

the Bridge

spring 2009

FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED IN 1896





Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Finlandia University, the City of Hancock, and Hancock Public Schools are teaming up for an innovative collaboration called, “Campus and Community: Together for Good.” We invite you to learn more about this initiative and its intended benefits.

Core Convictions

- Challenges for growth are shared by the City of Hancock, the Hancock Public Schools, and Finlandia University.
- Shared challenges, where resources are not in abundance, urge shared solutions.
- The best solutions are often found close to home.
- Exchanges and shared usage encourages better stewardship of limited resources.

Core Collaboration

A strategic and creative long-term exchange of resources: Finlandia University educational and recreational resources exchanged for two Hancock School District properties: Condon Athletic Complex and the Hancock Middle School.

Background: The Properties

- Finlandia University’s 2008-2013 strategic plan targets enrollment growth in its College of Health Sciences and NCAA Division III athletics programs. Finlandia requires buildings and properties to fuel and accommodate this growth.
- Hancock Public Schools’ strategic priorities invite similar collaboration that can provide their own program enhancements, enrollment stability, and a sustainable future.
- The Hancock Middle School program is scheduled for relocation in new construction at Hancock Central High School, leaving the historic middle school building unoccupied. Finlandia desires, in the near future, to turn the middle school into a collegiate educational space to house its College of Health Sciences.
- Finlandia University desires to fund, design, and begin developing a collegiate field complex at Condon capable of supporting the athletic programs of both the Finlandia Lions and the Hancock Bulldogs.

Programs Offered by Finlandia: A Broad Outline

1. The Hancock Award

- An initial 12-year tuition award program.
- Eligibility: Hancock Central High School graduates beginning with the Class of 2009.

2. Community Educational Services Provided by Finlandia Faculty and Staff

- Short-courses, workshops, class lectures, and other programming in Hancock elementary, middle, and high schools on topics of school interest.
- Lectures, short-courses, and workshops delivered to adult learners on topics of community interest and need.
- Finlandia Speaker’s Bureau offering faculty and staff expertise and experience to Hancock organizations and agencies.

3. More Benefits and Shared Use

- Unique access and opportunity for public high school graduates to experience the value and benefits of a private education in the U.P.
- A public/private collaboration that positively builds on resource capacity in a rural context.
- A collegiate field complex in Hancock that can better serve the recreational interests and needs of its residents and those of neighboring communities.
- Community use of middle school facilities for performing arts, cultural, and educational programming.



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



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“Where Futures Are Formed”*

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PHILIP JOHNSON

President

“The support of friends and alumni is needed in order for Finlandia’s students to fully realize the benefits offered in this strategic collaboration.”

Dear Friends and Alumni,

In this spring issue of *the Bridge*, our theme centers on Finlandia’s Campus and Community: Together for Good. I mentioned this briefly in our winter issue, and I promised to “keep you posted.” Though you will find various expressions and explanations of this collaboration in the pages that follow, I want to share some updates.

In December, a letter of agreement with Gundlach Champion and Hitch Engineering and Architects was drafted and signed to provide preliminary assessments, designs, budgets, and a construction schedule. These documents were completed in mid-February. These services were offered without charge in anticipation of future engagement when projects move forward. Finlandia is grateful for this generous gesture.

In late January, respective governing bodies supported and ratified the initiative. Finlandia’s Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed the collaboration.

In February, the Campus and Community Joint Committee began meeting. The Joint Committee is made up of key leadership from the university, the Hancock Public School District, and the City of Hancock. Through its regular meetings the committee ensures that care and attention is given to current commitments, and to the various eventualities that will surface as we execute the projects and plans of the collaboration.

A centerpiece of this exchange is the Hancock Award, a tuition remission program offered to Hancock Central High School graduates beginning with the class of 2009. Applications were developed and distributed to Hancock seniors in February. By the March 1 deadline, Finlandia had received twenty-eight applications for the fall 2009 Award. Historically, Finlandia has enrolled an average of eight students from Hancock. Our first objective was to achieve a robust inaugural cohort of Award recipients. This seems assured.

Meetings were held in March with City of Hancock leadership and area residents. On March 23, the concept plan for development of the athletic field complex called Condon Field was unanimously supported. A final vote for full approval will occur in early April.

I am strongly encouraged by the support and good will evident in the community. I am also encouraged by the steps already taken to realize the implementation of this collaboration. I am convinced that Campus and Community: Together for Good:

- possesses strength and soundness in its form, as well as its content;
- will provide many more students the opportunity to experience the distinct value of a Finlandia education; and
- will enable Finlandia and its neighbors to emerge stronger from these challenging times.

The support of friends and alumni is needed in order for Finlandia’s students to fully realize the benefits offered in this strategic collaboration. New and increased gifts to our Annual Fund provide resources we need to deliver day-to-day quality and excellence for our students. These gifts do more than any other to well-position the university for executing Campus and Community. Finlandia’s learning community of students, faculty, staff, and administration join me in thanking you for your stubborn and strong support.

Together with its closest neighbors, Finlandia University is imagining a future more fully committed to a deep and enduring collaboration. We are building on solid ground here. This is timely. This is fitting. This is a good thing. Thank you for coming along.

There is good reading ahead. Enjoy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip Johnson".

Philip Johnson, Ph.D.
President

As current economic conditions affect more and more Americans, for college-age students and their parents the overall value and bottom-line affordability of higher education is increasingly important and has taken on a whole new meaning, says Martin Kinard, Finlandia University director of admissions.

In fact, a January 2009 study of more than 1,000 households nationwide, conducted by Longmire and Co. to gauge the impact of the economy on college enrollment, indicates that, because of the healthy financial aid awards and limited out-of-pocket expenses, college-age students and their parents are taking a serious look at a private university education.

"A weakened economy does not have to equate to fewer college students," notes Kinard. "Finlandia, with lower-than-average private college tuition, strong institutional discount programs, many student scholarship opportunities, and individualized financial aid support services, is in an excellent position to stress the perhaps unexpected affordability of a private university education."

"Coupled with our distinctive qualities, this affordability adds up to a solid value in higher education," confirms Finlandia President Philip Johnson. "Everything we do at Finlandia is for the success of our students and their achievements after graduation. We believe a personal touch makes a huge difference."

These are some of the messages Kinard and his team are taking to potential students. This spring they launched a student recruitment campaign they are calling, "PUSH UP," shorthand for "Push for the U.P."

"Financial aid is awarded to 98% of full-time Finlandia students, and typically about 80% of our students graduate from Upper Peninsula high schools," Kinard notes. "The Push for the U.P. campaign is underscoring the value and affordability of earning a college degree at Finlandia. We are working closely with the Financial Aid office to paint for potential students and parents a true picture of the bottom-line cost to attend Finlandia University."

Small class sizes, career-focused degrees grounded in the liberal arts, excellent job placement rates, and a commitment to help students reduce out-of-pocket expenses – all framed within Finlandia's commitments to encourage spiritual growth and service – are part of the exceptional value message of the recruitment campaign.

"These messages ring true today more than ever before for Finlandia," Kinard says. "Students and families experience Finlandia's 'high touch' from admission to graduation. Broadly, our exceptional value begins with our identity as a small, residential, Division III, private university. More specifically, it stems from robust student support services, small classes, helpful and engaged faculty, friendly staff, career-centered academic majors, and a safe campus community."

A brochure that focuses on the value and affordability of Finlandia University will be distributed to high school seniors throughout Michigan. In addition, the Admissions Team will personally deliver the message to all 52 high schools in the U.P., and more intensely to the nine high schools within the Copper Country Intermediate School District.



Value and Affordability

A Push for the U.P.

FINLANDIA
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FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY SCHEDULE 2009

March 27 to April 21, 2009

Opening Reception: Tuesday, March 31, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Fashion Show begins at 7:15 p.m.

Juried Student Exhibition: International School of Art & Design

The annual juried exhibition includes work by ISAD students studying fine art and design.

April 27 to May 22, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Diploma Works Exhibition: International School of Art & Design

Presented annually, the Diploma Works exhibit features the work of ISAD graduating BFA students.

May 28 to July 17, 2009

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 28, 2009, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Artist Talk beginning at 7:15 p.m.

John Hubbard: Recent Works

John Hubbard's landscape paintings express the rugged beauty and luminous light of the northern landscape. Working alla prima, from the Italian "at once," Hubbard created each painting in this series in one sitting. Hubbard teaches at Northern Michigan University.

July 23 to September 11, 2009

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 2009, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Artist Lecture beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Derek Guthrie

British artist and art critic Derek Guthrie premieres his artwork in the United States at Finlandia University. Guthrie is a well-known Chicago art critic and co-founder of the influential art magazine *New Arts Examiner*, published from 1973 to 2002. Guthrie will exhibit a retrospective of his own work, which is influenced by nature and his love of oriental art.

