

the Bridge

summer 2007





Ronda Jones and her son, Avery

November 20, 2006

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Seaton,

I am writing to thank you for your award of the Seaton Scholarship for the 2006-07 school year. My fiancé and I are both scheduled to graduate from college in the spring of 2008. We have both amassed a significant amount of student loan debt, and I often find myself worrying that we will be forced to leave the area in search of higher wages to pay them back. Contributions such as yours help enable people educated in the

Upper Peninsula to spend their professional careers here, adding value not only to their personal lives, but also to the quality and education of our community as a whole.

Your generosity means a lot to me personally, as well. I find that it takes constant diligence and dedication to keep my grades up and really maximize what I am learning in college. As the mother of an 18 month old boy, my days are filled with juggling priorities to meet immediate needs, and finding new and creative ways to multi-task. I could not maintain my level of academic success and raise my son if I had to work at a job, as well. I thank you very much for helping me accomplish my most important goal regarding my time at Finlandia University: to truly learn and retain as much material as possible in order to become not just a business person, but a good business person.

I would also like to express my appreciation of your support for Finlandia University as a whole. When I decided to go back to school, I was quite intimidated by the idea of going to a large university. I wanted a more personalized education and a more definitive set of core values. I found these things and more at Finlandia. I love our little school, and I believe it is a boon to our community in its accessibility to non-traditional students. It is a great thing for our area to have a school where people who are already immersed in careers and family life can further their education. Finlandia's environment of compassion and flexibility help many who may not have been comfortable at a larger school reach their goals for higher education. I would love to return to Finlandia to teach, when I have completed the appropriate graduate work.

Thank you very much for your contribution to my education. It is well appreciated and I hope to reciprocate by helping students at Finlandia in the future.

Sincerely,

Ronda Jones

Ronda Jones
Senior, International School of Business
Laurium, Michigan

Ronda Jones is a senior in the Finlandia University International School of Business majoring in accounting and fiber design. She grew up in Arizona and now lives in Laurium, Mich. Both Ronda and her fiancé, Jeremy Wright, are full-time students. They'll both graduate in spring 2008. Ronda's son Avery turned two in May.

Established by Detroit and Northern Bank (now Republic Bank) in 1997, the Kenneth and Lois Seaton Endowed Scholarship honors Ken Seaton, long-time president of D & N Bank, and his wife, Lois, for their service to the bank, the college, and the community. It is awarded annually to a continuing full-time student enrolled in a business or art and design baccalaureate degree program. Recipients exhibit scholarship, demonstrate financial need, and reside in Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, or Ontonagon county.

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Front Cover Photo

2007 "Alternate Spring Break" participants gather in front of the house they painted in New Orleans.

Back row and on stairs (clockwise): Lucy Regits, Jessie Millar, Kristen Koljonen, Ashley Jilek, Muir Watson, Hannah Norman, Kari Noll, Jaimianne Amicucci, Michelle Helminen, Allie Wurzer, Indi Soronsen, Philip Johnson, Angela Book

Front row (left to right): René Johnson, Elizabeth Reno, Suzanne Van Dam, Niccole Frysinger, Chie Ishikawa, Salome Mnzava, Sassa Johnson

Seated: Beth Bellingier (left) and Audrey Miller

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DR. ROBERT UBBELOHDE

President

*“Change, of course,
is as inevitable as
the passing of time.”*

Change, of course, is as inevitable as the passing of time. Change can also be unnerving. This unnerving quality can, in part, be attributed to the impossibility of accurately predicting or controlling the future. Change in itself is neither good nor bad; it simply happens. The best we can do is to attempt to understand and influence unfolding events. I believe that, in the face of change, disciplined efforts to accurately interpret reality provide the most constructive way forward when facing an unknowable future.

The human desire to control, or at least foresee, the future may lead to the construction of a range of prophecies, from optimistic to utopian, and cynical to apocalyptic. The potential havoc wrought by such predictions—most often based on an individual’s or group’s fallible and partial understanding of the future—cannot be underestimated.

As Finlandia moves through this period of leadership change, I have heard a variety of prophecies. Unfortunately, escapes into prophecy skew—or even prevent—a rational and accurate perception of reality, and often have a less than positive impact on efforts to deal with reality in a positive, meaningful manner.

Knowing Philip Johnson, I know his commitment to the liberal arts and disciplined inquiry, his respect for the beliefs of those of other faiths, his understanding of our need to encourage global connections, and his sensitivity to the history and heritage of Finlandia and the university’s relationship with the region we serve. Above all, I know his deep commitment to Finlandia’s students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders, and his appreciation of the unique educational opportunity that the institution offers.

In time, you too will come to know Philip Johnson and, I believe, appreciate the potential he brings to Finlandia’s presidency. Rather than spend time attempting to foresee the future, we need to join with Philip as he works with Finlandia’s varied constituencies to bring new understanding and meaning to Finlandia’s mission. As Philip shares his vision for Finlandia, I have confidence that it will reflect and bring focus to the aspirations and hopes of the broad Finlandia community. As people who care about Finlandia, we have an opportunity to join with Philip as he provides the leadership needed to move Finlandia confidently into the future and the next level of excellence.

Susan and I wish Philip and his wife, René, the very best as they lead Finlandia into the future. The spring 2007 issue of *the Bridge* included an essay by Dr. David Tiede stating that Finlandia deserves good leadership. In Philip and René, we believe Finlandia has found good leadership.

Robert Ubbelohde,
President



Upside Down Scandinavia



As much A Cultural Experience as an Educational One

"It seems somehow that the original spirit of Scandinavia—the honest, hard-working, and sparsely populated northern Europe—has been better, if not more, preserved in pockets of America such as Hancock than in its birthplace. For that reason, as you may already know, Finlandia University offers as much a cultural experience as an educational one," writes Ulf Mårtensson, editor and publisher of *Nordic Reach* magazine, following a recent visit to Finlandia University.

"When you have lived abroad long enough you tend to develop a rosy, nostalgic picture of the country of your origin," Mårtensson, a first-generation Swedish-American, continues. "The Nordic countries are still as beautiful, as magical, and as breathtaking in their varied crisp, natural scenery as they ever were, but they are also changing fast, and seldom what we see in our mind's eye."

His first trip down Hancock's two main streets gave Mårtensson an eerie feeling of being back in Finland. "Not in cosmopolitan Helsinki," he clarifies. "But in Tampere, Jyväskylä, or one of the other medium-sized towns. I arrived in the evening and not a soul was outside, all the streets were empty, all the stores closed, the few restaurants or bars showed little or no life on the outside. Very Nordic, very Scandinavian."

"The most surprising thing about the Copper Country was that, ah, well, people were not only polite but genuinely interested," Mårtensson adds. "They are interested in what they do, in their work, in their students, in life in general, or actually, in this particular case, just me."

"The people in Hancock and at Finlandia have time; and, if they don't have time, they make it. The residents are patient, warm, and resilient. I am reminded of what then-Attorney General Gov. Jennifer Granholm said to me in 2002, quoting a young functionary at the Iditarod dog sled race,

where the politician once served as dead weight for one leg of the race: 'Yooper chicks don't cry until the bones stick out.'"

Finnish heritage is strong in Hancock, and Mårtensson notes that as he met the 'locals' this heritage became even more evident. "A quick stroll down Quincy Street brings you to the Finlandia University buildings—and while the walk will not be New York's Fifth Avenue on a Friday afternoon, the people you meet will be real, and they'll have a real interest in you. A new friend, local author and Finlandia English professor Lauri Anderson, introduced me, now a New Englander, to the concept of New England hugs. If you're from that area you won't have to ask him what this is. If not, well, suffice it to say, you won't find them in Hancock."

Ulf Barslund Mårtensson, the editor and publisher of Nordic Reach magazine, moved to the U.S. permanently 11 years ago, after many years of commuting between Europe and the U.S. In 2004, he became a proud citizen of this, his new country of choice. He runs the independent publishing company I. Kimberley Crispensen & Sons, Inc.

The quarterly Nordic Reach magazine captures the spirit of both the Nordic countries and America, covering people, places, and stories of interest to everyone with a foot or soul in both the Scandinavian and American cultures, as well as to those who wish to appreciate them more deeply.

A special Nordic Reach subscription offer for readers of Finlandia's the Bridge extends into mid-June. To subscribe, visit www.nordicreach.com and enter offer code: Finlandia.



FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY SCHEDULE 2007

June 7 to July 22, 2007

Closing Reception: Saturday, July 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Artist Talk and Poetry Reading, 7:15 p.m.

Poets: Liskan Van Pelt Dus, LouAnn Shepard Muhm

Kotiväki: *Daniel and Tiffany Besonen*

The sculptural installation *Kotiväki* (Finnish for family) is the dialogue of a modern Finnish-American mother and father as they build family, identity, and home through the lenses of tradition and modern reality. Both Daniel and Tiffany Besonen use traditional materials in new ways, similar to how their ancestors “made do” with what was available to them. Tiffany constructs multiple pear-shaped forms into mixed-media narratives about identity, biology, and motherhood with materials such as sewing pattern paper, beeswax, copper wire, and other domestic found-materials. With both modern and century-old tools Daniel’s log structures incorporate stone with traditional Finnish log techniques, honoring his Finnish heritage while examining contemporary architectural forms.

