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Augustana

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024

Despite the challenges, Lindsay Maess '05 continues to pursue her life's calling.

page 16



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Editor | Debbie Blaylock

Designers | Quan Vi and Zach O'Connell

Writers | Leslie DuPree, Nicole Lauer, Michelle Opsahl '11 and Beth Roberts

Class Notes | Christine Loula '88

Sports News | Trevor Jossart

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Website | www.augustana.edu

Email

Editorial | debbieblaylock@augustana.edu

Class notes | christineloula@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

Lindsay Maess '05 oversees the rehabilitation and care of Militant, a chimpanzee that was rescued after nearly being trafficked out of Nigeria. In Africa, apes are illegally poached for bushmeat, and infants are kept alive to be sold and smuggled overseas for private zoos and the pet trade, threatening the survival of these endangered species.



10

Congratulations Class of 2024!

Family, friends and faculty celebrated the 500 Augustana graduates representing 19 states and 20 countries at the college's 164th Commencement Convocation.



13

The first woman named to the U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby Team

A longtime competitive athlete, Sarah Adam '13 is headed to Paris to make history. It's her hope that the United States falls in love with the Paralympics this summer.



14

Elliott '20 brings home Webby Awards for NASA

Christian Elliott '20 recently traveled to New York City for the 28th annual Webby Awards to accept honors for "Suiting up for Space," the April 2023 episode he wrote and produced as an intern for the podcast "NASA's Curious Universe."



16
COVER

The call she had to take

Despite medical complications from a severe malaria infection she survived several years ago, Lindsay Maess '05 has returned to Nigeria to care for two chimpanzee infants and a gorilla infant that were rescued from traffickers. This is her story.



20

Boelens relocating families from Ukraine to Iowa

Angela Boelens, assistant professor of business administration at Augustana, started a not-for-profit called IA NICE to move Ukrainian families impacted by war to Iowa. Find out what students are learning from Boelens' humanitarian work on a local and national level.

INSIDE

Message from the President	2
Campus News	3
Sports News	8
Alumni News	22
Final Shot	28

Strategically looking to our graduates for inspiration



“We must find new ways to communicate the value of an education with purpose while delivering on its promise.”

Like wine, a graduating class is shaped by its terroir. But instead of temperature, sunlight and soil moisture, each year’s class at Augustana College is given its unique qualities by a combination of factors beyond our control.

Consider the Class of 2024, whose 500 members I had occasion to congratulate at last month’s 164th Commencement Convocation. With a few exceptions, none of them had a traditional high school graduation. By the time they arrived on campus in August 2020, Dr. Evelyn Campbell, a former dean of the college, had meticulously marked out six feet of separation between every desk and every chair in every classroom and lab on our campus.

This class blazed Augustana’s trail into the post-pandemic world, and repeatedly taught us lessons in resilience, adaptability and grit. These are lessons that I hope remain with us in Rock Island, even as the Class of 2024 spreads across the globe. They are, after all, the most international class in our history, with representatives from Cameroon and Canada, India and Iran, Nepal and Nicaragua, and no fewer than 29 students representing Ethiopia and Vietnam.

As we move into the activation stage of **Bold & Boundless**, our new strategic plan, I look to the inspiration of the Class of 2024’s spirit, determination and openness to change. We believe, confidently, that Augustana’s competitive position will be strengthened through creative pursuit of the strategic plan’s three areas of focus: engaged learning, maximized student potential, and mutually rewarding community connections.

Even as important as reinforcing our position in the higher education marketplace is, the plan has a still more vital task. It prioritizes a deeper, missional aspect of our shared work in providing an education that transforms the student and prepares them for leadership, service and engaged citizenship. As it has been for 164 years, this remains Augustana’s calling.

In order for the college to continue to have the impact on students that has been its hallmark for generations, we must find new ways to communicate the value of an education with purpose while delivering on its promise. As you see real examples of these bold aspirations in the pages that follow, I encourage you to consider your place in the remarkable story that is Augustana, and how each of us might help bring into focus for our students this bold and boundless future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Kathryn Talentino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

Andrea Kathryn Talentino
President of the College

New VP for DEI committed to cultivating a sense of belonging



Dr. Gauri A. Pitale

Dr. Gauri A. Pitale is Augustana’s new vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). She comes to Rock Island from Bridgewater College in Virginia, where she was dean of students for DEI.

Dr. Pitale has extensive experience in DEI programming and advising student clubs and organizations, as well as a decade of teaching experience. Previously she served as an assistant professor in the life sciences department for Ivy Tech Community College, in Indianapolis, Ind., teaching biology and physiology courses.

“With a focus on inclusive excellence, my goal is to cultivate a sense of belonging among all members of the Augustana community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners,” Dr. Pitale said. “The objective is to further strengthen Augustana’s vision of becoming an institution that values and celebrates the rich tapestry of its community.”

The search committee was co-led by Dr. Wes Brooks, dean of students, and Vickie Phipps, associate professor of art and graphic design. Dr. Brooks said Dr. Pitale will further strengthen the work and commitment Augustana has made to ensure a diverse and inclusive community.

President Andrea Talentino added, “Over the last six years, we’ve built a strong record of commitment to equity and belonging, and Dr. Pitale will take us to the next step of making that even more sustained and integrated.”

CLASS OF 2024

500 GRADUATES

- 54 international students
- 19 states, 20 countries represented
- 68 majors represented

TOP 5 MAJORS:

Business administration-management, biology, education, psychology, accounting

Augustana, Trinity College announce direct-entry nursing program

Augustana and Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences now offer a direct-entry nursing program that will allow students to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) after completing two years at Augustana and two years at Trinity College.

Under this 2+2 program, eligible high school students who are admitted to Augustana are assured a spot in the BSN program at Trinity College and will benefit from faculty co-advisors from both institutions.

The program will prepare students to have an immediate impact in health care in the Quad Cities and the nation. Nursing is one of the fastest growing professions and offers a range of job opportunities.

“The new 2+2 partnership accelerates students entering the health care field without sacrificing quality educational opportunities and experiences,” said Tracy Poelvoorde, Ph.D., Trinity College chancellor and a 1987 Augustana graduate. “This collaboration comes at a critical time when nurses are in high demand both locally and nationally.”

Geography alumni return to celebrate department's 75th anniversary



Left to right, Barrie Chileen '17, Krista Dawson '17, Madison Vandersee '18 and Erienne Davis '17

Eighty-five geography alumni returned to campus April 26-27 to celebrate the geography department's 75th anniversary. Professor Emeritus of Geography Dr. Norm Moline '64 kicked off the weekend's public events by sharing the history of the department. Five geography alumni followed with presentations on their work:

- **Paul Brinkman '91**, head of the Environmental Humanities Research Center at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; "Now Is the Time to Collect: Salvage Zoology and the Colonial Geography of Extinction"
- **Tom Klak '79**, professor of environmental studies, University of New England in Biddeford, Maine; "Speed Breeding Transgenic American Chestnut: A Missing Keystone Species of the Eastern U.S."
- **Dawn Carlson '90**, traffic engineer at RK&K Civil Engineering in Atlanta, Ga.
- **Kirk Huffaker '92**, principal of Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies in Salt Lake City, Utah; "Past Forward - The Power of Preservation"
- **Brad Jokisch '89**, associate professor of geography, Ohio University; "International Migration: A Geographer's Perspective and Experience (Latin America focus)"

"The alumni presentations were a great opportunity for the public to learn about the terrific faculty and alumni engaged in sharing key geography concepts and skills of the 21st century," Dr. Moline said.

Also during the weekend, alumni toured key sites in the Quad Cities and experienced the Mississippi River aboard the geography department's research boat *Scholarship*. Current faculty presented on their research and department programs. Tom Weigand '85 and Dr. Jennifer Horwath '97 Burnham, professor of geology, spoke at the closing dinner.

Left to right, Sandy Fecht '76, Kathy Finke '77 Storm and Chris Papke '76 Myroth



Master's in speech-language pathology program earns full accreditation



From the left, Emily Atchison, Emily Buster, Sierra Chapman and Jessica Miller were among 14 MS-SLP program graduates honored in a special hooding ceremony.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has awarded full accreditation status to Augustana's Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP) program. The 24-month program launched in 2020.

Dr. Allison Haskill, co-chair of the communication sciences and disorders department and director of the MS-SLP program, said the accreditation was achieved over four years and recognizes the high standards of Augustana's program.

"Accreditation is an important milestone in our program's development," said Dr. Haskill. "The accreditation process began several years before we

welcomed our first cohort of students, and it involved doubling the size of Brodahl Hall and significantly increasing our department's faculty size."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, speech-language pathology is a growing field, with employment of speech-language pathologists expected to grow 19% from 2022 to 2032, which is much faster than average for all occupations.

Last month, Augustana honored 14 MS-SLP graduates in a special hooding and commencement ceremony in Wallenberg Hall. This marked the college's third graduating class.



New film program merges with theatre

Augustana celebrated new film production facilities and iMac lab space for its film program at a recent media conference. The college also announced a name change: the Department of Theatre Arts is now the Department of Theatre and Film. Provost Dr. Dianna Shandy said the name change marks the important synergy between the two areas of study.

"Augustana's rich tradition of theatre arts is enhanced by the college's new film major and minor," she said. "Cross-curricular opportunities build students with the skills to enter the modern workforce prepared and confident in their abilities."

The college's film major and minor curriculum was established by Stacy Barton, associate professor and film program director, with a focus on cultivating well-rounded, holistic filmmakers with the skills to bring to life professional, complex and creative productions from idea to completion.

