

*A Message from the Alumni Association President*

# Use Your Roots to Soar

My fellow alumni,

The dictionary defines camaraderie as “a spirit of friendly good-fellowship.”

During your time at Augustana, you likely developed great friendships with your roommates and classmates. But did you ever stop to think about how your Augustana roots have helped establish relationships for you after college?

At the Metro Deaf School in St. Paul, Minn., eight Augustana alumni are working together to serve students and their parents. They are: Kelley (Lindell) Cole ‘85; Janet (Eisfeld) Caven ‘03; Trisha Beseman ‘11; Chris (Sorensen) Thiers ‘74; Cheri Piemeisl ‘05; Erik Queen ‘05; Heidi (Lukin) Ernst ‘05; and Julie (Keimig) Al-Rai ‘88.

We had a chance to catch up with Kelley (Lindell) Cole, who says the Augustana bond she shares with her colleagues is a unique and special connection.

“When you find out someone else is from Augie there’s an instant rapport – an instant connection. You know their roots; so you expect great things. We know that Augie grads will meet great expectations and will measure up. We know they’ll be great teachers,” she said.

“It’s obvious the Augie Deaf Education program is getting stronger and stronger because the new teachers who come here are so well-prepared. They know the deaf culture and their ASL skills are so developed.”

Like Kelley, I feel the same way every time I’m lucky enough to work with a fellow Augustana graduate. The connection – the instant camaraderie we share – comes from our roots. It’s something to be celebrated, indeed.

Do you work with fellow Vikings? If so, share your stories on [augielink.com](http://augielink.com) – we’d love to hear from you!

Go Augie Go!  
*Cory Halstenson*  
Class of 1996



**Metro Deaf School Augustana Alumni**  
**BACK ROW:** Chris (Sorensen) Thiers ‘74 and Erik Queen ‘05. **THIRD ROW:** Julie (Keimig) Al-Rai ‘88 and Janet (Eisfeld) Caven ‘03. **SECOND ROW:** Cheri Piemeisl ‘05 and Trisha Beseman ‘11. **FIRST ROW:** Kelley (Lindell) Cole ‘85 and Heidi (Lukin) Ernst ‘05.

## Holden Village Summer Program Planned

Augustana alumni and friends are invited to Holden Village, summer, 2012. Campus Pastor Paul and Susan Rohde are teaching staff coordinators for the summer program. They have invited a number of Augustana’s great professors to teach in week-long sessions at the village. Teachers coming already include Dr. Sandra Looney, Dr. Richard Swanson, Dr. Christopher Stanichar, Dr. Janet and Ross Blank-Libra, Dr.

Laurie Jungling, and Dr. Darcy Rives-East.

Founded as a copper mine, Holden has been a mountaintop Lutheran retreat center in the North Cascades of Washington state for 50 years.

For information and registration, visit [holdenvillage.org](http://holdenvillage.org)

The Rohdes are sharing the coordination with Christian Scharen and Sonja Batalden of Luther Seminary.

To make a memorial gift, please send a personal check to the Development Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Administration Building, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, S.D., 57197. Please note the fund you are supporting. Or, make a gift online, at [www.augielink.com/donate](http://www.augielink.com/donate) (Enter the gift amount in the “Other” field and just below, type in the name of the fund you are supporting).

## Class Notes

Visit [www.augielink.com](http://www.augielink.com) for daily updates and photos.



### CLASS OF 2011

**Trent Anderson** and **Shannon Cumiskey** ‘10 were married on June 25, 2011. They live in Moorhead, Minn.

**Joe Clark** is playing professional football for the Marburg Mercenaries in Germany.

**Megan Doyle** is an admission counselor at Augustana College.

**Rachel Hoogendoorn** married **Chase Kramer** ‘08 on June 17, 2011. Rachel is working as a music teacher at St. Mary Elementary in Sioux Falls. They live in Sioux Falls.

**Bethany Jochim** earned the Leroy Apker Award from the American Physical Society which recognizes outstanding achievements in physics by undergraduate students.

