

circle

Summer 2005 - Premiere Issue



live every
minute

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT AUGUSTANA

August 21 - Alumni Summer Soiree; Calgary and area, Cottonwood Golf and Country Club in Dewinton, AB. 3:00 pm (casual dress, fun activities - baseball, horseshoes, BBQ. Children and family welcome) Contact Cindy Bruntjen (403 244 8447; cjbruntjen@hotmail.com)

October 14 - 16 - Homecoming Weekend, Augustana Campus

October 15 - RDX Ten Year Reunion - Where Are We Now? (contact kmundel@augustana.ca; 780 672 4626)

October 15 - Planned Giving presentation, Augustana Campus

November 23 - Community Scholarship Program Recognition Event, Augustana Campus

December - Viking Cup Hockey Tournament (schedule TBA)

2006

January 30 - Stephen Lewis, Director and Founder, Stephen Lewis Foundation dedicated to easing the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa; guest lecture (time TBA)

March 2006 - Augustana Choir, Mozart Requiem in Carnegie Hall, with the New England Chamber Orchestra and other invited choirs across the US and Canada.

April 2006 - Mozart Celebration, Augustana Choir, Milton Schlosser and guest orchestra; Camrose Faith and Life



Homecoming Weekend is open to EVERYONE, but each year we pay particular attention to classes that are celebrating milestone anniversaries: For Homecoming 2005, those classes are 1945, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995. In addition to those class reunions, two other special gatherings are taking place this year: Members of Pastor Karel Lunde's football and wrestling teams (1959/60 - 1971/72) and a 10th anniversary reunion for alumni of the Rural Development Exchange Program.

As long as we have your current mailing address, if you belong to one of these reunion groups you will receive a Homecoming information and registration package in the mail in late August. But you are welcome to attend regardless of your year of graduation. It's a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends from other years. Contact the Alumni office and we'll make sure you receive this information also.

Don't forget to check the Homecoming page on the Augustana Alumni Association website from time to time for updates on activities - there will be more, and things may change as we get closer to the event! We look forward to seeing you again!

HOMECOMING WEEKEND ACTIVITY GUIDE OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2005

Friday, October 14

Free time for reunion groups to get together on their own

Saturday, October 15 (All activities are at the Faith and Life Centre unless otherwise noted)

- 10:00 am Registration opens
- 10:30 - 11:30 am Dean's Welcome Reception - Acting Dean, Dr. Roger Epp invites all Homecoming participants to an informal reception at the Faith and Life Centre Lounge. Meet up with your classmates and visit with Augustana professors and staff from your student days.
- 11:30 am Brunch
- 1:00 - 1:45 pm Augustana Alumni Association Annual Meeting / Election of Board of Directors
 - Plan to attend for an update on the activities of your Alumni Association over the last year and the election of the 2006 / 7 Alumni Assoc. board. Acting Dean Dr. Roger Epp will be available for a question and answer session on the merger with the University of Alberta.
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Ten Years of Rural Development Exchange: Where Are We Now? Presentations, music, food, dancing - a true cultural event; all RDX alumni are welcome!
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm Campus Tours
 - "You're Never Too Young for a Will" (location TBA); Learn why you're never too young *or too old* to make a will and the considerations you should keep in mind. This session will also discuss charitable bequests. Presented by Camrose lawyer and Augustana alumnus Verlyn Olson, Q.C., and Mien Jou, Development Associate, Gift Planning, University of Alberta. Open to the public.
- 5:30 - 6:00 pm Pre-banquet Social (Camrose and District Senior Centre)
- 6:00 pm Banquet and Alumni Association Awards presentations featuring performances by the Augustana Choir and Sangkor
 - Class Reunion Photos

ATHLETICS EVENTS

Friday, October 14

- 6:30 pm Women's Basketball Augustana Vikings vs. Lakeland College
- 8:30 pm Men's Basketball Vikings vs. Lakeland College

Saturday, October 15

- 8:00 pm Men's Hockey Augustana hosts Grant MacEwan (Max McLean Arena)

Sunday, October 16

- 10:30 - 11:30 am Homecoming Worship service (Chapel)
- 11:30 am Brunch (Dining Hall)

ROBERT OPP

A LITTLE PIECE AND THEN THE BIG WORLD

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Augustana's Rural Development Exchange (RDX) Program. Robert Opp participated in the first pilot exchange in Ghana. For Robert the experience was fundamentally powerful and life altering.

"I owe much to Augustana," says Opp, who now serves as Assistant to James T. Morris, the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program. "It was a fantastic education."

"Augustana took liberal arts seriously," remarks Opp, who studied philosophy and religion. "It was a little piece of the big world, and maybe an easier adjustment to make than a nameless existence in a larger institution for a young man who was a little unsure."

Opp took part in many of the activities offered on campus – singing in Augustana's famous choir, under the direction of Marc Hafso, becoming a Residence Assistant, and working as the campus 'roadie' setting up sound and tech backup for Augustana's concerts and events. The experience was intense, but "you really get to know people, when you live with them. You see professors not only as teachers, but as members of the community."

"Augustana offered me the opportunity to take on many service roles," remarks Opp. "It was a rich education, and the best thing for me. I was a curious person at heart, and Augustana allowed me to have a taste of things that I could do." Opp studied a range of courses and disciplines and notes that Augustana attracted different types of

people. "There's the cross country skiers, and athletes who come for a specific reason – or those like me without a particular focus. I came to recognize that the world is bigger than myself. Augustana was set up to promote service; it allowed me to grow."

Opp took part in the first ever Rural Development Exchange Program, and it was a fundamental life-changing experience for him. "My current path is directly attributable to my experience in Ghana."

Opp remembers Dr. Mündel talking to him about how he'd like to get a course started overseas. "I remember getting chills talking to him about it. It was too good an opportunity to miss. We left for Ghana for four months in Jan '94. It was the first pilot of the RDX, and it was an extraordinary experience."

The trip was fraught with unforeseen complications – many of the students caught malaria – (the trip is now held in Mexico) but still the young man who was previously searching came back with a focus and a passion to serve. "My first exposure to a third world country I was dumped in rural northern Ghana. I have traveled to many countries since, but it is still a unique experience. It stuck with me."

After completing the program, Opp returned to Canada totally stimulated and

File Photo



Robert Opp (right) and Stephen Morris at Lesotho airport.

the Ghana experience wouldn't leave him. "I worked for half a year and then I called Dittmar." Mündel put him in touch with Arturo Ornelas, a social activist in Mexico, "I landed in this village in Mexico, and I didn't have any idea what I was going to do. It was very naïve really, but Arturo took me under his wing. I worked in several villages in central Mexico, sometimes even harvesting corn with the campesinos." While there, a vision began to form for the young Opp.

"Ghana taught me about real poverty," says Opp. "Mexico taught me about injustice, about how unfair the world can be." It was his call to service.

He applied to grad school, and took a Master's degree at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. He worked for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for a couple of years, but sought a way of getting back to the field

level. He applied for a position with the United Nations (funded through a Canadian Government program) and went to Angola to co-ordinate aid in a post conflict zone. The assignment quickly changed, however, as Angola's civil war started once again. Opp arrived in Angola on the heels of two UN aircraft being shot down by rebel forces. "I wound up in the thick of it." Opp worked as part of a huge operation, and was responsible for ensuring that over 300,000 displaced war refugees were fed each month. In the hostile environment of active war, Opp did the best he could to feed people and not get his staff killed. "It was pretty intense."

Opp's Angola experience eventually led to his current post to Morris, who needed someone with field experience in Africa. He is part of a small team within the Executive Director's office that manages the global operations of the World Food Program (WFP), the largest humanitarian agency in the world. He has also worked in

tandem with Stephen Lewis the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. "If people living with HIV/AIDS are fed, then they can maximize their time, perhaps spend it with their children, and, if they can manage to get treatment, it will be more effective." (Stephen Lewis will be speaking at Augustana on behalf of the Stephen Lewis Aids foundation on January, 30, 2006).

