business analyst for Amazon Web Services at its HQ2 in Arlington, Va.

Joyce Matanguihan is a second-grade teacher at Bowlesburg Elementary in Silvis, Ill.

Joseph McCoy is a reporter for WQAD News 8 in Moline, Ill.

Jared Reiling is pursuing a Ph.D. in computational mathematics, science and engineering at Michigan State University.

Nate Sammer is a business and finance manager for O'Neal Builders in Bloomington, Ill.

Maeve Sheridan is a tax associate with Andersen in Chicago.

Rebecca Smuck is attending the University of Kansas to earn a master's in speech-language pathology.

Linnea Tabaka is pursuing a master's in speech-language pathology at East Tennessee State University.

Chi Vu is attending Boston University, pursuing a Master of Arts in Emerging Media Studies.

Hannah Weber is pursuing a Master of Science in Geography and Environmental Resources at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Shadrack Muntari Whabyely is attending the University of Illinois at Springfield to earn a double master's in environmental planning and management and international business.

DEATHS

Received July 3–Oct. 15, 2023

Ruth Holmer '43 Friberg on Dec. 17, 2020.

Kenneth Soderstrom '44 on May 13, 2023.

Marguerite Bishop '46 Pierce on July 21, 2023.

Dagmar Peterson '47 on Oct. 29, 2018.

Doris Anderson '48 Hawkins on March 10, 2023.

Nils Hanson '49 on April 26, 2023.

Barbara Betke '50 Matsen on July 18, 2020.

***Doren Russler '50** on Sept. 18, 2023.

Wayne Simonsen '50 on June 8, 2020.

Glenn Flora '51 Calisch on July 12, 2023.

***Stanley Coin '51** on Oct. 7, 2023.

Harvey Kallberg '51 on July 30, 2023.

Marilyn Ekdahl '51 Ravicz on April 13, 2023.

***Howard Thompson '51** on July 5, 2023.

***Phyllis Bood '52 Anderson** on April 30, 2023.

Lyman Lundeen '52 on Aug. 10, 2023.

Peggy Lundberg '52 Walter on July 1, 2022.

Richard Alberding '53 on June 18, 2023.

Donald Carlson '53 on Sept. 17, 2023.

Irene Pearson '53 Jinks on June 5, 2023.

Beverly Frankenberg '53 Johnson on April 28, 2023.

Kenneth Tillman '54 on Sept. 10, 2023.

Rowan Munson '55 on May 10, 2022.

Carol Rausch '56 Albright on May 20, 2023.

***Joann Paetz '56 Dickinson** on April 21, 2023.

***Carol Gustafson '56 Eckdahl** on Oct. 23, 2022.

Marilyn Spangler '56 Hessen on March 9, 2019.

James Kappler '56 on Sept. 9, 2023.

Sharon Pierce '56 Mann on June 27, 2023.

Katharine Evans '57 Anderson on Feb. 2, 2022.

Pauline Johnson '57 Easter on Dec. 22, 2022.

***Donald France '57** on March 7, 2023.

Charles Green '57 on Dec. 12, 2021.

Ralph Hines '57 on Jan. 31, 2023.

Carol Broline '57 Kawamoto on July 22, 2022.

DEATHS (continued)

Leon Linquist '57 on June 19, 2023.

Joan Nelson '57 Pierotti on Sept. 2, 2023.

David Reid '57 on June 25, 2022.

Carol Nordine '57 Schweizer on Aug. 26, 2022.

Don Sundquist '57 on Aug. 27, 2023.

***Arlene Hansen '57 Walley** on July 21, 2023.

Eugene Beenk '58 on April 23, 2021.

Richard Benson '58 on Aug. 22, 2023.

Marshall Hesler '58 on Feb. 24, 2019.

Alan Johnson '58 on Jan. 2, 2022.

John Swanson '58 on Aug. 7, 2023.

Deanna Gustafson '59 Barnds on Sept. 2, 2023.

Thomas Johnson '59 on April 7, 2023.

Marilyn Turnquist '60 Molen on June 2, 2023.

Anita Wolke '60 Reid on Dec. 18, 2022.

Richard Sjolund '60 on Aug. 16, 2023.

Michael Bemis '61 on June 3, 2023.

Gary Colburn '61 on Feb. 23, 2023.

