

Linking pupils and pulpits

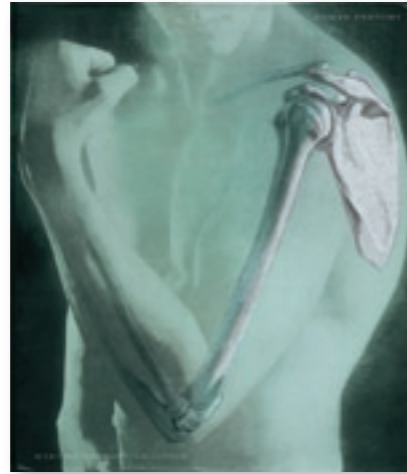
A term once used by early Christians to describe their gatherings now names a Classics department program which brings together area clergy with students in reading Greek texts. Ecclesia is coordinated by Dr. Emil Kramer, assistant professor of Classics, with help from Augustana's Center for Vocational Reflection. He got the idea from the Gildersleeve Society—a Latin reading group he'd participated in while he was at Auburn University. But where that program was largely built on retired faculty and graduate students, Kramer saw the Augustana version as an opportunity to bring local clergy into contact with students of Greek—many of whom are considering seminary after graduation.

"About half of the students in our beginning Greek class are thinking about seminary," Kramer says. "So in a sense this program is not just about building interest in Greek, but also in pursuing church vocations." That's a key reason Ecclesia won a departmental grant from the Center for Vocational Reflection, which includes within its mission the encouragement of students in discerning calls to full-time service within a faith community.

More than 25 people signed up for the program, which got underway during the fall term with a review and reading of the New Testament in Greek. Among the clergy participants are April Johnson, associate chaplain at Augustana, and alumni Stacie Fidler '91, Thomas Peterson '71 and Bob Vogel '64. The group is currently focusing on the Gospel of Luke, and Kramer says he'd like to see the weekly meetings continue in coming years.

Science faculty honored

Dr. Bob Frank, professor emeritus of physics at Augustana, received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics



Teachers. Frank, who joined the Augustana faculty in 1964, has remained active on campus since retiring in 1992—both teaching part-time and helping the department with such special projects as the recent installation of a scanning electron microscope the College received from the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Frank is a former director of the Augustana Research Foundation, and is a past president of the John Deere Chapter of Sigma Xi, the national scientific research organization. Among the many students he has mentored is Dr. Natalie Adolphi '89, who added her voice to Frank's nomination for the recent award. Adolphi, who is today working in biomedical magnetic resonance imaging research, describes her undergraduate work with Frank as both important and transforming. "I don't think my grad school experience, or my subsequent career, would have been nearly as successful without the preparation and guidance he gave me," Adolphi wrote.

Meanwhile, a textbook co-authored by Dr. Bob Tallitsch has earned top honors for visual excellence from the Society of Academic Authors. *Human Anatomy* (Prentice Hall), which Tallitsch co-wrote with Frederic Martini of the University of Hawaii and Michael Timmons from Moraine Valley

Community College, was awarded the Talbot Prize, named for William Henry Fox Talbot, a nineteenth-century pioneer in photography. The book—which one member of the judging panel dubbed "flawless"—later won first place for overall book design at the New York Book Show.

Youngberg kicks off series

Dr. Karin Youngberg, who holds Augustana's Conrad Bergendoff Chair in the Humanities, was the first of four Augustana faculty members to make presentations in the 2003 Frieze Lectures at the Rock Island Public Library. Begun in 1998, the series is the result of an invitation from Ruth Evelyn Katz '38, who was then coordinating the observance of the 125th anniversary of the library's founding. The first lectures gave the series its name by focusing on the writers whose names are carved in the stone frieze which rings the library's roof. The lectures have continued in subsequent years as a celebration of the ties which bind Augustana and its home community, and this year more than 200 local residents attended the series.

Youngberg's presentation, called "Tell Me a Story," considered the many ways in which individuals and groups use story-telling to organize knowledge and enrich the meaning of experience. She was followed by Dr. Mary Em Kirn, professor of art history, who offered a slide-lecture on "Dancing in Art Through the Ages," focusing on artistic depictions of dancers from the 15th through the 20th centuries. Dr. Stephen Warren, visiting assistant professor of history, led a discussion of the life and work of John Hauberg, a community leader and amateur historian who left much of his vast research on local Native American tribes to the College.

Dr. David Crowe, associate professor of English and faculty coordinator for the series, found a way to incorporate students in his presentation, which looked at the place of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright—and Davenport native—Susan Glaspell in Ameri-

can modernism. Crowe—who encourages students in his courses to mount readings of plays under discussion—invited Katrina Garvens '06, Liliana Glubisz '05 and Greg O'Neill '04 to read scenes from two Glaspell plays.

A risky sabbatical

Jean Sztajer had a fairly simple goal for her recent sabbatical: to imprint her teaching with a personal touch. Sztajer, who holds Augustana's James Galley Chair in Accounting, went in search of real-world stories to provide depth and context to her teaching on the subject of business risk.

"We teach largely from textbooks, and I wanted to find real people and real experiences that could be used to illustrate that instruction" explains Sztajer, who's taught just about every course in accounting Augustana offers during her 22 years on the faculty. Her search led her to three businesses which, though very different from one another, all must deal with risk. She got to know a small business owned and run by a married couple, a regional grocery-store chain trying to compete with Wal-Mart, and a hospital in South Carolina that's trying new solutions to the complicated challenge of nurse-scheduling.

"I look at business risk in terms of a company's ability to retain competitiveness, viability and flexibility. Each of the models I studied used differentiation within their respective areas in an attempt to achieve those aims," Sztajer says. "For example, the husband-and-wife auditing firm has one partner who works on the low-risk side of things, while the other handles higher-risk auditing jobs. It fits well with their personalities, and allows them, despite their small size, to differentiate into higher-risk, more lucrative work."

Sztajer also had an opportunity to look at another facet of business risk—fraud—by attending a symposium on that subject which included presentations by the FBI and other experts. Once they're back on campus, faculty do more than incorporate lessons learned during sabbaticals into their work in the classroom. They're also asked to make presentations to their colleagues, sharing with them what they learned in their off-campus experiences.

Casino math

"It's not a matter of whether you'll lose money, it's more a matter of calculating how fast you will lose it." That's according to David Wood, visiting instructor of mathematics and computer science, who was invited to give two Beling Lectures last fall on the mathematics behind casino games. Wood uses examples such as craps and slot machines to pique students' interest in statistics and probability. "I also feel a little obligation living here in the Quad Cities to help people understand the true odds of winning and losing at casino games," Wood says.

