

the Bridge

fall 2007

FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED IN 1896



Donor Edition



Upward Bound



Elderhostel



New President



Sibelius Festival



Fiddlers ReStrung



Retirement

An Exceptionally Busy Summer

It has been an exceptionally busy summer on Finlandia's campus! Most notably, of course, is the election of our new president, Philip Johnson. President Johnson officially began his new responsibilities July 1. For several months prior to July 1 he and retiring President Ubbelohde worked together closely to ensure a smooth transition.

On Thursday, September 20, 2007, a presidential inauguration and installation event will take place on campus. A committee of Board members, faculty, staff, and students is hard at work this summer organizing the full day event. Everyone is welcome. We hope you'll attend.

A Board of Trustees meeting, and the annual meetings of the International Alumni Board and the Finnish Council in America brought many dedicated university supporters and volunteers to campus this summer. Their discussions were lively, especially as the university begins the 2007-08 academic year with a new president and a reorganized Board.

More than 100 students were on campus in June and July for a very well-attended summer semester. Also this summer, a group of 35 area high school students experienced the daily routines of college freshmen, including classes, homework, and dorm living, during Finlandia's annual 6-week Upward Bound "mock college experience."

In June "Fiddlers ReStrung," a group of talented high school musicians, performed an energetic show of bluegrass and traditional music at the Finnish American Heritage Center. The Finlandia University Gallery featured exhibitions by several Finnish-American artists this summer, including environmental artist Cherie Sampson, and Daniel and Tiffany Besonen's sculptural installation *Kotiväki* (Finnish for family). In late July more than 50 youth completed the annual NGLS Lutheran Leadership School, an event hosted at Finlandia for more than 20 years.

Two Elderhostel sessions in July and August found several dozen "seniors" lodging in the dorms, strolling around campus, and learning about Finnish American history and culture. The 9th annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival entertained hundreds of concertgoers with a series of four outstanding performances by a solo pianist, a soprano, and a chamber music trio.

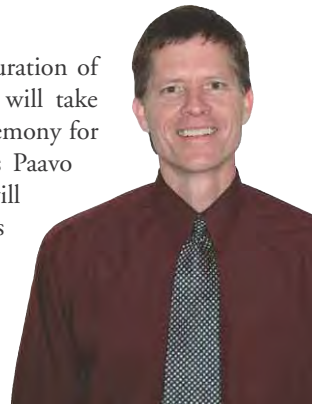
We are pleased to recognize our many supporters in this issue of *the Bridge*. The full-length *Bridge* will be back this winter. In it we'll tell you more about President Johnson, his Management Team, the members of the reorganized Board of Trustees, what's going on on campus, and, most importantly, what Finlandia students are up to this academic year.

Donor Edition

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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Save the Date! An all day public event to celebrate the inauguration of newly elected Finlandia University President Philip Johnson will take place Thursday, September 20, 2007. A formal installation ceremony for President Johnson will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the university's Paavo Nurmi Center, followed by a reception. Additional events will include campus tours, classroom visits, and other opportunities to learn about Finlandia's degree programs and see the university's students, faculty and staff in action. The celebration will conclude with a Finnish film and a dance. All are welcome. Please call the President's Office at 906-487-7201 for additional information.



would like to help, please contact Christina Mayworm at christina.mayworm@finlandia.edu.

Don't Forget! June 27-29, 2008, an all class Suomi College/Finlandia University reunion will take place on campus. The reunion will focus on the Class of 1958, with special recognition of seminary graduates. Alumni photos and memorabilia are being collected to share at the reunion. Send them to Christina Armbruster at 601 Quincy St., Hancock, MI 49930. Please label each item with your name and address. If you have questions or

Mayworm at 906-487-7205 or

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



PHILIP JOHNSON

President

“As we talked further about Finlandia, Hancock, and Porvoo, it became clear to all four of us that we share a common challenge: maximizing the contemporary relevance of our history and ethnic heritage.”

