The Sibelius Academy, located in Helsinki, Finland, was founded in 1882. The Academy is named for the internationally renowned and loved Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. As a state music academy, the Sibelius Academy enjoys university status and is an integral part of the system of higher education in Finland. It is the only university of music in Finland, and the largest in Scandinavia.

World-class student musicians from the prestigious music academy are invited annually by Finlandia University to present a series of outstanding public performances. This year, three consecutive evening concerts will be presented at the historic Calumet Theatre; an additional festival concert will be presented at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheaton, IL.

This year’s award-winning performers are solo pianist Marko Mustonen, piano-cello duo Anna Kuvaja and Alexander Gebert, and chamber music quartet Soli Amici (Annu Salminen, horn; Paula Kitinoja, oboe; Timo Jäntti, bassoon; and Kaisa Koivula, clarinet; with piano accompanist Jussi Rinta).

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Faculty and staff to participate August 10-14, 2005

The College of Professional Studies
The Dean’s Perspective: Carol Bates

PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS
The Elementary Education Program

Keeping Us Safe
The Criminal Justice Program

IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE
The Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Compassionate Human Services
The Rural Human Services Program

KEEPING US HEALTHY
The Nursing Program
Readers of *The Bridge* familiar with the liberal arts tradition of many church-related institutions of higher education may be surprised to learn that Finlandia’s College of Professional Studies offers degrees in five professional programs – nursing, elementary teacher education, rural human services, criminal justice and physical therapy assistant. Not infrequently I am asked, “Why do you offer career-oriented programs? Aren’t you a liberal arts institution?”

Our three reasons for offering these programs are: 1) the expressed interests of our students, especially those from the Upper Peninsula; 2) local sustainable community development needs; and 3) our Lutheran heritage.

The majority of our students come to us with educational aspirations focused on the ability to obtain good-paying, professional careers upon graduation. Thus, our professional programs respond to the expressed needs of our students. The majority of our students come from low- to moderate-income backgrounds, and seventy-two percent are the first in their families to attend an institution of higher education. Combined with the limited employment opportunities in our local area for those without professional skills, this focus by students on professional training is not surprising.

Second, all five of our professional programs were established in response to requests by local community leaders and groups to meet community needs. To demonstrate the role we play in meeting the health care needs of area residents, I sometimes jokingly suggest that the more than 275 nurses now working in the local area who obtained their degrees at Finlandia should stay home for a day. Over twenty-six percent of all our graduates have remained in the local area to work, and thereby contribute to the educational, physical, social and cultural well being of the area.

We know that if sustainable economic development of our area is to be a reality, we must address the overall well being of area residents. To attract new small businesses, and to convince our graduates that they can successfully start new businesses in the local area, quality of life issues need to be addressed. We see our professional programs as a necessary adjunct to the efforts of our Business Innovation Center to attract and help establish small businesses in our business incubator.

Third, our mission states that we are “dedicated to...service.” ‘Service’ is our code word for the Lutheran understanding that each human being has a vocational call to serve God and his/her fellow human beings. Thus, not only do we as an institution feel called to serve the needs of the people living within our service area, we encourage our students to listen for and respond to the call to serve. Because some of our students are called to work in professional careers, we believe our programs are within the Lutheran tradition of educating people to respond to their vocational call.

Finally, we believe that the professional education we offer, within a framework committed to the liberal arts, better prepares our graduates to respond to their vocational call than would a similar professional program without a liberal arts component. All of the graduates of our professional programs complete a liberal arts core of courses. We believe it is this liberal arts core that accounts for employers and clients telling us that, while our students are comparable to other professionals with regard to knowledge and skills, they bring something more to their work. This ‘something more’ demonstrated by our graduates we believe is derived from their encounters with the liberal arts, including an ability to think imaginatively and critically about the service they offer others, and to approach those they serve with empathetic understanding and caring.

In short, we believe that our College of Professional Studies meets the needs of students and the local community, while helping to prepare graduates who are committed and able to serve God and their fellow humans. We credit the liberal arts and our role as a college of the church for adding value to the professional education we offer our students.

Robert Ubbelohde, President
Finlandia University faculty and staff will participate in a variety of Finn Grand Fest 2005 events the week of August 10-14, 2005, in Marquette, MI. Please visit www.finngrandfest2005.com for a complete schedule. Final dates, times, and locations for the activities below are still being finalized by festival organizers. Please contact Randy Heinonen, Director of Alumni Relations, at 906-487-7205 or randy.heinonen@finlandia.edu with questions about Finlandia’s participation in these activities.

**Tori Market:** North Wind Books and The Lion’s Den will offer a selection of Finlandia, Finnish and Upper Peninsula-related items and books. Staff from the Finnish-American Heritage Center and the Finnish American Reporter will also be on hand.

**Finnish-American Architecture Display:** A multi-panel display developed by the Fellows of Finnish-American Architecture highlights the accomplishments of Finnish-American architects.

**Panel Discussions and Presentations:**

- President Robert Ubbelohde will give a presentation about the Finnish model of economic development.
- Fine Arts Associate Professor Melvin Kangas will direct an encore presentation of the play, Gala Day at the Cooperative Store.
- FAHC Director James Kurtti will participate in two panel discussions, the first exploring Finnish-American identity, the second about the teaching of Finnish language and culture in local public schools.
- English Professor and author Lauri Anderson will discuss his book Misery Bay, a collection of stories about Finnish-Americans in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

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**Please Join Us!**

You are cordially invited to Finlandia University’s Friends and Alumni Reception at Finn Grand Fest 2005 in Marquette, MI. The reception will be held Thursday, August 11, 2005. Please contact Doreen Korpela at 906-487-7205 if you would like an invitation. We hope to see you there!
April 26th – May 28th, 2005
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 30th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Finlandia University International School of Art and Design Diploma Works Exhibition**

The exhibit features the “diploma works” of Finlandia University International School of Art and Design students graduating in 2005 with a B.F.A. The exhibit pieces represent a graduating student’s final body of work and take the form of intensive research projects, a series of individual artworks, or design prototypes.

June – July, 2005
Opening Reception: To be announced.

**Ann Klefstad: Forest Forest**

*Forest Forest* is an installation originally created for the Duluth Art Institute’s John Steffl Gallery. Consisting of a maze-like environment of 4x8 plywood panels painted with forest trees and animals, *Forest Forest* produces a kind of cubist forest in which visual perspective is constantly changing.

July – September, 2005
Opening Reception: To be announced.

**Mirror of the Wood: A Century of the Woodcut Print in Finland**

Organized by the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, this touring exhibition of 70 prints by 39 Finnish artists evokes the aura of Finland, a place of pristine forests and lakes. The exhibition explores the past and the present, the influence of place, and the Finnish cultural affinity for nature and design.

The Finnish-American Heritage Center Gallery promotes Finlandia University’s Mission: A Learning Community Dedicated to Academic Excellence, Spiritual Growth and Service, through exhibitions of contemporary Finnish, Finnish-American and American artists. Beyond advancing the arts in our region, the gallery provides educational resources for our community, and is a gathering place for people to discuss and reflect upon art. One of our goals is to become a leading exhibitor of Finnish and Finnish-American art nationwide.

Carrie Flaspohler  
*Gallery Director*
THE DEAN’S PERSPECTIVE:
CAROL BATES

Linking Students with the Community

by Carol Bates

The College of Professional Studies (CoPS) is, above all, a network of programs, resources and people. The students attracted to CoPS programs want to serve people in direct, concrete ways. Besides providing the theoretical background generally associated with a university education, CoPS programs link students and the wider community to their mutual benefit: students receive professional, hands-on training and the chance to begin serving others, while the community has the opportunity to participate in the professional formation of the people who will be responsible for its health, safety, and education. Students become professionals capable of acting as agents for growth, productivity, creativity and humane values.

For occupations served by CoPS programs, both traditional classroom courses and professional skills are important; but alone, neither is enough. CoPS is committed to a reflective and applied educational experience that focuses on acquiring and distributing applied knowledge in established professional fields. This educational experience begins with courses supporting collaboration, continual improvement, and positive ethics and values in the professional fields. These courses prepare students to combine their broad liberal arts backgrounds with specialized training that applies to both their everyday lives and their careers. Then, working with area professionals, faculty secure practicum and internship sites for our students. Internships, clinical experience, fieldwork and service learning opportunities provide students with the real world experience employers seek. Our faculty members work with their professional colleagues in reflective practice.