Opp expects to stay with the UN – regardless of its troubles. He believes in the organization and feels that his team is one that is particularly effective. "There is no other entity that can do this work." Opp notes that the WFP feeds around 90 million people a year, and as a multilateral non-partisan organization it is one of the few entities that can address hunger and aid issues on a massive scale. "I still believe that I am making an impact." Opp feels that WFP and the UN can literally "move mountains to serve people in need. It is worth pushing for."

His call to service is still strong. "I work with and meet really extraordinary people; people with passion. My boss and my colleagues are inspirational. They truly want to solve the problem of hunger, especially among children. From villages to global summits, I see people every day – at every level – who are full of hope." C

To learn more about world hunger go to: www.fighthunger.org or www.wfp.org

The Rural Development Exchange takes students on a journey where they take on life and face the challenges of rural culture in North America and Mexico. Immersion in a vibrant culture where life is lived passionately, every minute, combined with a new awareness of a need for social action, has grown in Anne-Marie a resolve to live her life differently.

live every minute



Last autumn Anne-Marie helped to build a house for a single parent Viking Alberta family. In the spring she taught primary school children English in Mexico. She lived with people who lived out of time, but *in* place. Anne-Marie took an extra year of studies so that she could enroll in the Prairies/Mexico Rural Development Exchange program for the final year of her studies at Augustana.

“I learned that if you put your mind to it, you can do anything,” says Anne-Marie Jamin, 2005 graduate and the last recipient of the Governor General’s award from Augustana University College.

Anne-Marie hails from Valemount BC, and came to Augustana four years ago originally with the intent of becoming a teacher. The Development Exchange experience has changed her mind. “I lived with people who were so generous, who opened up their whole lives to me. In Mexico, the people work one-hundred percent and they fiesta one-hundred percent. They live every minute. There, I wasn’t a prisoner of time.”

Tina Chang

“I feel different somehow – different in the way I approach things. Through the exchange I got more confidence in what I can do, and there are so many issues that need attention right now.”

Jamin notes that the Canadian lifestyle is regulated by the hours of the clock and that the minutes are regimented between work, appointments and ‘time off.’ “In Mexico, if you stop to help your neighbour and are late an hour – well, that’s just the way it is,” explains Anne-Marie. “You’re allowed to stop and help someone – to be sidetracked; they live more in the moment.”

“I feel different somehow – different in the way I approach things. Through the exchange I got more confidence in what I *can* do, and there are so many issues that need attention right now. I have been given so many privileges. I feel I have a responsibility to pursue work in International Development.”

It wasn’t what I set out to do, but it seems to have found me.”

Anne-Marie traveled a bit after her program was over and came back in time to participate in Augustana’s convocation ceremony. As her name was called out as this year’s Augustana University College Governor General Award recipient, a cheer

rose up from the 165 students and fellow alum, her peers for the last four years. It was a moving moment at the ceremony which was a historic one for Augustana as it gave out the last degrees from Augustana University College, alongside the first from the University of Alberta. President Rod Fraser exhorted the students to dare mighty things – a reference to Theodore Roosevelt’s call to citizens to be unafraid of failure, to live ‘in the arena,’ and to have the courage to dare to do be leaders.

Anne-Marie is wasting no time. She is taking the year off from school and plans to look for an internship with an International Development organization – “and a part time waitressing job,” she says. We’ve all got to pay the piper. Then she hopes to be accepted into a Master’s Program in International Development. Her challenge will be to retain the experience and to live with the passion of her campesino compatriots. **C**

DR. GARRY GIBSON

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT AUGUSTANA



File Photo

“There is something about Augustana,” many alumni have told me. They will mention words such as heart, passion, leadership, service, experience, mentorship, spirituality and community. It is a place they are proud to be associated with and to hold in their hearts. It is a place that allows spirit, education and experience to be equals and that as a result has attracted individuals with a particular combination of faith, curiosity, passion and determination from the outset. Dr. Garry Gibson, professor emeritus and founder of Augustana’s signature outdoor education and athletic programs, has most assuredly been a part of that ‘something.’

Minutes outside of Dr. Garry Gibson’s door is the edge of town – a ravine along the Stoney Creek river bed that snakes away from Camrose surrounded by Alberta’s prairie scrub forest material – forest broken with trails that are scored with cross country ski tracks in the winter and in the spring, summer and autumn, are pounded by the footsteps of students training for athletic programs at the University of Alberta Augustana campus located on the other side of the creek, the other side of the end of Camrose, Alberta.

“I need to be among the trees,” says Gibson, the man who was the founder of Augustana’s outdoor education, cross country ski and biathlon programs. Gibber they call him. ‘They’ being the staff, students and faculty who have chosen to varying extents to follow, go alongside and beyond his footsteps.

He is an outdoorsman, a preacher, a pedagogue, a coach, a curious and passionate man, a father, a husband, a friend, a mentor, a seeker and to some degree a finder who asks questions of himself and of others and of God and who possesses an uncommon determination. He tries to see.

He is a former lay minister, with a Doctorate in physical education and psychology, who can throw an axe with more accuracy than a writer could ever an infinitive split. He is impressive although he may not be aware of it. He appreciates his place in the world of God and nature and he still questions and cares deeply about the institution that gave him a place of purpose in that world.

That place was not a room linked to a set of hallways; rather it was a role that he had to play which consisted of his own search for human and spiritual understanding and that he chose to share with the young lives and colleagues to whom he has dedicated much of his life. Augustana thus became for him and for others, a place of meaningful activity. It became a continuation of all of the convergences of the apocrypha of his life which eventually led to the edge of town. That which Dr. Gibson carved out through the power of his search for meaning; and his call to over thirty years of service, is now something.

He is a tall man and lean. His eyes show intent and his face is lined with over seventy years of experiences. He is not rugged but he has the grace of an outdoorsman and it is nearly impossible to imagine him in, say, West Edmonton Mall. He is retired from Augustana, but still working – collecting the body of his work and research into over 400 pages, still seeking to know what they may tell him and others about human potential.

Gibson confesses that he was not the best basketball coach, and one can only wonder if it is because it is played indoors. His soul is

tied to the environment, growing up camping, fishing, working in the logging camps alongside his father, whom one senses may not have been an easy man, but whom Gibson describes as a naturalist and a curious man who knew the flora as well as the fauna of their surroundings. Eventually Gibson translated those logging experiences and his love of nature into Augustana’s national level athletic programs and exceptional outdoor education program.

“I worked alongside men who had a real feeling of worth in their environment.” Gibson says of the loggers. He analyzed that experience and broke it down into the elements that fed the feeling of worth. “There was challenge, danger, courage, adventure, working together and a sense of real accomplishment.”

The combination of the former leading to the latter was an experience that Gibson began to use in youth camps early in his career and he began to see its potential for teaching leadership. His purpose became clear and he began to develop ways to teach his students not to be caught up in ‘going somewhere.’ “It’s what you do with where you are,” he says.

Gibson returned to the U of A for both his Master’s, and his Doctorate. At that time the standard length of outdoor education programs was a week. Gibson felt passionately that he had to develop outdoor programs that lasted much longer. He knew that he had to push people beyond their envelope – one step beyond their safety zone so that they would have to draw on their resources. “In this world people are so comfortable,” remarks Gibson. “It’s a machine culture. We turn up the heat to get warm, go to the store to buy food. We think we are in control, but really you are never in control.”

Gibson strove to create outdoor experiences that would free his students from modern culture and connect them to the environment; the intersection between God, whatever one’s definition, and humanity.

