

The attraction of transparency

I recently visited San Diego to deliver a paper at a conference. Make no mistake about it: San Diego is a gorgeous city. Gleaming skyscrapers and posh hotels stand at attention around the natural harbor of San Diego Bay, and all along the waterfront, cyclists, joggers and dog-walkers revel in what might be the world's most perfect climate.

My husband and I were staying in sparkling Centre City, right next to Seaside Village, where we fell in love with the pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, cheerful red trolleys and the cleanest city streets I've ever seen in real life. Each night when we walked the few short blocks to dinner in the Gaslamp Quarter, we mused about leaving our drab existences in middle America to live the sunny California dream.

But for all its spectacular beauty, San Diego discomfited me as well. As a political theorist who writes about urban space, I can't help but think about the political implications of architecture and landscape; you might consider it a professional hazard. And something about San Diego's spotless countenance seemed vaguely unreal to me, almost threatening. For one thing, Centre City is almost unnaturally quiet. [Out to dinner with a group of friends one night, we heard the unusual sound of an ambulance screaming down one of the main through streets. "Someone must have littered," my friend quipped.]

Having spent most of my life in the post-industrial Midwest and Northeast, San Diego—particularly Centre City—resembled more of a theme park than a city to me: an assemblage of spaces designed and built more for tourists than for residents, replete with manufactured ambiance and carefully manicured shrubbery. I was confused by my own reaction to what is clearly a beautiful area. What made me so inordinately suspicious of this place? I wondered. Was this an ill-defined and undeserved prejudice towards my Golden State brethren? Was it simply envy bred from the blistering cold of too many Illinois winters?

It hit me as we walked through town one evening: there are no alleys in downtown San Diego.

As soon as I noticed this, of course, I wondered how I could have ever missed it. In every city that I am familiar with—any city that I have ever explored or imagined—alleys play an integral role. Whether it's the unique urban geometry of New York's exterior fire escapes or the vaguely sinister shadows that pervade the best (and worst) film noir, alleys have long functioned as metonyms for city life. How then could a city *not* have alleys?

This question was particularly intriguing to me having just spent almost a decade studying Washington, D.C., where alleys had been the source of consternation for city officials and social reformers for at least a century. Unlike San Diego, Washington's downtown was planned with deep lots for big homes, connected and serviced by a complicated warren of backstreets. In the middle of the 19th century, Washington's alleys became home to tens of

thousands of working-class people in search of affordable housing close to their jobs. Not coincidentally, they also became the destination of the city's growing African-American population. Invisible from the main thoroughfares in the city, the alleys became known as Washington's "secret city," where its "neglected neighbors" (to quote two famous chroniclers of the capital) languished in poverty and ill health. At the turn of the century, politicians and social reformers frequently decried the terrible conditions in the alleys in language that was just as often racist and malicious as it was egalitarian and benevolent.

Alleys also functioned in Washington—and in other cities across the country—as spatial representations of exactly what made social reformers nervous about urban life. Unlike agrarian or small-town America, where neighbors knew neighbors and could keep tabs on each others' behavior, cities bred anonymity and invisibility, and provided an infrastructure of hidden doorways, dark corners and sequestered structures, all impenetrable to the moral force of the public gaze. Such an infrastructure made the city a perceived bastion of criminal libertines, deeply threatening to public health and safety.

It was no surprise, then, when I learned that the absence of alleys in San Diego's Centre City was utterly intentional. Alonzo Horton, the man almost single-handedly responsible for San Diego's waterfront development during the last decades of the 19th century, had expressly eschewed alleys in his plans for downtown. Having seen what he considered the dire effects of alleys in cities like New York, Chicago and Washington, Horton was determined to plan a city that literally had no room for concentrated poverty, filth, crime or disease. As a result, San Diego's city blocks are shorter than average (also allowing for more corner lots, and hence more profit for Horton as he sold off the land), and Centre City is remarkably alley free. What you see in Centre City and the Gaslamp Quarter—right now, the fronts of prosperous hotels, businesses, restaurants and bars—is exactly what you get.

Especially in a post-9/11 world, having a "what you see is what you get" city (or at least a section of a city) might seem quite comforting. Perhaps now more than ever, there's a certain virtue that we ascribe to transparency which privileges the seen over the unseen, clarity over complexity, the evident over the opaque. What is hidden, or ambiguous, or obscure is also potentially alien and threatening. From the baggage we carry onto airplanes to

the personal information we relinquish to phone companies tracking terror suspects, we routinely—if somewhat reluctantly—turn ourselves inside out, offering up our continual scrutability in exchange for what we hope is an equally relentless and comprehensive security.

Of course, eliminating alleys from a city's master plan—without addressing the underlying sources of these problems—does not mean that one has necessarily eradicated what is troubling about urban life. In Washington at the turn of the century, displacing persons from their alley homes might have made for compelling political rhetoric, but those actions ended neither poverty nor standard housing nor crime in the nation's capital. In San Diego, the absence of alleys has produced much the same result. During our evening walks, for example, my husband and I routinely encountered homeless people who sought shelter with impressive (and depressing) ingenuity: not in alleys, but instead carefully tucked behind the bases of large, public sculptures, or deep in the shadows of the lavishly irrigated foliage. Better hidden, yes, but not absent. Not at all.

My trip to San Diego reminded me again of the attraction of transparency, and the reasons why that attraction can also be both misleading and misguided. In our efforts to render the world legible and predictable, as political scientist James C. Scott has noted, we have often pursued these aims ruthlessly and cruelly. At the turn of the last century, in Washington and in many other cities, such efforts resulted in displacing thousands of families from the only housing they could afford. At mid-century, sweeping changes enacted under the banner of urban renewal demolished entire communities: churches, schools and city blocks, the very fabric of our civil society. Now in the new millennium, we create new spic-and-span city centers that promise the best of urban life (ethnic restaurants, entertainment and culture) without any of the attendant urban problems. We don't claim that we have won our various wars on poverty or drugs or crime, but we have convincingly removed the battlefields from public view. I am not sure that this is an improvement.



Dr. Margaret Farrar's book *Building the Body Politic: Power and Urban Space in Washington, D.C.*, which explores the relationships between spaces, people and power in the context of planning Washington, D.C., was published this spring.

From our bookshelf to yours

Miss Garnet's Angel by Salley Vickers

This moving novel tells the story of Julia Garnet, a retired English schoolmistress who deals with past abuse and professional failure by caging herself in a series of -isms: Marxism, atheism. An unexpected "holiday" in Venice turns into a pilgrimage for her—a pilgrimage to the heart of humanity, to its deep suffering and its exalting joy, and to the core of the numinous. Her story is counterpointed by a retelling of the Apocryphal Book of Tobit.

Vickers weaves her expertise as psychotherapist, artist and writer into a layered narrative that's by turns gritty, witty and lyrical. She creates for readers a spiritual experience both accessible and profound. • DR. ANN BOADEN '67, English department

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan

This National Book Award winner is a tribute to the perseverance of several towns and individuals who lived through the worst of the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s, as well as an investigation of the human-induced causes of this ecological and economic disaster. While many people are familiar with the Dust Bowl from reading *The Grapes of Wrath*, Timothy Egan's non-fictional account chronicles the story of several families who, unlike the fictional Joads, decided to "stick it out." Egan demonstrates how the destruction of native grassland and its substitution by wheat in a time of high agricultural prices and unusually wet years contributed to this disaster. The 1930s brought the double whammy of falling commodity prices and extreme drought, which dried up the land that was now unprotected by its natural grass. With nothing to hold it in place, the soil of the high plains simply blew away. While this book is a history of events that took place more than 80 years ago, it also is a cautionary tale in these days of global warming and heightened ecological concern.

