

Passages:

A Photographic Exploration of the End-of-Life Experience



Photograph by Niels Harden

**November 5-17 at the Augustana College
Eide-Dalrymple Gallery**
Located at 29th and Grange Avenue

Gallery Hours
Tuesday thru Sunday 12:00-5:00
Closed Mondays

Please plan to attend the Special Gallery Opening and Program
on Friday, November 8th from 7-9 p.m.

Additional Educational Forums for the Community:

Tuesday, 11/5/02 Medicine and Media:

Entertainment, Expectations and End-of-Life

This forum will examine the often confusing messages that mass-media communicate about end-of-life.

Speakers: Amy Jacobson, MS and Rebecca Richter Havlik, MS

7:00 p.m. Beloit-Marshall Rooms, Second Floor, Augustana Commons Building

Thursday, 11/7/02 Spirituality and End of-Life

Discussion of spirituality issues as they relate to the end of life experience.

Speaker: Phillip Boe, Ph.D. Health Partners Hospice of Minnesota

7:00 p.m. Beloit-Marshall Rooms, Second Floor, Augustana Commons Building

Tuesday, 11/12/02 Wicowicage: Moving Through One's Life Cycle

Lakota philosophy stresses all of the life experience as a valued objective. The end of life becomes necessary and welcome if one is completely alive.

Speaker: Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Augustana College

7:00 p.m. Beloit-Marshall Rooms, Second Floor, Augustana Commons Building

Thursday 11/14/02 Advance Care Planning

Complete your own Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. Legal, medical, spiritual and notary resources will be available.

Panel of speakers

7:00 p.m. Augustana's Madsen Center, Room 202

Please note: The Eide-Dalrymple Gallery will remain open until 6:30 p.m. on November 5, 7, 12 and 14 to allow program attendees to view the art exhibit. Our thanks to the Gallery and its staff for providing this opportunity.

For more information, please call Ellie Schellinger at (605) 333-6381

About This Exhibit

Passages: a photographic exploration of the end-of-life experience is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Partnership for Improving End-of-Life Care in South Dakota, a project of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Department of Neurosciences. The Partnership's vision is to assure that the people of South Dakota will receive the care needed to complete their life and die peacefully; their loved ones will receive support; and health care providers will improve their skills in palliative care. In order to nurture these values at the undergraduate level, local academic institutions are incorporating end-of-life curriculum into their course work. Augustana College, as part of their Capstone series, has developed the course *Living Until We Die, Dying Until We Live*, to provide students the opportunity to explore issues surrounding death and dying.

Living Until We Die, Dying Until We Live raised questions about fears of death, what comes after death, what it is like to die, when to stop medical treatment, controlling death, and how life and death are intertwined. These students moved beyond the classroom to local hospice cottages, inpatient hospice units, nursing homes and private residences. They spent time with the elderly, with hospice patients, with caregivers and staff. The students kept a journal of reflection during the experience and supplemented their journal work with photographs.

By incorporating these narratives and photographs into an art exhibit, we invite the participant to view the end-of-life experience through the student artist's eyes. In this manner we hope to expand the community's understanding of the importance of easing the passage out of life, and enhance the awareness of the power and value of end of life care. All exhibit pieces were used with permission of both the student and the subject, and edited to their current form by a panel. Dates, ages and location are referenced at the time of the interviews.

While the narratives and photographs celebrate the individual, the viewer will begin to discern common themes echoing from the panels as they move through the exhibit. Subjects speak of supportive family and friends, and reflect on fear and loneliness. Some fight to live, while others hope to live on in the memories of others. There are stories of struggles to adapt to the changes age or illness has wrought, and reflections on lives well-lived. Courage, frustration, reconciliation, completion... all play a part in the recounting.

About the Capstone Course at Augustana College: *How Then Shall We Live?* The purpose of a Capstone course is to involve students and faculty in conversations regarding moral and aesthetic issues, and to reflect on how one can live as a responsible member of church and society. As part of their narratives, students were encouraged to address the following questions, which may be referenced in their pieces:

- ⌘ What does Richard John Neuhaus mean by “the work of dying well is, in largest part, the work of living well?” What does living say about dying? What does dying say about living? How do you think those with whom you visited would answer these questions?
- ⌘ How did your visits influence your understanding of caring for a dying patient and their family?
- ⌘ Reflect on your prior experiences with death and dying, however remote or close-at-hand. How did these experiences shape your expectations and outcomes of the visits in this class?
- ⌘ How did you feel when you were with a person who is at the end of life? What was the most important thing you learned from the visits?
- ⌘ What did you learn from taking the photographs? About yourself? About the subjects? The family? The staff?
- ⌘ What is the most important learning that happened to you in this project?
- ⌘ After this project, how would you interpret the title of the course?