The Finlandia University Gallery, in the Finnish American Heritage Center, features year-round exhibitions of contemporary Finnish, Finnish-American, and American artists. 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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*A learning community dedicated
to academic excellence, spiritual
growth, and service*



Suzanne Van Dam

The Writer's Journey

by Suzanne Van Dam

Ravens and writers have a lot in common: both have a love of the shiny treasure, both feed off the scraps others leave behind, both alternate between being solitary brooders and gregarious celebrants. And both, occasionally, sing off key.

— Earl Brogan, February 2009

This spring I've had the honor of working with a group of talented writers while organizing a seminar sponsored by the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences. "The Writer's Journey" was created to showcase Finlandia's English degree and foster literary discussions on campus.

Each Thursday afternoon, February through mid-April, poets, journalists, essayists, and fiction writers discussed their work, and their journeys as writers, with students, faculty, staff, and community members.

I've discovered that people are as hungry for stories as they are for information about how their stories can be heard. The presenters both read from their work and shared ways new writers can make forays into the publishing world.

Finlandia's **Lauri Anderson**, professor of English, and author of numerous short story collections, kicked off the seminar with a presentation about one of his most troublesome characters, Heikki Heikkinen. Anderson demonstrated how life experiences can be weaved into fiction to create memorable characters.

Katie Alvord, author of *Divorce Your Car!* (New Society Publishers, 2000), and the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Science Journalism Award, spoke about how writing makes a difference, both personally and politically. One student who attended Alvord's seminar remarked, "Every time I started to play the devil's advocate, arguing to myself that it wouldn't be possible to go without a car, [Katie] would address that point."

Rekha Ambardar, a business instructor at Finlandia and the author of two novels, *Maid to Order* (Echelon Press, 2005) and *His Harbor Girl* (Whiskey Creek Press, 2004), introduced some conventions of the romance genre, such as crafting the plot using the organizing principles, "Goal, Motivation, Conflict" (GMC), and capturing the "dark moment," the point at which all feels lost for the protagonist. She also emphasized the role of research in writing.

Earl Brogan, a high school English teacher from Lake Linden, is the recipient of several NEH scholarships and an accomplished poet. Brogan spoke of the sources of inspiration for writers, including, for him, a solitary blackbird that winged by his window one morning. Brogan shared that he writes poems to understand the world and himself a little better, but cautioned, "once you set a poem in motion, there's no telling where it is going to go."

Terri Martin, assistant to the provost at Finlandia, is the author of a middle-grade children's book, *A Family Trait* (Holiday House, 1999), and has published many humorous articles about the outdoors. She spoke about "Finding the Writer's Voice Within," and led a series of exercises to help writers create strong, engaging voices.

Additional Writer's Journey speakers included: **Randy Freisinger**, professor at Michigan Tech, who discussed, "The Straight and Crooked Figure a Poem Makes;" **Suzanne Van Dam**, assistant professor of English, who read from her novel-in-progress and discussed how setting can come alive as a character in its own right; **Peter Gundersen**, associate professor of philosophy, who spoke about the villanelle, a French poetic form introduced in the 1800s; **M. Bartley Siegel**, editor of MTU's *Pank Magazine*, who discussed the literary avant-garde; and **Jan Worth**, a fiction and non-fiction writer and professor at University of Michigan-Flint, who spoke about the sense of place, emphasizing how geography impacts the writer and the writing process. **Suzanne Strempek Shea**, the author of five novels and three memoirs, including, *Sundays in America: a Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith* (Beacon Press, 2008), was prevented by inclement weather from presenting a February 2 seminar. Her talk will be rescheduled to take place this April.



Randy Freisinger



Katie Alvord



Earl Brogan

CAMPUS NEWS



Donald Dowd

Indigenous Night Offers a Taste of the Sámi Experience

The indigenous peoples of the Midwest and northern Europe were honored at “Indigenous Night,” January 22, at the Finnish American Heritage Center. The special event showcased the exhibit, “The Sámi: Reindeer People of Alaska,” which was on display at the FAHC archive through mid-February.

In 1894 and 1898, 137 indigenous Sámi reindeer herders from Norway were hired by the United States to teach reindeer herding skills to the Yup'ik and Inupiaq peoples of Alaska. After their three-year tours of duty, many of these Sámi Reindeer Project herders remained in Alaska and helped build the large reindeer herds that provided food, clothing, and transportation for Alaskans during the Gold Rush and into the 1920s and 30s.

The exhibit's appearance in Hancock was sponsored by Finlandia University, Finlandia Foundation National, Suomi Seura, and the Center for Environmental Economic Development, which administers the exhibit.

Also part of Indigenous Night was a showing of the documentary, “Give Us Back Our Skeletons,” a Norwegian film about the repatriation of Sámi remains from the Norwegian Anatomical Institute; a talk by Sámi scholars Faith Fjeld and Nathan Muus; music and words from Ojibwe Donald Dowd; and a reception for Native American artist Carl Gawboy.

An exhibit of Gawboy's work, “Transforming the Cutover,” was featured at the Finlandia University Gallery through February 13. The son of a Finnish mother and an Ojibwe father, Gawboy's paintings bring to life scenes of Ojibwe culture that, until now, had not been documented by painters or photographers.

Finlandia Offers Canadian Students Dollar-for-dollar Currency Exchange

Finlandia University is hoping to recruit additional students from Canada with a dollar-for-dollar currency exchange for

tuition. All Canadian students are invited to take advantage of the currency match.

“I believe this dollar-for-dollar exchange will give additional incentive to our northern neighbors to seriously consider attending Finlandia University,” says Martin Kinard, Finlandia's director of admissions.

“Our proximity to Canada, and our continuous effort to widen our recruitment reach, made this decision a logical one,” notes President Philip Johnson. “I believe it will give us a marketing advantage and provide a competitive alternative for Canadian students considering enrollment in a U.S. university.”

Athletic Director Chris Salani agrees the tuition match will benefit the university as a whole. He's also excited about the added potential for recruiting student-athletes.



Christmas Party

Pictured above are many of the employees who received service awards at the 2008 Finlandia Christmas party held December 19 at the North Shore Grill, Houghton. More than 180 employees and guests attended the event. Left to right, with years of service in parentheses, are Robin Bonini (5), Jim Harden (5), Bill Melchiori (5), Ted Karvonen (10), Gladys Polzien (5), Lisa Tracy (5), Matt Farrell (5), Kirsti Arko (5), Sherry Blust (25), Pam Shahnaz (25), and Ann Testini (5). Not pictured are Dave Chapman (5), Alan Gatlin (5), Carol Karppinen (10), Heidi Mensch (10), and Rob McTaggart (20).

CAMPUS NEWS



Danielle "D.C." Wilson

International Exhibit Includes Work by Danielle Wilson of Iron Mountain

Finlandia University art and design junior Danielle "D.C." Wilson (Iron Mountain) is one of 15 artists featured in the 2008 International Sumi-E Brush Painting Contest and Exhibition. Her painting, "Woman and Fish" won honorable mention. The painting, sold during its premiere exhibit in Osaka, Japan, also appeared in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan.

The painting is of a woman wading in water with koi and lily pads around her. One fish is leaping up to her downturned hand, and a tattoo on her hip mirrors the jumping fish.

"When I was accepted into the show, I was very excited," says Wilson. "It was a surprise because I had never painted with sumi-e on such a large scale; the piece was my first legitimate attempt. It's the first major painting I've ever sold."

"I drew the figure from a live model and wanted to do something traditional for my first large-scale ink painting," Wilson adds. "I was inspired by Japanese brushworks I had seen in the past; most sumi-e paintings are full of symbolism and harmony. I wanted to paint something peaceful and fluid."

The purpose of the International Sumi-E Brush Painting Contest and Exhibition, organized by the Federation of American Asian Culture and Art, is to promote art education, and to foster the sense of beauty by encouraging submission of ink brush paintings, says the Federation's website (www.ifacasumi-e.org).

Multiple Intelligences Workshop

Veronica L. Horning of Performance Learning Systems (PLS) led a continuing education workshop, "Varying the Intelligences During Instruction," January 21 at the Finnish American Heritage Center. More than 50 Finlandia faculty members, Elementary Education students, and Hancock Central High School teachers attended.

Horning explained the eight multiple intelligences as defined by Howard Gardner, the Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Gardner's learning theory attempts to address individual learning differences, and foster long-term memory and the application of information to real-life situations.

Horning said that teachers using Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences are better prepared to meet students' varied needs and facilitate true learning. Workshop

participants learned to identify ways to implement and vary the concept of multiple intelligences in lesson planning, and identified ways to help students recognize the intelligences at work in their own lives.

Paloheimo Scholar Presents Personal History Writing Workshops

Dozens of community members, from high school age to senior citizens, attended a series of six Life and Personal History Writing workshops this February and March. Conducted by Beth Virtanen, Ph.D., Finlandia University professor and Paloheimo Scholar, at various locations in the western Upper Peninsula, participants explored the many perspectives of their personal stories as part of a collaborative experience to enrich what they write. Participants left each workshop with something they had written, including personal narratives, poems, descriptions of people or places, beginnings of short stories, personal histories, and memoirs.

