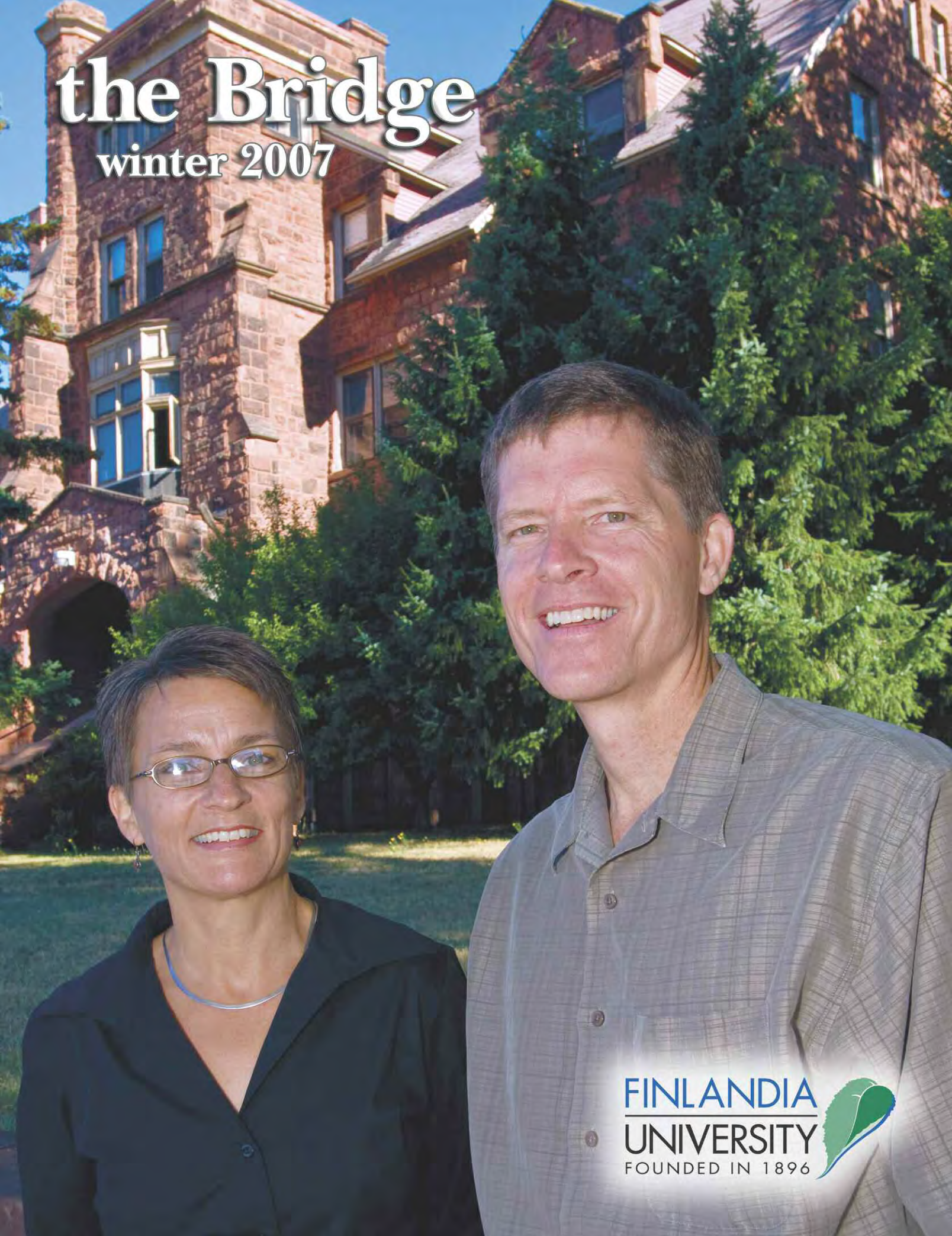


# the Bridge

winter 2007





# Reunion 2008!

Here it is: the preliminary itinerary for the 2008 all-class reunion! More details, including times and cost, will appear in the spring 2008 *Bridge*.

## THURSDAY JUNE 26

- Individual graduating class and group gatherings. Please contact the Alumni Office if you'd like to organize a gathering.

## FRIDAY JUNE 27

- Registration/Check-in
- Alumni Choir sign-up and rehearsal
- International Alumni Board meeting
- Guided tours: Campus, Hancock
- Golf outing
- Welcome dinner, awards and honors

## SATURDAY JUNE 28

- Breakfast at Finlandia Hall
- 'Met and Married' at Suomi College/Finlandia University get-together
- Guided tours: Campus, Hancock, Quincy Mine Hoist, Dee Stadium
- Informational presentations
- Keweenaw Star Lake Superior Cruise
- Alumni hockey and basketball games
- Mixer and barbeque at the Waterfront Restaurant
- Open gym and pool

## SUNDAY JUNE 29

- Chapel service featuring Alumni Choir performance, and recognition of seminary graduates and the Class of 1958
- Pasty picnic and bake-off/recipe exchange at Hancock Beach
- Open gym and pool
- Goodbyes

*Sincere thanks to the reunion planning committee!*

Please contact Christina Mayworm, director of alumni relations, at 906-487-7205 or [christina.mayworm@finlandia.edu](mailto:christina.mayworm@finlandia.edu) with questions or to pre-register. Your early registration will help us as we plan the reunion.

The following awards will be presented at Reunion 2008. Please contact Christina Mayworm for nomination requirements.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

- Criteria: 1) Alumna/alumnus of Suomi College or Finlandia University;
- 2) Meritorious service to Suomi/Finlandia and society; and
- 3) Exemplifies Finlandia's mission as a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service.

## YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

- Criteria: 1) Graduated from Suomi/Finlandia within the last 10 years;
- 2) Significant professional achievement and leadership abilities;
- 3) Distinctive service to Finlandia and society; and
- 4) Exemplifies Finlandia's mission.

## SPIRIT OF FINLANDIA AWARD

- Criteria: 1) Individual, business, or organization that has provided significant and continued service to the university; and
- 2) Exemplifies Finlandia's mission.

## DON'T MISS HOMECOMING 2008 JANUARY 14-19

The Finlandia University 2008 Homecoming Celebration, sponsored by the Student Alumni Association, is January 14 to 19, 2008. Festivities include men's and women's home basketball contests against Northland Baptist Bible College on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>, a dance on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>, a pep rally and lunch on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, and men's and women's home hockey games on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> against Marian College and University of Wisconsin-Concordia. Visit [www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu) for more information. We hope to see you there! Contact Christina at 906-487-7205 for more information.





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*On the cover: President Philip Johnson and his wife, René.  
Photo by Adam Johnson, Brockit Photography.*

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PHILIP JOHNSON

President

*"I believe today's  
religiously and ethnically  
diverse society is cause  
not just for toleration,  
but for celebration,  
everywhere on  
Finlandia's campus and  
in the wider world."*

"Finlandia has roots. These roots are ethnic and religious, Finnish and Lutheran. I am Lutheran. I am not Finnish." So went the first lines of my first "President's Letter" in the fall 2007 issue of *the Bridge*. In that letter I talked about Finlandia's ethnic heritage and the challenges we face to "maximize the contemporary relevance of our ethnic heritage." I'd like to reflect on the other half of our heritage in this, my second letter: Finlandia's Lutheran heritage.

Recently I hosted two guests of the university in my office at Hoover Center. As we chatted the guests inquired about Finlandia's religious identity. We talked about the history of Suomi College and her theological seminary and what was then the Suomi Synod. They asked about Finlandia's contemporary relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the other 27 ELCA-affiliated colleges.


More discussion followed and questions were answered about the meaning of the phrase "spiritual growth" in our mission statement. We talked about the spiritual and religious interests of Finlandia's students, and their denominational and religious diversity. We discussed Finlandia's campus ministry and our religion/philosophy curriculum. Eventually the discussion came around to my role, the role of Finlandia's president. I spoke of my own Lutheran heritage and ordination.

Historically, Lutheranism and education have walked hand-in-hand. Martin Luther was an academic. The 16th-century Reformation, prompted by the writings and witness of Luther, was essentially born on a university campus. When European Lutherans came to North America it did not take them long to build schools: Danes, Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, and of course, the Finns. When you find a group of Lutherans, you are sure to find a school: Sunday schools and primary schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Finlandia is an independent institution of higher learning. It is also a church-related institution of higher learning. We affirm that, as George Marsden writes, "religiously defined points of view can be intellectually as responsible as nonreligious ones." In other words, a Lutheran-shaped paradigm embraces the idea that matters and questions of faith just as surely belong to the life of the mind, as they belong to individual and communal spiritual practices. Intellectual and emotional, public and private, curricular and co-curricular: any and all of these faith-related activities are part of and promoted among the Finlandia community.

To be sure, as an institution of higher learning Finlandia fiercely defends, in service to the common good, the place of free inquiry, intellectual exploration, broad education, and the testing of all ideas. This is why Finlandia welcomes all expressions of religious, non-religious, and non-Christian traditions and viewpoints. In fact, these values not only are reflected in Finlandia's institutional commitments, they are among the core expectations included in the ELCA's recently adopted statement on education, *Our Calling in Education*.

Pluralism within tradition. The Finnish American Heritage Center and the Chapel of St. Matthew stand on our campus as reminders of the opportunities and challenges generated by our attempts to "maximize the contemporary relevance of both our ethnic and religious heritage." I believe today's religiously and ethnically diverse society is cause not just for toleration, but for celebration, everywhere on Finlandia's campus and in the wider world.



Philip Johnson, Ph.D.  
President





# AN INTERNSHIP IN AUSTRIA

BY TRAVIS HANSON

*Mag. Hartwig Allmaier (left) and Travis Hanson*

I have always learned best by experiencing things hands-on. Realizing this, and needing to fulfill my internship credits for the International School of Business, I entered the summer of 2007 looking for an opportunity to gain some professional work experience. My good friend and classmate, Finlandia business senior Lukas Alberer from Austria, helped me gain some valuable on-the-job experience, as well as see a whole new culture. With Lukas's help, I connected with Mag. Hartwig Allmaier, an accountant who owns and operates a public accounting firm in Austria. Allmaier graciously presented me the opportunity to work with him in his firm for the summer.

My internship was in Klagenfurt, a city with a population of just under 100,000. I lived in the small village of Pritchitz, which made for about a 15-minute daily commute to work. On day one, I was given my own office and laptop computer, and the task of consolidating vehicle insurance accounts for a client. This is when I realized most of the work I would be doing would be valuable and beneficial to the firm, not just filing papers or making copies.

