

Eager to share the world

Ren Stinson's parents loved to travel, and so it was something he took for granted as a child. Now the 2003 Augustana graduate credits his adventurous parents for his approach to learning and teaching, and to life. "You learn at a young age to get excited about new experiences, and being able to see things firsthand is when you realize learning can be so enriching," he says.

Born in Tokyo, Stinson and his family moved back to California when he was an infant. His father is a former pastor originally from Chicago. Stinson's mother is Japanese and well known for her advocacy work and writings related to women's rights, child abuse prevention and violence against women. The two met on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley when his father was in seminary and his mother was working on a master's in religion.

When Stinson was 15, his family returned to Japan mainly because of his mother's work with the Child Abuse Prevention Association, a group she later organized in her home country. He attended an elite international high school in Kobe. "Walking down the hall, you'd hear all these different languages," he says. It was at that school, thousands of miles from Rock Island, where he first learned of Augustana College.

"This was kind of an Ivy League prep school, and at our college fair, we had Stanford, MIT, Harvard...and there was Augustana College at its own little table," Stinson remembers. "I was looking for a small, liberal arts college, and Diane Carnithan was there, and we just kind of connected. I had a lot of questions and she answered all of them and kept in good contact with me afterwards. I applied all over the U.S., but I really liked Augustana."

Stinson's undergraduate years at Augustana were "an enjoyable liberal arts experience" in that he changed majors more than once during his first year and completed several high-level religion and art (sculpture) courses before finding his home in the psychology department. Yet, he was unsure whether his future would be as a therapist or a teacher—unsure, that is, until he returned to Augustana last year.

"I love psychotherapy, but coming back to teach at Augustana has convinced me that this is what I want to pursue," he says. "Teaching gives you so many opportunities to grow."

A doctoral student in counseling-psychology at the University of Iowa, Stinson is in his fifth year of a seven-year program. For the past two years, he has counseled patients at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical

Center in Iowa City. Last year, he counseled people with a disability or chronic pain. When medications don't provide relief, patients can learn relaxation techniques and other methods to cope with the disability or pain and the emotional stress that accompanies it. Stinson describes his current work at the VA hospital as a hundred times more intense, but extremely gratifying. He works with veterans of the wars in Vietnam and Iraq who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. A structured treatment plan allows him to see the progress made in minimizing symptoms over 12 to 15 visits, but the sessions can be as powerful for him as they are for the patients.

"After a long day of psychotherapy, you're often drained, which I think means you're doing your job," he says. "But at the end of a day of teaching, I feel just the opposite; I'm energized."

"They say pick a job that you'd do without pay...this is one of those," Stinson says of his teaching assignment at Augustana.

As a psychology instructor, Stinson sees himself as a tour guide. "I try to get my students excited about the material and give them experiences where they can 'see' what we're learning...that's how I learn."

When he was in the sixth grade and most of his friends were visiting Disney World, Stinson and his family traveled to Egypt, Israel and points between for three weeks. Determined not to miss anything, he never left the side of the tour guides. When he returned home to the Bay area in California, he helped teach the unit on ancient civilizations for his sixth-grade peers.

Not surprisingly, Stinson applauds Augustana's goal to provide as many students as possible with an international



Ren Stinson '03

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experience. Although he traveled in Japan as a child, Stinson had not visited China or Taiwan by the time he arrived on campus. He jumped at the opportunity to participate in East Asia term. Of the 80 students who accompanied him—those with whom he's still in contact—all became better people, different people, whose lives were changed because of their experience, he says.

"One of the most important things you learn from international travel is that taking risks is important," Stinson says. "It's always anxiety-provoking to do something new so you have to push against that and go beyond your comfort zone. If you don't take risks, you won't grow as a person, which is unfortunate."

In addition to southeast Asia, Stinson visited France for two weeks as an undergraduate. Accompanied by College Chaplain Richard Priggie '74 and two friends, Stinson lived in the ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, France, for half of his time. Stinson describes it as "Woodstock at a monastery" because thousands of young people from all parts of the world are camping in tents.

The Taizé brothers, as many as 100 who come from more than 25 countries with both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, take a pledge of celibacy and share a simple life. Visitors enter into the rhythm of community life for a week by gathering with the brothers three times a day for prayer, chanting songs and silence, and meeting others through shared meals, small-group discussions and practical jobs.

The experience is meant to move participants toward discovering an inner peace and spreading it to others globally. "Their idea is that if we start making relationships between nations and across cultures, there is more hope for peace," Stinson says. "This perspective is central to the community of brothers, and to me. You're less likely to bomb a country if you've met someone from there. I'd like to think you'd be more likely to talk with that country's leaders and find a diplomatic solution."

Stinson felt such a deep spiritual connection with the Taizé community that since graduating from Augustana, he has returned twice to chaperone Augustana students with Pastor Priggie. He's also found a church in Iowa City that offers a Taizé service once a week.

"I need the silence," Stinson says. "Cutting out the media and everything that's thrown out at young people today is rejuvenating."

Stinson and Priggie are planning another pilgrimage to Taizé in the summer of 2009 with a group of Augustana students and other young adults. "Ren is an 'old soul,' that is, he has a wisdom and an openness to life and to all people that is quite remarkable," Priggie says. "It makes sense, then, that he has a deep resonance to the Taizé community, as their life and ministry is deeply spiritual, completely inclusive, and accepting of all persons."