The Roar Printing Press

Finlandia University student Matt Williquette recently found an exciting discovery on Ebay: a printing press. Williquette is the business manager for Finlandia's student newspaper, *The Roar*.

The printing press, an AB Dick offset, allows the students producing the newspaper many new options. "Having the press will greatly enhance the quality of the newspaper," said Williquette, "This is a much needed step as we are also now selling ad space in the newspaper."

"It holds a lot of potential for the newspaper and beyond. It is really exciting to be a part of something this cool," said Jessie Millar, visual editor of *The Roar*. "It is a direct application of what I have learned in the classroom, which is really exciting for me."



Student Senate members (left to right) Michaela Boddy, Ally Tincknell, Justin Buzzo, Jillian Dolkey, Liz Reno, and Jessie Millar

CAMPUS NEWS

Madison, Wisconsin Artist Discuss Art and Activism

Madison, Wisconsin, visual artist Helen R. Klebesadel notes that the arts are one of the ways a culture defines what they value. Visual artists, for example, not only relay aesthetic, and sometimes personal, content in their work, they may use the content of their own lives to express their understanding of cultural, social, and political issues.

At a community lecture at the Finnish American Heritage Center April 7, Klebesadel discussed the place in

which art and activism come together in a talk titled, "The Personal Is Political: Art as Activism." As an artist-in-residence at Finlandia University from April 6 to 8, Klebesadel worked with art and design students to help them articulate their ideas and perceptions in their chosen mediums.

Klebesadel exhibits widely and has written several publications on using student-centered pedagogies in college-level art teaching. Visit the artist's website at <http://klebesadel.com>.



Students Prepare for Spring Travel to Finland

Finlandia nursing and human services students hosted a Health and Wellness Symposium February 7 at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Attendees treated themselves to a day of healthy indulgence with massage, hand and face treatments, free heel density bone screenings, and more.

Proceeds from the Wellness Symposium will help seven students travel to Helsinki, Finland, this spring to learn about Finland's health care and social services systems. The study abroad opportunity is part of the academic course, Finlandia Connection.

The students, pictured above (left to right), are Robin Vitton (Hancock), Sadie Hebert (Iron River), Hailey Gauthier (Houghton), Kristen Collins (L'Anse), Jourdan Woulter (Hancock), and Jessica Johnson (L'Anse). Finlandia associate professor of nursing Debbie Karstu and visiting professor of psychology Barbara McLean will accompany the students to Finland.

Fundraising is Well Underway for Spring Servant Leadership Trip

A Silent Auction and Soup & Salad lunch took place February 21 at the Finlandia Hall Café. More than 100 auction items were up for bid, such as handicrafts, gift certificates, and cloth from Tanzania. Proceeds from the event will help five Finlandia students raise funds for a May 2009 trip to Tanzania, which is part of the eight-hour course, Service-Learning in Tanzania.

"They'll be helping in the building of new dorms at Kisarawe Lutheran Jr. Seminary, a secondary school, and staying with host families in Dar es



Front row (left to right): Casey Luke, Amy Bellinger, Deanna Makela, Sasha Beyers, Jennette Katona, and Lindsey Antilla

Back row (left to right): Kaitlin Voigt, Dawn Engman, Jillian Dolkey, Jodi Riutta, Ally Tincknell, Linzy Monticello, Coach Curtis Wittenberg, and Jamie Bellinger

Basketball Teams Wear "Servant" Attire

December 23, 2008

Dear President Johnson,

You have reason to be proud of the Finlandia University men's and women's basketball coaches and varsity teams! On November 29th, at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, not only did these teams display exemplary sportsmanship as they competed in the Pacific Northwest Lutheran Invitational, but they also exhibited a true, servant's spirit as they participated in a meal assembly event, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The event enlisted volunteer labor, including your coaches and players, to assemble 24,000 meals benefiting Children of the Nations International's ministry to orphaned children in Africa and South America.

Enclosed please find a photo of the women's team in their "servant" attire. What a blessing for your university to have coaches who spur their athletes to achieve athletic and academic success, while also teaching them to live a life of service!

Sincerely, Beth Adams, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Manager of Lutheran Community Relations
Sierra Northwest Regional Financial Office

CAMPUS NEWS

Salaam as they develop an understanding of life in Tanzania,” said Rene Johnson, interim campus pastor and director of the Servant Leadership program.

The students traveling to Tanzania this spring are juniors Jillian Dolkey (Wetmore) and Jaimianne Amicucci (Mahopac Falls, NY), sophomore Dan Grille (Wallace), and freshmen Jessica Zierle (Union City) and Aggie Pietila (Bruce Crossing).



Accepting the Challenge

“Hello, this is C.J. Fisher, I’m a senior at Finlandia University.....” C.J., pictured above, must have said that 200 times in the last two weeks. He was one of 31 students who volunteered as callers in this year’s “Accept the Challenge!” Alumni Phon-A-Thon.

To help close the gap in this year’s Annual Fund goals, a long-time Finlandia Board member provided the challenge: a dollar for dollar match, up to \$25,000, for all new or increased annual fund gifts received before June 30, 2009.

Six evenings in February the student callers tirelessly, and with gusto, called nearly 3,000 alumni, inviting them to help meet the challenge. Some of them found themselves stepping outside their comfort zones. Cold calling isn’t easy, even for those with the most outgoing personalities. However, their unflagging enthusiasm made for a very successful Phon-A-Thon.

We graciously thank each and every one of our alumni who spoke with the student callers, shared memories, helped

us update our records, and contributed to the Accept the Challenge! Phon-A-Thon. Sincere thanks also to the student callers and our generous Board member.



Matt Williquette

Grubbie's Cafe

It’s been nearly four years in the making, and finally Grubbie’s Café is a reality for owner and Finlandia University senior Matt Williquette.

On February 4, Grubbie’s Café opened on the first level of Finlandia Hall, the university’s residence hall. The menu includes many favorites, from homemade pizzas, milk shakes, and enormous cookies to quarter-pound burgers, soups, and veggie wraps.

Development of the restaurant began to take shape in late-2005. Williquette says that his fellow students have been asking for a café at the residence hall for some time. When he learned that Finlandia President Philip Johnson also wanted to make this happen, he began talking with Bill Melchiori, former director of student life.

Williquette’s vision for Grubbie’s is a restaurant that provides its customers with good, hearty food at extremely affordable prices. He says it’s something that started simply.

“It’s funny, how the idea came to be,” Williquette explains. “I was talking with the people who ran a snack shop at Finlandia Hall several years ago, and the ideas began to flow.”

Williquette, 35, is a full-time student at Finlandia with a dual major in liberal studies and business. He is also the business manager for Finlandia’s student newspaper, *The Roar*, and a member of the Student Senate.

Visit the Grubbie’s Café website at www.grubbiescafe.com.



Homecoming 2009

The winning Homecoming 2009 Obstacle Course Race team gathers for a photo January 30. It was darn cold that day, but this didn’t appear to dampen their enthusiasm. Pictured are, back row, left to right: Dale Rogers, Jordan Siegler, Sami Horst, Jessie Millar, and Stephanie Trevino; front row: Amanda Moyer and Kumiko Takahashi.



Judy (left) and Lauri Isaacson, with Maria Del Carmen Castillo (center) in El Salvador

A Letter from Lauri and Judy Isaacson:

A challenge to all alumni to help fulfill the dreams of future Finlandia University students

As a habitual early-riser, I spent every early morning that we lived in El Salvador sitting on our front patio, gazing at the Volcano of San Salvador, and pondering how I, an introvert, had gotten there from a 40-acre farm in northern Minnesota.

In 1993, Judy, my extrovert spouse, and I founded the Interchange Institute, a 501c3 organization to help develop sustainable communities in El Salvador through organizational development and the education of youth. Living in El Salvador was a long 'trip' from northern Minnesota.

In May 2008, we attended the Northeast Minnesota Synod Assembly in Duluth. We were working on a fundraising effort against world hunger called The Marketplace. During slow times I wandered through the exhibit hall where I met Cheryl Ries, Finlandia coordinator of planned giving. We had a conversation about the university and its goals and needs, and talked about the all-class reunion held in summer 2008, which Judy and I attended.

Cheryl asked an important question of me: What did Suomi College (Finlandia) provide for my journey? Good question! Immediately, I was back in Hancock remembering and placing this question within a larger framework: How did someone from a 40-acre farm in Clinton Township end up living in El Salvador working on sustainable development? I put the bigger question aside for the moment and concentrated on what Suomi (Finlandia) has provided for my life journey.