This “reflective” aspect is important. We view change as a productive opportunity for growth; and we stay attuned to new needs of the professions and communities we serve. Based on regular, systematic feedback from our students and from professionals in the CoPS fields, we welcome the opportunity to reflect on and improve our practices. We support the value of scholarship and service. One of our goals is to enable our graduates to join a community that understands the central role that human resources play in shaping social and environmental conditions and responding to societal needs. Graduates of our programs have gained a well-deserved reputation for being prepared to meet the demands of rapidly changing educational, criminal justice, human service and health care systems.

As Dean of the College of Professional Studies, I would like to invite prospective students to explore our programs. Each of them involves critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making and the application of knowledge in real world situations. And you’ll see that you can make a difference.
The Finlandia University women’s basketball team won the first-ever Association of Division III Independents Women’s Basketball Northeast II Region Championship February 25-26, 2005, at the Robison Athletic Center at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY.

With an overall season record of 14-11, the Finlandia women earned the no. 2 seed in the competition. The Lions faced no. 3 seed Meredith College (8-11) of Raleigh, NC, in the first round of championship play. Finlandia finished with an easy win, 35-62. Sophomore Brooke Sirard posted 16 points on 8-of-13 shooting (.615), six blocked shots and three boards. For her outstanding play, Sirard was named MVP of the tournament and Division III Independents Tri-Player of the Week.

“Overall, we were the best defensive team, and we had much more depth than our opponent,” says Nordstrom. “We dominated the paint area both offensively and in rebounding.”

The Lions faced a bigger challenge in the championship game against no. 1 seed New Jersey City University of Jersey City, NJ. Down by six with five minutes remaining, the Lions went on a 22-7 run to snatch the win, 58-49. Kristina Nikkonen of Malmo, Sweden, hit two key three-point baskets in the last five minutes to help in the win. “She was positive and focused as the Lions fought back and overcame some adversity,” states Nordstrom. Sirard also posted high marks to lead the team with 8-of-15 shooting (.533), 18 points, nine rebounds, and four blocks.

Senior Jessica Koski was named to the All-Tournament team with an average of ten points per game. “Jess played a pivotal role on the team,” says Nordstrom. “It was a great way for Jess to end her career. She worked very hard to become a complete basketball player.”

“Our regular season always prepares us for the post season,” says Nordstrom. “But having players on the team who experienced post season play last year (Nikkonen, LaPointe, Voigt, Koski, Vivian, Barney, and Sirard) helped us play harder and learn more from tough situations.”

The inaugural season of the Finlandia women’s hockey program was a learning and fulfilling experience for the entire team and staff. Starting the season with 18 players, and only one with previous collegiate experience, the team displayed tremendous competitive spirit.

As the season progressed, the team matured, each week gaining confidence. The women finished the season with ten skaters and two goaltenders. The “short bench” proved unfortunate in the outcome of several games. However, the Finlandia women can be proud of their efforts, leading and controlling the tempo of many games against nationally ranked opponents.

“It was a wonderful and insightful experience watching these young women compete as they did, never giving up,” comments Head Coach Chris Salani. “By the end of the season, the core of our team came together and displayed tremendous courage and ‘sisu.’”

Next season, several outstanding new recruits will fill the open roster positions, and additional home ice contests will be added. “Our new home at the Houghton County Arena and the completion of the new women’s locker rooms will bolster our ability to attract and compete for top notch student-athletes,” says Salani.
SPORTS NEWS

Nordic Skiing - Team Makes Amazing Strides In Performance

The Finlandia Nordic ski team completed their second season February 15-16, 2005, at the Central NCAA Regional Championships held on the Michigan Technological University ski trails. Competing against national class collegiate skiers from throughout the Midwest and Alaska, the Finlandia skiers were able to gauge the improvements they made over the course of the season.

While no team members placed, their performance was impressive. When the team first took to the snow in November, many were new to cross country skis. Starting with the basics, Nordic skiing coach Christopher Schmidt spent the early part of the season instructing the skiers on proper technique. Once the athletes gained confidence through training and races, their improved technique and physical condition led to amazing strides in performance. By the end of the season, after stepping up to the line for races in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, most team members were just seconds away from moving up in the rankings.

Junior Michelle Kuure of Houghton, MI, led the women’s team throughout the season. Her experience on skis and natural athletic ability helped her move past some of the competition at the Regional Championships. Michelle competed in both classic and freestyle events in the final race of the season. Krystal Reed, Lauren Roell, Lisa Graham, Hannah Norman, and Alana Evans rounded out the women’s team.

In his second year on the team, junior Sean Yahn of Oak Creek, WI, was the top male skier. Freshman Justin Nantelle of Crystal Falls, MI, made excellent progress and is sure to be on Yahn’s heels next season.

“Everyone on the team has excellent classic form now,” says Schmidt. “Next year we’ll spend more time training to build strength and physical condition.”

Men’s Basketball - Tough Post Season Competition

The Finlandia University men’s basketball team competed in the first-ever Association of Division III Independents Men’s Basketball Northeast Region Championship on February 25-26, 2005, at the Harold Alfond Center on the campus of St. Joseph’s College in Standish, ME.

With an overall season record of 13-12, the Finlandia men earned the no. 4 seed in the competition. In the first round of championship play, the Lions faced no. 1 seed Lincoln University (20-5) of Lincoln University, PA.

“Lincoln University had an obvious size advantage and two outstanding players that combined for 66% of their scoring,” says Head Coach Charlie Kemppainen. The Lions got off to a slow start and fell behind 56-37 at the half. Down 81-63 with less than ten minutes remaining, Finlandia was able to cut the margin to 85-81 with six minutes to play, but the Lions were defeated, 95-87.

In the consolation game, Finlandia battled St. Joseph’s College and walked away with the victory, 80-71. “I am proud of how we played. We didn’t let the disappointment of the night before affect the job of that day,” states Kemppainen.

Junior Victor Harrington was named to the All-Tournament team. In the two tournament games, he averaged 23 points, seven rebounds and one block. “All season many players, including Victor, made key plays to position us for success,” says Kemppainen. “Playing in tournaments throughout the year prepared us to play back-to-back nights with something on the line.”

“In all, the trip was very good,” states Kemppainen. “We proved our ability to compete with East Coast teams. It doesn’t matter how big the school is or how big (or small) the players are. It’s playing together as a team that allows us to compete with anyone.”
The first several months of 2005 were very busy at the FAHC. At the Gallery, the exhibit, *Rags, Rugs, and Weavers: A Living Tradition* displayed rag rugs made by first-generation immigrant weavers alongside the work of several contemporary Upper Peninsula weavers, including Finlandia Art & Design instructor Phyllis Fredendall. The *2004 International Asian Sumi-E Painting Contest and Touring Exhibition* featured the work of Chinese brushwork artists from Japan, Taiwan and the United States selected from more than 5,000 entries. Included among the artists were Finlandia students Susan Sanders and Yu Han Liaw, and Finlandia University art professor Yueh-Mei Cheng.

In January, the sixth annual Copper Country *Heikinpäivä Celebration* took place in downtown Hancock and at the FAHC. Heikinpäivä celebrates the area’s Finnish-American culture and traditions with a parade and a variety of Finnish-themed events. In February, historian *Varpu Lindström* visited the Heritage Center to screen and discuss the documentary film, “*Letters from Karelia*”. Extensively researched by Lindström, the film follows the son of one Finnish-American immigrant as he retraces through Karelia the footsteps of a father he never knew.

### Staff & Faculty Service Awards: Long-term Employees Recognized

Seventeen faculty and staff with a combined total of 205 years of service to the university were honored at the annual Finlandia University Employee Recognition Luncheon in January.

Jon Ahola, School of Professional Studies faculty member and director of the Criminal Justice degree program, was honored for 25 years of service. Five employees were recognized for 20 years of service: Cindy Lorenz, Assistant to the Registrar; Stewart McCabe and Brenda Parker, both Assistant Professors of Nursing; Dave Paskvan, Food Service; and Carol Ruitta, Housekeeping.

Janine Notke, Administrative Assistant, Facilities Management, was recognized for 15 years of service. Three employees were recognized for 10 years of service: Scott Blake, Information Systems Administrator; Gerry Hess, Student Support Services; and Kathleen Lakanen, Vice President for Advancement.

And, seven faculty and staff were honored for 5 years of service: Pam Alatalo, Educational Talent Search Coordinator; Signe Carstens, Assistant Librarian; Christina LaVergne, Administrative Assistant, Nursing; Cheryl Maki, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Steve Nordstrom, Assistant Athletic Director and Head Women’s Basketball Coach; Joanne MacInnes, Director of the Business Innovation Center and Adjunct Business Instructor; and Susan Ubbelohde, Manager of North Wind Books.