**Jenny Lockhart** is a web journalist at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont.

**Rebekah Neu** is a business office assistant at Henkin Schultz Communication Arts in Sioux Falls.

**Maren Peterson** started an internship at United Planet coordinating short term volunteer placements in Tanzania, Ghana and Romania.

**Joanna Qualm** is the circulation assistant at Augustana’s Mikkelsen Library.

**Heidi Senst** has been accepted at the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota.

**Pearl Wigdahl** is working as a registered nurse at Sanford Health in Birth Place/Gynecology.

**Megan Ziemek** is a math teacher at Canton High School.

### CLASS OF 2010

**Shannon Cumiskey** and **Trent Anderson** ‘11 were married on June 25, 2011. They live in Moorhead, Minn.

**Kendra Gottsleben** is the social media coordinator for the Sanford School of Medicine/USD Center for Disabilities in Sioux Falls.

**Marie Halverson** has taken a position as marketing program coordinator at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Mo.

**Bryan Kaemingk** and **Bethany Zogg** were married on June 11, 2011. Bryan is in graduate school and Bethany will be starting medical school. They live in Grand Forks, N.D.

**Nicole Winkler** is working as an actuarial analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida in Jacksonville, Fla.

### CLASS OF 2009

**Charlie Bahnsen** is attending veterinary school at Iowa State.

**Justine Lueth** is the marketing coordinator for Augustana’s Office of Marketing and Communications.

**Rachel McAllister** is teaching art at Discovery Elementary and Memorial Middle School in Sioux Falls.

# Holiday Jam With the Hegg Brothers Set for Dec. 20 in St. Paul

If you saw them last year, odds are, you'll be there again this year. If you missed it, don't miss it again!

The Minnesota edition of "Holiday Jam with the Hegg Brothers," a musical evening of holiday favorites featuring Augustana alumni Jeremy Hegg '94; Jon Hegg '99; Noah Hoehn '02; and Andrew Reinartz '05, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the historic Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul.

The Hegg Brothers unveiled the Holiday Jam tour in 2009 and, for the past two years, have sold out venues throughout eastern South Dakota and northwestern Iowa. In 2010, they presented Holiday Jam in St. Paul for the first time, performing to a crowd of more than 500.

In an online review of the St. Paul concert, one fan wrote:

"...I was so happy to see they were bringing this holiday show to the Twin Cities, where I live. Musically, it managed to be sophisticated and super-hip while maintaining a reverence to the holiday genre. Jeremy Hegg's intelligent and humorous leadership, while restrained, still managed to add personality not usually found at such shows. In those senses, the Holiday Jam was as enjoyable as any other holiday show I've seen here, or more so."

Tickets start at \$25 per person and are on sale at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)



and at the Fitzgerald Theater Box Office. Minnesota Public Radio members are eligible to receive a discount.

The Hegg Brothers band is a nine-piece ensemble that combines a mix of vocals with electric and acoustic guitars, dual keyboards, harmonica, horns, bass and a pounding percussion section for an unforgettable evening of classic and contemporary favorites that celebrate the spirit of the season.

**Tiffany Crisp** and Ned Reitsma married on Oct. 2, 2010. Tiffany is a registered nurse at Avera McKennan Hospital. They live in Sioux Falls.

**Luke Tatge** is an editor at the *Dell Rapids Tribune*.

**Andrew Vander Linden** married Kendra (Neu) on Aug. 21, 2010.

## CLASS OF 2008

**Elizabeth (Sauer)** and Timothy Bertrand welcomed a daughter, Abigail Mae, on Aug. 18, 2011.

**Libby Frost** married Michael Bossman on May 27, 2011. The couple lives in Sioux Falls.

**Brittany Sheller** married Ken Brennan on Sept. 4, 2010. Brittany works at Great Lakes Physical Therapy as a pediatric speech-language pathologist in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

**Justine Ferguson** is pursuing a master of science degree in Physician Assistant Studies at the University of South Dakota and is scheduled to graduate in December of 2013.

