

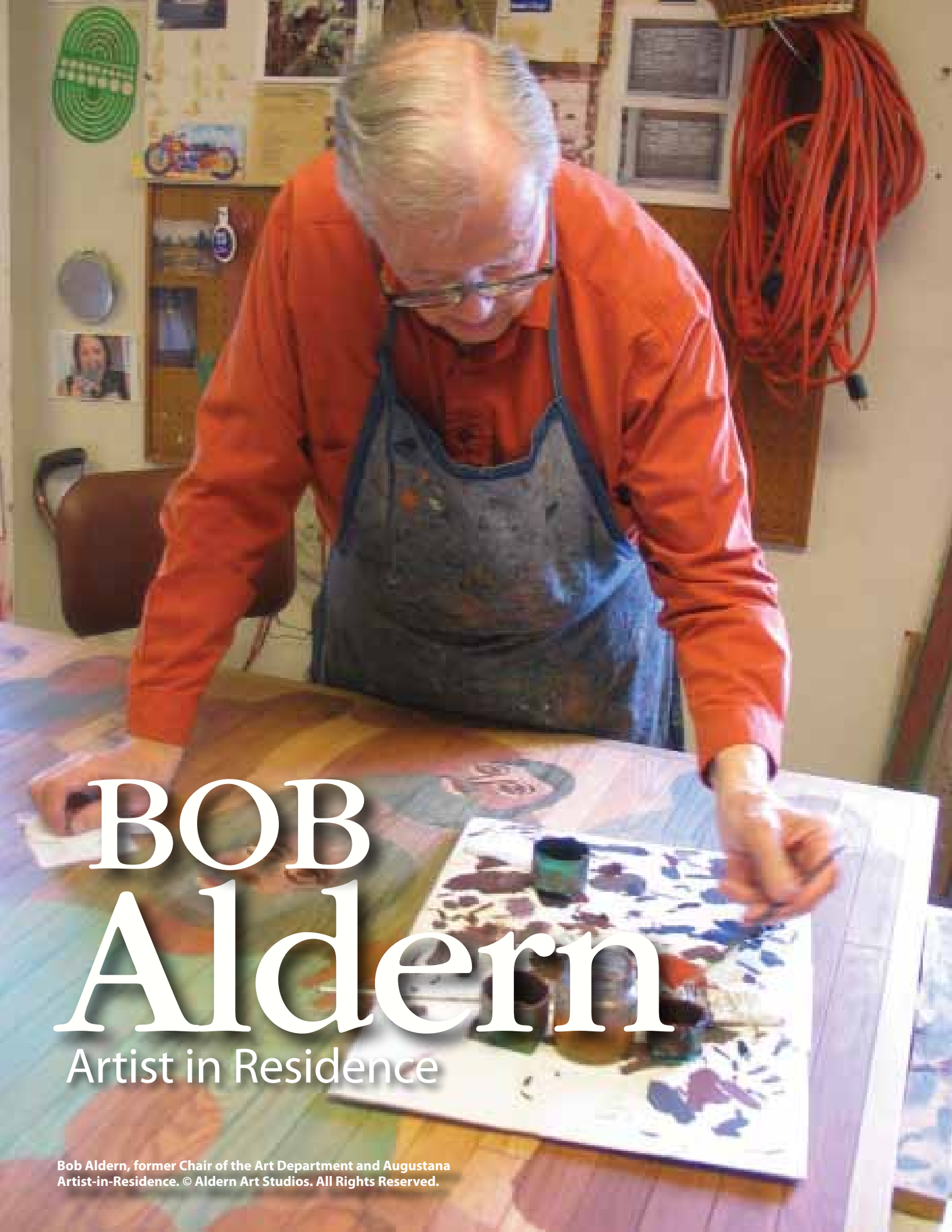
This summer, the Augustana community mourned the loss of long-serving contributors Bob Aldern, Tracy Riddle, Dianne Hammrich and Dr. Harold Foss.



"Believer's Looking Forward," was among Bob Aldern's last easel paintings and his last liturgical piece.