Double exposure

Though Anna Brahmstedt '98 Akerlund admits some days are more glamorous than others, she and her husband, Nels, have built a successful photography business that combines their creative talents. The line of maternity photography Anna developed keeps them in the studio, while assignments for a diverse clientele put the couple on the road about 120 days a year. >

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NELS AKERLUND PHOTOGRAPHY



Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Ill.

Befittingly, when Anna and Nels met in Rockford, Ill., in 1999, they both were leaving town the next day. Anna, who was considering veterinary medicine, was managing a veterinary hospital, and Nels had brought in his dog to be vaccinated. She was flying to Seattle, Wash., for a job interview the following day. Nels, who already owned his photography studio, was headed to Thailand to photograph a sea kayak race.

"So we decided to go out that night, and then we kept in touch," Anna says. "When we were both back in town, we had lunch every day for two weeks."

When Anna realized veterinary school wasn't her calling, she and Nels started talking about working together. "At first, we weren't sure if we could be together all the time, but it was the logical thing to do because the business was growing, and he couldn't manage it by himself any more," Anna says. "And it has worked flawlessly...my strengths are his weaknesses and vice versa."

Anna came to Augustana with an art scholarship. Taking advantage of the liberal arts opportunities on campus, she graduated with a major in biology/environmental studies and minors in studio art (fiber arts) and geology. She says

her longtime appreciation of fabric and the female form as artistic elements led her to develop the maternity part of their photography business. Moms-to-be are photographed at 35 to 37 weeks of their pregnancy and then again after the baby is born (visit www.nelsakerlund.com and click on portfolios/maternity to see Anna's styling). Fabric allows her to incorporate texture, color and sometimes movement without dating the image.

"When Anna was a student here she was very inquisitive and hardworking—a wonderful combination for an art student," says Rowen Schusheim-Anderson, professor of art. "We have continued to stay in touch since she graduated, and it has been a joy to follow her and her developing artwork. She has a wonderful sense of design. Her fiber works are fresh and imaginative."

Maternity photography is a small piece of the Akerlunds' business, which concentrates more on architectural, commercial and editorial photography. Nels began his career as an intern for a Washington, D.C., photographer working at the White House in 1985. He later earned a degree in photography from the acclaimed Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. During the past two decades, he has traveled to 20 countries on four continents for such clients as the National Geographic Society and *The New York Times*.

Some assignments are more memorable than others.

Last year, he and Anna flew to Alaska to experience the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race. They photographed the mushers' pre-race banquet, the ceremonial race start in Anchorage and the re-start in Willow. Then they boarded an eight-seat prop plane with skis to photograph mushers at two checkpoints of the 1,150-mile race. In winds reportedly as high as 80 mph, the pilot landed on frozen Puntilla Lake at the Rainy Pass checkpoint. But the strong gusts prevented him from turning the plane when it was time to take off.

"So the four of us had to get out in that wind and 22-below-zero temperature and push the plane around so we could take off," Anna says. "It was the scariest flight I've been on so far, and Nels had terrible motion sickness...great images, though."

On a recent Fourth of July, the couple was perched on scaffolding at the top of the State Capitol dome in Madison, Wis., to photograph the city's fireworks with the 15-foot glided statue at the top of the dome in the foreground. After spotting Anna and Nels at more than 200 feet high, passersby called the police in fear they were contemplating jumping. Police officers climbed to the scaffolding for a closer look, and the Akerlunds convinced them they were just doing their job.

One of the couple's most recent adventures was in central Mexico during Semana Santa (Holy Week). Both took photographs, and Anna also recorded audio. "These are amazing cultural celebrations, and we frequently got separated, each chasing something different," she says. (The Akerlunds also were scouting locations in Mexico for

their latest business venture—photography workshops for amateurs beginning next year.)

Soon after returning home to Rockford, the couple flew to West Virginia to photograph the only surviving WWI veteran for their American People Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating the largest collection of photographic portraits taken during any period in history. Their goal is to photograph 100,000 people representing each of the 50 states during the next decade.

"America is a true melting pot, and we want to document the way our country looks at this time," Anna says. "Anyone can participate as long as they live in the United States."

Upon completion, the Akerlunds will donate the collection to an archival institution such as the Smithsonian or Library of Congress. The images will be preserved and accessible for future generations to study. "As Nels and I get older, we're looking for ways to use photography as a way to give back," Anna explains.

To date, Americans from 35 states and 21 countries have been photographed. These include Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielsen, a 114-year-old woman, actors who played Munchkins in "The Wizard of Oz," a Chicago police officer, a third-grader born in China, cast members of "Animal House," a pediatrician who escaped Cuba to join her family in America, radio host Ira Glass, and a stay-at-home mom.

"Everyone is treated the same photographically, regardless of who they are," Anna says. "We use the same lighting, the same background...the stool they sit on is always placed the same distance from the background. It's a level

playing field that underscores the founding principles of our country."

The portraits are striking when viewed in person, not only because of their subjects but also their 60-by-90-inch size.

Each portrait is accompanied by a brief text providing a glimpse into the individual's life. This information is gleaned from a short questionnaire and personal interview. Meeting these people, especially the centenarians with their social, energetic personalities and positive outlooks, has made Anna more aware of the connection between attitude and longevity.

