



# Putting a furry face on conservation

**As a little girl, Dr. Sarah Bexell '91** imagined she would graduate from college, get married, start a family, have a job, and live close to her hometown of Freeport, Ill. Never in a million daydreams did she picture herself living in China and working to save endangered species, primarily giant pandas, on a global scale. And today she can't imagine doing anything else.

"It wasn't until I started learning more about the world through courses at Augie and NIU [Northern Illinois University] that I knew my life's path was going to be different from what I expected," Bexell says. "There was a whole world out there and I wanted to see it, experience it, and make it a better place for animals."

Interested, or infatuated as she describes it, with animals as long as she can remember, Bexell came to Augustana for its pre-veterinary program. At the time, that's all she knew she could study if she wanted a career with animals. Professors soon introduced her to other areas of interest. Her senior thesis in biology was *in vitro* fertilization in the big cats

(lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar). For her environmental studies minor, she completed an internship, which later turned into a job, at nearby Niabi Zoo where she gained experience in animal care and conservation education.

During her senior year at Augustana, Bexell was selected for the East Asia international term, an opportunity that greatly foreshadowed her future—though she had no clue at the time. "I have to admit that pandas were one of the many reasons why I chose that term," Bexell says. "Though there wasn't a focus on Asian wildlife in our courses, I just wanted the chance to see them. I was also fascinated by Asian cultures."

The next stop on her uncharted journey was NIU where her graduate work focused on primates, and she became aware of and concerned about endangered species. She earned a master's in physical anthropology at NIU and was hired at Zoo Atlanta in 1995 as a field conservation education specialist. While working at the zoo, Bexell attended Georgia State University and earned another master's, this time in

**At the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Shu Qing bathes her newborn that is no more than 48 hours old. Dr. Sarah Bexell '91 describes the giant pandas' big paws and sharp teeth as "some of the most gentle care-giving instruments in the world." Mother pandas try to keep their bare babies hidden for one to two months. They pick up and move their babies in their mouths. At that age, the babies' whole bodies can almost fit into their mother's mouth.**



## Why do we love them so much?

By Dr. Sarah Bexell '91  
 Director of Conservation Education  
 Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, China

Why do people have this fascination and love for pandas? Here at the Panda Base, we love them because we have known them since birth. We know their families, their personalities and their special qualities that help us tell them apart, which isn't always easy. Why does the rest of the world love them—even people who have never had the extreme pleasure of seeing a panda in action?

Researchers say one way people form an emotional attachment to an animal is to connect with its neoteny, which happens easily with giant pandas. Neoteny refers to the retention of youthful traits into adulthood. Konrad Lorenz, a pioneering scientist of ethology, proposed that the giant panda's physical traits of a high and slightly rounded bulging forehead, large brain case in proportion to the face, big eyes, rounded cheeks and short, stubby limbs—such as what human babies possess—elicits in us a natural nurturing response and feelings of compassion.

Behavior, such as play, can also be classified as neotenous. Even animals not typically perceived as especially attractive seem to become irresistible when we become enchanted with their playful behavior, according to researchers. When pandas play, people easily connect with their antics and can barely take their eyes off them. Our attraction could be based on predispositions to attend to young children.

Neotenous behaviors in animals are easy for people to anthropomorphize because childlike behavior is something all of us can relate to. Neotenous traits also appear to arouse the thought that we as humans have some sort of responsibility toward such species. Animals perceived as more childlike may be more likely to elicit a positive emotional response and perhaps even protection than less neotenous-looking animals. It is no wonder that giant pandas, which retain neotenous features throughout their lives, are the worldwide-recognized symbol for wildlife conservation.

At the Panda Base, we hope that humanity's seemingly innate love for giant pandas may be a way to connect people to animals in a way that commits them to wildlife and environmental protection.

science education, and later her doctorate in early childhood science education with a focus on conservation.

In 1997, Zoo Atlanta partnered with the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding (a.k.a., the Panda Base), one of the world's premier panda research centers. A couple years later, the Zoo Atlanta director needed someone to go to China to collect additional data for one of his students who was finishing her dissertation research on giant panda behavior. Bexell was chosen because of her dual background in animal behavior and education. The zoo director also viewed Bexell's undergraduate experience in China as a plus; she knew what to expect and was mentally prepared to spend five months there by herself.

After that extended visit, Bexell was invited back to China to help set up the first conservation education departments at two zoological institutions. In 2006, she was hired as the Panda Base's director of conservation education. Today, with Bexell leading the way, the Panda Base has the largest and most productive education department of all China's zoological facilities.

"I feel so lucky that what I love is what I get up to work for every day," Bexell says. "I live for animals and the children who deserve to know them."

Bexell's responsibilities at the Panda Base vary—much to her liking. She manages and trains a staff of eight conservation educators; writes curriculum, programs, grants and articles; and helps prepare for and facilitate Panda Base tours involving dignitaries from around the world. Bexell also helps maintain many of the Panda Base's international relationships with zoos and universities in England, France, Spain, Australia and the United States. When time allows, she works on panda book projects with her director at the Panda Base.

Bexell didn't realize hosting VIPs would be part of her job but has enjoyed it tremendously. "It helps us to put a face—furry and not furry—on conservation to some quite powerful people in the world. People hear about endangered species in the media, but when you meet them up close, especially ones as charismatic as giant and red pandas, it makes an emotional connection. Our guests come away caring intimately about pandas, and understanding the gravity of their situation and how hard the Panda Base is fighting to save them."

An estimated 1,500 giant pandas live in the wild. Their numbers are unstable due to dwindling habitat in a country under tremendous human pressure for space as well as resources that the entire world is targeting. However, the Panda Base has celebrated the birth of 120 cubs and the survival of 90 since it opened in 1987.

Dr. Norm Moline '64, Hamming Professor of Geography and a director for the East Asia international term, is one of Bexell's former professors and current colleagues. "Sarah

is a wonderful example of how students with a liberal arts background often find ways to combine seemingly widely separated interests and disciplines into a worthwhile and enjoyable career," he says.

"She has remembered and explicitly appreciated her educational roots here and continues to stay in contact with some of us at Augustana, telling us of her stories in her studies and research and offering to help current students," Moline adds. "She has been quick to ask us to encourage our students to apply for field experience positions at her research site in China."

Dr. Van Symons, professor of history and director emeritus of the ASIANetwork consortium, says Bexell has made the Panda Base more accessible to faculty and students from U.S. colleges and universities by leading personal tours, much like those provided to groups of Augustana faculty and students through the years. "She is the right person to be charged with strengthening the outreach of the panda breeding station and focusing the attention of the Chinese people as well as the rest of the world on the plight of the pandas," Symons says.

Although it's been more than 15 years since she graduated from Augustana, Bexell says maintaining her relationships with Moline and Symons is important to her. "I have always considered them wonderful and passionate educators, and that is very meaningful to me," she says. "I feel we are old friends who have a passion for Asia and education, and are working together so we can reach more people and help ensure a future for giant pandas."

## This business is for the birds

It's been 50 years since Marie (Mimi) Kaufmann '50 Gellerstedt promised her dying father that she would never sell the family business. Her dad, Charles Kaufmann, had patented and manufactured the first wire strips to prevent birds from roosting on buildings and causing costly deterioration.

With Gellerstedt at the helm for the past five decades, Nixalite's stainless-steel wire and strip barriers have become known around the world as a way to control pest birds and climbing animals.

In the early days, since it was unusual for a woman to be a company's top officer, Gellerstedt used her initials, M.A., so people could assume she was a man. "If someone called and asked for Mr. Gellerstedt, I would say Mr. Gellerstedt was not available but that I was Mrs. Gellerstedt and could I help him," she says. "I did have a few salesmen who turned around and walked out of the office when they discovered a

lady was in charge. But eventually, these gentlemen and I worked together and became good friends."

Gellerstedt has seen dramatic changes over the past 50 years in how a business operates. The typewriter, adding machine and telephone were the main office machines. Carbon paper and onionskin paper were used to make copies of correspondence. "If you wanted anything *fast*, it went by air mail," she adds. "Fax machines, copiers, computers, e-mail and 800 numbers were dreams of the future."

Gellerstedt, who remembers being the only female business major in Augustana's Class of 1950, was on campus when servicemen were returning to college after WWII. These older students, wise in the ways of the world, strategically pulled off some of the more elaborate pranks in Augustana history. Of course, the panty raid at the Women's Building (now Carlsson Hall) grabbed headlines in 1949. Gellerstedt also was there when students parked old cars in

Businesses come and go, but Marie Kaufmann '50 Gellerstedt has led her family business, Nixalite, for the past 50 years and has no intentions of retiring anytime soon. The Nixalite wire strip she's holding is installed on buildings and other structures to keep birds from roosting.



the Old Main courtyard and put up the sign, “Crazy Connie’s Used Cars Lot.” And others, or maybe the same students, packed up all the hymnals in Ascension Chapel and shipped them C.O.D. to Gustavus Adolphus College.

“My daughter [Dr. Lori Gellerstedt ’80 Doroba] enjoyed Augustana, but I don’t think she had as much fun as I did,” says Gellerstedt.

She also remembers how the entire student body was required to report to chapel every school day around 10 a.m. so attendance could be taken. Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, Augustana’s president at the time, or a dean would deliver a brief sermon to the students.

Gellerstedt’s studies focused on economics and accounting. She envies today’s business administration students at Augustana who may take classes in marketing, international business, management and finance, in addition to their core courses.

As the CEO of Nixalite, Gellerstedt remains actively involved in all aspects of the company. “I feel that working this late in life has kept my mind active,” she says. “The bonus is that I now don’t have to be at work at 8 o’clock and can take days off when I need them.”

Gellerstedt’s husband, Keith, and two of her sons also hold senior management positions at the company. Jon is a co-president in charge of research and development, manufacturing and sales, and Cory is a co-president who handles marketing, administration and computers.

“Now there really are three men behind me—so when someone asks for Mr. Gellerstedt, we have to ask, ‘Which one?’,” she says. “It’s wonderful to see how far women have come in the business world from when I had to pretend I was a man.”

## Fossil find puts Smith ’02 in the news

**If you haven’t yet read or heard about it,** Nathan Smith ’02 was part of a fossil discovery that will rewrite the story on how dinosaurs came to be.