There are three riverboat casinos in this area, and Wood concedes they can be good entertainment—as long as they're treated as such, and the risks of gambling addiction are noted. "But the fact is, these games are set up so that, over time, the house always wins. From a financial management standpoint, you're better off standing on the deck, periodically throwing pennies into the river."

The Beling Lectures are made possible by an endowment established through the estate of Earl and Lucille Beling, which also created Augustana's Beling Professorship in Mathematics. Earl Beling was a civic, business and education leader from Moline who died in 1977.

Reporter's notebook, poet's pen

Regular readers of this publication will not be surprised to learn that Rebecca Wee, assistant professor of English, has been named Poet Laureate of the Quad Cities. After all, her poetry has won her national acclaim, not to mention the friendship and admiration of U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. But all of this off-campus adulation might obscure the depth and breadth of her impact here at Augustana.

A sense of this influence can be gleaned from the coverage of Wee's latest honor in the *Observer*, Augustana's student newspaper. Erin Bertram '05—the *Obs'* correspondent at the September ceremony honoring Wee—is one of the regular participants in After Hours Poetry and Fiction, a weekly writers group led by Wee and English department colleague Dr. Ann Boaden. Here's how Bertram described Wee's inaugural reading as poet laureate:

[Wee] gave her audience bits of history, scraps of life behind each of the poems she read. Some were old and established. Some young and green, emerging. Others in the works, still finding out who they are. But each one told a story.

To be a poet is to harvest feelings from the details. To be a good poet is to translate those feelings into language, singing the terror and mercy of life, and surfacing everything in between, which is where we live most of our days.

Wee, a past winner of the Hayden Carruth Award for New and Emerging Poets and 2003 recipient of a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, becomes the second poet laureate named by Quad City Arts, the regional arts agency for the six-county area around the Quad Cities. Her selection maintains an Augustana connection to the post: she succeeds Dick Stahl '61, a retired teacher and author of several books of poetry, including *After the Milk Route* and *Under the Green Tree Hotel*.

Was Wright wrong?

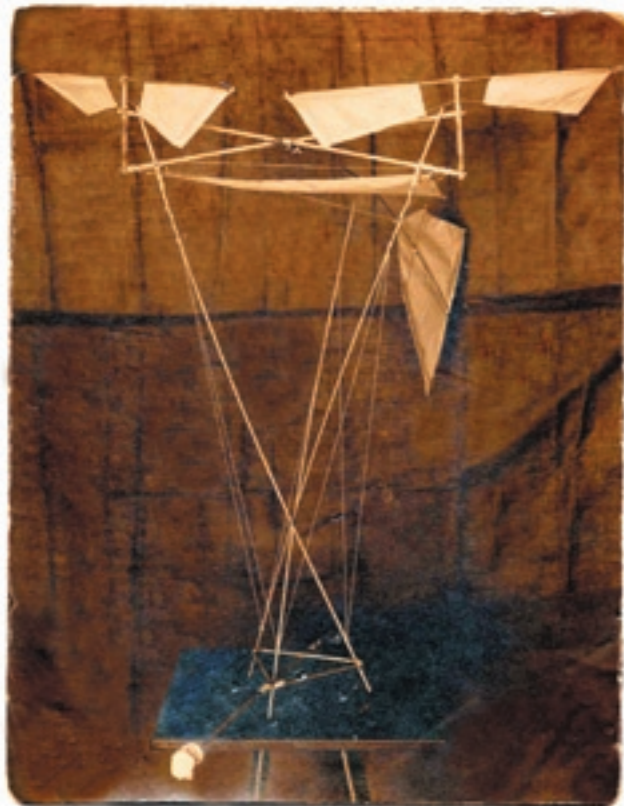
By Jamie Nelson

Last December, people around the world noted the centennial of an event which has since served to help their planet seem a smaller place: the successful test of the Wright Flyer on Dec. 17, 1903. And while Orville and Wilbur Wright have well earned their places in the pantheon of flight pioneers, Augustana has its own trailblazer of the sky, also deserving of remembrance.

For those who recognize it, the name Johan August Udden (or the “nature-king,” as christened by Olof Olsson, third president of Augustana) might conjure images of rocks and bones. A professor of geology and natural sciences at Augustana from 1888-1911, Udden substantially increased the holdings in what is now known as the Fryxell Geology Museum, and gained national respect for his work with the U.S. Geological Survey.

If the winds of invention had blown just a little more swiftly over the Illinois prairie, perhaps the celebration of the centennial of flight would have been in Rock Island instead of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Udden, his scientific curiosities unfettered by disciplinary boundaries, was swept along in the frenzy of flying machines that gripped the nation at the turn of the last century, as inventors struggled to create a machine with both sufficient lift and directional control.

This 1908 photograph was used as a model for a rotopter replica built—and flown—by Dr. Roald Tweet in the 1980s.



Udden’s proposed machine, the rotopter, theoretically surmounted both barriers. Though he had originally conceived the rotopter fifteen years before its debut, his teaching duties and survey work prevented him from building the model until 1908. In October of that year, he presented an evening lecture in the College Chapel (then located in Old Main) which included a demonstration of a rotopter model in flight. The following day’s *Rock Island Argus* reported Udden’s success: “When the string which bound the propellers was cut, the machine rose gracefully to a height of about five feet and flew off the stage into the chapel. The enthusiasm of the audience was so great that Dr. Udden was compelled to repeat the experiment a second and third time.” Udden told the audience he believed a carriage could be fitted beneath the device, allowing an aviator to direct the rotopter by shifting weight and balance, “in the manner of a man riding a bicycle.”

Although Udden personally found the whole notion of flying machines impractical, he deemed Leonardo da Vinci’s vertical-lift theories preferable to the route the Wrights had taken, in part because of the amount of open space needed for airplane take-offs and landings. While Udden’s interest was in a flying machine which could drop him into remote mountain sites for geological research, those who today live near O’Hare, Hartsfield and other immense airports might be tempted to think he had a point. Orville Wright, however, did not.

In a 1917 letter to Udden, Orville Wright doubted that the helicopter design could ever be practicable, since it would be too difficult “to build a screw large enough, and at the same time strong enough,” to lift the machine. Wright was skeptical of the helicopter design in general, and of Udden’s design in particular. Nonetheless, Udden confirmed that opposing twin rotors addressed the counter-spin quandary, which is the reason modern helicopters employ a small tail-rotor to keep them from whirling out of control.

Orville Wright’s dismissal of the helicopter proved short-sighted. Less than 20 years after his letter to Udden, the first helicopter to show fully-controlled flight—and to set records for duration, altitude, speed and distance—took to the air. With dual side-by-side rotors, Heinrich Focke’s Fa-61 used the same principle Udden had built into the rotopter. Hopefully, however, Wright was comforted by a comment he had written to Udden: “It is interesting to note how quickly one’s ideas change in a new science as that science develops.”