### Campus Visitors

Finlandia University welcomed several guests to campus in February and March. Author *Susan Brind Morrow*, a McGregor Visiting Mentor, read and discussed excerpts from her work, spoke of her travels and archeological work, and participated with students, faculty and community members in a variety of activities. *Susan Burns*, managing director of the Global Footprint Network and an expert on sustainability issues, shared with students new approaches for measuring and reducing the human impact on our natural environment. *Art Stoffel*, CPA, a partner in the nation’s 5th largest public accounting firm, Grant Thornton LLP, spoke with students about recent changes in the accounting industry. And *Varpu Lindström*, co-editor of *Karelian Exodus: Finnish Communities in North America and Soviet Karelia during the Depression*, was at North Wind Books to sign copies of the new book, a collection of articles on the emigration of Finnish Americans and Finnish Canadians to Soviet Karelia in the early 1930s.
The Andersonville Trial

The annual Finlandia University spring theatrical production, *The Andersonville Trial*, was presented at the Finnish-American Heritage Center Theatre in early April. Directed by social science professor Dan Maki, *The Andersonville Trial*, written by Saul Levitt, is a drama describing the 1865 trial of Henry Wirz, the Confederate officer in charge of the notorious Andersonville, GA, Civil War prison camp. Wirz was the only Confederate officer to be hanged after the Civil War, and the only person executed in the United States for war crimes.

The play was performed in 'semi-round,' with the audience on three sides. Over 200 people were included in the cast of soldiers, judges, court personnel, lawyers, and of course the defendant, Henry Wirz. Finlandia students performed many of the play's speaking roles, including the important roles of Judge Advocate and Defense Counsel. Several experienced community theatre actors were also in the play.

Gift of Life

Finlandia University student participation in the 2005 Gift of Life “University Challenge” has resulted in the registration of more than 450 new organ donors on the Michigan Organ, Tissue and Eye Donor Registry – representing more than 75% of Finlandia’s student body! The annual competition, sponsored by Gift of Life Michigan, aims to increase donor registrations statewide.

As the winners of the competition, students collected the most donor registrations in proportion to Finlandia’s student body size. In recognition of their accomplishment, Finlandia University students will retain possession of the University Challenge Traveling Trophy until next year’s competition. Visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org to view the complete results of the contest.
The Finlandia University Elementary Education Program prepares students for careers teaching grades K-8. A 4-year program since 2001, the first baccalaureate class graduated in 2003. Today, 66 students are enrolled in the program, including 5 juniors and 10 seniors completing an intensive sequence of teaching methodology classes. Students learn from their professors and cooperating teachers, from each other, and from the school children themselves.

Substantial community collaboration is central to the success of the program. “Without the cooperation of our local public schools, we wouldn’t have an Elementary Education Program at Finlandia,” said program director Laurene Ziegler. Partnerships with 13 area schools provide the settings for four separate student placements in local elementary school classrooms, giving the student multiple opportunities to learn and develop effective teaching methods.

The program’s focus on graduate preparedness immerses the student in learning how to teach. In the freshman and sophomore years of study, a required core of liberal arts courses is completed. Subjects including English, math, science, history, ethics and psychology build subject matter knowledge and develop advanced thinking and writing skills.

Typically taken in the sophomore year, Educational Psychology (EDU 201) provides the student’s first classroom experience. Students now begin intensive study of teaching and learning theory, human growth and development, and contemporary school reform initiatives.

In their junior year of study, students complete six focused methods courses “immersing” them in learning how to teach. To complement the block of three methods courses each semester, students spend one full day each week in a local elementary-level school classroom.

In their final semester, senior students are partnered with a cooperating teacher in an elementary school classroom. In conjunction with a bi-weekly Student Teaching Seminar (EDU 499), this formal student teaching is considered a full load of classes. Students teach daily, following the calendar of the school district in which they are working.

Finlandia’s Elementary Education Advisory Council, comprised of university faculty and public school teachers and administrators, provides a forum in which the local community can participate in the refinement of the Elementary Education Program. The Copper Country Intermediate School District provides students and faculty access to its Curriculum Resource Center, and invites Finlandia students to participate in its annual Science Fair. The program also cooperates with the Copper Country Reading Council.

Marcia Drenovsky

Student Teacher Supervisor Marcia Drenovsky observes and evaluates the senior-level student teachers completing Finlandia’s Elementary Education Program. “The students do an amazing job,” says Marcia. “They have enough background in their courses, they’re really up to date with methods, and they know a lot about the state benchmarks and standards.” Now retired from teaching, for 28 years Marcia taught third, fourth and fifth grades at Houghton Elementary.

“I really enjoy working with the student teachers; and I don’t have a pile of papers to correct!” said Marcia. Marcia evaluates student teacher progress at least seven times throughout the semester. “I review their lesson plans, observe their teaching manner, how they deal with class management, and how well they cover the lesson,” said Marcia. She meets with student teachers periodically to offer feedback and answer questions.

Local schools recognize how good the Finlandia program is, Marcia said. “One of the things they are still amazed at is how many times I need to evaluate the Finlandia student teachers.” The norm for many teaching programs is to evaluate student teachers only twice in a semester.
Marcia suggests that new teachers become well informed about state and federal education standards and initiatives. She also urges new teachers to seek as much information as they can, “Go to conferences, communicate with people in other school districts, and stay connected with fellow teachers.”

Marcia earned her teaching degree at Western Michigan University and completed additional education coursework at Northern Michigan University.

**Linda Pepper**

An educator for more than 20 years, Linda Pepper has been principal of Chassell Elementary School for four years. For 16 years, she taught grades seven through 12 in local schools. This semester there are three Finlandia student teachers at Chassell Elementary. “The teachers love having the student teachers. It gives them a lift and some extra enthusiasm, especially in the spring,” Pepper said.

“I really like having the Finlandia students. They’re well prepared,” said Pepper. “Student teaching is the most important thing they do. All the academic classes are great, until you get your own little angels.” Finlandia does a nice job of getting students into the classes, Pepper continued. “Student teaching is where you learn to teach,” she said.

History, English and drama, in particular, are essential subjects for future elementary education teachers, said Pepper. “Elementary teachers, especially, often act as a bridge to other parts of the world for their students,” said Pepper. “If teachers don’t have a broad background, our kids can’t get it.”

“Organization is the number one skill needed by teachers today,” said Pepper. “Staying organized saves time, and teachers need lots of time.” Subject matter knowledge is also essential, and a new teacher needs a solid base of teaching methods. “Excellent skills in the teaching of reading are especially vital for elementary level teachers,” added Pepper. “A sense of humor and an upbeat personality are also helpful.”

Linda Pepper earned an undergraduate teaching degree from Michigan State University, her permanent teaching certification from Michigan Technological University, and a master’s degree in educational supervision at Northern Michigan University.

**Mark Nolan**

Mark Nolan graduated from the Finlandia University Elementary Education baccalaureate degree program in May 2004. In August 2004, he began his teaching career at L’Anse Elementary School. He teaches grades four and five in a split class.

“I feel that I got a really good start on my career,” said Mark. “Finlandia definitely prepared me for the challenges of teaching.” This is a good time to complete a teaching program, Mark said. Learning standards and student expectations are undergoing sweeping changes in the public schools. Because Mark completed his teaching degree as these new standards are being implemented, he learned about them in the program. “That was definitely a bonus,” said Mark. “It was a good time for me to come through.”

“I’ve always really enjoyed school,” said Mark. “Working with children and knowing that you can make an impact, even in a small way, is inviting.” Mark hopes some of his students will eventually remember him as a positive influence in their lives. “Of course, the hours are great, and the extracurricular activities and athletics are lots of fun.” Mark also coaches freshman basketball for L’Anse High School.

In his senior year at Munising High School, Mark attended a basketball trial sponsored by Finlandia University. “I was just finishing high school when Finlandia restarted their basketball program. It was a good opportunity for me,” said Mark. “I always liked the idea of a small school. If you need extra help, you have the opportunity for one-on-one time with faculty.” That was a persuasive selling point for Mark when he talked with Finlandia Director of Admissions Ben Larson and Assistant Athletic Director Steve Nordstrom. “Here it is five years down the road. I don’t regret a second of it. It was a great college experience. I met some great people along the way.”

Mark played on Finlandia’s basketball team for four years, helping the team win the NSCAA championship in 2001. “It’s an overused cliché, but basketball, and any sport, teaches you about life,” said Mark. “It teaches you self-discipline. If you want to become a good basketball player, you have to have inner drive and commitment. I think that translates well to any career.”