Barton also directed the creation of the state-of-the-art production studio. The studio includes a dynamic set of backgrounds, an LED lighting grid and professional grip equipment to allow students to achieve high-quality professional standards in sound and vision.

"Our students majoring or minoring in film are diving into learning the art of film," Barton said. "In addition to the dedicated and well-equipped production space, the iMac editing lab and private editing suite gives them all the tools they need to tell powerful and impactful stories."



Christopher Le '23 used his Augie Choice funds for his internship at Google in 2022; today, he is working as a software engineer at CYOBot, based in New York City.

Sophomores may now apply for Augie Choice

Fifteen years after the Augie Choice program started, sophomores in addition to juniors and seniors may apply for up to \$2,000 to help pay expenses related to an internship, research or study away experience.

"We know Augie Choice has been instrumental in shaping Augustana juniors and seniors into strong leaders and that it prepares them for their next steps in the workforce, graduate education or service," said President Andrea Talentino. "We've seen the benefits for these students, and we are excited to add sophomores to this program.

"Earlier opportunities will help them better shape their curricular and co-curricular journey and inspire their vocational direction."

Since its inception, more than 3,000 students have used Augie Choice for study abroad; 2,400+ have used it for costs related to internships, such as rent or professional clothes; and nearly 400 have used it during research experiences.



Evan Juarez '23, an international admissions counselor at Augustana, used his Augie Choice funds to study for a semester in Pau, France.

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 12

Alumni and Friends Gathering – St. Louis Cardinals vs. Chicago Cubs Game, St. Louis, Mo.

JULY 26-27

Augustana Choir Reunion, Naperville, Ill.

OCT. 4-6

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2024

NOV. 22-24

Augustana Symphonic Band 150th Anniversary Celebration

For details, contact Evan Sammons '20 at evansammons@augustana.edu or **309-794-7575**.

Dr. Frank receives \$397K grant from NSF

Physics Professor Dr. Nathan Frank has received a \$397,005 Major Research Instrumentation grant from the National Science Foundation. This is part of a collaborative research proposal titled “Development of a Next Generation Fast Neutron Detector” with other members of the MoNA Collaboration.

The name MoNA stands for Modular Neutron Array, which was built by the collaboration in 2003 by primarily students from smaller schools such as Augustana.

Dr. Frank studies neutron-rich atomic nuclei to understand how protons and neutrons interact inside nuclei. Studying these nuclei helps explain the formation of the elements in the universe and can lead to new scientific applications.

The detector modules will be built and tested at MoNA’s seven participating undergraduate institutions, including Augustana.

“This allows Augustana students to learn key technical skills and contribute to nuclear physics research in a meaningful way,” Dr. Frank said. “Scintillation detectors — detectors that measure the scintillation light that stems from subatomic particles interacting within the detector — are widely employed in research, industry and medical imaging. These skills can be applied in many crucial fields.”

The first step in the project is to build prototype detectors this summer. Students will assemble test circuits using SiPMs (Silicon Photo Multipliers). SiPMs detect light and turn it into an electronic signal, which is converted to data in a computer using state-of-the-art electronics. The circuits will be used with LEGO supports to attach them to the large area detector prototypes assembled this summer.

After the prototypes are tested, the final design will be determined, and students will build and test them.

Dunk-A-President (for a good cause)



President **Andrea Talentino** took a turn in the dunk tank for Phi Omega Phi’s 2nd Annual Dunk-A-Poobah fundraiser to support Feeding America.

Retired faculty honored

The campus community gathered in May to celebrate the achievements of the following faculty members:



Dr. Janina Ehrlich
Music: professor – cello, music history 1979-2024



Dr. Imran Farooqi
Business administration and economics: professional faculty, instructor 2014-2024



Dr. Susan Stone
Music: professor – violin, musicianship 1986-2024



Sellers '25 is a **first for men's volleyball**

Max Sellers '25 is the first All-American in Augustana men's volleyball history. The libero was recently named to the 2024 AVCA Division III All-American Second Team.

Sellers also was recognized as CCIW Defensive Player of the Year and awarded First Team All-Conference accolades. In addition, he was named to the AVCA All-Region team — another first for the program.

Sellers holds multiple Augustana records, including the record for most digs (29) in a single match.

The 2024 season was historic for both Sellers and the Vikings volleyball program, which was established in 2018. This year's squad earned the most victories in program history, finishing third in the CCIW with an 18-7 record.

Sellers, a three-time captain, is proud to represent not only his current team, but also his teammates from past seasons. "We've had a lot of great players go through our

program, especially people in my position," Sellers said.

He credits Brett Kliegl '21 and Matt Schiffrel '21 for motivating him: "Those are two amazing liberos that set the standard really high for me. I always have to do my best to exceed that."

Head Coach Mike Ducey says Sellers' consistency, attitude and effort make him a standout athlete.

"Max is always tinkering with his game," Ducey said. "He's always methodically thinking about ways to improve his game. No matter how well he was doing, he was always trying to find a way to get better."

Sellers, a computer science and data analytics double major, will take advantage of an extra year of eligibility granted by the NCAA due to the COVID pandemic and return to Augustana to play for a fifth year in 2025.

Written by Genevieve Ryan '26



Emma Odle '24, President Andrea Talentino and Aykeem Spivey '24

National championship qualifiers miss 'official' commencement

Seniors Emma Odle and Aykeem Spivey had to miss their "official" Commencement Convocation on May 25 — for a pretty good reason! They were competing at the NCAA DIII Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Myrtle Beach, S.C., that weekend.

Chad Gunnelson, director of track & field and cross country, arranged for a special commencement ceremony before the student-athletes left campus for nationals. Both received their diplomas from President Andrea Talentino in front of family and friends in Hanson Hall.

How did they do at nationals? See page 28 for photos and details.

WOMEN'S TEAMS

- **Basketball.** Four players — Emma Berg '25, Linnea Johansen '24, Cali Papez '26 and Corey Whitlock '24 — were named to the 2023-24 College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team, in recognition of their performance on the court and in the classroom.
- **Bowling.** Madelyn Lathrop '25 of Sycamore, Ill., earned All-CCIW honors for the third straight season; it was her second time receiving First-Team recognition.
- **Softball.** The Vikings finished second in the final CCIW regular season standings, and compiled an overall record of 26-15, the most wins in a single season for the Vikings since 2015.
- **Swimming and diving.** The Vikings blasted the competition for their second CCIW Championship in three years, winning the trophy by more than 200 points.
- **Tennis.** A 100+ game winner, Caitlyn Hanulikova '24 of Ames, Iowa, received the Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award (Central Region) from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.



- **Track & field.** Heather Michalski '25 of Batavia, Ill., competed in the shot put at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Emma Odle '24 of Inverness, Ill., participated in the 3000-meter steeplechase and McKenzie Reser '25 of Sycamore, Ill., ran in the 100-meter and 200-meter events at the outdoor national championships.

Odle finished in 11th place overall and Reser placed 17th in the 100-meter and 18th in the 200-meter run.

- **Water polo.** Augustana won the CWPA regular season championship and post-season tournament before earning a third-place finish at the USA Water Polo D3 Championship.
- **Wrestling.** The Vikings finished second at the CCIW Championships, and had three team members — Sawyer Graham '25 of Bel Air, Md.; Sandie Pfeil '25 of Las Vegas, Nev.; and Hannah Suboni-Kaufman '26 of Park Ridge, Ill. — qualify for the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships. They are the first to represent Augustana women's wrestling on the national stage.

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

MEN'S TEAMS

- **Baseball.** The Vikings placed second in the CCIW tournament and ended the season with an overall record of 27-17.
- **Basketball.** Jordan Delp '09 is the new head coach; he played for the Vikings from 2004-09 under Coach Grey Giovanine.
- **Golf.** Augustana earned a third-place finish, its best showing since 2004, in the CCIW Championship, and Alex Thery '27 of Charlieu, France, earned All-CCIW honors. He is the first Viking golfer to do so since 2007.
- **Swimming and diving.** The Vikings won their second CCIW Championship in a row. Plus, it's the first time in Augustana history that both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured the CCIW Championship in the same season.



- **Tennis.** Arthur Hermange '25 of Saclay, France, is the first Viking since 1987 to be selected for the singles field at the 2024 NCAA DIII Men's Tennis Championships.
- **Track & field.** Aykeem Spivey '24 of Gurnee, Ill., earned All-American status in the hammer throw. Details on page 28.



- **Volleyball.** Augustana wrapped up its season with an 18-7 overall record, the most wins in program history. The .720 winning percentage was also a program best.
- **Wrestling.** The Vikings finished fourth out of 11 teams at the CCIW Championships, where four wrestlers finished in the top two of their weight classes. Jacob Badger '25 of Littleton, Colo., in the 197 division is the first CCIW champion for Augustana since Adarios Jones in 2019. Finishing second in their divisions were Trevor Boryla '24 of Sycamore, Ill., at 133; Michael Macias '27 of Davenport, Iowa, at 149; and Josh Woodrey '25 of Chenoa, Ill., at 285. Badger, Boryla, Macias and Woodrey earned All-Conference honors. The team's final record was 14-6.

SAVE THE DATE

July 28: Track & Field and Cross Country Golf Outing at Saukie Golf Course (608-658-6538)

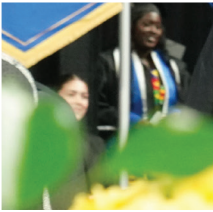
Sept. 7: 13th Annual Viking Club Golf Outing at TPC Deere Run (309-794-8986)

Oct. 25-26: Wrestling Reunion and Dedication of the Tim Dodge Wrestling Mezzanine (309-794-7256)



Congratulations Class of 2024!