**Jaime Jones** is teaching second grade at Gomez Heritage Elementary, a dual language school in the Omaha (Neb.) Public School District.

**Kyle Kelly** has completed his M.S. in Integrative Physiology at the University of Colorado and is working there as a research assistant in the Department of Integrative Physiology & Center for Neuroscience. He is applying to veterinary schools this fall.

**Chase Kramer** married **Rachael Hoogenboom** '11 on June 17, 2011. Chase is working at Van DeWalle Associates. They live in Sioux Falls.

**Emily Johnson** and Jeremy Maurice were married on Jan. 1, 2011. She is a paralegal at Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun. The couple lives in Sioux Falls.

**Christie (Schneider) Ness** is teaching 7th-9th science at United South Central in Wells, Minn.

**Cassie (Pfeiffer) Muske** will be a Huron Elementary School counselor.

**Nathan** and **Melinda (Bjelland) Sletten** welcomed a daughter, Adeline Renae Sletten, on June 10, 2011.

**Jacquelyn Strey** began her Ph.D. studies in sociology of religion at King's College in London. Her topic is Lesbianism in India and the correlation between gendered violence and Hindu Nationalism.

**Paula (Schmeichel) VerDouw** is the business office manager at Henkin Schultz Communication Arts in Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Jesson Vogt** married Casey Gorham on Sept. 3, 2011.

**Blair (Meyer) Voigt** works at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh as a speech-language pathologist.

## CLASS OF 2007

**David Anderson** is teaching guitar at Minooka Community High School in Minooka, Ill. In May 2009, he received his master's degree in music performance from Michigan State University. David married Sarah Jones on June 25, 2011, in Yorkville, Ill.

**Jessica Carter** is combating substance abuse as the community coalition coordinator at Buffalo County Community Partners.

**Cody Henriksen** received his DDS degree from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and is now working at the Dental Comfort Center. He and his family live in Sioux Falls.

**Erin (Taphorn) Nguyen** is an art teacher at Storm Lake Middle School. Nguyen is also a practicing artist whose pieces can be viewed at [ceramics.com](http://ceramics.com).

**Joel Quist** married **Erin Seidel** on June 4, 2011. Erin earned a medical degree from the Sanford School of Medicine at USD and will begin a residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Joel is an optometrist at Shopko Optical. The couple will live in Omaha, Neb.

**Joseph Ryan** and his wife, Amy, welcomed a new baby girl, Keira Marie, on May 13, 2011.

**Elizabeth (DeVries) Steven** is a compliance officer for Premier Bank in Rock Valley, Iowa.

**Chris Wentzlaff** graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law and has moved to the Minneapolis, Minn., area where he is an attorney at Thomson Reuters.

**Kara Wiechmann** is an associate pastor at Tri-County Ministry in rural North Dakota.

**Chris Zuraff** and **Katie (Strong)** welcomed a baby boy, Nolan, on Aug. 17, 2011. Chris is serving as a pastor at Clarkfield Lutheran Church in Clarkfield, Minn.

## CLASS OF 2006

**Josh Aberson** has launched a new real estate company in Sioux Falls called Green Acre Real Estate.

**Megan (Paulson) Burlingame** and Dave welcomed their son, Noah Daniel, on Nov. 15, 2010.

**Nancy Caldwell** and Nick Dahlheimer were married on Aug. 6, 2011.

**Jon Larson** is the associate pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck, N.D.

**Brian Moen** married **Ashley Smith** '05 on Oct. 9, 2010. Brian is an operations manager at Marriott Hotels. The couple lives in St. Paul, Minn.

**Rebecca (Lund) Sheridan** has been called as a pastor to Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home in Stromsburg and Zion Lutheran Church in Benedict, Neb.