July 26 to September 6, 2007

Closing Reception and Performance: Thursday, Sept. 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Her Blue Sea Fire, a staged performance, begins at 7:15 p.m.

In/Of Nature: *Cherie Sampson*

Environmental, performance, and video artist Cherie Sampson often works in the natural environment creating site-specific works with wood and other local materials. Her work comes from a desire to connect with the raw forces of nature and its cycles of generation, decay, and renewal. Sampson’s art strives to communicate a primal link between human life and culture, and nature. At the closing reception, Sampson will perform *Her Blue Sea Fire*, a ritualistic and visually poetic interpretation of the beautiful “myth of origins” that opens the first canto of the Finnish epic poem, “The Kalevala.”

The Finlandia University Gallery, in the Finnish American Heritage Center, 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 the region, the gallery provides educational resources for the community and is a gathering place for people to discuss and reflect upon art. One of its goals is to become a leading exhibitor of Finnish and Finnish-American art nationwide.

Carrie Flaspohler, *Gallery Director*

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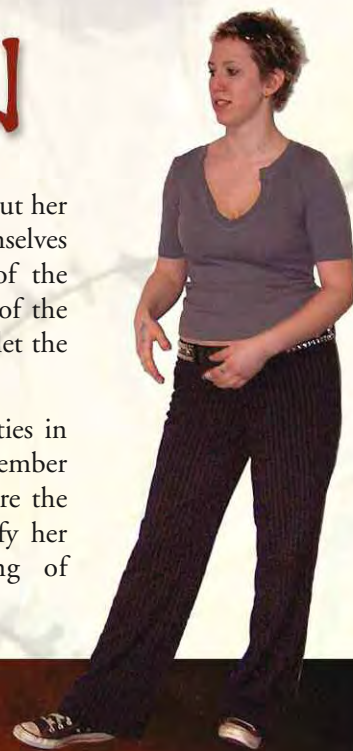
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LIBERATION

"They're incredibly personal. They're not about global warming or politics. The paintings represent my ideas, my feelings, my emotions," says Finlandia studio art senior Anna Sanchez (Hancock, Mich.). A collection of her multimedia paintings, titled "Liberation," was featured March 5-23 at the Reflections Gallery, a recently opened student-run art gallery at Finlandia's Portage Campus. "Sharing myself with this little corner of the world makes me feel better. When I'm done understanding me, I'll turn to larger issues," Sanchez adds.

Instead of telling the viewer how to feel about her paintings, Sanchez suggests they put themselves inside of the work and become a part of the emotion and idea. "Stand in front of one of the pieces. Let the color drip from your face... let the emotion drip from your face," she urges.

"Anna has developed strong color sensitivities in her recent works," says studio arts faculty member Yueh-mei Cheng. "The emotional colors are the forming body in her art. The wings signify her eagerness for freedom and the feeling of



sublimation. She uses ambiguity of the background to let self-occurring beings form within and also to invite the audience to enter her imaginative space."

"I see color in a way that most people don't," Sanchez explains. "I see red and orange pulse from people when they are angered. I see shades of blue drip from their faces when they are sad. Emotions are colors that fill our lives and reveal our humanity."

Each of the pieces in the show bears two titles. The first names the original pen and crayon study. And, to illustrate her development and growth, the finished pieces have a second title.

The titles of the paintings include, "It's more than just garbage" or "The waste product of my creativity," which is actually a mounted wad of colorful, paint-stained paper towels,

and "I know what you did ..." or "Please don't take my wings away," a large acrylic painting.

Finlandia associate professor of art and design Rick Loduha has been impressed with Anna Sanchez and her viewpoints ever since they met in his Noetics Skills class. He was the first to purchase one of the paintings (pictured above) in the Sanchez show. "I was taken by it," he comments. "I think a 'real' artist creates at a visceral level, unthinking, intuitive. I'm sure Anna does. I try to select art the same way: no left-brain analysis, no drawn-out contemplation."

Originally from Texas, Sanchez has been in the Copper Country for seven years. "I always knew I'd be an art student," she says. "But I didn't realize I could do it for a living. Being here at Finlandia made me realize I could."



Anna Sanchez

Above Image: "I do" or "I didn't need my wings anyway"

Background Image: "Just making sure you're still human" or "The many layers of abuse"

The Reflections Gallery



In fall 2006 studio arts faculty member Yueh-mei Cheng initiated the development of a student-run art gallery at the Finlandia University Portage Campus. It was opened in November.

“The Reflections Gallery gives students the opportunity to learn exhibition technique in a relaxed but professional manner,” Cheng explained. “Experience exhibiting in a gallery is essential for young artists.”

All Finlandia painting or illustration students who have completed advanced studio classes may submit work for display at the gallery. Students outside the Studio Arts program are also free to exhibit with approval from art and design faculty. The gallery considers applications from aspiring local artists, as well.

“Paintings, illustration, photography, ceramics, fiber/fashion design, sculpture, product and graphic design, and digital imagery are all welcome,” Cheng noted.

The gallery also presents opportunities for students to gain expertise working as the gallery’s director or assistant director. “This valuable experience is awarded to students who demonstrate commitment, talent, understanding, and the will to learn,” Cheng said.

Studio arts junior Anna Sanchez was the gallery’s first director. “My experience as director of the Reflections Gallery has been invaluable and incredibly enlightening,” Sanchez commented. “I have learned the steps and processes involved in the work of a professional gallery director that can only be learned by actually taking on the job.” Yu-Han Liaw, art and design illustration senior, was the gallery’s first assistant director.

“I love it,” Sanchez exclaimed. “It’s so great. You can’t learn it in a classroom. You have to actually do it. It’s a lot of work, but definitely worth it.”

Sanchez’s work was featured at the gallery in March. While several local artists had exhibited in the preceding months, hers was the first student show. “After working with several other artists, I was excited to have my chance to be included in the gallery as someone other than the host,” Sanchez said.

Although much of the hard work getting the gallery started is over with, there is still work to do. “We need to work on funding for lighting, seating, signs, and additional hangers for other sections of the gallery,” Sanchez noted.

Future plans also include the development of an identity for the gallery. “The design of a logo, letterhead, and gallery signage will likely be undertaken next year by a student in the Art and Design Projects (ARD 395) class,” Sanchez said.

“Overall, I believe that this has been a good start for the gallery and I’m excited to see how it is going to grow and develop over the next year,” Sanchez remarked. “Sadly, I will not be the director. That position will be taken on by another student.”

“Anna’s hard work on the new student-run gallery was a transforming experience for her,” commented Cheng. “She has matured to reach a professional level of management and presentation. She did a wonderful job.”

“I want to thank Yueh-mei Cheng for all her hard work and encouragement throughout this whole process,” Sanchez concluded. “Of course, none of this could have been possible without her.”



CAMPUS NEWS



Left to right: Nick Vlahos, Jack Budd, and Alex Shaw

Boy Scouts Visit Ceramics Studio

Jack Budd, Nick Vlahos, and Alex Shaw were among a group of Cub Scout Webelos that visited Finlandia's Portage Campus ceramics studio in February. The Houghton Elementary School fourth graders from Hiawathaland Council Pack 210 were working on their Webelos artist badges. Dr. Judith Budd, dean of the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences, is program chair for the Webelos' pack.

Nordic Art Exhibit to Visit Minneapolis

"A Mirror of Nature," an exhibition of Nordic art, will take place at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minn., June 24 to Sept. 2, 2007. Organized by four major Nordic national galleries, this is the only North American showing of the exhibit. Featured artists include Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Edvard Munch, and many others. The exhibition explores Nordic attitudes to nature and the significance of landscape on Nordic culture and thinking, notes the museum's Web site, www.artsmia.org/mirror-of-nature.

ACE! Designated an Honors Program

"It is a unique and dedicated student who can take on the study of multiple academic fields," says Suzanne Van Dam, director of the ACE! (Arts, Culture & the Environment) degree program. "ACE! students demonstrate intellectual curiosity and outstanding academic performance." In recognition of the academic rigor of the program, the Suomi College of Arts & Sciences has designated the Liberal Arts: ACE! degree an honors program.

Historical Mural Painted for Museum

The April 26 installation of a three-panel mural at the Carnegie Cultural Museum, Houghton, is the culmination of hundreds of hours of drawing, painting, and coordination among Finlandia University art and design students and faculty members, museum representatives, and others.

"They did an outstanding job. It's exactly what we wanted," said museum board member Ralph Rafaelli of the finished mural. "It's a worthwhile project

for Finlandia University and great for us." The people and history of each of the Copper Country's four counties – Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon – are represented on the mural. (*cont'd on page 8*)



Left to right: Melisa Gronowski; Kourtney Wojdyla, freshman (Niagara, Wisc.); Danielle Wilson, freshman (Iron Mountain); Benjamin Mitchell, sophomore (Kingsford); Yueh-mei Cheng; Courtney VanWagner, junior (Hancock); Allie Wurzer, freshman (Silver Cliff, Wisc.); Christine Sommerfeldt; and Lana Bosak, freshman (Underwood, Minn.). Not pictured are Avery Neal, junior (Houghton) and Yu-Han Liaw, senior (Chassell).

SCAS Announces Two New Majors

English and Social Sciences majors have been added to the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences (SCAS) Liberal Studies bachelor of arts degree options.