• DR. LOU BELBY, Spanish department

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver, Camille Kingsolver and Steven L. Hopp

Great, light-hearted account of one family's attempt to embrace locavorism. Funny, as well as educational. • MARK VINCENT, psychology department

Knockemstiff by Donald Ray Pollock

This story collection came out to rave reviews. The stories are wonderful—funny, touching, meaningful—and evocative of Flannery O'Connor's fiction. The author's story is as interesting as the stories of his characters. Donald Ray Pollock worked 20 years or so in a factory in a small town in Ohio, and then started writing when he was well into middle age. Now here he is, on the brink of becoming a literary star. • DR. KELLY DANIELS, English department

The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It by Paul Collier

Economic growth—the creation of wealth—defeats poverty. Paul Collier argues that approximately one-sixth of the world's population, or one billion people, lives in countries without meaningful economic growth. They are trapped, perhaps by geography, civil wars, corrupt governance or even an economic situation that doesn't invest in the future. For countries to escape these traps, outside assistance is required.

There's something in this book that will get you thinking, no matter your politics. Those who lean to the right ought to pay attention to Collier's arguments for the necessity of outside assistance. Those who lean to the left ought to pay attention to his arguments for military intervention.

Poverty is evil. Working for its eradication requires our best thinking and most conscientious efforts. That's why this slim volume is important. Please read it. • DR. TOM BENGTSON '75, mathematics department

The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo by Peter Orner

What happens when a young college graduate from Cincinnati named Larry Kaplanski makes his way to an arid outpost, a boys' boarding school in Namibia? He meets the boys, restless and hopeless; listens to the teachers, talkative but resigned; and falls in love with Mavala Shikongo, beautiful, restless, and not hopeless in spite of a mysterious past laden with struggle. Told in prose as languid and shimmering as a desert mirage, this first novel portrays the sad waste of land and humanity caused by the Colonial settlement of Africa. • MARGI ROGAL, Thomas Tredway Library

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies by Jared Diamond

This Pulitzer Prize-winning book investigates the causes of why the modern world is divided into technological "have" societies and less-technological "have-not" societies. While in the past racist theories have been advanced to explain this disparity, Jared Diamond goes back more than 13,000 years to explore its causes in environmental, geographical, zoological and agricultural terms. His assertion that the transition from a hunter-gatherer society to an agricultural one facilitated the development of "civilization" as we know it is nothing new. The novelty of this book is its exploration of why this transition occurred in some places, and not in others. According to Diamond, it had nothing to do with race or inequalities in human intelligence, but rather various other factors over which the human inhabitants of a particular area essentially had no control. While this book is technical in nature, it is written for the layperson and is easily accessible to all readers interested in the subject.

• DR. LOU BELBY, Spanish department

The Abstinence Teacher by Tom Perrotta

This is a likable account of the social intricacies of present-day, upper-middle-class suburbia. Tom Perrotta's two main players are Ruth, a socially and politically liberal divorced

mother of two who teaches the Health & Family Life class at the local high school; and Tim, a mortgage broker who creates a new life for himself with the help of a conservative Christian faith community after years of drug use and a bitter divorce. In a vein reminiscent of the movie *Crash* and the common text *Culture Wars*, which was used by first-year students this spring, *The Abstinence Teacher* shows readers the messy, unpredictable—and often humorous—consequences when two radically different American cultures collide. • ANNE MADURA '01 EAREL and AMANDA MAKULA, Thomas Tredway Library

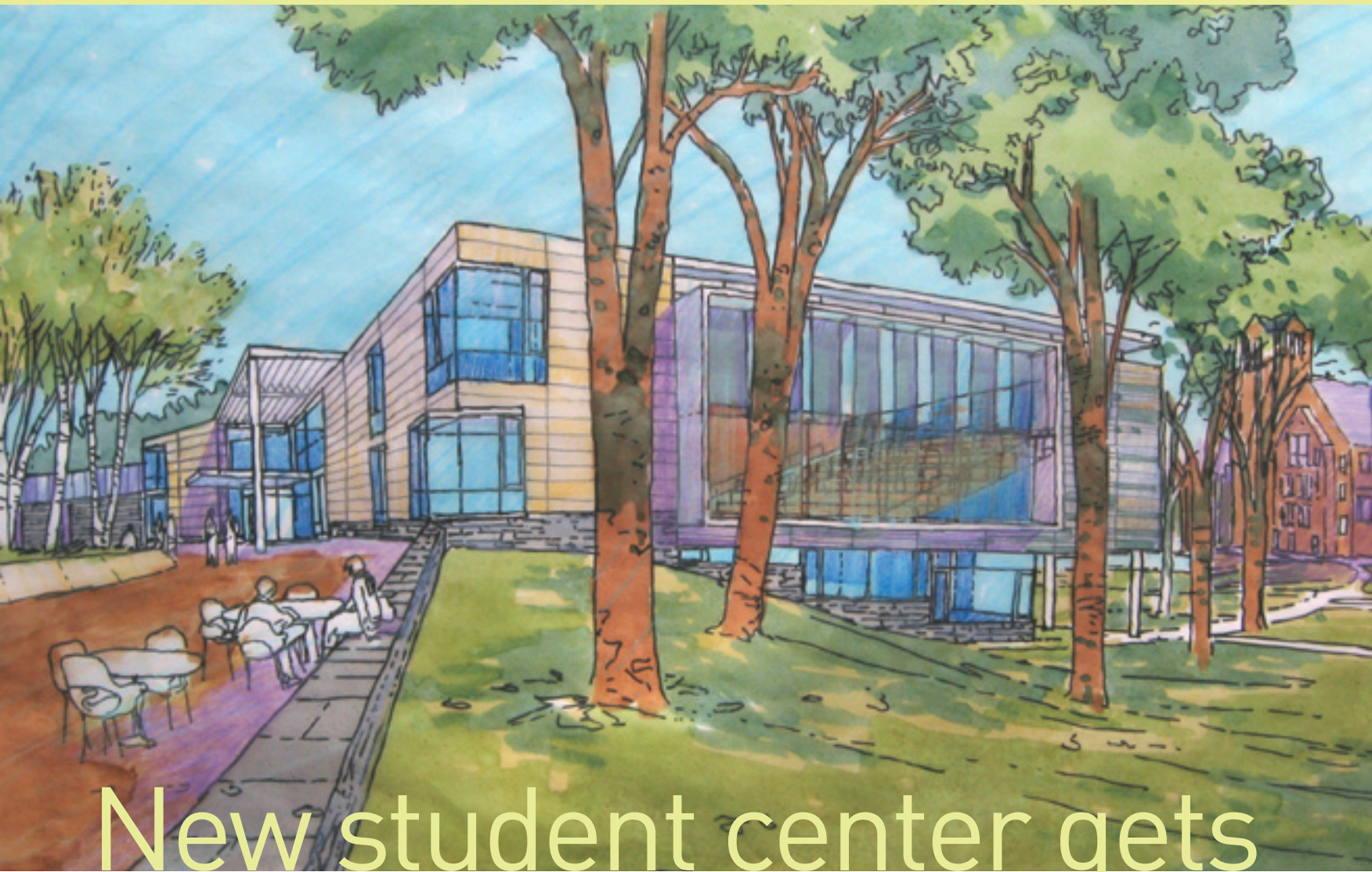
The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter by Peter Singer and Jim Mason