Alumnus premieres cello piece in honor of his professor



Cellist Grant Estes '21

"It was *almost* a total surprise," said Dr. Janina Ehrlich, a cello instructor who has retired from Augustana after 45 years of service.

The near-surprise? A cello piece recognizing her years of service to Augustana's music department, commissioned by Dr. Ehrlich's husband, Dr. Daniel Culver, who was Augustana's director of orchestral activities for 42 years. Dr. Jacob Bancks, associate professor and department co-chair, wrote the composition, which was performed by Dr. Ehrlich's former student, Grant Estes '21, in a recital.

Dr. Culver had been secretly working with Dr. Bancks on the piece, titled "The Quarrel Between Winter and Summer," for several months — "until Daniel spilled the beans," laughed Dr. Ehrlich.

"As always, Jacob has written a masterpiece," she added.

For Dr. Bancks, the piece is an opportunity to thank both Drs. Ehrlich and Culver, who were pivotal mentors when he began his career at Augustana 13 years ago.

"Composing this piece allowed me to reflect on music, literature and life," he explained. "And it allows me to say 'thank you' to Nina for her mentorship, support and friendship."

Drs. Ehrlich and Bancks share an appreciation for classical texts and old music. "She and I have nerded out more than once about a Gregorian chant or a salty Renaissance motet," Dr. Bancks admitted.

In composing "The Quarrel Between Winter and Summer," he drew from the Epic of Gilgamesh and a Sumerian legend on the origins of the seasons.

For the performance, Drs. Culver and Bancks tapped Grant Estes '21, who works as a freelance cellist and teacher in Chicago. Estes' connection with Dr. Ehrlich starts even before his time at Augustana; he began taking cello lessons with her in high school.

"I had just decided I wanted to make a career out of music, and I was looking for the best teacher in the Quad Cities," he recalled. "I was an energetic and passionate student, but my technique was quite abysmal, to be honest."

For the next six years, Dr. Ehrlich worked with Estes to improve his musicality and technique.

"Not only did Dr. Ehrlich enrich my cello playing, but she also pushed and mentored me in music research," Estes said. She even helped Estes apply for a Freistat Grant in 2019, which allowed him to study the life and music of Gustav Mahler in Vienna — an experience Estes calls life-changing.

For Dr. Ehrlich, Estes was a "dream student," and she cherished the opportunity to mentor him for so many years.

"It was so fulfilling to watch a student transform into a scholar right before my eyes," she said. "We now enjoy a friendship."

Dr. Bancks, too, recognizes Dr. Ehrlich's special connection with her mentees. Before the recent renovations to Bergendoff Hall, they worked in adjacent offices.

"I'd hear her play duets with her students," he said.

"The benefit of this is enormous for student musicians, who pick up all kinds of skills just by playing along with expert musicians. I try to emulate her principle of self-giving, which is really an extension of the dignity she sees in each of her students."

Estes, who cites Drs. Ehrlich, Culver, Bancks and piano instructor Dr. Charles Schmidt as his greatest influences at Augustana, was excited to work again with these instructors for the recital.

"This recital is incredibly meaningful for me, as I'm collaborating with all four of my undergraduate private teachers," Estes said. "Honestly it's quite surreal that I was asked to perform it. I'm greatly appreciative of the opportunity."

Estes describes the piece as musically compelling and masterfully written, with a lot of sentimental value.

"Commemorating Dr. Ehrlich's 45-year career at Augustana is a tall order," he noted, "and 'The Quarrel Between Winter and Summer' does it beautifully."



The first woman named to the U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby Team

Sarah Adam '13 would like you to fall in love with her in Paris.

Really, she wants you to become a fan of the Paralympics, and in particular, her sport of wheelchair rugby. She will be the first woman to compete as a member of Team USA when the Paralympics opens in Paris in August.

Wheelchair rugby is coed, but there are few women. At the Tokyo Games in 2020, only four out of 96 wheelchair rugby athletes were women, according to NBC Sports.

Adam has always been an athlete. One of the things that brought her to Augustana was a berth on the softball team. The fact that she now competes in a wheelchair, after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 2016, has not made her less fierce.

Wheelchair rugby originally was called "Murderball" because of the physical contact and crashing wheelchairs. Adam has been flipped over and (accidentally) punched in the face.

She gives her brother, Jon Adam, some credit for her resilience, which she built while growing up in Naperville, Ill.

"I think him pushing me in playing backyard baseball and basketball and football developed a lot of grit and determination in me and a refusal to be limited by my circumstance," Adam said. "He was a year older and a lot bigger, but that never stopped me from competing against him.

"I think I take a lot of that into the way that I compete now. I don't let my circumstances with MS or the fact that I'm a small female out on that court stop me."

Adam graduated from Augustana with a major in psychology, then entered graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis. She currently is an assistant

professor of occupational science and occupational therapy at Saint Louis University.

Besides softball, she came to Augustana because she sensed the faculty would know who she was and would care about her progress. "And that absolutely played out during my time, where my professors were getting me connected to amazing opportunities," Adam said. "That helped me develop into the future occupational therapist that I am today and professor that I am today."

Doctors think that an injury and infection when Adam was a child may have caused the MS. Looking back, she said she had symptoms throughout high school, including numbness in her hand and fatigue.

Eventually, neurological symptoms popped up that were hard to ignore.

Just as she finished her master's in May 2016, she learned her official diagnosis of MS.

But her continued love for sports proved to be a lifeline. While at

Washington University, she had volunteered for a wheelchair rugby team to fulfill a community service requirement in the occupational therapy program. She loved the sport. She became a coach.

As her symptoms progressed, she became a player.

Athletes must have a disability that affects their arms and legs to be eligible for the Paralympics. Medical professionals evaluate a player's muscle and core strength, and assign them a classification number from .0 to 3.5.

"I fall in a 2.5, which means I'm kind of right in that middle range," Adam said. "As a mid-pointer, I have pretty good function in my arms and hands that allows me to be one of the primary ball carriers out on the court.

"One of the things about the Paralympics is, there's that extra bit of strategy in there. How do we utilize players of different functional abilities? Because we can only have eight points on the court at one time."

Adam would like to see adaptive sports offered to women more often. "A lot of therapists don't really think about introducing sports to a newly injured female," she said. "But many of us have that competitive background and identity as an athlete that we need to reconnect with and is so important."

She said the Paralympics is growing, and her team wants to do well in Paris leading into Los Angeles 2028.

"We really want to make sure that the United States falls in love with the Paralympics," Adam said. "We want to make sure we show that the Paralympics is 'parallel' to the Olympics, and that's what we are.

"We're elite athletes. We train no differently, and our sports are just as competitive as the Olympics."



Elliott '20 brings home Webby Awards for NASA

“It was great ... to take all sorts of classes — French, computer science, environmental science — to kind of find my own way into what was really exciting to me.”

Christian Elliott '20

While at Augustana, Christian Elliott '20 never envisioned a future as an award-winning podcast producer or spending his days interviewing NASA engineers about their work.

Yet, Elliott recently traveled to New York City to the 28th annual Webby Awards to accept honors for “Suiting up for Space,” the April 2023 episode he wrote and produced as an intern for the podcast “NASA’s Curious Universe.”

Earning two awards — Webby Winner and People’s Voice Winner — was a huge honor for Elliott, who said “Curious Universe” was up against a lot of other established science podcasts.

“It was great to get to go in person and accept the award in New York, see the sights and go to the fancy awards dinner,” he said.

It wasn’t until the environmental studies and anthropology double major began working with then-Augustana professor Dr. Cyrus Zargar on the “Lives of the Mind” podcast that his interest in the field was sparked.

“The podcast at Augustana, that was definitely my start in this field,” Elliott said. “I didn’t really think about journalism until my junior year.”

The student-led podcast, which ended its run in 2020, explored the passions and pursuits of Augustana professors and residents of the Quad Cities. Initially recorded at Old Main, the podcast was eventually produced in cooperation with WVIK, Quad Cities NPR.

After Augustana, Elliott earned a master’s in science and environmental journalism from Northwestern University.

He gained additional public radio experience during that time as an intern for WBEZ Chicago.

Fresh out of grad school, he accepted an internship for NASA’s audio team and then was asked to stay on as a fellow. This month he is being promoted to a full-time audio producer role. Elliott now lives in Springfield, Ill., working remotely for NASA and traveling to the East Coast a few times a year to meet with team members.

Working as an intern for NASA’s audio team, which includes just a few people, gave him a lot of responsibility and the opportunity to try new things. For the space suit episode, Elliott interviewed NASA engineers about new space suit technology and wrote the script. He worked with more senior team members on the audio production.

“It’s a lot of fun because NASA has all of these archival recordings of the Apollo program and tests of old space suits,” he said. “It was exciting to get to take that on as an intern and to talk to these amazing NASA scientists and ask them about what they do. I got to make the entire episode from beginning to end.”

In addition to “Curious Universe,” considered NASA’s flagship podcast that features a narrative style and is hosted by astrophysicist Padi Boyd, NASA has a few other podcasts that are more interview-focused. Elliott recently finished a “Curious Universe” mini-series about the sun, in which he and another producer ventured into the field across the path of totality to interview “space nerds and eclipse scientists” about the April 8 solar eclipse.

Elliott said his time at Augustana shaped his future and prepared him for the science journalism he does today. That includes the interviewing and research skills he learned from the anthropology department and his experience working as a writing tutor at the Reading/Writing Center.