Jamie Nelson is special collections librarian at Augustana.

We shall not cease from exploration.
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

from T.S. Eliot’s *Little Gidding*

Exploring places through field experiences is a central focus of Augustana’s geography department. Whether on class field trips, senior capstone research projects, extended trips to Colorado or the Atlantic Coast, or full-term overseas study in East Asia or Latin America, all of our fieldwork shares a common goal: to see the world and build understanding of places and issues from firsthand experiences.

The “field” is an important context not just for a geography major, but for any liberally educated person. The anthropologist Edward Hall observed that we all gain a clearer understanding of our own culture when we live “through the shock of contrast and difference.” As new places and new perspectives become part of expanded world views, students see their own places in a new light. A recent response from a student in Cultural Geography after our full-day trip to a dozen neighborhoods in and around Chicago captures the spirit of many student evaluations: “Even if I came back and lived there after college until I retired, I doubt I would experience anything like today. I don’t have to travel to exotic places or go on vacations to learn something. Thanks for giving us this opportunity to see for ourselves.”

Why is fieldwork important?

While each field experience is unique with different objectives, common core goals can be identified. Sometimes we introduce current challenges. The plight of small Great Plains towns, for example, becomes more real when students see boarded-up businesses during a visit to Venango, Neb. (Pop. 166), just after the closing of the town’s

school due to consolidations. On a nearby farm a man who depends on irrigation for his livelihood shares his concerns about the rapid depletion of the Ogallala ground water source.

Closer to campus, a visit to the Carlson farm near Cambridge, Ill., gives students—almost none of whom have any backgrounds on farms—an opportunity to consider issues in agriculture. As the number of farms decreases, the size of farms increases, and profits from corn, soybean and hog operations become more marginal, many farmers take on additional jobs as sources of income. The owner of this farm salvages boards from old barns and sells them to urban customers over the Internet. Students’ thoughts waver between admiration for his creative career adjustment and sadness about the problems facing family farms.

No matter where we go, we discover that places prompt questions. Visiting “big box” retail developments, my colleague Charlie Mahaffey challenges his students: What are the natural resources being displaced by such sprawling complexes? What are their implications for older business districts? Who really are the ones controlling

such developments and gaining from them—local citizens or corporations headquartered at distant locations—and should average citizens be able to assert more control? By considering such questions now, we hope our students will be more conversant in similar issues when they are leaders in their own communities.

Another primary goal of field trips is to show students some examples of what can result from individual human creativity and community spirit. In Chicago we can see the foresight of the famous Burnham Plan of 1909, one of the most important planning documents in U.S. history. It called for the preservation of the Lake Michigan shoreline for public use, the concentration of cultural institutions in the core of the city, and the establishment of forest preserves at its outer edges. Standing along that shoreline and looking at the magnificent skyline, students can be inspired by what can be done when people make big plans to enhance life in cities.

Success stories can be found all around our region, such as waterfront redevelopment in Sheboygan and Milwaukee, riverwalks and downtown enhancement in

To the field





In learning about the physical and economic geography of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, students donned hard-hats for a copper mine tour.

colleague Cathy Dowd had students literally wading into their research on stream restoration. By the end of the week, students had expanded their field skills, contributed some potentially useful data to a federal agency, and learned that fieldwork can be useful and fun at the same time.

Even as we stress the advantages of fieldwork, we're careful not to give it undue weight. To be effective, such experiences must be linked with understanding gained from texts, data, maps, remotely sensed imagery, and geographic information systems.

The student then returns to the field with new insight, which uncovers more questions demanding yet more sources, and so the cycle goes. Our goal is to introduce students to the field as a reservoir of information and tangible evidence of processes at work, which—in turn—directs them to further inquiry.

Finally, as unacademic as it may seem, we seek to help our students become better travelers. On vacations and in our daily lives, we are all travelers. The better our understanding of the people and places we see, the more pleasant our journeys become. As a poster on my office door states, "happiness is found along the way, not at the end of the road"—a phrase that applies to individual trips and the full life-journey. Moreover, since students will discern more and be better prepared to understand places and ask key questions about them, journeys will continue to be sources of education.

Fieldwork trains students to be more aware of problems in our physical and cultural environment, yet also gives them an index of places where these problems have been solved by human creativity and commitment. When future issues arise in their own communities related to the natural environment, housing, historic structures, ethnicity, land use, transportation and economic growth, I hope that they can convert their field knowledge into useful citizenship.

Dr. Norm Moline holds Augustana's Edward Hamming Chair in Geography.

As new places and new perspectives become part of expanded world views, students see their own places in a new light.

Naperville and Geneva, and historic preservation in Galena, Oak Park, St. Louis and Rock Island. Farther away, on our East Asia Overseas Term in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, students see public housing projects that are the residences for almost half of the population. Among the best in the world, these projects prompt students to think about what might happen elsewhere if governments took seriously the task of making sure that their citizens have access to quality and affordable housing.

In some classes students use fieldwork to create their own plans for successful places. Groups of students in Water and Land Resources study the distribution and condition of watersheds, soil types, slopes and vegetation on large parcels of land in Rock Island County. Then, they prepare long-term plans that are compatible with both natural processes and urban growth objectives. In the process they begin to appreciate that nature offers some important guidelines for sustainable human settlements.

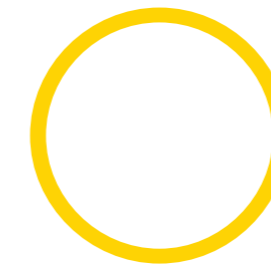
From the South Side to the Northwoods

Among our many field experiences, one of the most thought-provoking regular stops is at Chicago Fire Department Engine Company #16, located on Chicago's South Side in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing project. Featured in a major story in *Time* several years ago, the firefighters at this station developed a program to assist

children growing up in these tough conditions by giving books and bicycles as rewards for school attendance and schoolwork and by collecting and distributing clothing to those in need.

In this setting, our students can hear the stories told by these firefighters about life in the projects. They ask questions and wonder what it means that not far from where they're standing are many homes worth more than \$500,000 and that such housing projects are being demolished to make room for more expensive housing. Most students walk away wondering why such poverty and income disparity exist in this country and what might be done to improve the living conditions of lower income residents. As is the case with most field study, this trip prompts both critical thinking and ethical reflection.