Heather Mattern (biology) recommended I read *TWWE* before reading *Omnivore's Dilemma*, and I'm glad she did. Singer is a well-known animal rights activist, and I suspected that this book would be heavily biased throughout. I was pleased to find that Singer and Mason present a balanced view of three diets (Standard American Diet, Conscientious Omnivores and Vegan), using three families as examples. In visiting each family, they discuss the families' socio-economic status and political views, and the authors even go grocery shopping with the families. Singer and Mason then trace a few of the food items back through the food production process, pointing out the "good" and the "bad" of each choice. There are many parallels between *TWWE* and *Omnivore's Dilemma*, but *TWWE* is a much more concise, straightforward book. However, one could argue that Singer and Mason's biased viewpoints do surface in the last chapter. • DR. JASON KOONTZ, biology department

The Clash Within: Democracy, Religious Violence, and India's Future by Martha C. Nussbaum

This book was written with an American audience in mind. While challenging Samuel P. Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations* thesis about the oncoming epic battle between Western and non-Western civilizations (Islam in particular), Nussbaum shows by analyzing India's democracy and its liberal ancient culture in the age of Hindu nationalism that there is conflict within each culture that proper education alone can help us understand well and resolve. Nussbaum, as in her other works, writes quite lucidly for general readers as well as for scholars. • DR. PRAMOD MISHRA, English department





New student center gets green light

Citing a need for informal gathering and meeting space to enhance student services programming, Augustana will build a “green” student center at the eastern edge of the college’s lower campus quad. Construction of the student center, estimated to cost \$12 million to \$13 million, could begin as early as the summer of 2009, with a projected opening in the fall of 2010. >

Research has shown Augustana lacks approximately 70,000 square feet of leisure and recreation space when compared to institutions of a similar size. The student center will provide approximately 36,000 square feet of leisure and programming space to address this shortfall. Planned features include: informal seating, display and gathering space, a 150-seat bistro, an internet café, game room, performance hall for 175, a sub-dividable multi-purpose room for a total occupancy of 400 in banquet-style seating, conference rooms, a media center including the college’s radio station and newspaper, student group activities offices and workrooms, and a welcome center.

The idea of a new student center has been discussed for several years. The College Center does not attract students in the evening hours. Instead, students tend to gather at the Thomas Tredway Library. The library’s coffeehouse, Brew by the Slough, is a popular meeting spot but can accommodate only about 60 people. In addition, comedians and musicians often perform in the coffeehouse because of a lack of appropriate programming space on campus.

“By making plans for a new student center, we commit to improving the student experience by providing adequate space for informal gatherings, student meetings and events,” says Steve Bahls, president of the college. “I envision a facility that helps student leaders and organizations flourish as it provides new venues for programs that build and shape the campus community.”

Dr. Evelyn Campbell, dean and vice president of

student services, points out that this will be the first time Augustana will have a building that can accommodate two or three main events at one time. As students, perhaps 500 or more, come and go between different events or meetings, Campbell predicts a synergy that hasn’t happened before.

“On any particular evening now, some students may attend a musical performance at Wallenberg, others may hear a lecture at Olin and another group may have a club meeting at Old Main—and then they walk home,” Campbell says. “This building will be a place where they can reflect and have more in-depth discussions, and make connections between their experiences right after they happen.”

Also, having access to a room that accommodates 400 will allow the college to more conveniently host state and regional conferences with students from other academic institutions, Campbell says.

The student center’s location and design, specifically its southwest side that incorporates three floors of large windows overlooking the slough, offers students a chance to relish the beauty of the campus throughout the seasons. “At a liberal arts college, students need to have places where they can take advantage of the natural setting and allow for peace of mind and nourishment of the soul,” Campbell says, “and this will be that kind of place.”

The optimal site on which to build the new student center was a popular topic of conversation during winter term. Sasaki Associates, the Boston-based architectural



Augustana’s new student center will be located on the quad south of Swenson Hall. The back of the three-level building will face the slough.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SASAKI ASSOCIATES, INC.

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firm hired by Augustana to design the student center, held six campus forums earlier this year. In January, the college's Board of Trustees took part in an extensive discussion with Sasaki representatives. Much of this discussion focused on observations gleaned from campus forums. The trustees also received separate reports from across campus and deliberated over the new student center's location at considerable length. In the end, they unanimously chose the site located at the foot of Andreen hill.

President Bahls says the proximity of the chosen site to campus residence halls and the Thomas Tredway Library was a leading factor behind the final selection.

"The area near the slough also provides greater opportunities to use passive solar energy than other locations the board considered," he explains. "It's a factor that will help us make the student center Augustana's first building to achieve LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification."

Environmental issues were at the forefront of discussions on campus and at the board meeting. The trustees resolved to have the student center designed and built according to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED silver standard. This is in line with the environmental action plan approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2007, which included a commitment to strive for a new standard for major construction and renovation projects, according to geology's Dr. Jeffrey Strasser, chair of the Campus Sustainability Committee.

The recently formed Campus Sustainability Committee has been involved with Sasaki Associates and the Board of Trustees in the initial planning stages of the new student center, and Strasser looks forward to continued involvement.

He is impressed by the student center's design and function, as presented by Sasaki. Current plans include windows facing southwest to provide a panorama of the

lower slough while passively heating the building on sunny winter days. The surrounding landscaping will capture runoff, routing it towards vegetated swales and cisterns for reuse. And the HVAC systems will be modern and efficient.

Additional sustainable design features include pervious paving, above- and below-surface drainage troughs, riparian plants and the use of greywater irrigation.

The architects have developed the site so the building is integrated into the landscape, following the form of the land and taking advantage of the change in levels in natural terrain to create two open spaces: a courtyard to the north and a series of terraces to the south, featuring local and natural materials. Access will be at both the north and south sides of the building.

The exterior of the student center will feature locally available masonry and stone materials to complement the texture and color of the original campus buildings such as Old Main and Denkmann Memorial Hall, according to Sasaki. Slate, in a contrasting finish and color, may be used to signify special areas of the building.

"This building promises to combine functionality and

efficiency in an inviting, bright and lively space for students," Strasser says. "It will have strong curb appeal, which is important because of its high visibility near the college's main entrance off 38th Street."

A new student center, especially one that meets the LEED silver standard, will be a strong asset in student recruitment. Rachel Zimmerman '92 Gustafson, associate director of admissions, has talked with thousands of prospective students and their parents during her 16 years in admissions. She says high school students and their families have increasingly become more interested in colleges' facilities.