Finlandia was instrumental in my personal development in at least these five areas:

Confidence Builder. I was plain scared after signing up to attend Suomi College! Tom and Helen Kuusisto and Karl Aho helped push me. The first person I met on campus was Dr. Karlo Keljo, who happened to be walking through

the parking lot when I arrived (He said he still remembers what I was wearing!). His religion class on the New Testament became my favorite. My two years at Suomi built my faith and confidence in my ability. The atmosphere there led me to become involved in many things I wouldn't have dreamed of doing. I opened up! The words of Micah set my tone for living, then and now: "Do justice, ... Walk humbly." It didn't change my introverted personality, but it provided the confidence to move beyond this personality trait.

Learning to Study. I never made the honor roll at Suomi. I had never had to study before, so I had to learn how. The personal attention from professors and the small classes were great. I roomed in a private home for a year and a half, under the wings of two profs who also lived there – Charles Franti and Ruben Siranen. They challenged me to study and invited me to join them nightly for coffee at the Kaleva, where we shared stories of life's persistent questions. It was just what I needed.

A Broader Faith Perspective. Duane Westfield ('58) and I were officers of the Lutheran Student Association and co-chairs of the Lenten Retreat Committee, a weekend for high school students to learn about their faith and share with one another. A spirited annual basketball game between Michigan and Minnesota teams added excitement to the school year. These events and involvements, and others, made me ponder the relationship of faith to everyday life – including politics.

Friendships. Attending the all-school reunion this past summer brought back many memories. A number of our classmates have died, we have lost contact with many others, and our roads have led us in different directions, even into different worlds. These are just a few remembrances which may be true – or not – judge for yourself.

...I was part of a kitchen crew that helped the cooks set up and serve meals, and clean up afterward. We had good times! When I was laid up for two weeks, meals were brought to my room and others covered my work hours. We were a team.

...A group which pondered whether Suomi could become a four year university gathered information, and even met with an administrator at Augsburg College in

Minneapolis to discuss what steps we could take to make it happen. We were dreamers together.

...The all-school gatherings on Brockway Mountain and winter outdoor events and picnics built friendships.

...Deputation teams that visited churches giving programs that shared our faith.

...The men's basketball team didn't win every game. We trained hard (running up and down the steps from Old Main to Nikander Hall before touching a basketball). As a benchwarmer for one year, I benefited from the competitive spirit and the sportsmanship.

...The alumni choir that performed at last summer's reunion linked us to the past and kindled memories of choir tours, Amahl and the Night Visitors, staying in people's homes, and expanding our horizons. I remember my try-out with director Arthur Hill: after singing some scales to determine my range, he gave me a copy of "God Bless Our Native Land" and said, "OK, sing the tenor part!" I made it into the choir. The greatest experience of all was to be a part of the choir.

Liberal Arts. What Suomi provided me, especially, was a solid Liberal Arts background. It was fostered in classes by good teachers, in choir, in theater, in chapel and convocations, and in special discussions.

So what now? Cheryl asked another good question: How can Finlandia continue to provide this type of education to youth of today?

When I heard how many students at Finlandia are eligible for Pell Grants, I began to understand more fully the university's mission: to provide an education for those who are beginning from same place in need where I had been, allowing them to grow as contributors to our world, work for justice, and walk humbly with God.

In these tough financial times, Finlandia needs our support to provide opportunities for these prospective students. Judy and I are believers in sharing our gifts. Douglas John Hall, in his book, *The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age*, writes, "Ours is a world in which human beings are required to find a new way of conceiving of their identity and vocation, otherwise there can be no averting the catastrophic future we are courting."

The new administration at Finlandia brings a spirit of hope and a perspective for meeting the challenges of this era. We have made a three-year commitment to Finlandia, starting in 2008, of at least \$10,000 per year. Those of us who are 70 1/2 years of age have an opportunity in 2009 to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from our IRAs without it being included as taxable income. Finlandia's Advancement Office can provide information on how to do this. We challenge all alumni to help make the dreams and goals of the future students of Finlandia become a reality.

"We challenge all alumni to make the dreams and goals of the future students of Finlandia become a reality."

— Lauri and Judy Isaacson

Lauri Isaacson completed two years at Suomi College ('57), and in 1958 received a degree in social science from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He graduated from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1962, serving as an LCA pastor for 10 years. He worked for the Minneapolis Model City Program, then Northern States Power, from which he retired in 1993 as manager of organizational effectiveness. Lauri and his wife, Judy, live in Finlayson, Minnesota, and are members of Grace Lutheran Church, Sandstone. Judy is a member of the World Hunger Task Force of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and is trained for the program "Equipping for Peacemaking." She is very active with the synod Women of the ELCA. Lauri serves on the Policy Council of Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy Minnesota and the NE Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Team.

Lauri and Judy founded the Interchange Institute in 1993 to help poverty-ridden Salvadorans establish sustainable communities. Their objective is to fund programs that have been asked for by local people, and find the resource persons needed to teach them the necessary skills, but leave them free to carry out plans on their own. Projects include teaching women how to sew and make garments to sell, providing computers and typewriters for students, seminars for farmers to learn how to improve the soil and cropland, and helping to provide healthcare through clinics.



Judy Isaacson (second from left) with faculty and students from the Jesuit University in San Salvador



Finlandia University President Philip Johnson believes that the best solutions lie within. The Hancock Public Schools Board of Education agrees.

Finlandia and the Hancock Public Schools have announced a unique public/private collaboration with the goal of a healthier and better educated populace.

Through a strategic and creative exchange of resources, Hancock Schools and Finlandia have launched, "Campus and Community: Together for Good," an exchange of physical school district properties for a long-term package of Finlandia tuition awards and educational programs and services.

"Hancock and Finlandia face many common challenges for growth in a context where resources are not in abundance," says President Johnson. "These shared challenges invite, even urge, shared solutions."

"Because of Finlandia University's proximity to the middle school building, it was natural to explore the option of Finlandia taking ownership of the building," adds Dale Kero, president of the Hancock Public Schools Board of Education.

Specifically, the agreement is centered on two properties presently owned by Hancock Public Schools: the current middle school building on Quincy Street adjacent to Finlandia's downtown Hancock campus, and Condon Athletic Complex on Birch Street in Hancock, just a few blocks from the university.

Finlandia plans to renovate the middle school to accommodate the growth of the College of Health Sciences. Condon Field will be developed as a collegiate athletic field complex capable of supporting both the Finlandia Lions and the Hancock Bulldogs.

"Not only will it save the Hancock school district the cost of demolishing the middle school building, it provides Finlandia with new facilities it won't have to build," notes Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson.

The swap will net \$4.2 million in scholarships for Hancock Central High School graduates who attend Finlandia over the next 12 years, as well as educational services to students and residents of the Hancock School District. A cohort of up to 28 Hancock High School 2009 graduates is expected to enroll this fall.

A joint committee of officials, including representation from Hancock Public Schools and Finlandia University, will oversee the agreement to preserve the commitments of the collaboration and manage any issues related to it.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Hancock Public Schools students to further their education at little or no cost to their families," Kero notes. "The middle school building will continue to be used as an educational facility and remain a historical landmark in the City of Hancock. Hancock student-athletes will benefit from the opportunity to utilize a collegiate-quality complex."

"I see it as a very positive thing for the entire community," says Hancock Mayor Bill Laitila. "That the growth of Finlandia's health care programs is part of the focus is very good for community, and right on track for national health care worker needs. It should also be good for recruiting students. For the City of Hancock, the better Finlandia does, the better the community does. I hope the plan will be a great success."

"It's fantastic," says Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson. "The deal will pay dividends for many, many years, not only for the 12 years it is in place. For the students who are educated, it'll go on for a lifetime."

Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions

Campus and Community:
Together for Good

Hancock, Finlandia on Right Track

The following editorial appeared in the January 22, 2009, edition of the Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton, Mich. It is reprinted here with permission.

Officials from the Hancock Public Schools and Finlandia University should be congratulated for thinking outside the box and coming up with creative solutions for difficult situations.

A swap for the Hancock Middle School building and Condon athletic field for \$4.2 million in scholarships for Hancock graduates at Finlandia over the next 12 years seems like a win-win, if not a win-win-win.

Not only do Hancock Schools and Finlandia both win, but the greater community wins, as well.

As Hancock looks forward to moving into its newly constructed Middle School digs on Campus Drive around Jan. 1 of next year, officials have been searching for a good outcome for their 1923 building on Quincy Street.

The 86-year-old structure has housed different mixtures of grade levels over the years, including K-12 for awhile, according to superintendent John Vaara. But in recent decades, Hancock has built new elementary and high schools up on the hill. Adding a Middle School wing will consolidate much of the school's activities, including busing.

But what to do with the old building? Leaving it to rot and fall down under disrepair and neglect was not an option, according to Vaara. The district was unable to find a buyer for the building and was prepared to let bids for its razing, if need be, at an estimated cost between \$500,000-\$800,000.

Enter Finlandia. The small, private, liberal arts institution is looking to expand and is located just blocks from the building.

Finlandia figures the mature edifice still has some good use left in it and is looking to move its College of Health Sciences there, including its nursing and physical therapist assistant programs.