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goodbye
good friends



BOB Aldern

Artist in Residence

Bob Aldern, former Chair of the Art Department and Augustana Artist-in-Residence. © Aldern Art Studios. All Rights Reserved.

He was influenced by the men many have called the “founding lions” of the Augustana Art Department: Palmer Eide and Ogden Dalrymple.

Little did Robert Aldern know that one day, he, too, would be considered among the greats.

Aldern, class of 1951 and former department chair and Artist-in-Residence, died on Saturday, June 11. He was 82.

Aldern served Augustana as a member of the Faculty from 1980 until 1991. After his retirement, he continued to be involved with the College as an Artist-in-Residence, working to make arts-related initiatives such as the Hovland Center for Liturgical Arts a reality. Examples of his work include the Reredos in Augustana’s Chapel of Reconciliation and the Triptych at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, among many others.

Prior to joining Augustana, Aldern served as Professor of Art and Chair of the Art Department at the University of South Dakota

art, while showing an awareness of modernist trends occurring in New York City, was ardently never just art for its own sake. Art was to be situated and incorporated within the artist’s own community. This is a legacy that guides the Art Department to this day — and is one of its greatest strengths.”

“He had the good fortune of beginning his art career in the 1950s at the same time that liturgical art was being reinvigorated in the United States. The growing liturgical arts movement sought to reconnect modern art and architecture to liturgical function, viewing it as a form of visual theology: the liturgy was art and art could be an intrinsic component of the liturgy. Numerous congregations, generations of worshippers and countless visitors who have experienced Aldern’s work in situ have benefitted from this confluence that resulted in nearly a half-century’s worth of work. And we are incredibly fortunate to experience this expansive vision at every worship service [in the

“I want my paintings to seed my remaining seasons.

Through the textural changes of plowing,
harrowing, planting, cultivating;

Growing to blossom
And yielding to harvest
To be disked and plowed again
For freezing snow and wind.

Now, resting is the time
For a gathering, scar soaked earth
Later carrying seeds to birth.”

– **Bob Aldern**

in Vermillion. Before that, he was South Dakota State University’s Artist-in-Residence. He also served as Artistic Consultant to the Catholic Diocese of Eastern South Dakota from 1964 to 1966 and was director of the Sioux Falls Civic Fine Arts Center from 1961 to 1964.

Among his many honors, he received the Augustana Alumni Achievement Award in 1977; the Governor’s Award in the Arts for Distinction in Creative Achievement in 1997; and the Mayor’s Award for Achievement in the Arts in 2000.

Dr. Lindsay Twa, assistant professor of Art and director of the Eide/Dalrymple Gallery, spoke about Aldern’s accomplishments and contributions during Augustana’s “Heritage and Hope” lecture series in February 2011:

“Robert Aldern ... was influenced by the two founding lions of the department, Palmer Eide and Ogden Dalrymple. Bob observed each artist balancing their teaching loads with their personal studio practices and the execution of public commissions in a range of media. Their

Chapel of Reconciliation].”

“We could say that retirement is the only thing that he has failed at in his life. And this, too, seems to be a part of the Augustana heritage. Our community is sustained by many former faculty and staff who continue to help out in countless large and small ways into their twilight years because they continue to be passionate about making this place as great as it is.”

“Bob Aldern was a guiding light for the art department and Augustana College; he is an emblem of a future that always draws strength from the past, and of a past that is always generative of future endeavors.”

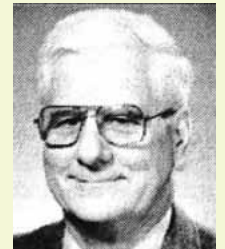
Aldern received his BFA from Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford, Hartford, Conn., and his bachelor’s degree from Augustana. He also spent a summer in training with famed artist Jean Charlot.

A new scholarship has been created by the Aldern family to support Art students who share Aldern’s passion, creativity and commitment.

Harold Foss, Former Natural Sciences Chair, Dies at 86

Dr. Harold F. Foss, former chair of the natural sciences department, passed away on Tuesday, July 19. He was 86.

Foss joined the College in 1958. Prior to coming to Augustana, he served as a high school teacher and administrator in Montana and Idaho.