"While we hope they make their decision based on the quality of the outstanding liberal arts education they will receive here, we know facilities are important to them as well," Gustafson says. "The student center will reflect Augustana's commitment to the environment, our commitment to offering a strong student activities program and our commitment to fostering community on campus. These are all important to prospective students when making their college decision."

UPDATES

Carlsson Hall and Old Main

KAITLIN SIROIS '10



On schedule and on budget. These are the words college administrators, especially Vice President of Business and Finance Paul Pearson '74, like to hear about a multi-million dollar renovation on campus. And, fortunately, that's the latest on the conversion of Augustana's Carlsson Hall from a residence center to a state-of-the-art academic complex.

"There have been a few hiccups but for the most part, this project has gone very smoothly," Pearson says. "It's a reflection of a good team led by Sharon Cramer, and including Estes Construction and BLDD Architects. Also, when you're able to gut a building and then renovate, it's easier than having to work around existing systems."

As reported earlier in *Augustana College Magazine*, renovating Carlsson was less expensive than replacing the stately 1920s-era building with a new facility. The campus community embraced the decision to retain the building's historic architecture while creating technologically proficient classrooms inside.

The 11 classrooms will incorporate several features new to campus, according to Shawn Beattie '94, educational technology manager. A multimedia podium will be installed instead of the conventional instructor desk found in other rooms on campus. In place of a retractable screen, a 96-inch touch-sensitive smartboard will be used as the projection surface. "This will allow faculty and students to manipulate the computer with the most natural interface—touch," Beattie says.

Widescreen projectors and displays will be used throughout the building—another first. According to Beattie, widescreen is now used by almost all laptop computers and is being made popular by the current transition to HDTV. Another plus is that widescreen provides about 35 percent more projection area with which to work.

Scheduled for completion in time for fall term, the building will be dedicated as Emmy Carlsson Evald Hall later this year. In addition to the classrooms, the building will provide office space for five of the college's largest academic departments and establish

administrative offices to support the college's Senior Inquiry program, Center for Vocational Reflection and Office of International Programs. Those affiliated with these departments and offices began moving in earlier this summer.

Across 7th Avenue from Carlsson Hall is Old Main, which will be refurbished in phases as funds become available. Ideally, work will begin in 2010, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of Augustana's founding.

Old Main was dedicated in 1889. With an architectural style patterned after the main building at Uppsala University in Sweden and the addition of a dome, Old Main became a notable landmark in the community and among early institutions of higher education.

The building has remained home to departments historically linked to the liberal arts, and plans call for the following to remain in Old Main: classics, English, history, philosophy, political science, religion, sociology/anthropology, speech communication, and women's and gender studies.

The refurbishment project currently envisioned supports the college's



KAITLIN SIROIS '10

Carlsson Hall's renovation includes the addition of two classrooms with a patio/terrace on the roof. Located at the back of the building, the stairs off the patio serve as a "gateway" to the athletic facilities to the north.

strategic plan's primary goal: to enrich Augustana's academic program. Classrooms in Old Main will be updated with modern teaching and learning technology. Computer kiosks also are anticipated. Office and seminar spaces throughout the building will support the close interaction between students and faculty that defines the Augustana experience.

Exterior repairs, including renovation of the dome, will address structural

concerns due to the building's age.

The Old Main refurbishment will be the grand finale of four major building projects outlined in *Authentically Augustana: A Call to Action*, the college's \$100 million comprehensive fundraising campaign. The others are the Duane R. Swanson Commons residence center (completed in 2006), the Carlsson Hall renovation and the new student center.



Rock steady

After two heart transplants and decades of breaking down gender barriers, underground geologist Susan Steele '71 Weir is still on top of her game.

By JEFF MOORE

Above: Susan Steele '71 Weir leads a field trip for environmental and engineering geologists during the construction of the Foothills Tunnel in 1980. The muck car to her right is used to haul out broken rock as the construction crew advances the tunnel.

At right: An outdoors-woman all her life, Weir appreciates the rugged beauty of Eldorado Canyon State Park near Boulder, Colo.

Geologist Susan Steele '71 Weir stepped onto an open platform attached to a crane. The platform jerked, and she hung on to the crane cable as she swung out over an abyss, and then, with great faith in the crane operator, she was lowered 300 feet down a narrow vertical shaft through solid rock. But that was the easy part, compared to the more nerve-wracking aspect of this particular job, which was the old miner she had to walk past every day to get there—a shift boss who refused to talk to her, who glared every time she walked by. There had been many like him, but Weir remembers this one. “He was a horrible old guy.”

“And then one day after a journey down the shaft, he was waiting for me at the top, and, gruffly, I might add, he said, ‘Susan, I’ve been watching you. You know women shouldn’t be underground. They should be at home. But you know what? You’re all right.’”

The old codger had finally cracked, though it took a little longer with such a thick crust. “After that, he was my buddy,” Weir recalls. She had broken through. It was a ritual she performed over and over again during a career that put a woman’s stamp on a man’s world. Going beyond where any woman had gone before. Or, rather, going below. Underground.

Susan Steele Weir became a geologist when the field was completely dominated by men, taking her to a world of underground tunnels and shafts carved through the rock

to carry water from reservoirs to cities or to monitor the impact of nuclear explosions. In her first job with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), she was the first woman to work underground at the Nevada Test Site for nuclear weapons testing. Now, at 58 and retired since 2007, she can look back at 36 years as an engineering geologist and realize she was a true pioneer. And it was a career she never expected. She enrolled at Augustana College in 1967 as a chemistry major.

“In high school, I was always interested in math and science, particularly chemistry, and that’s what I thought I was going to do,” she says. Her life was about to change on a warm spring day in the chemistry lab on the third floor of Augustana’s old science building.

“There was no air conditioning, so you had the windows open, but it was still hot and humid,” she remembers. “We were in there, slaving over a hot Bunsen burner, and could see the kids in geology were out tramping around, and that looked like much more fun.”

Weir switched her major to geology so she could get outside. She loved the field trips, especially the outdoor part. She reconnected with a lifelong passion she had discovered as a child, growing up in Evergreen, Colo., in the mountains near Denver. Tall and lanky, she was always outside—hiking, camping and horseback riding.

Once in geology, it didn’t take her long to find that Augustana was well known for its geology program. She



KEVIN COX PHOTOGRAPHY

This 1999 photo of Susan Steele Weir was taken after her crew inspected the 23.3-mile-long Roberts Tunnel (east portal in background) near Denver. Conditions in the tunnel, located 300 feet underground and accessible by elevator, are usually around 50 degrees Fahrenheit and damp. Weir is wearing a neoprene tunnel suit with boots, layered turtleneck and flannel shirt, yellow slicker (called a digger), and hardhat liner for warmth. With 18 inches of water on the tunnel floor, the crew rode in a diesel-powered tunnel vehicle but the inspection still took about six hours.



remembers Dr. Richard Anderson as her inspiration for making geology accessible, and helping her believe someone like her, a “regular person,” could do it. Anderson remembers Weir, too, though he confesses, at the time, he was privately skeptical about her prospects of finding work in the field. Little did either of them know that, one day, she would return her own measure of fame to the Augustana geology department.

Weir stuck with it, and was selected for a summer internship with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). When she graduated from Augustana in 1971, she landed a job with USGS, her first step into a world where, she would often find, the first female footprints would be her own.