Gibson created curriculum for courses that lasted from two to three weeks so that his students would discover their own strengths and the strength in others. He wanted them to discover “that they could

go through anything if they could work together.”

I wonder if I could have made it through one of his early generation courses – courses that would most likely be outlawed in present day institutions; out in the wilderness, beyond trails and modern convenience, with ten ounces of food to last me four days. Would I be able to snare something – skin it? Cook it? Where would my ‘edge’ be – would it be in the cold? Would it be the dark? Would it be in the blinding hunger? Would I lead, or would I be the helpful, cheery one? Where would I find my places of strength, and of weakness, my growing edges, as Gibson calls them. Would I lose faith in myself, or would I find it?

Pedagogically, for Gibson, outdoor education isn’t about learning how to survive. It’s about learning how to live and to lead in the world. It’s about personal growth.

Perhaps it’s about discovering the adventure of being human. It’s certainly something. Something powerful.

Gibson’s students litter Augustana’s teaching ranks – his student, professor Morten Asfeldt has inherited the outdoor education program, bringing contemporary ecological sensibilities to the course curriculum. Another, Yvonne Becker is chair of the Athletics department, Jaqueline Akerman is the coach of the biathlon teams, longtime colleague Doc Larson takes students to Costa Rica biennially.

They carry on differently than he, but the convergences of their values and how they grew under his mentorship continue to criss and cross. A tradition has evolved from the heart of Gibson’s experience, passion and teaching; from pathways that he opened up beyond the walls of the classroom; from his love of nature, passion for life and for God; and in his search to see these things evidenced in his students and his determination to uplift as well as to understand. And that place that he made still resides outside the halls of Augustana in the experiences of its students, taught by his students who are now also a part of the something, that intangible something, about Augustana.

AUTHENTIC GIFT



File Photo

Her former Outdoor Education professor, mentor, and x-country-ski coach, Dr. Garry Gibson called her 'Mighty Mouse.' A Canadian junior ski champion, she skied on his first x-country ski team, and took part in his early generation outdoor education courses. Gibson often tells students that it is the journey that is important, and this student, has taken that literally to heart. She remembers Dr. Gibson and those days with fondness. "He believed in me," she says.

Claire Rolf has chosen a unique extension of the journeys that she used to embark on with Dr. Garry Gibson. Hers is a journey with no end on a landscape distinguished only by capacity.

She is a former National Champion cross-country skier and jumper, an outdoor enthusiast, a youth camp leader, who completed a degree in outdoor education at the University of Alberta and did research in Educational Psychology at the University of Calgary. Her dedication, passion, leadership and intelligence are a part of her authentic self that she has now translated into a life of service. That life is difficult to understand for many of us, but perhaps if it is explained on the parallels of courage and risk, dedication and commitment it can be understood. To have the courage to fly off a hundred foot ski ramp at top speed is to put your faith in the wind. Twelfth century abbess, Hildegard of Bingen describes faith as a

'feather on the breath of God,' and in that sense, Gibson's Mighty Mouse still rides the wind or on the breath of Aslan. (C.S. Lewis)

She is now Sister Claire Marie of Jesus. Her authentic gift is the gift of herself to a life of service in prayer as a Dominican contemplative nun. She entered the monastery nineteen years ago. "It was a crazy thing to do, like ski-jumping, it was a leap in faith." She lived the "Ora et Labora" – the hidden monastic life for years, 'the hours, days and seasons, marked by the changing scenery of the liturgy.' The athletic novice must have been a sight as she jogged around the grounds to keep in shape.

Three years ago, Sister Claire was appointed Prioress of the International Community in the historical monastery of Prouilhe, where St. Dominique founded his Order 800 years ago. She ministers to the nuns in her community, taking care of the old and inspiring, guiding the young. She is also involved in fundraising for the reconstruction of the monastery. Sister Claire spends much of her time in active prayer. "You might expect the life of a monk to be monotonous, but so far, I keep waiting for a bit of that."

She had felt the call to God and to be a missionary since she was a little girl, born in Edmonton and raised in Camrose. "One day when I was about 9 years old, I was singing in the children's choir and was struck by a radiant face smiling up at us. I asked the little girl beside me who that was. She said, 'she's Doctor Helen Huston who is a real live missionary in Nepal and she's coming to MY house for dinner.'" Little Claire was struck by the loving face and beautiful blue Sari of Dr. Huston, and "a seed was planted in my heart."

Claire and her good friend Joan Osness (now Joan Skinstaad, and Augustana x-country ski team coach) shared a faith in God and a passion for skiing. "Joan and I used to race together and we came up with medals at the Canadian juniors a couple of years in a row; in the summers we both went to youth camps. When I became too old to be a camper, I became a leader."

At the beginning of leaders' orientation, the young Claire was asked to describe herself in one or two words. "I answered, 'I am a servant.' Since then I have been discovering the meaning of that."

Claire took her grade twelve and first two years of university at Camrose Lutheran College, leaving CLC in '76 and completing her degree in outdoor ed at the U of A. "It seemed logical that I study Phys Ed with my skiing background, but then no-one knew my questions around being a missionary."

Claire took time out in her third year of University to go to Nepal, joining friends who were exploring the idea of doing missionary service. Claire stayed with the woman who had planted the seed in the heart of the little girl, Dr. Helen Huston, and trekked through Asia, visiting missions. "I was particularly impressed with the Missionaries of Charity, and, although I did not meet Mother Theresa, I was deeply challenged and called to be 'given' to God and the poor. I knew not where."

Claire returned to Canada and school, but came across a book with photos of Mother Theresa and Jean Vanier, "walking like Mutt and Jeff through the streets of Calcutta."

"That was my discovery of the communities of L'Arche." L'Arche was founded by Canadian Jean Vanier as a community to take care of people with developmental disabilities.

Claire felt that an authentic gift of herself should begin at home, and so she took part in the L'Arche community activities in Calgary. Friend and L'Arche community member, Pat McCoy remembers the young Claire Rolf, who had a passion for music, art and calligraphy. He remembers her as one who was exceptionally intelligent and full of life. "Claire had a remarkable way with people with disabilities," he says and after a pause adds, "She was like a cat on her skis."

When Claire completed her research she moved in as a full-time

member of L'Arche. "The choice was a bit crazy. In the two years at the University of Calgary, I was given the opportunity to work with inspiring professors. I presented my research to the World Congress of Rehabilitation and was preparing a book."

Claire left her academic life to live with L'Arche in Calgary and in India, spending her holidays in France taking part in Vanier's retreats and spending time with Dominican priest, Père Thomas Philippe, who became a mentor to her. "It was a time of deep spiritual growth and mutation. It was not so much through the institution but through a vibrantly alive community that I discovered the Catholic tradition."

"I was drawn to the Eucharist and to silent prayer and to spending my days off at an oasis, a monastery where Père Thomas' sister lived." It was during this time that Claire became convinced of the vital necessity of prayer. "Prayer is a door into the heart of God. It opens one's heart, transforming it, digging it out, so that it can hold, in love, the joys and sufferings of this world. Prayer too is a service."

Sister Claire Marie considers her sisters' purpose deeply; they are keepers of the heart of the church, reminders of the dimension of contemplation. In an interview, Sister Claire says that, "Our life as nuns is folly - if God does not exist. So to choose to be a nun is an act of faith. Its folly provokes questioning."

"Living in enclosure is not fleeing a bad world, but going towards Love, giving oneself generously, freely, entirely to God for the love of the world and its salvation. The nuns somehow remind the world or call the world to this relationship."