Finlandia has roots. These roots are ethnic and religious, Finnish and Lutheran. I am Lutheran. I am not Finnish. It wasn't that long ago that Finlandia's constitution would have prevented me from becoming president. The twenty-eight colleges and universities related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America all have such roots: Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, German, and so on. Finlandia, however, is the only one in North America planted by Finns.

In July I enjoyed two days with Finlandia's Finnish Council in America. It was my first Finnish Council meeting, and I decided to wear a pin that I received as a guest while visiting friends and relatives in Finland and Norway two summers ago. The pin is two small flags sharing a center pole, one Norwegian, one Finnish. Arriving for breakfast on the first day, one Council member eyed the pin suspiciously and with a smirk asked, “What's that other flag?” He was joking ... I think.

A day before the Finnish Council meeting I was visited by two young leaders from Porvoo, Finland: the mayor, Marcus Henricson, and Mikaela Nylander, a member of Finland's Parliament and chairman of the Porvoo City Council. Both were in town as guests of the City of Hancock. (Porvoo is Hancock's Finnish sister city.) Glenn Anderson, Hancock's city manager, also joined us.

I learned from Markus and Mikaela that, at 700 years old, Porvoo is the second oldest city in Finland. The older sections of Porvoo, they said, continue to attract many tourists from Finland and throughout Europe. But Markus added how important it has become for Porvoo to find new ways to package herself not only as a city rich in history and heritage, but also as contemporary and vital. Mikaela confirmed that it's no longer enough to say, for instance, that a famous poet or artist lived and worked in Porvoo 200 or 300 years ago.

As we talked further about Finlandia, Hancock, and Porvoo, it became clear to all four of us that we share a common challenge: maximizing the contemporary relevance of our history and ethnic heritage. Finlandia's 2007 HLC/NCA self-study report also identified this challenge: “Distinction in history and heritage remains meaningful and therefore influential only when contemporary expressions of these historical traditions are understood and appropriately applied.”

Our Finnish and Finnish-American commitments continue to shape Finlandia's approach to higher education. Most recently, I am reminded of Finlandia's annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival, a unique contribution to the performing arts in and around the Copper Country. Additional examples include a Finnish Studies curriculum, degree programs influenced by contemporary Finnish models of education, international study opportunities, and community classes and events hosted by the Finnish American Heritage Center.

As I move forward with both broad strokes and fine tuning, I am committed to strengthening these and related programs. For example, I want Finlandia to become more intentional about exposing students to international study opportunities. I also believe we need to be more deliberate in creating meaningful venues for our Finnish students to share insights about contemporary Finland. New distance learning opportunities with Finnish universities offer exciting possibilities, and discovering new ways to promote contemporary Finland through the Finnish American Heritage Center deserves our attention.

From the name Johnson and a Norwegian flag on my lapel you could correctly guess that my ancestors were hardy northerners, to be sure, but not of the Finnish sort. There is, however, a little known association that I have with Finland. My wife René's grandfather was a Koskela. As a child, René was nicknamed “Little Finn” by the same grandfather. She can trace one-quarter of her ancestry back to the area of Finnmark in Lapland. As a result, she's both hardy and Finnish. I married this one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Philip Johnson, Ph.D.
President

Donor Recognition

In each fall edition of *the Bridge*, we are pleased to recognize the many people, organizations, churches, clubs, and associations that have generously donated to Finlandia University in the preceding fiscal year. Some have pledged deferred giving or named the university in their wills. Some have given in memory of loved ones or to honor a special date, event, or person. Others have made donations

out of a sense of loyalty – cherishing their time at Finlandia/Suomi College. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers of our friends and alumni, and for the education their support provides our students.

Many thanks to all who have supported Finlandia University/Suomi College between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, and in years past.

Cumulative Giving

Gifts to Finlandia University for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Received from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

President's Circle ————— (\$50,000 and above)

Lifetime membership in the President's Circle is granted to those who have given \$50,000 or more to Finlandia University during any five-year period, or to those who have named the university in their estate plans for \$50,000 or more and informed the university of their intentions.