“It was great to have that liberal arts experience, to take all sorts of classes — French, computer science, environmental science — to kind of find my own way into what was really exciting to me,” he said.

Allowing **would-be** parents to take control

For people exploring medical options in their struggle to conceive children, emotional and financial stress are familiar territory. Now the FDA has granted clearance to an at-home insemination kit that allows would-be parents to take control of their experience.

The creator of the device is Dr. Jenn Hintzsche '06, CEO of PherDal Fertility Science, Inc.

For Dr. Hintzsche, the idea came out of necessity. Near the end of a frustrating appointment with a fertility specialist, she was told she had “unexplained infertility.”

An oncology research scientist at the time, she knew what to do when something was unexplained.

This started her on the path to PherDal Fertility Science. Patented since 2022, the sterile at-home insemination device received FDA clearance in December 2023.

The process, from the start of her inquiry to the final product, was aided by access to the right kind of supplies in her research lab, people who believed in her vision — especially the support of her Chi Omega Gamma (COG) sorority sisters — and the fact she had “married a really great guy who went along with the plan.”

In January 2018, Dr. Hintzsche received her first evidence: a positive pregnancy test. Now 5 years old, daughter Lois was conceived in only the second month using the PherDal kit. She and her husband Ryan also have a 4-year-old son, Zack.

Today people can pay \$200 for this safe and private fertility kit, arriving by mail in discreet packaging, instead of thousands of dollars for clinical treatment. Within 90 days, she sold the first 200 kits. This led to 34 babies, including a pair of siblings.

Dr. Hintzsche said it all began at Augustana.

She started as a pre-med major, but quickly changed to chemistry. In her junior year, she knew she liked science, but she wasn't a star student and didn't know what to do.

One day, sitting in the office of her immunology professor, Dr. Dara Wegman-Geedey, she said, “I clearly can't go to grad school, I'll never become a doctor like you.”

Dr. Wegman-Geedey stopped her right there and asked, “Why?”

What her professor said next changed everything: “I never got an A in a biology class as an undergrad, and here I sit with a Ph.D. You don't need a 4.0 to go to grad school — I had a 2.87 GPA in college, and maybe two Bs in biology.”

She ended up going on to graduate school, earning her master's and doctorate in bioinformatics at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., near Dixon, where she and her family live today.

A former president of COG at Augustana, Dr. Hintzsche also made a lot of friends in intramurals and as a varsity soccer and basketball player. The number of alumni who invested in PherDal through crowd-funding



Dr. Jenn Hintzsche '06 and her daughter, Lois

is in the hundreds. Currently about 100 Augustana alumni are investors/part owners of PherDal.

“It's the power of the relationships that you are able to make, because of the environment that Augie provides,” she said. Augustana alumni form a network of “good people doing great things,” and they inspire her and make her proud.

Her COG sisters are still her best friends. When she first started thinking about a new, at-home insemination device, she went to a Facebook group of COG alumni spanning 50-plus years. She asked, is anyone out there struggling? Could she send a kit? Does anyone have advice?

Dr. Karla Loken '93 responded. As an OB-GYN who mentors medical device startups, Dr. Loken set her on the path to gaining a patent and FDA clearance, and is now one of PherDal's medical advisors.

Dr. Hintzsche also heard from her own sorority sisters, and now, “Baby 24 is hopefully a future COG.” Thinking about it stirs her emotions.

“One in five women will struggle for more than a year to conceive,” she said. Once she had proof of PherDal's success, she asked herself and her husband, “What if I quit my job and I make Lois-makers? What if we could help other people? How good would that feel?”

As she told her husband, “I just want to chase this feeling for the rest of my life.”



Lindsay Maess holds Brendan and Mili, infant chimpanzees confiscated from traffickers. Bili, an infant gorilla whose family was killed, is also under her care.

The call she had to take

2005 grad Lindsay Maess returns to the place where she nearly died

Brendan, Mili, Bili and Lindsay found each other just in time.

Bili is an infant gorilla whose family was shot so he could be caught and sold.

Brendan and Mili are infant chimpanzees confiscated from traffickers.

Lindsay Maess '05 is a woman from Illinois, a primatologist whose life had been derailed by a severe case of malaria.

“When I was in kindergarten, I would take my stuffed chimpanzee to the school and tell people, ‘I’m going to work with chimps one day.’”

They got together because Maess, undergoing treatment in Illinois last fall, got a call from colleagues in Nigeria. They needed her to come back ASAP and care for a rescued infant gorilla, and two tiny chimps that were living in a parrot cage until someone could take them.

After nearly dying, after seven years of pain and confusion, Maess feared that she would never be well enough to resume her life’s work. This was the call she needed to push her into action.

To understand why Maess would go back to Africa and risk contracting malaria again — which doctors told her could be a disaster — you need to know that caring for primates is not her job. It is more like a vocation.

‘This is, this is me.’

“My parents say that since I was 4 years old, I was fascinated with primates and I wanted to work with them,” Maess said. “They say, ‘That’s all you would ever tell people.’”

“When I was in kindergarten, I would take my stuffed chimpanzee to the school and tell people, ‘I’m going to work with chimps one day.’”

As she grew up reading National Geographic stories about primate researchers like Dian Fossey and George Schaller, she also developed a deep curiosity about Africa.

“I was fascinated by Central Africa, in particular the deep dark rainforest, and the gorillas and chimpanzees,” she said. “And the whole region just was mysterious to me, and about as different from the cornfields of Illinois as you can get.”

But Maess was determined to get there. In high school, she did her first wildlife rehab by taking in abandoned pet sugar gliders. Her biology teacher at Rockridge High School encouraged her to continue doing what she loved. Dr. Bohdan Dziadyk, Augustana professor emeritus and family friend, also encouraged her interest and put in a word for his college.

Maess recalls being starstruck at age 12 when her mother took her to a lecture by British paleoanthropologist Dr. Meave Leakey at Augustana in 1997.

“I remember just sitting in Centennial Hall, hearing this famous woman speak — the tales of East Africa, the paleontology, and I’m just like, ‘This is, this is me,’” she said.



Mili (Militant) and Brendan

While at work on her academics in biology, psychology and environmental studies, Maess kept her goal in mind, interning at nearby Niabi Zoo. Then, after reading a book about the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia, she wrote to them about an internship. Told the orphanage had no internship program, Maess convinced them otherwise and went anyway.

"This was my dream," Maess said.

After that, jobs in her field were all stepping stones to get back to Africa: herpetologist at the Toledo Zoo, then a volunteer job caring for primates in South Africa before she ran out of money and had to return to the United States. She landed a position as a great ape keeper at the Detroit Zoo, but later resigned to join an expedition to count drill monkeys on an island in Equatorial Guinea. (Drills, closely related to mandrills, are among Africa's most endangered mammals.)

Her experience with drills got her an invitation from the Pandrillus Foundation to work with primate rescue in Nigeria. But she needed money to get there. Then an Augustana connection popped up. Kelly McKay, a local biologist Maess had met through Augustana's Dr. Steve Hager, had been trying to reach her about a job.

That job, a summer research project on birds along the Hudson River for an environmental consulting company, was 16 hours a day, six days a week. It paid very well.

"So financially I'm like well, geez, I could go back," she realized. "I can go to Nigeria now!"

For six years, Maess worked four months in the U.S. and then returned to Nigeria for the rest of the year. Finally, in 2015, she stayed in Nigeria full-time.

She had achieved her dream at Pandrillus, whose main goal is to rescue and rehabilitate drill monkeys, chimpanzees and other wildlife in the Cross-Sanaga region of Nigeria and Cameroon.

"Every day, I felt like my whole world was complete," Maess said. "It was everything I loved and more."

'I could barely function.'

In May 2016, her life took what she describes, somewhat inaccurately, as "a little bit of a curve." Maess fell ill with *Plasmodium falciparum*, the most dangerous type of malaria. It can be fatal.

Malaria is common in Nigeria. Maess knew the risk and took preventive medications. Her insurance wouldn't cover enough medication to bring it from the United States so she bought hers at a pharmacy in Nigeria. When her Nigerian doctor came to check on her, he discovered her malaria drug was counterfeit.

"It's the new money-making scheme where people will have these drugs replicated in China," she said. "The packaging looks real, with fake barcodes and everything."

It was the beginning of a nightmare. Maess did not improve. She got worse and at one point, was partially paralyzed and thought she might die. She couldn't swallow. A burning sensation spread from her lips to her face, scalp and shoulders. Her speech slurred.

After weeks on steroids, she managed to get on a flight to the United States. She was barely able to stand and hoped that she wouldn't spike a fever. Nigeria was in the midst of an Ebola outbreak, and passengers with a fever were refused.

Back in Illinois, doctors were stumped. Maess made the rounds of specialists while battling with her insurance company for treatment.

"Now, looking back, I was in a fragile state for years," Maess said. "I could barely function. I could barely pull my head up. Sit up, chew food, swallow. Pain. It was relentless, getting through every hour of every day."

continued next page

Eventually she landed at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. A team of doctors treated her symptoms one at a time and used Botox and nerve blocks. A psychologist helped her learn to cope with her condition and manage her feelings through recovery.

She has been diagnosed with multiple cranial nerve disorders. Some symptoms will never go away, although Maess, a smiling and energetic woman, doesn't let them show. She must return to Rush from Nigeria every three months for treatment. It's a hardship she endures so she can do the work she loves.