So, the champion skier, the woman who is so comfortable riding the wind in God's natural world, has opened her heart to the profound wind. In the interview, Sister Claire quotes her predecessor; St. Theresa of Lisieux. "In the heart of the church we shall be love. Our vocation is really a question of love." C

OLLIE'S BRIDGE



Morten Asfeldt

It's not often that you meet a man who's built a bridge with his own hands, but somehow at Augustana Campus, it isn't a surprise. Retired Professor Orlando Olson has the articulacy and a manner that belies more a romantic poet than a bridge-builder, but what could be more sublime for a teacher than to mark the years with the footsteps of young men and women crossing over a bridge built with his own hands?

Professor Olson at the bridge, May 2005.

Ollie's Bridge' is what it is. It is a thirty-year old hand-built wooden crossing over a steep winding ravine and sporadic watercourse. It is a rite of passage, a point of entry, as second-year Augustana students cross over it each autumn for the first time, and, each spring, it is a point of departure, as fourth-year students pack up and lug their belongings the other way, heading out to seek new purpose. In between those months it is both a peaceful sanctuary and a place to have silly fun. It is a meeting place. Ollie's bridge is a platform for young adulthood, hosting proposals of marriage, tearful breakups, shared confidences and much, much laughter. It is a beautiful wooden bridge. It is an Augustana landmark. It is a symbol of how, in the old days, anything was possible at Augustana, if you could do it for very little money. And soon, it is coming down.

"It's a romantic thing to build a bridge," says retired Augustana professor and engineer, Dr. Orlando Olson. As the story goes, in 1975, Augustana built new residences for its senior students, and there was a gap in funding for a bridge to cross the ravine. That's when Dr. Olson, then a professor of mathematics and physics stepped in. "All engineers love bridges," he says with a wistful smile. "I wasn't a practicing engineer, but here was my chance to build a bridge."

Olson originally had wanted to build a concrete bridge. But after spending some time with a large Edmonton firm, he discovered in short order, that he would not be able to afford the concrete. "So, I thought maybe I'd better opt for a wooden bridge." Dr. Olson's activities became a familiar sight to staff and students, as he ran string across the ravine, carefully calculating and measuring size, load, capacity, resources and materials.

Olson called AGT and talked them into letting him have unwanted

telephone poles. At the time they were replacing overhead lines with ground lines. They brought a load of poles, which unceremoniously rolled down to the bottom of the ravine. Just a minor challenge compared to the rest. "I needed to dig 28 five foot holes for the uprights," recalls Olson. He talked AGT into digging about half of them, but they couldn't dig them all because of the terrain. "I don't remember ever asking for volunteers, but people were curious, and I seemed to always have help."

Students and locals from the Camrose community helped him dig the remaining holes, and erect the bridge. "Oh, those boys were always into something," remembers Mrs. Skreting – whose teenage sons were among the curious and most avid of Olson's volunteer crew. Olson remarks, "I worked all day every day, left my tools on site, and just walked away. Nothing ever got stolen."

Countless spikes and nails were hammered by Olson and his helpers, the floor built and carried across section by section, and in just over a month, Olson's romantic chance, his bridge was a fact. He says he doesn't mind that it's coming down. He's very proud of his bridge which needed only one repair in thirty years. He is not quite sure how much it cost to build in the end – he thinks perhaps \$1,500.

Olson is hopeful about the merger and new plans for the U of A Augustana Faculty. He feels that Augustana will prosper well now, after many lean years. "I hope they build a beautiful bridge," he muses as he looks over the site. "It's important, really."

When told that the new bridge will be a land bridge costing in the range of three quarters of a million dollars, Olson takes a minute and remarks. "I wish I had that contract." **C**

memories - a Fond Farewell

Mark Chytracek, Director, Student and Residence Services

"When the University of Alberta facilities management team came out to look over the site and assess what needed to be done, they were taken aback by the bridge. I asked them what was wrong, and they told me – 'someone could jump off.' I smiled and said – Oh, lots of people jump off. I've jumped off. Now they are building a land bridge."

Chytracek arrived in Augustana in 1982, and lived on campus for over twenty years and raised his children in the second year residence buildings. He has countless memories of shenanigans on Ollie's bridge. He remembers 1988 – "a year when there was just an awful lot of snow, the students built a massive snowball on the bridge to block the senior students' access to campus." "It makes my heart ache, to think of the bridge being taken down."

John Chytracek; third year U of A Augustana Biology student, and son of Mark Chytracek.

To Mark's son, John, the bridge is an integral part of his childhood memories – he remembers riding his bike down the stairs, "Up didn't work too well," he recalls. "It's a beautiful place to sit in the morning, especially in the spring and the autumn. Sometimes there is fog lying in the bottom of the ravine. It's so peaceful. The bridge looks and feels as though it belongs to a kind of older place where people didn't need all the bells and whistles." Chytracek hopes that the planning for new facilities will reflect Augustana's older ethic. "I hope the new buildings aren't too super modern."

Let us know your memories of the bridge – email them to zcameron@augustana.ca or to malone@augustana.ca

LIFE-LONG LEARNING

By Lisa Gunderson

Naomi McIlwraith is a true example of the tenet that the goal of a liberal education is to promote 'life-long learning.' A poet, creative writing instructor, graduate student, and alumna of Augustana (English, Class of 2000), McIlwraith is now in the middle of a Master's degree in English at the University of Alberta.

In conversation, Naomi McIlwraith speaks with combination of earthiness, passion, and sharp intellect. These qualities also inform her current work – her Master's thesis. Her proposal is ambitious: to write a book of poetry that combines English and Cree, and in doing so, to draw attention to the ways in which meaning, language, and culture are deeply embedded and intertwined. In her thesis – and her life – she strives for what she calls a “multicultural understanding.”

Much of this desire has grown out of her own personal experience of human diversity. In the proposal for her thesis, she writes, “My maternal grandmother and her relations were Cree or Métis. My father, a non-Native, speaks fluent Cree because he grew up at Frog and Fishing Lakes where his parents were teachers in the 1940s.” McIlwraith is passionate about nehiyawewin, the Cree language, which she began learning after she finished her degree at Augustana. It is, she is quick to point out, one of the many indigenous languages that are at risk of dying out in a world of increasing homogenization. “When the last speaker of an indigenous language dies,” she says, “you're not just losing a language, you're losing whole concepts of meaning, whole worldviews. The cultural worldview is contained in the language.”

McIlwraith's interest in Cree culture and language, and its centrality in her creative writing, is the present incarnation of an adventurous life. Previous to her time at Augustana, she completed a degree in Outdoor Education from the University of Alberta. It was during this time that she had her first taste of Augustana, as a visiting stu-

“When the last speaker of an indigenous language dies,” she says, “you're not just losing a language, you're losing whole concepts of meaning, whole worldviews. The cultural worldview is contained in the language.”

dent in Spring Course, which she recalls as a “very positive experience,” one which would eventually lead her to Camrose in 1996. In one of her last classes prior to graduation from the U of A, she took part in a canoe trip in which she and five others journeyed from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario. McIlwraith showed the same adventurous spirit in 1995, when she did a solo cross-Canada bicycle trip to raise money for Camp Warwa, a children's camp where she worked. She came to Augustana in 1996 to get the pre-requisite courses necessary to enter into a program which would allow her to help people using outdoor or adventure activities in a counselling setting.

Once at Augustana, however, McIlwraith found her focus begin to shift – away from outdoor education and towards literature. Almost by chance, McIlwraith found herself in former Augustana professor Anne LeDressay's Creative Writing class, something that would begin her on a new path. She says that the class “allowed me and the other students to discover ourselves, and our self-expression.” Throughout her degree, McIlwraith developed her talents at thoughtful, critical analysis of readings as well as her own writing abilities. “My level of literacy sky-rocketed after my English degree,” she says. “And poetry as well has helped me express myself in writing and organizing my thoughts so that it's easier for me to verbalize them.” This newfound emphasis on language and writing opened new possibilities for McIlwraith, and she began to think seriously about graduate school. A stint as an interpreter at Fort Edmonton Park following her graduation put her interest in native literature and issues in an historical context, leading her

inexorably to the central questions which now dominate her thesis: how does language shape a culture? How does history shape meaning? What does it mean to learn to speak Cree? What does it mean to forget it?