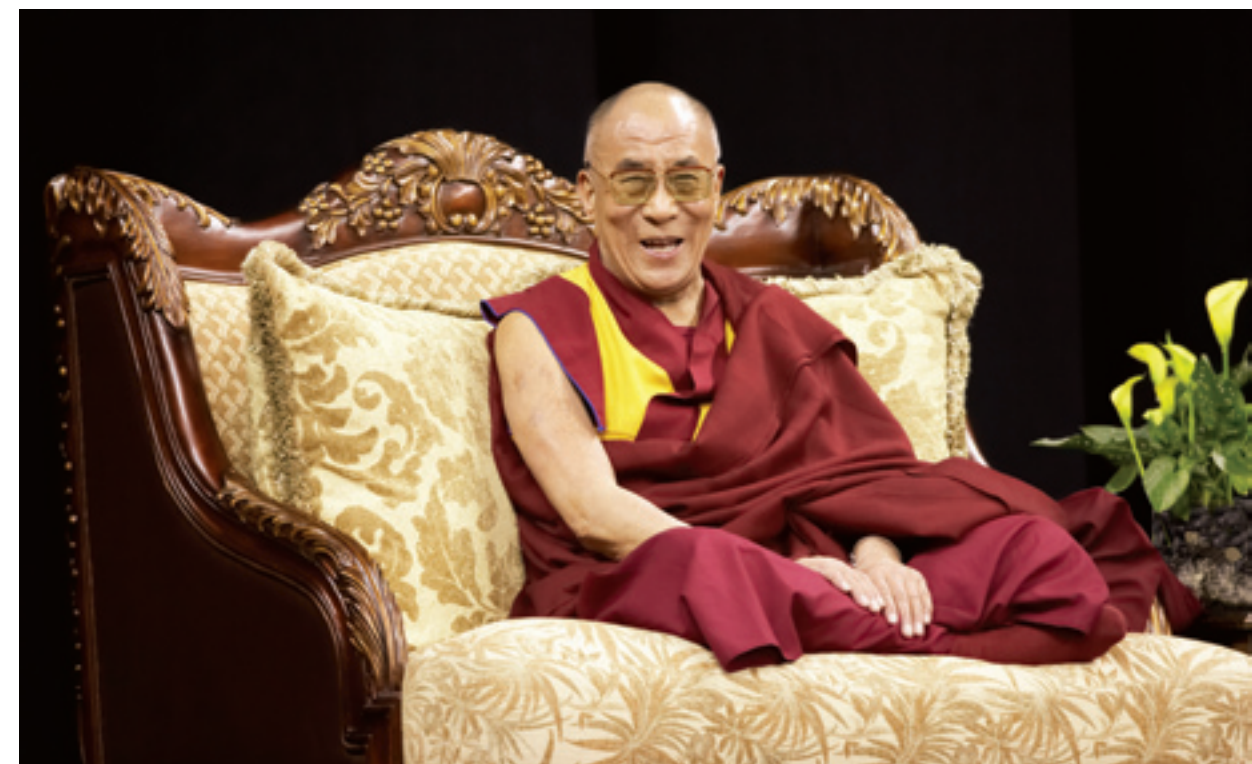
Photographing people, she admits, is more enjoyable and interesting than photographing architecture and commercial products, which make up the lion's share of the Akerlunds' business.

"Walking into these interviews is like going on a treasure hunt," she says. "You never know what you're going to find. One woman from Germany who now lives in an assisted-living center near me told me how she bribed the Nazis to get her husband out of a concentration camp. People who aren't famous have just as amazing stories, but they are hidden in their daily lives, and so are their stories."

Pictures that tell stories—whether it's the bond between a new mother and her baby, the risk in climbing the tallest peak, the dream of a presidential candidate or the splendor of a restored theatre...that's what Anna and Nels hope to bring home at the end of the day.



Anna Bramstedt '98 Akerlund's portrait for the American People Project.



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama (Madison, Wis., 2007).

CONNECTING WITH Bloom's Veggie Bus

Ms. Frizzle, the zany science teacher from the popular *Magic School Bus* children's books, transports her students to places limited only by the author's imagination. Bloom High School in Chicago Heights, Ill., boasts its own Ms. Frizzle in Jill Rietveld '96 Krysinski, the driving force behind the school's science club and its Bloom Veggie Bus.

When Krysinski was named the director of Bloom High School's science club in the spring of 2007, she wasn't sure what she would do. Her counterpart at Bloom Trail High School had secured grant funding to build go-carts with his students. Knowing there was a biodiesel processor on her campus, Krysinski wondered what opportunities it could offer the science club. In the spirit of Ms. Frizzle, Krysinski imagined finding a school bus and running it on biodiesel fuel the students could make from cooking oil.

Easier said than done. Last summer, Krysinski called countless area bus companies in search of a diesel bus no one wanted. (Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine with little or no modification to the engine or the fuel system.) She finally located a bus at Illinois Central School Bus in nearby Blue Island. The 15-passenger bus first hit the road in 1991 and had been sitting in the bus graveyard for the past seven years.

But not just anyone is allowed to drive a bus. "I spent six weeks last summer in bus driver training,"

Krysinski says with a groan. "I picked up the bus last October, and I was able to make it home from Blue Island, but then we found out the bus had a lot of mechanical problems."

She made more calls to ask for help. The Illinois Soybean Association and the American Lung Association responded with a combined \$6,000 donation that Krysinski used to repair and paint the school bus, now affectionately known as the Bloom Veggie Bus.

"It's my intention to teach our students about alternative energy, and in return, have my students teach other students and the general public," Krysinski says. "We'll promote use of alternative energies, sustainable living and conservation. We'll encourage others to reduce current use of fossil fuels and recycle."