Throughout this experience, I was entrusted with a wide variety of tasks, including organizing and entering clients' financial information into our accounting software, preparing financial reports, creating estimated inventories, preparing payment schedules, making a yearly cashbook, and calculating sales tax owed to the government by our clients.

One part of the business day I particularly came to enjoy was the morning coffee break. Every morning whether it was

busy or slow, we sat down at 9:30 as a group and had coffee. This gave us a break from work, as well as helped to create a community atmosphere and build camaraderie in the office.

One of my biggest concerns entering this new environment was whether or not I would be able to overcome the language barrier, as German is the national language in Austria. Like most Americans, I speak only one language. But in Austria, as in many European countries, English is taught at a young age and spoken regularly. This was a blessing as there were very few people that I could not communicate with.

I also found many accounting practices and procedures to be very similar to those found here in the United States. This was very encouraging as I found that my education here at Finlandia had given me the skills that I needed to move successfully into an international working environment.

This past summer not only did I complete my internship, I was afforded the wonderful experience of a whole new culture. Through my summer internship I gained confidence to become successful in the accounting field, and was exposed to a new language in a real working environment. This internship and my summer abroad was the experience of a lifetime. I will never forget it.

*Travis Hanson, from Bark River, will complete his bachelor of business administration, with concentrations in accounting and marketing, in April 2008. This semester he is the resident coordinator at Finlandia Hall, the university's residence hall.*



## FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY SCHEDULE 2007-2008

### November 15 to December 13, 2007

Opening Reception: Thursday, November 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

#### **17th Annual Contemporary Finnish American Artist Series: John Lundeen**

Finnish-American artist John Lundeen works from his studio on the shores of Lake Superior. Images of the lake act as a backdrop for Lundeen's metaphorical paintings where boats, fruit, and mathematical formulas all float above the surface of the water in a playful expression of the wonders of nature and the human mind.

### December 20 to January 31, 2008

Opening Reception: Thursday, December 20, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

#### **Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home: A Traveling Art Exhibition 2007-2008**

Organized by the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, eleven Upper Peninsula artists pay tribute to the beauty of the land and express their concern for its protection. This exhibit will travel to venues throughout the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin.

### February 7 to mid-March, 2008

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

#### **Jim Denomie: Recent Work**

Minnesota artist Jim Denomie returns to Finlandia University by popular demand. He also visited campus in 2004 to work with students in the Art & Design program. Born on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in northern Wisconsin, Denomie's work deals with critical issues pertaining to the status of contemporary Native American people, including cultural heritage and evolving Native identities. "As an Ojibwe artist," Denomie writes, "I use canvas to tell stories in a conceptually abstract way, combining symbolism, metaphor, and popular imagery to speak about the realities of today's world."

*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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*The four officers of the Board of Trustees  
comprise the Executive Committee.*

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Dr. Jukka Valtasaari, Helsinki, Finland

*A learning community dedicated  
to academic excellence, spiritual  
growth, and service*





# New Beginnings

by Dr. Sylvia Fleishman  
Chair, Finlandia University Board of Trustees

*Back row, left to right: Scott Dickson, Kenneth Seaton, John Stierna, Melvin Johnson, Ray Hirvonen, Ronald Helman, John Hamar  
Front row, left to right: Gloria Jackson, Sylvia Fleishman, Iola Vanstrom, Luanne Skrenes, Patricia Van Pelt  
Not pictured: Duane Aho, Michael Lahti, John Leinonen, Alexander McAfee, William Sauey, Gary Waissi*

## A NEW BOARD

In many economic sectors nationwide, boards of trustees face increasing scrutiny, often because trustees are uninformed and largely detached from the daily operations of the institution they govern. In their book *Governance as Leadership*, Chait, Ryan, and Taylor contend that chief executives and presidents of institutions have, in practice, become the guardians of mission and institutional values, while trustees have taken on roles perhaps better undertaken by management.

Ultimately, the authors state, these roles should be reversed. In an ideal world, they say, boards of trustees should shoulder the responsibility for overall governance. Through effective leadership and in strong partnership with the chief executive or president, the most important and productive role for boards of trustees is the preservation and advancement of the mission and goals of the institution.

*“Through effective leadership and in strong partnership with the chief executive or president, the most important and productive role for boards of trustees is the preservation and advancement of the mission and goals of the institution.”*

For a variety of reasons, in recent years the membership of the Finlandia Board of Trustees has been too large for meaningful trustee involvement. On May 19, 2007, historic action was taken to downsize the Finlandia University Board of Trustees. The result, as provided for in changes to Finlandia’s constitution and by-laws, is a smaller, more effective governing body of 15-25 members, and a four-member Executive Committee. In their foresight in advocating change, former president Robert Ubbelohde, former Board chair Dale Skogman, along with members of the prior Board, are to be commended for this bold action.

## NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

When the new Board met for the first time in July 2007, the trustees quickly realized that a downsized Board carries with it increased responsibilities. Among the actions taken in July

was an increase in the number of meetings from two to a minimum of three per year. Second, reasoning that through their physical presence trustees are more apt to immerse themselves in the issues at hand and have a genuine voice in the decision-making process, trustees are expected to be present at all meetings.

Third, as they are able, both financially and through their contributions of time and talent, trustees are expected to meaningfully support the university. Last, and perhaps most importantly, the new Board intends to become and remain thoroughly informed and engaged in the issues confronting the institution. Rather than nominally involved by-standers, as a Board we will actively seek solutions toward institutional growth and vitality.

## THE CHAIR

As the chair of the Finlandia University Board of Trustees, my responsibilities will vary with circumstances. In general, I seek not only to provide leadership and direction for the Board, but also to promote communication, cohesion, and involvement among trustees. I feel that the more trustees get to know and understand one another, the more likely they are to respect and trust each other. When this happens, effective group decision making becomes possible. In addition, I expect to provide strategic focus for the many complex issues that may confront the Board, and will consider and synthesize trustee responses with the goal of achieving consensus, especially on issues that inspire multiple views.

I believe it is also my responsibility to partner with President Johnson to articulate the mission of Finlandia University, not only to the trustees, but to the university's broader constituency. Through communication and friendship, I hope to build multiple bridges in the local, regional, national, and international communities—especially with our Finnish and Lutheran connections—all of them are vital for strengthening Finlandia's outreach.

As chair of the Board I consider myself Finlandia's chief cheerleader and ambassador. President Johnson and I are both tireless promoters of all that Finlandia is today, and can be in the future. Ultimately, at the end of my term as chair, I would like to be able to say that I made a positive contribution to the growth and direction of Finlandia University. I'd also like to claim that the Board of Trustees functions as a true partner with the president in providing leadership and governance for the university.



## CRITICAL PRIORITIES

In its first year, the newly formed Board will address the following critical priorities.

- 1) As with all boards, the Finlandia Board must assume full responsibility for the financial condition of the university, and partner with President Johnson to seek solutions to shortfalls.
- 2) The training and education of Board trustees is critical this year, as well. At the July re-organizational meeting, the Board examined how business was conducted in the past, and what changes will create a more participatory atmosphere and encourage trustees to take ownership of Board action. Already planned is a special session at our winter 2008 meeting to decide best practices for new trustees.
- 3) A third area of major attention, in close consultation with President Johnson, is the completion of strategic plans and goals to define a mission-centered direction for the university.
- 4) Another priority is to begin to include student input at trustee meetings.
- 5) Finally, trustees will partner with President Johnson to become mission-driven and value-oriented in the way the Board interacts with internal and external constituencies.



# CAMPUS NEWS



*Associate Director of Admissions Kitt Loukus welcomes students to campus*

## What's New This Fall?

There are 553 students on campus this fall, including 178 new students. International students this year hail from Finland, Japan, Austria, Tanzania, Panama, and Canada. Eighty-nine students are enrolled in the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences, 281 in the College of Professional Studies, 87 in the International School of Business, and 87 in the International School of Art & Design.

Some of the changes students noticed this fall included improvements in the registration and orientation processes, and additional activities and entertainment during the first weeks of the semester. Two new liberal studies majors, English and social science, and a

new Christian Vocation concentration have been added. A few organizational adjustments and personnel changes have also been made, including new appointments, faculty reassignments, and staff position changes.

A new Student Senate structure was implemented this academic year. For the first time, peer-elected student officers are on board to represent the student body and participate, as appropriate, in university-wide decision making.

## A Letter from Philip Claverie, Honorary Consul of Finland

In the past 22 months, the citizens of New Orleans have learned some very difficult, and some very beautiful, lessons about life. The painful lesson is that rebuilding a city is a long, arduous task. The beautiful lesson is that Americans, by nature, are generous with their time, energy and compassion.

So it was with great pride that I read about the volunteers from Finlandia University, including the school's new president Philip Johnson, who participated in the (2007) Spring Break Rebuilding project in New Orleans. They, along with thousands of other generous college students, gutted, painted and rebuilt homes of the needy,

and in turn, spread a message of hope to some worthy New Orleanians.

As a member of Finlandia's President's Council and also Honorary Consul of Finland for Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas, I am deeply appreciative of your students' enormous help. And as a resident of New Orleans whose home was one of 160,000 that were destroyed, I know the value of the work you gave our citizens.

The University's efforts are deeply appreciated by all of us who know and love this beautiful city. New Orleans will be back, and we hope better than before.



*Phyllis Fredendall (far left) instructs a fiber arts course*

## Fredendall Teaches in Finland

International School of Art & Design associate professor Phyllis Fredendall taught a one-credit fiber sculpture course to eleven students this August for the Crafts and Recreation Degree Programme at the HAMK - University of Applied Sciences (Hämeen ammattikorkeakoulu) in Hämeenlinna, Finland. Finlandia University and HAMK are negotiating an exchange agreement that will allow students from each institution to study at the partner school. In the spring semester, HAMK professor Helka Yletyinen will visit Finlandia to teach a workshop in bookbinding.



*Martin Kinard*

## New Director of Admissions on Board

Martin T. Kinard began as the university's new Director of Admissions August 20. Kinard comes to the Copper Country from South Carolina where he had been the associate director of admissions at South Carolina State University. He has 22 years experience in higher education recruitment and admissions. "Martin has a solid record of leadership in admissions and higher ed," said President Johnson. "His enthusiasm and experience will be an asset as we look to strengthen our Admissions planning and practices."