While Finlandia will assume the maintenance of the building, its value far outweighs the brick and mortar costs of building something new.

Deeding Condon Field to Finlandia is also a good idea. The university is looking to make major improvements including an all-weather playing surface and lights for soccer and football, plus rejuvenating a nearby ball field for women's softball. A renewable 12-year agreement will allow the Hancock Bulldogs to continue to use the facility.

The scholarship benefits are astounding. Nearly the entire Hancock student body, through the Class of 2020 - this year's first graders - is in line to benefit. Finlandia will hand out \$4.2 million in \$100,000 lump sums to each class across four years of college.

While the final details of the deed transfers, scholarship requirements and disbursements, and athletic field use agreements may still need to be hammered out, the synergy of these two proud educational institutions working together can only lead to more positives within each school.

Finlandia's enrollment, and educational and extra-curricular programs look to benefit. Hancock's students will benefit, too. In this climate of school-of-choice, Hancock Schools could see an influx of students with the promise of a Finlandia scholarship in the future. That would bring more state aid to the system and benefit all of Hancock's students, should they choose to attend Finlandia or not.

We are sure the community of Hancock and the surrounding area will also feel positive repercussions from the creative thinking and astute problem solving here.



Acts of Kindness

Whether helping those who are hungry, brightening the lives of the elderly, or raising money to support community children's programs, Finlandia University Upward Bound students agree that participation in a service project can be a life-transforming experience, reports Upward Bound Director Lee Luoto.

"Not only do the students learn to work with others productively and responsibly, service projects give youth opportunities to explore their interests and display their talents," Luoto says. "They learn and grow through these interactions with others, and are more eager to be challenged."

Of course, not all students are equally motivated going into a service learning experience. "However, when they see what can be accomplished through hard-work, even reluctant youth gain a sense of satisfaction and are excited about having brightened someone's day," Luoto explains. "Students can then truly begin to realize first-hand that success comes to those who can take the initiative and make it happen."

"We engage Upward Bound students a variety of experiences to give them a well-rounded sense of community involvement," Luoto says of the 75 students the program serves each year. "During the academic year we complete one or two projects, and summer program students also participate in a service project. In addition, year-round 'admission' to Upward Bound social activities is a donation of canned food or other items for a local food pantry."

"This academic year, our big service event was a canned food drive," Luoto says. "The need to restock the local Salvation Army food pantry was becoming urgent, so we decided this was

where we could best serve our community. We partnered with Pat's IGA and on November 29 students and staff spent four hours at each of the Pat's IGA stores in Hancock, Calumet, and L'Anse collecting food and monetary donations."

Other Upward Bound service projects in recent years have included raking yards for the elderly, raising money for the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Day, and walking dogs for the Copper Country Humane Society.

"Service learning instills pride and empowers students," Luoto concludes. "In some instances, their involvement gives academic direction and opens the way to life long friendships. More practically, community involvement is necessary when applying for induction into the National Honor Society, and is often important when applying for college scholarships."

Each year, the Finlandia University Upward Bound program provides services to 75 qualifying high school students in Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw Counties. Upward Bound students are either at risk, low income, or would-be first generation college students. They enter the program at the start of their freshman or sophomore year of high school.

A federally funded, Department of Education TRiO program, the goal of Upward Bound is to help students overcome barriers to higher education. All UB services are free of charge to students who have been accepted into the program.

Nationally, TRiO participants are 50% more likely to complete a four-year degree at a post-secondary institution. Luoto reports that 65% of Finlandia Upward Bound alumni from 2003-2008 are persisting in or have graduated from college; 95% of 2008 alumni are attending college.



Upward Bound also hosts a five-week summer program in which 35 high school students live on campus and take classes to gain a taste of college life. The sixth week of the summer program features a five to seven day major field trip. Past destinations include Orlando, Colorado, Boston, California, and Chicago. In 2008, the summer program students took a trip to 'Gateway' cities, visiting Memphis, New Orleans, and St. Louis. Pictured above: The Upward Bound students at the St. Louis Gateway Arch.

BOOKS FOR LEARNING. BOOKS FOR FUN.

Children's Literature Collection is Outstanding

How does one tell a quality children's book from an ordinary children's book?

Yesianne Ramirez, head librarian at Finlandia University's Sulo and Aileen Maki Library, says that the book's topic and its capacity for appreciation by varied age ranges, ethnic groups, or nations are two qualities that distinguish children's books.

"A notable children's book also inspires critical thinking and creativity, or introduces the audience to the most valuable tool of all: knowledge."

It's the books that combine the elements of entertainment and learning in a compelling way, and that are relevant in any decade, that become classics, Ramirez says. Many of these classics can be found in Maki Library's children's literature collection, which currently includes more than 3,200 titles.

"In the collection you'll find poetry, fiction, history, biographies, science, and, of course, picture books," Ramirez says. "There are children's books that are solely for entertainment, and books solely for learning."

The collection includes a large selection of award-winning children's literature, Ramirez notes, including titles from the ALA Children's Notable Lists, Newbery Medal and Honor Books,

Caldecott Medal and Honor Books, and National Book Awards for Young People's Literature.

"We also have the complete collections of *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, and the Harry Potter books," Ramirez adds. "And the collection includes the *Spiderwick Chronicles* and other books that have been made in movies."

Laurene Ziegler, director of Finlandia's Elementary Education bachelor degree program, says that the collection is an integral part of the Education curriculum.

Ziegler and Ramirez agree that what distinguishes Finlandia's children's literature collection from many other collections is that the books are selected for educational purposes.

"The Elementary Education students use these books as learning and teaching tools and to stimulate reading in the elementary schools," Ziegler says. "The student-teachers read these books to children when they do their teaching practices and utilize them for presentations, essays, and critical articles."

Maki Library receives frequent book donations from community members, students, and library friends, many of the books new and popular. "The collection is always growing. Every year, two to three hundred books are added," Ramirez says. "In the last five years the collection grew from 1,165 to 3,228, an increase of more than 2,000 titles!"

"Some of the books we have can also be found in public libraries and school libraries, but some are very old and enter the categories of unique, rare, and special," Ramirez notes. "These are about 100 years old, and are particular to our collection."

Other titles in the young readers' collection are bilingual books in Spanish, books in the Finnish language, and Nordic legends and stories.

Community members are encouraged to borrow books from the Finlandia library. Courtesy library cards are available free to Upper Peninsula residents with a permanent address in the area. Children who wish to borrow books from the library must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

"The most recent or popular children's books can be found in our browsing collection or in our new books section," Ramirez says. "Or a particular title or author can be searched for in the online catalog."

"If additional help is needed to find a particular title, please feel free to ask for help at the circulation desk," Ramirez says. "Our library staff will be happy to help point you in the right direction. Happy reading!"



Freshmen Elementary Education students
Danika Giguere (left) and Janet Young



President Johnson, center, marches in the 2009 City of Hancock Heikinpäiva parade with more than 75 Finlandia students, Board members, faculty, staff and friends. (The wind chill was more than 25 below!). Also pictured (left to right) are Board member Patricia Van Pelt, and students Michael Tommaro, Mallery Torola, and Karen Koljonen.

Finlandia Awarded

Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification

Finlandia University President Philip Johnson announced in January that the university has been awarded a Community Engagement Classification from The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The university's dual Community Engagement Classification is "Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships."

"Finlandia's overall institutional commitment to service to the community is a longstanding source of pride for us," says President Johnson. "It goes all the way back to our Finnish-Lutheran founders who envisioned an institution that would improve both individual immigrant lives and the life of the growing western Upper Peninsula region."

"Finlandia's wish to engage and improve our local community is stated very clearly in our mission statement, 'a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service.'" Johnson continues. "This additional Carnegie Foundation classification confirms that our actions are well-aligned with our guiding documents."

"What is most gratifying for me and the university is that Finlandia has been recognized in a well-respected, national database as inherently involved within its community," Johnson adds. "Finlandia strives to be a meaningful part of the local and regional U.P. community. We share our resources; we listen to our community and constituents; we are actively engaged in our community."

A letter from the Carnegie Foundation notifying Finlandia of its Community Engagement Classification notes that Finlandia's application documented excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement.

Kori Tossava, Finlandia director of foundation relations, explains that, unlike Carnegie's other classifications which rely on national data, the community engagement classification is based on documentation provided by the institution.

Tossava notes that the elective classification process engaged Finlandia in a substantive process of inquiry, reflection, and self-assessment regarding the university's community engagement. Finlandia provided to Carnegie descriptions and examples of institutionalized practices of community engagement that demonstrate alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices.

"It gave us an excellent opportunity to reconfirm the vitality of our focus on community service and our partnerships within the community," she adds.

Factors contributing to the successful acceptance of Finlandia's application for the Carnegie Community Engagement classification included the promotion of community engagement by the university's executive leadership, as well as administrative, academic, and student support of community engagement, Tossava notes.