**Elizabeth Thron** is the collections assistant at the Center for Western Studies.

## CLASS OF 2005

**Kari Pabst** married Dale Beckendorf on Sept. 18, 2010. The couple lives in Brandon, S.D., where Kari works as a research scientist at the USGS EROS Data Center. She graduated with a master's of science in geography from South

Dakota State University on May 8, 2010.

**Jenny (Onberg) and Michael Bergan** welcomed Ethan Xavier on Nov. 8, 2010.

**Nicki (Berger) Hartmann and Brad Hartmann '03** live in Colorado Springs, Colo. Nicki works as a dentist and recently became a partner at the Springs Modern Dentistry.

**Noel Kahl** married Rob Reagan on April 15, 2011, at the Augustana Chapel. Noel was commissioned as an associate minister in the ELCA in April 2011 and is currently serving as an associate in ministry at Faith Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Marta (Madsen) Klug** graduated from Concordia University with a master's in education as a reading specialist in May 2011.

**Jennifer (Helland) Loven and Benjamin Loven** welcomed Anders Mikkel on May 13, 2011.

**Ashley Smith** married **Brian Moen '06** on Oct. 9, 2010. She is a nutritionist at North Memorial Hospital. They live in St. Paul, Minn.

**Kelly Larson** married Phillip Mroczek on June 18, 2011.

**Adam Schmidt and Jessica (Schwager) Schmidt** welcomed their daughter, Emma Lorraine, on Feb. 24, 2011.

**Shannon (Bjelland) and Tom Viereck** welcomed their baby girl, Abigail Rae, on May 23, 2011.

**Kristin Wolter** is a pharmacist at CVS pharmacy in Phoenix, Ariz.

#### CLASS OF 2004

**John Anderson** is serving as visiting assistant professor in the religion department at Augustana for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Christopher and **Heidi (Hansen) Berry** welcomed their son, Louis Berry, on Feb. 26, 2011.

**Sarah Listug** married Neil Oxendale on Nov. 6, 2011.

**Brandi (Koester) Sestak** is the director of residential education at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**Lynn Pick** married Kevin Soward on April 2, 2011.

**Rhea Staniszewski** and Brent Schumacher welcomed their son, Kai Jacob, on July 8, 2011. The family lives in Westminster, Colo., where Rhea is a forensic interviewer for a child advocacy center.

**Benjamin Walsh** finished his Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the University of Connecticut in August 2011. He is now an assistant professor of management at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

#### CLASS OF 2003

**Karen Hokanson** and Kristopher Bedi were married on July 16, 2011.

**Ellen Holste** was published in the September issue of *Ecology*. The paper was part of her master's degree program at Michigan State.

**Rachel (Nelson) Oelmann** and Dustin welcomed Finley James, on Feb. 9, 2011.

**Miranda (Gasow) Roberts** and Garnette welcomed Ava Rae on Feb. 23, 2011. The Roberts live in Pullman, Wash., and work for Washington State University International Programs.

**Amber (Foster) and Steve Ruda** welcomed a daughter, Gracielynn Mae, on Nov. 29, 2010.

**Brandi (Hattle) Schneider** and Tim Schneider welcomed Weston Michael Schneider on May 26, 2011.

**Andrea (Vee) Treptow** and her husband SSG Eric Treptow live in Chicago where Andrea works as a kindergarten teacher in Northbrook, Ill.

**Leah (Kooren) Van Dam** is a director at McGladrey & Pullen, LLP in Sioux Falls.

**Matt Walz** and Laura welcomed a baby girl, Clara Louise, on June 17, 2011.

#### CLASS OF 2002

**Tina Gudahl** married Brian Anderson on Oct. 22, 2010. The couple resides in Ashburn, Va.

**Kelly (Bourne) Tufto** and Steve welcomed their son, Cale Steven, on May 29, 2010.

**Joshua Van Gorkom** works for the law firm of Guess & Rudd. He and his wife, Lindsay, live in Anchorage, Ala.

#### CLASS OF 2001

**Judd Citrowske** and Clara Citrowske welcomed their daughter, Savanna Victoria, on April 28, 2011.

**Kathy Kirkeby** works as an audit and accountant supervisor/manager at DS&B, Ltd.

**Melanie Hunhoff** married Paul Lupo in January 2011. She is the associate director of development for Volunteers of America, Greater New York.