To do this, science club members collect vegetable oil from their school's cafeteria and local restaurants, preferably Chinese restaurants and not McDonald's, which uses fattier cooking oil. They take the oil back to the classroom,

process and convert it into biodiesel fuel. This fuel will be used to power the bus as the students go on the road this fall, sharing their story and presenting their research on alternative energies. Audiences will range from kindergarten to middle-school students, as well as any organizations that request a presentation.

"Our goal is to educate and inspire others to save our planet by becoming part of the solution," Krysinski says.

A teacher? Not me

Krysinski is in her ninth year of teaching, although she never imagined herself as a teacher while attending Augustana. In fact, she enrolled in speech class three different times and dropped the class each time. "I couldn't say my name in front of a group, and I couldn't figure out how my professors did what they did every day," she says.

A biology major from her first day on campus, Krysinski pictured herself in a laboratory after earning her degree. But working as a camp counselor for the summer following graduation, and then substitute teaching while looking for that lab job, proved—much to her surprise—that teaching was her passion. She earned a master's in education from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., in 1998. She then taught science at Crete (Ill.) High School for four years before joining the faculty at Bloom High School.

Krysinski has fond memories of Augustana professors Dr. Robert Tallitsch, Dr. Richard Turnquist and Dr. Bohdan Dziadyk. "Biology is hard, but these guys made it fun," she says. "And now that I am a science teacher, I know we're all a little wacky."

The Bloom Veggie Bus fits perfectly with Krysinski's philosophy of teaching. "All students can learn, and learning happens when students use all of their senses," she says. "Students must be able to make personal connections to content material to change information into knowledge."

Krysinski practices a method called the 4MAT system, which is a learner-centered model that visually looks like a wheel. She plans units around the wheel designed to meet the needs of all types of learners. Students begin each unit with a personal experience to make a connection and understand "why" they are learning the specific information. Next, students reflect on the experience they've had and "what" they've learned. Students then do something with the information they've received.

"This is where they transfer information to knowledge... where the real learning takes place," Krysinski says. "It's

These are samples from various stages of the two-liter "Dr. Pepper" method to make biodiesel: vegetable oil mixed with methoxide (processing) and processed biodiesel mixed with water (washing).



Look for Jill Rietveld '96 Krysinski in the driver's seat of the Bloom Veggie Bus.

Students actually make a personal connection when they see it, feel it, hear it, taste it and smell it. JILL RIETVELD '96 KRYSINSKI

where students understand 'how' the information applies to their own lives. This is my favorite part because it's where students get to tinker and experiment."

For the final phase of the 4MAT system, Krysinski's students refine what they have learned and take it to the next level by asking "what if?" It involves creating models, demonstrations, journals, essays or any number of projects.

This summer Krysinski's students will create a one-hour traveling show for the Bloom Veggie Bus, featuring demonstrations and a PowerPoint presentation to outline the problems with fossil fuels and possible solutions that can be undertaken right now by students of all ages to conserve energy and stop global warming.

More than just field trips

Field trips and hands-on experiences are the most effective teaching tools, according to Krysinski. "I can lecture and give notes about energy conservation and how to live sustainably, but this is a very limiting way of teaching," she explains. "Students actually make a personal connection when they see it, feel it, hear it, taste it and smell it."

Last fall, science club members volunteered at the Crete (Ill.) Lions Center where they learned the do's and don'ts of recycling. They toured Nova Biosource Fuels, Inc., in Seneca, Ill., where they saw firsthand how biodiesel fuel is mass-produced. The students also visited the Chicago Center for Green Technology for insight on the natural ways to cool and heat buildings and to prevent wastewater by limiting rainwater in the sewer systems. Krysinski has taken students to Fermilab in Aurora, Ill., the Chicago Auto

Show (in search of green vehicles), Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, and Chicago's Green Festival on Navy Pier.

Many of her students have never traveled outside of Chicago Heights. She discovered this when driving students home from the Chicago Center for Green Technology. One boy was excited to see U.S. Cellular Field where the White Sox baseball team plays. "You've never been there to watch a game?" she asked in surprise. "Mrs. Krysinski," her student replied, "the only times I have ever been to Chicago are when you take me there."

"It was then I realized that these kids are not only learning about our project ideas, but also seeing a world beyond that of Chicago Heights with its poverty and gangs," Krysinski says. "They are seeing hope."

Michelle Patzelt, a freshman, found the field trip to Nova Biosource Fuels especially inspiring. "We learned what degrees we would need to get a job in a place like that, and that algebra is necessary in most occupations. Many jobs are available and growing in the field of alternative energy. These trips opened our eyes to all the possibilities ahead in our lives."

Speaking of possibilities, Krysinski is thinking about having her students mount solar panels on the roof of Bloom Veggie Bus to power the radio next year.

Ms. Frizzle would be envious.



ALUMNI CONNECT

July 20 • "On to Augie" gatherings in Chicago; Peoria, Ill.; and Rockford, Ill.
 July 25 • Pre-Bix 7 Race Pasta Buffet, Augustana College
 Aug. 3 • "On to Augie" gathering in Aurora, Ill.
 Aug. 21 • First-Year Move-In Alumni Volunteer Day
 Sept. 2 • Chicago Cubs game, Wrigley Field
 Sept. 12-14 • Family Weekend, Augustana College
 Oct. 10-12 • Homecoming (reunions for the classes of 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2003)
Authentically Augustana: A Call to Action
 Sept. 21 • Reception/brunch, Oak Park, Ill.
 Sept. 21 • Reception/dinner, Schaumburg, Ill.
 Sept. 22 • Reception/dinner, Tinley Park, Ill.

