

## Augustana College

639 38th Street  
Rock Island, Illinois  
61201-2296

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## From the President



The transformation of Old Main's exterior is well under way. Each day I can watch from my office window and marvel as craftsmen climb and maneuver around the scaffolding-encased building. A month ago, I could see teams cleaning the exterior stone and repairing the tuck points. Today I see new windows, shiny copper on the roof and a green copper casing on the cupola.

Wonderful stories have emerged from this renovation process. It turns out Augustana has a long history of people making their way to the upper reaches of the dome to write and scratch their names on the rafters. Some signatures date back to the early 1900s. What compelled students to put their names on Augustana so proudly and permanently? I think it is because they understood they had been changed by their Augustana experience, and they wanted to leave their mark and become part of the college's storied history.

Today our graduates and other friends continue to realize the transformation achieved through their Augustana experiences. Many already have made their mark on Old Main through generous financial support for the renovation. If you have not already done so, I invite you to celebrate the impact your Augustana experience has made in your life by supporting the continued renovation of Old Main's exterior and its interior teaching and learning spaces.

Steven C. Bahls  
President, Augustana College



## Classmates band together for Old Main

Members of the classes of 1960 and 1964 still remember it well... Old Main, the heart of their beloved campus. In reverence to the landmark building and their Augustana experience, each class has collected gifts from nearly 100 of its members to help fund Old Main's renovation. In return, each class will be honored with an interior Commons space named after them.

A steering group consisting of Bob and Carol Brockhouse, Paul and Pat Guehler, and Norm Redelsheimer provided initial leadership in identifying the \$100,000 goal for the Class of 1960. A broader group of classmates were then asked to join a Challengers Circle to provide leadership. Challengers Circle members were Paula Youngberg Arnell, John Bengston, Bob and

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Carol Shannon Brockhouse, Heidi Radik Christiansen, Jim Collinson, Loryann Eis, Janet Feirn Frieden, Paul and Pat Nellans Guehler, Ann Marie Danielson Hill, Kristina Kastman Heath, Kenneth and Sonia Martinson Lersten, George Prescott Sr., Norm Redelsheimer, Don and Dolores Hermann Rehms, Dick and Karen Bjorseth Sjolund and Norma Nordberg Smith.

The Challengers Circle provided leadership gifts totaling more than \$75,000 toward the goal. At the Class of 1960's 50th reunion celebration dinner, it was announced that 97 classmates had committed \$105,013, directed to either Old Main or The Augustana Fund.

What likely will be one of the busiest spaces in the soon-to-be renovated building—the Commons on the ground floor of Old Main—will be named to honor the Class of 1960 for its outstanding commitment.

The Class of 1964's goal was announced during its 45th reunion reception at the 2009 Homecoming, with leadership commitments from Nancy Telleen Califf, Ruth Anne Erickson Hartman, Judith Ogren Johnson, William Kempiners, John and Claudia Langhorst Knutson, Marlette Swenson Larsen, Janella Lentz, Roy Puccini, Karen Tracy Sutherland and Robert Swieringa.

Similar to the Class of 1960, these graduates were committed to raising \$100,000 to name the second-floor Commons through gifts from classmates directed to either Old Main or The Augustana Fund. At final count, 94 class members contributed \$106,347 to the successful initiative spearheaded by Karen Tracy Sutherland and Marlette Swenson Larsen.

So where does the Class of 1964 plan to celebrate its 50th class reunion? No place but the Class of 1964 Commons in Old Main.

Members of the classes of 1959, 1958, 1957, 1956 and 1955 also have successfully given 50th-reunion gifts to the college. Each of these classes achieved \$50,000, well over the minimum \$25,000 needed to establish an endowed scholarship, in the name of the class to assist students at Augustana. In addition, members of the Class of 1953 began a scholarship with a gift of more than \$50,000 on their 50th reunion; and for their 55th reunion, they grew the scholarship with commitments that surpassed the \$100,000 mark.





John and Mary  
Thorson Lucken



Lava flow from Pu'u 'O'o crater, SE Hawaii



Absaroka Mountains, Wyoming

# Luckens' support felt across campus

Six years ago, when John and Mary Thorson Lucken, both 1962 graduates, heard of Augustana's popular geology course that sends students into their beloved Rocky Mountains for intensive fieldwork, they were inspired to give the department's outdoor programs a boost.

"Because our years at Augie, John's career as a geologist and our love of the Rocky Mountains have enriched our lives, we hope you can find a 'hands-on' use for this donation within the geology department," Mary wrote in a letter to Dr. Michael Wolf, professor and chair of the geology department. "I am sending the donation in honor of John's 42 years as a 'geologist with the Augie ethic.'"