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Distinguished Giving

New Members of the Second Century Society

These donors have pledged deferred giving to the university in writing in 2006-2007.

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Nikander Club ————— (\$10,000 and above)

Juho Kustaa Nikander (1855–1919), born in Lammi, Finland, helped found Suomi College and served as president from 1896 to 1919. An ordained Lutheran pastor, Nikander traveled to the Copper Country from Finland in the fall of 1884. As a national leader of Finnish-American communities, he helped advance local congregations and fight the discrimination many of the immigrants faced.

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Nisonen Associates Council ————— (\$5,000-\$9,999)

In 1922 Martti Nisonen (1891–1946) left Finland with his wife and four children to become Suomi College's music instructor. He created a music program that drew many Finnish-American musicians. A noted composer and arranger of cantatas, operas, and several orchestral works, Nisonen is remembered as a tireless and dedicated instructor, not only of music, but also of cultural and moral development.

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Wargelin Council ————— (\$3,000-\$4,999)

Dr. John Wargelin (1881–1970) was president of Suomi College from 1919 to 1927 and 1930 to 1937. In 1896, at the age of 15, Wargelin enrolled in the college's first class, graduating in 1904. In 1906 he graduated from Suomi's former seminary. Wargelin served as a Suomi College trustee for 36 years. In 1966 the university's library and science building was officially named for him.

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Waino "Pop" Lehto League ————— (\$1,000-\$2,999)

Waino "Pop" Lehto graduated from Suomi College 1918. From 1920 until 1962 he served as instructor and dean of the business, commerce, and liberal arts programs at Suomi College.

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Old Main Society ————— (\$500-\$999)

Built in 1899, for many years Old Main was the only Suomi College building. In early years it housed classrooms, offices, a cafeteria, and a dormitory. Today it is the home of the Office of Admissions, the Registrar's Office, and other administrative and student support services.

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(\$250-\$499)

Quincy Mining Company helped develop the region that Finlandia University serves. The company employed thousands of Finns, including many who helped establish and support Suomi College. Finlandia University's campus on Quincy Street in Hancock sits on a hillside once mined by the Quincy Mining Company.

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Minnie Perttula-Maki Circle

(\$100-\$249)

Minnie Perttula-Maki (1880-1957) was Suomi College's only woman president, serving from 1922 to 1923. She was born in Lohtaja, Finland, and was a member of the college's first class, graduating in 1904. She continued her education in Chicago, Duluth, and at the University of Helsinki.

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CALENDAR

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR 2007

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 1st-5th Cherie Sampson: *In/of Nature* (Finlandia University Gallery)
 13th Opening Reception: ISAD Faculty Exhibit, 7:00 p.m. (Finlandia University Gallery)
 13th-30th International School of Art & Design Faculty Exhibit (Finlandia University Gallery)
 20th Presidential Installation and Inauguration, 3:00 p.m. (Paavo Nurmi Center)
 20th Nordic Film Series, "Äideistä Parhain" (Mother of Mine), 5:30 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)

OCTOBER

- 1st-7th International School of Art & Design Faculty Exhibit (Finlandia University Gallery)
 6th Fiddle Workshop with the Finnish band JPP, 1:30 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)
 11th Nordic Film Series, "Sotalapset" (War Children), 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)
 TBD 2007 International Asian Sumi-E Painting Contest and Exhibition (Finlandia University Gallery)

NOVEMBER

- TBD 2007 International Asian Sumi-E Painting Contest and Exhibition (Finlandia University Gallery)
 8th Nordic Film Series, "Etulinjan Edessä" (Beyond the Front Line), 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)

DECEMBER

- 2nd Finnish Independence Day Celebration, 2:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)

ATHLETIC EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Women's Volleyball

- 1st St. Norbert College Tournament
 7th College of St. Catherine Tournament
 8th College of St. Catherine Tournament
 11th Northland Baptist Bible College
 18th Northland College
 21st Mount Mary College
 22nd Mount Mary College
 28th Viterbo University Tournament
 29th Viterbo University Tournament