We strive to introduce students to field research early in their academic lives. Thanks to the generosity of Tom Wiegand '85—one of our geography alumni and a co-owner of the Noodles & Co. restaurant chain—we offered our first field research camp last August. Thirteen students and three faculty traveled to Upper Michigan and conducted research in human and physical geography. The former ranged from cultural and economic surveys of small towns to an inventory of styles and conditions of historic commercial structures in Calumet. For the latter—a hydrologic 'pebble count' study incorporating new Global Positioning System tools—my



n October 10, 2003—a fall day so lovely it

seemed to pop out of an admissions brochure—

Steven Bahls officially became the eighth president

of the College. But what made this an Augustana

inauguration? Considering similar rites are held dozens

upon dozens of times at campuses across the country

each year, what made this distinctively our own?

While any one of the following answers might

be claimed by other schools, the peculiar

conjunction of all of them made the entire

weekend of events surrounding this inauguration

an unmistakable representation of the college

Bahls was called

to lead and to serve



PHOTOS BY DAN VIDETICH

First, there was the music. James Lambrecht led the Augustana Symphonic Band in opening the Friday installation ceremony with the “Jupiter Hymn” from Gustav Holst’s *The Planets*. The Band would later accompany those gathered in singing *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* and the *Alma Mater*, and concluded the ceremony with the March from Paul Hindemith’s *Symphonic Metamorphosis*. The Augustana Choir, under the direction of Jon Hurty, first began to electrify the audience with Kirke Mechem’s *Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord*, then simply completed the circuit with the school song, *By the Mighty Mississippi*.

Music continued to play a prominent role on Saturday, during an all-school picnic which featured performances from student vocal and instrumental jazz groups, the Augustana Inspirational Gospel Choir, a faculty trio, and a praise band made up of recent graduates. The Sunday morning worship service carried on with the weekend’s musical fireworks, as Professor Lambrecht led a student brass ensemble which accompanied the worship music.

Levity. Yes, levity—don’t look so surprised. Despite the dour aura which has been cast upon things Swedish-American, humor has

always been part of Augustana’s history...with the understanding, that is, that jokes are best when their target is the teller.

What was perhaps the loudest laugh of the weekend (which included a Saturday night performance by the Second City Comedy Troupe) came during the installation, as Dr. David Snowball, chair of the Faculty Senate, strode to the lectern to offer formal greetings on behalf of his colleagues. “Mr. President,” he said. “From the faculty: welcome,” at which point he abruptly gathered his notes and turned to walk away. With immaculate timing, he broke the awkward silence which followed by turning



back and continuing with: “That’s pretty much all we’ve agreed on, so far. You’ll learn to love that about us.”

Later Bahls would follow in a similar vein when introducing Robert Kemp, his collegiate debate coach while at the University of Iowa, and a special guest at the installation. Recalling that during his student days Iowa was unsuccessful in besting Augustana, Bahls conceded to his former coach, “If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.”

Snowball’s greeting contained several more self-directed digs before closing with a citation from *Isaiah*, “Wherein lies the invitation and the welcome and the challenge with which I would close: ‘...cease to do evil, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, friend, and let us reason together.’” It was the first of several greetings which suggested the extensive **breadth** of the community in which this new president finds himself.

Robert Britton ‘04 spoke on behalf of students, and Claire Felbinger ‘77 brought greetings from the 23,000 Augustana alumni who can now be found in each state and 40 nations around the globe. Bishop Gary Wollersheim represented the 163 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in



America’s Northern Illinois Synod. He was followed by Glen Brolander, a former administrator at Augustana who spoke as chairman emeritus of the Swedish Council of America.

Athornia Steele, who succeeds Bahls as interim dean of the law school at Capital University of Ohio (like Augustana, one of the 28 colleges and universities related to the ELCA), said his greetings were tempered by the sorrow his institution felt at losing Steve Bahls [see “Inside scoop”]. Next, Douglas Hultquist ‘77 greeted Bahls and his family on behalf of the Quad Cities community. John Phillips, Rock

Island’s city manager, offered an official welcome to Augustana’s hometown (in the stead of Mayor Mark Schwiebert ‘72, who was unable to attend because of a long-planned archeological field-study in Jordan).

The weekend’s events were lent an added degree of **depth** with two addresses by visiting scholars—although for one of them, the visit was more of a homecoming. Nils Hasselmo ‘57 spoke at the installation not just as a graduate of Augustana and a president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, but as president of the Association of American Universities. He outlined the challenges facing U.S. higher education today, then noted that Augustana’s longstanding incorporation of values and beliefs into its curriculum and environment offers it a position of strength. “It must be a fundamental responsibility for colleges and universities to create an understanding of our own values and beliefs as well as of those of others; including not least those who are our overt—or tacit—enemies,” Hasselmo said.

Saturday’s schedule included the annual O. Fritiof Ander Lecture on Immigration Studies, sponsored by Augustana’s Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. Jon



Gjerde from the University of California-Berkeley spoke about the ongoing evolution of the immigrant myth in America, the vitality of which was most recently evinced by the popular film, *Gangs of New York*. “History,” Gjerde said, “is often a collective exercise to tell stories that help us make sense of our world.”

It is the way of things here to strive for **perspective** by seeing in two directions simultaneously—observing what has been with gratitude, and looking toward what will be with faith. Scriptural passages used in the installation ceremony

were interspersed with introspective words from Augustana’s history, including these—written in 1921 by Gertrude Carlson when she was vice president of her senior class, and read by Roald Tweet, professor emeritus:

“And so we gather, jubilantly and gratefully looking backward on the blessing of the past, and eagerly looking forward into the future where we see, as in a vision, the truly greater Augustana—with buildings adequate to all needs of the student body; with a reputation in the community, among her sister colleges, and in the world at large of which she can be justly proud; and above all with a student body and faculty whose lives prove they are true to the test, and whose eyes are fixed upon the attainments of the ideals upon which she was founded.”



The very program for the installation itself added to this context-setting by including biographies of all eight presidents of the College from 1860 to the present, as well as brief essays about the respective 143-year relationships between Augustana and the Church, and between Augustana and Sweden.

In a 1975 interview with the *Des Moines Register*, Roy J. Carver—whose many-faceted legacy at Augustana is most apparent in the Center for Physical Education which bears his name—was asked why a liberal arts college in Rock Island should be such a fortunate beneficiary of his philanthropy. “I’m impressed with the management of that school,” Carver said. “Every little thing they do, they’ve thought out carefully.”

A campus planning committee—which began its work last May—was charged with ensuring that no one who took part in the inauguration of Steve Bahls would have reason to dispute Carver’s observation. Led by Al DeSimone, vice president for development, the ten-member team met weekly to pore over every **detail** in the weekend’s packed agenda.

“Steve stressed a couple of things early on, then stepped back and gave us the freedom to flesh them out,” DeSimone says. “He



wanted this to be a celebration for the College... a fun weekend involving several constituencies, but with a special focus on students." And, DeSimone says, the entire campus community responded. "Facilities services, food service... everyone has gone the extra mile to make this weekend special. And I think that says the people on campus grasp the historic nature of the weekend, because this really is history."