# CAMPUS NEWS



*"Totem" by Denise Vandeville*

## Vandeville Exhibits at Portage Campus

The work of ceramic artist Denise Vandeville, a Finlandia University alumna and adjunct art and design faculty member, was displayed in the main lobby of Portage Campus throughout the summer months. Her ceramic pieces look back to the artifacts of past civilizations and question how today's technological society will be recorded in history. Vandeville is the owner of Seven Cranes Pottery located on an 80-acre Finnish homestead in Alston, Mich.

She received a BFA from Finlandia University, and a MFA from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.



*Student nurses Lindsey, Amy, Tabitha, and Melissa*

## Student Nurses Travel to Finland

What is it like to be a nurse in Finland? What are nursing education and health care like there? Are there opportunities to study nursing in Finland? For two weeks this spring, April 26 to May 10, four Finlandia University sophomores learned first hand the answers to these questions, and more.

As part of a bi-lateral student and faculty exchange agreement between Finlandia University and Helsinki (Finland) Polytechnic Stadia, Finlandia

students Tabitha Kuopus (Dollar Bay), Lindsey Anttilla (Republic), Melissa Peterson (Little Lake), and Amy Danielson (Centreville, Minn.), accompanied by Finlandia assistant professor of nursing Debbie Karstu, and retired nursing professor Beth Reynolds, attended English-language class sessions, shadowed nurses in various clinical settings, and experienced the cultural and social aspects of life in Finland.

The international nursing exchange is part of the three-credit elective Finlandia Connection (NUR 301). Each student who completes the exchange trip is required to present a first-hand account of their experiences for the local, regional, and campus-based communities. Three of the students completed this class requirement during September 20 inauguration festivities. This spring's trip was supported by private gifts, fundraising activities, and a grant from Finlandia Foundation National.

In addition to the exchange agreements already in place, collaborative research development activity with Helsinki Polytechnic is ongoing.

## Lutheran Leaders

For the 12th consecutive year, the annual ELCA Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) Youth Leadership School was held at Finlandia University. Forty-three teenage youth and 11 adults from all over the Upper Peninsula attended the 5-day resident program July 23-27. NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator Wendy Black explained that the purpose of the school is raise up leaders in the church through stronger relationship with each other and Jesus. She said that through the experience the youth gained confidence and leadership skills to take home to their congregations, schools and other organizations they are involved in. Visit [www.nglsynod.org/youth-ministry.html](http://www.nglsynod.org/youth-ministry.html) for more information.



*Wendy Black (far left) and NGLS youth leaders on their way to the beach*



*Lauri Anderson (far right) talks to students about his new book*

## Back to Misery Bay

A new book by Finnish-American author and long-time Finlandia University English professor Lauri Anderson has been released. The short stories in *Back to Misery Bay* take place all over America and beyond. "It doesn't matter, for Misery Bay is always there



## CAMPUS NEWS

inside the characters,” Anderson says. “Each carries his or her own postage-stamp-size piece of geography inside as an essential piece of who each is.” Anderson is also the author of numerous other short story collections. *Back to Misery Bay* is available at Finlandia’s North Wind Books and other bookstores.



*Upward Bound students Amanda Kinley and Fabian Kristo*

### Upward Bound Grant Renewed

Each year the Finlandia University Upward Bound (UB) program helps to prepare and motivate eligible local high school students for college. A recently awarded grant from the U.S. Department of Education has funded the program for an additional four years.

The four-year, \$1.4 million grant, which starts in September 2008 when the current grant expires, will continue to serve 75 students during the school year and 35 students in the summer. Since it began in 1981, the Finlandia UB program has involved close to 2,000 high school students. It is one of more than 700 Upward Bound programs nationwide.

Upward Bound provides year-round activities designed to strengthen students’ academic and personal skills, ensure assistance and entry into post-secondary programs, provide exposure to various career options, and assist in the financial aid process. All UB

program participants are from low-income families and/or are potential first generation college students.

Of the 25 graduating high school seniors who participated in Upward Bound at Finlandia during the 2006-07 academic year, 18 (72%) were accepted to a college and are planning to pursue a post-secondary degree.

Upward Bound, along with Educational Talent Search (ETS) and Student Support Services (SSS), make up the federal TRiO programs at Finlandia University.



*Jorie Johnson*

### Fiber Artist Jorie Johnson Conducts Workshop

Internationally known fiber artist Jorie Johnson presented a three-day workshop June 15-17 at Finlandia’s Portage Campus. “A Feltmaker’s Bag of Tricks” covered a variety of techniques for hand felting and included a lecture, demonstrations, and individual and group exercises. The workshop was arranged by Finlandia faculty member Phyllis Fredendall. Johnson has been studying, teaching, and creating unique textile art for 30 years. Her fun, colorful, one-of-a-kind wearable art is created using innovative traditional felting techniques. Johnson has lived in Japan for 20 years. Visit her Web site at [www.joirae.com](http://www.joirae.com).



*The Kegel Trio: Paavo, Vuokko, and Lauri*

### Sibelius Academy Music Fest

Hundreds of concertgoers enjoyed the excellence of the six musicians featured at the Ninth Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival, July 15 and 18-20. The concert series included three performances at the Calumet Theatre, Calumet, and one at the UMC Chicago Temple in downtown Chicago.

The university community enjoyed getting to know solo pianist Tuomas Kyyhkynen, soprano Jenni Lähtilä and pianist Mikko Haapaniemi, and the Kegel Trio’s Paavo Maijala, piano, Lauri Sallinen, clarinet, and Vuokko Lempiäinen, viola. Board member Patricia Van Pelt and her husband, Peter, hosted a very special luncheon for the musicians at their beautiful home on Lake Superior. The Finnish Council in America became acquainted with the musicians at a reception hosted by Finnish American Heritage Center director James Kurtti and his wife, Debbie, at their home in Painesdale, and at a pre-concert dinner in the Calumet Theatre ballroom. And Terri Martin, assistant to Provost Jeanne Rellahan, invited the students for lunch at her home in L’Anse and took them all to the 31st annual Aura Jamboree. Finlandia Finnish professor Anna Leppänen was tour guide, chauffeur and frequent companion to the young Finns during their one-week stay.



*Sylvia Saari Fleishman*



*Gloria Jussila Jackson*

## *Officers of the Finlandia University Board of Trustees*

**A**mong them, the officers of the Finlandia University Board of Trustees have 75 years tenure on the Board. Their combined professional experience includes educational, business, legislative, and financial expertise. Many of them have Finnish family roots. All of them were born and raised in the Upper Peninsula and, if they don't live in the U.P. any longer, they visit often.

### *Sylvia Saari Fleishman, Chair*

In 2004 Dr. Sylvia Fleishman was appointed to the International Alumni Board (IAB), serving as its president from 2005 to 2007. She began serving on the Board of Trustees in 2005 as a representative of the IAB.

Fleishman is a 1958 graduate of Suomi College, earned bachelor's and masters degrees at Northern Michigan University, and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. She and her husband, Sidney, live in Wakefield. Sidney is a retired corporate executive and former educator who now enjoys completing projects around the house.

Prior to her retirement in 2005, Fleishman worked both as a faculty member and an administrator for the Florida Community College System and the Florida Department of Education. She has been actively employed in secondary and post-secondary education for the past 40 years. Her areas of interest and expertise include teacher preparation, developmental education for under-prepared college students, program assessment/evaluation and implementation, policy development and leadership, and library automation.

"I consider my election as chair of the Board of Trustees a unique opportunity to serve the university in what I hope will be compelling ways," she says. "Finlandia University has

always been a special place where students are valued and nurtured intellectually, spiritually, and socially. I enjoy being part of both its past history and now – many years later – having an opportunity to work in shaping its future with President Johnson."

### *Gloria Jussila Jackson, Secretary*

Gloria Jackson has served on the Finlandia Board and Executive Committee since 1987. She is current secretary and past board chairman. Jackson graduated magna cum laude from Northern Michigan University with a B.S. in business administration. She has also completed graduate work in accounting and finance, and for pleasure studies anthropology, archeology, and genealogy.

Jackson is an officer of CableAmerica Corporation of Phoenix, Ariz., a broad band communications company with cable TV systems in Missouri and Michigan. She serves the Finnish-American community as Honorary Consul of Finland for the State of Arizona and chairman of the Consular Corps of Arizona. She is a member of many civic, educational, cultural, and other organizations.

Jackson and her husband established the Bill and Gloria Jackson Family History Center at the Finnish American Heritage Center. In 2003, she was awarded an honorary doctoral degree by Finlandia University. Jackson was also awarded a Silver Merit Award from the Finland Society for her work promoting Finnish culture, and an Alumni Service Award from Northern Michigan University.

Gloria and her husband reside in Paradise Valley, Ariz. They have two sons, a daughter, and six grandchildren. All four of Gloria's grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Finland.





### *Michael Lahti, Vice Chairman*

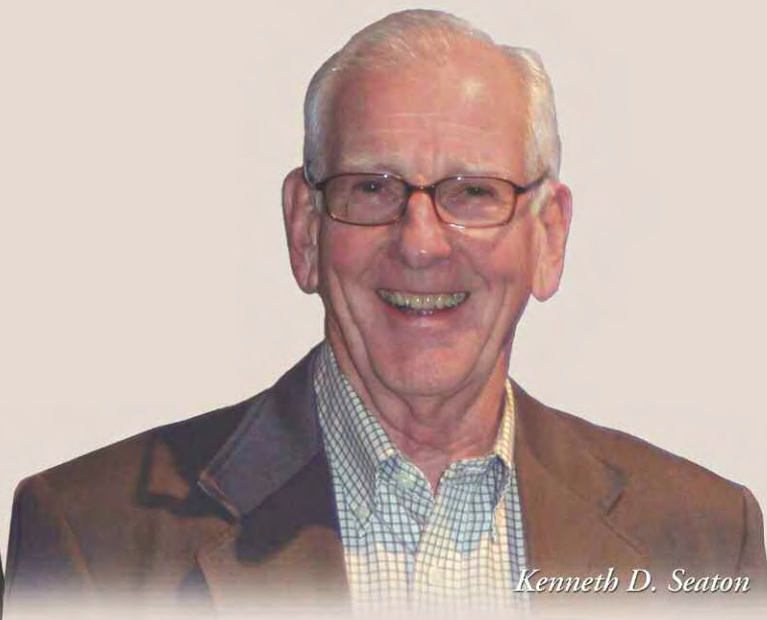
Mike Lahti has served on the Finlandia Board since 1994, the same year he was elected to the Hancock School Board. He graduated from Hancock High School and received a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University. In 1968 Mike opened a State Farm Insurance Agency in Hancock. He is also a real-estate developer and small business owner. Mike served on the School Board for seven years and served as chairman of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners from 2000 to 2006. He continues his active involvement in local government, and is an officer on the boards of a number of Copper Country community agencies.