Judith Brown '61 Johnson on July 8, 2023.

Karen Leonhard '61 Lohse on Sept. 22, 2023.

Dorothy Stenman '61 on March 28, 2023.

Thomas Benson '62 on May 10, 2023.

Lynne Rosenbohm '62 Ewan on Sept. 30, 2023.

Rodney Henningsen '62 on Aug. 8, 2023.

Elaine Stone '62 Peterson on June 24, 2023.

Alice Hansen '62 Wilkens on June 17, 2023.

***Donald Fredrickson '63** on July 5, 2023.

David Nestander '63 on April 27, 2023.

Jerry Norsman '63 on Jan. 25, 2023.

Naomi Anderson '64 on July 25, 2022.

Wallis Winter '64 on Aug. 19, 2023.

Marsha Peterson '65 Bullwinkle on May 7, 2023.

Darwin Cook '65 on Feb. 26, 2023.

Robert Hein '65 on June 2, 2023.

Dennis Peterson '66 on May 8, 2023.

Michael Becker '67 on Sept. 4, 2023.

James Couch '67 on March 21, 2022.

Patricia Donegan '67 on Jan. 24, 2023.

Mildred Young '68 Burgess on April 10, 2021.

James Gustafson '68 on Aug. 20, 2023.

Joan Matuska '68 Lonstine on Sept. 27, 2023.

Billy Stuteville '68 on Jan. 16, 2023.

Charlene Skripsky '69 Engstrom on July 6, 2023.

Mary Bell '69 Fislar on Sept. 13, 2023.

***Delores Hall '69 Kindschuh** on April 30, 2023.

James Jackson '70 on Aug. 14, 2023.

Michael Pairn '70 on July 23, 2023.

David Beckstrom '71 on Sept. 17, 2023.

Craig Anderson '73 on Sept. 1, 2023.

Thomas Christell '73 on April 14, 2023.

Ann Hutchinson '73 on May 27, 2023.

Michael Lange '73 on Sept. 21, 2023.

Donald Rawhoof '73 on Feb. 4, 2019.

Don Rothweiler '73 on Oct. 12, 2022.

Alan Jenkins '74 on Dec. 13, 2022.

Michael Calhoun '75 on Jan. 5, 2023.

Robert Ogilvie '75 on July 4, 2023.

Mary Doyle '76 on April 23, 2023.

Gary Stimpson '77 on Aug. 28, 2023.

Denise Dahlke '82 Arpino on July 3, 2023.

Kent Frisbie '82 on Sept. 10, 2023.

Thomas Hartwell '82 on May 18, 2023.

Carol Fuge '82 Urbanik on July 25, 2023.

Georgerine Ebert '85 Eckert on Oct. 2, 2023.

Joseph Suarez '86 on April 23, 2023.

***Steven Ator '89** on April 3, 2023.

James Bisanz '90 on Sept. 5, 2023.

Michael Morrison '94 on Sept. 9, 2023.

Nicole Oliver '96 Lohmar on Nov. 15, 2022.

Kevin Rogers '12 on Oct. 2, 2023.

Austin Schoeck '16 on April 30, 2023.

*attende

IN MEMORIAM



Don Sundquist '57 died on Aug. 27, 2023 in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 87. The six-term U.S. representative and 47th governor of Tennessee also served on the Augustana College Board of Trustees.

Originally from Moline, Ill., Sundquist was the first in his family to attend college. While at Augustana, he met his wife, Martha Swanson '59. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War prior to a successful career in business and public service.

One summer Congressman Sundquist let the college know that he'd like to have an Augustana student intern in his Washington, D.C., office. When Sundquist selected Mark Johnson '91, little did Johnson know how the opportunity would transform his life.

"I don't know if there are many people who can point to the single individual who had such an outsized impact on their lives," said Johnson, vice president at Toyota Motor Corporation in Washington, D.C. "I owe my career, my success and my love of pulled pork to the gentleman from Tennessee."

Tribute to Augustana debater Norman Lefstein '59

Editor's note: Phillip Hubbard '58 remembers the day 66 years ago when he and Norman Lefstein '59 won the National Debate Tournament for Augustana College. Hubbard's tribute also honors the memory of their legendary debate coach, Martin J. Holcomb, who inspired every Augustana debater under his tutelage from 1932-1968.