"The Finlandia English major offers an interesting combination of traditional literature and literature-related courses along with some clearly practical courses that apply literature or writing, such as Journalism, Web Page Design and Grant Writing," explains Lauri Anderson, Finlandia English professor and Humanities Department chair. "English majors can be found pursuing a great variety of traditional and non-traditional careers in both the public and private sectors."

"The Social Sciences major provides a combination of core social sciences courses along with one or two student-selected concentrations in a related field such as history, sociology, and psychology," said Dr. Christine O'Neil, chair of the Social Sciences Department. "The degree provides the self-enrichment and cross-cultural understanding important for those seeking careers in social services, politics, criminal justice, and public administration."

CAMPUS NEWS

For the four junior- and senior-level student-artists, work on the mural was a major semester project for their Art & Design Project or Project Management class. The freshmen and sophomore students received credit for one assignment in other art and design courses.

Finlandia studio arts senior Christine Sommerfeldt (Houghton) was the team's leader. She prepared the contract, sent letters, ordered, picked up and paid for materials, distributed information, and kept everyone on task. "It took a lot of communication and coordination to keep everyone on the same wave length," Sommerfeldt said.

Studio arts junior Melisa Gronowski (Norway, Mich.) was co-leader of the mural project. She stressed, however, that Sommerfeldt was the backbone. Gronowski, who plans to pursue a career in public art, felt it was a small taste of the future.

Rafaelli is already making plans for similar collaborations next year. "We're really pleased with the outcome. It helps cement relationships on both sides of the lake," he said.



Hand painted drum, drum cover & bongo drums from the estate of William Syrjälä

Finlandia Archive Growing

More than a hundred years of history arrived at Finlandia's Finnish American Historical Archive in April. The first, a Knights of Kaleva collection, includes records from as early as the mid-1890s. "A very large unit of Finnish-American history is now safely inside our climate-controlled archive," said James

Kurtti, director of the FAHC. The collection, one of the largest in the archive, was submitted to the archive by the Knights of Kaleva Grand Lodge of Virginia, Minn.

The second large collection, materials from the estate of William Syrjälä, were donated by Vienna Laine, 87, of Escanaba, and her son, Jeffrey Laine of Florida. The donation includes both archival materials and museum pieces. Mrs. Laine also donated an oral history of Finnish Americans in the Lake Worth, Fla. area. She and her late husband, Reino, were very active in that community.

The archival materials include Syrjälä's diaries (1950s-1970s), handwritten music, printed sheet music, photographs, playbills, and one of his few remaining handwritten notebooks. The museum pieces include an entire drum kit, hand-painted bass drum covers, and other musical and historical items. Syrjälä, born in Cloquet, Minn., was the husband and bandmate of well-known Upper Peninsula-born Finnish-American musician Viola Turpeinen. Bill and Viola toured the country playing in many Finnish-American communities from the 1920s to the 1950s. Viola died in 1958. Bill died in 1996.

Christian Vocation Concentration

A new 21-credit Christian Vocation concentration is an option for students pursuing a B.A. in liberal studies. "The concentration is for students who have an interest in a more deliberate exploration of life's larger questions about meaning, purpose, and one's place in the world," explains Finlandia Campus Pastor Dr. Philip Johnson. "At the same time, it can offer a foundation in Christian studies for those who want to prepare for congregation-based job opportunities or pursue further theological study."



BSN Program Awarded Maximum Accreditation

The Finlandia University Nursing Department is very proud to announce that it has received the maximum award of five years for initial accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

"The CCNE accreditation of Finlandia's four-year nursing program confirms its excellence and enhances its credibility and status among nursing programs in Michigan," said Fredi deYampert, director of Finlandia's nursing program.

"Our thanks and appreciation go out to the entire Copper Country health care community and Finlandia's students, faculty, and staff. Your support and assistance as we moved forward with the accreditation process the past year was invaluable," added deYampert. "We feel this additional accreditation will help us grow and excel in the preparation of future nurses."

Officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency, the CCNE is an autonomous accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs.

CAMPUS NEWS



Student-artists and guests at the juried student exhibit

Juried Student Art Exhibit

A juried exhibit of International School of Art and Design student work at the Finlandia University Gallery April 2-19 included 66 works by students studying all ISAD disciplines. At the opening reception, a fashion show featured creations by fiber arts students. Carrie Flaspohler, director of the gallery, said that students streamed into the gallery all morning carrying armfuls of work, resulting in over 175 entries. Three jurors – a faculty member, a graduating ISAD senior, and a community member – selected the final pieces.



Art and design sophomore Jordan Siegler and Kirsten Bergdahl-Birondo

An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan

The Finlandia University Performing Arts Department presented, "An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan" March 9-11 at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Gilbert and Sullivan's one-act operetta, "Trial By Jury" was featured, along with songs from "The Mikado" and "The Pirates of Penzance."

Long-time Finlandia associate professor of social science Dan Maki directed the cast of students, faculty, and community members. "Trial By Jury" is the only Gilbert and Sullivan opera played in one act, and the only with no spoken dialogue. First produced in 1875, it was the first of their many collaborations.



Emily Pierce

Fabric Arts Major Designs Liturgical Banners

Third year fiber arts major Emily Pierce (Traverse City) recently designed and produced two Easter banners for the St. James Episcopal Church, Albion, Mich. A conversation last Thanksgiving with the rector of the church led to the independent commission.

Emily's inspiration for the Easter banner design was the joy and excitement of the holiday. She adds that her design ideas come from

contemplation and prayer. Her work embraces the simplicity and beauty of liturgical art, and combines traditional design elements with more modern lines.

Emily also designed vestments for a local Episcopal priest recently. The reversible chasuble and stole set is made of hand dyed hemp summer cloth with screen and block printing. Emily plans to continue her liturgical work.

Rekha Ambardar

The World and I Journal, a Washington D.C.-based monthly print and on-line academic resource publication, will publish two articles by Finlandia adjunct instructor of business Rekha Ambardar. "Globalization: The New Empire" will appear in the May 2007 edition; "Made in America: America's Popularity Potion" will be published in September 2007.

Ambardar's non-fiction articles and essays have also been published in professional trade journals such as *Writer's Journal*, *Byline*, *Writing World.com*, *Drexel Online Journal*, and *The Indian Express*. She is the author of numerous published short stories and two women's fiction novels. Visit her Web site at <http://rekha.mmebj.com>.

Dr. Judith Budd Appointed Dean

Dr. Judith Budd has been appointed dean of the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences (SCAS). Budd, who has been with Finlandia since 2002, is an associate professor of science and chair of the Mathematics and Science Department. She takes over from Provost Dr. Jeanne Rellahan. Appointed SCAS dean in 2004, Rellahan has been serving as both provost and dean since in 2006. Rellahan will continue as provost.

"With five years experience in SCAS, Judy is well-acquainted with its faculty and operations," said President-elect Dr. Philip Johnson. "She has demonstrated competent leadership as the Math and Science Department chair and also brings experience in grant writing, on-line course delivery, and assessment. I believe Judy grasps the broader issues and challenges of the college and will work effectively with department chairs and faculty members."



About Students, for Students, and with Students

By Dr. Philip Johnson

As Finlandia's president-elect I am delighted that this article appears in an issue of *the Bridge* that features student life. This theme is a helpful prompt as I look toward assuming Finlandia's presidency. At Finlandia, the life of the president need not be far from student life. Bob Ubbelohde has modeled for me the possibilities for a presidency that is about students, for students, and with students. I sense our students look for an accessible president. Though my days playing on the faculty, staff, and alumni "Team Fossils" may be fewer, I am committed to a presidency that promotes and participates in student life.

Before offering some brief reflections on three core competencies that I believe Finlandia needs to develop, I wish to offer a word of thanks to Bob Ubbelohde. During this period of transition, while both president-elect and president remain engaged on campus, there is a potential for confused roles, duties, and responsibilities. This can be unsettling for the university community, as well as difficult for the one stepping in. We have avoided this, I believe, because Bob has demonstrated that he can release his presidency as effectively as he has held it. For this, I am most grateful.

It was around 1990 that I first heard the phrase "core competencies." It was in a church parking lot and offered by a friend then working in management for IBM. To illustrate the concept he mentioned Honda Corporation, which, by designing a superior engine, provided the core quality needed to produce a variety of excellent products. Whether a lawnmower or car, one knew one would get a quality product from Honda because it was built around this core competency.

Finlandia's product is associate- and baccalaureate-level education. Three core competencies that I believe are needed to ensure the quality of our product, whether in business, liberal studies, art and design, or professional preparation, are missional integrity, financial stability, and meaningful community.

Missional integrity means our programs and activities are aligned with who we are and what we want to become. Finlandia's identity is rooted in Finnish, Finnish-American, and Lutheran ideals and culture. As her mission statement reads, she is a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service.

Academic excellence at Finlandia today calls for continued development of on-line course and program delivery, revised curricula to meet the needs and expectations of contemporary students, improved classroom technologies, maintaining strong student support services, and attracting

Philip Johnson paints a house on a recent service trip to New Orleans.

and retaining credentialed faculty and competent staff.