Foss

After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he earned his bachelor’s degree from

the University of Montana and later earned his doctorate from Indiana University.

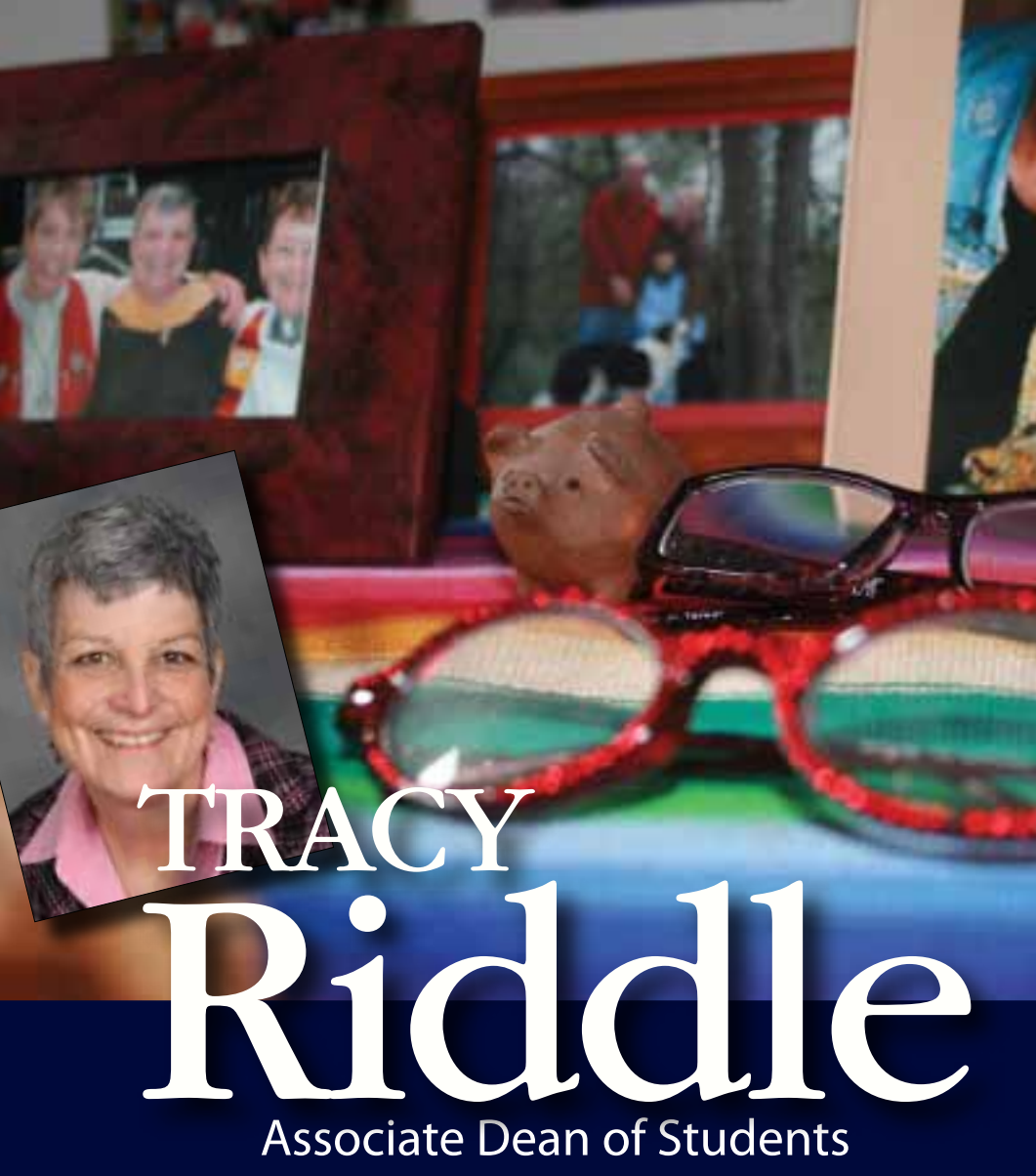
In an article announcing his retirement in the May 14, 1987, issue of *The Mirror*, Augustana’s student newspaper, Foss recalled his early days at Augustana.