Phillip Hubbard '58

On Aug. 29, 2019, Norman Lefstein '59 passed away at the age of 82. He was my valued colleague when he and I won the National Debate Tournament for Augustana at West Point, N.Y., in April 1957 — the only time Augustana has ever won the tournament. We triumphed by the slim margin of 5-4.

I will always remember the final round of that contest against Army before a partisan West Point crowd; we were on the affirmative side of "resolved that the United

States should discontinue direct aid to foreign countries." We were in fact behind and in danger of losing until Norm and I gave our fiery five-minute rebuttals to end the debate.

Norm's rebuttal came first and was by far the most important as it swung the debate in our favor — something that I was able to build on in my final rebuttal. When the one-hour round was over, there was prolonged and enthusiastic applause for a superior final debate.

Then the long wait came. The nine judges slowly marked their ballots, following which the Army cadet director started collecting the ballots one by one. When he was through, he walked to the rostrum and announced in a loud, clear voice, "I am pleased to announce that the winner of the Eleventh Annual West Point National Debate Tournament ..." (there then came an agonizing pause during which Norm and I fixed our eyes on the papers in front of us) "... is Augustana College."

Pandemonium broke loose. I went crazy pumping Norm's hand and throwing my other arm around him. And Norm was worse off than I was, almost jumping up and down with joy.

Then our debate coach, Professor Martin J. Holcomb or "Prof" as we called him, came forward when the trophy presentation was made by Lt. General Davidson, the commandant of West Point. Slowly, Prof walked up the aisle with a deafening applause in back of him.

This was the first time he had won the national tournament after qualifying and taking Augustana teams there for 11 consecutive years. There were tears in Prof's eyes as the commandant made the presentation.

Then the flashbulbs started popping all around us. We posed for quite a number of photographs. The second-place trophy was awarded, and it was all over except for more photographs and handshakes from everybody in the place.

Exhilarated and joyous, we were indeed living out our Cinderella moment. And Norman Lefstein, more than anyone else, was responsible for this incredible Augustana victory with his decisive and thrilling rebuttal.

"I remember this day like it was yesterday. We were received by the Augie faculty and student body like we had just won a national football championship!" – Phillip Hubbard



From the left, Norman Lefstein and Phillip Hubbard in 1957



Photos courtesy of Special Collections, Tredway Library

A bird's-eye view to share

Augustana videographer Anthony Panicucci stitched together 35 of his drone photos in Lightroom, and then manipulated the images in Photoshop to create a sphere of Old Main and campus. Graphic designer Zach O'Connell smoothed out the edges and adjusted colors to make it worthy of Augustana alumni to enjoy and share. Use it as a screensaver or however you want. Download at www.augustana.edu/augustana-globe



Admissions Office (l to r):
Kassidy Belcher '21,
Lauren Clarke '23, Mike Pettis '09,
Isaac Trostle '14, Brandon Anderson '09
and Wendy Rock '92 Kelley.

Admissions Office (l to r):
Eric Rowell '93, Evan Juarez '23,
Chris Holmes '17 and
Rachel Zimmerman '92 Gustafson.



Where has your taken you?

Augustana alumni are all over the world making a bold, bright impact. Here are a few who made their way back to campus!

Send us your info by scanning the QR code, and we'll send you an Augustana A.

Once you have your A, share your Augustana story on Facebook with *@Augustana College Alumni and Friends* in the caption of your post. If you graduated in the last 10 years, tag us on Instagram at *@augustanagoldalumni*. And of course, feel free to share your story on LinkedIn and Instagram!



augustana.edu/getyoura



Advancement Office (l to r): John Glimco '83, Karen Tolf '77 Petersen, Kelly Read '02 Noack,
Chris Loula '88 Kopplin, Kristina DeBord '94 Hein and Lori Ridlbauer '86 Roderick.

Augustana College

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Do you know?



Why did the City of Rock Island drain the Slough? **p. 3**



Which art professor literally painted himself into a corner? **p. 4**



What concerned people about moving the football stadium's home stands to the other side of the field? **p. 12**



Why did Mattel send Sports Illustrated reporter Madison Williams '20 a thank-you note? **p. 19**



What happened in 1957 that felt like Augustana had just won a national football championship? **p. 31**