Merging academic excellence with Finlandia's distinct identity means building on the ideas, for example, found in our Art & Design program where a Finnish model that links art education to business and entrepreneurship is thriving. It means enhancing our international exchange programs with institutions of higher learning in Finland and other countries that, lately, have achieved new expressions in our International School of Business. It means increasing opportunities for Finnish and other international students to study at Finlandia. It means exploring new ways to extend the reach and influence of the Finnish American Heritage Center, its services and archive.

Academic excellence also means more experiential learning opportunities such as the service and learning course that takes students and faculty to Tanzania each year. It means finding ways to further embed in our curriculum distinct commitments of the Lutheran intellectual tradition such as free inquiry, diversity and tolerance, vocation and service, care for the earth, global citizenship, and social justice. It requires innovation in the content and delivery of our general education curriculum to ensure that every Finlandia graduate is prepared not only for a career, but for a meaningful life.

Finlandia matters because of the mission and identity she embodies. There are plenty of small universities and colleges around the country. There is, however, no other that embodies Finlandia's distinct history, heritage, and mission. For Finlandia to flourish, these distinctions must not be abandoned. Rather, these distinctions can be explored in fresh ways to inspire and shape new initiatives.

The second core competency is financial stability. I suspect this is not normally considered a core university competency; it would be a 'given,' if you will. Yet, I choose it because financial stability is an acute challenge for all small, private, enrollment-dependent liberal arts-based institutions of higher learning. Of the twenty-eight universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, there are six with enrollments under one thousand. Each of

them, including Finlandia, faces chronic financial challenges. Building this core competency requires a stubborn commitment to balance our checkbook, expand our donor base, strengthen enrollment strategies, aggressively develop and market new on-line programs, consistently align planning with resources, and maximize Finlandia's most valuable resource: human capital.

Meaningful community is the third core competency I want to achieve at Finlandia. This competency is about how Finlandia's students, faculty, administration, and staff live and work together. Doing community well requires, for example, developing a more consistent mentoring program for all faculty and staff, creating a deeper sense of shared purpose and vision, and enhancing collegiality.

It also means investment in common spaces on campus that create gathering spots to encourage community life. It means creating timetables, schedules, and calendars that not only allow for, but encourage, community-wide activities and programming. Further, it requires that we find creative ways to build community for our large commuter student population. It also means encouraging additional participation at athletic events to consistently bring Finlandia students, faculty, and staff together, engendering a sense of community and identity. Finally, it urges Finlandia to explore ever-fresh ways to be neighborly, to find

shared solutions that can ensure a shared future with the City of Hancock, and other Copper Country communities.

There is a difference between workplace and community. I desire Finlandia to be the latter. Poet and novelist Paula Gunn Allen writes of the fundamental reality of community: "Snowflakes, leaves, humans, plants, raindrops, stars, molecules, microscopic entities all come in communities. The singular cannot in reality exist." Finlandia comes as community, a learning community.

Missional integrity, financial stability, meaningful community. These are the core competencies that allow Finlandia to produce a quality product in higher education. It has become my litany during the past months. It will be my guiding vision for the coming years as I serve Finlandia



Left to right: René, Neal, Philip, and Simon Johnson

Alternate Spring Break Aids Recovery



*"It was an amazing
experience."
- Jessie Millar*



"We have so much and the people in New Orleans have so little left. Knowing that we brought hope to even one person made every hot, dirty, sticky, and tiring part of our work completely worth it."

This comment by Finlandia University Elementary Education junior Kari Noll (Green Bay, Wisc.) is surely echoed by all who have helped the city recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Thousands of college students spent their 2007 spring breaks bringing help and hope to the people of hurricane-stricken New Orleans. Twenty-two of them were from Finlandia University. The 18 students and four chaperones spent more than 1,000 combined volunteer-hours helping the ravaged city recover.

"It was a very long and interesting ride down," began Finlandia Criminal Justice senior Indi Soronen. "We took two vans with 10 in one and 12 in the other." The group left Friday afternoon Feb. 23. Sunday night, Feb. 25, after two and a half full days of driving, they arrived at the New Orleans volunteer camp.

With running water, showers, portable bathrooms, a mess hall, and electricity, the camp was more comfortable than Soronen had expected. "We had been told that we would be sleeping in shipping containers, so we imagined ourselves in big metal containers all lined up in our sleeping bags!" she explained. As it turned out, the group did sleep in shipping

containers, but they had been remodeled into four- and eight-to-a-room 'mobile bedroom units.'

On Monday, Feb. 26, work day one, the volunteer group received their first assignment. While two students stayed behind to help clean and maintain the camp, the rest headed to a neighborhood in New Orleans Parish to scrape and paint a one-story home. Many of the homes in this neighborhood had originally been built on concrete stilts, so the work needed was not as extensive as elsewhere.

Before they could begin, however, debris from a tornado only two weeks before had to be removed. "The tornado had blown the roof off the home's garage, and completely leveled a house on an adjoining lot," noted participant René Johnson, Finlandia director of servant leadership.

"While we were there, one of the neighbors asked if we could do some minor painting to her house as well," Soronen said. "So we repaired and painted two houses." Coincidentally, one of the homeowners had chosen a shade of bright blue paint matching Finlandia's school color.

Thursday, work day four, was the last day to finish what remained to be done on the two homes in New Orleans Parish. "It was supposed to rain in the afternoon so we didn't have much time," Soronen recalled. "It was a good thing we were pretty much done with everything. We checked the houses to make sure we didn't miss any spots and finished up the trim."



"Seeing all the houses that were ruined was a shock."

- Lucy Regits



"It feels like we could've and should've done much more."

- Kari Noll

A tour of New Orleans revealed the extent of the damage caused by Katrina. "I was very sad and angry about what I saw," commented participant Angela Book, assistant to Finlandia's campus pastor. "It's been a year and a half since Katrina, and some places like the Ninth Ward probably look almost exactly the same as after the city was drained. The damage caused due to the breaking levees was something that could have been prevented."

PTA major Michelle Helminen (Calumet) felt that they weren't doing enough while they were in New Orleans, "We saw so many other houses that looked like the hurricane just hit them. I left with a silent anguish."

On Friday, day five, the group received its second assignment: 'mucking' (gutting) a house. "We wore what looked like 'hazmat' suits with respirator masks, goggles, and protective boots," Soronen noted.

This neighborhood had been under 8-10 feet of water following the disaster, explained René Johnson. "We removed everything down to the studs, including drywall, wiring, plumbing, and every nail from every stud," she said.

"Gutting the house made the biggest impact on me. I felt so good after doing it," reflected Human Services freshman Lucy Regits (Pinckney). "Seeing all the houses that were ruined was a shock, so helping out one family like that was great."

One common experience repeatedly spoken of by the group was the numerous anonymous 'thank-yous' offered by New Orleans residents at the work sites, on the freeway, in the shops and restaurants, and elsewhere. "The group was deeply moved by the gestures of gratitude offered to us not only by the homeowners but by complete strangers," confirmed volunteer and Finlandia pastor Dr. Philip Johnson.

However, Kari Noll and many of the volunteers expressed the feeling that they could have done more. "We were warned ahead of time not to feel like we didn't do enough when the week was over because other volunteers would take over where we left off. But it still feels like we could've and should've done much more."

"Knowing the amount of time I was giving was just a small part of the bigger picture was humbling," concluded Jessie Millar. "As an outsider, you watch the news and think you see what is going on. But until you see the devastation with your own two eyes you have no idea all that really took place. I would urge everyone to go and help. It was an amazing experience. On the ride home, and ever since the trip, all we can talk about is 'When we go back next year...'"

The "alternate spring break" was organized by the Service Core of the Finlandia Campus Ministry Team, in cooperation with Lutheran Disaster Response, a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

2007 COMMENCEMENT

2007 B.B.A. graduates await the signal to move their tassels to the left.

Finlandia University conferred degrees to 112 winter, spring, and summer graduation candidates April 29 at its 110th annual Commencement exercises. Notably, the Class of 2007 included the first bachelor of science in nursing graduates. President Dr. Robert Ubbelohde, who will retire June 30, gave the commencement address. President-elect and campus pastor Rev. Dr. Philip Johnson delivered the Baccalaureate sermon. Valedictorian Nora Hyrkas and alumnus Duane Aho also addressed this year's graduates.



President Ubbelohde congratulates Rural Human Services graduate Joshua Hendrickson.

Degrees conferred to Finlandia's Class of 2007 are: 6 Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees in Elementary Education, 7 B.A.s in Liberal Studies, and 14 B.A.s in Rural Human Services; 18 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degrees; 19 Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degrees; 16 Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degrees;

Dr. Ubbelohde urged graduates not to be self-centered, to face the future with hope, think for themselves, cultivate their imaginations, keep learning, and enjoy the mystery of life. "Let your faith be a busy, active thing," he said. "Follow Christ's commandment to love."

Degrees conferred to Finlandia's Class of 2007 are: 6 Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees in

5 Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees in Criminal Justice, 16 A.A.S.'s in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA); and 11 Associate of General Studies (A.G.S.) degrees.