“It was a real shock when this gal walked into their office [at USGS], asked for a job, and she got it,” Anderson recalls.

And it was exciting. Weir’s first position with USGS took her to the Atomic Energy Commission’s Nevada Test Site, where underground nuclear weapons testing was still being conducted. She was a “crack mapper” with a top-secret security clearance, first mapping surface effects of underground nuclear explosions, then mapping effects underground in tunnel complexes. After a bomb was detonated a couple thousand feet below the surface, she would locate fractures in the surrounding rock associated with the blast, sometimes finding movement along fault lines several thousand feet away. It was, Weir says, fascinating work, like “watching geology in action.”

For eight years, Weir also was the first and only woman underground at the test site, and from the start, she was sending out shock waves of her own.

“I was right at the time when it was still very controversial for women to go underground,” she says. “On

occasion, miners walked off the job when I came in the tunnels.”

The tunnels are associated with drill rigs and mining equipment. There aren’t any women working in these areas, or there are very few. In the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, when Weir entered the picture, American culture was beginning to change, but change came more slowly underground. As an old saying went, “For every woman who goes underground, a man comes up dead.” Even today, the superstitions persist. Underground geologists are white-collar scientists in a blue-collar world, and few women choose to venture inside.

Weir did it, and made a career of it. It’s easy to think there were life-changing moments when the tide turned in her favor. But that tide never came. She had to win them over one at a time.

“You have to break them in, let them know you are going to do the work, and you aren’t going to slack,” she says.

She always believed that most of her co-workers would come around, and a lot of them did. Like the old shift boss who finally spoke to her, they broke down because she didn’t give up. Her philosophy was to “show up, look sharp and get the job done at all costs.”

In the tunnels that meant jeans, a hardhat with a miner’s lamp, steel-toed leather boots, vest with pockets and a geologist’s tool belt with hammer, Brunton compass and magnifying lens. On occasion, she lost her light and was engulfed in the inky black of total darkness. But Weir managed to feel her way out, hand over hand, sometimes for up to a mile before she found the closest light. It can

“I’m a very optimistic person. Attitude, I think, saves your bacon in a lot of circumstances that may be difficult.”

SUSAN STEELE ’71 WEIR

happen to anyone underground.

At those moments and many others, she didn’t think about being the only woman in the tunnels, or a pioneer. “You don’t think about yourself that way at all as you’re going along,” she says. “It was much later in my career that I thought, ‘Oh, well maybe I was the first one.’”

Iris Ljunggren ’71 Carlson, longtime friend and classmate from Augustana, thinks Weir survived because she had the right combination of pluck and positive outlook. “Scaling rocks and mapping stuff, crawling through tunnels, I would find the geology interesting, but I would not want the physical part. Susie loved that part. She always had a tremendous amount of fun. If you hadn’t had the strength of character and the perseverance she had...”

Carlson stops, thinking about the friend she’s known for 40 years.

“She ran into some pretty serious prejudice on the part of the miners and drillers. It took tremendous perseverance on her part to manage. Most people would not put up with it. She probably has the most positive outlook of anybody I’ve ever known.”

Debbie Strom ’71 Carlsen, her roommate at Augustana, also remains a close friend. She agrees Weir never got beat by the hostile culture she encountered underground. “She has a terrific sense of humor, where she could diffuse situations with her humor,” Carlsen says. “Plus, she’s really, really good at what she does. Eventually, they had to acknowledge that.”

And eventually, they did. Weir went on to Colorado School of Mines for graduate studies, becoming a recognized expert on the engineering geologic aspects of tunneling. After eight years with USGS, she spent 28 years with Denver Water, ending up as chief geologist for a vast system of dams and tunnels that serve water to the Denver area. And she married an engineer with Denver Water.

One thing didn’t change. She was often the only woman underground, proving herself time and again.

In 1996, in a feat that underscores her remarkable journey, Weir was elected president of the international organization representing her profession, the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG).

“It had to take a special person,” says her husband, Bob Weir. “It takes a person that, to start with, never gives up. And somebody with very good interpersonal skills. In time, you can win people over, and she did.”

Perhaps, in one important sense, being a woman helped. Strong support networks tend to be a female trait, and Weir always maintained those social networks. She stayed close to family and friends, and she nurtured a large professional network of co-workers and geology acquaintances. Today, she tries to impress the value of this idea on young people, encouraging them, acting as a mentor.

“I feel very strongly, like a lot of people do in their field, about helping young people,” Weir says. “I know people took me under their wing, in my early years, and tried to get me involved.”

She certainly knows how to steer past the hazards and roadblocks that still confront young women in the field, and shares her own story at meetings and functions, trying to expand the opportunities in engineering geology for women.

And when Weir makes friends, she makes them for life, like her old classmates at Augustana, Carlsen and Carlson. Weir, they say, is the glue that keeps them together. “Susie has a huge network of friends, from all over the world,” Carlsen says. Adds Carlson, “The other thing about Susie, she always has a good time no matter where she is or what she’s doing. It could be a teeny little thing, but she always enjoys herself, which makes people like being with her.”



Something few people ever see because it’s usually underground is a tunnel boring machine. This 1979 photo shows the machine assembled and ready to begin boring at the east portal of the Foothills Tunnel near Denver. Essentially a giant drill, the machine bores through rock to create a tunnel 13 feet in diameter. The tunnel is then lined with concrete; the finished diameter of the tunnel is 10 feet, 6 inches.



In addition to tunnel geologic mapping, Susan Steele Weir's work included slope stability projects, dam inspections, and feasibility studies for new dam and tunnel sites. In this 2000 photo, Weir is on a suspended drill platform during the installation of rock bolts in granite rock located above Cheesman Dam, Denver. The rock bolts "stitch" together the unstable blocks of rocks to form a stable rock mass.

"I come back to Augustana a lot, and meet my buddies," Weir says. "We rekindle right away. They'll come to campus, and we'll go to Homecoming. I'm really drawn there. The friendships have been lasting."

All those affections came into dramatic focus in December 2001, when Weir's heart failed. It came on suddenly, like the flu. Her doctors suspect a virus as the cause, but they don't know. The condition is called idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a sudden and potentially fatal weakening of the heart muscle for unknown reasons. Weir was 52.

"She got tons of support when she got ill," says Carlson. "I'm sure she knew she had a lot of friends and valued them, but so many people, from so many different countries, were pulling for her and sending flowers and cards."

For Weir, it was quite a shock. "I went from well to sick in about a week," she says. "I was a person who backpacked and fished every summer. I skied and hiked a lot, did power walking. That's all I did."

Around New Year's Eve, she was admitted into a Denver hospital and placed on a transplant list. But Weir, the outdoorswoman, was far from finished. She underwent a heart transplant in 2002, and less than a year later, she was snorkeling—while sailing in the British Virgin Islands with

her husband—and had returned to her job.

Then Weir was tested again, two years later, when her body began to reject the donor heart. Her only chance was a second heart transplant. She checked back into the hospital, and at first, got lucky. Another heart became available within weeks, and she received the second transplant. But the complications that followed almost killed her. At one point, her doctors induced a paralyzing coma to give her the deep rest she needed to heal. They believed Weir was the type of person who would come back, and they were right. "At first, I couldn't even raise my fingers, let alone my arms or legs," she says. Her nervous system slowly awoke over time, and after spending eight months in the hospital, she went home again.