Smith, of the University of Chicago and the Field Museum of Natural History, and three other graduate students composed a team responsible for finding a new species of “pre-dinosaur” that lived in New Mexico 215 million years ago. It’s the first of its kind found in North America. The newly discovered fossil is not a dinosaur but a very close

***Dromomeron romeri* was a relatively fragile creature, standing about 18 inches high at the shoulder, according to Nathan Smith ’02. An intact skull has not been found so paleontologists don’t know whether this newly discovered “pre-dinosaur” was a herbivore or carnivore. It’s likely, however, that it was bipedal.**

Illustration by Phil Geib. © 7/20/2007, Chicago Tribune Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

cousin named *Dromomeron romeri* (dro-MO-mer-on RO-mer-eye) by those who unearthed the species. It belongs to an archaic group of animals scientifically classified as basal dinosauromorphs (“pre-dinosaurs”).

The research journal *Science* featured the fossil find on its cover. “This discovery is significant, which is why *Science* not only published it, but made it their cover story,” says Dr. William Hammer, Augustana’s Fritiof Fryxell Professor of Geology. “*Science* turns down 80 to 90 percent of submissions without even reviewing them; it’s that competitive.”

What makes the discovery so important is that fossil bones of such a close dinosaur relative were found among fossil bones of true dinosaurs. Before this evidence, it was believed that “pre-dinosaurs” became extinct as the first dinosaurs began to appear on Earth about 230 million years ago. The theory was that after dinosaurs first evolved, their size and numbers escalated, quickly making them the biggest and toughest creatures around.

Future theories on dinosaur origins will have to acknowledge that the early dinosaurs co-existed with early cousins for a long time, says Smith, a co-author on the *Science* article. Like *Dromomeron romeri*, the early dinosaurs with which they lived were small, between three and five feet long, and certainly not the dominant animals of the Late Triassic.

As a young boy growing up in Crystal Lake, Ill., Smith was fascinated by dinosaurs and loved exploring Chicago’s Field Museum. During his first year at Augustana, he took “Great Geological Controversies” taught by Hammer, the paleontologist who in 1991 discovered the first carnivorous dinosaur to be found in Antarctica. This was the class where Smith heard about Hammer’s summer field course in the White River Badlands.

The Badlands: that’s where it all started, according to Smith. “It gave me an opportunity to participate in hands-on science, and also allowed me to experience the science of paleontology as a process; from removing fossils from the rock to the interpretation of past environments and faunas,” he says, “and I loved it.”



As his interest in paleontology grew, Smith moved from student to teaching assistant to field instructor in Hammer’s Badlands summer course.

Hammer jokes that Smith learned everything from him. Certainly Hammer has greatly influenced Smith during and after his four years at Augustana. Smith completed his senior thesis on theropod dinosaur phylogeny under Hammer’s direction. Hammer was a member of Smith’s master’s committee at the University of Iowa. And, while he was attending Iowa, Smith worked with Hammer on his Transantarctic Vertebrate Paleontology Project in Antarctica and joined him there on a collecting expedition in 2003-04.

“One of the most important things I’ve taken away—or tried to, anyway—from Bill is his incredible ability to communicate science at all levels.” Smith says. “This is one of the most overlooked, yet critically important, jobs of any scientist. Bill has an uncanny ability to address the specific needs of his audience, and to properly distill complicated information down into a form that they can best understand and work with. This makes him an outstanding educator, scientific writer and grant writer. I can honestly say that as a young scientist, you can be doing the most important, cutting-edge research in the world, but it is these three qualities that will probably be the most critical to determining your success.”

Smith will continue pursuing his doctorate in evolutionary biology at the University of Chicago for several more years while working as a graduate student at the Field Museum. He will travel with Hammer to Antarctica again in 2009-10. Smith also plans to continue working summers at Ghost Ranch, N.M., where *Dromomeron romeri* was found.

Once he earns his doctorate, Smith hopes to find a teaching/research position in academia and continue his fieldwork in Antarctica and at Ghost Ranch. Being part of a team credited for providing a more accurate picture of this planet’s prehistoric life just might land him another great find—this one with a tenure track.

**Nathan Smith ’02 discovered his interest in paleontology in the White River Badlands with Dr. William Hammer. He now travels throughout the world in search of clues to prehistoric times. Here he is in China last spring, holding a small plaster jacket containing a fossilized dinosaur egg found in Late Cretaceous rocks near the city of Laiyang. Smith was working on one of his Field Museum advisor’s projects at the time.**

# The Earitable Child

## Why antibiotics aren't always the right solution for ear infections

By Dr. Craig Bowron '87

Nestled behind the eardrum is a small space called "the middle ear," known to parents of small children as a Den of Iniquity, the infamous birthplace of "Oh no, another ear infection."

Across this cramped space arcs a linkage of three tiny bones—the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. These connect the eardrum to the cochlea, the snail-like portion of the inner ear that converts the vibrations of the eardrum into electrical impulses that the brain recognizes as sound.

The middle-ear space is connected to the back of the throat via the eustachian tube, which allows us to "add" or "subtract" air from the middle ear, depending on pressure changes. If you've never had ear pain while riding on an airplane, you can thank your functioning eustachian tubes.

The trouble typically starts with a cold—a viral infection that plugs up the nose and, particularly in kids, the eustachian tubes. With their tiny tubes blocked, the middle ear becomes an enclosed, undrained space where fluid can collect. Under low pressure, the only clue to its presence may be loss of hearing. A parent may experience this as having to say, "You can't go to school barefoot—would you get your shoes on?!" six or seven times, rather than the usual three or four.

If the fluid is under pressure, the child may experience pain, especially if it is infected with either bacteria or the ugly cold virus that started the whole episode. Fever and a general crankiness help transform the little cherub into a sleep-deprived, unsoothable potentate.

The medical term for infected fluid in the middle ear is "acute otitis media," or AOM. It's one of the top diagnoses in the United States for children, responsible for billions of healthcare dollars and 15 million antibiotic prescriptions each year.

We can always print more money, and we do. But over-using antibiotics can weaken their effectiveness, and replacements are hard to find. Rather than reserving antibiotics for just severe infections, we've been handing them out for low-grade infections, or for "this might be an infection," or for "you're not infected now, but certainly you could become infected, if not now, then at some point in your life." They've become candy with a co-pay.

Now the chicken is coming home to roost, traipsing in bacteria that are resistant to many first-line antibiotics. Bacteria may be mindless, but they're not dumb: given

time, they will figure out how to counter the effects of an antibiotic. And We, The People, have developed a mentality that if we have a bacterial infection and don't get antibiotics, we will die. Or miss a day of school or work, or worst of all, a social function.

Deciding whether to treat an "earitable" child with antibiotics begins with determining whether he or she truly does have AOM. Several studies have shown that physicians are unsure of these diagnoses as much as 40 percent of the time. So despite all the practice we get with this malady, we could use some more.

Some parents believe they have an extrasensory ability to detect middle-ear infections in their children, but clinical symptoms are actually a poor predictor of AOM (though they're an excellent predictor of kids being sick). Ear pain (sometimes manifested as tugging), irritability, and fever are prominent symptoms in children with middle-ear infections, but they're also common in those with bad colds.

Because clinical symptoms can't differentiate a cold from AOM, an ear exam is crucial. This is not as easy as it seems, particularly with infants and toddlers. At the close of the cartoon classic "The Incredibles," baby Jack-Jack reveals two of his special powers: turning first into a gigantic ball of flame, and then into a hideous version of the Tasmanian Devil. Youngsters who aren't feeling well share Jack-Jack's transformative powers, which makes examining their ears an acquired skill. And even if the child's head is not spinning like an Indy driver who got loose going into a corner, all too often there will be earwax obstructing one's view. Removing it does nothing to soothe little Jack-Jack.

Assuming one can eventually get a view of the eardrum, we're looking for two things: fluid and inflammation. Sometimes the fluid is easy to spot: the eardrum is bulging outwards, rather than in its usual flat or slightly concave position, and the fluid gives the eardrum a yellow or orange hue. Small amounts of fluid can be more difficult to detect; then the physician may push a little air into the ear to see if the eardrum moves normally. If there is pressure in the middle ear, it will not move well.

Step two is looking for evidence of inflammation, like the swollen redness one's nose exhibits during the acute phase of a cold. White fluid—i.e., pus—behind the eardrum indicates that a lot of white blood cells have been called into the area and strongly indicates infection, whether viral

or bacterial. A red eardrum can indicate inflammation, although it also can look red if the child has been screaming his or her guts out.

Step three is to decide whether antibiotics are warranted. According to a position paper from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), children under 2 with a definite diagnosis of AOM should receive antibiotics. Older kids can be treated with just pain relievers as long as they do not appear markedly ill (usually, with a high fever or severe ear pain).

A recent study from the Netherlands attempted to narrow this protocol even further by crunching data from six studies and asking, "In which children would antibiotics be most beneficial?" The researchers found two such groups: children under 2 with AOM in both ears, and children of any age with AOM and drainage from the ears. It wasn't that antibiotics didn't help other subgroups—it's just that the benefit was small enough that doctors would end up treating a large number of kids just to help one child avoid an extended course of AOM.

Why stand by and watch when we're certain a child has AOM? Because the majority of children will get better on their own without antibiotics, and because antibiotics are not harmless.

The AAP-AAFP position paper states: "The potential of antibacterial therapy at the initial visit to shorten symptoms by one day in 5 to 14 percent of children can be compared with the avoidance of common antibacterial side effects in 5 to 10 percent of children, infrequent serious side effects, and the adverse effects of antibacterial resistance."

Should a child's condition worsen or not improve with time, antibiotics can then be initiated. This "wait-and-see prescription" is quickly becoming the standard of care, and it held up well in a study recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Children 6 months to 12 years old with AOM were randomized to either start antibiotics immediately, or receive a prescription to be filled only if the parents saw no improvement after 48 hours.

Clinical outcomes for the two groups were similar except that those who started antibiotics right away had their ear pain resolve about 10 hours sooner. This allowed more time to focus on the diarrhea that occurred in 23 percent of the children who left the ER on antibiotics—three times the rate of those in the wait-and-see group.



Dr. Craig Bowron says he has no clue why his career as a cover model didn't take off after he was on the cover of *Minnesota Monthly* to promote his column on the diet craze.

Sixty-two percent of those in the wait-and-see group got better on their own, without antibiotics; overall, this patience-centered approach reduced antibiotic use by 56 percent. That's a good start. We need to be more judicious with our antibiotics. Save them for a rainy day. After all, none of us wants to end up in the hospital with a pneumonia caused by a highly resistant bacterium, one that eats antibiotics for lunch and is susceptible only to Agent Orange or an intravenous mercury infusion.