“Foss ... can recall when science classes were taught in the now Social Sciences’ ‘Green Room.’ When Foss arrived in 1958, Biology was a three-man department,” the story said.

In the early 1970s, Foss began working with students on “environmental action” programs to examine the impact of daily living on the planet.

He is credited with helping to develop a number of outdoor classroom activities and also participated in several National Science Foundation initiatives across the country. In 1984, he was selected as the Siouland Conservation Educator of the Year.

Foss was a long-time member of Hope Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, the National Biology Teachers Association and the Augustana Golden Vikings. He was past president of the South Dakota Academy of Science.



TRACY Riddle

Associate Dean of Students



She never stood before a chalkboard or lectured behind a podium; yet, to students, she was one of Augustana's most treasured teachers.

Tracy Riddle, Augustana's long-time associate dean of students, died on Friday, July 22, after a two-year-long battle with cancer. She was 54.

"Tracy was a dear friend and colleague who touched the lives of countless students, families, faculty and staff members with her passion for life, tenacious spirit and gentle compassion," said Rob Oliver, president.

A native of El Centro, Calif., Riddle received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., and her master's degree from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif. She joined Augustana in 1990 and was instrumental in leading the College's student housing program. She was also involved in significant ways with developing Augustana's co-curriculum.

In April 2011, she received the Augie Pride award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the College.

"Tracy taught the entire campus community about the importance of advocacy, acceptance, friendship, dedication and kindness. At the same time, she worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every student had what they needed in order to succeed socially and academically," said Dr. Jim Bies, vice president for Student Services and dean of students. "Even as she battled pain and sickness, she continued to place her concern for our students above her own. She was one-in-a-million and we will be forever grateful for the countless contributions she made to the College and for the precious life lessons she taught us."

In an entry on her CaringBridge page, an online journal for those battling health-related challenges, Riddle wrote about the important place Augustana students held in her heart.

"Students are my passion and they get me out of bed in the morning, even in the summer. I am blessed to have such a clear vision of what my calling on earth is."

A memorial scholarship has been established to honor Riddle's life and the many gifts she made to the Augustana community through the years.

Read and listen to tributes to Riddle online at www.augie.edu/tracy.

TOP: Riddle's signature reading glasses were on display, along with photos and other mementos of her life during a memorial service held in her honor in July. **BOTTOM:** Riddle hugs a student following Augustana's Commencement Ceremony in May.

Psalm 139: As Told By a Dean of Students

As Campus Pastor Paul Rohde read Psalm 139 at Tracy's bedside the day she died, he was taken with how fully and freely she had lived it. In her memory, he offered this paraphrase at Riddle's memorial service in the Chapel on July 26.

How wonderful are your works, O God.
How vast is the sum of them.

If you, in fact, know every word
before it passes my lips,
You are indeed a creative and colorful
God.

Where shall I flee from your presence?

If I go to the mosh pit, you are there.
And if I ascend to the top of Stavig or
Granskou to chase students
off the roof, you are there.

If I call the privileged to service, you are
there.
And if I stand with the broken and
downtrodden, you are there.

If I am awakened at 4 a.m., you are there.
And if I get back to bed at 1 a.m., you are
there, too.

If I go to Guatemala or Chile, you are
there, and if the international students
have a bake sale on my yard, you are
there.

If I stir enthusiasm into yet another Cov-
enant Award committee for how blessed
we are to serve students who live our
values, you are there.

And if I grant mercy [or receive mercy]
for yet another time we fail our values,
you are there.

If I celebrate student triumphs, you are
there.
And if I sit with disappointment one
more time, you are there.

You have called me to this work, O
God, so every student and colleague
may know that they are fearfully and
wonderfully made. You bless me with
compassion and delight in the promise
that from your womb, O Mother God,
you have made us sisters and broth-
ers. You knit our stories in intricate and
astounding ways.

How vast is the sum of your gifts, O God.
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Colleagues Remember Hammrich's Strength, Work Ethic, Positive Attitude

Dianne Hammrich, former administrative assistant to the Academic Dean, died on Sunday, Aug. 28, following a courageous battle with breast cancer. She was 60.