A combination of academic, social and athletic benefits contributed to Mark’s positive educational experience. “Socially, you meet people on the way who become lifelong friends. Academically, Finlandia’s education program is challenging and the faculty is very helpful.” And, Mark continued, the values gained in athletics translate well to academics. “When it comes to facing a challenge, are you going to back away or move forward? I decided to move forward.”

“No doubt about it,” said Mark, when asked if he felt ‘well-rounded’ as a result of completing the required 2-year liberal arts core of classes. “A combination of taking the liberal arts classes and experiencing the world gives me a feeling of having learned more.”

There’s a lot of responsibility that comes with teaching, said Mark. It takes commitment and dedication. “If you’re not willing to put in the time to educate these young minds, you’re not only letting yourself down, you’re letting down a roomful of kids.” If the kids are willing to come to school every day, Mark figures, he has no choice but to work for them. “I have a responsibility to the students, to their parents, and to the teachers in the next grades,” said Mark. “The students need to be prepared.”
Finlandia University’s Criminal Justice Program has been preparing students for law enforcement careers since the 1960s. Combining classroom and laboratory learning with practical field experiences, completion of the 2-year program prepares graduates to become certified to work as police officers in Michigan, or pursue related careers.

Among Finlandia’s outstanding Criminal Justice Program faculty are Phillip Kukkonen, 97th District Court Judge, Fraser Strome, Houghton County Assistant Prosecutor, and career law enforcement officer Jon Ahola. Captain Myles McCormack, who graduated from Finlandia’s Criminal Justice Program in 1979, illustrates the possibilities for success in local law enforcement.

Judge Phillip Kukkonen

For 14 years, the Honorable Phillip L. Kukkonen has been Chief Judge of the 97th District Court. For 20 years, he’s been teaching Criminal Justice courses at Finlandia University. “I get a lesson plan every day, literally, of the real life experiences, the motions, and the procedures that have to take place,” said Kukkonen. This spring, Judge Kukkonen is teaching Criminal Procedures (CRJ 208).

“Everything that I teach in the class, I live every day,” said Kukkonen. The class is approached from both the police officer’s and the lawyer’s perspectives. “It gives students some polish in the application of correct police procedures,” said Kukkonen.

Fully 25% of the law enforcement officers in Houghton County are Finlandia graduates. “The students who come to class and do their work will all get a job somewhere in the local area,” said Kukkonen. “Or if they want to, they can get work anywhere.” It just takes dedication, reasonableness and some common sense. “What we’re seeing is, the more education you have, the more options it gives you.”

“A law enforcement officer has the opportunity to help people change their lives for the better,” said Judge Kukkonen. “A police officer’s job includes exercising a certain amount of discretion and there is a lot of room for compassion.”

Judge Kukkonen earned his undergraduate degree from Northern Michigan University, and his law degree (J.D.) from the Detroit College of Law. Prior to his election to the district court bench, Kukkonen maintained a private law practice in Hancock, MI.

Fraser Strome

Fraser Strome has served as Assistant Prosecutor for Houghton County for more than 14 years. For 5 years, he has been teaching Criminal Law for Finlandia University’s Criminal Justice Program. “One of the joys of teaching is what I learn from students and the teaching process. Student questions and insights have made things exciting for me over the past five years,” said Strome.

Criminal Law (CRJ 205) covers criminal law basics, including the roots of criminal law in American society through present day changes. Students learn the elements of crime and the functions and sources of criminal law.

“Well-trained officers contribute to the preservation of constitutional guarantees for all individuals,” said Strome. “The collection, preservation and processing of crime-related evidence leaves little room for error on the part of the officer.”

“There is a dynamic blend among the faculty of Finlandia’s Criminal Justice Department,” said Strome. From a
practical approach, students are exposed to three essential views of the criminal justice system from those who actively make a living in law enforcement.

“It’s great that local students can get an education locally. And many students want to stay locally,” said Strome. “Things are competitive. The extra advantage of further education gives you an option to go into different areas.”

“From what I have seen, a large number of Finlandia graduates work locally in law enforcement,” said Assistant Prosecutor Strome. “I’ve come into contact with some pretty impressive people who graduated from Finlandia.”

“In every community, police officers are putting their lives on the line,” said Strome. But “being on the front line and helping others is personally and professionally rewarding.”

Strome earned a B.A. in history from Spring Arbor College in 1987. He earned his law degree (J.D.) from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1990.

**Myles McCormack**

“Finlandia provides an excellent foundation for an individual to build on to be successful in a law enforcement career,” said Captain Myles B. McCormack, Eighth District Commander for the Michigan State Police (MSP).

As district commander, Captain McCormack oversees the operation of 13 MSP posts covering 15 counties in the Upper Peninsula. McCormack joined the Department of State Police in September 1985. Prior to his employment with the Michigan State Police, McCormack was a patrol officer for the City of Houghton Police Department.

McCormack credits his successful career to “an excellent educational background starting with my attendance at Suomi College.” He graduated from the Northern Michigan University Regional Police Academy in 1980, and completed Department of State Police Recruit School in early 1986. In 1999, he graduated from the 197th session of the FBI National Police Academy in Quantico, VA.

“I owe a lot of my success to the education I received at Suomi College,” said McCormack. “A quality educational foundation is critically important in developing the job skills necessary to be successful in law enforcement.”

“A career in law enforcement provides a wide array of employment opportunities. It is all dependent upon an individual’s interest and desire.” McCormack adds that what is most important is to “focus on that desire and then work towards obtaining the educational background to support your particular interest.”

“Over the course of years, I have worked with and recommended for employment many Finlandia graduates,” said McCormack. He reports that Finlandia grads are well prepared. “It is important for individuals to give themselves every advantage possible, including obtaining a college degree,” he said.

“The personal and professional rewards of a law enforcement career reside in the ability to help someone during difficult and/or trying times. As a law enforcement officer, it is most gratifying to provide public safety and service to ensure the well being of citizens across the Upper Peninsula,” said McCormack.

**JON AHOLA**

For 25 years, career law enforcement officer Jon Ahola has directed the Criminal Justice Program at Finlandia University. His 34-year law enforcement career includes 18 years as Director of Public Safety for Michigan Technological University, 6 years as Chief of Police for the City of Hancock, and 10 years as a deputy/sergeant with the Houghton County Sheriff’s Department.

Jon Ahola will retire from Finlandia this year. “It has been a joy working with Finlandia students,” said Ahola. “It has forced me to stay active in law enforcement.” Ahola will continue his work as Director of Public Safety for MTU. “My retirement from Finlandia will give me more time to spend with my grandchildren and family,” explained Ahola.
Established in 1996, the Finlandia University Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program has developed a reputation for developing physical therapist assistants that are effective in the clinical environment. The program provides a strong academic foundation, simulated clinical experiences in the classroom, and on-site practice in clinical settings. PTA faculty helps each student maximize their learning experience and develop professional behaviors through an individualized learning approach where the student learns to self-assess their performance and develop the tools for life-long learning.

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), the 2-year PTA Program provides a low teacher student ratio and boasts 100% job placement over the past six years. Students have opportunities throughout the program to interact with professionals in a variety of service environments. Throughout the 2-year program, students spend a full 14 weeks (560 hours) actively applying their learning in a clinical setting.

Wendy Chynoweth

Wendy Chynoweth of Hancock, MI, graduated from Finlandia University in 1998 with an Associate in Applied Science PTA degree. She has been working at Keweenaw Memorial Rehabilitation and Fitness Center in Houghton for 6 years now. “I absolutely love what I’m doing. I’m a part-time PTA and full time mom,” said Wendy. “Finlandia is an excellent school,” said Wendy. “It really prepared me for my job.”

Wendy liked the small class sizes at Finlandia, the closeness to home and the professors in the PTA program. “The professors are all experienced physical therapists and they have a lot of clinical knowledge and experience to share with students,” said Wendy.

As part of her work at the Keweenaw Memorial Rehabilitation and Fitness Center, Wendy is the clinical instructor for several current Finlandia PTA students. “It keeps me refreshed,” said Wendy. She reports that the students are well prepared. And it helps Wendy, too. It adds a challenging dimension to her job and reinforces and adds to her base of health care knowledge.

The practical learning experiences required by the PTA program were invaluable to Wendy. “The way the clinical experiences are grouped really helps you learn,” said Wendy. One 4-week and two 5-week practicums are completed throughout the program. Early exposure to clinical settings...
lends students a point of reference for later classroom learning, and later clinical experiences help to apply that compound learning in a practical setting.

A PTA is respected as an integral part of a patient’s health care team. “PTAs work in conjunction with the physical therapist, doctors, nurses and many other health care professionals,” said Wendy. PTAs train patients in exercises, conduct prescribed treatments, and report to the physical therapist on the patient’s response.