**Editor's note** For three years, Dr. Craig Bowron '87 wrote a humorous medical column called Hippocratise for *Minnesota Monthly*. He recently received first-place honors in the Best Regular Column, General Interest category in an annual competition sponsored by the Minnesota Magazine Publishers Association. "This should make Dr. Youngberg proud," says Bowron, who came to Augustana to study pre-medicine. "She's the one who stiff-armed me into also becoming an English major. I'm writing because of Karin Youngberg." These days Bowron practices medicine at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, and writes for *MinnPost*, an online newspaper in the Twin Cities.

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**Class Notes**

(notices received as of June 30, 2007)

**1948**

**Alice Carlstedt Nelson** is listed in *Who's Who in the World 2007* and *Who's Who in American Education 2006-2007*.

**1949**

**George Kuller's** historical novel *Wheel of God: Shards of the Assassin* was published by Echelon Press.

**1956**

**David Fleming** was elected chair of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

**1959**

**Ed and Carolyn Lynn Blight**, board members of Albanian Health Fund, travel with physicians and dentists to bring medical knowledge, updates and equipment to Albania.

**Gerald Swanson**, retired pastor and professor, received the

honorary alumni award from California Lutheran University's Alumni Association.

**1961**

**Henry Hemmen** is president of Henry Hemmen & Associates, Inc., Bettendorf, Iowa.

**1962**

**Jan Bowman**, retired professor, received the honorary alumni award from California Lutheran University's Alumni Association.

**Romayne Hertweck**, professor emeritus of MiraCosta College, participated in the semester-at-sea program reunion cruise where Nobel Prize-winner Desmond Tutu was the keynote speaker.

**Donald Johnson** received the Christian Sonneveldt Spirit, Mind and Body Award from the Grand Rapids (Mich.) YMCA Metropolitan Board of Directors. He is an attorney with Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett.

**1963**

**Merilee Adamson Rosberg** retired from Mt. Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The college's board honored her with a named scholarship in the amount of \$25,000.

**1964**

**Kathleen Stumpf Jongsma** is an English standards specialist for the country of Qatar.

**1966**

**Judith Salmon Kaur** received an academic promotion to professor of oncology for the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minn. She is also medical director for Native American programs for the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**William Moorcroft's** book *Understanding Sleep and Dreaming* was published.

**1967**

**Barbara Harmsen Herzog** is director of libraries at the

American School in Mexico City, Mexico.

**John Hoglund** has the franchise for CrestCom International for the state of Washington. After 31 years of practicing law, he now facilitates programs in leadership and management skills training.

**1968**

**Sylvia Lee Roba** is business development manager and client consultant with Vernon Research Group.

**Billy Joe Stuteville** is a credit analyst for Trinity Industries, Dallas, Texas.

**1969**

**Greg Arling** is a visiting associate professor at Indiana University, Indianapolis.

**1970**

**Ruth O'Neill Chuvala** is an executive assistant with Jericho Partnership, Danbury, Conn.

**Lynn Creach Spaight** is assistant to the chancellor at the

University of North Carolina, Asheville.

**1971**

**Barbara Anderson Bruneau** earned the master of divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. She has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Borgund and Minnesota Valley Lutheran churches near Madison, Minn.

**Gail Goepfert** is library/media center director for the Wood Dale (Ill.) School District.

**Franklin Lenz** is purchasing manager at Universidad Maritima del Caribe in Venezuela.

**1972**

**Marvin Bergeson** received the Friend of Alaska's Children Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Alaska Chapter Executive Committee.

**Jens Rehder** retired from Rock Island High School where he taught German. He now works as a German-language tour guide at John Deere, Moline, Ill.

**Linda Rowley** teaches for the United School District, Monmouth, Ill.

**1973**

**Larry Cline** received the Making it Happen Award from the International Society for Technology and Education. He retired from the Wheeling (Ill.) Community Consolidated School District as director of technology.

**Mark Kukkonen** is interim pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa.

**Nancy Pedersen Marquardsen** is the grant program administrator at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

**Judith Zeddies Phillips'** book of photographs entitled *Scream, Baby, Scream!* was published.

**1974**

**Randy Doyle** is medical director of River Bend Christian Counseling, Moline, Ill.

**Janet Norquist Gonzalez** was selected Teacher of the Year for 2007 by The Bronx County (N.Y.) Historical Society.

**Anne Ryan McGlynn** is director, community services, at Project NOW, Rock Island.

**Dewaine Nelson** is president of Solergy Alternative Energy Solutions, Cherry Valley, Ill.

**Jane Telleen** has been named executive assistant to the president at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.

**1975**

**Nancy Feniuk Nelson** is pastor of Coastside Lutheran Church, Half Moon Bay, Calif.

**Ronald Nyberg** has formed a new law partnership, Nyberg & Cassioppi, LLC, Naperville, Ill.

**Martha Rolf** is vice president-northeast branch executive director for the YMCA of Rock River Valley, Rockford, Ill.

**Ken Scherpelz** is vice president, sales and business development, at Publishing Solutions Group, Boston, Mass.

**1976**

**Garth Gardner** is chief operating officer of Quality Metric, Inc., Lincoln, R.I.

**1977**

**Norman Cooling** was appointed a judge for the 11th Judicial District Court, Fremont County, Colorado.

**Tim Marquardt** is SVP-supply chain analytics, at Bank of America, Charlotte, N.C.

**1978**

**Joseph Benning** is principal at Sacred Heart School, Lombard, Ill.

**Jeffery Dennis'** book, *Teenagers in Love Before Girl-Craziness*, was published by Vanderbilt University Press. He teaches sociology at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

**Cathie Trice Whiteside** received the Gold Leadership Award, the highest award for volunteerism, from Junior Achievement of the Heartland.

**Diane Witte** is assistant director, principal gifts, in the development office at Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

**1979**

**Greg Haynie** is vice president, application and database development, for Health Grades, Inc., Golden, Colo.

**Kris Peterson Marquardt** is a physical therapist for Carolinas Medical, Charlotte, N.C.

**Donna Wasson** works for The Antioch Group, Peoria, Ill.

**Maryfaith Greenhalgh Weiss** is director of human resources for the Follett Corp., River Grove, Ill.

**1980**

**John Cain** serves as senior pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas.

**Thomas Isaacson** is medical director of the North Central Heart Institute, Sioux Falls, S.D.

**Lisa Porter Oien** is a realtor with Coldwell Banker, Naples, Fla.

**Gary Robbins** is a development officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Baghdad, Iraq.

**Dave Stockdale** is lead technologist and clinical specialist at Trinity Medical Center, Moline, Ill.

**Dave Wrath**, assistant director of media/alumni relations at Augustana, received an award from College Sports Information Directors of America in recognition of his 25 years in the profession.

**1981**

**Donald Gibertini** is a physician with Concentra Medical Centers, Mesa, Ariz.

**Diane Lillie** is in marketing with PolyOne, Lemont, Ill.

**1982**

**Denise Zarbuck Anderson** works in the editorial department at Wolters Kluwer, Austin, Texas.

**Darlene Paul Flynn** is operational controller-marketing for Ulta Salon, Romeoville, Ill.

**Barbara Rutherford France** has been promoted to managing editor for the *Lassen County Times*, Susanville, Calif.

**Christopher Hennessy** is a teacher and tennis coach at Hillcrest High School, Country Club Hills, Ill.

**Vicki Reichardt Hicks** is band director at Hampshire (Ill.) Elementary and Middle School.

**Ann McGovern Pedersen** is a financial analyst at AthletiCo, Ltd., Oak Brook, Ill. She is studying for the fundamental payroll certification.

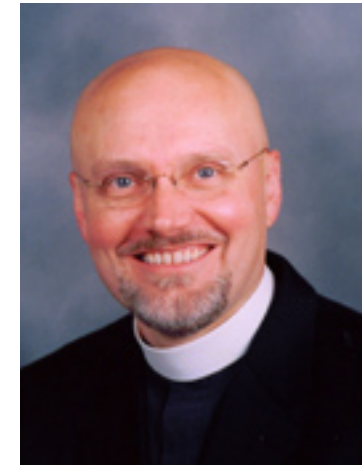
**1984**

**Kate Ague** married Peter Cass on April 21, 2007.

**Randel Brumm** is global information strategist at ABN AMRO, Chicago.

**Jon France** has been promoted to director of logistics for Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif.

**Ted Hallberg** received the Le Mars (Iowa) Community School



Rev. Wayne Miller '72

**Miller '72 elected synod bishop**

After serving 13 years at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ill., the Rev. Wayne Miller '72 is now bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He was elected to the six-year post last summer. The synod has more than 116,000 members in 217 congregations in Cook, Lake, DuPage and Kane counties.

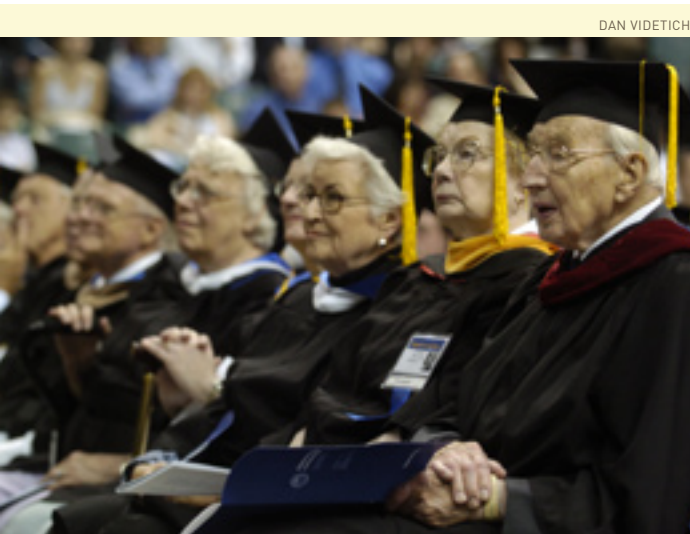
"Every single day I feel a sense of the honor in being selected to do this," Miller says. "I'm especially enjoying getting out into the synod with its great diversity." His focus is on relationship-building and helping the synod's congregations attain a clearer sense of the ELCA's mission.

A music education major and choir member at Augustana, Miller earned a master of divinity from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1984. He was associate pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville, Ill., from 1986 to 1994 before he was called to St. Mark's. During his time there, the congregation doubled in size, opened a day care center and moved into a new multimillion-dollar sanctuary.