Hammrich joined Augustana's Food Service team in 1986. She also worked in the Business Office and later served in the Office of Academic Affairs until retiring in 2009.

A memorial fund in Hammrich's name has been established in support of students.

Dr. William Swart, professor of sociology, shared the following message about Hammrich during a memorial service held on Sept. 12 in the Chapel of Reconciliation:

In Memory: Dianne Hammrich

I stand before you
this morning with
a mixed bag of
emotions ... grief



“Dianne was a uniquely empathetic
and selfless person who
could make others feel comfortable, and
happy and positive...”

— Dr. William Swart

and sadness over the loss of someone so special to us ... relief and gratitude that someone I love is no longer suffering ... fascination at the grand ironies that moments like this bring ... hesitation, because I'm pretty sure Dianne wouldn't want us to have gone through all this trouble ... frustration – and if I am honest, maybe even a touch of anger – over what my mortal mind can only construe as a gross injustice. But the two feelings that glow the most brightly for me this morning are honor and insecurity. Honor because I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of someone many of us loved dearly, and inadequacy because, first ... so many of you knew Dianne for much longer than I had, and second ... how does one memorialize a person like

Dianne in so little time?

I told Dianne many times that I believed she lived in another dimension of time ... Whereas most of us get a mere 24 hours in a day, Dianne had some special arrangement with the universe where she got 28 or 36. How else could she have gotten everything done? On top of working a 60-plus hour-a-week job at Augie, how else could she have found time for another part-time job at Yonkers, let alone bake thousands of desserts for faculty meetings or the Library Associates, or build the myriad of Christmas baskets for her friends each year, or spend weeks at a time in Greece ... or Morocco ... or Ireland ... or the Virgin Islands?

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CLASS OF 1964

Violet (Jacobson) Bahnson, 91, died June 22, 2011, in Inwood, Iowa.

CLASS OF 1963

Richard Grell, 71, died May 25, 2011, in Worland, Wyo.

Jerome Knutson is a retired professor from the University of Minnesota who spent 35 years teaching zoology and microbiology.

CLASS OF 1961

Theodore May, 71, died July 24, 2011 in Minneapolis, Minn.

CLASS OF 1960

Max Rittgers has a winery in Chiefland on the gulf coast of Florida. It was recently featured in the November 2010 issue of *Southern Living Magazine*.

**CLASS OF 1959**

Richard "Dick" Ronken, 74, died June 5, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

CLASS OF 1958

James Hunter, 76, died Aug. 28 in Sioux Falls.

CLASS OF 1956

Mary (Gudahl) Rehms, 82, died May 22, 2011.

Milo Stormo, 84, died July 10, 2011, in Helendale, Calif.

CLASS OF 1955

Arlan Selland and his wife, Barb, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 18-Wheel Truck Promotions Association at the Wheel Jam awards program.

CLASS OF 1954

LeRoy Stern, 83, died Aug. 16, 2011, in Portland, Ore.

CLASS OF 1953

Dean Niedert, 83, died Aug. 6, 2011, in Madison, S.D.

CLASS OF 1952

Bonnie (Buchheim) Eitrem died May 26, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Patricia (Husher) Seashore, 80, died May 5, 2011, in Tucson, Ariz.

Edwin Voigt, 81, died May 12, 2011, in Columbus, Neb.

CLASS OF 1951

Robert Aldern, 82, died June 11, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Eugene Dow, 83, died Sept. 12, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Dr. Donald Frost, 85, died June 10, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Patricia (Sorenson) Gray died Dec. 30, 2010, in El Cajon, Calif.

CLASS OF 1950

Herman Lerdal, 83, died Aug. 18, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Joan (Lindekugel) Michaelson, 82, died Oct. 12, 2010.

Carolyn (Hatlestad) Wooten, 90, died Aug. 5, 2011.

**CLASS OF 1949**

Robert Christianson, 85, died June 17, 2011, in St. James, Minn.

Grace (Stegen) Ohnstad, 85, died June 3, 2011, in Denver, Colo.