Since then, she walks with a cane, and has attended two Rolling Stones concerts.

"I don't think there are many people on the planet who would have survived that second heart transplant," says Carlson. "I don't think many people would be able to come back, and work, which she's doing. That was an incredible example of her strength of will. It's in keeping with her tremendous perseverance."

"I'm a very optimistic person," Weir says. "Attitude, I think, saves your bacon in a lot of circumstances that may be difficult. I have a husband, also, who's a very positive and supportive man, and I have to give him a lot of credit for helping me weather the storm with the heart transplants."

If you count her own, she's now had three hearts. Weir says the only revelation that's come to her as a result is the old adage, "'Live life to the fullest because you don't know how many days you've got.' But I was always that kind of a person, anyway."

She's back to traveling, keeping in touch, and continues to serve on various boards and national committees as a professional geologist. The hospital also calls on her to counsel pre-transplant patients, which she gladly does.

Maybe there's something about people having the "right stuff," whether they're blazing trails for women in geology, surviving a pair of heart transplants or being the kind of friend who lasts a lifetime.

Whatever it is, Weir's got it. She's still forging ahead, breaking a path. And why not? Her third heart is going strong.

Jeff Moore is a freelance writer in Rock Island, Ill.

The answer to maintaining enrollment, given today's unfavorable demographics, lies in reaching out to students who will create a more diverse campus—one of Augustana's key strategic goals.

Cultivating campus diversity

It's tough out there. A shrinking applicant pool; the economic slowdown, especially in the Midwest; and increased marketing savvy on the part of both academic institutions and prospective students are creating a competitive

admissions arena. Undeterred by these challenges, Augustana continues to work toward its strategic goal of attracting high-achieving students who represent America's diversity, especially in terms of geography, race and ethnicity. "Our graduates will tell you that they enter a far more diverse world than we can imagine, and it needs to start here," says W. Kent Barnds, vice president of enrollment and communication. >





W. Kent Barnds

When Barnds interviewed for the vice president of admissions and enrollment position in 2005, Augustana President Steve Bahls outlined the college's three goals regarding enrollment: (1) increase enrollment to 2,500 students, (2) broaden the diversity of the student body, and (3) attract students with even stronger academic credentials. "I told him you've got the wrong guy," Barnds remembers. "All these things cannot be done simultaneously."

It turned out Barnds was the right guy, and upon his arrival, he and the Office of Admissions concentrated on increasing the size of the student body. Last fall, two years earlier than proposed in the college's strategic plan, Augustana welcomed a record-setting 714 students in the Class of 2011 to push the college's total enrollment to 2,500. At an informal celebration in the Science Building atrium, Bahls told the campus community the college would cap enrollment at 2,500.

This past year, reaching the goal of 680 for the Class of 2012 has been difficult, and projected trends suggest it's not going to get any easier.

Traditionally, Illinois is the home state of nearly 90 percent of Augustana's students. After reaching a peak in 2008-09 at 134,495, the number of public high school graduates in Illinois will drop each year through 2014-15, provided existing patterns of enrollment and completion continues, according to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). After 2015, Illinois' projected number of public high school graduates will remain constant from one year to the next, at around 128,000.

The Midwest also shows a reduction in its pool of college applicants. Between the peak year of 2007-08 and 2021-22, the number of public high school graduates in the Midwest will shrink by 7 percent, and the Northeast will see a 13 percent decline, according to WICHE statistics. In the same time period, the West is projected to have a 5 percent increase, and the South will experience about a 10 percent increase in its number of public high school graduates.

In response, many colleges in the Midwest and Northeast, including Augustana, have begun to target markets in one of the growth regions to find qualified students to

fill their classrooms. "Geographic diversity is difficult, but we need to build the kind of reputation we have in Illinois in places beyond the Midwest," Barnds says. "The demographics are such that our future is dependent on attracting a more geographically diverse student body."

Beginning in 2006, Augustana directed its out-of-state recruiting efforts on Colorado for three main reasons: (1) the state has few colleges similar to Augustana, (2) the Quad-City International Airport offers a direct flight to Denver, (3) Colorado is expected to see little change in the number of public high school graduates from 2007-08 through 2012-13.

"We put on a full-court press in Colorado," Barnds says. "Sending brochures to the high schools doesn't cut it." Instead, representatives from Augustana came calling during the 2007-08 school year. The Symphonic Band performed in Colorado Springs, Boulder and Breckenridge during its spring break tour. Dr. William Hammer, known globally for his paleontology discoveries in Antarctica, visited Colorado Academy, a private high school in Denver, to speak with students.

"The admissions market is so cluttered and noisy that you need a hook to separate your school from all the others," Barnds explains. "In defining who we are, we must sharpen the edges. So we highlight a program of distinction, whether it's an academic program, co-curricular or athletics."

The college's intensive work in Colorado was rewarded with a 40 percent increase in applications from the Centennial State for the fall of 2008. More than one dozen Colorado students selected Augustana as their college of choice for the fall of 2007 and this upcoming fall. Prior to

this, Barnds says Augustana was fortunate to enroll one or two students from Colorado each year. Overall, 13 percent of this fall's class is from out of state; these students represent 20 states, which is up from 15 states last year.

Closer to home, Augustana's recruiting strategies focus on the following to maintain an enrollment of 2,500 high-achieving students:

- Maintain a fair share of the students who traditionally choose Augustana. Make sure the college's public perception remains that of a strong academic program with impressive student outcomes. "The big question is how do we sell the value of something, like a liberal arts education, that can only be truly appreciated by the experience?" Barnds says.
- Become more attractive to non-traditional students, including students of color, home-schooled students, Jewish and Muslim students, and first-generation college students. Studies show that the majority of first-generation college students are unaware of the differences between private and public academic institutions. Augustana needs to do a better job of illustrating the value of a private college to these groups, Barnds says.

The college's recent efforts to better shape the student body to reflect America's diversity, especially in terms of attracting students of color, include the addition of two positions in the admissions office. Ken Wheeler accepted the newly created position of coordinator of multicultural recruitment as well as assistant director of admissions in 2006, and Jorge Acosta joined the admissions team as a multicultural recruitment counselor in 2005.

Spanish-speaking campus tours for parents of prospective students were offered for the first time last year. Admissions counselors are discussing other ways to be more culturally sensitive, such as forgoing student-only interviews during campus visits for Asian students and their families. The idea of home visits, especially with students who traditionally are reluctant or unable to visit campus, is also being explored.

Wheeler says one of the main obstacles to attracting members of ethnic minority groups to Augustana is simply the fact that only about 10 percent of today's student body is non-Caucasian. "From my own experience at Luther College, I can say that all prospective students are looking for a certain level of comfort and familiarity when they leave home to come to college," Wheeler says.