"His ability to use story and drama and humor are what people will miss," St. Mark's associate pastor, the Rev. Patricia Geiseman, told the *Chicago Tribune*. "The warmth, the commitment to the Gospel, pursuit of justice—all of those passions of his are now part of the congregation. It's a gift he has given."

As bishop, Miller's responsibilities include overseeing the process that matches pastors with congregations, establishing mission and vision priorities for the congregations of the synod, presiding at synod assemblies, coordinating the work of the synod with that of the national church, ecumenical interface with the leaders of other denominations in the Chicago area, resolving conflict in congregations, and in some cases, disciplining professional leaders who have fallen into misconduct.

Metropolitan Chicago is one of 65 geographic synods that span the nation, and Miller is one of two Augustana graduates currently serving as a bishop of an ELCA synod. Bishop Philip Hougen, a member of the Class of 1965, leads the Southeastern Iowa Synod.



DAN VIDETICH

**Leading the procession at 97** Attending Augustana's commencement ceremony last May inspired the Rev. William Berg, member of the Class of 1932, to write an essay. As the oldest graduate present, the 97-year-old Berg had the honor of leading the academic procession. An excerpt from his essay reads:

"In the 1930s, we were in the midst of a deep depression in our country. Tuition at the college was \$90 per semester. I recall working in the college cafeteria where you could get a full-course meal for 40 cents and an adequate breakfast for 15 cents. Our rooms in a house on the hill, 90 steps down to classrooms, cost \$20 per month.

"In those years we had only the following buildings on campus: the old music conservatory, the men's dormitory, Old Main, the Denkmann Library, the gymnasium, the women's dormitory and the sports stadium on Fifth Avenue. I have visited many college and university campuses in North America, in Scandinavia and other places, but I cannot recall a more beautiful campus than Augustana College!

"However, the memories of buildings fade as I think of my professors and teachers inspiring and challenging me. There were just six of us in Professor I.M. Anderson's Greek class. I came out of that three-year course not only with some knowledge of the Greek language, but with wisdom, not least divine wisdom."

Today Berg, who still views his four years at Augustana as a special blessing, is retired in some respects, but not in most. He continues to travel, minister to those in need, write spiritual books and yes, maintain his own website, [www.bergbooks.com](http://www.bergbooks.com).

District Teacher of the Year Award.

**Rick Scott** received the Fidelity Investments Inspire the Future Award for Outstanding Music Educators. He is the head band director for the Alvin (Texas) School District.

## 1985

**Roxianne Scott Classen** is band director at Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa. Her band marched in the 2007 St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland.

**Sue Peterson** is the information technology director at Harlem Furniture, Lombard, Ill.

**Steve Robinson** is senior estimator at HDR, Inc., Madison, Wis.

**John Stelzer** is athletic director at Oak Park and River Forest High School, Illinois.

**Todd Tincher** is controller at Sealy Mattress, Batavia, Ill.

## 1986

**Chris Staub** is director, national accounts, at Wellpoint, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Christopher Washington** is dispatch supervisor for Dominion East Ohio, Cleveland.

## 1987

**Patricia Lupinek Havens** is a business systems analyst at Travelers, Hartford, Conn.

**Brenda Helms Pratt** is the information technology manager at Cingular Wireless, Atlanta, Ga.

## 1988

**Holly Isely Gorman** had a son, Thomas James III, on November 3, 2006 (*Thomas*; Suzanne, 4).

**Christine Loula Kopplin** had a son, Leo William, on May 18, 2006 (*Brad*; Ethan, 5).

## 1989

**Bonnie Lemkow Knudson** works in tech support at One Source Software, Sandy, Utah.

**Ann LoPiccalo Steidinger** is an analyst at State Farm Insurance, Bloomington, Ill.

**Laura Donahue Welter** is marketing coordinator at SEC Group, Inc., McHenry, Ill.

**Kimberly Zilisch** is program control manager at Orbital Sciences, Chandler, Ariz.

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

## 1990

**Laju Balani** is professor of world religions at Regis University, Denver, Colo.

**Phillip Estes** is a regional planner for the County of Los Angeles, Calif.

**Lynn Tippett Marlott** had a daughter, Jane Ellen, on April 7, 2006 (*John*; Samantha, 9, Alexander, 7, Isaac, 5).

**Tim Parker** is an account manager, international sales, at UPS, Addison, Ill.

**Cyndy Ring Royer** is a senior software quality assurance analyst for Lincoln Financial Group, Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Lisa Traut** is chair of the television production department at Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.

**Mike Williams** had a son, Thomas, on November 19, 2006 (*Julie*; Benjamin, 1).

## 1991

**James Jennings** was promoted to principal at Riverdale Middle School, Port Byron, Ill.

**Kathleen Lagrassa** had a daughter, Emma Rose, on February 21, 2007 (*Grace*, 3).

**Stacy Austin Li** had a daughter, Raelynn, on March 23, 2007 (*Kai*).

**Krista Molnar Sikes** is manager, team member relations, at St. Joseph's Baptist HealthCare, Tampa, Fla.

**Eric Strack** is customer relationship lead at Capella University, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Ursula Vargas** is finance director at Pfizer, Lima, Peru.

## 1992

**Robert and Rosemarie Mendivil '94 Brueggeman** had twin

daughters, Sophia and Anya, on December 30, 2006.

**David Heitz** is a reporter with the *Quad-City Times*, Davenport, Iowa.

**Eric Hibbeler** had a son, Thomas Eric, on March 16, 2006 (*Rhonda*; Grant, 4).

**David Kenny** is district technician for the Belvidere (Ill.) Community Unit School District.

**Shauna Thiel Perry** had a son, Owen Henry, on February 20, 2007 (*David*; Ella, 3).

**Bryan and Colleen Donovan '95 Sibthorp** had a daughter, Laurel Eliza, on May 12, 2007 (Rowen, 6).

**Ann Newton Stark** is GIS (Geographic Information Systems) manager at Lummi Nation, Bellingham, Wash.

**Jim and Sarah Swanson Washburn** had a son, Jack Murphy, on April 11, 2007.

## 1993

**Joe Cravero** is SAP financial programmer at Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.

**Sonya Rogers Danielson** is a senior risk analyst at State Farm Bank, Bloomington, Ill.

**Aaron Davis** is an associate attorney for Bryan Cave, LLP, Chicago.

**Marggy Jessie Ellis** had twin daughters, Julia and Gretchen, on June 20, 2007 (*David*; Jack, 3).

**Donald Erickson** is vice president, associate audit director, at Raymond James Financial, St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Karen Oliver Jennings** is a nurse for the Moline (Ill.) School District.

## 1994

**Nicholas Bennyhoff** received the master's in information studies from Florida State University, Tallahassee.

**Robert '92 and Rosemarie Mendivil Brueggeman** had twin daughters, Sophia and Anya, on December 30, 2006.

**Nicole Kottke Collingbourne** had a daughter, Claire Catherine

Agnes, on June 11, 2007 (*William*; Grace, 2).

**Cory Carr Craig** is assistant director of admissions at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.

**Minda Powers Douglas** had a daughter, Anna Bella, on September 22, 2006 (*Bill*).

**Scott and Nancy Ropinske '96 Frech** had a son, Ryan, on September 6, 2006.

**Julie LaVelle Moesgaard** is on the audit staff at MBK&K, Rockford, Ill.

**Peter Montgomery** is a social studies teacher and coordinator of new teacher mentoring and collegial coaching at Willowbrook High School, Villa Park, Ill.

**Ryan Schmidt** had a daughter, Ava Marie, on February 27, 2007 (*Christy*).

**Erika Selig** is an English teacher and department chair at Doral Academy Charter High School, Miami, Fla.

**Alan '04 and Kimberly Ward Van Duyne** had a daughter, Maya, on November 24, 2005 (Hayley, 2).

## 1995

**Karla Loken Bohm** is an obstetrician/gynecologist with Banner Health, Loveland, Colo.

**Jeannine Campion Hadzima** had a daughter, Julia Renee, on September 29, 2006 (*Chad*; Rebecca, 6, Theresa, 4).

**Bilal Kably** is materials manager at ICI Paints, Lahore, Pakistan.

**Chad Kovash** is a physician assistant at Southwest Surgical Associates, Joliet, Ill.

**Steven Lindmark** is a C-17 instructor pilot with the U.S. Air Force.

**Michael Mosner** is director of sales at Western Industries, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Rita Proske** married Steve Mourisse on June 10, 2006. She is a speech-language pathologist for the Special Education Agency of Peoria County, Bartonville, Ill.

**Bryan '92 and Colleen Donovan Sibthorp** had a daughter, Laurel Eliza, on May 12, 2007 (Rowen, 6).

**Robert Smith** is a senior analytical services associate at The Nielsen Co., Glenview, Ill.

**Catherine Sapp Switzer** is a registered nurse in emergency services at Beloit (Wis.) Memorial Hospital.

## 1996

**Paige Berger** married Patrick Nardi on November 11, 2006. Paige was promoted to director of corporate accounts at King Pharmaceuticals, Chicago.

**Tobias and Dawn Johansen Brushammar** had a son, Max Gustav Michael, on October 12, 2006.

**Michael Choi** is associate director of online services for the American Diabetes Association, Alexandria, Va.

**Jera Hull Deal** and her company Sticks and Stones were featured on the "O List" in *O Magazine*. She created Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' wedding gift from Oprah Winfrey. Jera also was a guest on CNBC's "The Big Idea" with Donny Deutsch.

**Michael Foulk** is a post-doctoral research associate at Brown University, Providence, R.I.

**Scott '94 and Nancy Ropinske Frech** had a son, Ryan, on September 6, 2006.

**Jenny Grube** is global head of bid management for Management Consulting Group, London, U.K.

**Julie Germeraad James** is a realtor with Mel Foster Co., Bettendorf, Iowa.

**Martha Osland Johnson** is a pharmacist at Fairview Specialty Pharmacy, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Heidi Nielsen Marzen** is the branch supervising librarian at Madison (Wis.) Public Library.

**Matt and Jyll Baraks Moore** had a son, Lance Joseph, on March 6, 2007 (Dathan, 3).

**Flor Soto Mowery** is a speech pathologist for the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nev.

**Beth Peluso's** children's book, *The Charcoal Forest: How Fire Helps Animals and Plants*, was published. She works with the Juneau (Alaska) Audubon Society.