**Elizabeth Joyslin** married Douglas Lynch on May 7, 2011. She is a dental hygienist at SouthWestern Dental. The couple lives in Sioux Falls.

James and **Heidi (Koemer) McKean** welcomed a baby girl, Ella, in September 2011.

**Melissa (Merill) and Charlie Nesdahl** welcomed a daughter, Ava Marie, on May 3, 2011. They live in Sioux Falls.

**Tracy Saboe** is a co-owner of Oscar's, a gourmet coffee shop in Sioux Falls.

**Jessica Scheller** and husband Adam Wiers welcomed Charlotte Elizabeth and Grayson Douglas to their family in May 2011.

**Mara (Paulson) Stillson** is the marketing coordinator for Lutheran Outdoors.

#### CLASS OF 2000

**Sarah (Mellon) Desjarlais** and her husband Tony welcomed a daughter, Hannah Eileen, on Dec. 2, 2010.

**Barry Hess** and Jesse (Cox) welcomed a daughter, Emma Lynn, on Feb. 1, 2011. The family lives Owatonna, Minn.

**Eric Klawiter** is a neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. He and his wife, **Erika**

**Anderson '99**, and daughter, Liv, live in Boston, Mass.

**Eric '99 and Christina (Trygstad) Pederson** welcomed a son, Thomas Hurley Pederson, on Sept. 9, 2010.

**Marie (Liggett) Tuhy** is a development associate for the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, Minn.

**Kelly (Everett) Yungbluth** and Jay Yungbluth welcomed twin girls, Kendall Claire and Taylor Lynn, on June 20, 2011.

#### CLASS OF 1999

**Erika Anderson** continues to practice law for Dowd Bennett, LLP. She and her husband **Eric Klawiter '00**, and daughter, Liv, live in Boston, Mass.

**Dawn (Fick) Gordon** and Bill Gordon welcomed Liam Thomas on May 4, 2011.

**Eric Pederson and Christina (Trygstad) '00** welcomed a son, Thomas Hurley Pederson, on Sept. 9, 2010.

**Hendrick Klopper** is a new neurosurgeon at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

**Rachel (Johnson) and Derrick Knight '00** welcomed a daughter, Jillian Rae, on July 1, 2011.

**Suzu (Tindall) Koenck** and Daren Koenck welcomed Braeden Stanley on Feb. 16, 2011.

**Kari (Buysman) Nilles** and John welcomed a son, Benjamin Isaac, on April 13, 2011.

#### CLASS OF 1998

**Lisa (Reiter) Boersma** and Scott welcomed a daughter, Braya Summer, on Aug. 16, 2010.

**Nancy (Hall) Brown** and Ryan welcomed a son, Samuel Leo, on Dec. 30, 2010.

**Liz (Westby) Bunch** and Jeff, along with big brother Lincoln, welcomed Hannah Faith on May 3, 2011.

**Laura (Dvorak) Livermore** and Dave welcomed a son, Cameron Rex, on April 25, 2011.

**Steve Olson** is the new band director for the Pipestone (Minn.) Area Schools.

**Laurie (Gullickson) Palm** and Jeremy welcomed a daughter, Brianna Grace, on April 5, 2011.

**Jennifer Uhler** is working in the Regional English Language office at the U.S. State Department.

#### CLASS OF 1997

**Kimberly (Rapp) Phillippi** and Mark adopted their foster child, Katherine Margaret, in July 2009. Kim is a stay-at-home mom and Mark works for Medtronic. They live in Maple Grove, Minn.

#### CLASS OF 1996

**Cari Lee (Skogberg) Eastman** and Scott Eastman welcomed Mataya Lee to their family on May 23, 2011.

**Tereasa Payne** was a musician at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivans, Utah, from June



through October. She will also be performing and presenting at the National Flute Association's Annual Convention.