The Luckens' gift was placed into the Rudy Edmund Memorial Field Study Endowment, named after the illustrious geology professor who, as it turns out, was one of John's instructors. "I consider Rudy my mentor and no doubt one of the finest gentlemen I've known," John says. "He joined the faculty during my sophomore year and inspired me to pursue my career in the oil and gas and geothermal area."

Then, in 2007, the Luckens established the Lucken Geology Scholarship to attract high-achieving high school seniors interested in studying geology at the college. They also created the Lucken Field Geology Endowment, which helps students (geology majors and non-majors) fund trips and research projects, much like the Edmund endowment. Because of the Luckens' generous gift, Augustana will be able to make a trip to the Big Island of Hawaii affordable for students for the third time this spring.

"We've been treated to meeting a lot of nice young people for our efforts in the geology department," John says. "It's exciting to be able to see what our support does. We've really enjoyed that part of it."

But the Luckens have not limited their financial support to one academic department. In addition to contributing to The Augustana Fund, the couple recently made a capital gift to name former Dean Betsey Brodahl's office in Old Main in her honor.

"For all of us girls, for so many generations, that room holds a lot of memories," Mary says. "We were always going by Dean Betsey's office because we'd pick up our mail in the library on our way to chapel every day. You always felt welcome there."

At the Luckens' request, the office will be named in honor of Betsey Brodahl and in memory of Mary's parents, Dorothy and Edward Thorson. Mary's mother attended Augustana for two years, and her father graduated from Augustana and then earned a degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University.

Mary remembers how her father would encourage his fellow engineers to improve their communication skills, which he honed during his liberal arts experience at Augustana.

And it is the Augustana experience that inspires the Luckens to give so generously to the college. "We think it's a great kind of higher education to get," Mary says. The first-rate work of faculty and administrators, the 11:1 student-faculty ratio and the fact that the college "still has wonderful kids coming" are a few of the reasons why the Luckens contribute to their alma mater. Their own daughter, Helen Lucken '89 Raymond, transferred from California Lutheran University to earn her degree at Augustana.

"John and Mary are passionate about the difference Augustana has made in their lives," says Lynn Jackson, Augustana's vice president of advancement, "and they give in many ways to support that passion. Through their financial gifts to scholarships, departments, campus buildings and athletics, and also through volunteering time and leadership with our students and our Board of Trustees, the Luckens invest in their alma mater to keep it strong today and in the future."

Augustana recently added men's and women's lacrosse to its Division III varsity sports lineup—a move the Luckens heartily applaud. As a trustee of the college, John is tuned into enrollment goals, and he's convinced the addition of lacrosse will open up valuable recruiting opportunities.

To establish a distinct home-field advantage for Viking lacrosse players, the Luckens have made a generous capital commitment for the lacrosse field at Augustana.

"We know our support is appreciated by the college," John says, "and it gives us pleasure to see the results."

*When students understand that people other than their parents—Augie alumni, like John and Mary—are taking an active interest in their education and are willing to help defray the cost of that education, they seem to take their responsibility to learn more seriously. I have found that there is something very special about Augustana geology alumni; John and Mary embody those traits with their generosity, thoughtfulness and involvement. We truly are a family.*

Dr. Michael Wolf  
professor and chair of the geology department



## Showcase stop on the campus tour

In 2004, the campus community was deeply engaged in a strategic planning process that led to the launch of Authentically Augustana: A Strategic Plan for a Premier Liberal Arts College. One of the most challenging issues the college faced was a looming student housing shortage. Augustana trustee and 1961 alumnus Duane Swanson stepped forward to offer a visionary solution. Swanson proposed the creation of a first-class residential complex that combined the best in apartment-style living with key amenities to create the sense of community that is the hallmark of Augustana residential life.

Completed in the summer of 2006, the three-story building features an east wing that accommodates sophomore and first-year students in two-room suites separated by a restroom. The south and west wings are made up of apartment-style units.

The real sense of community found in Swanson Commons today is a direct result of the design elements selected early in the process. Study lounges, meeting rooms, a convenience store and wireless internet access throughout the complex give students a reason to come out of their rooms and connect with fellow residents.

When Swanson Commons opened, President Steve Bahls noted, "Augustana has a 16-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week campus, and this building was designed from the beginning to reflect that level of energy and engagement."

Fast forward to 2010, and we find that sense of energy and community is as strong as ever. Assistant Residence Life Director Kelly Giovanine calls Swanson Commons "the showcase stop on the campus tour." Every year, hundreds of prospective students and their families pass through the building to get a firsthand look at what makes residential life at Augustana special.