As a PTA, Wendy helps people of all ages. “I love the job,” said Wendy. “It’s not at all monotonous. It’s rewarding to see patients progress. A lot of them are in pain and the physical therapy helps them to feel better.”

A PTA must be compassionate and relate well to people, said Wendy. And she should also have a desire to learn. Not every situation fits every patient, and a health care worker has to be able to think on her feet. A PTA must continually evaluate and revaluate a patient’s progress. “You have to be able to adapt and modify treatment plans for individual patient needs and limitations,” said Wendy.

Wendy feels positive about the job outlook for PTAs. “The whole physical therapy field is growing,” said Wendy. “Physical therapy is a very flexible field; a PTA can work in a hospital, school, home health setting ... There are lots of different opportunities.”

Teresa Colombino, Amasa, MI, will complete the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Finlandia this spring. She graduated in 2003 from Forest Park High School in Crystal Falls, MI.

Teresa didn’t picture herself working with computers or being an engineer. “I knew I wanted to do something in the health care field; and I wanted to help people,” said Teresa. Physical therapy has always interested her. In middle school, Teresa ‘job shadowed’ in physical therapy and liked it. “I still liked it as a senior in high school, so I decided to go on with it,” Teresa said.

Teresa also knew that she wanted to attend college close to home. When she began researching PTA programs, she discovered a lot of things to like about Finlandia. “I really do like it up here. It’s close to my hometown so it feels safe; and I have friends here. I like the local community; it’s very cute and it’s nice to be here.”

“I really like the small class sizes. That was one thing that brought me here. I’ve gotten to know the others in my class very well. And I like the teachers, which makes learning a lot easier. I’m getting a really good all-around education at Finlandia.”

Visiting different clinical sites keeps you mindful of what patients are capable of, and gives each student additional opportunities to interact professionally with others, said Teresa. “I learned a lot visiting the different health care facilities. It’s so helpful to be able to relate classroom learning in practical situations. When you’re actually on site, and the patient can’t do what is normally done for a condition, you have to learn more options.”

Psychology, ethics and other liberal arts core classes that Teresa has taken at Finlandia have also helped her to connect many of the things she has learned. “When I took ethics, and other liberal arts classes, I wondered why they were required. But once I started with the clinical experiences, I realized that the PTA needs to know a lot about ethics and the law. When I look back at what I’ve learned, I can see how those classes fit into my education. I have a better background and I can better relate to people. In the end it helps to pull it all together.”

Teresa is looking forward to helping her physical therapy patients. “When you really get out there you can help a stroke patient, for instance, restore mobility and functions that they were fully capable of before the stroke. It’s a rewarding thing. You’re giving back something.”

“One thing I looked at before I came to Finlandia was job placement,” said Teresa. The number of graduates that actually get jobs has been great for the PTA program at Finlandia.” She has talked a lot with the PTA teachers and looked at rates of PTA employment in her Geriatrics class. “Right now it looks good. There are quite a few openings. That’s encouraging,” said Teresa.

Teresa will soon be working as a PTA. And, starting this fall, she’ll also be working on a pre-med biology degree at Michigan Technological University. Ultimately, Teresa plans on earning a doctoral degree in physical therapy. “So in another six years, I’ll complete my doctorate,” said Teresa. She hopes to return to this area when she completes her education. “I like it up here,” she said.
In pursuit of their desire to ‘make a difference,’ Finlandia University Rural Human Services (RHS) students, through theory and practice, become better informed, and more compassionate and self-aware individuals. “Students enhance self worth, discover and hone effective communications styles, study the rules people live by, and begin to develop contacts to provide future clients with a link to society,” said Mary Tormala, Director of the RHS Program.

Established in 1999, the RHS Program bachelor of arts curriculum combines theoretical learning with pragmatic training through the completion of a core of liberal arts classes, extensive degree-specific coursework, and 350 hours of on-site practicum and internship work. A wide variety and number of community-based social services institutions provide practical, on-site opportunities for student learning.

“Students truly devote themselves to their work,” said Mary Tormala. “Over their 4 years in the RHS program, I can see the development and growth of student self-awareness and empathy. There’s nothing else like it.”

CHRIS ARMBRUSTER

Chris Armbruster earned an associate degree in business administration from Finlandia University in 2000. At that time, she had just started working in the clerical unit of the State of Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA). “As time went on, I wanted to go back to school,” said Chris, “and I could see how the four-year degree in Rural Human Services would help me advance within the FIA.” Chris completed her RHS bachelor of arts degree in 2003.

Finlandia was Chris’s first college experience. “I liked the one-on-one with instructors and the smaller classes,” said Chris. “The smaller campus makes it easier to get around. When I was working on my bachelor’s degree I was able to run up to campus at lunchtime to take a class; it was really convenient.”

Chris is much more confident since attending Finlandia. “I feel like I can do anything now. I’ve made some major life changes in the last few years and I’m doing a lot of things I’ve never done before. Having the education, advancing in my career, made me realize that if I don’t like something in my life, I can change it.”

“I’ve become a better person, inside and out,” says Chris. “I would definitely encourage anybody to go back to school. You grow in every area. You’re able to communicate better; you’re able to face new challenges knowing that ‘I can do this.’”

A ‘non-traditional’ student, Chris was in her 30s while attending Finlandia. “It definitely made me appreciate the opportunity to be there. I had the desire to make it work. And as a mother, I wanted to set a good example for my...
Chris has been working for the State of Michigan for more than 5 years. In that short span of time, she has advanced from a clerical position to an eligibility specialist to a caseworker. Chris now provides protective services for the Children’s Services unit at FIA. “There’s never a boring day. Every day is different,” said Chris.

Chris completed her practicum and internship degree requirements with her employer. “My first practicum was through the Hancock FIA Adult Services office. I also did some practicum work with FIA Volunteer Services. My internship placement as an Eligibility Specialist eventually became a permanent position. It worked out really well. I was able to work full time and go to school, too.”

Chris knows of three additional Finlandia Rural Human Services graduates working for the FIA. “I think that we’re gaining the respect that we deserve. The changes that have been made from Suomi College to Finlandia University, expanding the programs and offering the bachelor’s degrees, have made a world of difference,” says Chris.

“You have to get a degree in order to get a job that can sustain you,” said Chris. “Especially if you have a family. I feel so lucky the way everything has happened for me. State jobs are the best paying jobs in this area. If you want to find meaningful work and make a decent living to support yourself and family,” Chris repeated, “You have to have an education.”

**JACKI SEVER**

Jacki Sever graduated from Finlandia’s Rural Human Services Program in 2002. Originally from Minneapolis, MN, Jacki relocated to the Copper Country in 1999. She has been working at Dial Help, a local crisis center, for 4 years.

Finlandia was Jacki’s first college experience. She was relieved and inspired by the personal support RHS Program faculty provided in her early days at the university, and throughout her 4 years of study. “The faculty really made me feel welcome and part of the student body. This was my first opportunity to take college classes and, at age 40, I was nervous about it.”

“I especially enjoyed the literature and sociology classes I took as part of my degree requirements,” said Jacki. “The liberal arts classes gave added depth to my understanding and experience of humanity. It also introduced me to a lot of great books. The entire program developed my critical thinking skills and my capacity to empathize with others.”

Not only did Jacki’s senior year RHS internship at Dial Help allow her to apply what she had learned in the classroom, it led to a full time job! Dial Help hired Jacki several months prior to her graduation. “I love my work at Dial Help. We’re all very committed to helping others.”

At Dial Help, Jacki conducts classes with area youth for Project S.T.A.R.R. (Students Talking About Responsible Relationship). These youth empowerment groups give teens an opportunity to work with their peers to develop healthy life skills. “The classes help teens understand and talk about some important life issues,” said Jacki. She also works with several area families helping them connect with community resources they can use to improve their lives. “It’s challenging work, but the opportunity to make even a small difference in people’s lives is personally fulfilling,” she said.

**LEE LUOTO AND KRISTY HALGREN**

“The Rural Human Services program is meeting the needs and dreams of individual students,” says Lee Luoto, Director and Counselor for the Upward Bound Program at Finlandia University. Over the past three years, Lee has supervised the internships of three RHS students. “The program does a great job preparing graduates for work in all areas of social services, or for continued studies in a master’s level program,” she said.

Upward Bound provides academic services and personal support to many area high school students. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, its goal is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

“Each student is different and looking for different experiences,” says Lee. “Finlandia’s Rural Human Services Program does an excellent job tailoring learning opportunities to meet individual student goals.” Two years ago, Lee supervised a RHS intern interested in social policy and planning. Today that graduate, Jason Rice, is teaching English in Korea. Last year, intern Casey Arrowood was interested in the administrative aspects of social services. Casey is now completing a master’s degree in High School Counseling at Northern Michigan University.