Sept. 23 • Reception/luncheon, Chicago, Ill.
 Sept. 23 • Reception/dinner, Lake Forest, Ill.
 Sept. 24 • Reception/dinner, Wheaton, Ill.
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 Contact Kelly Read '02 Noack, assistant director of alumni relations, at (800) 798-8100 x7474, (309) 794-7474 or kellynoack@augustana.edu for more details.

ON THE FIELD

Football
 Sept. 6, 6 p.m., Coe
 Sept. 13, 6 p.m., Greenville (Family Weekend)
 Sept. 27, 6 p.m., Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, Wis.
 Oct. 4, 1 p.m., Elmhurst, Elmhurst, Ill.
 Oct. 11, 1 p.m., Wheaton (Homecoming)
 Oct. 18, 1 p.m., Illinois Wesleyan, Bloomington, Ill.

Oct. 25, 1 p.m., Carthage, Kenosha, Wis.
 Nov. 1, 1 p.m., North Park
 Nov. 8, 1 p.m., North Central, Naperville, Ill.
 Nov. 15, 1 p.m., Millikin

ON EXHIBIT

Augustana College Art Museum
Exhibition • Successions: Prints by African American Artists from the Jean and Robert Steele Collection • Aug. 21-Oct. 4
Guest Speaker • Dr. Robert Steele, executive director of the David C. Driskell Center, will speak about his interactions with the artists and pieces featured in the "Successions" exhibition • Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m., Larson Hall • Reception follows at Augustana College Art Museum.

Family Day Tour • Sherry Maurer, art museum director, will lead a 40-minute tour of the current exhibitions • Sept. 13, 1:30 p.m.

Exhibitions • American Landscape Featuring the Fryxell Collection (upper level)

AND

Companions from Stone: Inuit Art from the Augustana College Art Collection, Featuring the Kathy Bulucos Memorial Collection (lower level) • Oct. 11-Dec. 18 (closed for fall break Nov. 2-17 and Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 26-Dec. 1).

Homecoming Tour and Reception • Sherry Maurer, art museum director, will lead a 50-minute tour of the current exhibitions • Oct. 11, 10 a.m.

ON STAGE

UNYK Multicultural Dance Ensemble • Oct. 17-18, 7 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

ACT Fall Production • Blood Wedding by Federico García Lorca • Oct. 17-19 and Oct. 24-26, Potter Theatre

Augustana Symphony Orchestra • Oct. 18, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

Augustana Jazz Ensemble • Oct. 24, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

Four Choirs Concert • Oct. 25, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

Jazz Combo Soirée • Oct. 29, 8 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

Augustana Concert Band • Nov. 1, 2 p.m., Centennial Hall

Augustana Symphonic Band • Nov. 1, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

Augustana Dance Company • Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

Opera@Augustana • Nov. 21-23, 8 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

Augustana Christmas
 Augustana Choir, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra • Dec. 5, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

Handel Oratorio Society and Augustana Symphony Orchestra • G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, Dec. 13, 8 p.m., and Dec. 14, 2 p.m., Centennial Hall

Augustana Chamber Singers • Lessons and Carols, Dec. 18, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., Ascension Chapel

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Contact Christiana Altobelli '96 Conner, manager of performance and outreach, at (800) 798-8100 x7833, (309) 794-7833 or christianaconner@augustana.edu for more details.

ABOVE On exhibit: Margo Humphrey, *Sunday Afternoon, 1989-90, offset lithograph diptych, 44/60 Brandwine Workshop, Philadelphia, Pa.* [courtesy David C. Driskell Center and the Art Gallery at the University of Maryland, College Park].

Class Notes

(Notices received as of January 31, 2008)

1954

Laurene Johnson married Eugene Wilson on June 10, 2007.

1964

Mark Holmer is serving a one-year term with Kiwanis as governor of the Nebraska-Iowa District.

Arthur Smith has been appointed to the client advisory council for Electronic Evidence Discovery. He is an attorney with Husch & Eppenberger, St. Louis, Mo.

1965

Thomas Johnson's book, *Also Called Sacajawea—Chief Woman's Stolen Identity*, has been published by Waveland Press. He is a professor at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point.

1968

Karen Schultz Jacobson received the Woman of the Year award from the American Society of Accountants.

Lynn Kusy was elected president of the southwest chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. He is executive director of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, Mesa, Ariz.

1970

Janice Wollenburg Sias married Jerome Tutskey on August 11, 2007.

1973

Linda Newborn received the 2008 Athena Business Women's Award given by the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce and The Women's Connection.

She is vice president and chief compliance officer of Deere & Co., Moline, and was recognized for her achievements and leadership in business.

1974

Richard Lasota married Elizabeth Pearce on September 16, 2007.

Mick Peterson has written a novel, *Once a Coach*, available from authorhouse.com. He recently retired from coaching and teaching in Pontiac, Ill.

1975

Robert Mitchum is president and chief operating officer of Network Services Co., Mt. Prospect, Ill.

1976

Mark Peterson is senior vice president and treasurer for ServiceMaster, Memphis, Tenn.

1977

Lisa Clarke Kaldheim is senior manager, audit, at Lyondell Chemical Co., Houston, Texas.

James Weigand is vice president and general manager of DuPont Safety Resources, Wilmington, Del.

1978

Cathie Trice Whiteside is executive vice president of corporate strategy and branding at QCR Holdings, Inc.