Sue Rector, assistant vice president of development, was a student at Augustana the last time a new president was installed. "We wanted Steve and Jane Bahls and their family to feel how special they are to us, and how important they are to the life of the College; and to make that evident to the people who came here for the installation," Rector says. Bob Britton '04, who represented student government on the committee, noted that while planners studied what other schools had done, both Bahls and the committee wanted a celebration that reflected the heritage of Augustana. "Everything came together very well. We couldn't have asked for a better day," said Britton.

Finally, most distinctive of all the dimensions of the inaugural weekend was its celebration of Augustana's tradition of sound **leadership**. Thomas Tredway, who retired in May after serving as president for 28 years, gave the invocation during the installation ceremony, asking that God bless his successor, "with wisdom and strength for leading our college, and satisfaction and joy from serving it." After being introduced by Brenda Czajka '75 Barnes, chairman of the Augustana Board of Trustees, and invested by Bishop Wollersheim, Steven Bahls formally joined a comparatively small club in becoming only the eighth president of Augustana.

A standing ovation from the more-than 600 people who attended the ceremony preceded Bahls' steps to the podium. After thanking the scores of people who'd played a part in crafting the inauguration, he gave particular thanks to his friends and family – especially his wife, Jane, and their children, Daniel, Timothy and Angela —and the many alumni and special guests who'd come to be part of the installation.

The overtone of appreciation continued throughout Bahls' address, in which he shared his reflections on the ways in which the history and values of Augustana can set the stage for its

continuing commitment to excellence. In praising the perseverance of the College's long-serving presidents, Bahls noted that when Conrad Bergendoff took office in 1935, no one could have predicted the splitting of the atom and the orbit of satellites in space; nor when Thomas Tredway became president in 1975 could anyone have foreseen the global epidemic of AIDS and the rise of the Internet.

"How, then," Bahls asked, "should a liberal arts college prepare its students for the complex

challenges of today and the more complex challenges of tomorrow? The answer, I submit, is found in the enduring values the College has held throughout history. Those values are, first, an unshakable fidelity to the teaching of the liberal arts and sciences, and, second, a steadfast commitment to preparing students who are courageous servant leaders. I pledge to you that I will uphold these values as long as the stewardship of Augustana is in my hands."

Commenting on the nature of servant leadership, Bahls noted the observation of the evangelist Mark, that "those who desire to be great are first servants." He then commended the College's track record in this regard, sharing a statistic from a survey of last year's graduating class which showed that while only 27% had indicated a desire to become a community leader at the time of their enrollment, the figure swelled to 63% by the time those same students graduated from Augustana.

Looking to the future, Bahls spoke to both the challenges and the opportunities which lie ahead. "We'll endeavor over the next five years to build a stronger endowment, so the quality of our educational program is secure and an Augustana education is available to all high-achieving students regardless of need. With the help of our alumni and friends, we'll continue upgrading our physical facilities in a way that enables the College to deliver the highest quality education.

"We'll do more than talk about greater diversity; we'll take affirmative steps to achieve it. We'll build strong relationships with the community, modeling for our students our belief that service to the community is a critical part of servant-leadership. Great colleges need great cities, and great cities need great colleges. We'll do our part to serve the Quad Cities. We'll cherish our affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as we engage in a dialogue about the nature of our connectedness."

Following the installation, a jazz-infused reception—featuring a sumptuous buffet prepared by Augustana's food service—awaited participants on the lawn of the Science Building. It, along with each of the innumerable details which went into the weekend, bore a clear and common thumbprint. While other places may have vastly more experience with such celebrations, this inauguration was obviously Augustana's.

NOTE For those who'd like to read more of Bahls' installation address, the full text is available online at a new College website, <www.augustana.edu/President/index.html>. In the absence of web access, you can contact the alumni office at 309/794-7477 for a transcript.



Inside scoop

The person who replaced Steve Bahls as dean of the law school at Capital University described his participation in the installation as a classic example of "One person's loss is another person's gain." Athornia Steele went on to say that based on his years of friendship with Bahls, he could confidently predict that Augustana would soon discover some of the reasons why Capital was reluctant to say farewell. "His energy is boundless; his ability and willingness to think outside the box is extraordinary; and his care and concern for the individual is genuine. He has very broad shoulders and is able to hear and consider the concerns and critiques of others with intellect, respect and compassion."

"Steve believes in empowering leaders and leadership potential. He strives to find the balance that causes individuals to stretch but not to break. He has the patience of Job. He models the very traits we want our students to learn," Steele said. But he couldn't close his assessment without a caution. "Just one caveat: if he ever suggests an administrative retreat in Colorado, get out your best hiking boots, stock up on high-energy candy bars, and pack bottled oxygen. He seems to want to talk while you are hungry and gasping for air at 10,000 feet above sea level."



Adequate education is not sufficient education....

professor, I have spent the past 18 years engaging students in a Socratic dialogue about law and public policy. To my surprise, faculty members in the philosophy department wanted to engage me in a Socratic dialogue about the value of the liberal arts education. Professor David Hill posed the first questions: How would society be worse off without liberal arts colleges? Wouldn't the economy and government still operate without liberal arts colleges? Would anyone

college—small class size, interaction with faculty both inside and outside of class, a rich array of student organizations and opportunities to grow in body, mind and spirit—prepare our students to be leaders in their diverse fields.

Liberal arts colleges nourish the life of the mind in ways no other type of education can. Cicero was right: *animi cultus quasi quidam humanitatis cibus* (the cultivation of the mind is a kind of food supplied for the soul of man). Eight years before President Lars Esbjörn founded Augustana College, John Henry Cardinal Newman wrote that those educated in the liberal arts “apprehend the great outlines of knowledge, the principles on which it rests, the scale of its parts, its lights and its shades, its great points and its little.... A habit of mind is framed which lasts through life, of which the attributes are freedom, equitableness, calmness, moderation and wisdom.” Those with an active life of the mind are healthier, happier and more engaging.

Not only do liberal arts college graduates have an active “life of the mind,” they apply their minds to today’s most complex problems. Augustana College graduates think integratively, critically and creatively. These skills have opened doors for the College’s graduates to serve as leaders in the church, in government, in the scientific community, in business and in education.

It is my privilege to be called to help cherish and strengthen Augustana’s commitment to the liberal arts and sciences.

Steven Bahls

Even though the admissions office has all manner of technology at its disposal to help track thousands of prospective students navigating their college selection, the reason Augustana stays ahead of the very competitive recruiting curve is the same as it’s always been—

The personal touch

YOU MIGHT EXPECT TO HEAR a tone of relaxed satisfaction in Augustana’s admissions office, just after a high school visit day which boasted yet another record crowd of potential students. After all, admissions is coming off its best year yet in terms of applications and ACT scores for the first-year class.