This semester, Lee is supervising the internship of graduating RHS senior Kristy Halgren. Kristy wants to learn as much as she can about providing direct service to clients. Her internship duties have included assisting with Upward Bound Study Labs at area high schools. “Through my internship with Upward Bound, I have discovered that I really enjoy working with high school-age students,” said Kristy. “It’s good experience.”

“Lee Luoto has been a good educational and career mentor for me,” said Kristy. “She has shared many stories and helpful insights about social services work.” Kristy has enjoyed the small class sizes at Finlandia and the one-on-one time with professors. “The RHS professors are so awesome!” said Kristy. “They are compassionate and always willing to help students.”

Kristy Halgren will graduate this spring. She is planning to earn a master’s degree in social work. Lee Luoto is an alumna of Suomi College. She earned a bachelor’s degree in social
The evolution of Finlandia University’s Nursing Program is meeting the growing need for professional nurses in our local community and beyond. In their four years of study, nursing students complete a curriculum designed to further develop critical thinking and communication skills, and cultivate the compassion underscoring the student’s desire to enter the profession.

A personally and professionally rewarding occupation, nursing offers tremendous opportunities locally and nationally. Many Finlandia University graduates remain in the local community, and many work across the country. “Above all, those who seek employment upon graduation have had no difficulty in doing so,” said Fredie deYampert, director of the nursing program. The program boasts 100% job placement.

Nursing has been a program of study at Finlandia University since 1983. With the final class of Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) students graduating this spring, the transition of the program to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is nearly complete. “Nursing enrollment is up and student retention is improved,” said deYampert. “The 4-year program offers graduates greater opportunities in the long run.” The first BSN class will graduate in 2007.

The 4-year nursing curriculum continues its focus on clinical training and, to enhance the critical thinking abilities needed to connect theory to practice, requires coursework with explicit emphasis on mathematics, the sciences and the humanities. “The entire spectrum of nursing is covered, from skilled nursing through critical care, and from cradle to grave,” said deYampert. To reinforce classroom learning, students spend 1,125 clock hours in the on-campus skills lab and at diverse clinical settings in the local community. Upon successful completion of Finlandia’s Nursing Program, students are eligible to take the national certification exam required for practice as a registered nurse.

The Lasanen Sisters

The final graduating class of Finlandia’s ADN nursing program includes three sisters. Norah, Katie and Rachel Lasanen cited a number of reasons for choosing a nursing career, “Our Mom is a nurse, our aunt is a nurse, another aunt is in Finlandia’s nursing program . . . there has been a lot of family influence.” And their older sister, Becky Swykert, graduated from Finlandia’s nursing program in 2001. All the sisters agree that a degree from Finlandia is a great start.

Norah Lasanen of Calumet, MI, is the youngest of the sisters. She graduated from Calumet High School in 2003. “I went right into nursing at Finlandia,” said Norah. “I discovered that I wanted to be a nurse after taking a nurse’s aide class my final semester of high school.” She made her decision independently. “I didn’t know that Rachel or Katie were going until my Mom told me,” said Norah. Norah currently works part-time as a nurse’s aide at The Bluffs in Houghton, MI.

Katie Lasanen of Hancock, MI, graduated from Calumet High School in 2001, and studied pre-nursing for a year at Gogebic College. “I took a year off, then we all decided to go to Finlandia University,” said Katie. “We get lots of hands-on experience, and the instructors are really good.” Katie currently works as a nurse’s aide for Our Lady of Mercy Nursing Home and Keweenaw Home Nursing. “I chose nursing because I enjoy caring for people, especially the elderly,” said Katie.

Rachel Lasanen of Calumet, MI, graduated from Calumet High School in 1998. She has also earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Gogebic College. Rachel had been thinking about pursuing a nursing degree, and when she discovered her sisters had enrolled at Finlandia, Rachel did, too. Rachel has been actively involved in her education. When asked about outside interests, she laughingly replied, “Homework and school!” Rachel hopes someday to do travel-nursing, following in the adventurous footsteps of her sister Becky.

Becky Swykert of Mohawk, MI, is the oldest of the Lasanen sisters. Becky graduated from Finlandia’s nursing program in 2001. She works full time in the emergency room at Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center in Laurium, MI. “I love the ER,” said Becky. “Nursing offers a lot of excitement; it’s very fast paced.” Becky graduated from Calumet High School in 1995. She and her family spent 4 months in Florida last winter as part of a travel-nursing program. Said Becky of the advantages of a nursing career, “You’ll always have a job, you can work part-time or full time, and travel nursing is a big draw.”
Denise Cornish-Zirker
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News: Hello to all my classmates of Suomi 1989. The University of Michigan serves a dual purpose for me. I am currently employed by the University of Michigan Medical Center as a registered nurse and enrolled in school there for the master’s program. I married Fry Zirker in August of 1998 and we have one daughter (Janae) born July 2000. The hard work paid off!

Heidi DeAngelis & Daniel McCargar
Marcia Savela, ’60, announces the engagement of her daughter, Heidi DeAngelis, ’81, of Rochester, MN, to Daniel McCargar of Eau Claire, WI. Heidi is the proprietress of the Studio 6 Hair Salon in Rochester, and Dan breeds Arabian horses on his ranch in Eau Claire. A garden wedding is planned for July 3, 2005, in Dover, MN. The couple will reside at Dan’s ranch in Wisconsin.

Shelly Yealon & Johnseth Whitaker
HOUGHTON, MI – Shelly Jo Yealon and Johnseth Whitaker were united in holy matrimony August 7, 2005, at the Houghton Baptist Church. The wedding was officiated by Pastor Bruce Cargile. A reception followed at Bethany Baptist Church in Dollar Bay, MI.

Shelly is the daughter of Joe Ellen Yealon of Iron Mountain, MI, and Paul Yealon of Marinette, WI. Johnseth is the son of David and Denise Whitaker of Marquette, MI, and Chris and Susan Reinheimer of Charleston, SC.

Following a honeymoon trip to the Wisconsin Dells, the couple will reside in Houghton, MI. Shelly is working on a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Finlandia University. Johnseth is completing a correspondence program through the Christian Bible College of Rocky Mountain, NC, to earn a bachelor’s degree in theology.

The couple will spend their lives in full pastoral service for the Lord; they are both fully involved in their home church, Houghton Baptist.

It’s been 30 years LET’S REUNITE!

Everyone that attended Suomi College from 1975-1977 is invited to a reunion the weekend of July 29-31, 2005, at Finlandia University. What could be more fun than a dinner cruise on the Houghton canal 30 years later, a BBQ at McLains, or a pasty (smothered in ketchup of course) in the good old Suomi (Finlandia) cafeteria? If you get the Bridge and know an alumni that doesn’t, have them contact either Meg (Beardsley) Gustafson or Randy Heinonen at Finlandia. C’mon let’s get together, it’s been 30 years!

For more information contact:
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Randy Heinonen
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NHL star Keith Primeau and Avery Wilson after playing benefit hockey game.
ALUMNI NEWS

Shannon Palmer & Ross Rinkinen

COLUMBUS, OH – Mr. and Mrs. Scott Fulton of Columbus, OH, would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon Marie Palmer of Chassell, MI, to Ross Christopher Rinkinen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Rinkinen of White Lake, MI.

The bride-to-be is a third-year business and English student at Finlandia University. Shannon is employed as a dance and aerobics instructor.

The groom is a graduate of Finlandia University with a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies. Ross is an assistant coach for the Finlandia University men’s hockey program.

The wedding will take place June 25, 2005, at Grace United Methodist Church in Houghton, MI, with Pastor Tom Anderson presiding.

Shanda Jacques & Erik Miller

LAURIUM, MI – Butch and Mary Jacques of Laurium, MI, announce the engagement of their daughter Shanda to Erik Miller, son of Norbert and Margaret Miller of Lake Linden, MI.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of Calumet High School. She is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Finlandia University and will graduate in April 2006. She is currently employed by Center Ice Skate and Sport of Calumet, MI, and the Irish Times Restaurant and Pub of Laurium, MI.

The groom-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Lake Linden-Hubbell High School. He received a certificate in building trades from Gogebic Community College in 2000. Erik is currently employed by Joe Beveridge Construction of Bootjack, MI. He is also an active member of the Lake Linden Village Volunteer Fire Department.

A July 22, 2006, wedding is planned at Saint Joseph Church in Lake Linden, MI.