"There's two little chimps and a gorilla in a sad situation but it's reality, it's what we do," she said. "And I was so happy to be back, in my realm and for all four of us — me and the three little apes."

It was the first time Maess had been responsible for picking up trafficked animals and getting them from Lagos to the sanctuary. There was endless red tape and delay, and she had a military escort on the road for safety.

And her three little apes already were traumatized.

But no longer. They have gained weight, grown and learned to trust her and each other.

"They get along famously, and it's really interesting because I didn't know how it would go," Maess said. "But they're all the same size. Gorillas have that sheer strength, and chimps have agility. It's a ball watching these guys, raising them together."

When she has to leave for treatment at Rush, Maess FaceTimes with them. "The little chimps, they hear my voice and they grab the phone, and it's just like toddlers."

'They're seeing a smile on my face.'

Bili Yetunde, the gorilla, soon will go to a sanctuary where there are other Western lowland gorillas. If possible, she will be matched up with other gorillas to form a group that can be released together into the wild.

Reintroduction for Mili and Brendan will take time. For the next two or three years, they will be given continuous care, taken for walks in the forest and eventually introduced into a large semi-captive chimpanzee group within the rainforest.

After that happens, Maess will still have plenty of work to do. The Pandrillus Foundation takes in more and more animals on a shoestring budget.

"In November, we got a shipment of 40 African gray parrots that were being trafficked," Maess said. "Like, where do you draw the line? We have all these animals being confiscated: civets, owls,



What's next for Maess? Possibly working to alleviate malaria with the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the U.N. Refugee Agency, spending more time in the United States to speak about Pandrillus and raise funds, or both.

genets, pottos, dwarf crocodiles, turtles. I can't think of all the animals we've brought in because we're not going to turn them down."

However, Maess knows that at some point she may have to draw a line because of her conditions.

"I'm really using this year to see how much energy I have, how much I can give," she said. "And it's challenging, and it's a struggle internally as well."

But she is thinking about what comes next: working to alleviate malaria with the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the U.N. Refugee Agency, spending more time in the United States to speak about Pandrillus and raise funds, or both. The Pandrillus founders and staff get living expenses, but not much more than that.

Maess is clear-eyed about the financial difficulties. But, on her most recent return home in April, her family could tell she was back to being herself.

"They're seeing a smile on my face, and the most true happiness they'd seen in me in years," she said.

First APEP student to earn a diploma



David Staples '24/photo by Jason Smith '23

Augustana celebrated nearly 500 graduates in May at commencement, including David Staples — the college's first graduate to have benefited from the Augustana Prison Education Program (APEP).



Dr. Sharon Varallo

Pioneered and led by Augustana Professor of Communication Studies Dr. Sharon Varallo, APEP serves incarcerated men at the East Moline Correctional Center (EMCC). Students can earn a four-year degree in communication studies or American studies, which draws upon American history, literature, politics and the

arts. Classes are taught by Augustana faculty, and the curriculum mirrors the college's liberal arts focus.

Staples was a member of the 10-student inaugural APEP cohort in 2021. He received an early release in August 2022 after 29 years of imprisonment. He then continued his Augustana education, this time on campus, and declared a psychology major. His degree will bear no distinction regarding his APEP involvement.

"It's been a long road," Dr. Varallo said. "David decided not to let his wrongful conviction and incarceration tell the story of who he is. It is my honor to witness this commencement, to witness him soar. I'm thrilled to be cheering for David's success now and into the future."

Staples is looking forward to graduate school, with hopes of working in counseling psychology. He will continue to work with the Illinois Innocence Project and his legal team in seeking exoneration.

A few Augustana students, including Annelisa Burns '22, have served as peer tutors for APEP students.

"When I walked out of EMCC, I told my friends that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life," Burns said. "I began thinking of ways that I could continue with this kind of work in grad school and continue working with APEP."

Burns did administrative work for APEP during the summer of 2022. In the fall, she drove in weekly from her seminary studies at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago to co-teach an English course with Dr. Jacob Romaniello in the prison. She also established the RWCInside, a satellite Reading/Writing Center at the EMCC campus.

"I've learned so much from everyone involved in APEP — from the dedicated faculty, to the inspirational students at EMCC, to my fellow peer tutors who also got to tutor in prison," Burns said. "It has been the greatest gift, truly."

APEP launched in the fall of 2021 with a \$225,000 seed grant from the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation. In 2022, the foundation awarded APEP a \$1 million grant and 10-year commitment. The sustaining grant provides APEP with \$100,000 annually, allowing the program to serve more students with greater resources. This includes access to better library and technological resources and more guided research, as well as return-to-career-readiness programs.

In addition to the Knowlton grants, the program has garnered broad philanthropic support. This includes a \$50,900 award from the Bard Prison Initiative for the installation of a computer lab and a \$20,000 grant from the Regional Development Authority in Davenport, Iowa, to fund the hiring of an administrative assistant to serve as a liaison between APEP and Augustana offices, the EMCC, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and community services.

Additional support comes from individual donors.

According to Dr. Varallo, the plan for APEP is to enroll 20 new students this fall for a total of up to 40 incarcerated students.

Research shows that graduates of prison education programs like APEP are less likely to return to prison after their release. Dr. Varallo says that for every dollar spent on college classes for incarcerated people, five dollars are saved in the cost to the community.

For more information about the program, visit augieprisoneducation.org.



Angela Boelens (second from the left) with a family assisted by IA NICE.

Boelens relocating families from Ukraine to Iowa

On a snowy evening in 2000, Angela Boelens was sitting on the 7th floor of the John Deere World Headquarters in Moline, taking a break and admiring the view. She realized something.

“I am not in this beautiful office with this great job because I am some sort of a rockstar. I’m here because I was born into a stable environment in a country where there is endless opportunity for people like me.”

Boelens started years of volunteering on boards for charitable not-for-profits. In 2014, she added teaching business administration at Augustana to her busy schedule, having developed a relationship with the department as a judge for its annual Business Plan Competition.

In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. With her board terms expired, Boelens thought, “I have got to help one of these families.”

She learned the Uniting for Ukraine program was having trouble finding a sponsor for a family including a daughter with special needs. Having moved to DeWitt, Iowa, Boelens made arrangements for the family to live in her Rock Island house. Soon she brought in a second Ukrainian family. Then a third.

When a fourth family reached out for help, Boelens was at a loss. She asked her friend Greg Gannon, president of DeWitt Bank & Trust.

“Literally in ponytail and shorts, I popped in unexpected and asked, ‘Hey, do you know of any empty houses?’” After hearing her story, Gannon said he would get back to her.

Two days later, he called to report he had raised \$420,00 through investors. He told her, “We’re going to buy you houses.”

At that point, Boelens began to imagine the extent to which they could help Ukrainian families.

With a fiduciary responsibility to her investors, she started a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit and drew together a board of community leaders with the types of expertise needed to successfully integrate the families. The not-for-profit’s name says it all: IA NICE (Newcomer Integration Community & Exchange). The goal is to get people here legally and then help them develop relationships, get jobs, find health care and schools, and achieve self-sufficiency within three months.

So far, IA NICE has brought 18 families to Iowa — 50 people, including 14 children — with another four or five families on the way. Most are here on temporary humanitarian parole.

From clothing donations to hot meals for arriving families, her Augustana colleagues have stepped up. Boelens’ students are learning firsthand about developing and marketing a humanitarian not-for-profit, and the unexpected rewards. They are seeing good business ethics at work, and learning about the cultural and economic benefit of supporting immigrants in places losing population, like Iowa. Her students created the logo, and one has an internship with IA NICE.

The rollout and success of IA NICE have drawn attention throughout Iowa and nationally. Boelens travels around the state for at least one speaking engagement every week, working with policymakers at the state and federal levels.

If IA NICE makes it seem easy, Boelens can promise that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is “extremely cumbersome, difficult, every person’s worst nightmare ... which is why I am now I am now working with Washington to help with writing some policy.”

In fact, “working with Washington” means helping to develop a new category of community-based VISA, giving municipalities the ability to sponsor immigrants and build their economies.

“I am shifting my personal objective to making a bigger difference on more of a national level for millions of non-U.S. citizens hoping to have a chance — a chance — at staying here legally,” she said. It means helping other communities take the IA NICE model and run with it, while she broadens her focus.

The stories and photos of Ukrainian families still keep her awake at night; she downplays her own role in creating happier endings for their stories.

“I have done very little more than establish the 501(c)(3) and then coordinate the generosity of big-hearted individuals,” Boelens said. “This has been the work of our community.”



SAVE THE DATE

Augustana Symphonic Band Sesquicentennial Celebration

Nov. 22-24

Established in 1874 as the Augustana Silver Cornet Band, the Augustana College band program has grown to include several ensembles. The Augustana Symphonic Band (formerly the Augustana Concert Band) will mark its 150th anniversary Nov. 22-24.

The weekend-long celebration is expected to draw more than 500 alumni, friends, community members and students from the Quad-Cities community and nationwide. Preliminary plans include a celebration concert with a premiere of a commission by American composer Kevin Walczyk; an alumni band performance; and receptions and dinners.

An Augustana Symphonic Band national tour also is planned.

Members of the Band Sesquicentennial Celebration Planning Committee are: Mitchell Carter '14, Amy Jackson '78, Jerry Johansen '68, Jonathon Kirk '97, Randy Micheletti '98, Alessandra West '20 and Bob Wujek '98.

"I can't wait to hear the world premiere of Kevin Walczyk's piece, but spending time with classmates that I haven't seen in years might be even more exciting for me," Micheletti said.