**Kristi (Kruger) Peterson** works at Xerxes Corporation in Bloomington, Minn., as the marketing manager for the U.S. Petroleum and North American Water and Wastewater markets.

#### CLASS OF 1995

**Rochelle (Wellman) Francis**, 38, died Sept. 2, 2011, in Sioux Falls.

#### CLASS OF 1994

Greg and **Melanie (Kramer) Brink** began their 10<sup>th</sup> year teaching overseas at the American International School of Muscat in Oman.

**Jodi Ost** is the grants director at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D.

**Lisa (Egsgaard) Sellman** published her first children's book, titled "The Legend of the Wolves of Gunflint Lake."

#### CLASS OF 1993

**Deb McConahie** is the University Apartments coordinator at the University of Northern Iowa.

Jose and **Shawna (Bast) Yates** welcomed a son, Rory Spencer, on Nov. 17, 2010. They live in Broadview, Mont., where she is a school counselor.

#### CLASS OF 1992

**Jeanne (Hieb) Saadi** is the volunteer services coordinator at Animal Care Services of San Antonio, Texas.

#### CLASS OF 1991

**Melissa (Engel) Dykstra** is the campus visit coordinator at Augustana College.

**Andrea Johnson** and Fred Kuhn welcomed son Wade George Weston Kuhn, on July 22, 2011.

#### CLASS OF 1990

**Kris Kistenmacher** is an instrumental and vocal teacher at Ridge View Middle School and Ridge View High School in Holstein, Iowa.



#### CLASS OF 1989

**Brian Bich** won the USA Triathlon's men's age group (45-49) nationals in August.

#### CLASS OF 1987

**Darlene (Root) Fick** works at K & M Music in Sioux Falls repairing flutes and clarinets.

**Karin (Bumgardner) Miller** is accepting cancer-related poetry for the second volume of the award-winning national anthology, "The Cancer Poetry Project: Poems by Cancer Patients and Those Who Love Them." Visit [www.cancerpoetryproject.com](http://www.cancerpoetryproject.com) for more information.

#### CLASS OF 1986

**Paul Nevin** married Debra Waedt on Jan. 1, 2011.

#### CLASS OF 1985

**Tom Hayes** is the director of public relations and marketing at the Hennepin Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

#### CLASS OF 1984

**Maria Bell** has accepted the additional role of chief medical officer for Sanford Development and Research.

#### CLASS OF 1983

**Janet Nokleby** presented at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, Calif., regarding her experiences in the Peace Corps as a Norwegian-American.

**Susan Smith**, 67, died July 24, 2011 in Bloomington, Minn.

#### CLASS OF 1982

**Ron Pierson** left the University of Iowa to start his own business, Brain Image Analysis, LLC., which provides neuroscience imaging services for research and clinical trials.

#### CLASS OF 1980

**Dave Roettger** retired from the Stillwater Police Department after three decades of service.



#### CLASS OF 1979

**Mel Antonen** is a Major League Baseball reporter living in Washington, D.C. He co-hosts a TV show prior to Orioles and Nationals games, works for Sirius-XM Radio and writes columns for SI.com.

**Susan (Tripp) McAdaragh** has been appointed the Elementary Curriculum coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District.

#### CLASS OF 1978

**Dana Sue (Broek) Gulbranson**, 55, died March 26, 2011 in Boise, Idaho.

**Page (Duroe) Kern** participated in the Senior Games in Mankato, Minn., and won three medals in the Pickleball competition.

**Julie (Meyer) Thron** is a new corporate travel consultant for Altour/The Travel Authority.

#### CLASS OF 1977

**Rozanne Graham**, 57, died Aug. 23, 2011 in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

**John Ohrund** was named the new superintendent of Parks and Facilities of the Skokie Park District in Illinois.

#### CLASS OF 1976

**Brad Heegel** has been named coordinator for Arts Marketing and Development for Augustana.

**Pamela Peterson-Korn** was named the "School Social Worker of the Year" by the Washington Association of School Social Workers.