**Will Pledger** is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with the U.S. Air Force at Lackland AFB, Texas.

**Kara Schoppa** married Bobby Cobbs on June 30, 2007. She teaches fourth through sixth grades at Norbel School, Elkridge, Md.

**Julie White** married Michael Gardner on May 6, 2006. Julie is senior merchandise planner at Neiman Marcus, Dallas, Texas.

## 1997

**Paul Asplund** is chief engineer at Centralytics, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

**Jeremy Diers** is senior healthcare consultant at Goodroe Healthcare Solutions, Norcross, Ga.

**Heather Parthen Eslinger** had a son, Aiden, on December 22, 2006 (*Aaron*).

**Karie Banach Holldorf** is a nurse practitioner at Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill.

**Matt Johnson** is branch manager/investment advisor representative at Woodbury Financial Services, Woodbury, Minn.

**Malik Khaliq** is senior financial consultant at Wells Fargo, Davenport, Iowa.

**Nadine Peterson Krager** is a mortgage processor at Deere Employees Credit Union, Moline, Ill.

**Joy Wahlmann Ott** is a team leader with the Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Md.

**Allison Walis Rakickas** had a daughter, Elise Suzanne, on April 5, 2007 (*Erin*).

## 1998

**Eric Arguello** is a physical therapist with the Sports and Orthopedic Rehab Team, Tampa, Fla.

**Susan Arnold Bender** is financial operations manager at Auto Acres Used Parts, Milan, Ill.

**Christopher Boese** is a fleet readiness squadron instructor for the U.S. Marine Corps, San Diego, Calif.

**Steven Carroll** is project manager/senior ecologist at Buys and Assoc., Littleton, Colo.

**Tracy Davern** is an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Chris and Jaime White Earing** had a son, Caden James, on February 12, 2007.

**Matthew Markley** is vice president and commercial relationship manager at AMCORE Bank, Chicago.

**Mindy Morris Matthews** teaches fourth grade for the Farmington (Ill.) School District.

**Matt McCallum** is senior search consultant at Management Resource Group, Davenport, Iowa.

**Carrie Joyce McCormick** had a son, Carter Jackson, on March 18, 2007 (*Brian*; Ally).

**Ken and Thea Needham '99 Neumann** had a daughter, Johana Mae, on March 28, 2007.

**Dennis Rufolo** is an environmental science officer/preventative medicine with the U.S. Army, San Antonio, Texas.

**Jamie Sanders** is in corporate training-international locations at AT&T, Austin, Texas.

**Jim and Kris Johanson Somerville** had a son, Cyrus, on June 1, 2006 (Jimmy, 1). Jim is a special agent with the FBI, and Kris is a teacher at the Minnesota School of Business.

**Gretchen Myhre Weber** is a consultant for teacher quality at Learning Point Associates, Naperville, Ill.

## 1999

**Eric Anderson** had a son, Wythe Nelson, on May 9, 2007 (*Jamie Nelson*).

**Jeffrey Andrews** is a mathematics instructor at College of Lake County, Grayslake, Ill.

**Amanda Walters Barrett** is assistant director at Tutor Time, Matthews, N.C.

**Cynthia Heisler Behrens** is supply chain planner at Pactiv Corporation, Lake Forest, Ill.

**Erika Krouth Behrens** is a dentist practicing in Oswego, Ill.

**Douglas Bodeen** teaches Spanish for the Geneseo (Ill.) Community School District.

**Erin Sterling Centanni** is an ESL (English as a Second Language) facilitator for East Maine School District, Des Plaines, Ill.

**Kerry Flaherty** married Joe Littell on June 30, 2007.

**Nils '01 and Migdalia González Holgersson** had a son, Nils V, on January 18, 2007.

**Chris and Penny Nelson '00 Meskan** had a daughter, Violet, in February 2007 (Olivia, 2).

**Ken '98 and Thea Needham Neumann** had a daughter, Johana Mae, on March 28, 2007.

**Carrie Henrickson Pauly** is an in-home day care provider in Chaska, Minn.

**Robyn Evans Pobozny** is an IV therapy sales specialist at Baxter Healthcare Corp., Round Lake, Ill.

**James Ross** is a research assistant at the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Medicine.

**Andrew Suchomski** is a testing associate at ClinPhone, Northbrook, Ill.

**David You**, lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, won the Resident Teaching Award from the house staff at Bethesda Naval Medical Center. He is now stationed at Great Lakes Naval Center, Chicago. David had a son, Zachary David, on April 11, 2007 (*Whitney*).

## 2000

**Joe Augsburger** is accounting manager at Matson Integrated Logistics, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

**Nikki Kroll Augsburger** is marketing manager at Hawthorne Race Course, Stickney/Cicero, Ill.

**Tara Bauman** is a mortgage processor at Busey Bank, Bloomington, Ill.

**Kristie Betcher** is associate promotion manager at Kraft Foods, Glenview, Ill.



Dr. David Walton '98 in Haiti

## Note from a reader ...

I want to thank you for the excellent *Augustana College Magazine*, summer edition. The cover article about Dr. David Walton

'98, and the accompanying pictures, were outstanding. We

are so proud and pleased to believe Augustana College may have helped shape this young man's priorities and goals as he

pursues his medical profession. I recently read Tracy Kidder's

Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*,

published in 2003, which informed me of Dr. Paul Farmer's

mission and work in Haiti and elsewhere, and I was tremendously

impressed. It is heartwarming to me to know that

dedicated and talented men like Dr. Farmer and Dr. Walton are

striving to make this a better and healthier world for our very

poor masses. By the way, Mr. Kidder mentioned David Walton's

name in his Acknowledgments at the end of his book as one

of the members of the organization Partners in Health who

helped with his research. It is so appropriate Dr. Walton was

honored last spring with an Outstanding Achievement award as

one of Augustana's "Finest Under Forty."

Lydia Larsen '47 Beckman



Former broker and portfolio manager Ed Rydwelski '93 jumped at the chance to stay home with his sons, Charlie and Henry.

### Rydwelski '93 trades bonds for bibs

After graduating from Augustana in 1993, Ed Rydwelski Jr. earned a master's in business administration from DePaul University and worked in the investment industry—trading bonds and managing portfolios—before retiring in 2004.

When Rydwelski and his wife, Jennifer, chief compliance officer at a Chicago financial firm, found out they were having a baby, they knew one of them would stay home full-time. "I was pretty much burned out from my 10 years in investments, so I jumped at the opportunity," Rydwelski says. "The pay structure here is a little different—I'm not paid a salary; I receive benefits only."

Rydwelski's workload doubled last summer with the birth of his second son. So did his benefits.

The economics and business administration-finance major lists his primary responsibilities as a stay-at-home dad as having patience, tolerance and understanding; effecting selflessness through a continuous practice of the willingness to be interrupted; strengthening both verbal and nonverbal communication skills; accomplishing compromise; and attempting effective negotiation strategies.

"I didn't learn any of this screaming into the phones on the bond desk, nor from any textbook," he says. "Nothing could prepare me for the challenges of parenthood."

As a creative outlet, Rydwelski writes a biweekly column about fatherhood for his local newspaper, *The Naperville Sun*. His work has appeared in other publications as well, including *Family Time* and *Chicago Parent*. Instead of merely sharing anecdotal accounts of changing diapers and cleaning various stains off the carpet, Rydwelski says he tries to openly and honestly share his emotions, concerns and fears with readers.

"I love to write, and writing about my experiences growing up with Charlie and Henry helps me to reflect on all our precious moments and to savor them even more than I would otherwise," he says.

Rydwelski is interested in hearing from other Augustana alumni who have accepted the position of stay-at-home dad. He can be contacted at [edwardrydwelski@comcast.net](mailto:edwardrydwelski@comcast.net).

**Editor's note** One of Rydwelski's newspaper columns details a visit to Augustana that included an unexpected opportunity to introduce his oldest son, Charlie, to a favorite professor, Dr. Richard Ballman. (To read the article, go to [www.napersun.com](http://www.napersun.com) and search for Rydwelski Augustana.)

**Michael Esposito** is an ET4/geologist with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Schaumburg.

**Nathan Fierce** is a surgical resident at St. Joseph's Hospital, Washington, Mich.

**Chris '99** and **Penny Nelson Meskan** had a daughter, Violet, in February 2007 (Olivia, 2).

**Matthew Poplawski** and **Maggie Capettini '01** were married on November 11, 2006.

**Daren Rauch** is a physician with OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Clinton, Ill.

**Ann Risley** is internal operations manager at Northwest Day Treatment, Frederic, Wis.

**Heather Miller Tritt** had a son, Brayden Nicholas, on May 29, 2007 (*Adam*; Jackson, 2).

**David Voorhees** is GIS/information manager for the Galesburg (Ill.) Sanitary District.

**Alan '01** and **Julie Denning Wagner** had a daughter, Alexis Claire, on December 20, 2006. Julie is a physician with Family Medicine of Mount Pleasant (Iowa).

### 2001

**Dan Asleson** is executive director for the Bettendorf (Iowa) Family YMCA.

**Michelle Bauer** is a chemist for the Ace Hardware Paint Division, Matteson, Ill.

**Nat Beal** married Jackie Paslay on April 22, 2006. He is a project hydrogeologist with WorleyParson Komex, Golden, Colo.

**Mark Behrens** is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments, Oswego, Ill.

**Anna Bjorklund** is a pediatric occupational therapist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center-Munroe Meyer Institute, Omaha.

**Susie Gabresleski Breitenstein** is a chiropractic physician at Breitenstein Family Chiropractic, Villa Park, Ill.

**Amy Calderone**, a sports reporter with Cal-Hi Sports, San Francisco, received the Emmy Award for Best Youth Segment

from the Northern California division of the National Television Academy.

**Maggie Capettini** and **Matthew Poplawski '00** were married on November 11, 2006.

**Esther Cosio** is market research manager at AstraZeneca, Wilmington, Del.

**Eric Gjerde** is a teacher and coach at Clear Creek Amana High School, Tiffin, Iowa.

**Aubrey Lueck Glaskin-Clay** had a daughter, Felicity Elise, on May 3, 2007 (*Eric*).

**Lisa Goergen** married David Kosnik on August 20, 2006.

**Mackenzie Hay** received the doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago. He is a surgical resident at Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center.