"Consistent and successful community programming at the Jutila Center and the Finnish American Heritage Center, and mechanisms for listening to input from the community through groups such as Community Partners, the International Alumni Board, and the Finnish Council in America, are also examples of our commitment to local and regional community members," she adds.

"Local and regional institutions and businesses are critical to the success of our students," says President Johnson. "Local health care clinical sites and the local schools provide students in the nursing, physical therapist assistant, and elementary education programs, in particular, continuous opportunities for practical, hands-on learning."

Curricular faith- and service-related opportunities, such as Finlandia's Servant Leadership Program, also demonstrate Finlandia's community engagement, Johnson adds.

This year, 147 institutions applied to document community engagement. Of the total applications, 119 were successfully classified as community engaged institutions; 68 are public institutions and 51 are private. In terms of representing Carnegie's Basic Classification, 38 are doctorate-granting universities, 52 are masters-level colleges and universities, 17 are baccalaureate colleges, nine are community colleges, and

three institutions have a specialized focus—arts, medicine, and technology. They represent 34 states and Puerto Rico.

Institutions were classified in one of three categories:

Curricular Engagement describes teaching, learning, and scholarship which engage faculty, students, and community in mutually beneficial and respectful collaboration. Their interactions address community-identified needs, deepen students' civic and academic learning, enhance community well-being, and enrich the scholarship of the institution.

Outreach and Partnerships describes two different but related approaches to community engagement. The first focuses on the application and provision of institutional resources for community use with benefits to both campus and community. The latter focuses on collaborative interactions with community and related scholarship for the mutually beneficial exchange, exploration, and application of knowledge, information, and resources (research, capacity building, economic development, etc.).

Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships includes institutions with substantial commitments in both areas described above.

The Carnegie Foundation non-elective classifications are derived from analysis of existing national data. Their intended purpose is to enable academic and institutional researchers to identify groups of roughly comparable institutions. The classifications are based on an institution's degree

programs, geographic area, and student enrollment. All accredited, degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States represented in the National Center for Education Statistics IPEDS system are eligible for inclusion in the Carnegie Classifications.

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center with the primary mission "to do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold, and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education." The improvement of teaching and learning is central to all of the Foundation's work.



Kori Tossava

"It gave us an excellent opportunity to reconfirm the vitality of our focus on community service and our partnerships within the community."

SPORTS NEWS

Athletics: Condon Athletic Complex: A Significant Asset for the Community

As part of Campus and Community: Together for Good, an innovative resource exchange initiative between Finlandia University, Hancock Public Schools, and the City of Hancock, Finlandia will receive ownership of Condon Athletic Complex, an 11.4-acre park in Hancock.

In a three-phase, multi-year project Finlandia will create a collegiate-level outdoor sports complex at Condon Field, as it's familiarly known. The park currently includes an athletic field, a field house, and home and visiting team bleachers.

Finlandia University Athletic Director Chris Salani envisions the development of Condon Field both in terms of what it will provide to current and future athletics

programs at Finlandia, and what it will mean to the Hancock community and school district as a whole.

Salani, who grew up on the Anthony Street block that includes Condon Field, notes that he truly wants to “do well for the campus and community with this project.”

“The core goal for the Condon site is to ensure the park facilities are available to the community at large,” Salani explains. “Its benefits for supporting Finlandia teams will work in tandem to provide a recreational and healthy-lifestyle ‘hub’ of programming for our communities to share.”

Finlandia will be responsible for scheduling use of the park facilities, while operation of the facilities during specific events will be the responsibility of the school involved.



Drawing by Hitch, Inc.

SPORTS NEWS

Athletics: A Significant Asset for the Community cont'd

"In conjunction with Finlandia athletic programs, the Hancock Public Schools' varsity, junior varsity, and possibly middle school, football programs will continue to use the field for practice and competition," Salani says. "The current field house will also continue to be used."

Hancock students will enjoy amenities not typically available to high school programs, once the renovation plans are carried out. "Not only will Hancock public school students and staff have access to collegiate-level athletic facilities, the high school athletes will observe first-hand the level of hard work, dedication, and knowledge required by college athletes," Salani notes.

"Phase one improvements to Condon provide desperately needed competition, practice, and training areas for our current fall and spring programs," Salani says. "Renovations will reorient the playing field to avoid east-west sun issues, an artificial athletic surface will be laid, practice fields, locker rooms, and parking will be added, and lighting installed for flexibility in scheduling events."

"The neat thing about this proposal is that our student athletes will have the opportunity to participate on a first-rate college field – on all-weather artificial turf," says John Varra, superintendent of Hancock Public Schools. "In this part of the country, the weather can literally ruin a traditional playing field. From an athlete's standpoint, especially for football players, a field that is playable even in bad weather is an exciting thing."

"As many competitions will likely take place after 7:00 p.m., the lighting plan takes into account how it will affect the

residents of the homes surrounding the complex," Salani says. "Some of the lighting fixtures will include shields to block light from neighboring houses."

"It will be exciting and fun for our kids to play under the lights," Vaara adds. "And a lighted field will give us much more flexibility to schedule late afternoon and evening games."

Salani says the main athletic field will be large enough for both football and soccer, and the complex will support Finlandia's current soccer, softball, and cross country programs.

Second phase renovations include construction of a grandstand and field house, additional spectator seating, a softball diamond with lighting, additional parking, and a pavilion and nature trail.

In the third and final phase of Condon Field renovations, lighted tennis courts will be added to support a future women's tennis program. The \$3.5 million project will be funded through private donations.

"The completed complex will also support a NCAA

Division III football program, slated to begin no later than 2012, and expand our conference affiliation opportunities," Salani notes.

"In the long-term, these improvements to the Condon site will be a significant asset for both the community and Finlandia," Salani concludes. "Local schools and community members will enjoy access to a host of recreational facilities and programs, and it will aid in the recruitment of Finlandia students."



"The core goal for the Condon site is to ensure the park facilities are available to the community at large."

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ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI NOTES

Class of 1992

Debra A. Salo Allgier
Gillette, Wyoming

I am writing to inform Finlandia University of my whereabouts and life. I am living in Gillette, Wyo., my second time around here. I am now a heavy equipment operator, mainly dirt compactors and rollers. I married a wonderful gentleman, William Allgier, in November 2008. I have also become a lay minister (Class of 2007) through the Great Lakes Synod in Marquette.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mel and Gloria Visser, Portage, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last summer with a trip to Mackinac Island and dinner with family in Mackinac City. Gloria (Curtin) Visser and Mel Visser were

married in 1958. Mel attended Michigan Technological University and Gloria attended Suomi College. Mel is a retired environmental executive and a former member of the Michigan Tech Board of Trustees. The Vissers have two children and three grandchildren.

MARRIAGES

Michelle Helminen and Edward L'Esperance were married July 26, 2008. Michelle is the daughter of Ken and Ann Helminen, Calumet. She is a 2006 graduate of Calumet High School, a 2008 graduate of Finlandia University, and is employed as a physical therapist assistant at Therapy Staff, Inc. Edward is the son of Ken and Laura L'Esperance, Brighton. He is a 2005 graduate of Brighton High School and is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield. He is employed by Allor Manufacturing.

Megan Rose Colombe and Joseph Daniel Gasperich were married September 6, 2008. Megan is the daughter of Thomas and Louise Colombe, Chassell. She received a degree in physical therapist assistant from Finlandia University in 2001 and is employed at NLJ Physical Therapy Center, Kingsford. Joseph is the son of Larry and Mary Gasperich, Iron Mountain. He served four years in the U. S. Army, and is employed at Kleiman Pump and Well, Iron Mountain. The newlyweds reside in Norway, Mich.

OBITUARIES

Eveline Mikko, 95, Farmington Hills, died October 31, 2008. Born in Houghton Canal, Eveline was a 1932 graduate of Hancock High School and, later, attended Suomi College. Her husband, Willard, preceded her in death. She is survived by two sons, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Ellen A. (Pyykkonen) Marke, 91, formerly of Hancock, died February 6, 2009, in Peoria, Ill. Ellen was born March 11, 1917, in Paavola, to Edward and Anna (Heikkinen) Pyykkonen. She attended the Paradise and Chassell schools, and graduated from Suomi College ('35). Her husband, Emil, preceded her in death. She is survived by a son, a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Joyce Marie (Elmblad) Beesley, 86, Skanee, died December 3, 2008. Joyce was born September 15, 1922, in Skanee, to Oscar and Esther (Peterson) Elmblad. She graduated from L'Anse High School in 1940 and Suomi College ('43). Joyce is survived by two sons, three daughters, and 12 grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard.



Cheryl Ries is Interim Director of Alumni Relations

Cheryl Ries was named the Finlandia University interim director of alumni relations this February. Cheryl started at Finlandia in September 2006 in a position partially funded by a Thrivent Charitable Giving Initiative grant, in which she worked with ELCA pastors and congregations to help them develop planned giving programs.