Valedictorian Nora Hyrkas



Nora Hyrkas

Celebrate Your Finlandia Education

Elementary Education senior Nora Hyrkas is Valedictorian of the Finlandia University Class of 2007. Nora graduates with a perfect 4.0 GPA, summa cum laude. The daughter of William and Karen Hyrkas of Calumet, Nora graduated from Calumet High School in 2002. She and her fiancé, Matt Laho, also a 2007 summa cum laude Finlandia Elementary Education program graduate, are both seeking teaching positions in Wyoming and Alaska. They will marry this July. Nora plans to pursue a master's degree.

"Nora is known for her quiet manner, under which she has a great sense of humor. There is always a twinkle in her eye. She has been a bright light on campus as both a scholar and an athlete," said Provost Dr. Jeanne Rellahan at this year's Commencement ceremonies.

"While it's fitting that we celebrate today, we should also reflect on the honor of having a Finlandia education," Nora said in her Commencement speech. "Beyond this afternoon's celebration, Finlandia graduates can celebrate their education by contributing their knowledge, wisdom, and service to the community."



Duane Aho

Alumnus Duane Aho *Never Give Up*

Duane Aho graduated with the Suomi College Class of 1971, and completed a B.S. in business administration at Michigan Technological University. For 22 years, until 1999, he worked for Detroit and Northern Bank, Hancock, rising to become the bank's vice president of operations. Aho then worked in the Michigan Tech development office until June 2006 when he rejoined the bank, now Citizens' Bank. Aho has just been promoted to the position of Community Bank President, Market Leader for the Keweenaw area. A Finnish American born in Hancock, he has spent most of his life in the Copper Country.

"It may not hit you right away. It took me a few years after I graduated from Suomi College to fully realize the value of what I had received here," Aho shared with the 2007 graduating class. "You have a good foundation to begin your life. Remember this is a commencement. All of you here, I know, are glad that your years of hard work and study are done. But the word 'commencement' means to begin or start, so I wish you all the best in your careers."

The 2007 BSN Graduates



The Finlandia University Class of 2007 includes the first bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) graduates. Front row: Jennifer Fitch (Lake Linden), Ginny Junttila (Calumet), Catherine Bausano (Calumet), Ying Cui (Houghton), Amber Nelson (Hancock). Middle row (standing): Kim Sarazin (Lake Linden), Stacey Clisch (Baraga), Cassie Harris-Berryman (Laurium), Heather Huuki (Hubbell), Millie Beck (Laurium), Rachel Kinnear (Newberry), Jess Rischar (Duluth, Minn.), Jenny Niileksela (Hancock), Sanna Howell (Culver City, Calif.). Back (in tree): Shannon Kirklin (Coleman), Jana Riutta (Atlantic Mine), Katie Herrala (Houghton). Jordan Kivela (Calumet), not pictured, is the first RN-to-BSN program graduate.

Class of 2007 Award Recipients and Honors Graduates

Sampo Society membership is awarded to graduating students with a GPA above 3.75 who have shown leadership in the cultural and intellectual life of the university. It is the university's highest honor. In Finnish mythology, the Sampo is a magical artifact that brings good fortune to its holder. It is a pivotal element of the plot of the Finnish epic, The Kalevala. Bachelor degree inductees are James Matson (Calumet), Gillian Nye (Alpena), Erica Payne (Crystal Falls), and Lauren Roell (Channing). Jennifer Lucarelli (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Yuki Sato (Tokyo, Japan) are associate degree members.

These **2007 Sisu Award recipients** have shown courage, fortitude, and perseverance in overcoming hardship to achieve personal and academic success: Anna Darling (Atlantic Mine), Angeline Weber (Calumet), and Millie Beck (Laurium).

Class of 2007 Summa Cum Laude Honors Graduates. These students earned an overall 3.9-4.0 GPA. Bachelor degree candidates are Catherine Fisher (Yakima, Wash.), Nora Hyrkas (Calumet), Stuart Kauppila (Calumet), Matthew Laho (Bristol, Wisc.), James Matson (Tamarack City), Gillian Nye (Alpena), Erin Reynolds (Calumet), Jessica Rischar (Duluth, Minn.), Lauren Roell (Channing), and Jenna Temte (Bloomington, Minn.).

Class of 2007 Magna Cum Laude Honors Graduates. These students earned an overall 3.700-3.899 GPA. Bachelor degree candidates are Catherine Bausano (Calumet), Mildred Beck (Laurium), Stacey Clisch (Baraga), Ying Cui (Houghton), Tina Dupuis (Lake Linden), Nickole Hubert (Kearsarge), Ginny Junttila (Calumet), Shannon Kirklin (Hancock), Kristina Nikkonen (Limhamn, Sweden), Carrie Noblet (Crystal Falls), Erica Payne (Crystal Falls), Kimberly Sarazin (Lake Linden), Erin Snow (Houghton), Sue Wilson (Baraga), and Valarie Yokie (South Range).

Associate degree candidates are Sarah Brinkman (L'Anse), Stephanie Coron (Ishpeming), Colleen Fuller (Ontonagon), Nao Habe (Tokyo, Japan), Jennifer Lucarelli (Minneapolis, Minn.), Yuki Sato (Tokyo, Japan), and Mai Takada (Yoshi Gigu, Japan).

Class of 2007 Cum Laude Honors Graduates. These students earned an overall 3.50-3.699 GPA. Bachelor degree candidates are Quinci Bonini (Chassell), Sanna Howell (Culver City, Calif.), Rachael Kinnear (Newberry), Jordan Kivela (Calumet), Karen Mattfolk (Hancock), Karma Maynard (Hancock), Amber Nelson (Hancock), Jenny Niileksela (Hancock), James Ollila (Painesdale), Thomas Paul (Houghton), Emily Ragan (Chassell), Shannon Rinkinen (Chassell), Bryan Russell (Royal Oak), Molly Steele (Calumet), Katie Sullivan (Nisula), Samantha Voight (Ewen), Alexa Watkins (Harper Woods), and Angeline Weber (Calumet).

Associate degree candidates are Margaret Blais (Houghton), Jason Crouch (Lake Linden), Chie Ishikawa (Tokushiina, Japan), Motoyuki Kidokoro (Kawasaki City, Japan), Travis Lloyd (L'Anse), and Melinda Seppanen (Atlantic Mine).

SPORTS NEWS

Men's Hockey: Lions Take MCHA Harris Cup



The Finlandia men's hockey team has been in the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association for just three years, but on Sunday [March 11, 2007] the Lions were handed the Harris Trophy as winners of the MCHA's tournament.

The Lions' win on home-ice was a dramatic come-from-behind 4-3 thriller over two-time defending champion Milwaukee School of Engineering, winners of the regular season crown.

In front of a standing-room-only crowd at the Houghton County Arena, the Lion's Ryan Sullivan scored with less than a minute to go to give FU what coach Joe Burcar called "a history-making day for our program."

Both teams took to the ice with plenty of intensity following relatively easy semi-final games Saturday. The Lions, the tourney's second seed, defeated third-seed Marian 6-3, while top seed MSOE shut out fourth-seeded Lawrence 4-0.

In Sunday's final, the Raiders scored first when Blair Hanberg picked up his fourth goal of the weekend by intercepting a Finlandia pass and then going in all alone on FU goalie Joe Junttila of Calumet.

The unassisted goal came at 6:03 of the first. R.G. Flath gave the defending champs a two-goal lead at 12:30 with an unassisted even-strength goal that seemed to take the air out of the partisan FU crowd.

They sprang to life two minutes and six seconds later when Ryan Sullivan, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, scored a power-play goal with an assist from Marc "Tiger" Marcotte of L'Anse, who was also named to the All-Tournament team.

The teams went into the locker room with MSOE holding a one-goal lead, but FU fans feeling much better about their chances.

Josh Paquette, who, along with Marcotte and Sullivan, was an FU representative on the MCHA All-Conference team, knotted the score at 11:34 of the second period with an unassisted goal. Junttila faced just six shots in the period and stopped them all, while the Raiders's Joe Dovalina stopped 14 of the 15 FU shots he faced as the teams went into the second intermission tied at two each.

The Lions faced a two minute short-handed situation to begin the third stanza as the result of a penalty for crosschecking assessed to Ross Rouleau as the second period ended.

FU caught a break when the MSOE power play was negated 39 seconds into it when Michael Duta was called for interference.

Both teams played it pretty close to the vest until the Lions got their first lead of the contest at the 11:06 mark when Keith Johnstone blasted a wrist shot on Dovalina's blocker side.

The top-shelf, power-play goal was assisted by a pair of Hancock natives, Rouleau and Blake Miller.

Although trailing for the first time in the weekend, the Raiders showed no signs of panic and tied the score with just over six minutes left on Flath's second goal of the game.

SPORTS NEWS

Losing the lead got the Lions, but only for a short time, according to their coach.

"It struck us pretty hard. There was a short period of time when there was a letdown. But six minutes to go, tied three-three, we knew there was time. I think earlier it would have devastated us, but once again I think our character came through," Burcar said.

Character, and the work ethic Burcar credits to what he calls his "blue collar team."

That hard work philosophy resulted in the game-winner with just 51 seconds left in regulation.

The Raiders had the puck deep in their own zone and were preparing for one final run at the Lions before over-time, when the Lions's Joe Beaudry stole the puck and Houghton's Derek Onkalo found Sullivan in front of the net, who buried it for the winner.

MSOE pulled Dovalina for the final 50 seconds but the Lions never let the Raiders get a shot with the extra man.