Augustana's admissions counselors have followed a systematic approach in recruiting talented minority students during the past two years, Wheeler says. In addition to an aggressive calling program, counselors have focused on high schools already familiar with Augustana

The big question is how do we sell the value of something, like a liberal arts education, that can only be truly appreciated by the experience? W. KENT BARNDS

to recruit minority students and tried to involve parents more. Spreading the word about Augustana's cultural diversity award scholarships also generated more interest this year, Wheeler says. This need-based award is open to any student; applicants must write an essay that illustrates their commitment to diversity, a diversity-related experience or what they can do to increase diversity on campus.

Last fall, 68 non-Caucasian students (9.5 percent) were part of the incoming Class of 2011. This coming fall, 79 non-Caucasian students will join the campus community, which is close to the Office of Admissions' goal of 12.5 percent.

"Once students see that we are increasing our multicultural student population, that will change their perception and they'll be more likely to view Augustana as a place they could be," Wheeler says. The next logical place to recruit students of color, he adds, will be in the Quad Cities.

At President Bahls' request, Barnds has arranged for an independent survey of enrolled and non-enrolled students to learn more about the decision-making of this year's group. The report will be used in planning recruiting strategies for 2008-09.

Staying competitive in admissions also requires staying on top of information and communication trends. Today's high school students are beginning their college search earlier, students' families are much more involved, and college websites and social networking sites are where students go to find information, especially when beginning their search. Resources available via technology have a much greater impact on the decision-making process than high school teachers and counselors.

Because a website is now a college's most important method of communication for many of its audiences, Augustana recently retained George Dehne and Associates to evaluate its own website. "The audit included a comprehensive set of recommendations for strengthening our website to become one of the strongest college websites in the nation," Bahls says. "Many of the suggestions involve sharpening our message to continue to attract great students in the face of changing demographics."

In response to the recommendation to increase staff to support the college's website, Augustana has created a new office of web services. A newly appointed director of web services will have primary responsibility for the website.



We promise students that we will help them find their 'paths in life' at Augustana, but those are just words. The stories and images our students share on MyPlace offer proof that we fulfill that promise. MEGHAN (KELLY) COOLEY '99

A second position in the college's Information Technology Services may be created to support the website.

Understanding the importance of a college's presence on the internet, Augustana's admissions office recently initiated www.augustana.edu/myplace, a website that invites current students to share through photos and personal stories the opportunities and resources that helped them find their place at Augustana.

"We promise students that we will help them find their 'paths in life' at Augustana, but those are just words," explains Meghan (Kelly) Cooley '99, director of admissions and recruitment. "The stories and images our students share on MyPlace offer proof that we fulfill that promise."

Another recent trend is that more and more colleges and even a few national universities have stopped requiring standardized test scores from applicants. Last year, after an 18-month discussion, Augustana also adopted

a test-optional admissions policy. Students who apply for admission no longer are required to submit standardized test scores, such as the ACT and SAT. Those who wish to be considered for admission without submitting standardized test scores are asked to provide a photocopy of a graded paper from their junior or senior year of high school and take part in a personal admissions interview.

The admissions process remains unchanged for students who choose to have test scores submitted on their behalf. They must also submit grade transcripts, a letter of recommendation from a teacher, a report from a guidance counselor and a writing sample. An admissions interview is highly recommended.

"Becoming test-optional was a data-driven decision," Barnds says. "Recent research shows that a student's cumulative GPA and activities outside the classroom are more valuable predictors for college success. The graded paper and interview shows us how well a student can communicate and whether he or she will participate in the life of Augustana."

Another reason why many schools have adopted a test-optional policy is that it's believed standardized tests deter some minority and low-income students from applying to college. Some studies indicate performance on the SAT is closely linked to family income and education level. Many of the schools that have adopted the test-optional policy have made the move, in part, to increase socioeconomic, racial and ethnic diversity in the student body.

"Standardized tests for admission can be a major barrier for many worthy students," Barnds says. "A four-hour exam shouldn't hold back a student who could enhance the experiences of faculty and fellow students."

Wheeler couldn't agree more. It's important, he says, for the college to remember that the business of admissions, especially the desire to attract students of color, isn't all about numbers. "What we're trying to do is find those students who will be successful here and can contribute to the type of learning and kind of interactions that take place at Augustana."

EDITOR'S NOTE Alumni and other friends of the college are invited to fill out a referral card if they know a high school student who would benefit from the Augustana experience. Look for the student referral card insert at the back of this issue of *Augustana College Magazine*.



(Left to right) photos by Taylor Pocopanni '09, Kiley Peters '09 and Dr. Darrin Good '87

Service-learning in Nicaragua

Kristin Sentman '08, one of 15 students who spent spring break on a medical service-learning trip to Nicaragua, admits the first day was overwhelming. "As we drove up to the community building and a sea of people, I think everyone had the same 'what are we doing here?' feeling," remembers the pre-med major.

Once the initial hesitation passed, Sentman and her fellow Operation JETS (Joining Education Through Service) volunteers concentrated on taking patient histories and conducting physical exams on people of all ages. Antonio Ortiz, a 2002 Augustana graduate who is now a pharmacist in Chicago, accompanied the students and served as a medical volunteer, mentor and translator.

"It was an amazing learning experience and much more than what I was expecting," Ortiz says. "I hope I was able to demonstrate how healthcare providers learn from each other and work together." One American physician and two Nicaraguan physicians affiliated with Global Medical Training, a non-profit organization, mentored the students in the clinics and in their travels around the country. Ortiz says he enjoyed comparing and learning the differences between our two cultures' healthcare systems, forms of diagnosing and the way medications are dispensed and administered.

Giving students the opportunity to serve with and learn from alumni in health professions is an important feature of the JETS program, says Dr. Darrin Good '87, associate professor of biology and the program's coordinator. He is also committed to making the program self-sustaining, and to that end, students have organized several ongoing efforts to raise money for expenses.

A few months after Good's spring break trip to Nicaragua, he returned to the Central American country with a group of 19 different Augustana students for 12 days in June. "When I held an informational meeting in the spring of 2007, I had as many as a hundred students express interest," Good says. "Having two trips a year gives more students the opportunity to go."

The group's experience in Nicaragua in June was more dramatic than the first as Augustana's David Lopez '08 developed appendicitis on the third day of clinics. The students were in one of the country's main cities, Rivas, but its only hospital had very poor sanitary conditions. Good spent the night in Lopez' hospital room sitting on a metal folding chair, hoping Lopez would be stable enough the next

I knew going to Nicaragua would open my eyes to very different things, but I did not know what an affirming and life-changing experience it would be. This experience opened my eyes to global health issues and reinforced my desire to serve the underserved. KRISTIN SENTMAN '08

morning to make the two-hour drive to a private hospital in Managua for an appendectomy.

"We were able to get David to Managua, and everything turned out well," Good says. "He was released 24 hours following laparoscopic surgery, and after resting for a couple of days, was able to participate in the last day of clinics and return home with his friends."

Students on both trips to Nicaragua were given time during their visits to share and reflect on their experiences and feelings about what they had seen.

"I knew going to Nicaragua would open my eyes to very different things, but I did not know what an affirming and life-changing experience it would be," Sentman says. "I had known before that I wanted to be a physician, but this experience opened my eyes to global health issues and reinforced my desire to serve the underserved."

Students have been selected for the two medical service-learning trips to Nicaragua planned for 2009. Alumni with medical or Spanish-speaking skills who would like to learn more about the JETS program may contact DarrinGood@augustana.edu or (800) 798-8100 x3438.