Lahti was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2006. He is currently chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Appropriations, and serves on the Human Services Subcommittee and the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee.

Lahti enjoys spending time with family, playing tennis, and following baseball. He has always enjoyed politics and history. He and his wife, Sharon (Pardini), live in Hancock. They have six children and eight grandchildren, and are members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock. All four of Lahti's grandparents came from different parts of Finland.

"As a lifetime resident of the Copper Country, I realize how important Finlandia University is to our area," Lahti says. "The energy provided by the students and faculty along with the university's cultural enrichment activities help make the Hancock area a great place to live.

"Finlandia provides a great education for our Upper Peninsula residents. I am proud of the survival and growth of Finlandia University over the previous century. Its conversion from a two-year institution to a four-year university provides the education needed in the 21st century."



### *Kenneth D. Seaton, Treasurer*

A trustee since 1963, Ken Seaton is among the longest-serving Board members. He earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University, and retired from Detroit and Northern Savings Bank as Chairman. He worked at D & N Bank for 35 years. Seaton was a pilot in the U.S. Navy Reserve during the Korean War, based in Japan. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Hancock and serves on the Hancock Salvation Army advisory board.

Seaton and his wife of 55 years, Lois, live in Hancock. Lois is a Suomi College alumna. Her father, Edward J. Isaac, was Suomi College president from 1952-54. Her brother-in-law, Rev. Karlo Kelvo, is a graduate of Suomi Seminary, and her nephew, Rev. Kurt Kelvo, was dean of students and campus pastor at Suomi for several years. Ken and Lois have five children, 14 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. They belong to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock. Ken enjoys skiing, tennis, softball, squash, racquetball, golf, reading, and travel.

"I chose to be a trustee because I was asked, and because of the Isaac family's long-term involvement with Suomi College," Seaton says. "I also felt Suomi had a very positive impact on the Keweenaw economy."

He continues, "It's always been a struggle to survive [for Suomi/Finlandia] – during my time – but we are now in a better position to become financially stable because of the new academic programs, the four-year degrees, and the name change. Also, the leadership is strong in so many key positions."

*This is the first of several feature stories about the members of the Finlandia University Board of Trustees. In the spring 2008 edition of the Bridge, several other members of the Board will be featured.*

# It Takes Coura

by Pamela Kotila and Jessie Millar

On September 20, after days of dreary weather, the sun finally came out to help welcome into office the sixteenth president of Finlandia University, Rev. Dr. Philip R. Johnson.

Anyone in the general vicinity of the Paavo Nurmi Center could not help but be drawn towards the sound of the drumming and chanting of Four Thunders Drum. People flocked to the Paavo Nurmi gymnasium from near and far to celebrate this momentous occasion in Finlandia's history. Inside, the flags of many countries were hung from the ceiling, and the stage was adorned with potted birch trees, symbolizing our strong Finnish heritage.

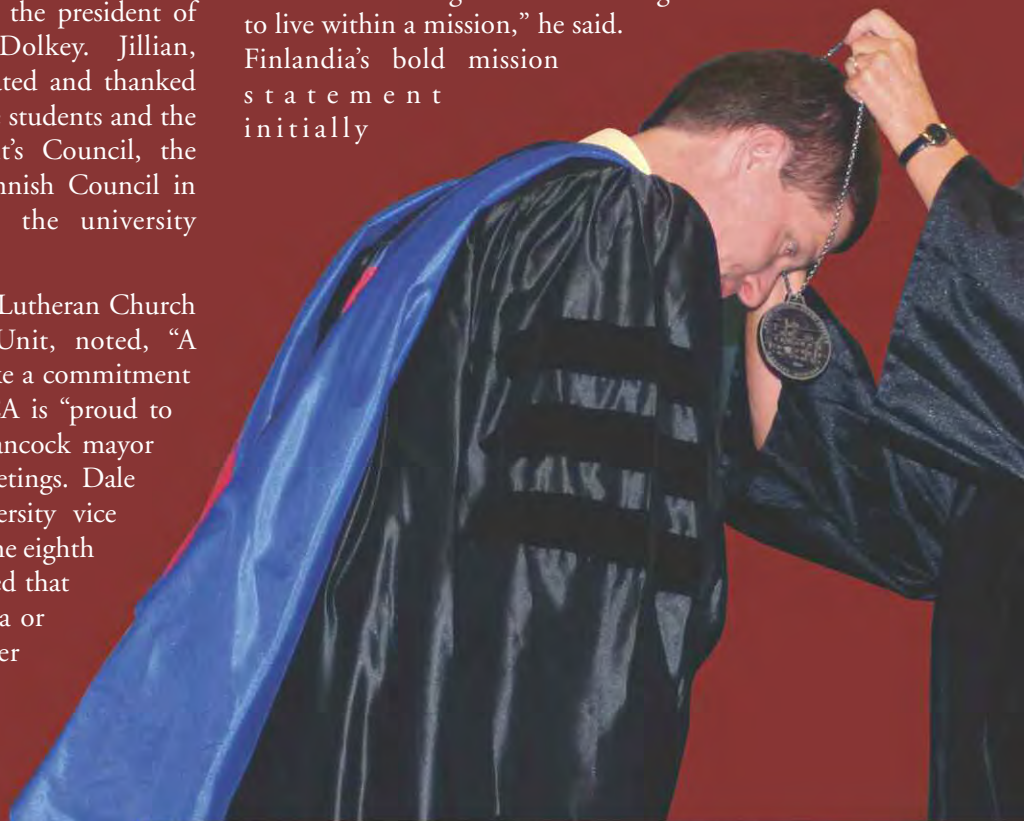
President Johnson was welcomed first by the president of Finlandia's Student Senate, Jillian Dolkey. Jillian, representing the student body, congratulated and thanked President Johnson for his dedication to the students and the school. Finlandia's faculty, the President's Council, the International Alumni Board, and the Finnish Council in America also brought greetings from the university community.

Arne Selbyg, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Vocation and Education Unit, noted, "A Lutheran's commitment to education is like a commitment to their own faith," adding that the ELCA is "proud to count Finlandia among its [schools]." Hancock mayor pro-tem Bill Laitala also brought his greetings. Dale Tahtinen, Michigan Technological University vice president for governmental relations, was the eighth and final greeter of the afternoon. He noted that whether students are educated at Finlandia or Michigan Tech, it benefits the Copper Country and the state of Michigan.

Rev. Dr. Said Ailabouni, a close friend (and former boss) of President Johnson's, gave the inaugural address. Ailabouni was born and raised in Nazareth, Palestine. He, like President Johnson, graduated from Concordia College. Ailabouni spoke of his own educational experience at Concordia and the positive influence it had on his life. "Everyone was important [at Concordia]," he said. Ailabouni stressed that hard work makes a difference in the lives of all students, and praised Finlandia's excellent community of students, faculty, and staff, and "a great new president."

The theme of President Johnson's inaugural address was courage. It "takes courage to live within a mission," he said.

Finlandia's bold mission  
statement  
initially





attracted him to the university, Johnson said. He added that an institutional mission “doesn’t mean anything unless we muster the courage to bring those words to life.” He went on to say that Finlandia is here to help students reach their goals – goals that may not otherwise be reached.

Although the university’s mission is what drew him here, Johnson said it is the students that keep him coming back to work. “There is no *sisu* shortage here at Finlandia. This is why I like to say that Finlandia matters.” His address was met with applause and a standing ovation.

As Student Senate president Jillian Dolkey said in her speech, President Johnson knows the students, and he knows of their courage. Congratulations President Johnson!

*Pamela Kotila and Jessie Millar are the 2007-08 content and visual editors, respectively, of Finlandia’s The Roar student newspaper. Both women are International School of Art and Design sophomores. Kotila is from Dodgeville; Millar is from Acton, Calif.*



*Left to right: Bishop Thomas Skrenes, Rev. Dr. Dale Skogman, Rev. Dr. Rudy Kemppainen, and Rev. Gerald Southerton participate in the Rite of Installation.*



*In celebration of its international community, the flags of many countries were hung in the Paavo Nurmi Center gymnasium. Photo courtesy of Roland Burgan, Hancock.*

*Center photo: Board of Trustees chairman Dr. Sylvia Fleishman bestows upon President Johnson a medallion depicting the university’s seal.*

*Bottom left photo: Rev. Dr. Said Ailabouni, senior pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, LaGrange Ill., delivers the inaugural address.*

*Bottom middle photo: The Inaugural Celebration Chorus, directed by Gregory Campbell, performs a choral piece composed by former Suomi College music director, the late Martti Nisonen.*

*Bottom right photo: The Kivajat Children’s Finnish-American Folk Dance Group, directed by Kay Seppala, performs following the installation ceremony. Photo courtesy of Roland Burgan, Hancock.*







## A collaborative leader and a strong community builder

*Left to right: alumni staff members Christina Mayworm and Ross Rinkinen, art and design senior Aaron Radzwilowicz, and President Johnson*

**B**ecause Finlandia University President Philip Johnson had gradually been assuming leadership of the university since his appointment in March, his official start date of July first came and went with very little fanfare.

Rest assured, however, the beginning of Johnson's tenure as Finlandia's 16th president did not remain un-celebrated for long. An all-day public inauguration celebration on Thursday, September 20, was an event worth waiting for. "It was a catalyst for how the future will be imagined and embraced at Finlandia," Johnson says.

When he became campus pastor in 2005, Johnson didn't expect to become the university's president. He did, however, anticipate being part of an exciting community.

Johnson will bring a student focus to his presidency. He'll meet with students regularly and continue to be very available to them. He'll also instruct a class each academic year; this fall he's teaching Introduction to the Old Testament.

As President Johnson explained in an article in the summer 2007 edition of *the Bridge*, his central strategic priorities are missional integrity, financial stability, and meaningful community. He'll also work to ensure that the HLC/NCA self-study report, completed last spring, will remain a living document. His focus is on a vibrant, sustainable future.