Pearl Currey & Matthew Parks

AHMEEK, MI – Don and Leslie Currey of Ahmeek, MI, announce the engagement of their daughter, Pearl Currey, to Matthew Ricson Parks, son of Ric and Carol Parks of Cayce, SC, formerly of Murrayville, GA.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Edward Conklin and the late Nan Conklin of Kailua, HI, and Marie Currey and the late John Currey of Nashville, TN. She is a 2001 graduate of Hope Christian Academy in Ahmeek, MI, and a 2003 honor graduate of Finlandia University with an associate’s degree in general studies. She is currently attending Toccoa Falls College in Georgia and will earn a bachelor’s degree in family ministry this December.

The groom-elect is the grandson of Monroe and Evelyn Garrett and the late Lillian Garrett of Suches, GA, and Bill and Bonnie Parks of Dalton, GA. Matthew is a 2001 honor graduate of North Hall High School in Gainesville, GA, and is currently attending Toccoa Falls College. He will earn a degree in youth ministry in May.

The couple plans a wedding on the beach of Lake Superior May 14, 2005.

Amy Lasanen & Thomas Seeger

CALUMET, MI – Raymond and Cheryl Lasanen of Calumet, MI, and Thomas and Mercedes Seeger of Boca Raton, FL, announce the engagement of their children, Amy Lasanen and Thomas Seeger.

The bride-to-be graduated from Finlandia University and is currently working as a registered nurse at the Delray Medical Center in Delray Beach, FL.

A June 4, 2005, wedding is planned in Calumet, MI.

Jamie Atkinson & Brian Kastelic

LAKE LINDEN, MI – Judge Susan Dobrich and Tom Atkinson of Dowagiac, MI, and Robert and Shirley Kastelic of Lake Linden, MI, announce the engagement of their children, Jamie Atkinson and Brian Kastelic, both of St. Joseph, MI.

The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Edwardsberg High School, and a 2002 graduate of Lake Superior State University with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She is currently employed as a foster care specialist with the State of Michigan Family Independence Agency in Berrien County, MI.

The future groom attended Molloy College and is currently a respiratory therapist at the Northwest Medical Center in Margate, FL.

A June 4, 2005, wedding is planned in Calumet, MI.

OBITUARIES

Pertti Pesonen

KANGASALA, Finland - Professor Pertti Pesonen, 74 a political scholar, journalist and civic leader, died at his home near Tampere, Finland, on January 29, 2005.

Pesonen was editor-in-chief of Tampere’s daily newspaper Aamulehti from 1979-1990. He taught political science at the universities of Turku (1961-65), Tampere (1965-71) and Helsinki (1972-79). He also frequently appeared on television news programs during elections to provide an analytical perspective.
He combined his political interests and journalistic skills in several articles and books, including *The Voting Power of Ordinary People* (1993) that he co-authored with Professors Sami Borg and Risto Sänkiabo, and *Dynamic Finland: the Political System and the Welfare State* (2002), a collaborative effort with co-author Olavi Riihinen.

Pesonen was a great friend to Finns in the U.S. as well. He was a popular lecturer, taking part in many FinnFest celebrations. He was a guest professor several times at major American universities.

He supported Finnish-American archival work in Finland, at Finlandia University, and at the University of Minnesota. As member of the Migration Institute Board in Turku, Finland, he actively promoted the writing of Finnish-American history.

He also took an interest in Finlandia University, serving as a member of the Board of Directors. He assisted in the college’s efforts to connect to Finland. He visited and spoke at the college, and promoted it to others.

In 1992, he held the first Government of Finland and David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor of Finnish Studies Chair at the University of Minnesota where he became a strong advocate for Finnish Studies. From 1972-1992, he was a board member of the Suomi Seura (Finland Society), serving as president from 1987 to 1991.

Pesonen believed in civic responsibility. For him, this meant becoming involved in the Church of Finland’s ecumenical activities outside Finland. He served as a lay member of the Church of Finland’s governing board while maintaining a strong relationship with his Kangasala parish church in the Häme countryside. From an early age, he led efforts to preserve Häme traditional culture and history. He understood the concept of thinking globally, while living and working locally.

**Elsa I. DeArmey**

COBURNTOWN, MI - Elsa I. DeArmey, 89, a former resident of Coburntown, MI, passed away December 18, 2004, at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility in Hancock, MI.

The former Elsa Sved was born November 17, 1915, in Franklin Township, MI, a daughter of the late Oscar J. and Hilma S. (Savolainen) Sved. She attended Franklin School, Hancock High School, and Suomi College.

In 1953, Elsa married Walter F. DeArmey. He preceded her in death. Following her service in the U. S. Army, Elsa resided in the Detroit area where she worked as a nurse at General Motors Hospital. She returned to the Copper Country in her retirement.

**Frank O. Kyro**

CHASSELL, MI - Frank O. Kyro, 82, a former resident of Chassell, MI, passed away December 29, 2004, at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility in Hancock, MI.

Frank was born August 7, 1922, in Elo, MI, the son of Hjalmer and Alma (Maki) Kyro. His parents immigrated from Finland to the Upper Peninsula. He attended the Doelle School in Tapiola, MI.

As a young man, Frank moved downtown and learned the masonry trade. He was a 40-year member and past president of the Bricklayers Union Local 6. He worked for Gundlach Construction, Mattila Construction, and in later years was self-employed.

In 1960, Frank married Phyllis Ann Niemi. Mr. and Mrs. Kyro raised their family in Chassell, MI. Frank enjoyed
singing with his wife at community events. He also displayed his acting abilities in a number of plays at both Suomi College and MTU.

**Jodi Vichich, R.N.**

AHMEEK, MI - Jodi Vichich, R.N., 41, of Ahmeek, MI, passed away January 2, 2005, at Keweenaw Memorial Medical Center in Laurium, MI.

Jodi was born May 12, 1963, in Hancock, MI, a daughter of Bernard and Dorothy (Kupari) Westerberg. She attended Lake Linden Schools. She married Mark Vichich in 1999. Jodi received her R.N. degree from Suomi College in Hancock, MI, and later worked for the Calumet Public Hospital in Laurium, MI. For nine years, she worked for UPCAP Services in Houghton, MI. At the time of her death she was employed with Portage Medical Group.

**Elma E. Tolonen**

ATLANTIC MINE, MI - Elma E. Tolonen, 84, a former South Range, MI, resident, died January 11, 2005, at Cypress Manor Nursing Home in Hancock, MI.

Elma was born July 7, 1920, in Atlantic Mine, MI, a daughter of the late Charles and Amanda (Seppanen) Tolonen. She graduated from Painesdale High School and attended Suomi College.

Elma was employed for many years at Commercial Systems in Houghton, MI. Until her retirement, she worked in the payroll and accounting departments at the Upper Peninsula Power Company.

**Claude H. Leinonen**

COVINGTON, MI - Claude H. Leinonen, 70, of Covington, MI, passed away January 16, 2005, at Baraga County Memorial Hospital.

Claude was born in Covington, MI, on April 9, 1934, a son of the late William and Alma (Tarvainen) Leinonen. He attended Covington and Watton schools and graduated from L’Anse High School. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. Claude attended Suomi College, and earned a B.S. degree from Northern Michigan University. In 1961, he married the former Verna Korpi. Claude taught social studies for 32 years in the Ewen-Trout Creek School District, retiring in 1993. He was a member of the Stanley R. Rajala Am-Vets Post 1190.

From 1980 to 1996, Claude served as the Covington Township Supervisor. He also served on many community boards, including Baraga County Memorial Hospital and the Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility.

**Ruth Olkkonen**

MOHAWK, MI - Ruth Olkkonen, 67, of Mohawk, MI, died February 23, 2005. Ruth was born November 15, 1937, in Elgin, IL, a daughter of the late David and Mary (Saylor) Anderson. She attended Elgin Public Schools.

Ruth was first married to Thomas O’Neill, who passed away in 1969. She moved to the Copper Country in the early 1970s where she married John Olkkonen; he passed away in 1997.

Ruth attended Suomi College for two years. She owned and operated Ruth’s Copper Country Kitchen in Mohawk, MI, where she made local jams, jellies, chow-chow and antipasto that she shipped nationwide.

**Laila E. Hill**

MOHAWK, MI - Laila E. Hill, 85, of Mohawk, MI, passed away February 22

**SHARE YOUR NEWS**

Did you bump into a classmate while on vacation? Were you recently married? Do you know of the passing of an alumni? Are you continuing your education? Have you started your own business? We’d like to hear about it! Please take a minute and fill out this simple form - if you care to elaborate, please do so via e-mail or snail mail!