These days, McIlwraith is hard at work at a variety of projects. Last semester, she taught a class, “Introduction to Native Studies,” in the School of Native Studies. She has recently completed an essay entitled “Why is ‘Squaw’ Such a Bad Word?” for a book called Edmonton on Location: River City Chronicles, due out in September. Currently, she is working on a translation of Katolic Ayamihew'masinahikan, a Catholic prayer book written in Cree syllabics by Oblate Bishop Emile Grouard. The book is believed to be the first book printed on a printing press in Alberta. She is also teaching a 10-week creative writing workshop at the Edmonton Institution for Women, something she sees as connected with her academic interest. A high percentage of women in the Edmonton prison are from a Native background, something which McIlwraith reflects is rooted in our collective colonial history of submerging indigenous language and culture. “Many of these women have been very marginalized, very oppressed,” she argues with intensity. “It has to do with cultural damage, cultural theft, the theft of language.” In her workshops, she offers her students many of the lessons that she has learned along her own winding path: creative writing as an outlet for finding a voice, for self-expression, creativity, and ultimately for empowerment. **C**

MAENDELEO



File Photo

It's minus something outside and the snow is blowing almost sideways. Nothing cuts like the prairie wind laced with wet snow. It's early in the morning. Too early. You've been up late writing a paper and the last thing you want to do is get up, put your running gear on, lace up your shoes, put on a couple of layers of jackets and go out in the cold – oh man.

Joel, coach Lotz (right), and teammate David Ball get ready to run in November, 2006.

In Kenya runners don't need layers and for sure there is no Kenyan word for toque. But up you get. You put the layers on. You head out to the running track to help your teammates and coach shovel off the snow so you can practice interval training. You are crazy. So are your teammates. So is your coach. But once the snow is shoveled you're already warmed up and laughing with your teammates. And you run. You run hard. Because they are running too and you are one of them. You are more than just a teammate. You are a classmate. You are a friend. You are a member of a small but powerful collective. You are one of the Augustana Vikings two-time National champion cross-country running team. You are Joel Purkei, a young man from Kenya, attending university at Augustana. And this is what it takes to get there. "I'm a hard working guy. I love challenges," says Joel.

Joel ran with the Augustana Vikings cross-country team for three years. Coach Gerhard Lotz remembers his first race. "Joel had only been with the team for a few practices and in his first race he started out with the top runners in the pack and kept up with them." Purkei didn't finish the race, but with the blistering start, showed his determination and potential, as well as what coach Lotz calls 'a beautiful running style.' Purkei's forward lean and the smooth stride helped carry the team to provincial and national champions in his second year, and National Champions in the third year. "That was a difficult year. We finished second in the provincials, by a slim margin. And I gave Joel and his teammates a challenge." Lotz told Purkei the man he'd have to lead in the National Champion race if the Vikings were going to win. "When Joel sets his mind

to something he really focuses. He met the challenge." So did his teammates and together they brought home the nationals for the second time in a row.

Twenty-three year old Joel Purkei came to Augustana from Kenya three and half years ago. He graduates with an Augustana University College BA with a double concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies and Political Science. Purkei hopes to become a pilot next, so he's working in Camrose, saving up money for tuition. "Flight school is expensive. It will be a challenge." But Purkei thrives on challenges.

Purkei will eventually return to his beloved Kenya. "I want to get into politics and change things in our wonderful country." High on his list are issues such as democracy, equality, and gender equality. The latter is not surprising as he has three young sisters whom he wants to attend his alma mater. They'll join Augustana for their university studies after their high school in Kenya. "Change comes. It comes from people connecting with other people. It is important to study overseas and then apply what I have learned there." Kenya, according to Purkei, is the best country in Africa. "And in Africa change is happening. All the time things are getting better. There is lots of hope because people are making that change happen. Maendeleo is a Swahili word meaning "development" and pretty much everywhere you go in Kenya, people are talking about the importance of Maendeleo for everybody. Kenya is a great country."

Joel will sorely miss Augustana. It was a place in which he belonged. "I felt at home here. Everybody knows my name. I go to the office and the receptionist says, 'how are you Joel.' I go to the mailbox and on the way I hear, 'Hi Joel,' 'Hi Joel.' My professors know me by my first name." Purkei attended summer school at McGill and at Concordia in Montreal, so he had a taste of bigger campuses. "Augustana is unique. At Augustana I felt as though I were loved. Not because I am an athlete, but because that is just what happens here. It is a place where you feel you are home or welcomed wherever you come from. Your nationality isn't really an issue at Augustana - all that matters is that you are part of this great community."

Purkei was among the last to leave campus in April, handing in his final assignments as the campus emptied out for the summer. "I miss my friends so much." He has stayed in town to save up money for flight school. It was a lonely month for the young man whose family is another world. "Augustana has really changed me. I have learned to work very hard." Purkei had to develop discipline to cope with national level athletics and his course load. It took courage and the support of his friends – many of whom have gone on to other cities and towns across the globe. "I will always be proud of Augustana. I will carry it with me in my heart my whole life." Augustana wishes you well, Joel – and we have no doubt that you will be a pilot soon. Fly high. **C**

KEVIN SUTLEY

KEVIN SUTLEY - THE EYE OF THE STORM

This spring professor Kevin Sutley directed Sam Shepard's Fool for Love to rave reviews. His Sterling award winning theatre company, Kill Your Television Theatre, is 'a force to be reckoned with,' according to local media. His students consider him the same.

To venture into his classes unprepared is not wise. It's no surprise that this spring his students swept the Battle River Region One Act Play Festival – receiving recognition for directing, acting, and playwriting. Sutley gives his students difficult material – his past two student productions have been *The Laramie Project* and *The Vagina Monologues* – not plays that leap to mind when one thinks of theatre outside of Alberta's larger centres. Yet the *Vagina Monologues* played to sold out houses for the entire run.

Sutley is relatively new to Augustana Faculty. He's been teaching here for only three years. His students love him, but they say he can be tough. When asked why, Sutley says, "I don't like to see students work beneath their potential. Theatre is the kind of work where you get out what you put in and so to really see what you can accomplish you have to invest a lot of commitment and personal energy."

Sutley gets a sense of contributing from teaching, "to art and to people. I get a sense of connecting through time. The challenge is



Tina Chang

finding a personal way to communicate my knowledge and helping people to discover their own truths and then helping them discover the best way to communicate those truths. Directing is like living in the eye of an incredible storm of creativity and ideas. It's a rush."

Sutley received his Master's of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Alberta. As a professional actor and director, he has worked for such companies as Theatre Network, Northern Light Theatre and Azimuth Theatre. He has directed several productions including: the Sterling Award winning *Dungeon Master's Handbook* for Azimuth Theatre. Also for Azimuth Theatre, *3...2...1, Picking Up the Pieces*, a play written and performed by inmates of the Edmonton Institution. He directed, "Dating, Mating, and Hating" for Toronto's, Theatre 212 and the highly acclaimed, "The Grapes of Wrath" for Studio Theatre.

For *Kill Your Television Theatre*, Kevin directed the Sterling Award winning productions of *This Is Our Youth*, *Suburbia*, *Stop Kiss*, and *Shakespeare's R&J*, for which he also received a Sterling nomination for Outstanding Director.

What does he do outside of directing? "I garden a bit. I cook. I play poker. I learn to be a good teacher. I try to get some sleep." **C**

JOHN PATTISON

JOHN PATTISON - THE NEW NORM

This summer John Pattison is taking part in one of Augustana's signature learning experiences – the outdoor education summer northern canoe trip. He was the Students' Association President this seminal year of change at Augustana, and is an example both of the promise of the new merger and the strength of Augustana and its teaching tradition.