"I've received a lot of support and enthusiasm out in the community, in the office, and around campus. It's energizing," Johnson says. "I'm very encouraged and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead."

"I'm here for the long haul," Johnson promises. "My family and I are very committed to this community. We want to be here for a long time."

President Johnson's strengths include a commitment to Lutheran higher education and a passion for the liberal arts. He describes himself as a collaborative leader and a strong community builder whose experience in diverse contexts and cultures has evolved into an effective, active leadership style. His teaching and academic administration experience will also serve him well at Finlandia.

Johnson identifies the most immediate challenge for Finlandia as achieving stability in enrollment growth, and thus financial stability.

"We face an economic atmosphere in which most, if not all, private, not-for-profit colleges and universities are struggling to remain marketable and maintain their identity and purpose in a changing higher education landscape," he says.

Johnson views his most crucial role as guardian of Finlandia University's institutional identity and integrity. "Looking at the big picture," he explains, "Any college president must carefully tend to the 'what,' 'why,' and 'how' of a not-for-profit institution of higher learning."

Ideally, Johnson says, the 'what' and 'why' is forged in conversation with and guidance from the Board of Trustees; the 'how' is the work of the president with senior management."

He elaborates that, "If it is the 'what' that defines us, we are directed by the 'why'—our mission, purpose, and commitments. The 'how,' of course, is the execution of programs and activities that fulfill identity and mission. I believe our integrity is measured by the degree to which the 'what' and 'why' are aligned. Our effectiveness is determined by how well we translate identity and mission into action."

When President Johnson talks about Finlandia's future, he speaks with a personal touch. He explains that Finlandia's future ...



### *... is in our own backyard*

"If we talk of Finlandia's future, her growth and development, and her institutional maturation, we need to talk about Finlandia's local call: serving its neighbors. Yes, we will reach out globally, but what's also meaningful to me is a college that serves a very local and regional population. Finlandia's future will always include a call to educate college-bound students from the western U.P. We don't want to grow out of the U.P., but with it.

Finlandia is firmly embedded in the local community. It serves its citizens by contributing to economic development, celebrating its cultural heritage, and training professionals for essential local job opportunities in health care, education, human services, and law enforcement. This is why I spent my first weeks as president talking with local community leaders. It's my goal to make Finlandia and the Copper Country a better place.

### *... is in far away places*

"As much as we identify ourselves locally, we also want to engage the wider world through international student and faculty exchange programs and recruitment, and off-campus international learning and service opportunities. International study programs and internships hold rich experiences for our students.

"At the airport this May I greeted students on their return from a three-week Servant Leadership trip to Tanzania; I saw fundamental changes in their faces. This is why these international opportunities are so important for our students. Many of our students have had limited opportunities for international travel; we want to help them explore places very different from their homes."

### *... is in cyberspace*

"The development of on-line classes is an expression of our commitment to academic excellence, and it's needful for Finlandia's future stability. Without question, in today's high

tech culture an on-line presence is essential. These courses are intended to complement our commitment to traditional learning environments; we also want to maintain our identity as a resident, brick and mortar institution. To extend our reach and provide additional flexibility we'll continue to grow our on-line offerings across the curriculum.



*President Philip Johnson*

*"Finlandia is firmly embedded in the local community, not only in terms of higher education, but in serving the community through economic development and celebration of its cultural heritage."*

### *... is in the past*

"I want our past to have relevance for how we shape our future here at Finlandia. Unless we find meaningful contemporary expressions of our Finnish/Lutheran history and heritage they become archival. It's a challenge that all colleges with particular ethnic heritages face. We'll continue to develop curricular and co-curricular commitments to our roots not because they promise riches, necessarily, but because they are our identity.

"I believe we can do this by using our history and heritage as a kind of anchor, a rootedness. For me that is central to our work. We've been most successful so far with Finnish-based contemporary expressions in our art and design and business programs. We'll be building on this. I also see our Finnish international students as valuable resources. They bring with them to campus contemporary Finland. I want to be more deliberate about creating opportunities for these students to share themselves and their stories with us."

### *... is in the liberal arts*

"Finlandia embraces a liberal arts tradition that encourages a well-rounded education for all

our graduates. To do this we need to make sure that the liberal arts components of the curricula are accessible. For example, how can we meaningfully respond to the student who says, 'I really love art and design, but I want to learn a little bit about business, and I like the liberal arts, too.'? Built-in curricular latitude and versatility will make it possible to respond to the diverse interests of this student and so many others like her.

"I want to emancipate the liberal arts experience. Team teaching and encouraging a liberal arts climate in other academic areas are two ways we can ensure that the Finlandia graduate, no matter what program he or she chooses to complete, is educated for life, not solely for a career.

"Liberal arts subjects encourage students to ask questions about our place in the world. A well-rounded graduate can articulate how his or her training has answered, or begun to answer, questions about vocation, purpose, and meaning in life."

### *... includes athletics*

"For the future, athletics is a no-brainer. Academics and athletics can accompany each other in ways that help Finlandia. I intend to promote a learning environment where they are not competitors. The athletics program is attracting the kind of student that Finlandia is looking for. Student-athletes often have higher-than-average GPAs, and they're typically very engaged in campus life. Finlandia's NCAA Division III affiliation assures them a chance to play for the love of the game.

"Just as important, we want our sports facilities and programs to serve not only students but the citizens of the Houghton/Hancock area. Maintaining a healthy body is one of the tenets of Lutheran theology. As we update our athletic facilities, community wellness and recreation will be included as essential components."

### *... is in its people*

"Programs are essential but ultimately inadequate. In the end, Finlandia's future will be built by and around its people. As a teaching institution with a commitment to people, in an atmosphere of academic rigor, we can thrive as a human community and be more than simply a business providing a product to a consumer.

"I believe this university community has a soul and the future for Finlandia is tending to that soul. It's the people who drew me here to Finlandia. It's the people who will sustain me while in the president's office.



*Left to right: art and design junior Jordan Siegler, President Johnson, PTA freshman Kacey Willis, and PTA sophomore Stacey Harma*

*"I believe this university community has a soul and the future for Finlandia is tending to that soul."*

"More intentional faculty and staff orientation and mentoring will encourage ownership and a sense of belonging. Regularly occurring opportunities for shared time among university employees and other constituents will build community. Community happens here because we are small and the people that Finlandia attracts are often looking for the more personal and intangible expressions of community identity."

### *... is in shared leadership*

As president I am committed to drawing on the collective wisdom of the community, both out of necessity and by design. The traditional solo model of a single leader providing the entire impetus for a community is not one I subscribe to. I'm invested in shared decision making.

"My goal is to clearly articulate my vision for Finlandia University, marshal and mobilize our many constituencies around that common vision, and energize people to embrace it and take action."

### *... is for our grandchildren*

I want the Finlandia community to think more seriously about how we can embrace the commitment to the environment expressed in our vision statement. How can we promote recycling on campus, for example? Are there ways to partner with local communities to take better care of the Copper Country for future generations? Collective action is needful for a challenge we all face.

*The photos featured in this story were taken by Adam Johnson, Brokit Photography, Hancock.*



"It was a terrific semester for Finlandia student product designers and it finished on a very high note," Rick Loduha, Finlandia associate professor of product and interior design, said of the spring 2007 term.

Recent results of the Odom Reusable Resource Competition reveal that Finlandia University art and design junior Jordan Siegler (Felch) placed first in the competition, and junior Steven Bosio (Chassell) received the Overall Best of Show award. Finlandia senior Jessica Koski (Chassell), Kevin Korte (Kennewick, Wash.), and senior Fred Knoch (Madison, Wisc.) received honorable mention.

The sponsor of the competition, Odom Reusable Building Materials, Traverse City, is among a national surge of businesses utilizing waste steam resources, Loduha said. But when the building materials recycling business booms, it produces a surplus of underutilized materials, he explained, presenting the challenge to discover new uses for the surplus materials.



## DESIGN AWARDS FOR FINLANDIA STUDENT-ARTISTS

Loduha met Bruce Odom, owner of Odom Reusable Building Materials, at the Great Lakes Bioneers Conference in October 2006. "Bruce told me about the upcoming competition, and when a letter of invitation to join the competition arrived, we scheduled it into Finlandia's spring semester projects," Loduha said.

Competition guidelines listed specific surplus materials. Among them were narrow-width, 7-foot, hollow-core interior wood doors. It was serendipitous that two weeks before the project began, Finlandia's housing director asked Loduha if he wanted a tall stack of just such doors.

"The timing was uncanny," Loduha remarked. "Now we had an actual material to play with."

And play they did. The students removed hardware, tested for flexion, cut, capped, shaped, joined, and test-painted the panels to understand their inherent physical properties. Then, Loduha said, they began to ideate.

"Inventive reuse design is a typical design process, but backwards," explained Loduha. "Instead of finding a material

to perform a function, you learn the material properties and then search for appropriate functional applications."

After promising concepts were determined, development ensued. The final design concepts were presented to Odom in the form of 3-D digital drawing files and hard copy color prints.

The end result for Steven Bosio, who was awarded Overall Best of Show, was an information kiosk that has space for advertising and signage, and can be used to display posters, flyers, and postcards. The kiosk also has a secure box for donations, comments, or contest entry forms. It can be painted or left with the original finish.

First place winner Jordan Siegler came up with an adjustable, hinged display unit. "Four panels, hinged with straps, run across both the front and back. Three of the panels on each side open to reveal four collapsible shelves," Siegler said.

He explained that the unit offers a multitude of set-up options: when all of the panels are closed, the unit can be used as a bulletin board or display; open, the three adjustable panels act

as adjustable display walls and give access to the shelves inside.

The Finlandia Product Design reusable resource story isn't over yet. Bruce Odom spread the praises of Finlandia at 'DECON 07,' a conference sponsored by the Building Materials Reuse Association, and Finlandia student designers have been invited to enter a similar EPA-sponsored competition next year.

Additional student product design projects completed during the 2006-07 academic year included participation in the first annual simplehuman.com housewares competition in which students were challenged to design a new and innovative product, technology or concept for making household chores easier, more efficient and more intuitive.

Then the designers immersed themselves in an intense six-week product design and development project with area manufacturer Somero Enterprises, visioning the next generation of the company's smallest concrete-leveling machine – the Power Rake – to rave reviews from the client.