As director of alumni relations, Cheryl says her focus is to strengthen Finlandia alumni relations by fostering connections and building relationships with alumni, and planning events to help them reconnect.

Previously, Cheryl mentored at-risk high school students at the Bridge Alternative High School, Hancock, through Americorps. She has a bachelor of science in business administration from Michigan Technological University.

Cheryl is a member of the Houghton Rotary Club and has been a Girl Scout leader for five years. She is married to Kurt, a Michigan State Police Officer. They live in Chassell and have a nine-year-old daughter, Michelle, and two sons, Tyler and Coady, who both attend Finlandia.

ALUMNI NEWS

Rose I. (Nuranen) Laitinen, 85, Ripley, died November 25, 2008, in Hancock. Rose was born February 14, 1923, in Highway Location, to John and Bessie Nuranen. Rose worked for many years at Suomi College and Vollwerth's. Her husband, Albert, preceded her in death. She is survived by a daughter and a son, five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Grace Marie (Tuukkanen) Knapp, 84, Laurium and Rhineland, Wis., died October 12, 2008, in Naperville, Ill. Grace was born in Laurium, March 25, 1925, to the Rev. Andrew (A.V.) Tuukkanen and Linda (Heikka) Tuukkanen. She graduated from Calumet High School and attended Stephens College, Missouri, and Suomi College. She later lived in Chicago. Grace's husband, Clyde, preceded her in death. Grace is survived by three sons, a daughter, and eight grandchildren.

Elsie M. (Jackola) Ross, 84, Hancock, died February 13, 2009, in Hancock. Elsie was born in Ramsey, October 14, 1924, to Edward and Frieda (Siira) Jackola. Elsie attended school in Boston Location and Hancock. Her husband, George A. "Cowboss" Ross, preceded her in death. Elsie worked as a waitress at the Hancock restaurants the Golden Gate, the Dairy Bar for 17 years, and Gino's. She retired from Suomi College where she worked in the café in the residence hall. Elsie is survived by three sons and four daughters, 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Agnes N. (Porkka) Makela, 80, Hancock, died October 29, 2008. She was born March 31, 1928, in Liminga, to John and Hannah (Lustig) Porkka. Agnes attended the Redridge School, was a graduate of Houghton High School, and earned a secretarial degree at Suomi College ('46). Her husband,

Wilhart, preceded her in death. Agnes is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

Donald M. Hannula, 77, Laurium, died November 10, 2008, in Houghton. Donald was born in Calumet, March 27, 1931, to Charles and Thelma (Larson) Hannula. He was a graduate of Calumet High School and later attended Suomi College ('56) and Michigan State University. Don served in the U.S. Marines Corps during the Korean War. He is survived by a sister and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bruce Joel Kemppainen, 62, L'Anse, died January 11, 2009. He was born November 1, 1946, in L'Anse, to Earl and Rugh (Maki) Kemppainen. Bruce graduated from L'Anse High School in 1964 and Suomi College ('66). Bruce served in the U. S. Navy from 1967 to 1972. He is survived by his wife, Linda Shalifoe, a step-son, two step-daughters, and an adopted daughter.



Anita Ruohomaki

Alumna Honored for Volunteer Service

Anita Ruohomaki and her late husband, "Sully," along with their children, began a tradition of family camping in 1960. In 1982 Anita and her husband took on the role of volunteer campground hosts at the Lake Ottawa Campground. Anita

has spent every summer since at Ottawa Lake, more than 25 years. She has been invited to do it again this summer.

In December 2008, much to her surprise, the U.S. Forest Service recognized Anita's longtime volunteer service at the campground with a dinner in her honor.

Anita completed a secretarial course at Suomi College in 1950. Her husband, Pastor W. G. Ruohomaki, graduated from Suomi Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1952.

Lake Ottawa Campground, Iron County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is a rustic 32-site campground. Anita says that Lake Ottawa is a beautiful, deep lake surrounded by forest trees and no homes or buildings. She adds that the fishing is very good,

particularly perch, panfish, walleye, trout, and bass.

Anita, who is 77, says she's there to look after the general well-being of the campers. Each day, she opens the campground buildings at 6:00 a.m. and closes them in the evening. She looks after the campground facilities and keeps them tidy and supplied.

New and returning annual campers at Lake Ottawa look forward to Anita's endless supply of cookies, and her home-grown tomatoes and summer flowers. She takes one day off each week, returning home to tend to her home and her garden.

Anita has five children, all of them now between the ages of 50 and 55: four sons (one set of twins) and one daughter. They often spend time with her at the campground each summer.

Alumnus Nominated to Sports Hall of Fame

Bessemer native Dave Betlewski has been nominated for the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. The former Suomi College basketball co-captain and junior college All-American has owned and operated the Karate Institute in Ironwood for 30 years. Betlewski said the nomination was in recognition of high school and college basketball and martial arts achievements, and his contributions to the community. He'll be inducted this summer.



*Dave Betlewski and
his son, Ruckus*

After completing a general studies degree at Finlandia (Suomi College) in 1975, Betlewski earned a bachelor of science in physical education at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He taught physical education and health for the Hurley, Wis., middle and high schools for 17 years.

Betlewski has been practicing martial arts since 1980. In 1984, he trained with the U.S. Olympic Tae Kwon Do team in Colorado Springs, and in 1986 participated in the U.S. Olympic Sports Festival in Houston. "It's a passion with me, something I've always been interested in," he says of the martial arts.

In 2007, Betlewski was inducted into the Wisconsin Professional Black Belt Association Hall of Fame at Lambeau Field, Green Bay. He says that the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame nomination was prompted by that honor, as well as recommendations from former Suomi College basketball coach Tom Renier and Betlewski's high school basketball coaches.

Betlewski teaches Kajukenpo karate, a holistic martial arts program that encourages emotional development, positive self image, self confidence, and overall physical fitness.

"Kenpo karate helps kids develop their self esteem and confidence, which carries over to their daily activities and school success," he says. "I can see the improvement in kids' behavior and achievement. Many parents have told me that the classes have helped their children come out of their shell."

Betlewski has used his education, community awareness, and martial arts knowledge to communicate to kids a healthy and positive message. His civic-related activities include presenting youth alcohol and anti-drug programs, and martial arts programs for special-needs kids. He is also a member of the Jaycees and in recent years organized several annual March of Dimes walk-a-thons in Hurley, Wis. He dedicates his accomplishments to his four-year-old son, Ruckus.

You can contact Betlewski via e-mail at betlewskidave@hotmail.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

Gary J. Lompre, 56, South Range, died October 28, 2008. He was born in Hancock, January 26, 1952, to Wilfred and Alice (Nelson) Lompre. Gary was a 1971 graduate of Jeffers High School and attended Suomi College. Surviving are his wife, Marilyn (Maki), three children, and three grandchildren.



The Reverend Wayne Victor Kuusisto, 92, of Zephyrhills, Fla., died January 31, 2009. Wayne was born December 1, 1916, in DeKalb, Ill., to William and Hilma Kuusisto. He attended primary and secondary schools in DeKalb. Wayne

served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps during WWII. After the war, he attended Suomi College ('34) and Suomi Theological Seminary. He was ordained June 1, 1951.

Wayne served a four-point parish in Floodwood, Minn., from 1951 to 1954. In 1954-1955 he studied theology at the University of Helsinki. He was the minister of Zion Lutheran Church in Astoria, Ore., from 1955 to 1966, and from 1966 to 1979 he served at All Saints Lutheran Church, Wakefield. In 1979, Wayne retired to Zephyrhills and for six years worked seasonally for H&R Block Tax Service.

Wayne is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary (Pirttima), three daughters, and five grandchildren.

ALUMNI FRIENDS

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Did you bump into a classmate while on vacation? Were you recently married? Have you started your own business?

We'd like to hear about it! Please take a minute to write or e-mail us.

Attn: Cheryl Ries, Finlandia Alumni Relations

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ALUMNI NEWS

A FINNISH-AMERICAN LEADING LADY AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

by Ava Antila

In 2008, the Finnish American community lost its great leading lady: Greta Peck. She was an inspiration to so many and a great friend of Finlandia University.

Greta Peck was born Eine Matilda Kukkonen in Helsinki, January 25, 1911. Her mother was traveling, but did not quite make it to the hospital that cold winter day. So, Greta was born on the steps of the famed Helsinki train station. She immigrated to the United States as a young girl with her mother, sister, and two brothers. While in elementary school, her teacher told her that "Eine" was too foreign and complicated. The young Miss Kukkonen much admired the 'Great Garbo,' the Scandinavian movie darling of that time, so she chose to call herself "Greta."

As a young woman, Greta worked on Broadway as the hairdresser and makeup artist for Katherine Cornell, the foremost female stage actress of her generation. Greta went on two nationwide tours with Ms. Cornell and her husband, Director Guthrie McClintock.

Back in New York, she fell in love with a promising young actor who had joined the Guthrie troupe. His name was Gregory Peck. In those early days, he did not always have money for rent and often stayed in the flat Greta shared with her brother Paul.