But you’ll find no hint of smugness when you talk with Jack Hullett, Augustana’s dean of enrollment and vice president of the College, and Marty Sauer, director of admissions. To the contrary: each speaks with the energy of a coach delivering a half-time pep talk. In admissions, complacency borders on blasphemy.

The competition for talented students is more intense than ever, and takes place within what Hullett refers to as the paradox of the liberal arts. “People tend to see the liberal arts as not being practical; that while there’s a sort of value-of-life component to such a path, it may not be the strongest way to get in a position to earn a living. Most students looking at a college like Augustana are very concerned about earning a living,” says Hullett.

“The irony is that liberal arts do the best job of preparing individuals for the practical side of employment, in that they stress communication...both written and oral...critical thinking, and the ability to attack problems from multiple perspectives. Part of the challenge that a college like Augustana faces, then, is in conveying accurately the message that the liberal arts have a very powerful practical dimension. And yet, this is not simply preparation for employment, it’s also preparation for life.”

Complicating matters, however, is the issue of money. “Obviously, state and federal financial aid programs are continuing their tendency not to grow at the same rate as the costs colleges are having to face,” Sauer says. “That puts additional burdens on families and colleges alike to make higher education affordable.” The sudden cessation of a direct grant from the State of Illinois cost Augustana over half a million dollars in anticipated assistance this budget year. Meanwhile, over the

past two years, Illinois’ need-based aid program has been reduced by \$500 per student.

‘It all comes down to people’

In the face of such daunting challenges, to what can we attribute Augustana’s continuing strength in attracting and enrolling an ever more talented student body? Consider that this year’s entering class of 614—with a mean ACT of 26 (the national average is 20.8)—came from a field of about 3,000 applicants (up by about a thousand from a decade ago). In response, Hullett cites several factors which are part of everything admissions does: technology, transparency and—most important of all—personnel.

Admissions counselors now have an arsenal of high-tech tools they can use in their work, though Hullett is quick to point out, “All of it is meant to increase the personal component of what takes place. It’s not just to save time, it is to improve the quality of communication with prospective students and their families...to improve the quality of their information and experience.”

One of the most important instruments is a series of web-based interactive e-mails. High school students begin to see these and other admissions tools during the second half of their junior year, since research indicates that’s when students get serious about selecting a school. Initially, the e-mails are more about navigating college choice in general than about Augustana in specific, which Sauer says is according to plan. “If it leads a student to find a better fit elsewhere, that’s fine. We’re interested in making the best match for Augustana,” he says. A follow-up program—appropriately titled Augustana: The Next Step—is open to students once they’ve been accepted.

A special database is used to track each and every encounter the admissions office has with the roughly 17,000 students annually who express interest in Augustana. Couple that with the office’s insatiable appetite for enrollment information, ranging from second-year retention rates for minority students

Food for the soul

Last winter when I was asked to consider applying for the presidency of Augustana College, I was attracted to the College for many reasons. One of the biggest was its clear and unequivocal commitment to liberal arts education. As many colleges and universities try to be all things to all people, Augustana stands out because of its clear and abiding commitment to the liberal arts.

When I arrived on campus, I made it an early priority to visit with the faculty from each of Augustana’s 27 academic departments. While I understood Augustana’s steadfast commitment to liberal arts, I wanted to learn more about the history and values of the College and the dreams and aspirations of my new faculty colleagues. The most interesting of the meetings was with the faculty of the philosophy department. As a law

other than our graduates notice if we disappeared? Wouldn’t major universities and community colleges continue to provide adequate education? We addressed these questions for 90 minutes, vying for who would play Socrates and who would play student. We all agreed it had been an invigorating afternoon. For the first of my columns in *Augustana* magazine, let me take this opportunity to reflect on the questions raised in the dialogue.

Perhaps America would be adequately educated without liberal arts colleges. I believe, however, that *adequate* education is not *sufficient* education. We owe the next generation more than adequate, low-cost education. There is no better education in America today than one in which students live together, engaging in intimate learning experiences with faculty devoted to undergraduate education. Augustana alumni, almost to a person, recall relationships they developed with faculty who helped them chart their courses in life. The hallmarks of a liberal arts

Introducing 529

by Kirby Winn

Along with seven other selective liberal arts colleges in Illinois—and more than 200 nationally—Augustana is a founding member of the Independent 529 Plan, a college savings program named by *BusinessWeek* magazine as one of its “Best Products of 2003.” It allows participants to lock-in current tuition rates by purchasing certificates to be redeemed in the future for tuition at participating schools. The program provides a hedge against increases in tuition, as well as a one- to three-percent tuition discount at member institutions.

“We see this plan as part of our ongoing effort to make a quality liberal arts college experience more accessible to more families,” says Jack Hullett, dean of enrollment. “The Independent 529 Plan allows participants to guarantee they will pay less for college in the future than they would today.”

Among the more attractive features of 529 Plans—so named from the IRS code that defines them—are that they:

- generate no federal income tax when used as intended
- are transferrable to other family members
- offer refunds if students receive scholarships or decide against college
- are not dependent on stock/bond market performance
- can be used at any participating institution

If you’d like to learn more about Augustana’s participation in the Independent 529 Plan, you can contact Sue Rector, assistant vice president for development, at 800.798-8100 ext. 7477 or <alumni@augustana.edu>, or you can check the web at <www.independent529plan.org>.

Kirby Winn is director of public relations at Augustana.



(92%) to the percentage of seniors heading to grad school (43%)—all of it ably gathered and crunched by Tim Schermer, director of institutional research at Augustana. Still other computer software assists the College in the very complex process of shepherding available financial aid resources among the students who receive assistance.

Understanding advances in technology is key to grasping what ‘transparency’ is all about. “There’s been a major transformation in the way in which high school students are processing information leading to their college choice,” Hullett says. “Cell phones and e-mail mean that students no longer go off to college and lose contact with friends back home. Our students know what’s going on at other schools and they feed back information to friends still in high school. And so, the quality and value of the experience here at Augustana College is increasingly transparent to our marketplace.”

That’s good news, according to Hullett. “What Augustana has going for it right now is that we’ve always relied on an absolutely honest, high-quality experience for students. That’s now being shared back into high schools as never before.” Sauer adds that giving prospective students open exposure to the College has long been the approach of his office. “That’s why we work hard to bring students to campus, to interact with faculty, students, coaches and other folks, with the confidence that Augustana shows well,” says Sauer.