CLASS OF 1948

Ardis Swanson, 85, died June 22, 2011, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

CLASS OF 1947

Glenn Lee, 90, died July 10, 2011, in Austin, Texas.

CLASS OF 1946

Joel Hanson, 84, died Aug. 17, 2011, in Springfield, S.D.

Kenneth and Phyllis (Larson) Christopherson

'47 live in Tacoma, Wash., where Ken spent most of his career as a professor of church history. Ken founded

the Pacific Lutheran University's Ski Team and the couple has led tours to 57 countries on all continents but Antarctica.

CLASS OF 1943

Dorothy (Delgaard) Armstrong, 89, died June 24, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

Eula (Jertson) Hinderaker, 90, died Aug. 5, 2011, in Watertown, S.D.

Jeanne (Fridgen) Jenter, 90, died June 28, 2011, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

CLASS OF 1941

Sylvia (Winton) Greene, 92, died Aug. 30 in Sioux Falls.

**CLASS OF 1939**

Ruth (Lerdal) Gill, 94, died June 12, 2011 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

CLASS OF 1935

Helen (Aaby) Larsen, 98, died June 26, 2011, in Mequite, Nev.

CLASS OF 1934

Ellen (Mostem) Bersagel, 99, died July 30, 2011.

SWART: '... Dianne Touched Our Lives.'

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Jay ... man, how the heck did you keep up with her?

Now I've never been any good at understanding let alone predicting God's will, but I can't help but wonder if God put Dianne into some sort of time warp so that she could touch the lives of more people during the time she had among us ... Dianne was a uniquely empathetic and selfless person who could make others feel comfortable, and happy and positive, and confident no matter what they were going through ... but even more remarkably ... no matter what she was going through.

We all have stories we could share, and sharing them would span hours – maybe days. I'll share one ... shortly after she had finished her first round of chemotherapy, Dianne took the UMAIE course Dr. Patrick Hicks and I were leading to Ireland. (I could spend hours talking about what a feat of strength and endurance that must have been given the state of her recovery... but that's another story.) We had just arrived in Dublin, and the students, including Dianne, were keen on getting out of the hotel and immersing themselves in the nightlife of the city (that's code for going "pubbing" by the way.) I discovered

at breakfast the next morning that Dianne never made it out of the hotel that night. You see, we had changed roommates when we moved from London to Dublin, and upon moving in together, Dianne's new roommate had come to an awareness of Dianne's recent battle with breast cancer. I have no idea, nor do I have any business knowing the content of that conversation – but I do know that Dianne's cancer raised quite a few questions ... and quite a bit of anxiety and fear for her roommate. And so instead of exploring Dublin with the rest of the students, Dianne had spent the night calming, reassuring, comforting, and answering the questions of this anxious and frightened young woman.

I know some of us were frustrated by Dianne's solitary and rather stoic approach to her cancer. Like this night in Dublin, Dianne often shared her cancer with people only when it would help comfort them. Many of us wanted to be let in ... to serve, to share, and to support her in her battle. That just wasn't Dianne – she was simply more interested in carrying the tough stuff in the lives of others than she was in sharing the tough stuff in her own.

The Lakota have a ritual they call Wanagi Yuhapi which means "Ghost Owning" or "Keeping of the Soul".... It is a complex

ritual that varies across families, but one of its elements often includes the decision by a family member to honor the deceased by spending the next year "doing the good" that the deceased would have done if they had remained alive.

I'm not Lakota, nor do I practice the Lakota Way. Still, if there ever was a woman who deserved to be honored in this way, it was Dianne Hammrich. Her character, her strength, her work ethic, her positive attitude, her empathy, her humility – these are the qualities with which Dianne touched our lives ... these were qualities that all of us admired ... these are qualities that are a much needed antidote to an often frightened, anxious, and disconnected world.

So I'll end where I began ... just how does someone memorialize a person like Dianne in so little time? I think the Lakota were on to something ... For those of who, like me, can whine and complain about the most petty or insignificant discomforts ... we could all use a little more Dianne Hammrich in our lives. But we can't have her back

So let's not just remember her today, let's honor her memory by "doing the good" Dianne would have done if she were still with us. Dianne would have wanted it this way.