Name: ______________________________ Year graduated or attended: ________
Address: ____________________________ Field of Studies: __________________
City: ________________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________
E-mail: _____________________________ Phone: __________________________
News: ____________________________________________________________________
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**ALUMNI FRIENDS**

Finlandia Alumni Relations
c/o Randy Heinonen
601 Quincy Street
Hancock, MI 49930
randy.heinonen@finlandia.edu
Me morials & In Honor List

MEMORIALS -
12/01/04 - 2/28/05
Phil Anttila
Dr. Lindo J. Bartelli
John Ebnet
Dolores (Sormunen) Fennell
John A. Haapala
Margaret Hessin
Jean Hill
Ingrid Kangas Iversen
Ernest & Lily Juhila
Edward A. Kangas
Matthias Kangas
Rev. Delbert Keltto
Eric Kettula
Philip Klinkhammer
Helmi Koistinen
John & Tilda Koski
Waino “Pops” Lehto
Geno Lucchesi
Isabel Maki
Wallace “Copper” Manninen
Liisi Mauno
Kaarlo W. Nasi
Agnes A. Nickelson
Pearl S. Niemi
Sheila Scini Normansell
Meeri Aholu Pavelich
Prof. Pertti Pesonen
Rev. Dr. E. Olaf Rankinen
Elizabeth Rengo
Rev. Robert Richardson
Ethel S. Petaja Sarya
Rev. James Savolainen
Harold & Helen Silfven
Rev. Emil Tervo
Rev. William Tervo
John Raymond Tuuri
Dr. Carl Waisanen
Fred Waisanen
Rev. Walter W. Werronen
Nicholas Whallon
Hilda B. Yares
Mary Mattson Young

IN HONOR
12/01/04 - 2/28/05
Edith Niederer - Birthday
Ken & Lois Seaton
Robert & Jean Seaton
Rollo & Kay Taylor

27, 2005. Laila was born on August 31, 1919, in Mohawk, MI, a daughter of the late Matt and Kreeta Frantti. She graduated from Calumet High School with the class of 1937 and later attended Suomi College, receiving a business degree.

She was married to Wiljo Hill in 1937. She lived in Mohawk, MI, her entire life except for four years spent in Ferndale, MI, where she worked at Excello Corp. and the Finnish Restaurant. She later worked for MTU as an assistant accountant, retiring in 1983.

Elise Jean Ross Kemppainen
HANCOCK, MI - Elise Jean Ross Kemppainen, 20, died in an automobile accident near Ripley, MI, on March 7, 2005. Elsie was born February 6, 1985, in Fort Benning, GA, to John and Pyong (Choi) Ross. She graduated from Hancock High School in 2003 where she was active in cheerleading, and attended Finlandia University. She had been employed at several local businesses.

On October 1, 2004, she was married to Robert Kemppainen of L’Anse, MI. He was deployed to Iraq with the National Guard in December 2004.

Mrs. Clarice A. Hansen
PORTAGE, MI – Clarice A. Hansen, 84, passed away January 20, 2005, at Miller’s Merry Manor in Portage, MI. Born in Laurium, MI, on July 22, 1920, Clarice was the youngest of four daughters of Charles and Hulda Strand.

Clarice attended Calumet Public Schools, graduating high school in 1938. She attended Suomi College to receive business training, and was chief bookkeeper at the Merchants and Miners Bank in Laurium, MI, during World War II.

In 1945, Clarice married Henry J. Hansen. They resided in Portage, MI. An expert seamstress, Clarice owned LaBoutique Clarice in the 1970s, a women’s ready-to-wear clothing and accessories store.

Margaret Elane Hessin
AUSTIN, TX - Margaret Elane Hessin, 88, beloved wife of the late Dr. A. Laurence Hessin, passed away January 20, 2005, in her Austin, TX, home of 34 years.

Margaret was born in Hancock, MI, to Esther Manley and Charles Eckerea on October 26, 1916. She graduated from Suomi College in 1936. Margaret attended Samuel Merritt College in San Francisco, CA.

Margaret spent almost thirty years traveling with her husband in the military. She was an activist and philanthropist in the truest senses of the words. Her causes included civil rights, teaching American culture to post-war Japanese brides, food banks, cancer survival (for which she won the 2001 United Way Volunteer of the Year Award), and the environment (she was on of the original founders of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve).

Martha Korhonen
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI - Martha A. Korhonen, 94, of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, died February 1, 2005, at War Memorial Hospital Long Term Care in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. She was born September 6, 1910, in Finland to David and Selma Niemi.

Martha lived in Finland as a young child. Her family came to the United States when she was 15, and Martha lived the rest of her life in Michigan. In 1943, she married Victor Korhonen in Detroit where they spent their entire married life. Following Victor’s death, Martha moved to Hancock, MI, where she resided for 25 years. She worked for Suomi College in Hancock, MI, for several years.
# Finlandia University Calendar for 2005

## University Events

### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st-28th</td>
<td>Art Exhibition: International School of Art &amp; Design Diploma Works (FAHC Gallery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Author Book Signing: <em>Suomalaiset: People of the Marsh</em>, by Mark Munger, 4:00 p.m. (North Wind Books)</td>
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</tbody>
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### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Author Book Signing: <em>Maid to Order</em>, by Rekha Ambardar, 4:00 p.m. (North Wind Books)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Art Exhibition: Ann Klefstad: <em>Forest Forest</em> (FAHC Gallery)</td>
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### July

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th-23rd</td>
<td>Elderhostel: <em>A Finnish American Experience</em> (Session I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31-Aug. 6th</td>
<td>Elderhostel: <em>A Finnish American Experience</em> (Session II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Art Exhibition: Mirror of the Wood: <em>A Century of the Woodcut Print in Finland</em> (FAHC Gallery)</td>
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### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>7th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival (Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd-5th</td>
<td>7th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival (Calumet Theatre, Calumet, MI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th-14th</td>
<td>Finn Grand Fest 2005 (Marquette, MI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th-14th</td>
<td><em>Gala Day at the Cooperative Store</em>, a play presented by Finn Grand Fest (Boathouse Theatre, Marquette, MI)</td>
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FAHC - Finnish-American Heritage Center

Please note that dates listed are tentative and subject to change. For more information please check our website at [www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu).

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# Elderhostel at Finlandia University

## The Heritage of Finland: A Finnish-American Experience

As a guest on the campus of Finlandia University you will study Finnish and Finnish-American Literature, Scandinavian Folklore and Music, and the Cultural History of Finland. Workshops in Finnish Language & Contemporary Culture, Oral History Collection and Genealogy will also be offered. Classes are conducted by university faculty members.

**July 17-23, 2005**

Session I features a bus tour along the Lake Superior coastline and a visit to the Keweenaw National Historical Park

**July 31-August 6, 2005**

Session II features the Seventh Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival sponsored by Finlandia University

**Resident and Commuter Rates Available**

For further information, contact: Tami Anderson, Special Events Director 1-906-487-7314 • tami.anderson@finlandia.edu
# North Wind Books

**FU Hat** - Washed twill hat with Finlandia University embroidered on back, initials FU on front. By Oarsman. Royal blue with white stitching. One size, adjustable.

FU Hat .................................................. $19.95

**Finlandia Lions Hat** - Washed twill hat with Finlandia Lions lettering and lion logo on front. By Oarsman. Royal blue with white stitching. One size, adjustable.

Finlandia Lions Hat ........................................ $17.15

**Long Sleeve Tee** - Finlandia University screenprinted long sleeve tee. 100% cotton from Oarsman. Royal tee/white lettering or white tee/royal lettering. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Finlandia Lions Hat ........................................ $18.95

**Tee Shirt** - Screenprinted short sleeve tee. 100% cotton from Oarsman. Available in white or oxford with royal lettering. Also in royal, wisteria, bubble gum, navy, grass, flamingo, or Carolina blue, all with white lettering. See color chart below. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Tee Shirt .................................................. $13.95

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<tr>
<th>MERCHANDISE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to $25</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25-$50</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over $50</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
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- Add shipping & handling for each separate address.
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**Hours**

Mon. - Sat. 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Wolves & Honey, A Hidden History of the Natural World by Susan Brind Morrow. Reflecting on our relationship with nature, Susan Brind Morrow gives a perspective through the experiences of a trapper of wolves and a bee keeper. Finlandia University was fortunate to have the author on campus as the McGregor Mentor for 2004-2005.

Hard Cover ...................................................... $18.95

Soft Cover ...................................................... $15.00

Soft Cover ...................................................... $22.00

Hard Cover ...................................................... $60.00

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