MSOE coach Mark Ostapina said the game was a well played contest between two teams.

"They're a good team," he said. "They were able to capitalize on our mistakes and we didn't capitalize on theirs. But I'm proud of our team. We can walk out of here with our heads held high."

Burcar said that after playing MSOE four previous times there were no secrets between the two and the end came down to hard work.

"We know each other very well. It just came down to who got a few breaks here and there and who wanted it more. That play just showed the character of our team, battling through three players, getting the puck,

winning the battle and finding the guy in the slot, and 'Sully' wasted no time in burying it."

In addition to Sullivan and Marcotte, the All-Tournament team consisted of Hanberg and defenseman Jason Woll of MSOE, and goalie Andrew Isaac and forward Billy Siers of Lawrence University.

On hand to present the Harris Cup to Finlandia was MCHA commissioner Terry Brand, who praised the Lions for not only the way they played but for the way they hosted the Final Four.

"This is a tournament that we bid out," Brand said. "Finlandia and MSOE bid on it and Finlandia had never hosted it before so we awarded it to them in hopes that with the great hockey tradition up here we'd have a great crowd. We had great crowds and Finlandia's done a great job. We're really pleased we had it up here this year."

Scoring Summary

First Period

MSOE Hansberg (unassisted) 6:03

MSOE Flath (unassisted) 12:30

FIN Sullivan (Marcotte) 14:36

Second Period

FIN Paquette (unassisted) 11:34

Third Period

FIN Johnstone (Rouleau, Miller) 11:06

MSOE Flath (Duta) 13:59

FIN Sullivan (Onkala) 19:09

Saves

FIN (Junttila) 14 6 7 — 27

MSOE (Dovalina) 9 14 3 — 26

Story written by Mark Wilcox and originally published in The Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton, Mich., March 14, 2007. Reprinted with permission.



2006-2007 MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

No	Name	Pos
1	Joe Junttila	G
3	Kevin Korte	D
4	Luke Taintor	F
5	Brad VanTassel (A)	D
7	Tiger Marcotte	D
8	Blake Miller	D
9	Kasey Kreuter	D
10	Derek Onkalo	F/D
11	Bryan Solander	D
12	Mitch Tallent	C
13	Ryan Sullivan	W
14	Jason Aldrich (A)	W
15	Joe Beaudry	W
16	Mike Parks (C)	F/D
17	CJ Fisher	W
18	Keith Johnstone	W
19	Brandon VanAcker	F
20	Travis Hanson (C)	W
21	Josh Paquette (A)	C
22	Matt Lindgren	D
23	Jon Redfield	D
24	Corey Blake	W
25	Joe Welgos	W
29	Lukas Alberer	G
30	Rob DeVaun	G

Joe Burcar

Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach
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HIS DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN

Bill Melchiori ('04) loves talking about his job.

Finlandia University director of student life and housing since May 2005, Melchiori coordinates student activities and supervises resident life and security personnel. He oversees student development and orientation activities, supervises the student leadership program, and builds student awareness of off-campus community resources.

Melchiori's office door is always open. He spends two to three hours each day in direct contact with students, including student club-related meetings three or four times a week. "So many times students just drop in to chat," he adds.

Melchiori, 25, has more than four years of student life employment experience at Finlandia. In his junior year, he was a resident assistant and student leader. As a senior, he worked full-time as the residence hall and campus life director. He completed his B.B.A. in spring 2004.

At first he didn't know he would enjoy the work so much. Now it has become a fulfilling career. "Definitely, the best part is seeing the students grow, both in and out of the classroom," Melchiori explains. "It's very rewarding. As an alumnus, it's also exciting to know that Finlandia is growing and going places."

It's not always easy, however. "Student discipline is the hardest part," he says. "I have to maintain a level of care for the individual student, while at the same time keeping in mind the good of the general student population and the integrity of the institution."

Selecting annual recipients of Student Leadership scholarships is also challenging for Melchiori. He wishes all students could have the opportunity because there are so many that could be selected.

Melchiori expects to complete a master of science in student affairs in higher education next spring. Although much of his coursework is on-line, for two months this summer he'll study on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

Melchiori spends many evenings in his Finlandia Hall office working on master's degree coursework. "I like to do my homework in my office in the evenings. When students stop in they are surprised to learn that I'm also a student, and experiencing similar challenges," he says.

The Indiana State graduate program places a huge emphasis on student values, Melchiori notes. This emphasis has inspired him to more closely consider how student life activities fulfill Finlandia's mission and, especially, the Finlandia Plan. As a result, he is working to more robustly align student life activities with the larger goals of Finlandia's learning community.

"I've refined my work style in many ways over the last several years," he says. "The first year I hit the ground running, not yet fully understanding what student development was all about. Now the master's program has taken it to an entirely new level."

"It's a luxury being involved in out-of-classroom student life as I complete my graduate degree," Melchiori says. "In my work I interact directly with the students and experience college life in many ways. This great mix of duties, combined with my graduate studies, lets me put my studies into action. I'm learning and growing every day."

Melchiori lives in Chassell, Mich. He graduated from Escanaba High School in 2000. His parents are Jim and Julie Melchiori, also of Chassell. He intends to continue his work at Finlandia University following completion of his graduate degree.

Bill Melchiori ('04)





Left to right: Tim Jaska, Lauren Roell, Steve Palek, Brandon Gassi, and Ben LaComb. Not pictured is Amanda Thoreson.

"*The Roar* is more than a student newspaper," writes Bill Melchiori, Finlandia University director of student life, in the March 2007 edition of the student-produced publication. "It's more than a collection of photos and graphics. *The Roar* is an opportunity to be heard."

"Reliable, Original, Active Reading" is its recently adopted tagline. A fall 2005 redesign of the former *Lion's Roar*, led by Art & Design senior Lauren Roell and alumna Shannon Rinkinen ('06), added more and better graphics and photos, and coverage of additional topics by more student writers.

"The most exciting feature of the new *Roar* is that it fuses curricular and co-curricular opportunity," adds Melchiori. Students can now earn academic credit writing for *The Roar* through an elective journalism course. Further, the editor and art director positions are supported by Student Leadership scholarships.

Students enrolled in the spring 2007 journalism class were editor Tim Jaska (Jackson) and four staff writers: Liberal Arts majors junior Steve Palek (Hancock) and senior Amanda Thoreson (Crystal Falls), Elementary Education freshman Brandon Gassi (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.), and Business freshman Ben LaCombe (Marinette, Wisc.). Art director Lauren Roell (Channing) received a Student Leadership scholarship for her work. *Roar* advisors are Melchiori and Provost Dr. Jeanne Rellahan.

The class is not a requirement to write for the paper. It does, however, provide incentive and assures ample articles for each issue. Jaska adds, "The class allows students to study the process of journalism and press publication. Most of the articles written for the class are published."

The Roar would love to see more student submissions. "Participation on *The Roar* looks good on a resume and can also be part of a student portfolio," Jaska notes.

Additional non-staff writers and photographers also contribute to the monthly 12- to 16-page publication. Elementary Education junior Ryan Koski (Marquette), leader of the Outdoor Recreation Club, is one of the paper's most frequent contributors.

At each weekly meeting the *Roar* team brainstorms story ideas, identifies assignments, and determines deadlines. Each student writes two articles per issue. Regular topics include sports, campus ministry, and student club activities. As editor, Jaska arranges speakers for class, oversees production of the paper, offers help if needed, and proofreads and edits *Roar* articles. Roell designs and lays out the publication.

Jaska will continue as editor in the 2007-08 academic year. He has some exciting ideas for the publication's growth. "You're only as small as you limit yourself to be," he says. "We've got a lot to work on. We have accomplished much, but the potential is endless."

Ideas for the next academic year include broadening the reach of the newspaper and offering subscriptions to alumni and parents. "We'll work to solidify our mission and vision, and establish an image and brand to build recognition," Jaska adds. "We'd also like to have a dedicated "office" and develop an on-line edition." Staff training in photography, article composition, and interviewing techniques is also planned.

Jaska feels *The Roar* has a big impact on Finlandia students. "We take pride in our school. *The Roar* improves communication on campus. It gives the university credibility," he explains. "It also has the potential to significantly unite the campus."

"When I started at Finlandia I knew I wanted to do it," says Roell of her participation on the paper. "I had ideas to visually improve the paper, and I had learned how in my classes. I wanted to make it creative, fun, and open."

"In my opinion, the student paper is extremely important and is not being utilized to its full extent. *The Roar* expands the view of the student body and gives them a forum to express themselves," adds Roell.

Business senior James Matson (Calumet) developed a Web page for *The Roar*. Link to it at <http://www.collegeroar.blogspot.com>.

Student-led

CLUBS

o r g a n i z e a n d m o t i v a t e

Finlandia University's student-led clubs and organizations organize activities that motivate students to get involved. The activities serve the physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of students, providing them with leadership opportunities and recreational, educational, and volunteer opportunities. Following is a sampling of 2006-07 student club activities.

Special Interest Clubs

Ski and Snowboard Club/Outdoor Recreation Club year-round outdoor activities include hiking, mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, and sledding. Leader: Elementary Education junior Ryan Koski (Marquette).