"My experience in the music department was more than just academics, more than just a club," he added. "It was a family, focused on our development as kind, thoughtful humans — just as much as learning how to play insane sixteenth-note runs that Claude T. Smith thought trumpeters ought to be able to play."

For more details or if you would like to give to the newly established Band Sesquicentennial Endowed Fund, visit augustana.edu/band150 or contact Evan Sammons '20, assistant director of alumni engagement and annual giving, at evansammons@augustana.edu or 309-794-7575.

WEEKEND OVERVIEW

Friday, Nov. 22

- Donor dinner (by invitation)
- Opening recital featuring Augustana alumni and music faculty
- Alumni reception

Saturday, Nov. 23

- Campus tour with Kai Swanson '86
- Presentation on the history of wind bands at Augustana, presented by Dr. James Lambrecht
- Seminar featuring alumni in the music industry
- Update on Augustana's music department
- Tours of Bergendoff Hall of Fine Arts
- Alumni band rehearsal
- Catered dinner
- Sesquicentennial concert with an alumni band performance, featuring the world premiere of a composition by Kevin Walczyk
- Post-concert reception

Sunday, Nov. 24

- Breakfast in the ensemble rehearsal room in Bergendoff Hall of Fine Arts

We'd love to share your band photos during the celebration!

Email images to augustanaband150@gmail.com.

CLASS NOTES

Received as of December 2023

1956

Kenneth Peterson had his 39th consecutive Daily Bible Reading Guide published by the Canadian Bible Society. Printed in English, French and indigenous languages, more than one million copies have been distributed during the past 39 years.

1960

Norman Pastorek had a four-week solo exhibition of his vintage street photographs at a major Tribeca art gallery in New York City.

1971

David Markward published a memoir, "From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America."

1973

Carol Noren was honored by the Evangelical Homiletics Society with an award established in her name: the Carol M. Noren Pedagogy Paper Award. The award recognizes advances and refinements in the domain of homiletics pedagogy. She is a charter member of the Evangelical Homiletics Society (1997).

1974

Ron May retired as director of music ministries at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors for The Deanery School of Music and as a board member (past president and co-founder) of Opera Quad Cities. He also continues to freelance as a musical director at Circa '21 Dinner Theatre Playhouse and other musical theatre venues in the Midwest.

1975

Donna Huber Brunner wrote a book titled "HANG ON! It's Going to be a Bumpy Ride" about caring for a spouse with Parkinson's disease.

1977

Richard Rogers retired in 2022 after 37 years as a research chemist at Grain Processing Corporation in Muscatine, Iowa.

1978

Kathie Pohlman retired in December 2023 from a government position with a professional board. Her work involved impaired professionals — making sure they are properly evaluated and receive appropriate treatment, and she helped guide them into long-term recovery. She is continuing her contract work providing similar services to other professional boards.

1979

Lowell Nelson retired from ministry as an ELCA pastor. After being ordained in 2011 following a career in corporate life, he served in Nebraska before heading to Arizona in 2018. His favorite assignment was serving as the "Emissary of Encouragement" for the Grand Canyon Synod to provide coaching and support to pastors.

Pamela Werner Szponer retired after 40 years in the corporate retail industry.

1980

Ellen Paul Cooling retired in 2023 from Thompson Cooling & Associates LLC.

1981

Patti Doud Paul was inducted into the East Aurora High School Sports Hall of Fame.

1982

Suzanne Dell-St. Clair is retired after a 10-year career in higher education and 25 years as a non-profit fundraiser.

Timothy Moore retired as operations controller with Ardagh Metal Packaging after 41 years.

1985

Patricia Salsman Coury retired in December 2023 as the deputy assistant secretary of defense for housing, a senior executive service position responsible for the Department of Defense's worldwide housing portfolio, which includes more than one million barracks and bed spaces and 240,000 family housing units.

Charlene Quint gave a TEDx Talk in Riverside, Calif., on the subject of "How to Overcome Domestic Abuse and Finally Set Yourself Free" in 2023. She also was a guest speaker on a video podcast by bestselling author Leslie Vernick on "Uncovering Lies: Overcoming the Impact of Abuse."

Eric Volkert was named the greatest track athlete in the history of Peoria Bergan High School by the Bergan High School Track Alumni Association.

1986

Elizabeth Conley Johnson retired after 20 years with Jones Day Law Firm. She is now with Prairie State College in the Opportunity Works Program.

John VanSanten retired after 32+ years in the real estate appraisal industry, with the last 13 years as co-leader of the real estate practice at Stout.

1987

Elizabeth Barnes Hess reactivated her law license in June 2023, and is working at Shannon Law Group in Woodridge, Ill., in its vaccine injury section.

Martin Olsen moved to Kyiv, Ukraine, to work for the state oil and gas development company as the chief expert in geophysics.

1988

Donna Knurek-Soderman is the assistant principal at Jehue Middle School in the Rialto Unified School District in Rialto, Calif.

Patrick Marsh was elected the city manager of California City, Calif.

1991

Ben Bergren serves as senior pastor at Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, Nev. He has been appointed to the ELCA Church Council that helps govern the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lori Getz Kyger received the 2023 Outstanding Certified Staff Member Award at Rock Falls Township High School.

Chris Holford was appointed chancellor of Purdue University Northwest. He was the provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs since May 2020. He is also a professor of biology, and the founding dean of the College of Engineering and Sciences.

1992

Melissa Anderson Wong was appointed editor-in-chief of the quarterly journal Library Trends for the School of Information Sciences (iSchool) at the University of Illinois.

John Doonan was a featured speaker at the fourth annual Race Industry Week. He has been the president of IMSA (International Motor Sports Association) since 2019.

Ron Kruczynski is the chief financial officer at America's Group, the parent company of America's Auto Auction and AXLE Funding.

Jennifer Woodruff Tait is the senior editor of Christian History Magazine. She is co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to American Protestantism (published 2022), and a supply priest at St. John's Episcopal Church in Corbin, Ky.

1994

Nicholas Bennyhoff received his master's in history from Missouri State University in December 2023.

Marty Koehler Hampton was appointed the director, candidacy and first call for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Eric Schmitz retired after 25 years in K-12 education as a teacher and administrator. He is currently a Realtor in Salt Lake City and northern Utah.

1995

Matt Hensler was named Wisconsin Football Coaches Association/Green Bay Packers High School Coach of the Year. He is in his 17th year as head coach at Badger High School in Lake Geneva, Wis.

Anthony Holman was promoted to vice president of championships from his role as managing director of championships and alliances, operations, playing rules and officiating for the NCAA.

Demetrius Johnson is the dean of students at Hood College in Frederick, Md.

Kristin Schadewaldt Terry won a Herb Kohl Fellowship for teaching in Wisconsin. This prestigious award recognizes leadership and service in and outside the classroom and the ability to inspire a love of learning and motivate students.

1998

Sabina Tabaka King participated in the 59th annual Rolex Big Boat Series in San Francisco last fall.

Scott Nelson is the assistant division manager of engineering, overseeing the Rights-of-Way Program, with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Anna Edmonds Phillips graduated with a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University Chicago in May 2023, and is currently working as a hospital chaplain in the Chicagoland area.

Brian Zeleznik was elected to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is the athletic director and head coach at LeRoy High School.

1999

Paul Allen had his fourth book, a biography of cartoonist and children's author Jack Kent, published by the University Press of Mississippi.

2000

Zubair Ansari was featured in the "Who's Who in America" 2023 edition.

Aaron Fischbach retired from the Air Force/Space Force as a lieutenant colonel.

Jennifer Pozniak Fischrup was promoted to director of human resources at Northgate Technologies, Inc.



Law degree. Check.

Both Kaitlyn Watkins '21 and Aaron Thompson '04 earned a Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent College of Law in May. Starting in September, Watkins will work in the Illinois Attorney General's Office in Chicago. She is a former president of Augustana's Student Government Association. Thompson is joining a boutique intellectual property firm, Norvell IP in Chicago, as an associate attorney practicing in the field of trademark and copyright law.

2001

Chad Johansen received the 2023 Youth Player Development Award from the Illinois PGA.

2002

Matthew Deans is president and CEO of Pentec Health.

2005

Alanna Boyd opened a private practice, Rise Up Counseling LLC, in 2023. Her focus is working with BIPOC clients healing from trauma. She is also a clinical supervisor, and continues to work for the Special Immunology program at El Rio Community Health Center, working with clients living with HIV/AIDS.

Kristi Vana Cobble was appointed as adjunct faculty with the master's in

counseling program at Denver Seminary.

Kari Foss was promoted to associate professor with indefinite tenure at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Matt Furlong is the varsity football coach for Geneseo (Ill.) High School.

Scott Heisel had a son, Austin Paul, on Nov. 18, 2023 (*Aubrey Weibers*).

Kirsten Lyons Merritt is vice mayor of Needles, Calif.

Kelly Thompson had a son, Leo Jude Thompson-Collier, on Nov. 25, 2023 (*Matt Collier*).

Amy Lestina Tonaki and her husband, Ken Tonaki, created the Sycamore Orchestra Endowment Fund. Amy Tonaki has taught in Sycamore, Ill., her entire career, and is in her 19th year in the district.

2006

Jaime Clark is vice president of the board for the not-for-profit The Autism Hero Project.

Andrew Houghton created an exchange program with police in Scotland, focusing on crime against children and homicide investigations. A reciprocal exchange with police from Scotland traveling to the United States is pending.

2007

Charles Blazeovich had a daughter, Lillian Pearl, on Nov. 14, 2023 (*Ashley*).

