

FINLANDIA  
UNIVERSITY

# the Bridge

Spring 2011 • Volume 64, Number 1



*Every individual matters.*



## From the President PHILIP JOHNSON

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Let me begin my spring greeting by asking you a question: What do you believe is Finlandia's best self? What does that look like to you? Take a moment. Consider an answer.

Over the past three years our successes have been measured by achievements in shorter-term goals related to institutional moorings. We are meeting the challenge. This was affirmed during a recent team visit by our accrediting body. Addressing these shorter-term goals is not complete. Rigorous work remains. However, Finlandia's best self is not to be found in achieving or even sustaining these shorter-term goals. It lies elsewhere.

In last year's spring issue of *the Bridge*, I shared with you emerging reflections on Finlandia's re-ordering of her life as a learning community. I shared with you my commitments to accompany students with uncommon attention. Over these past several months, this yet-developing idea of *uncommon attention* is being taken up into a fuller, more developed image of Finlandia's best self.

Now in my fourth spring as Finlandia's president, there is emerging for me, with others, a clearer, more coherent vision that I believe will better define us, unite us, inspire us, and ultimately, I believe, set us apart. This January I led an exercise with Finlandia's trustees entitled, "Imagining Finlandia's Best Self." During our exercise I introduced a constellation of ideas that more fully express the convictions I hold in this regard.

Finlandia's calling in higher education and, I believe, her best self, will be most fully realized when we offer a higher education experience that is:

- distinctly marked by whole and integrated learning;
- authentically delivered with uncommon attention; and
- well-regarded for graduates who flourish as persons and professionals, purposefully serving their communities.

This and similar language is also percolating among academic leadership. Last fall, I retreated with Finlandia's academic leadership. We read and discussed authors who write of imagining how to creatively engage students in all their humanness. Philosopher Tom Christiansen calls it "the education of whole persons;" educator Parker Palmer refers to it as "a learning environment that reflects a holistic vision of humanity." We might call it human-centered higher ed or, my preference, "human higher ed."

Whatever it's called, the critical test, the real opportunity is converting philosophy to practice. It is my conviction that our best self will emerge, flourish, and endure because we achieve:

- precise and imaginative articulation;
- disciplined and innovative application; and
- rigorous and continuous assessment ... of a clear, coherent, and compelling vision.

When such is achieved, vision becomes our collective breath, our very life source. It also becomes an important conversation partner in all deliberations, all planning, all budgeting. It vets all programs. It conditions personnel hires and evaluations. It seasons all teaching evaluations and learning assessments. It guides orientation and mentoring activities. It counsels on how we best accompany students.

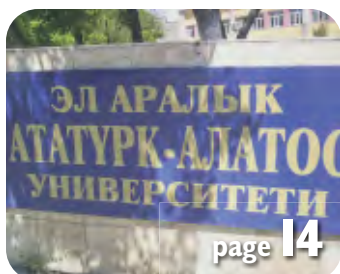
It becomes, in other words, that singular lens through which we view the entirety of our life together. It becomes our reason for being. This is the task before us. Please join me in this conversation. And tell me, what do you believe is Finlandia's best self?

Philip Johnson, Ph.D.  
President

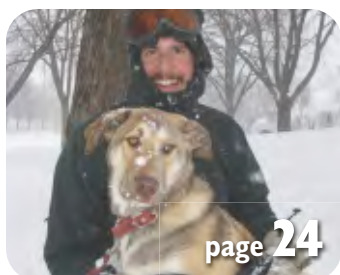




Bonnie Loukus ('10) and her partner, Dan Schneider, recently completed a five-month service trip.



Dawn Kiliç ('01) is raising her family in Central Asia.



Ryan Sohlden ('04) is working in the Wild West of design.



**Cover Photo:** Class of 2011 Valedictorians Adam Jeffery and Amanda Moyer enjoy the early spring sunshine on the Hancock waterfront. The Portage Lake lift bridge is shown behind them.

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**UNIVERSITY**  
FOUNDED IN 1896  
[www.finlandia.edu](http://www.finlandia.edu)

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## Finding My Own Way

by Ashley Benavidez

It takes special courage to be a first-generation college student—a student whose parents do not have post-secondary degrees. According to Rob McTaggart, director of Student Support Services, 45 percent of Finlandia's student population is first-generation.

These young men and women are entering an uncharted realm. In other aspects of their lives, they may have been able to turn to their parents for guidance, but in this situation they're paving their own road. I know, because I am a first-generation college student.

All my life my parents have made sacrifices for me. In return, they've asked for my best. I've never been able to settle for mediocrity; it's because I want a better life for myself and my family. I want to make them proud and show my respect for their hard work.