**Darla (Lambert) Werner** is the director of Institutional Research at Augustana.

#### CLASS OF 1975

After serving a full career as an active duty, regular Army chaplain **Daniel Block** is retired along with his wife, Kathie, in La Farge, Wis.

#### CLASS OF 1974

**Brent Beukelman**, 59, died May 6, 2011, in Tigard, Ore.

**Charles Hockenstad**, 59, died June 27, 2011 in Sioux City, Iowa.

#### CLASS OF 1973

**Bruce Oksol** lives in San Antonio, Texas, and works as a substitute teacher.

**Mary Vetter Sauchyn** is a biology professor at Luther College at the University of Regina in Regina, Saskatchewan.

#### CLASS OF 1972

**Diane Diekman** is publishing her second country music biography: "Twentieth Century Drifter: The Life of Marty Robbins." She lives in Sioux Falls where her daughter, April, attends Augustana.

**H. Eugene Hoyme** was named president of Sanford Research.

**Morey Osborn**, 61, died July 24 in Austin, Texas.

#### CLASS OF 1971

**Marion Beckering**, 80, died July 4, 2011 in Jasper, Minn.

**Doris (Kock) Hall** has retired from St. Louis Public Schools.

**Jill (Sitzmann) Reiter** is working as a rate analyst at Black Hills Corporation.

#### CLASS OF 1970

**Dale Allen Pommer** is a song writer who had two songs recorded by Bjorn Vidar Amdal of Lillesand, Norway.

**Julie Ramige** lives in Australia with her partner, Aleisha, and is working with members of the LGBT community. Read her blog at [Free2bMe-julie.blogspot.com](http://Free2bMe-julie.blogspot.com).

**Carol (Hilton) Thomas**, 54, died June 14, 2011 in Brookings, S.D.



#### CLASS OF 1969

**Marie (Craft) Barber** has been appointed executive director of Extended Education and Outreach at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Donald Gross**, 64, died June 30, 2011 in Albert Lea, Minn.

**Madelon Schar**, 63, died Aug. 5, 2011 in Beloit, Wis.

**Kathleen (Abel) Stauffer** published her third book, "All the Rivers Run Into the Sea."

**Warren Wintrose**, 64, died May 31, 2011, in Helena, Mont.

#### CLASS OF 1968

**Lyle Hokanson**, 65, died Aug. 10, 2011, in Fargo, N.D.

#### CLASS OF 1967

**Mary Ellen (Scott) Connelly** received the Community Leadership Award from Sioux Falls Beautiful, a nonprofit citizen group with a mission to beautify and improve the outdoor environment in all areas of Sioux Falls.

#### CLASS OF 1966

**Peter Lohman**, 67, died June 7, 2011, in Vermillion, S.D.

**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 (Wendon) 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.'

**CONTINUED FROM:** Page: 23

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 Owing" 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.