*Thanks to Rick Loduha for significant contributions to this article.*

# SPORTS NEWS

## Athletics: New Faces...



*Katelyn Fogle*



*Curtis Wittenberg*

There are a couple of new full time faces in the Athletic Department this year, says Sports Information Director and Head Women's Basketball Coach Curtis Wittenberg. Wittenberg is one of them. The other is Assistant Athletic Director, Senior Women Administrator, and Head Women's Volleyball Coach Katelyn Fogle.

"Katelyn is responsible for coordinating all compliance-related material with regard to our NCAA Division III and other conference affiliations," says Finlandia Athletic Director Chris Salani. "She'll also work with the Student-athlete Advisory Committee, a group of student-athletes that helps support their fellow student-athletes in daily campus life, not only athletically, but socially and academically."

Fogle was the assistant varsity volleyball coach at Chassell High School in winter 2005-06, and, in fall 2006, eighth grade volleyball coach at Wheeler Middle School, Valparaiso, Ind. She is a member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

From Sycamore, Ill., Fogle was a varsity letter winner in volleyball and basketball at Sycamore High School. As a high school volleyball player she was a two time all-conference selection. Her team won conference and regional championships in her junior and senior seasons, and were sectional champs her senior year. From 2002-2004 Fogle played on Michigan Tech's volleyball team.

Fogle earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Michigan Technological University, and a masters of science in sports administration at Valparaiso (Indiana) University. She resides in Hancock.

Athletic Director Chris Salani says that as sports information director, Wittenberg

will provide up-to-date information about athletics program activities to the news media and others.

"Increasing our visibility in our community and elsewhere is an important recruiting piece," Salani adds. "Curtis will make sure that a regular flow of information is out there to inform current and potential student-athletes and their parents. He's also very technology-savvy; kids want that today."

This is Wittenberg's second stint with Finlandia University. From 2003-2005 he was assistant coach to former women's basketball coach Steve Nordstrom. In 2005, under Nordstrom's and Wittenberg's leadership, the Lions women won a NCAA D-III Northeast Regional Championship and the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Championship. In 2004-05 Wittenberg was the head men's and women's cross-country coach.

"This is a great opportunity," Wittenberg says. "I'm excited to fill the sports information director position at Finlandia. I'm also looking forward to coaching the women's basketball team. With only three home games out of 25 this year, it'll be an especially challenging season."

Wittenberg was the boy's varsity basketball coach at Lake Linden-Hubbell (Michigan) High School from 2005-2007, and the girl's varsity basketball coach in 2006.

Wittenberg received a bachelor of science degree in actuarial science from Ferris State University. He resides in Lake Linden with his wife, Kelly. Wittenberg is a member of the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.



# SPORTS NEWS

## Athletics: New Responsibilities...



*Matt Griffith*



*Charlie Kemppainen*



*Joe Burcar*



*Matt Farrell*

Several returning Finlandia coaches have taken on additional responsibilities this academic year. Athletic Director Salani explains that the new job division stemmed from some summer staff changes. He explains that the new department structure upgrades three previously part-time head coaches to full time, and essentially eliminates two full time positions.

"The biggest plus of these changes is that these coaches will now be here at Paavo Nurmi every day interacting with student-athletes and department staff," says Salani. "I think we'll all benefit from these reassignments. It allows us to give more dedicated and efficient attention to the job at hand: developing, retaining, and recruiting student-athletes."

Matt Griffith, head men's and women's soccer coach, is the academic coordinator for the athletic department. Griffith will supervise the athletic study table, a study group for freshman and new or academically ineligible student-athletes. He'll also prepare and monitor biweekly academic progress reports, and coordinate among all coaches any needed action on concerns about student-athlete academic progress.

Head men's basketball coach Charlie Kemppainen will develop, implement, and supervise the strength and conditioning program for all of Finlandia athletics. Joe Burcar, head men's hockey coach, will assist head coaches in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes as the assistant recruiting coordinator.

Head baseball coach Matt Farrell's work as an enrollment officer has taken on a new twist, and eventually a new office in the Paavo Nurmi Center. Farrell will coordinate the Athletic Department's recruitment and game event management activities. He'll assist head coaches in the recruitment process of prospective student-athletes, and handle game event management for home games, including facility preparation and the coordination of volunteers, work study students, and officials.



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# THE HEART OF TANZANIA

Relationship, says René Johnson, Finlandia University director of servant leadership, is the foundation of the course Service and Learning in Tanzania. This relationship focus, she says, presents opportunities not only to gain knowledge and see the world, but, ideally, to experience personal transformation.

Casey Clowers perfectly articulates the value of relationship-based learning when he says of his participation in the course, “I have come to a place within myself that I don’t think I could’ve reached on my own.” Clowers, from Marquette, is a staff member at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

May 8-28, 2007, eleven college students and three adults spent three weeks in day-to-day companionship with Tanzanians. Finlandia’s second annual service and learning trip to Tanzania was organized in cooperation with the Northern Great Lakes Synod-ELCA (NGLS) and the Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ECD)-Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT).

“We went on an amazing three-day safari, then spent a week at a school in a little village called Kisarawe where we helped build a cafeteria, hauling cement block and mixing concrete,” says Kendra Benson, a Finlandia liberal arts sophomore from Harrison Township.

“The people we worked with at Kisarawe Lutheran Junior Seminary were amazing!” adds John Grosvenor of Crystal Falls, a senior at Northern Michigan University. “Even though most of the workers didn’t speak English, and we could barely speak Swahili, we still understood each other at the job site. A point, or a gesture and a head nod, were all we needed to work with each other.”

Kristina Glasson, a Finlandia international business sophomore from Chassell, notes, “The students at Kisarawe are all so happy. They live with a small amount of things and yet they don’t seem to worry about not having money or a big house. These children showed me that we can live with a lot less and still be as happy.”

During their final week in Tanzania, group members lived with host families from the Kunduchi Beach Congregation

of the ECD. “The host family that Sheena Rossignal (Finlandia business freshman from Chassell) and I stayed with, now our second family, was wonderful and made us feel right at home,” Glasson says. “We stayed in their house, ate dinner with them, and learned about them and their families. They own a farm and grow bananas, pineapple, oranges, avocados, and mangoes. They also raise cows, pigs, and chickens.”

On a day trip to northern Tanzania, the travelers learned about the ministry of the ELCT MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School. The school gives Maasai women the opportunity to attend secondary school, something that, until recently, was not a widespread option. ELCA missionary Marv Kanannen, a 1966 Suomi College graduate, and his wife, Jean Wahlstrom, are teachers at the school.



*Kendra Benson and a construction worker bend rebar at Kisarawe Lutheran Jr. Seminary.*

“What I will remember about Africa are the people,” says Benson. “These people have suffered tremendously, yet they didn’t show anguish or despair. They opened their arms to us with warmth and comfort. They accepted us for the human beings we all are. They are the heart of an Africa that thrives with positive energy.” Benson will be returning to Africa next summer to do volunteer work in Zimbabwe.

“I would like to give a big ‘thank you’ to ‘Mama Simon’ for giving us the opportunity to go on the trip to Tanzania,” says Glasson. Mama Simon is René Johnson.

“René got that name because in Tanzania you are called Mama or Papa followed by the name of your first born child,” Glasson explains. “We thought it was pretty cool.”

Glasson concludes that, “the overall trip was a great learning experience and I recommend that others experience another part of the world. I would go again if the chance was there.” It is likely a sentiment that all 14 participants share.

In a post-trip e-mail to Johnson, Kunduchi Beach pastor Rev. Will Mastai confirms the solidity of the relationships built during this year’s service learning trip: “You have a family over here,” he says.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNI NOTES



*Left to right: Glenn Beckman, Lakanen, Kaija Kalervo, and Dorothy Beckman*

### South Florida Alumni Gift

The Finlandia University Friends and Alumni of South Florida recently presented Kathleen Lakanen, vice president for advancement, with the proceeds of their annual fundraisers. The \$2,400 gift included a bequest from the estate of Saimi Soderholm.

### Class of 1991

#### Monticello Named Corrections Officer of the Year

Gerald Monticello was chosen by his co-workers as the 2007 Michigan Department of Corrections Officer of the Year. He is a resident unit officer at Alger Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Cusino in Munising. Monticello began his career with the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1993. He was transferred to the Alger facility in 1997. Warden David Bergh said that Monticello exemplifies the qualities of fairness, objectivity, and professionalism, which are invaluable in a correctional setting.

Monticello studied criminal justice at Suomi College, receiving a corrections certificate in 1991. He lives in Rapid River with his wife, Patti, and their three children. He is the son of Phil and Judy Monticello of Ripley.

### Class of 1971

#### Paul Keil

4009 W. Shawnee  
Spokane, WA 99208  
509-475-9182  
pmkeil@yahoo.com

Hello to my friends from those wild days in the U.P.! I earned my BS in business administration from Robert Morris University in 1977. I just earned my MBA from Gonzaga University in 2007! I have been married to Cecilia, my true love, for 20 years. We adopted Ryan in 2005. He is beautiful and now 20 months old. I am the Center Director for Pitney Bowes and oversee 430+ employees.



*Eila Ivonen and Osmo Lipponen*

### Class of 1953

#### Alumna receives Finland's Knight of the Order of the White Rose

Suomi College alumna Eila (Rantanen) Ivonen received a special honor from the Finnish government April 14, 2007: the prestigious Knight of the Order of the White Rose medal and ribbon. Osmo Lipponen, consul general of Finland, was on hand to congratulate Mrs. Ivonen at a ceremony in Virginia, Minn. The mayor of Virginia, Carolyn Luoma Gentilini, proclaimed April 14 as Eila Ivonen Day. Mrs. Ivonen was born in

Finland and came to the United States during her college days. She has worked tirelessly to promote the Finnish language and culture in Minnesota's Iron Range area. The Order of the White Rose was instituted in 1919 by then Regent Carl Gustav Mannerheim. The Order is awarded to foreign and Finnish citizens to recognize services to Finland, and for bravery in combat during wartime.

## MARRIAGES



**Christina Armbruster and Brian Mayworm** were married June 23, 2007. Christina is a graduate of Suomi College ('00) and Finlandia University ('03). She is the director of donor and alumni relations at Finlandia. Brian is the production manager at Warm Rain Corp., Hancock, and a long-time Hurontown Fire and Rescue volunteer fire fighter.