Since day one in Kindergarten, I've strived to excel. From good grades, high school class presidency for four years and varsity athletics for three, to yearbook editor-in-chief and as a HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership) alumna, I've devoted myself one hundred percent to everything I've been involved in.

My younger siblings (all seven of them) also give purpose to my goals. I want to set an example for them, and set the bar high, so they will meet and go beyond my footsteps. I'm proud to say they are doing exactly that.

When I turned 18 and was getting ready to leave for college, my dad threw a party for me. Throughout that evening, I got many "happy birthdays," and "you're growing up so fast," but more than anything, I heard "I'm so proud of you." That one hit me right in the heart, causing me to realize that no one in my family had done what I was about to do. I was not only embarking on a new path, but entering a forest in which I'd have to create a trail of my own.

Driving to the airport that August, I took a memory photograph of Phoenix. I told myself, "In eight months, I'm going to see this same spot, except I'll be returning as a college student."

Now, it's seven months later and I'm getting ready to go home for the summer. It's the first time since August, and I'm looking back on a very trying school



Ashley Benavidez

year. There have been times when I was ready to throw in the towel, saying to myself, "Get me outta here!" But I knew I had to persist for my younger brothers and sisters, my cousins, and even my future children. Is it going to be easy? Absolutely not, but nothing in life worth pursuing ever is.

It's a comfort to remember I'm not the only one. There are 302 other first-generation students here at Finlandia—some who grew up nearby and some who traveled far from their homes and families. They all have unique stories, and each will face and overcome their own obstacles. It takes a lot to forge a new trail, and these people are doing it one step at a time, one day at a time.

It still boggles my mind that I've been away from home for so long. Sometimes it feels like a dream and I remember the sense of pride I felt that night when I heard so many say, "I'm proud of you."

*Ashley Benavidez, Phoenix, Ariz., is a freshman Liberal Studies major and student-athlete on the Women's Softball team. She graduated from Alhambra High School, Phoenix, in 2010. She is the daughter of Dennis Benavidez and Christina Alvarez.*



## COLD RECOLLECTED

Compiled by Jake Hubbard

The winters this far north are intense. I can think of no words to describe exactly how cold it is. And yet, on a recent sub-zero snowshoeing field trip for Writers on Location, my fellow students and I were pressed to do exactly that: describe the icy landscapes and brutal winds of a Copper Country winter day. What follows is a montage of our impressions.

“The first thing most of us notice on a day like today is the rhythmic rushing of the multilayered wind... The icy gusts blow and there is no song to dance to, but the wind is humming its own melody... It swooped down occasionally to stir up miniature snow tornadoes, feverishly for a few seconds, then dutifully returning to the ground to resume its role of protector...”

“Protector? It is agonizing. The air seems to suck the life out of everything it touches and it’s tough to see any beauty in something so painfully cold.”

“Once one embraces the frozen Earth, however, some beauty can be found. I finally reach my destination, standing alone in a cold hell; the sun casts a beautiful reddish-orange color over the horizon, complemented by slow-moving, dark-blue clouds... I have found the beauty in what seemed like a tragedy.”

*Jake Hubbard, Manistique, is a Liberal Studies major. He is one of the Finlandia students in the Spring semester seminar course “Writers on Location.” The author lecture series, open to the public, is funded by Finlandia University’s Suomi College of Arts & Sciences, the Finlandia Campus Enrichment Committee, and the Hancock Public Schools Foundation. It is coordinated by associate professor of English Suzanne Van Dam and Hancock Central High School English teacher Stephen Smith. Visit [www.finlandia.edu/writers](http://www.finlandia.edu/writers) for more information.*



*Writers on Location students (left to right): Brittany Cummings, Cody Mills, Emmett Heine, Ashley Baker, and Jake Hubbard. Not pictured, but also taking the class, are Max Adolphs, Kelsey Congdon, Trent Cunard, and Ashley Mroczkowski.*



*Trevor Ploe*

## Definitely More Than a Number

by Trevor Ploe

“Every college advertises that you will be seen as more than just a number. The truth is, in my experience Finlandia is the only university that actually does see you as a person. The classes are small, the instructors are friendly, and the staff genuinely cares about the well-being of their students. The students, just like the surrounding community, are friendly and very welcoming.

“I have been to four colleges. I have been in classes with four students and classes with four hundred. I have had instructors who were department heads and instructors who were first year graduate students. There are many factors that set Finlandia apart from the others, and I feel confident in saying that Finlandia University offers the best college experience you can find.”

“I am very pleased with my decision to come here. I enjoy my classes, the sports, and the area. I highly recommend Finlandia University to anyone who wants a one-of-a-kind education from one-of-a-kind university.”