Recruiting is a campus-wide endeavor, and Hullett says faculty routinely find themselves

taking lead roles. “The faculty respond beautifully to requests for sharing their time with prospective students, and we like to thank them every chance we get,” he says.

At the end of the day, Hullett says, “It all comes down to people.” That belief drives the ongoing development of the counselor’s position. “Years ago, we did what many schools are still doing: we brought young people in and turned them over every couple of years. When you think about it, that’s foolish. We’ve gone to great lengths to hire quality individuals who value Augustana and the liberal arts and can carry the image of the College directly to students.” Sauer notes that when he became director in 1993, no counselor had more than two years of experience; today, four of the counselors who started with Sauer are still on staff.

The alumni factor

While counselors and faculty are key factors in admissions, there are vital roles to be played as well by alumni who want to see the success continue. Sauer notes that giving to endowed scholarship programs allows greater flexibility in making the College more accessible to more students. That’s especially critical when you consider that nearly 95% of Augustana students receive some form of assistance.

But Hullett says it’s also invaluable when alumni are publicly proud of their alma mater. “When we get a student to visit this campus and experience what Augustana is, we do very well in getting them to study here. But the awareness-level of the College, as far as we’re concerned, can always be higher. For alumni to uphold a positive public attitude of the institution is of great benefit to us, and that’s why it’s helpful for alumni to maintain a contact with the College that lets them revive their impressions of Augustana as it is today.”

Another important role, says Hullett, deals with accountability. “There are schools that have lost their center. They drift off into strange ways. That’s why it’s critical for alumni and friends of the school to hold Augustana accountable for its mission.”



Under the volcano

John Mischler '04 (above, left) is one of a growing number of Augustana students invited to take part in extraordinary learning experiences during the summer months. But as he tells us, some of these experiences are more memorable than others.

Picture this: After suffering through the heat and humidity of a Midwestern summer, you get the chance to spend two weeks sea-side on the beautiful Caribbean island of Montserrat. After flying to your destination, you check into your four-star villa, with its own pool and ocean view. You spend the first few days roaming the island, snorkeling, body surfing, truly enjoying the island’s beauty. Isn’t it funny how a few short hours can change all of that...



It sounded as if we were in a war zone, and the enemy was winning.

“We are in serious trouble if the rocks hitting the roof get any bigger...a piece of pumice the size of a softball can kill you!” I remember hearing these words at around 11:00 p.m. on July 12, 2003. Our faculty adviser, Dr. Glenn Mattioli of the University of Arkansas, uttered them as we huddled in the living room of our villa during a period of particularly intense volcanic explosions. Stranded in our house with nowhere to go, I couldn’t help but reflect on how I’d come to be there.

I was accepted last spring for an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) sponsored by the National Science Foundation. My REU was with the Arkansas/Oklahoma Center for Space and Planetary Science at the University of Arkansas, and I’d expected it to deal with the study of Martian geology. But Dr. Mattioli had some volcanology fieldwork in the Caribbean that needed to be done, so when

offered the chance to travel with him to the islands of Dominica and Montserrat, I begrudgingly accepted. It was on the latter that the fieldwork really got interesting.

We went to Montserrat with the aim of installing instruments that would make more accessible the information gathered by the seismometer, tiltmeter, and other tools already in place on the Soufrière Hills Volcano in Montserrat. All the gear was shipped and our first few days of work went smoothly. We had just finished organizing for the field work and were ready to begin installation when the island decided against our plans.

Here’s a timeline of what happened on July 12:

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Most of the day we continued working, but an ash cloud could be seen coming off the volcano throughout the day. We were

told that pyroclastic flows—a term used to describe massive clouds of superheated noxious gases and rocks sweeping down the slopes of a volcano at enormous speeds—were traveling down the opposite side of the volcano and reaching the sea.

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Our curiosity got the best of us and we set out to take a closer look at what was happening. We drove to the other side of the island and stood on a peak overlooking the volcano. I witnessed huge pyroclastic flows speeding down the seaward side of the volcano. Where the flow hit the sea, massive amounts of water was flash-boiled and geysers of hot rock, ash, and steam were thrown tens of meters into the air. Major tremors were recorded from the volcano and the resident volcanologists were beginning to suspect a possible eruption.

8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

We left the overlook to go to a restaurant and eat. On our way it began to rain mud—the result of the ash cloud mixing with water in the atmosphere. Very quickly, visibility became a problem. On our way back to the villa, it rained mud even harder and then began to rain dry ash. The winds were changing and the volcano was ashing at a higher rate. By now we knew we were in for quite a night.

9:30 – 11:30 p.m.: Eruption

Just as we rushed into the villa, the volcano loosed its fury on the island of Montserrat. No sooner had we stepped in the door than a barrage of rocks and ash-clumps rained from the sky and impacted on our roof. It sounded as if we were in a war zone, and the enemy was winning. We watched everything become layered with a thick gray covering, causing massive palm fronds to buckle under the weight of the ash. All electricity, water, phones, even radio communication was out. It was just the volcano and us.

With each passing minute the rocks grew larger and the rain of projectiles grew more intense. I prayed for God to save us from this; that was all I could do. We

couldn’t run—we would be struck down by falling rocks. Driving was out of the question, and our villa had no suitable shelter for us to hide in. In other words, if the mountain fell our way, we were going with it. The ash produced concentrated lightning strikes—six, seven, eight at a time—followed immediately by deafening thunder, since the strikes were so close. It was as if a cage of electricity surrounded us. Ten o’clock passed and still the intensity increased. All of a sudden a violent climax occurred and rocks fell all around us. The smell of sulfur was heavy on the air and the rocks dancing on the roof made a terrible rattle. Then, as abruptly as the last violent assault began, it subsided.

The Morning After

After a few hours of sleep, we awoke to a moonscape. The green paradise we were in the day before was transformed to a barren wasteland. No leaves hung from the trees, no birds sang. We saw nothing move except the swaying, overburdened branches. Beautiful beaches were now muddy boulder fields. It had been a terrible night, but one we survived and would not soon forget. The volcano exploded and collapsed away from us, away from all the islanders. We were later told that the column of ash from the volcano rocketed over 50,000 feet into the stratosphere. It interrupted flights as far away as San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was the largest eruption recorded on this island to date.

I witnessed a spectacular volcanic eruption. Through my experience I have reached a new appreciation of how our Earth functions and the power that it has. I am now part of a select few who have witnessed such things. I thank my Creator not only for helping me through it, but for getting me there in the first place. This Earth is a wonderful place.

Paradise Frost(ed): the students’ villa before and after the volcanic eruption.