Women's Soccer

- 1st Mount Mary College Tournament
 2nd Mount Mary College Tournament
 8th UW - Whitewater
 10th Greenville College
 13th UW - Superior
 18th North Central University
 20th Northwood University
 22nd Robert Morris College, Lake County
 23rd Robert Morris College, Springfield
 30th UW - Superior

Men's Soccer

- 2nd Ripon College
 8th UW - Whitewater
 10th Greenville College
 13th UW - Superior

- 15th Grace Bible College
 18th North Central University
 22nd Robert Morris, Lake County
 23rd Robert Morris, Springfield
 30th UW - Superior

OCTOBER

Women's Volleyball

- 2nd St. Norbert College
 10th Northland College Triangular (Northland College, College of St. Scholastica)
 12th Finlandia University Quadrangular
 13th Finlandia University Quadrangular
 16th UW-Superior
 19th UW-Stevens Point Tournament
 20th UW-Stevens Point Tournament
 23rd Northland Baptist Bible College
 26th UW-Superior Tournament
 27th UW-Superior Tournament

Women's Soccer

- 3rd Lawrence University
 5th Rose-Hulman University
 6th Mount Mary College
 21st St. Norbert College
 27th University of Dallas
 28th Northern Michigan University

Men's Soccer

- 5th Rose-Hulman University
 8th Bethany Lutheran
 27th University of Dallas
 28th UW - Platteville

NOVEMBER

Women's Basketball

- 16th Silver Lake College Tournament
 17th Silver Lake College Tournament
 24th Lake Forest College
 25th Winona State University
 28th UW-River Falls

NOVEMBER (Continued)

Men's Basketball

- 10th Exhibition Game
 16th UW-Stout Tournament
 17th UW-Stout Tournament
 20th Lakeland College
 23rd UW-Eau Claire/Oshkosh Tournament
 24th UW-Eau Claire/Oshkosh Tournament
 28th UW-River Falls

Women's Hockey

- 2nd Augsburg College
 3rd Augsburg College
 10th Hamline University
 11th Hamline University
 17th UW-Stevens Point
 18th UW-Stevens Point
 30th Lake Forest College

Men's Hockey

- 1st Toronto Rattlers
 9th Concordia University
 10th Concordia University
 16th Adrian College
 17th Adrian College
 20th UW-Superior
 30th Northland College

DECEMBER

Women's Basketball

- 2nd Northland College
 4th College of St. Scholastica
 7th Lawrence University
 11th UW-Stout

DECEMBER (Continued)

- 19th Hawaii Tournament
 20th Hawaii Tournament
 28th Michigan Tech Tournament
 29th Michigan Tech Tournament

Men's Basketball

- 2nd Northland College
 5th Northern Michigan University
 10th UW-Superior
 12th UW-Stout
 15th UW-Eau Claire
 18th Michigan Tech University
 28th Alma College Tournament
 29th Alma College Tournament

Women's Hockey

- 1st Lake Forest College
 8th UW-Stevens Point
 9th University of St. Thomas

Men's Hockey

- 1st Northland College
 7th University of Minnesota-Crookston
 8th University of Minnesota-Crookston
 15th UW-Stevens Point
 29th Augsburg College
 30th Augsburg College

A Letter from the Board Chair

Sylvia Saari Fleishman

Dear Friends of Finlandia,

Change often makes people uncomfortable. We like to keep things “the way they are” —“the way they have always been” —because there is comfort in the familiar while change, on the other hand, creates stress and fear of the unknown. Yet, on a deeper level, we know that change is necessary and, in fact, inevitable. The following quotation is worth pondering: “There can be no life without growth, there can be no growth without change, and there can be no change without controversy.”

As many of you know, this summer the leadership of Finlandia University changed. Effective July 1, 2007, Philip Johnson began his tenure as President. He, in partnership with the Board of Trustees, is the person who will lead Finlandia in the fulfillment of its vision and mission as an institution that promotes “academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service.”