John Pattison is completing his third year of Environmental Science at the University of Alberta Augustana Faculty. Raised on a farm about fifteen minutes outside of Camrose, he is at first blush a typical son of the Alberta Prairie. But perhaps he would better be described as a new son of the Alberta Prairie. John hopes to pursue graduate work in environmental economics, with an eye to consulting, perhaps performing environmental impact studies. But he ultimately wants to be able to make a living on the farm, like his father, William Pattison, a U of A alumnus, farmer and part-time economics instructor at Augustana.

"Today to be successful in farming you have to be more than entrepreneurial. You need to find new markets, new niches," says John.

His is a familiar face in the *Dagligtale*, the Augustana student



Tina Chang

newspaper – photographed while sleeping on a field trip, used as a caricature for a colouring contest. That's all in a day in the life, because John is also the President of the Augustana Faculty student association. This year was a year of change – an historic marker as Augustana University College became University of Alberta Augustana Faculty. John worked hard to incorporate his Students' Association with the Students' Union at the Edmonton campus.

"You couldn't ask for a better learning experience," remarks John. "The students from the Edmonton campus have been just great. But there has been an awful lot to do." Meetings at the main campus, familiarizing himself and fellow students with the facilities and policies of the University of Alberta, and beginning to establish regular communication between the two student bodies. "It has been challenging for sure."

Challenging, but Pattison takes the challenges and the benefits in stride. He has work to do. This summer he drove a truck for a local fertilizer company, working long days getting the fields fertilized during spring seeding. After that he took on the interdisciplinary Outdoor Ed / Environmental Science summer Northern Arctic canoe trip. **C**

RENAE HEWITT

A FINAL WORD FROM OUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT



Another year has passed and we continue progress into the next phase of our future. Our board has been very busy forging new pathways. As some of you have already read, the old bridge is coming down and a new bridge is being built. Who could ask for more fitting symbolism as we move into the future?

During this past year as president of the Alumni Association, I have attended several of the U of A Alumni Council meetings and social events informally as the interim Augustana Faculty representative including: the President's Breakfast in September and the Christmas party both held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club in Edmonton.

We are happy to announce that Kevin Remer has been selected to serve on the Council. Kevin has been an active volunteer and supporter of Augustana for so long that this feels 'like a natural progression' he says. Thank you Kevin, we know you will be of great service both to us and to the University as a whole.

Last year's Homecoming was a great success. This year Homecoming is set for Oct 14-16th so make your plans now to attend. Homecoming continues to be the Association's biggest event. I extend my personal invitation to all of you to attend this year. Please contact the Alumni Office with regard to any particular group reunion you would like to organize or a Class year you would like to chair.

I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers – be they board members, staff or friends of Augustana and other volunteers who so generously donate their time, knowledge and experience.

We had a very successful alumni event in Edmonton in early

June, and are hosting an alumni event in Calgary on August 21. Family and friends in the area are welcome to attend a casual get together and BBQ supper at the Cottonwood Golf and Country Club in Dewinton on Sunday, August 21, starting at 3:00 pm. For information contact Cindy Bruntjen in Calgary (244 8447; cjbruntjen@hotmail.com), Keep your eyes on us – there will be more of these!

I am very happy to announce the following recipients of our annual Alumni awards:

- **Distinguished Alumni Award**
Rev Raymond Schulz, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
- **Lois Aspenes Award**
Michelle Munroe, BA '87, immediate past president of the Alumni Association.
- **Citation Award**
Dr. W. G. Garry Gibson
- **Honoured Professor Award**
Rev. Dr. Dittmar Mündel, Professor of Religious Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies and Dr. John Olson, Professor of Chemistry.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, or in supporting any activities, please contact the Alumni Office at 780 679 1105, 1 800 590 9992, ext 1105 or visit our website at www.augustana.ca/alumni. Your feedback is always welcome and appreciated. We are your voice.

On behalf of the Alumni Board, I wish all of you the best & hope to see you at Homecoming 2005 and our AGM.

Sincerely,

Renae Hewitt
President Augustana Alumni Association
BA Special '95

class notes

1940s

'49 **Bernice Luce (Fenske)** completed a Doctor of Ministry program from St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, Alberta and convocated with a DMin degree in October, 2004. Bernice writes that this labor of love is truly a life-long dream realized. She and partner Harold are mostly retired and continue to live on the farm west of Ponoka.

1950s

'54 **THANK YOU** from Augustana to the members of the Class of '54 who attended their 50th Anniversary Class Reunion at Homecoming in October 2004. Your donations to the Augustana University College 50th Anniversary Class Scholarship (also known as the Golden Anniversary Tradition Scholarship) totalled \$1,895. Fourth year student Katherine Marie Krause of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan gratefully received this award from Laverne Hoveland who represented the Class of '54 at Augustana's annual Community Scholarship Recognition event. Katherine graduated with a BA Special (Psychology) in May 2005.

1960s

'60 **Maurine Holcomb (Gillespie)** and her husband Ray moved from Gabon, Africa to Alpharetta, Georgia in July 2004. They served in Gabon for 34 years where they were involved in church planting, TEE, and literature ministries. Maurine also did

teacher training for Sunday Schools and Bible clubs and Ray was a circuit preacher, teacher and builder.

'61 **Sharon Wiley (Setter)** is married with two sons, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. She moved from Canada to Phoenix, Arizona and 10 years later moved to Portland, Oregon. She recently retired as a hospital nursing supervisor. She and her husband remain very busy with their rental properties but do find time to enjoy going to car shows with their antique cars.

'62 **Lyle Setter** is married with a son and a daughter and two granddaughters. He is retired after a very successful career as an executive with Safeway Corporation. He and his son now own and operate a 400 acre ranch where they are raising and breeding registered Black Angus cattle. In 2003 he won the honor of his herd bull being awarded the prestigious National Supreme Grand Champion at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, California.

'63 **Rod Soholt** has just been appointed to a three year term as a member of the Board of Governors of Portage College in Lac La Biche, Alberta.

'65 **Don Allan** and his wife Helen have three daughters, one son, three sons-in-law, four grandsons and four granddaughters. Don describes himself as a long time farmer who loves what he does. From 1972 to 1987 he operated up to 3,000 acres of land in the Bentley area; in 2003 he returned to farming southwest of Sylvan Lake where he grows, bales and sells hay. Don invites you to check out his websites at www.allanhay.com

or www.foldaway.ca. He would love to hear from any of his Grade 12 classmates or "Old Main" dorm mates from '64-'65 at dballan@telus.net.

'67 **Karen Waltz (Coburn)** transferred from CLC to the University of Alberta where she received her BEd. In June 2004 she retired after 36 years of teaching at Vermilion Elementary School in Vermilion, Alberta—although she admits she does "sub" a bit from time to time. Karen and her husband Marvin raised their three boys, Troy, Trent and Kelly on a mixed farm south of Vermilion. She now has three grandchildren, Carlton, Jerrica and Breanne. Of memorable note is that her granddaughter, Jerrica was in one of her classes in her last year of teaching. Karen would love to hear from members of her CLC Class of '67!

1970s

'73 **Dale Womacks**, who completed his first year of engineering at CLC, says he often wonders how people he took that course with—and everyone else he got to know while he was here—are doing now. Dale would love to hear from anyone who remembers him at dale.womacks@halliburton.com.

'78 **Pamela Parker (Sware)**, self-described as "probably best known as the girl who dated the goalie Ron Parker!" was married to Ron for 11 years. Mother of three sons, Pamela is teaching junior high school in Lacombe and can be contacted at pparker@wolfcreek.ab.ca.