**Quinn Jacobs**, Rochester, Minn., son of John and Jane (Wagers) Jacobs '85.

**Luke Jessen**, Boyd, Minn., son of Mark Jessen and Beth (Jeremiason) Jessen '92.

**Jennifer Johnson**, Inwood, Iowa, daughter of Mark '80 and Barbara (Hanson) Johnson '81.

**Morgan Jones**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Todd and Cynthia (Schellhouse) Jones '87.

**Jordan Kerkvliet**, Larchwood, Iowa, son of Scott '83 and Caroline Kerkvliet.

**Sadie Klemme**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Kevin '86 and LeAnne (Doescher) Klemme '86.

**Emma Konold**, Owatonna, Minn., daughter of Kurt '85 and Monica (Opland) Konold '83.

**Michael LeVan**, Tea, S.D., son of Julie (Johannsen) LeVan '84.

**Hannah Loeffke**, Aberdeen, S.D., daughter of Bill and Mary Nelson-Loeffke '73.

**Jessica Madson**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Todd '79 and Mary (Sieps) Madson '82.

**Adrienne Malchow**, West Des Moines, Iowa, daughter of Peder '91 and Heather (Stevens) Malchow '91.

**Kayla Mescher**, Brighton, Colo., daughter of Traci Mescher '96.

**Anna Mydland**, Brookings, S.D., daughter of John Mydland '84 and Cindy Moses Mydland.

**Luke Niedringhaus**, Sioux Falls, son of Philip Niedringhaus '86 and Kim (Huber) Herdina '87.

**Grant Noordsy**, Golden Valley, Minn., son of Mark '82 and Gretchen (Foss) Noordsy '82.

**Emelia Oppold**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Todd Oppold and Yvonne Seger Oppold '83.

**Anna Peasley**, Elk Point, S.D., daughter of Richard Peasley and Sonja Swanson '79.

**Corey Petersen**, Stillwater, Minn., son of Wayne Petersen '84.

**Madeline Pfeiffer**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Steven '82 and Gina (Waltner) Pfeiffer '82.

**Adam Pohlmann**, Harrisburg, S.D., son of John and Sandy (Ballenger) Pohlmann '90.

**Kelsey Schnabel**, Woodbury, Minn., daughter of Douglas '84 and Cindy Schnabel.

**Lee Stadem**, Windsor, Colo., son of Timothy '82 and Beth Stadem.

**Blake Swee**, Sioux Falls, son of Mark '84 and Lynn (Nichols) Swee '84.

**Kristin Waltner**, Freeman, S.D., daughter of Don and Sonja (Olson) Waltner '84.

**Hanna Werling**, Milbank, S.D., daughter of Craig and Janine Rew-Werling '82.

**Ellie Westemeyer**, Overland Park, Kan., daughter of Brian '81 and Nancy (Bergdale) Westemeyer '85.

We are pleased to welcome the following alumni legacies to the Augustana class of 2015:

**Kyle Billeter**, Sioux Falls, son of Thomas and Paula (Zimmermann) Billeter '07.

**Andrea Blegen**, Sioux Falls, daughter of David Blegen '61 and Karen Blegen.

**Jenaleah Block**, Pierre, S.D., daughter of Donald Block '82 and DeeAnn Block.

**Elijah Bonde**, Sioux Falls, son of Brian '81 and Kaija (Brick-Reaves) Bonde '95.

**Allyson Brown**, Dell Rapids, S.D., daughter of Mike and Angela (Randall) Brown '90.

**Luke Carlsen**, Sioux Falls, son of Chris '81 and Carol Carlsen.

**Trevor Chadwick**, George, Iowa, son of Harold and Kimberly (Nolte) Chadwick '82.

**Brittany Dardis**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Timothy '85 and Lee (Lester) Dardis '90.

**Thomas Davis**, Sioux Falls, son of Thomas '83 and Leisa Davis.

**April Diekman**, Sioux Falls, daughter of Diane Diekman '72.

**Sarah Dirks**, Milford, Iowa, daughter of Richard and Julie Dirks '88.

**Matthew Dykstra**, Sioux Falls, son of Darin '91 and Melissa (Engel) Dykstra '91.

**Anna Entenman**, Sioux Falls, daughter of James and Jill (Wilds) Entenman '76.

**Thomas Gehring**, Ames, Iowa, son of Randall '85 and Michele (Lage) Gehring '85.

**Kaia Halbritter**, Willmar, Minn., daughter of Joel '84 and Catherine (Schmidt) Halbritter '84.

**Nathan Hauge**, Sioux Falls, son of Jeffrey '86 and Cindy (Horst) Hauge.

**Keegan Hecht**, Sioux Falls, son of Mark '84 and Carmen (Smith) Hecht '87.

**Garret Heiberger**, Hartford, S.D., son of Paul and Carol (Cormack) Heiberger '85.

**Madison Hults**, Oakdale, Minn., daughter of Scott '86 and Penny (Odland) Hults '86.



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