1979

Annette Seaberg is consul to the Consulate General of Sweden at the Embassy of Sweden, Chicago.

1982

Suzanne Dell-St. Clair is major gifts officer for The Family Conservancy, Kansas City, Kan.

Ann McGovern Pedersen is director of public relations for the Institute of Management Accountants, Fox Valley Chapter, for 2007-08.

Robert Schultz had a son, Robert, on February 5, 2007 (*Angela*; Anthony, 2).

1983

Eric Leshner is senior pastor at First Lutheran Church, Kearny, Neb.

Lindsay Rhodenbaugh is senior vice president for college relations at Ursinus College, Collegenille, Pa.

Walter Verdooren is vice president for seminary relations and development at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

1986

Richard Zimmer is an associate circuit judge for the State of Illinois.

1987

James "Ike" Brannon had a daughter, Dilara Natalie, on November 4, 2007 (*Berna*). Ike is senior advisor for tax policy for the Department of Treasury, Washington, D.C.

Jaime Arndt Erickson is manager, defined contribution plans, at Akzo Nobel, Chicago.

Nancy Berndt Quinn is vice president, director human resources, for Harbor Capital Advisors, Chicago.

1988

Ed Malthouse has been appointed the Theodore R. Silts and Annie Laurie Silts Professor in Journalism. He is an associate professor of integrated marketing communications at the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.



Speech Professor Martin Holcomb, D.A. Koch and Charles Lindberg react to the large crowd gathered at the airport to welcome them home after the 1950 National Debate Tournament.

Remembering a point of pride for the Class of '50

Kai Swanson '86, executive assistant to President Steve Bahls, shared this bit of Augustana history with the campus community on February 28:

In all manner of media today there are reports of the passing of William F. Buckley Jr. He was certainly a remarkable person and an exceptionally gifted communicator. But *The New York Times'* reference to him as "a ferocious debater" brought to my mind a footnote that won't appear in any of Mr. Buckley's obituaries.

In the 1950 National Debate Tournament, held at West Point, Buckley and his Yale teammate were defeated by a team that was later defeated by Augustana's D.A. Koch '50 and Charles Lindberg '50. "D.A." was short for Dorothy Ann, and she would make history that year by becoming the first woman ever to proceed to the final round of the National Debate Tournament. She was such an anomaly at West Point that hovering cadets wanted to carry her things everywhere; they even offered to carry D.A. herself when she broke her shoe heel while rushing up stairs.

En route to reaching the championship round, D.A. and Charles beat a team from the University of Pennsylvania that included future U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter. In the final debate of the tournament, a split decision (5-4) not in D.A. and Charles' favor was later softened by a speech publication that declared the decision wrong.

In time, D.A. Koch became D.A. Bjornson and a beloved member of the speech faculty at Augustana. She passed away several years ago. Charles Lindberg became an attorney and now serves on the Augustana College Board of Trustees.



Dr. Greta Fryxell '48 in her office at the University of Texas at Austin, where she is an adjunct professor in the School of Biological Sciences.

Festschrift surprises Fryxell '48

On Valentine's Day, Dr. Greta Fryxell '48, professor emerita of oceanography at Texas A&M University, was honored not only with valentines but also the publication of a *festschrift*, a volume of writings by a scholar's students and colleagues presented as a tribute to that person. The *festschrift* published for Fryxell recognizes her long record of scientific achievement in the fields of oceanography and phycology.

"It was a complete surprise!" Fryxell says. "Our daughter, who lives nearby, is proud of having kept a secret from her mother for a year and a half."

The 329-page *festschrift* was formally presented at a dinner held in her honor in Claremont, Calif., where she lives with her husband, Dr. Paul Fryxell '49. Several former students who received their master's or doctorate degrees under her direction were present, including one who traveled from Germany. She also received congratulatory phone calls from Brazil and South Korea. A unique feature of this *festschrift* is that it includes papers from each of the Fryxells' three children: Dr. Karl Fryxell, George Mason University; Dr. Joan Fryxell, California State University, San Bernardino; and Dr. Glen Fryxell; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in their fields of biology, geology and chemistry, respectively.

Fryxell credits a former professor, Dr. Richard Barnes, for "a fine background in education" at Augustana. "He was gentle-spoken, but once he paced back and forth in front of my class, paused and fixing me with a piercing gaze, thundered, 'There is no room in the classroom for a perfectionist!' He was right. I carried that lesson into every classroom with me."

After graduating from Augustana, Fryxell taught mathematics and science at the high-school level for four years, and then volunteered in the community for 15 years. She returned to college to earn a master's in education from Texas A&M in 1969, followed by a doctorate in oceanography in 1975. In 1980, she joined Texas A&M's oceanography faculty where she became a recognized expert in diatom morphology and taxonomy. She studied all marine phytoplankton, but later concentrated her research in toxic species.

Fryxell's parents—Esther Andreen Albrecht and Arthur Albrecht—were both teachers, and passed along their philosophy of the value of education to their daughter. "But even earlier I had absorbed the importance of higher education as a child from listening to my beloved grandfather, Gustav A. Andreen, a former president of Augustana College and Theological Seminary, on his 75th birthday. He explained to me the symbols of his life in the portrait that I had just unveiled in what was then the Denkmann Memorial Library—his wedding ring, the cross and his academic gown."

"I never doubted teaching was important," Fryxell adds. "I didn't realize until now how rewarding it was."

Sarah Cromien Pivnicka had a son, Finndan Brady, on July 27, 2007 (*Steve*; Brennan, 11, Shea, 9, Connor, 8, Brogan, 5, Declan, 2).