'77 **Donna Martin (Folstad)** writes: Hi everyone! I am living in beautiful

Kelowna, BC and working for the Real Estate Board. My three kids (two boys, one girl) are all grown up and doing great. How fast time has gone since I left Camrose! I would love to hear from old friends and classmates! Please email me at dmartin@omreb.com or call (250) 878 1147. Take good care and God bless you all.

1980s

'80 **Nora Abercrombie** and her kids moved to Edmonton several years ago to form a blended clan comprised of five kids (most of them teenagers), six dogs, three cats, two budgies, two turtles and a hamster. Nora writes that she and Gordon hope to be rewarded for their suffering before they die. Nora can be reached at nora@noraabercrombie.com.

'84 **Brad Boychuk** is busy teaching Phys Ed and Math in Cold Lake, Alberta. He is also busy raising his four children, Bryan, Alexander, Katherine and Ivan after the death of his wife Carol (nee Dobson) who attended CLC from '81-'83.

'84 **Doneta Madge** is the very busy owner of Rocky River Eatery & Cooking in Edmonton, Alberta. Their slogan? "Don't trust a skinny cook because I'm not a skinny eater."

'85 **Catherine Farley (Reinders)**, BA (Music) received her BEd with a major in Music from the University of Lethbridge in '87. Married to Marc in 1991, Cathy lives in Beaumont, Alberta where she is mother to Andrew, Sarah and Heidi and teaches in the Black Gold Regional School Division.

'87 **Andy Faust**, BA (History), is

doing a Masters degree at ACTS Seminars of Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. He spent several years in the Czech Republic and Central Asia, teaching English, translating, and helping compile an ESL dictionary. Andy married Mary Ellen Levitt in 2001 and their son, Caleb was born in 2003. You can contact Andy at andy_faust@sil.org.

'88 Rhonda Draper (Giesbrecht), BA (History), lives in Kelowna, BC with her husband Bruce, son Dylan and daughter Emily. Rhonda is a music specialist in the public school system and also develops teaching materials and presents at conferences, in-services and pro-days. You can find out more about what she has been up to at www.themusicteacher.ca, or contact her at rbdrapeer@shaw.ca.

'88 Tim Renneberg would like to warn current Augustana students that walking across the log handrail on Ole's Bridge in cowboy boots is probably not advisable! Tim would love to hear from old friends, acquaintances and enemies from the 1986-1988 era and asks any former Vikings (hockey, of course), or other folks who remember him, to drop him a line at tvrenneberg@shaw.ca

'89 Karl Terry is living in Calgary and terribly missing his Augustana friends and the fun they had together. He hopes to hear from you soon. His new contact information is kterry@shaw.ca or 403 627 6032.

1990s

'90 Lisa Joy Davis (Munroe) managed to plan her September 2004 wedding to Cam in Claresholm, Alberta in spite of having a job with WestJet that has her travelling out

of the country every month. Lisa and Cam are happily living in Airdrie, Alberta.

'94 Jason Mudry, BSc (Biology) and Karleen became parents of baby Jacob Terrance James Mudry in October 2004. They are living in Red Deer, Alberta.

'95 Reint Boelman and Kirstin Oslund were married in July 2004 in Westlock, Alberta.

'95 Joanne Dawbin, BSc (Biology) and Trevor Schoff welcomed son Tristen William in December 2004.

'95 Richard Desnoyers, BA (History) welcomed the arrival of his third child, Kyle, in May 2004. In addition to his parenting duties, Richard is a high school teacher in Calgary.

'95 Sonia Luy de Langenbrink (Luy Vasquez), BSc (Biology) is living in Saarbrücken, Germany with her husband Christophe and two children, baby Amélie and three year old Sebastian. Sonia, who graduated with an MBA from the University of Saarland in October 2004, can be contacted at sonitaluy@web.de.

'95 Jody Watson, BA (Phys Ed) and his wife Dionne became parents to a baby girl in April 2005.

'96 Jodie Beattie Flath, BSc (Phys Ed) married husband Cole in November 2001. They currently reside on the farm near Radisson, Saskatchewan. Jodie and Cole are pleased to announce the birth of twin girls, Spencer and Tristen, born February 17, 2004.

'96 Deanna Davis, BA Special (English), was recently awarded the

Canadian Graduate Scholarship by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The scholarship, in the amount of \$105,000 (over three years) was awarded to Deanna for her doctoral dissertation project entitled: Piano Pedagogy, Print Culture, and Bodily Inscription: Female Socialization in 19th Century Germany. Now pursuing a PhD in music at the University of Alberta under the direction of Dr. David Gramit, Deanna completed her Bachelor of Arts, Special in English at Augustana in 1996. While attending Augustana, Deanna was an active member of the Augustana Choir and vocal jazz ensemble, Encore. Upon finishing her degree, Deanna also completed music history and theory courses at Augustana in preparation for her entrance to the University of Alberta.

'96 Kristal Saunders (McPherson), BA (Music) and Todd, BA '98 (Interdisciplinary Studies, Environmental Studies) are living in Lac La Biche, Alberta with their two young sons, Avery and Logan. Todd is working at Portage College in the Computer Services department and Kristal is staying home with the boys. She recently joined the local community choir and is deciding whether to begin teaching piano lessons. Kristal and Todd would love to hear from roommates, dorm pals and friends from AUC, so please send them a note at toddkris@telus.net.

'96 Cristin Smith (Reilly), BA Special (Psychology) and her husband Rob were married in 2001. They are proud to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Olivia Mary Catharina on May 16, 2004 in Duncan, BC.

'96 Janet Waltho, BA Special (Psychology) writes that after finishing studies at Grant MacEwan this year she is at the beginning of yet another new career, this time in Human Resources. She is hoping to reconnect with some of those who she lost in her travels (you know who you are!) and, now that she is with the living again, you can just email away to her at j_waltho@yahoo.com.

'97 Raelene Lee (Lorenson) married Tom in August 1999 and graduated with a BEd from the U of A in 2000. They live in Peace River with their two children, Erin and Evan. Raelene would love to hear from 2nd Hoyme and Anderson Hall classmates! raetom@telus.net

'97 Prasanna Parajuli went to Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina after leaving Augustana. He returned to Kathmandu, Nepal in July 2000 where he was married in December 2002. Prasanna is the father of a little girl who, he writes, "has brought much happiness and joy in my life."

'97 Alyson Skaret (Enright) and Chad of Armena, Alberta are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter in March 2005.

'98 Paige Bailey was married to Alton Puddicombe in October 2004.

'98 Kirk Nelson, BA (Religious Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies: Development) and Kareen Nelson (Hutzel), BA (Sociology) became parents to a baby boy in January 2005.

'99 Rachelle Balla (Gaulin), BA (French), graduated with a BEd from the U of A in 2002. Rachelle was married to Trevor in June 2001

and lives in Bonnyville, Alberta.

'99 Dan Johnson and wife Jacki welcomed the arrival of a baby daughter in April 2005.

'99 Wade Jenner, BSc Special (Biology), is currently a PhD candidate in Entomology at Concordia University. Wade's research topic is a continuation of his Masters work in Switzerland on bio-control of a wood boring moth on cherry trees. At the 2004 Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) meetings in PEI in October 2004, Wade presented a paper on his Masters research topic in the 2004 ESC Grad Student Paper competition. Wade's paper took first place in the national 2004 ESA competition.

'99 Marie LeBlanc (Campbell), BA (Art) and Richard were married in Calgary, Alberta in June 2003.

'99 Jonathan Stecyk, BSc Special (Biology), is currently pursuing a PhD at UBC where his research has taken him to Norway on several occasions to study how fish can live for several months without oxygen. For more information on this study and the implications it holds for humans, go to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/InNews/breathing2004.html>

2000s

'00 Christie Badry (Espeseth), BA Special (Psychology) and husband Donnie are the proud parents of a baby girl born in March 2005.