**Chris Hayden** is operations coordinator at SMG-Reliant Park, Houston, Texas.

**Nils** and **Migdalia González '99 Holgersson** had a son, Nils V, on January 18, 2007.

**Amanda Jones** is an internal medicine resident at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

**Barb Meinecke** received the doctor of medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and is now a general surgery resident at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

**Misty Johnson Meinig** is a human resource partner at Siemens Medical Solutions, Chicago.

**Brian** and **Heather Gartlich Miller** had a daughter, Rylee Paige, on November 7, 2006.

**Katie Nolan** is assistant state's attorney for Tazewell County, Pekin, Ill.

**Michael O'Reilly** married Beth Keough on December 31, 2006.

**Norm Ralph** is senior business systems analyst at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

**Steve Schafer** is the assistant men's basketball coach and the head women's golf coach at North Park University, Chicago.

**Jim Schuetz** is supervisor, information technology development, at Knapheide Manufacturing Co., Quincy, Ill.

**Julie Schuering Schuetz** is an attorney for the state of Illinois, Quincy.

**Ben Sigwarth** is a physician assistant at Greater Valley Medicine, St. Charles, Ill.

**Laura Sprague** married James Bernier on January 14, 2007. She is manager of marketing research insights for The Pampered Chef, Addison, Ill.

**Alan** and **Julie Denning '00 Wagner** had a daughter, Alexis Claire, on December 20, 2006.

### 2002

**Troy Charleston** is an English paraprofessional at Edison College, Naples, Fla.

**Erik Christian** is assistant director of human resources for the County of Peoria, Ill.

**Amanda Cole** is a pediatric registered nurse at Tripler Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Kathy Hitz Collins** had a daughter, Mary Catherine, on May 25, 2007 (*Robert*).

**Christine Okon Garmon** had a daughter, Corinne Diane, on October 27, 2006 (*Chad*).

**Corinne Gorskey** is manager of kitchen tools and gadgets at Wilton Industries, Woodridge, Ill.

**Hanna Hellsten** is a school psychologist at New Horizons Learning Academy, Las Vegas, Nev.

**Katie Killinger** is an executive assistant at Warner Independent, Burbank, Calif.

**Lindsey Kotz** is a channel marketing associate at World Kitchen, Rosemont, Ill.

**Stephanie Landis Lehrmann** is an English as a Second Language (ESL) and German teacher at Speaker's Corner Language School, Stahnsdorf, Germany.

**Victoria Monti** is a physical therapist at Spooner Physical Therapy, Goodyear, Ariz.

**Antonio Ortiz** is a registered pharmacist at Walgreens, Chicago.

**Amanda Read** is an addiction therapist for Chestnut Health Systems, Bloomington, Ill.

**Adam Rehmer** is senior account executive at United Healthcare, Chicago.

**Allison Risley** attends Rosalind Franklin University, Chicago.

**Emily Shenk** is an executive assistant at the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, Davenport, Iowa.

**Jonathan Sprawka** is senior financial analyst, bioscience, at Baxter Healthcare Corp., Deerfield, Ill.

**Spencer Sweet** is assistant general manager of the Madison (Wis.) Mallards Baseball Club.

**Sarah Swenson** teaches math at Sycamore (Ill.) High School.

**Emily Tate** is a healthcare economist analyst at GreatWest Healthcare, Rosemont, Ill.

**Karen Mason Tindle** is an admissions advisor for American InterContinental University online, Schaumburg, Ill.

**Elizabeth Woodworth** married Steve Tymonko on October 14, 2006.

**Traci Levy Wright** is a systems analyst at State Farm, Bloomington, Ill.

### 2003

**Nikki Ackerman** is marketing director at Gitz-Meier Remodeling Contractors, Freeport, Ill.

**Jessica Barwinski** is an autism family support advocate with SGA Youth & Family Services, Chicago.

**Brooke Baier Bass** had a son, Aaron ("A.J."), on February 19, 2007 (*Aaron*).

**Stephanie Beck** is a sales and leasing executive at Patrick Volvo, Schaumburg, Ill.

**Jason Brien** is an account executive at American Marketing & Publishing, DeKalb, Ill.

**Chris Brittain** and **Amy Mirus** were married on October 7, 2006.

**Jason Busch** is a legislative assistant for the state of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Nathan Fisher** is a consultant at Maximus, Rancho Cordova, Calif.

**Katie Schlessman Flint** is special events manager for the Champaign (Ill.) Park District.

The family of the late **Clint Franks** received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine at the May 2007 graduation.

**Eric Hanson** and **Larissa Stachniw '04** were married in June 2006. Eric is a senior business systems analyst at LaSalle Bank, Chicago.

**Kristi Hanson** received the J.D. degree from Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, Wis., and is now with the firm of Irell and Manella, Newport Beach, Calif.

**Erin Harding** is in the physician assistant program at Midwestern University, Downers Grove, Ill.

**Matthew Jennings** is assistant volleyball coach at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond.

**Teresa Kurtenbach** is political director for Friends of Phil Hare.

**Drew Long** is a certified public accountant at Pehlman & Dold, Springfield, Ill.

**J.T. Malak** is facilities office supervisor for the Park Ridge (Ill.) Recreation and Park District.

**Brian Mandel** is a transportation analyst at Smurfit-Stone, Chicago.

**Sheila Nguyen** is a senior policy analyst at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

**Sarah O'Hern** works for Family Resources, Davenport, Iowa, in the domestic violence/rape/sexual assault counseling and prevention program.

**Rusty Powell** is a programmer/analyst at Growmark, Bloomington, Ill.

**Alissa Grant Ritchie** received the doctor of medicine degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield. She is a pediatrics resident at

St. Louis University School of Medicine.

**Mary Rudakas** is account/project manager at Teleformix, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

**Heather Rusch** is a human resources generalist at Per Mar Security Services, Davenport, Iowa.

**Steven Schulz** married Narina Crain on May 27, 2007. He received the doctor of medicine degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford, and is a pediatrics resident at the University of Rochester (N.Y.).

**Crystal Shank** received the doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine. She is an associate veterinarian at Greenville (Pa.) Veterinary Clinic.

**Julie Lucchesi Smith** is a speech-language pathologist at New Trier High School, Winnetka, Ill.

**Drew Vaughn** is an attorney with the firm of Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck, Chicago.

### 2004

**Stephanie Allewalt** is a planner at Planning and Design Institute, Milwaukee, Wis., and an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

**Tami Arntzen** is assistant historic sites manager for the Macon County Conservation District, Decatur, Ill.

**Richard Barajas** is coordinator of multicultural student development at Iowa State University, Ames.

**Paola Boggiatto** is a graduate student at Iowa State University, Ames.

**Sean Christian** is an account manager at Grainger, Northbrook, Ill.

**Brad Dahl** is a manufacturing engineer at Altec Industries, St. Joseph, Mo.

**Robert Dobbins** is senior associate at BDO Seidman, Costa Mesa, Calif.

**Kathryn Gray** is an experiential educator at the Blue Ridge

Outdoor Education Center, Toccoa, Ga.

**Justin Hansen** attends DePaul University College of Law, Chicago.

**Jill Granet King** had a daughter, Naomi Colleen, on March 12, 2007 (*Azariah*).

**Julie Krygeris** is a registered nurse at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago.

**Amy Lestina** married Ken Tonaki on June 22, 2007.

**Brett Lewis** is national specialty program manager at Cintas Corporation, Chicago.

**Kevin Mahoney** is an applications engineer at Siemens Water Technologies, Vineland, N.J.

**Piper Mead** is in entertainment/marketing with the Chicago Cubs.

**Lisa Miller** is an operations manager at Tooty, Inc., Orland Park, Ill.

**Tricia Kostner Nicholson** is a speech-language pathologist for Genesis Health System, Davenport, Iowa.

**Tracey Power** is facility relations administrator at MicroTek, Downers Grove, Ill.

**Fraya Replinger** is a project manager at Taylor Studios, Rantoul, Ill.

**Elizabeth Martin Roush** attends Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Mo.

**Kelly Sarlina** married William Okel on August 5, 2006. She received the master's in communication disorders from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and is a speech-language pathologist at the Rainbow Center, Aurora, Ill.

**Julia Selzer** is a demand manager at Electrolux Homecare Products, Bloomington, Ill.

**Julie Spinoso** is events coordinator at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, San Francisco, Calif.

**Larissa Stachniw** and **Eric Hanson '03** were married in June 2006. Larissa teaches math at New Trier High School, Northfield (Ill.) campus.

Outdoor Education Center, Toccoa, Ga.

**Shannon Steinbis** is a speech-language pathologist for the Sycamore (Ill.) School District.

**Christopher Thomas** is a teacher, theatre director and speech coach at Moline (Ill.) High School.

**Kristen Torkelson** teaches math at New Trier High School, Winnetka (Ill.) campus.

**Alan** and **Kimberly Ward '94 Van Duyn** had a daughter, Maya, on November 24, 2005 (Hayley, 2).

**Kristina Whitney** is an animal handler at Niabi Zoo, Coal Valley, Ill.

**Lauren Wilkin** is a teacher for the LaGrange (Ill.) School District.

**Jason Williams** is a researcher at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

**Karen Wood** is a naturalist for the Minneapolis (Minn.) Park and Recreation Board.

### 2005

**Beaumont Biagi** is in customer and carrier sales for C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Elk Grove Village, Ill.

**Rachel Easley** is serving in the Peace Corps as a natural resource management extension agent in Mali, West Africa.

**Kristina Henson** is with Open Door Rehabilitation Center, Sandwich, Ill., as a qualified mental retardation professional.

**Nicholas Hieser** is a program analyst at the Rock Island Arsenal.

**Jason Ketchum** is a regional sales and marketing supervisor at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Chicago.

**Lindsay Maess** is in Somerset West, South Africa, caring for primates at Monkey Town Primate Centre sanctuary.

**Heather McGonigle** teaches at Jordan Catholic School, Rock Island.

**Kathryn Mecklenburg** is a physical therapy student at Midwestern University, Downers Grove, Ill.



## Peter Benson '68 receives Amicus Certus Award

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) honored Dr. Peter Benson '68, president of the Minneapolis-based Search Institute, at its 26th Annual Amicus Certus Gala in November. Benson, a leading authority on positive human development and author of *All Kids Are Our Kids: What Communities Must Do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*, was recognized for weaving together rigorous scholarship with a passionate commitment to influencing society to be more attentive

to children and adolescents. "There is no thinker in child development like Dr. Peter Benson, who looks at the development of children in such a positive basis, and who focuses not only on the importance of loving children, but also on teaching them to be loving people," said the Rev. Dr. Frederick Aigner, LSSI president. "He has had a remarkable influence across our nation in shaping both how we as mentors, teachers, leaders and communities view and approach children and adolescents, enabling them to thrive and engage constructively in life."