1990

John M. Anderson has been named director of marketing for Allstate's Emerging Business unit.

Anne Burswold Bergren is development associate for donor relations at Augustana College.

Arthur Bergren received the doctor of ministry in preaching from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is senior pastor of First Lutheran Church, Geneseo, Ill.

Jeff Bolton is a chemical operator at Emerald Performance Materials, Henry, Ill.

Carl Dehnert is operations manager at The Fairfield Inn Mall of America, Bloomington, Minn.

1991

Carol Benson Alloian had twins, Ani Iris and Michael Haratoune, on September 26, 2007 (*Tim*).

Holly Partyka Doolittle had a daughter, Grace Katherine, on June 23, 2006 (*Jonathan*; Cole, 8, Jonah, 5).

Lori Getz married Martin Kyger on June 30, 2007.

Jennifer Soderlund Sharma is director of corporate partnerships, Children's Home and Aid, Chicago.

Gina Stafford married Azfar Ahmed on September 8, 2007.

Marc Vermeire is vice principal at Friday Harbor High School, San Juan Island, Wash.

Kevin '93 and Chris Reich Waden had a son, Jared Matthew, on August 20, 2007 (*Rebecca*, 5, Allison, 2).

1992

Jennifer Jackson Bartnik is office manager at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Leslee Roland Forman had a son, Graham Roland, on January 13, 2008 (*Glenn*; Faith, 4, Alyssa, 2).

Stacy Hensler Franks had a son, Ian, on September 15, 2007 (*Robert*; Isabel, 2). She received the master's degree in counseling psychology from Bethel University, St. Paul, Minn.

Rebecca Grider is program director for the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Bloomington, Ill.

Kimberly Huntington-Alfano had a daughter, Christine Ann, on March 10, 2006 (*Jeffrey*).

Amy Archer Jachim is an audiologist at Phonak Hearing Systems, Warrenville, Ill.

Jeana Glithero Krahn had a son, Jack Henry, on April 5, 2006 (*Kenneth*).

Dawn Peterson Rundman had a daughter, Svea Irene, on October 15, 2006 (*Jonathan*; Paavo, 2).

Susan Ludwig Savio had twins, Ian and Sophia, on May 25, 2007 (*John*).

Jennifer Woodruff Tait had a daughter, Catherine Elanor, on November 11, 2006 (*Edwin*). Jennifer is adjunct professor of church history (distance learning program) at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky.

1993

William and Mary Beth Larson Dahlberg have adopted two children from Ethiopia; son, Owen Yoseph, born April 10, 2004, and daughter, Hannah Tenaye, born October 20, 2005.

Piper Lange Garwacki adopted a daughter, Hazel Catherine, on August 6, 2007 (*Chris*).

Thomas Jones received his doctorate in economics from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

Deborah Shippy is systems and technical services coordinator at the Moline (Ill.) Public Library.

Kevin and Chris Reich '91 Waden had a son, Jared Matthew, on August 20, 2007 (*Rebecca*, 5, Allison, 2).

1994

Todd Abramson is director of Virtus Partners, LLC, Houston, Texas.

Joe Adolf has been promoted to vice president, central region, for USA Funds, Chicago.

Andrew '95 and Kara Turner Clark had a daughter, Abigail Reese, on August 25, 2007.

Craig Thomsen had a daughter, Annika Bryn, on August 1, 2007 (*Janet*; Cole, 3).

1995

Andrew and Kara Turner '94 Clark had a daughter, Abigail Reese, on August 25, 2007.

Traci Orasco Jungles had a daughter, Abigail Rose, on August 7, 2007 (*Lawrence*; Lillian, 2).

Paul and Heather Stewart Kieffer had a son, Benjamin Patrick, on March 24, 2006 (*Colin*, 6).

Gwendolyn Snyder received the master's degree in public health and completed a fellowship in international emergency medicine at the University of Rochester (N.Y.).

1996

Jera Hull Deal's company, Sticks and Stones, has been featured on *Rachel Ray*, *The Martha Stewart Show* and in *People* magazine.

Brian Hendricks is U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's legislative counsel on broadcast media, telecommunications and technology issues.

Dave and Michelle Scariano Schomas had a son, Maxwell Logan, on April 11, 2007 (*Drew*, 5, Kate, 3).

1997

Andy Bertelsen had a son, Wesley Harper, on September 4, 2007 (*Erin*; Evan, 2).

Jill Moline Eccher had a son, Lucas, on February 26, 2007 (*Marc*; Braden, 2).

Jon and Heather Korzin '99 Fredrikson had a son, Carter Gary, on December 24, 2006 (*Riley*, 1).

Matt Freeman had a son, Matthew Hopey, on June 1, 2007 (*Melissa*; Abigail, 6, John, 4).

Valerie Straayer Goldsmith had a daughter, Elise Kathryn, on February 15, 2007 (*Christopher*).

Dawn Mortier Hickenbottom had a daughter, Kate, on June 8, 2007 (*Jim*; Adam, 7, Ella, 2).

Wendy Curtis Hopp had a son, Daniel, on February 4, 2007 (*Bob*; Jacob, 2).

Christoph Korn and Susan Ridihagh had a son, Alexander James, on July 1, 2006.

Rachel Wand Lanzen had a son, Micah, on June 3, 2006 (*Clint*; Jarret, 3).

Tonya Lensch married Brent Trudo on September 15, 2007.