'00 Megan Jackson (Ellsworth), BA Special (Phys Ed, English) was married to Adam in July 2004 in Burlington, Ontario. They moved

to Swift Current, Saskatchewan so Megan could attend Briercrest Biblical Seminary to work on her Masters degree in Marriage and Family Counselling and Adam could teach high school Phys Ed. Megan writes that she would love to hear from any of her old AUC friends (with a special invitation to the girls from the basketball teams of '95-'00 to drop her a note) at julahan_5@hotmail.com.

'00 Shauna Zeldenrust (Ulmer) BA Special (History) married Martijn in September 2004 attended by two bridesmaids who are also Augustana alumni, Esther Van Cuilenborg (Zeldenrust) of the Class of '89 and Esther Munga, BA '03. Shauna and Martijn are residing in her hometown of Barrhead, Alberta.

'01 Heather Bartling (Harburn), BA (English, Psychology) will be celebrating her first wedding anniversary with husband Aaron in August. They are living in Bonnyville, Alberta where Heather is a high school Physical Education teacher.

'01 James Knockleby, BSc Special (Biology, Chemistry, History) and Christy Knockleby (Taylor), BA ('02 Political Studies) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Merritt Joshua Knockleby, on February 1, 2005. The Knocklebys are currently living in Montreal, QC, where James is working on his PhD.

'02 Jo-Ann Scharf (Pattison), BSc (Biology, Geography) and husband Chris became parents of a baby boy in January 2005.

'03 Maria Heise (Rossetto), BSc (Interdisciplinary Studies, Environmental Studies) and husband

Jason became parents on December 9, 2004 with the birth of daughter Keirah Maria.

'04 Kajsa Beck, BSc Special (Biology, Phys Ed, Chemistry) has been spending the past year teaching English in Japan.

'04 Justin McCarroll, BA (History, Political Studies) was married to Kendra Noonan in November 2004. They are living in Edmonton, Alberta.

'04 Joshua Nichol, BSc (Biology),

Interdisciplinary Studies: Environmental Studies/Economics) and Cindy Goofers were married in November 2004 at Augustana. They are residing in Colinton, Alberta.

'05 Shae Belanger (Hamilton), BA Special (History, Political Studies) and Adam Belanger, BA Special ('03 History, Phys Ed) celebrated their marriage on May 7, 2005.

'05 Steven Hansen, BA (Music, German) and The Vinyl Experiment moved to Edmonton in June.

IN MEMORIUM

'34 Esther Christina Olson (Magneson), of Camrose, AB, in March '05

'35 Alice Margaret Stolee, of Camrose, AB, in December '04

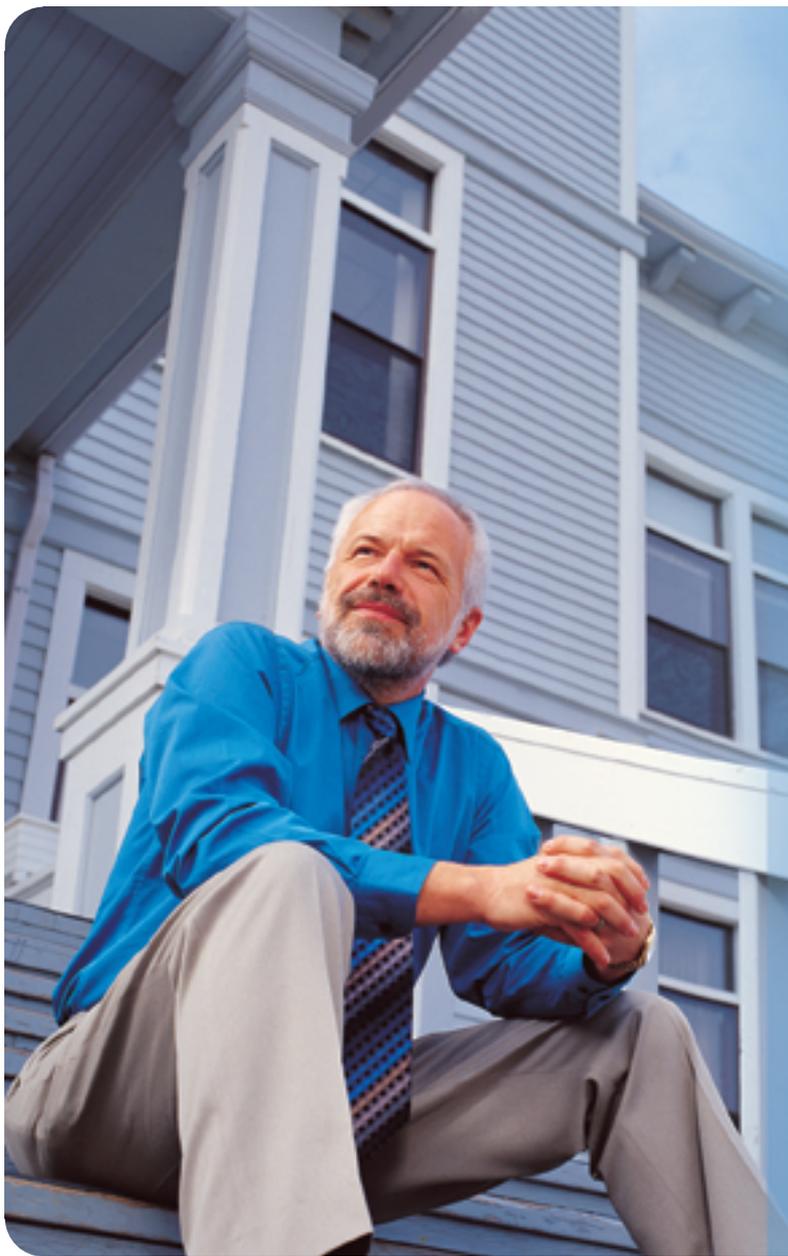
'35 Morris Jevne, of Wetaskiwin, AB, in May '05

'40 Harold (Hal) Bratrud, of Stony Plain, AB, in September '04

'42 Rose Derzpah (Steiner), of Camrose, AB, in December '04

'83 Carol Boychuk (Dobson), of Cold Lake, AB, in April '04

Dr. Robert J. Ostrem, Augustana Professor Emeritus, in July '04



KEEP IN TOUCH

Augustana is a community whose geographic centre is its Camrose campus but whose members – alumni and friends – are found on every continent. Last month, I received an email message from a recent graduate working in rural Guatemala. Her forwarded invitation to an event in Edmonton, she explained, took time to arrive and she could not have attended in any case. Still, she was thankful to receive it. Augustana was a “wonderful stepping-stone,” and she continues to care about it.

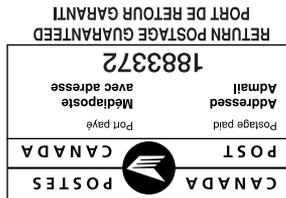
Like all communities, Augustana is formed around the stories it tells. This new-look issue of Express contains some of them. In the coming months, we’ll invite you to receive a monthly e-magazine and bookmark our redesigned website. We’ll meet some of you, as we have recently in Calgary and Edmonton. Because you know Augustana well, we hope to count on you to be our best promoters, recruiters, supporters – even critics.

But we also hope that you will simply share your stories: What was your Augustana experience? What’s happened since? What’s the link? What’s inspired you along the way? Those stories bind a scattered, multi-generational community. They encourage current students with possibilities. And they reassure us that the commitment we’ve made is not unrealistic: a memorable, life-changing education that instills intellectual confidence, imagination and a capacity to lead and serve others. Our alumni attest to all that.

So keep in touch. We want to hear from you.



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