**Kirsten Lyons Merritt** is a criminal legal assistant in the law offices of Keith S. Knochel, P.C., Bullhead City, Ariz.

**Cristina Ornelas** is a clinical laboratory scientist in microbiology at Alverno Clinical Laboratories, Hammond, Ind.

**Adam Ramos** is in special markets advertising for Walgreens Corp., Deerfield, Ill.

**Cynthia Richard** teaches second/third grade at St. Francis School, Lumberton, N.M.

**Catherine Webb** is a speech-language pathologist at LICA, Mt. Prospect, Ill.

**Nick Yazbec** is a resource development associate for the United Way of the Quad Cities Area, Davenport, Iowa.

### 2006

**Michelle Allen** teaches third grade at W.C. Petty School, Antioch, Ill.

**Jaime Battaglia** is an associate account executive at Countrywide, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

**Lindsay Behrensmeyer Bayer** is the development and public relations coordinator at Just Kids Early Care & Education Centers, Milan, Ill.

**Phillip Bertucci** is an assistant manager at Walgreens, Chicago.

**Kyle Brill** attends Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich.

**Bekki Cheatham** teaches Spanish and coaches track, volleyball and scholastic bowl at Cambridge (Ill.) High School.

**Natalie Clayton** is a paraprofessional for Rockford (Ill.) Public Schools.

**Stephanie De Leeuw** attends Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Leigh Engstrom** teaches for the Davenport (Iowa) Community School District.

**Amanda Freel** is a law student at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Dusty Frelka** is a lab tech at Antech Diagnostic, Alsip, Ill.

**Kimberly Goldstein** works at Attea Middle School, Glenview, Ill.

**Ashley Hagemann** is a flight attendant for United Airlines.

**Sarah Kirberg** attends DePaul University College of Law, Chicago.

**Atisha Kumar** is patient coordinator at Bettendorf Pediatrics and Family Practice Associates, Bettendorf, Iowa.

**William Walter** works for the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Wauconda, Ill.

**Kimberly Weidner** is an admissions representative at Hamilton College, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

### 2007

**Mary Lee Aherne** is general music teacher (grades K-4) for the Grayslake (Ill.) School District.

**Sarah Altergott** attends Illinois State University, Normal.

**Lauren Anderson** attends the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

**Rachell Anderson** is a first-grade bilingual teacher for the Belvidere (Ill.) School District.

**Kyle Arthur** is a graduate student at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

**Laura Badtke** works for Huazhong Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei, China.

**Brigitte Baker** is with Teach for America, Denver, Colo.

**Katie Ballinger** works for Huazhong Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei, China.

**Phil Balzer** is a recruiter for Aerotek, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

**Aly Becker** is a caseworker for Children's Home & Aid Society, Bloomington, Ill.

**Jesse Bitting** is in the physical therapy program at Northwestern University, Chicago.

**Erin Blecha** is a graduate student in communication studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

**Jennifer Blitsch** is a graduate student in speech-language pathology at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**Brandon Bolhous** works for the St. Louis (Mo.) Public School System in special education.

**Meghan Bolte** attends John Marshall Law School, Chicago.

**Aaron Boulton** is a research assistant at DePaul University, Chicago.

**Ashley Bright** is a graduate student in molecular and developmental biology at the University of Cincinnati (Ohio).

**Mike Buckingham** is an auditor at Virchow Krause & Company, Oak Brook, Ill.

**Brian Burghgraef** is an auditor at Selden Fox, Oak Brook, Ill.

**Joe Caricato** is a physical therapy student at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

**Shanna Casey** attends the University of Illinois, Champaign.

**Dan Cast** attends the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

**Karen Clauson** attends Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

**Tony Clavio** is an account executive at Countrywide Financial, Davenport, Iowa.

**Beth Cloud** is a physical therapy student at Mayo School of Health Sciences, Rochester, Minn.

**Courtney Cook** is a public health graduate student at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Michelle Cripe** is a human resources specialist at Civilian Human Resources, North Central Region, Rock Island Arsenal.

**Susan Crumbaugh** attends Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

**Sheena Cunningham** attends Des Moines (Iowa) University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Dylan DeGrave** is outside manager at Twin Lakes Golf Course, Palatine, Ill.

**Stephanie De Pasquale** is a copy editor/page designer for the *Quad-City Times*, Davenport, Iowa.

**Rachel DePuy** is a biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island.

**Jason Dennhardt** works for AT&T, Hoffman Estates, Ill.

**Michelle Duncombe** is a program leader for AmeriCorps, Miles City, Mont.

**Patrick Edwards** is an investment representative for Edward Jones, Wheaton, Ill.

**Amanda Essling** attends Northern Illinois University School of Law, DeKalb.

**Andre Francois** attends the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Champaign.

**Tim Frey** attends George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

**Emily Frickenstein** teaches for the Institute of Reading Development, Long Beach, Calif.

**Beth Fries** is in the occupational therapy program at Rush University, Chicago.

**Nicole Gallucci** attends Loyola University, Chicago.

**Kate Giannini** is a staff accountant at FGMK, Bannockburn, Ill.

**Mandi Gilbraith** is a graduate student in speech pathology at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

**Stacy Gillson** is in the biomedical engineering program at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

**Emily Gilmore** is a graduate student in library and information science at Dominican University, River Forest, Ill.

**Melissa Gizzi** is a manager at Avanti Fine Furniture, Naperville, Ill.

**Robbie Hanover** is an account executive at Insight Media, Peoria, Ill.

**Meghan Harl** is a financial advisor at First Investors Corp., Lombard, Ill.

**Sarah Hartman** attends Kansas City (Mo.) University of Medicine & Biosciences.

**Maggie Hason** is a junior financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, Davenport, Iowa.

**Susan Heilig** is a graduate student in international relations at the University of California, San Diego.

**Chris Hennessey** is a financial consultant at Life Investors Financial Group, Davenport, Iowa.

**Cole Herwaldt** works for the Montana Conservation Corps, Kalispell, Mont.

**Jenni Hilgenberg** is a private string instructor at West Music, Moline, Ill.

**Tony Hobbs** attends Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

**Lyndsey Hoffman** teaches at McHenry (Ill.) High School.

**Samantha Hoffman** is a counselor with Family Resources, Davenport, Iowa.

**Kim Holland** is general music teacher at The Prairie School, Racine, Wis.

**Hope Hollingsead** is in the veterinary medicine program at the University of Illinois, Champaign.

**Amy Holcomb** is a graduate student in library science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Melissa Howard** teaches second grade for the McHenry (Ill.) School District.

**Curt Hurd** is a graduate student at The Ohio State University, Columbus.

**Brad Isbell** is the internet content manager at WQAD-TV, Moline, Ill.

**Jessie Jacques** is a graduate student at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

**Beth Jaenicke** is a life skills coach at the Children's Center for Autism, Cary, Ill.

**Carl Jannusch** is a physical therapy student at Rosalind Franklin University, North Chicago, Ill.

**Ross Jensen** is in the optometry program at The Ohio State University, Columbus.

**Brooke Jerbi** is a management trainee at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Davenport, Iowa.

**Hannah Kalk** attends Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

**Drake Kelly** is an account manager at Sentry Insurance, Chicago.

**Mike Kerr** is a financial sales agent at Life Investors, Davenport, Iowa.

**Shannon Keyes** is a management trainee at Enterprise Rent-A-Center, Schaumburg, Ill.

**ReAnna Kinkead** is an accountant at Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.

**Greta Knudson** is an inside sales representative at F.E. Wheaton, Yorkville, Ill.

**Megan Koepnick** attends Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

**Allison Kremer** is in the management program at Abercrombie & Fitch, Peoria, Ill.

**Carolyn Krueger** is an art instructor at The Family Museum, Bettendorf, Iowa.

**Alex Kurdej** is a sales representative at Career Builder, Chicago.

**Kaleena Laabs** is a graduate student in speech pathology at Illinois State University, Normal.

**Malary Lira** attends George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**Amy Lorenz** works for CSL Behring, Bradley, Ill.

**Emily Lush** is a graduate student in social service administration at the University of Chicago.

**Laura Madlinger** is an occupational therapy student at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

**Ashley Maxwell** is an executive team leader at Target, Galesburg, Ill.

**Megan McCullough** attends St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa.

**Molly McLean** attends Midwestern University College of Medicine, Downers Grove, Ill.

**Katherine McMickle** is a staff accountant at Caterpillar, Peoria, Ill.

**Juliet Miernicki** works for Liberty Mutual, Boston, Mass.

**Kyla Moffitt** is in the speech-language pathology program at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

**Jess Moore** is a graduate student at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.

**Brittany Mortensen** is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Deanne Muhs** is an associate analyst at AT&T, Hoffman Estates, Ill.

**Mike Murphy** attends St. Louis (Mo.) University.

**Sarah Murray** is office manager for the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Davenport, Iowa.

**Jen Newby** is a graduate student at the University of Chicago.

**Jennifer Nordan** attends Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Meghan O'Connell** is a customer service representative for Cambridge Educational Services, Des Plaines, Ill.

**Harold Ohrwall** is in the mechanical engineering program at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

**Emily Olson** is a physical therapy student at the University of Kansas, Kansas City.

**Jessica Olson** is a realtor at Mel Foster Co., Rock Island.

**Jacob Osterbur** attends Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens.

**Reed Panther** is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

**Tony Parker** is a recruiter for Aerotek, Schaumburg, Ill.

**Dan Pearson** attends St. Louis (Mo.) University School of Medicine.

**Michelle Peterson** teaches English at Aledo (Ill.) High School.

**Amanda Podgorski** is a sales manager at AFLAC, Lake Zurich, Ill.

**Megan Pence** attends A.T. Still University/Kirksville (Mo.) College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Brittany Raffel** is a staff auditor at Selden Fox, Oak Brook, Ill.

**Brigit Ray** attends the University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City.

**Jaclyn Ricchio** is a teacher for Imagine Schools at Desert West, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Barbara Ruane** is at the Financial Accounting Foundation, Norwalk, Conn.