Jennifer Craft is the executive director of Unity-Point Health-Trinity Muscatine Public Health.

Katie Gough-Edwards was the 2022 American Heart Association Leader of Impact for the greater Cincinnati area.

Amanda Hamilton was appointed a commissioner by the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. She is a partner at Konicek & Sillon, P.C.

2009

Jordan Delp was promoted to the head men's basketball coach position at Augustana College.

Alex Hartz teaches algebra/calculus at Hononegah High School, Rockford, Ill. He received a Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching.

Tara Krueger-Bordenaro Mattiussi had a daughter, EmmaLynn, on Jan. 27, 2024 (*Dominic, 8, and Andrew, 6*).

Sarah Miers and **Tyler Vens** were married on Oct. 14, 2023.

William Ramsdale retired from pastoral duties on Jan. 1, 2024.

Teri Kay Santee married Ramon Henderson on March 3, 2023.

Kyle Severson was installed as lead pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Ill.

Rayla Smith Tokarz was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Nevada, Reno.

2010

Lisa Huntsha is a clinical information/resource center specialist (a.k.a. digital librarian) with the EMDR International Association (EMDRIA). EMDRIA is the leading association for mental health professionals who practice Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy.

Christina Rosin married Mike Johnson on Aug. 19, 2023.

2011

Julie Churchill was named Counselor of the Year for 2023 by the Illinois School Counselor Association. She is a counselor at Rock Island High School.

Emilee Goad married **Heather Cassady** in June 2023.

Amy Knapp joined the Denver office of Spencer Fane LLP in the Labor and Employment practice group. She earned her Juris Doctor from Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver.

Danielle Kilberry Warren had a son, August Clark, on July 20, 2023 (*Mike; Jack, 2*).

Craig Wilson and **Keena Davis '12 Wilson** had a child, Avery, on Sept. 29, 2023.

2012

Cameron Carrara was appointed the newest member of the Directorate Board for the ACPA (American College Personnel Association) Commission for Two Year Colleges.

Thomas Christian is the facilitator for Natural Resource & Public Lands Decision Making, Triangle Associates. He was a featured speaker in the November 2023 Environmental Speaker Series organized by the College of the Environment and the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni.

Amy Moon Pettit and **Kevin Pettit** had a daughter, Ella Grace, on Oct. 8, 2023.

Timothy Murga works at the largest military medical installation in Texas, doing both acute musculoskeletal injury evaluation/treatment and orthopedic/physical therapy research.

Keena Davis Wilson and **Craig Wilson '11** had a child, Avery, on Sept. 29, 2023.

2013

Jake O'Rourke was promoted to COO and EVP of O'Rourke Sales Company.

Sarah Poulos married Kyle Mirochna on Oct. 21, 2023.

Will Tolmie and **Britney Rae Bush Tolmie '14** had a daughter, Lyla Tolmie, in 2021.

2014

Britney Rae Bush Tolmie and **Will Tolmie '13** had a daughter, Lyla Tolmie, in 2021.

2015

Jeremy Gottardo and **Allison Kotleba '16** had a son, Henry, in June 2023.

Michael Kruse was promoted to partner at DeWitt LLP.

Alumni to serve as trustees

The 37-member Augustana College Board of Trustees recently welcomed:



Robert (Bob) Anderson '80, co-chairman and principal, Birtcher Anderson & Davis and president, Birtcher Anderson Properties, Inc.

"After watching with interest and gratitude how Augustana has continued to prosper during the 40+ years since I attended, I am interested to see firsthand how its governance is responsible for that and to contribute my experience to it," Anderson said.



Ronald Workman '80 (retired), chief data officer, Experian; senior vice president, Global Corporate Development, ADP Dealer Services, ADP

"From the foundational education, personal growth and many longstanding relationships, Augustana provided me with a transformational life experience," Workman said. "Serving on the board is an opportunity to 'pay it forward' and ensure continued success for generations to come."

Ashley LaGrow married W. Zeb Gore in September 2023.

2016

Madeline Gannon and **Nick Zielinski '18** were married on Aug. 19, 2023.

Allison Kotleba and **Jeremy Gottardo '15** had a son, Henry, in June 2023.

2017

Irene Mekus married Angel Muñoz on July 30, 2022. She is a planning and zoning technician with the City of Moline Community and Economic Development Department.

2018

Nick Zielinski and **Madeline Gannon '16** were married on Aug. 19, 2023.

2019

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

Katelyn Miller married Michael Kipka on Sept. 16, 2023. She is employed at Omnicon, Inc, which her parents started in 2002. She manages a division of the company assisting people with their personal property after a house disaster.

Harrison Phillis earned his master's in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin iSchool (the School of Computer, Data, and Information Sciences). While completing his degree, he worked as a Special Collections assistant in Augustana's Thomas Tredway Library and completed his practicum at the Davenport Public Library.

Emma Samatas Santiago is pursuing her MBA with a concentration in human resources at Loyola University Chicago Quinlan School of Business.

Christine Vincent

Taylor graduated in May 2023 from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., where she was the commencement speaker. She was ordained on Oct. 27, 2023, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa. Her former professor, Augustana's Dr. Jason Mahn, participated in the service. She is the pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Jackson, Miss.

2020

Haley DeGreve and **Kevin Donovan** founded NFP Gray Matters Collective in 2018. Gray Matters is now in 40+ schools in the Midwest and recently added a chapter for veterans. It received a 2023 Community Caring Conference Hero Award (Organization).

Mikaela Ferrara earned a master's in museum studies, with a concentration in visitor experience and exhibitions, from George Washington University. She is a collections inventory technician at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.

Richard (Joey) Padula was sworn in as a lawyer by the Illinois Supreme Court in November 2023.

Ty Taylor of WRMJ Radio won an Illinois Broadcasters Association Silver Dome Award for Best Sportscaster and Best Newscast.

2021

Atiqul Haque and **Megan Johnson '22** were married on Aug. 12, 2023, in Geneva, Ill.



Where has your A taken you?

For Benjamin Payne '16, his Augie "A" paved the way for a career in radio journalism. He writes about his post-Augustana journey:

"Augustana's forward-thinking journalism program, experienced faculty and close relationship with WVIK all helped me get to where I am today, and for that I am deeply grateful. When I decided to transfer to Augie after earning my associate degree from Black Hawk College in 2014, little did I know that it would set me down an exciting path toward public radio. By the time of my graduation in 2016, the college had helped equip me with a wealth of professional skills and real-world experiences that proved essential to my entry into the field.

Now, as the Savannah-based reporter for Georgia Public Broadcasting, I cover coastal Georgia for a statewide NPR network serving audiences on air and online throughout the Peach State. I also occasionally report stories nationally for NPR. My stories have taken me everywhere from federal courthouses to sea-turtle habitats to the home ballpark of the Savannah Bananas (often described as baseball's Harlem Globetrotters) and beyond!

So, where exactly is this Augie "A" selfie? Savannah's beautiful Forsyth Park fountain. Don't worry: the water isn't normally green; rather, it's dyed for St. Patrick's Day. This photo was actually taken just after the city's popular parade — made even more popular by the fact that this year marked the parade's 200th anniversary. I was feeling quite festive, having just reported a feature about the inaugural 1824 festivities. I like to think it would make both my Augie journalism and history professors happy!"



If you would like an Augustana "A," send us your information by scanning this QR code or visiting augustana.edu/getyoura.

Kayley Larson is an internal communications coordinator at Vibrant Credit Union.

2022

Megan Johnson and **Atiqul Haque '21** were married on Aug. 12, 2023, in Geneva, Ill.

Lizzie Oswald is a library and information science graduate student at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is completing her practicum as an intern at the Arts + Literature Laboratory, working in the smALL Press Library — Wisconsin's only lending library of works from small publishers.

2023

Riley Bale is attending Ohio University to pursue a MFA in theatrical production design and technology.

Chloe Fausett is a fixed asset accountant at John Deere.

Caroline Sorenson is pursuing a master's of science in geography at Virginia Tech University.

DEATHS

*Received as of
December 2023*

Marjorie Mirfield '49 Decker on Nov. 12, 2023.

Nancy Wahlgren '49 Hansen on Jan. 1, 2024.

Jo Ann Walz '49 Parsons on Feb. 13, 2024.

Helen Benson '49 Sakrison on Jan. 27, 2023.

Jean Larm '49 Tack on Nov. 27, 2022.

William Anderson '50 on March 13, 2021.

Paul Bengtson '50 on Jan. 29, 2024.

Ralph Brodd '50 on Feb. 5, 2024.

Milton Johnson '50 on Oct. 14, 2023.

Paul Johnson '50 on Nov. 7, 2023.

John Spellmeyer '50 on Dec. 24, 2023.

Phillip Thorell '50 on Aug. 6, 2022.

June Bender '51 Baden on Jan. 21, 2024.

Richard Fetzner '51 on March 1, 2024.

Barbara Groneman '51 Johnson on Oct. 19, 2023.

David Johnson '51 on July 25, 2023.

Bruce Johnston '51 on Jan. 26, 2024.

William Korf '51 on Sept. 1, 2022.

***John Strieter '51** on Nov. 13, 2023.

Ronald Hallgren '52 on Jan. 20, 2024.

Frank Johnson '52 on Oct. 25, 2023.

Veda Hult '52 Magnuson on April 28, 2023.

***Marilyn West '52 Roop** on Oct. 25, 2023.

Russell Bonne '53 on Nov. 1, 2023.

Louise Taylor '53 Heath on Jan. 18, 2024.