Anthony Loizzi had a daughter, Addison Marie, on May 29, 2007 (*Annie*). He is with the law firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn, Arlington Heights, Ill. He recently co-authored *E-Discovery Rules: The Brave New World of Ethical Obligations*, a publication of the National School Board Association Council of School Attorneys.

Alicia Malin McGowan had a son, Trevor, on February 10, 2007 (*Tom*; Kellen and Matthew).

Amy Norris Miller had a daughter, Sara Catherine, on July 2, 2007 (*Chris*; Andrew, 3). Amy is a physical therapist at Comprehensive Therapeutics, Glenview, Ill.

Deanna Dyer Mumford had a son, Augustin Memphis, on August 22, 2007 (*Michael*; Tucker, 5). Deanna started a non-profit group called Heavenly Warmth in memory of her daughter, Maverick Dee, who passed away in 2005. It provides new winter outerwear for children in need.

Javier Perez is residential sales manager at Wells Fargo, Chicago.

Mark Posen married Ann Marie Clemens on September 29, 2007. He is a firefighter/paramedic for Eugene Fire & EMS, Eugene, Ore.

Swedish ambassador honors Tredway '57

Sweden's ambassador to the United States, Jonas Hafström, came to campus last spring to present the Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*) to Dr. Thomas Tredway '57, president emeritus of Augustana College, in recognition of the many ways he has nurtured Augustana's ties to the homeland of its founders.



Ambassador Hafström, his wife, Eva Hafström, and Swedish Consul General for Chicago Kerstin Lane were all guests at a dinner for Tredway, who was joined by his wife Kate, daughter Rebecca, and several friends and former colleagues. President Steve Bahls spoke about his predecessor's role in building up Augustana's international study opportunities in Sweden, and noted the many students from Sweden who came to Augustana during Tredway's presidency.

Bahls also noted that the campus enjoyed three royal visits during Tredway's 28-year administration. "Thanks to Dr. Tredway, our ties to Sweden remain strong today, and we look forward to their continued growth this summer as the Augustana Choir presents a concert tour in Sweden," Bahls said.

During his remarks, Ambassador Hafström noted Augustana's upcoming sesquicentennial, and offered to help the college arrange for a visit by Swedish royalty during the anniversary year of 2010. The last royal visit to Rock Island occurred in 1996, when both King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Sylvia came to campus.

The medal Ambassador Hafström presented to Tredway on behalf of the Swedish monarch consists of a white Maltese cross over a gold background. The center of the cross is a blue shield with an inscription referring to the North Star: *Nescit occasum* ("it knows no decline").

Billie Jo Haight Runkle had twin sons, Jacob and Jared, on June 29, 2006 (*Eric*; Kayla, 4).

Erica VonBehren married Matthew Kluck on October 26, 2007.

Lauren Webb received the master's degree in communication disorders from California State University, Northridge.

She is now a speech-language pathologist at Manhattan Beach (Calif.) Middle School.

Lisa Foster married Tony Kline on August 4, 2007.

Kit Harley married Rachel Balazs on June 1, 2007.

Kimberly Smetana Laubinger had a son, Chase James, on August 23, 2007 (*James*; Carter, 2).

Cynthia Mader married Trevor Bryan on June 16, 2007.

Karen Halverson Otto had a daughter, Kaitlyn Kristin, on May 28, 2007 (*David*).

William and Dawn Foster '99 Pokorny had a son, John Richard, on July 22, 2007.

Jessica Kopischke Schriever had a son, Quinn David, on November 10, 2007 (*Chris*; Ashton, 5).

James and Kristine Johanson Somerville had a daughter, Cyrys, on June 1, 2006 (*Jimmy*, 2).

Toby Speechley is a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Troy Swanson won the Master Teacher of the Year award at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Ill.

Lisa Foster married Tony Kline on August 4, 2007.

Kit Harley married Rachel Balazs on June 1, 2007.

Kimberly Smetana Laubinger had a son, Chase James, on August 23, 2007 (*James*; Carter, 2).

Cynthia Mader married Trevor Bryan on June 16, 2007.

Will Clayton had a daughter, Willamina Katherine, on September 10, 2007 (*Katie*). He is a speech-language pathologist for HCR Manor Care, Paxton, Ill.

Scott Cobert received the M.B.A. degree from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

Mike Esposito married Shannon Bonner on July 27, 2007. He is account director at Collaborative Marketing Group, Aurora, Ill., and a graduate student at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

Jon '97 and Heather Korzin Fredrikson had a son, Carter Gary, on December 24, 2006 (*Riley*, 1).

Charles and Heather Wright '00 Haben had a daughter, Grace Elizabeth, on November 25, 2007.

Bryan and Christine Williams '00 Jenkins had a daughter, Camille Marie, on March 15, 2007.

Jennifer Keller is a business studies and economics teacher



This spring, members of the Augustana Choir, Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band enjoyed perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform in Orchestra Hall, an architecturally stunning concert hall and home of the renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra. "The absolute joy, honor and privilege to be able to perform on that stage with its exquisite acoustics and history of world-class performances will be one that remains with me, and also the students for the rest of their lives," noted Dr. James Lambrecht, conductor of the Symphonic Band. Above, Dr. Jon Hurty on stage with the Augustana Choir and at left, Dr. Daniel Culver conducting the Symphony Orchestra.

Augustana College Magazine thanks photographer Todd Gustafson, a 1981 Augustana graduate and father of horn player Dana Gustafson '11, for sharing his photographs from the evening.