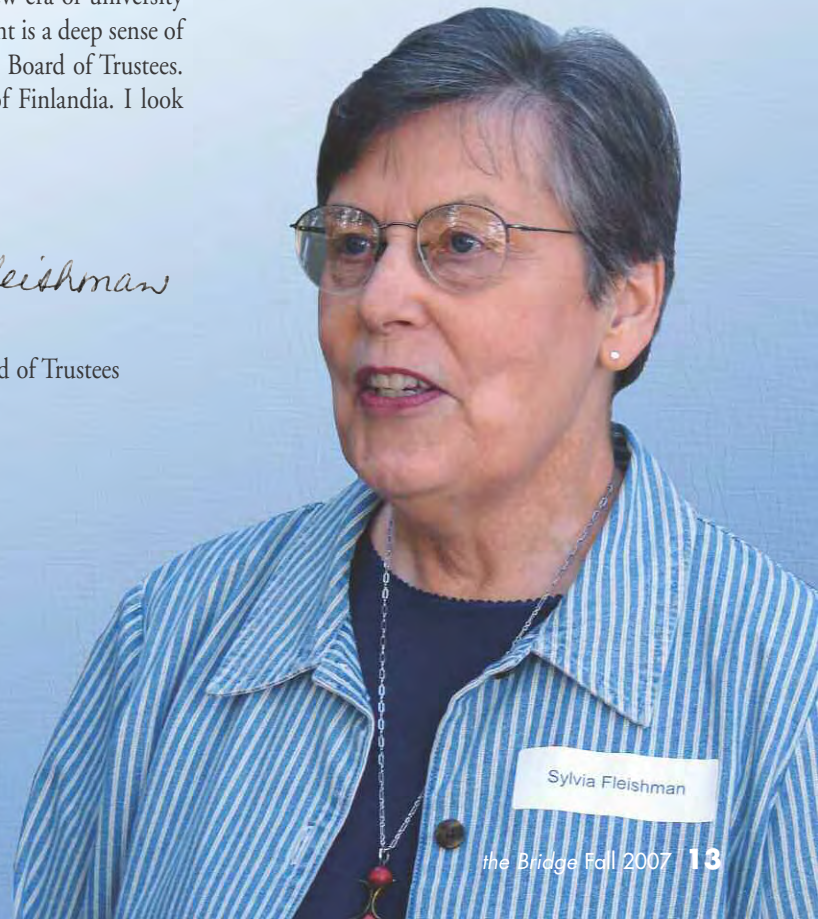
I, too, am part of that change having assumed the role of Chair of the Board of Trustees in May 2007. For those of you who do not know me, I was born and raised in Wakefield, Mich., and graduated from Wakefield High School. I am of Finnish descent and a lifelong Lutheran. I began my college career at Suomi College (now Finlandia University), graduating in 1958. Later, I earned degrees at Northern Michigan University and Florida State University. I spent over 35 years in education, most of them in higher education in the state of Florida as an instructor and administrator. For several years, I worked directly for the Florida State Board of Community Colleges. I am now retired and my husband and I have returned to my hometown of Wakefield.

I consider it an honor and a privilege to work with President Johnson to promote the mission and vision of Finlandia. Part of our work is to set goals for maintaining an institution that is fiscally sound and educationally competitive, and to provide a governance structure that effectively and efficiently leads and monitors the strategic direction of the university. Other key, long standing and high priority components of Finlandia’s mission include commitments to maintain and strengthen university ties to Finland, the preservation of Finlandia’s Lutheran/Finnish heritage, and the promotion of a learning community dedicated to serving its citizens locally and globally.

You have all shared an interest and commitment to Finlandia and its values. I invite and encourage your continued partnership and support as we begin this new era of university leadership. Be assured that, amidst the changes, what will remain constant is a deep sense of caring and commitment by President Johnson and the members of the Board of Trustees. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your past efforts on behalf of Finlandia. I look forward to collaborating and communicating with you in the future.

Sylvia S. Fleishman

Sylvia Saari Fleishman, Ph.D.
Chair, Finlandia University Board of Trustees



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Groninger Museum — Nai Publishers, 2006

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