***John Johnson '53** on Feb. 28, 2022.

Patricia Larson '53 Larson on March 14, 2024.

Carolyn Almer '53 McGehee on March 25, 2024.

Dorothy Johnson '53 Palmquist on Dec. 29, 2023.

Joyce Parker '53 on Feb. 4, 2024.

Lloyd Schmaltz '53 on May 26, 2023.

Robert Anderson '54 on Dec. 9, 2023.

Ronald Bennett '54 on Feb. 23, 2024.

Ralph Hanson '54 on June 20, 2023.

***Joan Johnson '54 Johnson** on Oct. 17, 2023.

Bruce Magnuson '54 on Oct. 12, 2023.

***Lois Magnuson '54 Miller** on May 31, 2023.

***Nancy Schoenfeld '54 Nelson** on Dec. 15, 2023.

Carol Johansson '54 Reiter on Nov. 17, 2023.

Ronald Sass '54 on Jan. 9, 2024.

Carol Vezzetti '54 on Oct. 4, 2023.

Garnett Williams '54 on Jan. 16, 2024.

***Marilyn Nelson '55 Bohman** on April 15, 2024.

Robert Moline '55 on Jan. 23, 2024.

Rosemary Nordstrom '55 Soderstrom on Feb. 8, 2024.

Philip Laurin '56 on April 30, 2022.

Give smarter with FreeWill

More and more, Augustana alumni are looking at tax-savvy ways to give back to causes that they care about. Using **FreeWill**, a complimentary tool for our alumni, your gift can go further. This tool helps record your gift and makes sure that your generosity more directly impacts the college's mission.

FreeWill can help you give stocks or mutual funds, or help you give from your IRA to reduce your taxable income. Explore smarter ways to give today.



augustana.edu/freewill

Carol Anderson '56
Palmquist on Jan. 7, 2024.

Clifford Wood '56
on Dec. 31, 2023.

Glenn Bergmark '57
on March 13, 2024.

Janet Hixson '57 Dailing
on Jan. 9, 2024.

Donald Alexander '58
on April 14, 2024.

Bruce Mueller '58
on Nov. 13, 2023.

Richard Retz '58
on Oct. 8, 2023.

***Carl Walberg '58**
on Nov. 30, 2020.

***Carol Walberg '58**
on Jan. 23, 2024.

Gerald Adamson '59
on March 3, 2024.

Roger Burch '59
on Jan. 23, 2024.

Paul Croegaert '59
on Feb. 7, 2024.

Alice Knudsen '59 Lindberg
on Feb. 19, 2024.

Carter Lindberg '59
on April 8, 2024.

Priscilla Johansen '59 Miller
on Feb. 21, 2024.

Charles Stark '59
on Jan. 3, 2024.

Peter Tiffany '59
on Oct. 27, 2023.

Diane Johnson '59 Vukson
on Feb. 1, 2024.

Marilyn Fargard '59
Winquist on Nov. 11, 2023.

John Munson '61
on Dec. 11, 2023.

***John Anderson '62**
on Oct. 31, 2023.

P. Daniel Fant '62
on Jan. 1, 2024.

Kenneth Hofstetter '62
on Jan. 15, 2024.

Donald Johnson '62
on Feb. 16, 2024.

S. Wesley Marshall '62
on July 18, 2023.

Jack Heino '63
on Feb. 12, 2024.

***Barbara Clark '63**
McCormick on March 27, 2021.

Harlan Johnson '64
on Feb. 25, 2024.

Harry Arvanis '65
on Jan. 13, 2024.

Robert Eckermann '65
on March 15, 2024

Sharon Murphy '65 King
on Dec. 13, 2023.

Dale Mosher '66
on March 13, 2024.

Peter Anderson '67
on Dec. 2, 2023.

Marcette Danner '68
on Oct. 17, 2023.

Michael Thompson '68
on June 30, 2022.

Mary Valsoano '68
Roberto on Dec. 31, 2023.

James Wilson '69
on Jan. 26, 2024.

Thomas Barber '70
on Nov. 19, 2023.

Dorothy Stacy '70
on Feb. 28, 2024.

M. Deborah Strom '71
Carlsen on Dec. 29, 2023.

Marilyn Keim '71 Nielsen
on March 28, 2024.

Timothy Ricketts '71
on Jan. 16, 2024.

Kevin De Decker '72
on Jan. 6, 2024.

***Diana Meincke '72**
on Dec. 14, 2023.

John Schuette '72
on Jan. 21, 2024.

Donald Cufaude '73
on Dec. 24, 2023.

Debra Hurt '74 Johnson
on March 12, 2024.

Ronald Polancich '75
on Feb. 21, 2024.

Robert Johnson '76
on Sept. 23, 2023.

Mark Beilke '77
on Nov. 26, 2021.

Susan Lewis '78
on Oct. 27, 2023.

William Royce '78
on Nov. 25, 2021.

Dale Herbeck '80
on Oct. 26, 2023.

Helen Bykowsky '83
Christopher on March 29,
2024.

Bonnie Ellis '83
on Dec. 23, 2023.

John Nodeen '87
on Sept. 11, 2023.

Eric Weems '87
on Jan. 13, 2024.

Robert Guy '88
on Dec. 11, 2023.

Florence Staelens '88
on Dec. 27, 2020.

Forrest Clingerman '94
on April 21, 2024.

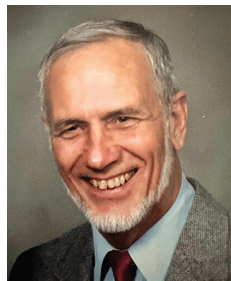
David Currie '02
on April 4, 2024.

Luke Caldwell '09
on Feb. 16, 2023.

Iva Vucic '21
on Feb. 9, 2024.

*Attendee

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Ralph Radloff, professor emeritus of religion, died on Dec. 15, 2023, at his home in Rock Island, Ill. He was 95.

He graduated from Capital University in 1950 and then served two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corp. In 1956, he graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and subsequently served two parishes in Ohio from 1956 to 1965. He attended graduate school at the University of Iowa, where he earned a Doctorate of Philosophy.

In 1968, Dr. Radloff accepted a position in the religion department at Augustana, teaching in the area of world religions. He helped establish the Asian studies program and the Asian Fall Quarter, which gave hundreds of students the experience of travel and study in Asia. Dr. Radloff retired from teaching in 1993.

“As a student in the mid-80s, I took two courses from Ralph — Religions of East Asia and Religions of India — both of which profoundly influenced my view of the world and my place in it,” said Kai Swanson '86. “I was fortunate enough to tell Ralph these things.”

GOT NEWS?

Another degree, another baby, a new job, a service award, retirement plans? Let us know at www.augustana.edu/update or mail your news to Alumni Relations, Augustana College, 639 38th St., Rock Island, IL 61201. Class notes are featured in the biannual alumni magazine and monthly alumni e-newsletter!

CONGRATULATIONS, VIKINGS!

Charlotte Frere '26 National Champion – Discus throw

Charlotte Frere '26 of Preemption, Ill., conquered the discus throw event on the first day of the 2024 NCAA DIII National Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The sophomore is the first women's track & field outdoor national champion since Meghan Voiland '07 McMillan in the pole vault in 2007.

Frere posted 50.27 meters (164 feet and 11 inches) in her second attempt, which was only one centimeter farther than second place. Frere's distance secured a new personal best by .25 meters.

This marks the third consecutive season that the women's track & field team has boasted an All-American at the national DIII outdoor championships. The last Viking athlete to claim an individual national title was Marckus Simmons in the hammer throw in 2017.



Emma Odle '24 All-American – 3000-meter steeplechase

On the first day of competition, Emma Odle '24 of Inverness, Ill., qualified for the 3000-meter steeplechase with a 12th place finish and a time of 10:39.40 to secure a new personal best and beat her own program record.

In the finals, Odle ran a time of 10:51.25 to finish 11th overall and earn Second Team All-American honors.

Aykeem Spivey '24 All-American – Hammer throw

Aykeem Spivey '24 of Gurnee, Ill., captured the first All-American honors since 2021 for the men's track & field team, earning sixth place in the hammer throw at the DIII outdoor nationals.

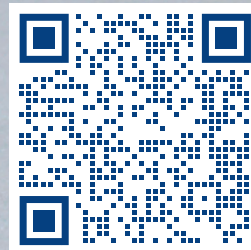
Spivey secured First Team All-American status with a distance of 60.84 meters (199 feet, 7 inches) in his third attempt. This distance was a new personal best. Spivey is only the sixth All-American in the hammer throw in school history.



In our continued effort to address affordability and provide access to an Augustana education, all gifts made to the **Augustana Fund** will now be specifically directed to support **scholarships and financial aid** for our students.



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Parents If this magazine is addressed to a graduate who has established a new address, please have your graduate notify us at www.augustana.edu/update.

Do you know?



Who took a surprise turn in the dunk tank for a Poobah fundraiser? **p. 7**



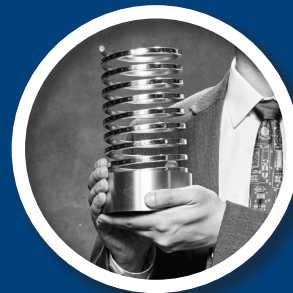
How did the men's 2024 volleyball team make history? **p. 8**



Who "spilled the beans" on the big secret for Dr. Janina Ehrlich? **p. 12**



What is Sarah Adam '13 doing in Paris this summer? **p. 13**



Which former Reading/Writing Center writing tutor recently won two Webby Awards for NASA? **p. 14**