The Roar is the monthly student-led campus newspaper. Content editor: Business freshman Tim Jaska (Jackson). Visual editor: Art & Design senior Lauren Roell (Channing).

Big Brothers Big Sisters TEAM Mentoring. Each week Finlandia student "bigs" mentor their Hancock Middle School "littles." Leader: Elementary Education junior Kari Noll (Green Bay, Wisc.).

The **Pep Club** builds school spirit through athletic events by sponsoring game activities and encouraging spectator participation. Leader: Nursing junior Lindsey Rajala (Wakefield).

The **International Club** participates in the area's annual Parade of Nations, holds weekly Finnish, Japanese, and Swahili language lessons, and hosts international food nights. Leader: Business sophomore Sarah Erdman (Minocqua, Wisc.).

NAMI-Finlandia (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) provides information about and support for those affected by mental illness. Leader: Rural Human Services senior Josh Hendrickson (Hancock).

Senate Service works with other student clubs and organizations to organize campus and community service projects. Leader: Business junior Bree Cote (Copperton, Utah).

The **Campus Ministry Team** (CMT) encourages spiritual growth through worship and meditation, service, discipleship, and outreach. Co-leaders: Nursing junior Hannah Norman (Gwinn) and Business junior Kathryn Holsworth (Republic).

Fitness and Intramurals Club activities include floorball games, flag football, and a softball tournament. Leader: Nursing junior Meagan Petros (Marquette).

Academic Interest Clubs

Human Services Club members mentor children and raise money for local organizations. "Building Awareness and Striving to Improve our Community" (BASIC) is their tagline. Leader: Rural Human Services junior Alexa Watkins (Harper Woods).

Elementary Education Club students conduct a weekly children's story time at North Wind Books, arrange lectures about the education profession, and undertake service projects. Leader: Elementary Education senior Dana Grunow (Lake Linden).

The **Student Nurse Organization** organizes an annual blood drive, and volunteers and fundraises for a local hospice and other organizations. Leader: Nursing senior Catherine Bausano (Calumet).

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Club activities include a bowling outing for kids and a bike-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Hospital. Leader: PTA junior Bill Thompson (Atlantic Mine).

The **Bohemian Artist Coalition** (BAC) joins art and design students and others interested in art. Leader: Art & Design major Jaimianne Amicci (Mahopac Falls, New York).

Additional Student Organizations

The **Student Senate** is responsible for coordinating or assisting with numerous on-campus student life activities. It organizes and promotes academic, spiritual, social, cultural, and recreational activities, and acts to address specific student concerns. Officers (2007-08): President, Business major Jillian Dolkey (Wetmore); Vice President, Nursing junior Casey Luke (Iron Mountain); Secretary/Treasurer, Elementary Education major Ally Tincknell (Negaunee).

The **Student Alumni Association** engages both students and alumni. The group organized a Homecoming celebration in January 2007 in cooperation with the International Alumni Board. Staff advisor: Christina Armbruster, director of alumni relations.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI NOTES

Maria Ranta, now of Oulainen, Finland, worked in the Suomi College cafeteria in the 1970s. Maria's famous sweet rolls, served on Sunday mornings, woke students up early. When she retired, Maria returned to Finland with her son, Eero. She is now 86 years old and still living on her own, for which she thanks God. In her dreams she is still working at Suomi College and wishes to hear from her old friends and work mates. In particular, she wonders what happened to her friend Jenni Ranta. She is enjoying good health and sends her warmest regards to everyone at Finlandia University. Her address is: Maria Ranta, Oksantie 17 A 4, 86300 Oulainen, Finland.

Update: Reunion 2008

Mark the date! 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. All alumni are encouraged to organize their own get-togethers by class or major.

"We've held two planning sessions and have a tentative itinerary that includes a golf tournament, hockey and basketball games, a Lake Superior cruise, a mixer, and many other activities!" added Christina Armbruster, director of donor and alumni relations.

ENGAGEMENTS

Erin Snow and Robert Johnson Jr.

Ann and Tom Snow of Houghton, Mich., and Robert and Kathleen Johnson of Lake Linden, Mich., announce the engagement of their children, Erin Snow and Robert Johnson Jr. Erin is a Calumet High School graduate and is attending Finlandia University. She works at The Bluffs, Houghton. Robert is a Lake Linden-Hubbell High School graduate and is employed by Robert E. Johnson Contracting. A July 28, 2007, wedding is planned.

Alumni photos and memorabilia are being collected to share at the reunion. "Widespread alumni support will make this a truly amazing exhibit spanning the entire history of Suomi College and Finlandia University," Christina said. Send your photos and memorabilia to her at 601 Quincy St., Hancock, MI 49930. Please clearly label each photo or memorabilia item with your name and address so it can be returned to you.

The next issue of *the Bridge* will include additional details. If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Christina Armbruster at 906-487-7205 or christina.armbruster@finlandia.edu.



Finniskit Eco-Chic

The 2007 spring and summer collection of Finniskit Eco-Chic by fabric artist Heidi LaBeau, 2006 Finlandia B.F.A. graduate, is featured on her recently-launched Web page: finniskit.etsy.com. LaBeau's individualistic, hand-dyed garments are made from sustainable textiles like hemp and organic cotton. Finniskit is a small, artist-owned company committed to design with eco-fashion. The "fashion with sisu" is intended to inspire environmental awareness and self-expression.

ALUMNI NEWS

MARRIAGES

Rebecca Butler and Jesse Stites

Rebecca Butler and Jesse Stites were married Sept. 23, 2006. Rebecca is the daughter of Thomas and Barbara Butler of Laurium, Mich. In 2003 she completed a B.A. in human services at Finlandia. She is pursuing a degree in nursing at Gogebic Community College. Jesse is the son of Roger Stites and Kathy Hendrickson of Mass City, Mich. He is a graduate of Alpena Community College, and is employed at the Ontonagon County Telephone Company. The couple resides in Mass City.

OBITUARIES

Lillian J. Niemi

Lillian J. Niemi, 91, of, Hancock, Mich., passed away February 12, 2007, in Hancock. She was born June 28, 1915, in Hancock, a daughter of the late Walter and Ida (Liinangi) Kero. Lillian graduated from Hancock High School in 1933 and attended Suomi College in 1934-35. She married Wallace F. Niemi in 1940; he preceded her in death. She retired in 1980 from Suomi College where she had worked in food services. Lillian was a member of the First Apostolic Lutheran Church, Atlantic Mine, Mich., and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Jay D. Joffe

Jay D. Joffe, 89, son of the late Herman and Fannie Joffe, passed away April 4, 2007, in Tucson, Ariz. He was born in Hancock, Mich., April 21, 1917, and attended Hancock High School and Suomi College ('38). In 1949 he married Jean Weis; she survives. A longtime resident of the Copper Country, Jay and his brothers, Milton and Harry, owned Joffe's Men's Clothing and Family Shoe Store, Hancock. He was a member of the 15th Division Naval Reserves and

served in the Pacific Theater during WW II. Jay was involved in a number of community organizations, was a past president and member of Temple Jacob, Hancock, and a member of Congregation Anshei Israel in Tucson.

Carl Herman Lohela

Carl Herman Lohela, 84, of Hancock, Mich., died January 28, 2007, in Hancock. He was born in Hancock August 12, 1922, to Ephriam and Aileen (Lescelius) Lohela. Carl graduated from Hancock High School in 1940. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and was awarded a Purple Heart. He completed a business course at Suomi College in 1947. In 1954 he married Marilyn Barth; she survives. Carl was a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock, a lifetime member of the D.A.V., and served on the Hancock Housing Commission.

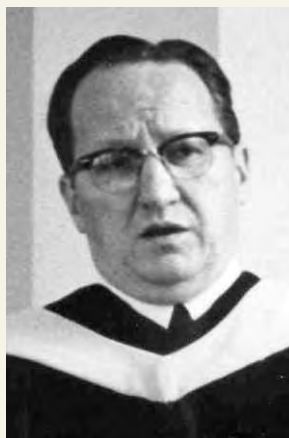
Gordon C. Bekkala

Gordon C. Bekkala, 80, of Tamarack City, Mich., formerly of Laurium, Mich., passed away February 15, 2007, in Marquette, Mich. He was born on May 15, 1926, in Laurium, a son of the late Ralph and Sylvia (Arola) Bekkala. Gordon attended Calumet, Mich., schools. He graduated from Suomi College ('48) and Ferris State University. Gordon worked as a CPA in various parts of the U.S. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served with the Shore Patrol and as a radio gunner on a dive bomber during WWII.

Joan Arlene (Kananen) Wiitala

Joan Arlene (Kananen) Wiitala, 68, of Hancock, Mich., died January 5, 2007. She was born February 1, 1938, in Toivola, Mich. She attended South Range Elementary School and Jeffers High School, graduating in 1956. She

The Rev. Dr. Bernhard "Bernie" Hillila



The Rev. Dr. Bernhard "Bernie" Hillila, 87, of Valparaiso, Ind., died November 27, 2006, in Valparaiso. Hillila was president of Suomi College and Theological Seminary from 1949 to 1952. He was also a Suomi College professor of practical theology and psychology and served on the college's Board of Directors.

Hillila was born May 21, 1919, to the late Rev. Hugo and Hannah Hillila in Gwinn, Mich. On June 28, 1944, he married the former Esther Halttunen in New Castle, Penn. He is survived by his wife Esther, three children, and three grandchildren.