This course was led by Ann Pederson, Ph.D., Augustana College, Department of Religion, Philosophy and Classics, and LuAnn Eidsness, M.D., USD School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine. Students in *Living Until We Die, Dying Until We Live* represented a wide range of disciplines:

Name	Major(s)
Katheryn Acosta	Government, Sociology
Rebecca Anderson	Nursing
Melissa Bert	Biology
Kari Black	Communication Business
Danielle Brandt	Nursing
Leah Burggraaf	Nursing
Jenny Clementson	Biology
William Delfs	Math, Chemistry
Cherie Dunn	Nursing

Student Participants, Continued

Name	Major(s)
Amy Dvorak	Management Information Systems
Elizabeth Elbert	Communication, Secondary Education
Beth Elliot	Nursing
Jordan Antony Estes	Theater
Donna Fenner Mabee	English
Michelle Gartner	Exercise Science, Fitness Management
Lars Gjerde	Music, German
Nicholas Golz	Economics, Business Administration
Patricia Gorrell	Nursing
Kayla Gough	Nursing
Niels Harden	Biology
Michelle Hile	Nursing
Colleen Hinz	Secondary Education Social Studies
Kathleen McCabe	Elementary Education
Andrew Johnson	Nursing
Melissa Kludt	Nursing
Sonja Knadel	Psychology
Sarah Kremmin	Nursing
Jerrid Kruse	Chemistry
Carrie Leber	Athletic Training, Exercise Science
Julie Anne Luebke	Management Info. Systems, Business Admin.
Kristen Nelson	Elementary Education
Tamera Oltmanns	Biology
Sarah Ostrem	Nursing
Wendy Ponstein	Nursing
Melissa Roberts	Communications
Torstein Roe	Economics, Business Administration
Daniel Schreur	Nursing
Gretchen Spars	Elementary education
Tara Tutt	Elementary Education
Karen Uthke	Biology
Lesley Clifton	Psychology
Dawn VerMeer	Nursing
Lindsay Voss	Elementary Education
Sandra Wiese	Biology
Michael Wiisanen	Biology
Austin Winberg	Psychology

The Partnership for Improving End-of-Life Care in South Dakota would like to express their thanks and appreciation to:

- ⌘ The individuals and their families who allowed us a glimpse of their lives
- ⌘ The Capstone students who shared their thoughts and impressions
- ⌘ The staff of hospices, hospitals, nursing homes and the parish nursing network who made the visits possible; Avera McKennan Hospice & Palliative Care, Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center, Avera Prince of Peace, Bethany Lutheran Home, Beverly Healthcare – Covington Heights, Lennox Good Samaritan Center, The Parish Nursing Network, Sioux Valley Hospice, Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center, Waterford at All Saints

And, the dedicated professionals who provided leadership and expertise:

- ⌘ Sheila Agee, Artist
- ⌘ Judith Batchelor, Ph.D., Chair, Partnership for Improving End-of-Life Care in South Dakota
- ⌘ Christine Bruning, Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center
- ⌘ LuAnn Eidsness, MD, University of South Dakota School of Medicine
- ⌘ Mary S. Freeman, MSW, Neurology Associates, PC
- ⌘ Adrien Hannus, Ph.D., Augustana College
- ⌘ Angela Heibult, MS, Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center
- ⌘ Arlene Horner, RN,
- ⌘ Ann Pederson, Ph.D., Augustana College
- ⌘ Ellen Schellinger, MA, Center for Ethics & Caring at Sioux Valley Hospital
- ⌘ Linda Schmid, MSW, Avera McKennan Hospice
- ⌘ Mary Selvig, Artist
- ⌘ Sandra Young, RN, MS, CNS, Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center

And, the institutions and businesses that provided resources:

Department of Neurosciences, University of South Dakota School of Medicine

The Partnership for Improving End-of-Life Care in South Dakota,

The Section for Ethics & Humanities

Augustana College and the Eide-Dalrymple Gallery

Sioux Valley Hospital USD Medical Center

The Center for Ethics and Caring at Sioux Valley Hospital

The DeGroot Fund for Ethics and Caring – Sioux Valley Foundation

Avera McKennan Hospital and University Medical Center

Philadelphia Center for Religion and Science/Metanexus

Full Circle Gallery

Harold's Photo