**Megan Blanchard and Kevin Goke** were married July 28, 2007. Megan is the daughter of Jim and Kennita Blanchard of Corbin, Ky. She has a B.S. in elementary education from the University of Kentucky and is teaching fourth grade. Kevin is the son of Evelyn Goke, Finlandia's registrar, and the late Gary D. Goke, of Houghton. Kevin completed a B.B.A in marketing at Finlandia in 2007. He works for AT&T. The couple resides in Louisville, Ky.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Nora Susan Hyrkas and Matthew James Laho** were married July 28, 2007. Nora is the daughter of William and Karen Hyrkas of Traprock Valley. Matthew is the son of Kirs and Ruth Laho, of Bristol, Wisc. In 2007 both Nora and Matthew completed B.A.s in elementary education at Finlandia University. The couple resides in Wyoming.

### OBITUARIES

**Helmi E. (Moilanen) Laitila**, 96, of Baltic, died May 2, 2007, in Hancock. Helmi attended Calumet and Askel schools. In 1930 she married Elias Laitila. He died in 1991. The couple owned and operated a public sauna in Baltic until 1962. Helmi was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church, South Range, and a past member of the Kaleva Lodge of South Range. Memorials may be designated to Grace Lutheran Church, Houghton County Medical Care Facility, or the Finlandia University Finnish American Heritage Center.

**Aune (Olkkonen) Autio**, 95, of Florida Location, passed away July 23, 2007, in Roscommon. Aune graduated from Calumet High School in 1930. She was employed as a secretary to the president of Suomi College, and for Drs. Repola, Rowe and Albright; she was also a reporter for the American Suomitar. In 1979, she married Einar Autio. He died in 1997. Aune was a member of the Maranatha Free Lutheran Church, Houghton.

**Anne L. (Pesonen) Rowell**, 91, of Woodbury, Conn., died Jan. 5, 2007, in Newtown, Conn. Anne was born and raised in Hancock. She had resided for over 50 years in Woodbury with her husband, Douglas; he survives. Anne was the daughter of the late Emil and Hilda (Kauppila) Pesonen who emigrated from Finland in 1902..

**Mary T. (Keranen) Tiura**, 89, of Royal Oak, died June 18, 2007. Mary grew up in Pelkie. After graduating from Baraga High School, she attended Suomi College, then moved to the Detroit area. Mary married Frans Rudolph Tiura in 1943. He preceded her in death. Mary and Frans were charter members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Southfield, and the Finnish Center Association, Farmington Hills.

**Albert E. 'Al' Heino**, 88, of Baraga, passed away July 22, 2007, in Baraga. Al graduated from L'Anse High School in 1938, and Suomi College in 1952. He also completed bachelor's and masters degrees. He joined the U.S. Army in 1941, serving in the Pacific Theater. Al married Wanda Sharp in 1960. She survives. He was a social studies and history teacher in Baraga

and Two Rivers, Wisc., principal of Mass City School, and, later, principal of Baraga High School. He retired in 1985. Al served as mayor of L'Anse.

**Evelyn F. (Schmeltzer) Westlake**, 86, a former Bark River resident, passed away May 14, 2007, in Escanaba. Evelyn graduated from Escanaba Senior High School in 1938 and attended Suomi College to study nursing. In 1942 she married Edwin Louis Westlake. He preceded her in death. Evelyn was a member of the Bark River American Legion Auxiliary Post # 438 for many years.

**Nestor Olavi Perala**, 84, passed away July 19, 2007, in Portland, Ore. Nestor graduated from high school in Bremerton, Wash. He married Myra Jean Kendrick in 1948; she died in 2004. Nestor received bachelor's and masters degrees in education. Until his



**Aileen (Hill) Maki**

In a tradition of support for higher education that began with her late husband, Sulo, in 1995 Aileen Maki made a major gift to Suomi College that allowed the college to enlarge and modernize its library. The Sulo and Aileen Maki Library, renamed for its benefactors, was completed in 1997.

Mrs. Maki was known for having lived in a manner faithful to the Finnish values of *sisu* and was committed to universal education. She and her husband were longtime faithful friends of Suomi College and Finlandia University. Aileen was granted an honorary doctor of humane letters at Suomi College commencement ceremonies April 28, 1996. The degree was bestowed July 23, 1996, at a special ceremony at Mrs. Maki's home in LaJolla, Calif.

Aileen H. (Hill) Maki, 97, of Coeur d'Alene, Ida., passed away August 4, 2007. She was born January 31, 1910, in Kent, Wash., to Olli and Hilda (Haino) Hill of Finland. After spending her early years living and working in Seattle, she lived in Las Vegas, Nev., and then in La Jolla, Calif. Aileen had a wonderful sense of style and loved to entertain in her home. She was a strong business woman and worked with her husband on numerous real estate projects.

Aileen was preceded in death by her husband and a sister, Helen Hill. Her surviving relative, Eira Engstrom, wishes to thank Margaret Ball and her family for the loving quality of care over these many years.



# ALUMNI NEWS

retirement in 1978 he taught elementary school in Parkrose, Ore. Nestor was a World War II veteran, a founding member of the Finnish American Historical Society of the West, and active in other Finnish and Scandinavian organizations. He received Finnish citizenship in 2006. Memorial donations may be sent to Finlandia University or Wy'East Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Portland.

**Pastor Henry Ruben Kangas**, 82, of Mass City, passed away April 23, 2007, in Ontonagon. Pastor Henry graduated from Greenland Township School, Mass City, in 1942. He received a theological degree at Suomi College ('47), and also completed bachelor's, masters, and doctoral degrees. Pastor Henry preached in both English and Finnish. He retired in 1987, continuing his service with supply preaching and taping Finnish devotions for radio and the "Finland Calling" television program.

**Judith A. (Baillargeon) Nivala**, 66, of Plymouth, Mich., passed away July 3, 2007, in Plymouth. Judith graduated from Hancock High School, Suomi College, and Northern Michigan University. Before moving to Plymouth, she taught elementary school in South Range. Judith was a member and volunteer at St. John Lutheran Church, Redford, and the WELCA. Her husband, David, survives.

**The Rev. Lance J. Roberts**, 65, of Negaunee, died June 24, 2007. Lance grew up in Barnum Location, and was a 1960 graduate of Ishpeming High School. He was a 1962 graduate of Suomi College, a 1964 graduate of Northern Michigan University, and in 1968 earned a bachelor of divinity degree. Rev. Roberts served as pastor in a number of Upper Peninsula Lutheran churches, retiring from active ministry in 2001. He was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming. He married Marlys Ojala in 1963. She survives.

**Barbara J. (Dillon) Hargreaves**, 62, of Garden (Fayette), passed away April 28, 2007. She grew up in Lennon, and was a graduate of Owosso High School. She continued her education at Suomi College ('63). Barbara married Charles R. Hargreaves in 1963. He survives. Barbara was active in church music. She was a member of the Fayette Congregational Church and the 4-H Horse Club.

**William P. 'Billy' Gabe**, 55, of L'Anse, passed away June 30, 2007, in L'Anse. Billy graduated from L'Anse High School, Suomi College ('72), and Michigan Tech University. He was employed as a machinist for Pettibone Corporation until his retirement. Billy was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, L'Anse, and the Knights of Columbus.

**Roger R. Lahti**, 49, of Calumet, passed away May 4, 2007, in Marquette. Roger was raised in Ahmeek. He graduated from Calumet schools in 1976. He was a graduate of Suomi College ('89), and attended Northern Michigan University. Roger was a veteran of the U.S. Army, a former member of the Ahmeek Fire Department, and a first responder. He worked for Vocational Strategies Inc., Keweenaw Memorial and Portage hospitals, and other employers.

## ALUMNI FRIENDS

### SHARE YOUR NEWS

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

Finlandia Alumni Relations  
c/o Christina Mayworm  
601 Quincy St.  
Hancock, MI 49930

[alumnidirectory@finlandia.edu](mailto:alumnidirectory@finlandia.edu)

[www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu)

## Memorials & In Honor List

### MEMORIALS

7/1/07-9/30/07

Walter J. Ala

Alice Bond

Fortunate H. Curtis, Jr.

Dolores Sormunen Fennell

Bertha Eskola George

John A. Haapala

Ellen Hakala

Hannah Hannu

Tommy Hattula

Dr. Bernhard Hillila

Verna H.E. Johnson

Antti Kangas

Edward A. Kangas

Rev. Henry Kangas

Lauri Kivimäki

Helmi Laitila

Dr. John LaRue

Ruth Jacobson Liljequist

Urho, Martin & George Mackey

Aileen S. Maki

Tauno Maki

Jenelle Keltto Mandsager

Gerald Pasanen

Meeri Ahola Pavelich

William Randa

Rev. Dr. E. Olaf Rankinen

Stephen Ringstrom

Aino Ristimäki

Rev. Lance Roberts

Rev. Toivo Rosenberg

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Rowe

Parents of E. Paul Seppa

Ken Seppala

Lenore & Edwin Simonson

Lloyd Stenlund

James "Rocky" Stone

Casper & Elena Toivonen

Elias Tolppi

Albert A. Turner

John Raymond Tuuri

Rev. Walter Werronen

Riitta West

Andrew & Alma Wierimaa

Andrew H. Wisti

### IN HONOR

7/1/07-9/30/07

Sigrid Bartelli - 89th Birthday

Dr. Philip Johnson

Shirley Keltto

Anna Leppänen

David Norman

Marriage of Bernadette

Yeoman & Charles Ouellette

# CALENDAR

## FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR 2007-08

### UNIVERSITY EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- 1-13 Art Exhibition: 17th Annual Contemporary Finnish American Artist Series: *John Lundeen* (Finlandia Gallery)
- 6 Finnish Independence Day Celebration, 6:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)
- 14 Fall 2007 Semester Ends
- 20 Opening Reception: Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home, 7:00 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)
- 20-31 Art Exhibition: Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home: *A Traveling Art Exhibition 2007-2008* (Finlandia Gallery)

#### JANUARY

- 1-31 Art Exhibition: Celebration of the Upper Peninsula as Home: *A Traveling Art Exhibition 2007-2008* (Finlandia Gallery)
- 7 Spring 2008 Semester Begins
- 10 Nordic Film Series: "My Friend Henry," 6:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)
- 14-19 2008 Homecoming Celebration Week
- 19 Heikinpäivä Mid-winter Celebration (FAHC and downtown Hancock)