Rev. Hillila graduated from Ishpeming (Mich.) High School in 1936. He completed a B.A. at Boston University, a theological degree at Suomi Theological Seminary, an M.A. at Case-Western University, and an Ed.D. at Columbia University/Union Seminary. Ordained in 1941, Hillila served as pastor for several bilingual (English/Finnish) Lutheran congregations, and was a dean and professor at several institutions of higher learning.

The family suggests memorials to the Hillila Scholarship Fund at Finlandia University.

The Bridge offers sincere apologies for including a misidentified photo with Rev. Hillila's obituary in its spring 2007 edition.

ALUMNI NEWS

earned an associate degree in English at Suomi College in 1985, and a bachelor's degree in English at Northern Michigan University in 1987. She worked for Copper Country Mental Health until her retirement in 2005.

James J. Lemler

James J. Lemler, 64, of Laurium, Mich., passed away January 10, 2007, in Laurium. He was born August 24, 1942, in Chicago, Ill., a son of Donald and Helen (Matas) Lemler. He married Elaine Carlson in 1961; she survives. James graduated from Streator High School in 1960 and the New Orleans (La.) Police Academy in 1964. He received a degree in criminal justice from Suomi College in 1976. For 30 years he worked for the Village of Laurium Police Department, retiring as chief of police. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Church, Knights of Columbus, and Police Chiefs of Michigan.

Major Thomas E. Line

Major Thomas Edwin Line, 64, died April 12, 2007, in West Allis, Wis. He was born September 27, 1943, in Hancock, Mich., to the late Sennia Elizabeth (Walikangas) and Edward Rueben Linja. After high school, Tom attended Suomi College ('63) and Northern Michigan University where he earned a teaching degree. He married Sandra Songer in 1970; she survives. Tom was a Salvation Army officer for more than 32 years,

holding a variety of positions across the Midwest.

Carolyn H. Peterson

Carolyn H. Peterson, 55, of Ripley, Mich., died in Ripley January 31, 2007. She was born in Hancock, Mich., on July 6, 1951, to Ruth (Groitzsch) Peterson and the late Charles L. Peterson. She attended Ripley School and graduated from Hancock High School in 1969. She attended Suomi College in 1969-70. Carolyn served in the U.S. Navy for seven years followed by ten years of civil service employment, and other occupations. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, Hancock.

Patricia C. Jaehnig

Patricia C. Jaehnig, 41, of Houghton, Mich., passed away March 4, 2007, in Marquette, Mich. She was born April 4, 1965, in Hancock, a daughter of Wallace and Sylvia (Kobe) Rintala. Patty graduated from the Copper Country Christian School and Finlandia University ('04, '06). She also attended Michigan Technological University. Patty worked as a physical therapist assistant for Superior Home Nursing and Hospice. She was a member of Victory Christian Assembly Church, Baraga, Mich.

Emory P. Medlyn

Emory P. Medlyn, 49, formerly of Houghton, Mich., passed away in

Hudson, Wisc., January 18, 2007. He was born December 21, 1957, in Hancock, a son of the late Emory and Anna (Kennedy) Medlyn. He graduated from Houghton High School in 1976 and joined the U.S. Navy. Emory attended Northern Michigan University and Suomi College ('91). In 1986, he married Starr Mattila; she survives.

Vicky L. Wakeham

Vicky L. Wakeham, 48, formerly of Houghton, Mich., died March 16, 2007, in Loveland, Colo. She was born June 10, 1958, to Jack and Mabel (Eakin) Wakeham. She graduated from Houghton High School in 1976 and received her business degree from Suomi College. Most of her adult life was spent in Loveland.

ALUMNI FRIENDS

SHARE YOUR NEWS

We'd like to hear your news! Please take a minute to do so via e-mail or snail mail.

Finlandia Alumni Relations
c/o Christina Armbruster
601 Quincy St. • Hancock, MI 49930
alumnidirectory@finlandia.edu
www.finlandia.edu

Memorials & In Honor List

MEMORIALS

12/1/06-3/31/07

Morris A. Ahlquist
Ilona Hattula Arntzen
Dr. Lindo Bartelli
Mae M. Belmas
Ellis Bergstrom
Alice Paulson Bloomfield
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brunner
Pam Crary
Helen Rautio Daavettila
Evelyn Dover

Emil & Agda Erickson
Dolores Sormunen Fennell
Verner Haapanen
Onni R. Harju
Rev. Jack Hill
Dr. Bernhard Hillila
Linda Susan Elliott Horton
June Houle
Mauno Kallioma
Eva Kiltinen
Aarne Koljonen

Ray J. Koski
Emma Karling Leppala
Carl Lohela
Jalmar Lytinen
Toivo & Jenny Malila
Ellwood & Idamae Mattson
Jack McKenna
Leonard & Anita Middleton
Kaarlo W. Nasi
Siiri Mattson Nye
Ole Oines

Walter M.D. Olsen
Emil J. Puotinen
Ted Reiss
Rev. Robert Richardson
Jenelle Maud Sager
Kenneth Seppala
Axel & Laura Sirtola
Jim Stone
Josephine E. Tinnes
John Raymond Tuuri
Andrew H. Wisti

IN HONOR

12/1/06-3/31/07

Ladies of Kaleva,
Ainon Tupa #13
Sandra & Philip Michel
Edith Niederer
John Piirto
Kenneth D. Seaton
77th Birthday
Kenneth & Lois Seaton

CALENDAR

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR 2007

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

JUNE

7-30 Art Exhibition: Kotiväki: Daniel and Tiffany Besonen (Finlandia Gallery)

JULY

1-22 Art Exhibition: Kotiväki: Daniel and Tiffany Besonen (Finlandia Gallery)

21 Closing Reception: Kotiväki: Daniel and Tiffany Besonen, 7 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)

7-15 Elderhostel: A Finnish-American Experience, Session I

13 Finlandia University International Alumni Board Meeting (FAHC)

15 9th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival, 2 p.m. (Chicago Temple, Chicago, Ill.)

18-20 9th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival, 7:30 p.m. (Calumet Theatre, Calumet, Mich.)

19 Finlandia University Finnish Council in America Meeting (FAHC)

26-31 Art Exhibition: In/Of Nature: Cherie Sampson (Finlandia Gallery)

July 29-August 4 Elderhostel: A Finnish-American Experience, Session II

AUGUST

1-31 Art Exhibition: In/Of Nature: Cherie Sampson (Finlandia Gallery)

23-27 Incoming student orientation

28 First full day of classes

SEPTEMBER

1-6 Art Exhibition: In/Of Nature: Cherie Sampson (Finlandia Gallery)

6 Closing Reception: In/Out of Nature: Cherie Sampson, 7 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)



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Meet Nicholas, an energetic French schoolboy who is forever in some kind of trouble. His adventures and exploits are brought to life by author Rene Goscinny and illustrator Jean-Jaques Sempe. Originally published in France in 1959, and a constant best-seller ever since, *Nicholas* is the first in a series of books now available in English.

Phaidon Press Limited, 2005

Hardcover\$19.95

Also *Nicholas Again* and *Nicholas on Vacation*\$19.95

My Father Spoke Finglish at Work: Finnish Americans in Northeast Ohio, edited by Noreen Sippola Fairburn

In 1874 the first Finnish immigrants came to northeast Ohio's Lake Erie port towns and settled in the same area, hoping to retain their language, customs, and culture in the New World. The Finnish American Heritage Association of Ashtabula County, organized in 1995, interviewed many of these early Finnish Americans immigrants to record and preserve their history.

Kent State University Press, 2007

Hardcover\$34.95

Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name, by Vendela Vida

On the day of her father's funeral 28-year-old Clarissa Iverson discovers that he wasn't her biological father after all. Now alone and adrift, Clarissa finds her birth certificate and begins a journey to discover her own identity and the truth

about her past. This story of her travels from New York to Helsinki, and then to mystical Lapland, is unforgettable and full of warmth and surprising humor.

HarperCollins, 2007

Hardcover\$23.95

Returning to Earth, by Jim Harrison

Donald is a middle-aged Chippewa-Finnish man dying of Lou Gehrig's disease. When he realizes no one else is alive to pass on to his children their family history, he begins dictating to his wife stories he has never shared with anyone. *Returning to Earth* is a tender and profound novel about life, death, and discovering redemption in unlikely places.

Grove Press, 2007

Hardcover\$24.00

A Winter Book, by Tove Jansson

Following the bestselling *The Summer Book*, this is a winter collection of some of Tove Jansson's best loved stories. Drawn from youth and older age, and spanning most of the twentieth century, this newly translated collection is a thrilling showcase of the Finnish writer's prose. The collection was selected and introduced by Ali Smith.

Sort of Books, 2006

Paperback\$14.80

Astrid & Veronika, by Linda Olsson

In the midst of a harsh winter Veronika, a young writer from New Zealand, rents a house in a small Swedish village hoping to come to terms with a recent tragedy and finish her novel. Her arrival is observed by Astrid, an elderly, reclusive neighbor who harbors a dark secret. Astrid offers Veronika companionship in her grief, and the two embark on an unusual and unexpected friendship.

Penguin Books, 2005

Paperback\$14.00



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