Greta and Gregory were married in 1942. Two years later, Greg was cast as the lead in his first Hollywood film, "Days of Glory," and the couple moved to Los Angeles. They had three sons: Jonathan, Stephen, and Carey. Greta and Gregory were divorced in 1955. Greta never remarried.

Greta was well known and loved by the Finnish and the American press. She spoke fluent Finnish all her life. She devoted her life to charity work, starting as a Gray Lady, a World War II civilian nursing assistant comparable to a Finnish "Lotta."

Her work with hospitalized veterans continued for more than 50 years. Once a week, until she was well into her 80s, she volunteered in the Spinal Cord Injury unit at the Long Beach VA Hospital. In 2000 she received the "Speedy" Award, the highest national honor given by the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Greta worked selflessly for many charities, especially WAIF, which became Operation Children, as well as Screen Smart Set, The Order of St. Lazarus, and the Navy League. Her dedication, energy, and generosity are legend. Even in her mid-80s, she was an active participant in as many as 15 organizations.



Greta Peck

"She was an inspiration to so many and a great friend of Finlandia University."

Memorials & In Honor Gifts

MEMORIALS

July 1, 2008-Jan. 31, 2009
Jorma (Jerry) Aho
Clayton Auger
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Becvar
Joseph D. Crites
Emily & Agda Erickson
Frederick Esala
Dolores Sormunen Fennell
William Finlayson
Albert Heino
Alfred & Lily Hirvela
Armas K.E. Holmio

June Koski Houle
Esther Intermill
Edward & Tynne Isaac
Jarvenpaa & Nissila Families
Leonard & Irene Johnson
Camilla Jones
Edward A. Kangas
Dr. Paul E. Karvonen
John Keski
Eric A. Kettula
Grace Knapp
John & Tilda Koski
Dr. Walter J. Kukkonen

Dr. Edward E. Laitila
Ruth Liljequist
Martha Luoma
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Mackie
K.J. & Gertrude Moilanen
Ben & Ruth Mykkanen
Kaarlo W. Nasi
Ernest Niederer
Betty J. Niemi
Rev. Dr. E. Olaf Rankinen
Helen Toivonen Reichardt
Rev. Robert Richardson
K.J. Rissanen

Aino Ristimäki
Lance Roberts
Uuras Saarnivaara
Mr. & Mrs. John Saukkonen
Peg Irja Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Simmerer
Gertrude Sovde
Rev. Wilbert Tormala
John Raymond Tuuri
Eeva Ylikulju

IN HONOR

July 1, 2008-Jan. 31, 2009
Sigrid Bartelli - 90th Birthday
Jacob Holmlund
Anna Leppänen
Philip & Sandra Michel
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Niederer - 60th Wedding Anniversary
Rev. Les Niemi
Ken & Lois Seaton
Robert & Jean Seaton

2009 CALENDAR

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY EVENTS

APRIL

- 2 Community Health Fair, 4 to 6 p.m. (Finlandia Hall)
- 2 Writer's Journey Seminar with Suzanne Van Dam, 4 p.m. (Chapel of St. Matthew)
- 9 Writer's Journey Seminar with Jan Worth, 4 p.m. (Chapel of St. Matthew)
- 16 Nordic Film Series: "Sweetland," 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. (FAHC)
- 17 Honors Banquet, 6 p.m. (FAHC)

MAY

- 1 Last day of Spring 2009 semester
- 2 Opening Reception: 2009 ISAD Diploma Works, 7:00 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)
- 3 Baccalaureate Worship Service, 10 a.m. (FAHC)
- 3 Commencement Exercises, 2 p.m. (Paavo Nurmi Center)
- 15-16 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 18 First day of Summer 2009 semester
- 19 Community Partners Meeting, 7:15 a.m. (FAHC)
- 28 Opening Reception: John Hubbard, 7:00 p.m. (Finlandia Gallery)

JUNE

- 26-27 International Alumni Board Meeting

JULY

- 17 Last day of Summer 2009 semester
- 19-24 Elderhostel: A Finnish-American Experience
- 24-25 Finnish Council in America Meeting

AUGUST

- 19 Community Welcome and check-in for all students
- 25 First full day of classes, Fall 2009 semester

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY

March 27 to April 21	ISAD 2009 Juried Student Exhibition
April 27 to May 22	ISAD 2009 Diploma Works Exhibition
May 28 to July 17	John Hubbard: Recent Works
July 23 to September 11	British Artist Derek Guthrie

ATHLETIC EVENTS

APRIL

Men's Baseball

- 1 Milwaukee School of Engineering
- 5 Alma College
- 6-7 Kalamazoo College
- 13 Lawrence University
- 14 Cardinal Stritch University
- 15 **Northland College**
- 23 Saint Mary's @ University of Minnesota
- 24 Viterbo University

Women's Softball

- 4 Madison Area Technical College
- 5 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 9 Lawrence University
- 16 Cornerstone University
- 17 Kalamazoo College
- 18 Rochester College
- 19 Olivet College
- 24-25 Mount Mary College Tournament
- 27 Northland College

Men's Golf

- 11-12 Ripon College Invitational
- 24 **Finlandia University Dual Invitational**

MAY

Men's Baseball

- 1 **Great Lakes Christian College**
- 2 **Great Lakes Christian College**
- 5 Northland College
- 8 Trinity International University
- 9 Trinity International University

Women's Softball

- 2-3 **Madison Area Technical College**
- Home games in bold

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For more information contact

Ross Rinkinen, Director of Special Events
906-487-7314

ross.rinkinen@finlandia.edu

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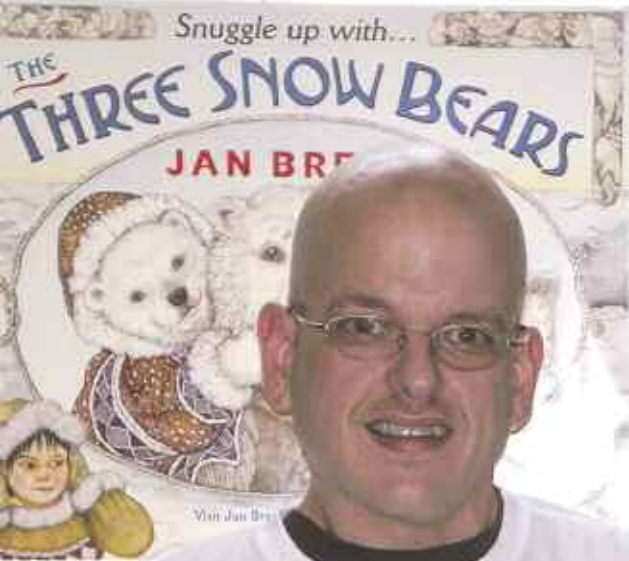
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Pictured: Mike Wilson (Pelkie), sophomore Nursing student, with son, 4-year-old Riley

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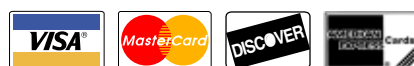
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Botanical Notecards, from Linnaeus' Attic

These Linnaeus' Attic notecards commemorate Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), the Swedish naturalist considered the founder of modern plant taxonomy. Notecards feature 19th century plant images representing the "golden-age" of botanical illustration. Boxed set includes 12 different illustrations from the Woodland Strawberry to the Norway Spruce.

PocketFlora Press, Boxed Set\$12.00

Saunas, Poems by Jane Piirto

From the frozen landscapes of her Finnish forbears to the ice-clear rivers and cold fields of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Jane Piirto warms us, sings to us, and connects those who came before with those who come next. *Saunas* is an offering full of warmth and hope that we might together "glow in perfect awareness."

Mayapple Press, 2008. Paperback\$15.95

Moomin: The Complete Tove Jansson Comic Strip: Book 3, by Tove Jansson

Welcome to the enthralling, imaginary world of Moomin Valley, where one is sure to fall in love with its sweet dreamers, irascible schemers, and creative dilettantes as they search for love, fame, and fortune. This volume includes five new stories about the novelty of new love and the routine of old love, climate swapping, space visitations, cultural tourism, and group dynamics.

Drawn & Quarterly, 2008. Hardcover\$19.95

Journey Into Winter, a novel by Frederick Brogger

This novel is centered on the Finnish/Soviet war of 1939-1940 when tiny Finland is invaded by Stalin's new army. It was literally skis against tanks in the coldest winter of the decade. A young American, half Finnish, returns to Finland and finds himself caught in the struggle for Finland's survival.

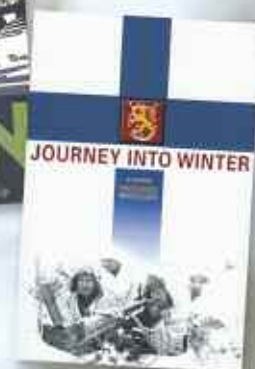
Frederick Brogger, 2008. Paperback\$18.99

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