#### FEBRUARY

- 7 Opening Reception: Jim Denomie: *Recent Work*, 7:00 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)
- 7-28 Art Exhibition: Jim Denomie: *Recent Work* (Finlandia Gallery)
- 14 Nordic Film Series (FAHC Theatre)

#### MARCH

- 1-15 Art Exhibition: Jim Denomie: *Recent Work* (Finlandia Gallery)
- 13 Nordic Film Series, 6:00 p.m. (FAHC Theatre)

#### ADVANCE

- May 2 Spring 2008 Semester Ends
- May 4 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Exercises
- June 26-28 All-school Reunion

### ATHLETIC EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

##### Men's Basketball

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Northland College
- 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Michigan University
- 10<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior
- 12<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Stout
- 15<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- 18<sup>th</sup> Michigan Tech University
- 28<sup>th</sup> Alma College Tournament
- 29<sup>th</sup> Alma College Tournament

##### Women's Basketball

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Northland College
- 4<sup>th</sup> College of St. Scholastica
- 7<sup>th</sup> Lawrence University
- 11<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Stout
- 19<sup>th</sup> Hawaii Tournament
- 20<sup>th</sup> Hawaii Tournament
- 28<sup>th</sup> Northern Michigan at MTU Tournament
- 29<sup>th</sup> Michigan Tech University

##### Men's Hockey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Northland College
- 7<sup>th</sup> University of Minnesota-Crookston
- 8<sup>th</sup> University of Minnesota-Crookston
- 15<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 29<sup>th</sup> Augsburg College
- 30<sup>th</sup> Augsburg College

##### Women's Hockey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lake Forest College
- 8<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 9<sup>th</sup> University of St. Thomas

#### JANUARY

##### Men's Basketball

- 2<sup>nd</sup> University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- 4<sup>th</sup> Northwestern College
- 7<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- 15<sup>th</sup> Northland Baptist Bible College
- 25<sup>th</sup> North Central University

##### Women's Basketball

- 2<sup>nd</sup> University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- 4<sup>th</sup> Northwestern College
- 15<sup>th</sup> Northland Baptist Bible College
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mount Mary College
- 19<sup>th</sup> Cardinal Stritch University
- 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Norbert College
- 25<sup>th</sup> North Central University

##### Men's Hockey

- 6<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lawrence University
- 12<sup>th</sup> Lawrence University
- 18<sup>th</sup> Marian College

##### Men's Hockey (Continued)

- 19<sup>th</sup> Marian College
- 25<sup>th</sup> Milwaukee School of Engineering
- 26<sup>th</sup> Milwaukee School of Engineering

##### Women's Hockey

- 6<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior
- 12<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- 13<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 19<sup>th</sup> Concordia University-Wisconsin
- 20<sup>th</sup> Concordia University-Wisconsin
- 26<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- 27<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

#### FEBRUARY

##### Men's Basketball

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rochester College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marygrove College
- 5<sup>th</sup> Northland College
- 9<sup>th</sup> Lake Superior State University
- 16<sup>th</sup> Northland Baptist Bible College
- 19<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior

##### Women's Basketball

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rochester College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marygrove College
- 5<sup>th</sup> Northland College
- 16<sup>th</sup> Northland Baptist Bible College
- 19<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior

##### Men's Hockey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Northland College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Northland College
- 8<sup>th</sup> University of Minnesota-Crookston
- 9<sup>th</sup> University of Minnesota-Crookston
- 15<sup>th</sup> Lawrence University
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lawrence University
- 23<sup>rd</sup> First Round MCHA Playoffs

##### Women's Hockey

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lake Forest College
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Concordia University-Wisconsin
- 9<sup>th</sup> Adrian College
- 10<sup>th</sup> Adrian College
- 16<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 17<sup>th</sup> University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 22<sup>nd</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior
- 23<sup>rd</sup> University of Wisconsin-Superior

#### MARCH

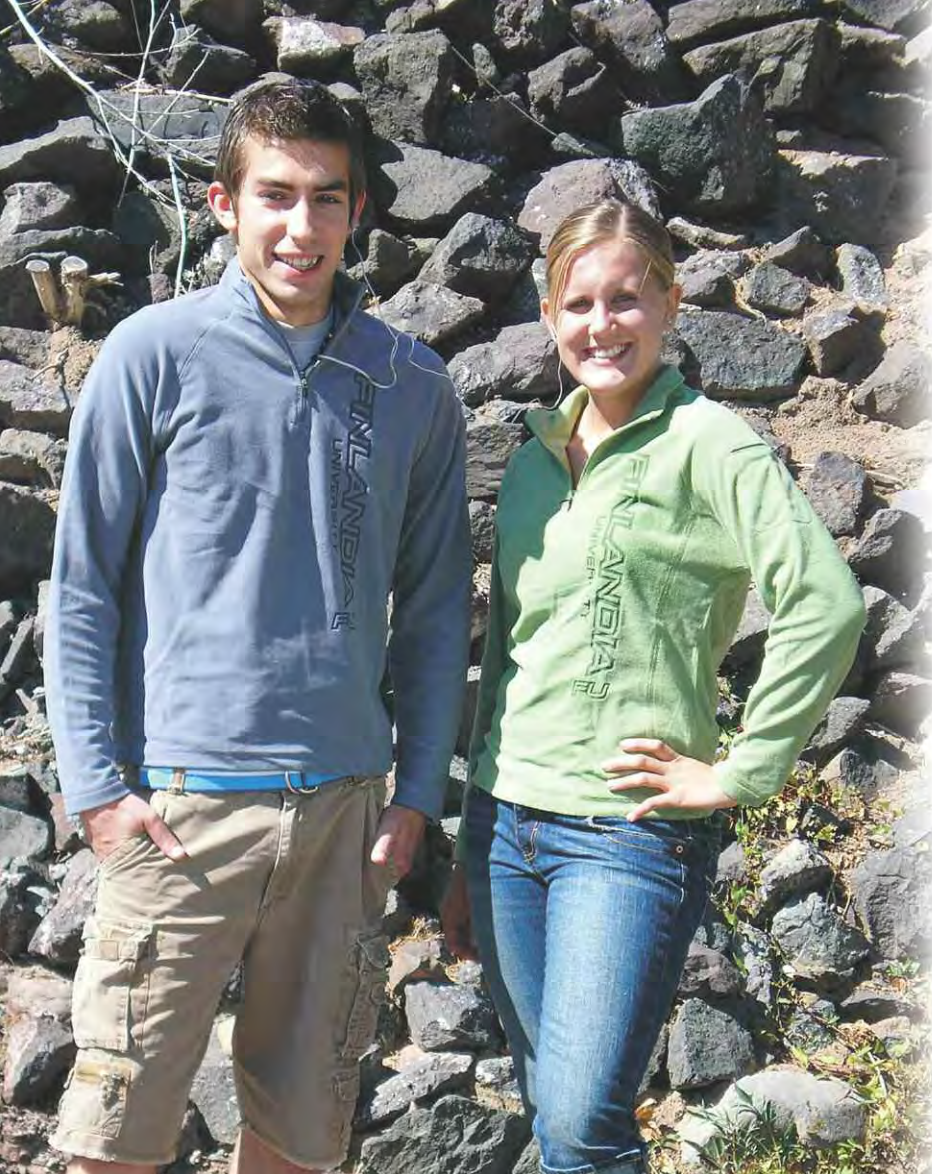
##### Women's Hockey

- 2<sup>nd</sup> NCHA Playoffs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> NCHA Playoffs

##### Men's Hockey

- 2<sup>nd</sup> MCHA Final Four





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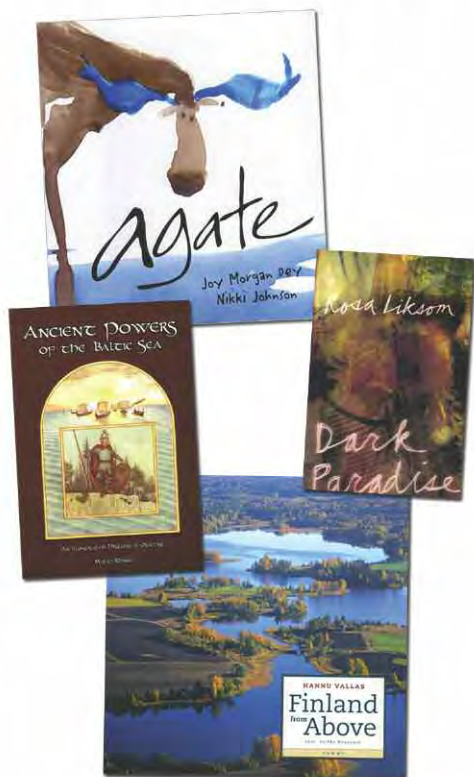
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**Dark Paradise**, by Rosa Liksom, translated by David McDuff

In this short story collection, Rosa Liksom, born in Lapland, Finland, populates a world of snow covered landscapes, antiseptic apartments, fish factories, and lumber camps with the obsessive, the violent, and the unhinged. Their stark lives and actions, however, are infused with an emotional intimacy that draws the reader into uncomfortable empathy with the extremity of their deeds.

Dalkey Archive Press, 2007

Paperback.....\$12.50

**Ancient Powers of the Baltic Sea, An Historical Outline**, by Matti Klinge, translated by Ain Haas  
This significantly updated version of Klinge's 1984 book outlines the historical background of the events in the Finnish epic, *The Kalevala*. A preeminent historian in Finland, Klinge has illustrated the new edition with 75 historical documents and maps. Haas is a prominent professor of sociology in the U.S.

Aspasia Books, 2007

Paperback .....\$24.00

**Finland from Above**, by Hannu Vallas, text by Veikko Neuvonen

Vallas's photographs capture Finland from the air. In the images, the viewer can see far into the distance over huge lakes and open waters, and can also make out fascinating natural and man-made details. The beautiful, color photographs, coupled with Neuvonen's writing, invite the reader to share many of the secrets of Finland's beauty.

Tammi, 2007

Hardcover .....\$49.95

**Agate**, by Joy Morgan Dey, illustrated by Nikki Johnson

What good is a moose? They aren't as strong as a lion, as tall as a giraffe, or even as clever as a raccoon. Discover in this whimsical tale the importance of looking for the remarkable hidden core in ourselves, in others, and of course in Agate the moose. Nikki Johnson's wonderful watercolor paintings depict the spirit of the animal characters.

Lake Superior Port Cities Inc., 2007

Hardcover.....\$17.95

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