Congratulations, Class of 2008



(Top) Augustana College President Steve Bahls, Vice President and Dean of the College Jeff Abernathy, and Haroon Hussain '08 respond to Robert Lane's commencement address. (Above) The Rev. Gail Bowman preached at the morning's baccalaureate service.

Living a full life is the same as weaving an intricate tapestry, Robert W. Lane told the Class of 2008 at Augustana's 148th Commencement Convocation at the wireless Center in Moline. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer of Deere & Company, encouraged graduates to build upon their liberal arts experience at Augustana, become lifelong learners and create a rich tapestry with their interests and passions.

In his remarks, Augustana President Steve Bahls congratulated the 519 graduates for their academic, athletic and service achievements while at Augustana. "In just the past year, fraternities and sororities alone have given more than 8,300 hours of service to our community," he noted.

About one-third of the Class of 2008 participated in international study programs, including new ventures in Ireland, Ghana and India. The graduates also inaugurated the Holden Village program—a seven-week academic program that encourages reflection and spiritual growth at the isolated retreat in the mountains of Washington state.

"Through your academic work, you have demonstrated your ability to master integrative, critical and creative thinking," Bahls said. "These skills will not only prepare you for your first job, but also your last job."

Bahls also spoke of a generational shift taking place. "I believe, based on what I have seen in you, that your generation has the passion to better address the problems we face, than my generation," he said. "You are more self-reliant. You are more passionate about the environment. You do more than tolerate diversity; you cherish diversity. You know this world is a global community, and your mastery of technology and new networks of communication will open many doors."

During the convocation, Lane and Frederick Aigner received honorary doctor of humane letters degrees. Aigner is the president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Haroon Hussain spoke on behalf of the graduating class, and John Jordan presented the class gift of \$3,137 pledged over the next year to support a variety of groups

on campus. Additional funding will establish the Class of 2008 scholarship to benefit future Augustana students.

Earlier in the day, the Rev. Gail Bowman, chaplain of Dillard University in New Orleans, delivered the baccalaureate sermon in Centennial Hall. In addition to her chaplaincy work, Bowman is the project director for VisionQuest, Dillard's program for the Theological Exploration of Vocation.

"Immediately after Rev. Gail Bowman had finished preaching, I felt inside me the response, 'Let me hear that sermon again, please!'" says Pastor Richard Priggie '74, college chaplain. "Most moving to me were the stories she told about God mysteriously yet unmistakably bringing hope and healing out of devastation, on 9-11 and after Katrina. She also 'keeps very good company,' the likes of St. Augustine, William Stafford, Howard Thurman and Black Elk, all of whom add their voices to hers in the sermon.

"Her preaching speaks promise... and healing...and unity...and constitutes a remarkable 'charge' to the graduates and to all of us."



KAITLIN SIROIS '10 PHOTO

2008 Alumni Award Winners



Thomas Bellows



Marcia Olson



Dee and Laura Anderson



W. Bordner Munson



Donald Hallberg



Jane Bahls



Roald Tweet

Recognizing the accomplishments of alumni and friends of the college during commencement weekend is a tradition at Augustana. Those honored during the 2008 Alumni Banquet were:

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Thomas John Bellows '57.

Bellows has held teaching and administrative positions at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, National Chengchi University in Taiwan, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he has taught political science since 1981. In addition to teaching, he currently serves as the editor of *American Journal of Chinese Studies* and on the board of directors for the American Association for Chinese Studies. Bellows has written seven books and monographs covering such topics as Texas politics and history to economic development in Taiwan and Mainland China.

Dr. C. Marcus Olson '32. After earning a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Chicago, Olson began working for DuPont as a chemist/physicist. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, an intense effort was underway to develop air-borne radar. A critical component in the design was a diode, or rectifier, which would allow electrons to flow in one direction only; this requires the use of pure silicon. Olson's research pinpointed a way to purify silicon through reacting silicon

chloride with vaporized zinc. This discovery enabled DuPont to excel in a silicon production program that led to the development of radar, silicon transistors, semiconductors and the information superhighway during the next 50 years. (Olson was unable to attend the banquet; his daughter, Marcia, accepted the award.)

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Donald Anderson '55. A co-founding parent of Chicago's first Ronald McDonald House, Anderson served on its board for many years, including several terms as president. He was the first operations manager of the facility, developing standards and procedures used in Ronald McDonald houses across the country. Anderson also served as a counselor for the first American Dreamflight, which takes young cancer patients to Disney World. In 1998, he received the Kiwanis Club of Aurora (Ill.) Service to God and Fellow Man award and the Outstanding Effort award from the Aurora McDonald's Restaurants Owners Association. Anderson died in 2001. His wife, Dee, and his daughter, Laura Anderson '90, accepted the award on his behalf.

W. Bordner "Bordy" Munson

'73. In the Vietnam War, Munson served in the Marines as a helicopter gunman, receiving two Purple Heart awards and both silver and bronze service stars. After graduating from Augustana, he moved to the ranch that his retired father, Dr. William Munson,

acquired in the White River Badlands of Nebraska to raise Arabian horses. Munson has lived on Shalimar Ranch ever since and now runs the ranch. For each of the past 26 summers, he and his family have welcomed Augustana geology students, faculty and alumni to their ranch for extended visits to collect and study fossils. He graciously donates the fossils found on his property to Augustana's Fryxell Geology Museum.

RICHARD A. SWANSON HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Rev. Donald M. Hallberg

'62. In 1972, Hallberg began a 25-year ministry with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), a not-for-profit agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). During his tenure, he influenced and guided the expansion of valuable resources for persons in need, including senior housing, drug treatment centers, and homes for children and adults with special needs. Hallberg has received many awards through the years, including the LSSI *Amicus Certus* (True Friend) award. He was chosen for this special award in recognition of "his years of faithful ministry, leadership in caring for others, and stewardship of God's many blessings."

HONORARY ALUMNI

Jane Easter Bahls. After earning a master's in philosophy of religion at Trinity Evangelical

Divinity School, Bahls taught for eight years, including six years teaching religious studies and humanities at Alverno College in Milwaukee. Since 1985 she has worked as a freelance writer for such magazines as *Entrepreneur*, *Student Lawyer*, *Travel and Leisure*, *Montana Magazine* and *Home*. Bahls serves on the boards of Family Resources of the Quad Cities and Ballet Quad Cities. She presents workshops around the Quad Cities on developmental assets, the building blocks of healthy character development. She enjoys participating in the life of Augustana—traveling with her husband, President Steve Bahls, and hosting events at the Dahl President's Home.

Dr. Roald Tweet. Before retiring in 1999, Tweet taught in Augustana's English department for 39 years, ultimately becoming the second recipient of the Conrad Bergendoff Chair in the Humanities. While he had a particular interest in colonial American literature, Tweet enjoyed teaching at a liberal arts college because its mission provided for a wide range of teaching opportunities and course topics. In 1995, Tweet began his partnership with WVIK, Augustana's public radio station. He has recorded 1,100 segments for *Rock Island Lines*, a popular program featuring tales of the Mississippi Valley. Along the way, Tweet has received awards from the Illinois Historical Society and the Illinois Humanities Council, among others.