From left: Bob Maurus, Bruce Conover, Bob Livesay, Bob Lindley

Remember the Vikings

It was a magical time in American entertainment history. Radio hadn't yet fallen to narrowcasting, television was making its way into more and more homes, and air travel was accessible enough that a musical group could appear in three cities over the course of one weekend. Seizing all that the moment had to offer, four guys from Rock Island found themselves becoming celebrities, flying off in their own plane to performances at Carnegie Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, Constitution Hall in the nation's capital, even cross-country to the Pasadena Playhouse.

Thanks to appearances on network television broadcasts like the Herb Shriner Show, Bob Lindley '49 says there once was a day when they'd be stopped on the street by folks who recognized them. "Nowadays, though, we've gone from *Who's Who* to 'Who's that?'"

They were the Vikings Quartet. And while the glory days of their celebrity might be gone, they're certainly not forgotten. Last July, the three surviving Vikings sang for an audience of more than 11,000 at Montreal's Bell Centre as part of the 50th anniversary of their championship year, when they won the coveted Gold Medal of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBQSA).

To understand the significance of that summer evening in Montreal, you'll have to turn back the clock to a night in 1946 when four old friends—each of whom had served in a different branch of the service during World War II—came back into each other's lives. Lindley had been working at Swan & Bahnsen, a Rock Island drug store, when three high school buddies came through the door.

"They were out bumming around, and when I got off work we decided to go get a beer," Lindley says. Though there's some dispute about the setting of the scene, the cast of characters is clear: Bruce Conover '48, Bob Maurus '49 and Cal Stuhr '51 had all sung with Lindley in the Glee Club at Rock Island High School before the war sent them, respectively, to the Air Corps, the Marines, the Navy and the Army.

Just as their ad-hoc reunion was warming up, an organist at the tavern began playing *Stardust*. "We all started singing along, and pretty soon we thought there might be something to this," Maurus remembers. "None of us was married at the time, so we decided to put together a quartet and see where it led."

Their first paid gig was at Rock Island's First Evangelical Church (now Church of Peace): \$15 for the four singers and their accompanist. When a local radio announcer invited the quartet to visit the Rock Island chapter of the SPEBQSA, they decided to leave the piano player at home. From that point on, they'd be *a cappella*, relying solely on their voices to create the rich sound that would bring them fame.

Since all four were attending Augustana, the Vikings seemed as good a name as any. Singing *Coney Island Baby* and *Wabash Medley*, they placed third against 40 other quartets at the 1947 Illinois District competition. They kept at it, and by 1951, the Vikings won the District contest. By now all four were married, trying to hold down jobs and start families. Those commitments finally led Stuhr to a new job in a new community, forcing him to leave the group. Just prior to the 1952 SPEBQSA competition in Kansas City they added a new bass, Bob Livesay. This newest member (who, since he had a few years on the other three, earned the inevitable nickname 'Dad') brought with him a great set of pipes, a wealth of experience, and the potential for a name-change. Fortunately, "Three Bobs and a Boob" was quickly voted down and the original name stuck. >



Maurus, Conover, “borrowed bass” Warren Hager and Lindley perform at the golden anniversary of their championship year (photo by David Wagner).

With help from coach and arranger Floyd Connett, the Vikings won second place at the SPEBQSA’s 1952 convention. Then, after five straight years of earning bids to the international competition, the Vikings won the Gold Medal in 1953, singing *When You’re Smiling*.

According to Lindley, the ride was just beginning. “And it was a good ride. Right after the championship, we did 56 performances in 34 weekends, and the most we ever charged was \$695...including expenses.” They bought a used airplane that Conover remembers as a heavy-winged, twin engine aircraft used by the military as a navigator-trainer. Conover, who flew both the P-40 and P-51 fighters during the war, always kept an eye over the shoulder of the pilot hired by the Vikings to criss-cross the country. Good thing, too—over the next two years, they survived such adventures as a lost engine, a blown tire, and an emergency landing on an island in the Illinois River.

On one of their trips, the quartet ran into the Augustana Choir, in which all but Livesay had sung under founding director Henry Veld. Lindley says they met on a train station platform, and the conversation quickly turned to singing. “I asked him about ‘chord-ringing,’” Lindley says, referring to a phenomenon known as the “white

chord,” which good quartets can master, but is extremely rare for larger ensembles. Maurus describes it as a note that’s not really there. “When the four voices are aligned just right, you can hear something beyond what each voice is contributing,” Maurus says. Hard enough for quartets to accomplish, Lindley asked Veld if he’d ever achieved it with a choir. At that point Veld leaned in close, and Lindley says his former choir director lowered his head as he lowered his voice. “He said, ‘Just once.’ And I’ll never forget the twinkle in his eye when he said it.”

The strain of touring began to tell on the quartet members, and by 1955 the same commitments which had drawn Stuhr from their ranks brought an end to the quartet. Maurus was a teacher who would go on to succeed the singers’ high school mentor, William Roseboom, as director of choral programs at Rock Island High School. Lindley’s career was in organizational management, working for such groups as the Chicago Medical Society and the Bank Marketing Association.

After working as an architect, Conover was recalled to the Air Force in 1957. One of his first postings was in Morocco, where he promptly established both a barbershop quartet and chorus. Retired as a colonel, he now lives in Texas. Livesay, who worked

for the *Moline Dispatch* newspaper, passed away in 1988, and now neither Maurus nor Lindley—both of whom live in the Quad Cities—can pass by East Moline’s Greenview Memorial Cemetery without a wave and a “Hi, Dad.”

But Livesay was there in spirit last summer at the SPEBQSA gathering in Montreal. In fact, Maurus claims to have received a message recently with good news and bad news. “He told me the good news is that there’s quartet-singing in heaven, but the bad news is that I’m scheduled to sing tenor next month,” Maurus says.

Last summer’s Montreal concert may have been 50 years in the making, but the three surviving members had a mere 15 minutes to prepare in the wings before taking the stage. After drafting a “borrowed bass” in Warren Hager, the Vikings performed two of the pieces from their Gold Medal-winning effort in 1953. After singing *When the morning glories wake up in the morning, then I’ll kiss your tulips goodnight*, they launched into *When You’re Smiling*.

“I suppose it’s a bit like riding a bike,” Conover says. “I was surprised that we could walk on stage after such a quick warm-up and all of sudden it was ‘Old Home Week.’ We just fell right back into it. Once a ham, always a ham, I guess.”

And while most of the red-letter accomplishments of the Vikings occurred far from Augustana’s campus in Rock Island, one quartet member can claim a feat that’s still a lasting legacy at the College. For a Homecoming Sing competition one year, Maurus helped convince his Beta Omega Sigma fraternity brothers to try a slightly altered rendition of the Rock Island High School *alma mater*. And ever since then—with just a few words changed—Jack Rasley’s *By the Mighty Mississippi* has been Augustana’s School Song.