**Vivian Stoeger** is a staff accountant at Century Business Services, Chicago.

**Dan Russell** is a credit manager at Wells Fargo Financial, Crystal Lake, Ill.

**Deanna Rybak** is a graduate student at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

**Peter Sakash** is in sales at John Sakash Co., Elmhurst, Ill.

**Gina Sammarco** attends National-Louis University, Evanston, Ill.

**Marisa Saunders** is a physical therapy student at Washington University, St. Louis.

**John Schneider** is a management trainee at Hydra Force, Lincolnshire, Ill.

**Leanne Schiro** attends Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Ryan Schmaedeke** is a physical therapy student at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

**Jon Sebby** attends Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

**Rebecca Sieb** attends Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**Derek Serrano** is a graduate student at the University of Illinois, Champaign.

**James Shearouse** attends Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

**Lindsay Shimko** is a graduate student in chemistry at DePaul University, Chicago.

**Kellen Sikora** attends the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

**Kyle Simpsen** is an underwriter at Country Insurance, Bloomington, Ill.

**Susan Simosky** teaches English at Riverdale High School, Port Byron, Ill.

**Shelley Sparkman** is an executive team leader at Target, Davenport, Iowa.

**Ryan Spengler** is a graduate student at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Stuart Steenhoek** is a marketing representative at Deere & Co., Kansas City, Kan.

**Vivian Stoeger** is a staff accountant at Century Business Services, Chicago.



**Greg Stopka** is a graduate student at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

**Elizabeth Stratton** is a counselor at Grand Prairie Services, Joliet, Ill.

**Brandon Swanson** is a physical therapy student at Rosalind Franklin University, Chicago.

**Jake Taylor** attends the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Champaign.

**Selvan Thamilavel** attends Western Illinois University, Macomb.

**Emily Tonkin** is a counselor/advocate at Family Resources, Davenport, Iowa.

**Jamie Towne** is a graduate student at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**David Triebes** is a loan officer at Countrywide, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

**Lyndsie VanDeWoestyne** is a graduate student at Eastern Illinois University, Charleston.

**Megan Vest** is an accountant at Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.

**Meghan Voiland** attends the Mayo School of Health Sciences, Rochester, Minn.

**Brian Vonderheide** is operations supervisor at Lowe's, Rockford, Ill.

**Maggie Wdowiarz** teaches Spanish at Johnsborg (Ill.) High School.

**Drew Wessels** attends The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

**Morgan Wick** is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater.

**Jennifer Wicks** is a sales representative at Cintas, Moline, Ill.

**Megan Williams** attends the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Champaign.

**Jesell Wilson** works in direct services for the Individual Advocacy Group, Moline, Ill.

**Sarah Wilson** attends the University of St. Francis, Joliet, Ill.

**Betsy Wolin** is a graduate student at Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo.

**Joe Youngbauer** is a teacher/coach for the Pleasant Valley School District, LeClaire, Iowa.

**Dana Ziganto** is a graduate student at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

**Kathy Zlabek** attends Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

## Deaths

(notices received as of June 30, 2007)

**Harold H. Slocum '28** on February 20, 2007.

**Mildred Hohenboke '30 Painter** on February 26, 2007.

**Ruth Murray '31 Burroughs** on October 7, 2006.

**Virgil Bozeman '32** on March 9, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Jean.

**Kermit Schroder '35** on March 12, 2007. Among survivors is his son, Kent Schroder '69.

**Ruth E. Carlson '36** on March 9, 2007. Survivors include her sister, June Carlson '46 Purse.

**Sylvia Zeilinger '36** on January 27, 2005.

**Marguerite Gustafson '38 Hunte** on June 3, 2007.

**Helen Jacob '38** on January 13, 2007.

**Cora Alyce Santee '38** on April 11, 2007.

**Earl Tenpound '40** on February 14, 2007.

**Arthur F. Carpentier '41** on April 22, 2007. Among survivors is his wife, Jeanette Bennett '42 Carpentier.

**Ordell W. Peterson '41** on February 17, 2007. Survivors include his son, Thomas Peterson '71.

**Doris Johnson '42 Blomberg** on April 15, 2007. Among survivors is her husband, C. Albert Blomberg '41.

**Phillip R. Pritz '42** on February 3, 2007. His wife, Fayoma, survives him.

**Richard A. Fehlman '43** on March 29, 2007. Among survivors is his sister, Polly Fehlman '46.

**Edith "Sue" Lindbloom '43 Hillstrom** on May 17, 2006.

**Leonard Hansen '44** on June 3, 2007.

**Marguerite Arend '44 Hinrichs** on October 20, 2006.

**Helen Beart '44 Thomas** on March 6, 2007. Among survivors is her husband, Mark '44.

**Marjorie "Midge" Lloyd '44 Wilson** on June 23, 2007.

**Hal C. Yingling Jr. '44** on January 1, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Maxine Sloan '45 Yingling and son, Hal Yingling III '70.

Eldon Koontz, husband of **Gloria Gustas '45 Koontz**, on November 23, 2006.

**Bruce L. Soderberg '45** on March 16, 2007. His wife, Bev, survives him.

**Franklin L. Nelson '46** on April 18, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Virginia Toohey '51 Nelson.

**Vivian Larson '47 Schmidt** on April 8, 2007. Her husband, Jack, survives her.

**Louis C. Arp '48** on December 5, 2006. His wife, Patricia, survives him.

**Norman C. Lindahl '49** on March 2, 2007. His wife, Irmgard, survives him.

**Janis Roll '49 Peterson** on December 3, 2006.

**Mary Ellen Carlson '50 Johnson** on June 12, 2007. Survivors include her husband Robert '48.

**James E. Lundborg '50** on October 27, 2006. Survivors include his daughter, Paula Lundborg '74 Moore, and sons, Jay '76 and David '87.

**John Lundeen '50** on March 19, 2006. His wife, Shirley, survives him.

**Ray E. Mahlo '50** on February 15, 2007.

**George C. Simpson '50** on May 2, 2007. Among survivors is his daughter, Karen Simpson '81 Oehlwein.

**William Slattengren '50** on March 7, 2007.

**Georgia Curran '52 Baird** on December 2005. Survivors include her husband, Richard '51.

**James A. Burton '52** on April 6, 2007. His wife, Eileen, survives him.

**Dorothy Benson '52 Dilley** on February 26, 2007. Her husband, Robert, survives her.

**Paul H. Maharris '52** on February 23, 2007.

**Patricia Corry '53 Garner** on June 14, 2007.

**Richard F. Harvey '53** on February 1, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Eileen Paulson '54 Harvey; daughter, Cynthia Harvey '79 Hildner; and sons, Peter '83, Richard '87 and Kevin '92.

**Ann Peterson '54 Hinson** on February 24, 2007. Her husband, Dan, survives her.

**Vern Swanson '54** on January 29, 2007. His wife, Janet, survives him.

**Carole Sands '55 Hegg** on March 18, 2007. Among survivors is her husband, Hollis Hegg '52.

Lyle Peterson, husband of **Jean Hubbell '55 Peterson**, on June 25, 2007.

**Elouise Kruse '55 Tolo** on April 16, 2007.

**Duane S. Anderson '56** on February 22, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Martha, and son, Greg '82.

**Nam-Yearl Chai '56** on May 5, 2006.

Robert Kopriwa, husband of **Carol Johnson '57 Kopriwa**, in February 2007.

**Rosa Verger '57 Ziffrin** on March 28, 2007. Her husband, James, survives her.

**Arthur Zwicker '59** on May 17, 2007.

Robert Decker, husband of **Barbara Arnstedt '60 Decker**, on May 14, 2007.

**Phillip S. Olson '61** on May 31, 2007. His wife, Arla, survives him.

**Daniel N. Mendini '62** on June 18, 2007. His wife, Joyce, survives him.

**Thomas G. Tingle Jr. '62** on June 24, 2007. His wife, Carole, survives him.

Roland Ruhl, husband of **Mary Enstrom '64 Ruhl**, on September 8, 2006.

Dennis Ellett, husband of **Phyllis Burkhiser '68 Ellett**, on April 28, 2007.

**John K. Axel '70** on September 22, 2006. His wife, Judith, survives him.

**Helen Rusted Jensen '75** on May 1, 2007. Among survivors is her husband, Robert, and daughter, Jane Jensen '81 Reese.

**Barbara Kuester '75 Reagan** on February 22, 2007. Her husband, Sheldon, survives her.

**Barbara Cunningham '77 Haggard** on May 12, 2007. Survivors include her husband, Eddie '76.

**Thelma Newborn '78** on May 4, 2007. Survivors include her daughters, Pamela Newborn '69 Tamres, and Linda Newborn '73.

**Richard "Rudi" Sawyers '81** on June 17, 2007. His wife, Judy, survives him.

**Mark T. Salaway '83** on February 22, 2007. Among survivors is his wife, Rebecca.

**Janet Bartecki '88 Comings** on April 2, 2007. Survivors include her husband, Thomas.

**Elizabeth L. Ludwig '02** on March 15, 2007.

AMY PEARSON '09



The Augustana College Theatre presented Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* last fall. Winter and spring productions are listed below.

## On stage

**Augustana College Theatre (ACT)** • *The Fantasticks*, Feb. 8-10 and Feb. 14-16, Potter Theatre

**Augustana Jazz Ensemble** • Feb 15, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Three Choirs Concert** • Feb. 16, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana Choir** • Feb. 17, 2 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Jazz Combo Soirée** • Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

**ACT Short Play Festival** • Feb. 22-23, Potter Theatre

**Augustana Concert Band** • Feb. 23, 2 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana Symphony Orchestra** • Feb. 23, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana Symphonic Band** • March 15, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**UNYK Multicultural Dance Ensemble** • April 4-5, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana at Orchestra Hall, Chicago—Augustana Choir, Symphonic Band and Symphony Orchestra** • April 13, 8 p.m.

**Augustana Chamber Singers** • April 19, 2 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

**Augustana Dance Company** • April 18-19, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Opera@Augustana** • Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, April 26-27, Centennial Hall

**Augustana College Theatre (ACT)** • *Romance Language*, May 2-4 and May 9-11, Potter Theatre

**Augustana Jazz Ensemble** • May 9, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Three Choirs Concert** • May 10, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Jazz Combo Soirée** • May 14, 8 p.m., Wallenberg Hall

**Augustana Choir** • May 16, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana Concert Band and Symphonic Band** • May 17, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

**Augustana Symphonic Band** • May 24, 2:30 p.m., Bergendoff Lawn

**Augustana Music Festival** • May 24, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall

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

*Forest Landscape Study* by Paul Cézanne (gift of Professor Irma Adelman, Augustana College Art Collection) is on display through March 29 in the "Liberal Arts through the AGES Revised" exhibit.





"The fallen snow" by Ashley Biess '09