*Trevor Ploe, Houghton, is a first-year Physical Therapist Assistant major. He graduated from Houghton High School in 2006.*

## Finlandia Gallery Plans Retrospective Exhibit

The year 2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the Contemporary Finnish-American Artist Series at the Finlandia University Gallery. To celebrate the first two decades of this special exhibition, the gallery is arranging a 20-year retrospective to premier in December 2011, followed by a traveling exhibition at additional U.S. venues.

The only art exhibition of its kind in the U.S., the Contemporary Finnish-American Artist Series showcases the work of prominent Finnish-American artists and designers. The Gallery is seeking patrons to help support this endeavor. Activities which will require outside funding include the production of an exhibition catalogue, shipping and insurance expenses associated with traveling the exhibit to other U.S. venues, and material and labor costs to build shipping crates. For information, please contact gallery director Carrie Flaspohler at [carrie.flaspohler@finlandia.edu](mailto:carrie.flaspohler@finlandia.edu), or visit [www.finlandia.edu/retrospective](http://www.finlandia.edu/retrospective).

The Retrospective Exhibit artists (and the year their work was featured at the Finlandia University Gallery) are: Tarmo Watia (1991), Joyce Koskenmaki (1992), Kathleen Oettinger (1993), Peder Kitt (1994), Yeshe Linda Helander (1995), Gerald Immonen (1996), Elsa Bakkala (1997), Marlene Ekola Gerberick (1998), Rudy Autio (1999), Gladys Koski Holmes (2000), Arno Minkkinen (2001), Retrospective (2002-Finland), Eric Aho (2003), Petri Flint (2004), Vaino Kola (2005), David Salmela (2006), John Lundeen (2007), Desiree Koslin (2008), Bruce Niemi (2009), and Dina Kantor (2010).

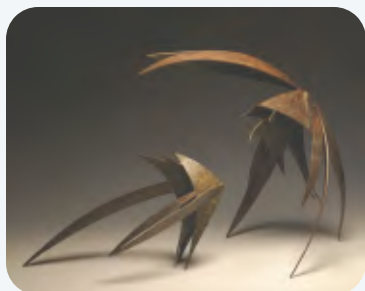
Eric Aho



Arno Rafael Minkinen



Bruce Niemi



Joyce Koskenmaki

## FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY GALLERY EXHIBITS 2011

**April 26 to June 11** - Finlandia ISAD Diploma Works Exhibition • Opening Reception: April 30, 7:00 p.m.

**June 20 to September 8** - Riitta-Liisa Haavisto and Anna-Riitta Haavisto: *White Forests, Blue Sky*  
Closing Reception: September 8, 7:00 p.m.

## Finnish Folk Music Camp

Finlandia's Finnish Council in America and the Finnish American Heritage Center will host a Finnish traditional music camp this summer—July 12 to 14—at Camp Lahti, a former Finnish farm and home on a secluded section of Lake Superior's Rabbit Bay.

Classes for all skill levels include fiddle, guitar, mandolin, kantele, bones, spoons, dance, singing, and a "build your own 5-string kantele" workshop. Other activities will include Finnish cooking and wood carving classes, nature walks, swimming, beachcombing, and sauna.

Lodging is in men's and women's dormitories, and space is available for camping. For information or to register, call 906-487-7505 or visit [www.finlandia.edu/musiccamp](http://www.finlandia.edu/musiccamp).



Finnish-American fiddler  
Ed Lauluma (1921-2005)

Photo by Lauri Mannermaa





# It Means the World

by Karen S. Johnson

Today, it seems the number one million has lost much of its significance, one billion is becoming commonplace, and soon, even one trillion may fail to raise an eyebrow.

At first glance, then, the number 1,400 stands in the shadows. However, as all young children learn, counting always begins with the number one.

In 1994, the Suomi College Board of Trustees approved repositioning the college as a four-year university, and in 1996 it was nationally accredited as a baccalaureate degree-granting institution. In 2000, Suomi College became Finlandia University.

Finlandia University awarded its first academic degrees in 2001, also that year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Suomi College graduating class.

It's now 2011 and 15 years have passed since Suomi College became a four-year university. And for 10 years, graduates have been awarded degrees from Finlandia University.

A count of Finlandia graduates since 1996 yields close to 1,400—a modest figure, perhaps, but with a meaningful voice. From 1996 to 2011 Finlandia has awarded associate and bachelor degrees to as many as 435 health care professionals, 200 human services workers, 120 law enforcement personnel, 70 elementary school teachers, 175 business people, 100 artists and designers, and 270 well-rounded Liberal Studies graduates.

*Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.*

—Jane Goodall (1934- )  
British anthropologist and primatologist

Each of these 1,400 individuals has a story of their own: they were traditional and non-traditional college students; they have families, spouses, and children and interesting and rewarding employment; they live in their Upper Peninsula hometowns, in the Midwest, across the U.S., and overseas; they've traveled widely, completed advanced degrees, and helped improve their communities.

In this issue of *the Bridge*, more than a dozen recent graduates share their stories. You'll meet a 2001 Liberal Studies alumna who lives in Central Asia and teaches English at a university there.

You'll learn about the motivation of a 2010 ACE program graduate to complete a five-month service trip. A 2004 BFA alumnus will tell you why he is on the cutting edge of his field, and you'll become acquainted with two Class of 2006 alumni—one a PTA, the other a banker—who are both on the fast track. Finlandia alumni are motivated, creative, adventurous, generous, active, and involved. They are

learning, growing, loving, caretaking, and enjoying life.

The number 1,400 includes our sons and daughters, our husbands and wives, and our grandchildren. It's your nieces and nephews and your friends' kids and grandkids. They are your neighbors and the people you meet in your communities.

So, in the universal scope of things, 1,400 isn't huge. But to Finlandia University graduates, their families, and their communities, it means the world.



# Bonnie Loukus

*Artist, Assistant Director, Partner, Traveler, Volunteer*

Bonnie Loukus recently completed a five-month service trip, traveling through 20 states and volunteering for several organization.

"A place is about the people who live there, and community service helps one feel more connected to a place," Bonnie says. "Volunteers make a good community. Without people helping out, all the events and organizations here in the Copper Country, for example, wouldn't exist. If there wasn't anyone interested in making this a good place to live, it wouldn't be."

**When did you leave and where did you go?** We left September 19, 2010, and returned in early January 2011.

**Who did you travel with?** I traveled with my partner, Dan Schneider, a local writer who also works at the Keweenaw Co-Op, Hancock. We lived in a two-person tent most of the trip, cooking our meals on a small stove. I couldn't have asked for a better travel companion!

**What was the overall goal of your travels?** I wanted to be re-inspired and also learn about other U.S. communities. My hope was to see a lot of beautiful country and art, and to camp and hike as much as possible.

**Why did you decide to take a trip of this sort, as opposed to a pleasure vacation?** Our original goal was to see the country, but that didn't seem like enough. We were interested in checking out new communities and meeting people. We both enjoy volunteering, so it made perfect sense and gave the trip meaningful structure. I also needed a break from working three jobs and going to school full-time.

**How did you decide where to go and what to do?** We wanted to head west, so I mapped out a general route and started looking for volunteer opportunities. We also talked to a number of people and ended up volunteering at a couple of places others suggested.

**What kinds of service work did you do?** Our only focus was that it had to interest one of us. Luckily, we like a lot of the same things so we volunteered with organizations related to art, animal rescue, the outdoors, and the environment. Our first assignment was in Grand Rapids, Dan's hometown, where we volunteered for ArtPrize, a huge international art competition.

**Where did you travel from there?** We volunteered at Glacier National Park, Mont., where we were trained as citizen-scientists to survey mountain goats and pika in the mountainous backcountry. After an incredible (and chilly) week at Glacier, we headed towards Portland, Ore. Our goal here was not to volunteer, but to check out the city and make connections with organizations that are involved in letterpress printing, an interest of the Copper Country Community Arts Center, Hancock, where I am assistant director.



*Dan Schneider and Bonnie Loukus*



After Portland, we headed south to Jug Handle Creek Farm in Caspar, Calif., helping with ground maintenance and its native plants greenhouse. At Point Reyes National Seashore, near San Francisco, we helped remove ice plant, an invasive species, and worked at Kule Loklo, a replica Native American village built and maintained by volunteers. We then made our way along the coast before heading inland to Death Valley, Las Vegas, and Zion National Park in southwestern Utah.

After Zion, we volunteered in Kanab, Utah, at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, an incredible place encompassing 33,000 acres with areas for all kinds of animals; of course, we ended up adopting a dog. We spent time at the Grand Canyon and then Tucson, Ariz., where we hoped to help one of the immigration groups that provide humanitarian aid. Unfortunately the person we were going to work with became ill. After Tucson, we headed back to Kanab to pick up our new dog and began the journey home.

**What was your most memorable experience?** I have so many memorable experiences, but Glacier National Park holds a lot of meaning for me. It was one of the best things I have ever done. We spent a week there and, of course, it was pretty cold. Every day, we hiked ten or more miles into the mountains. It was exhausting the first few days and the east side of the park is very wild. We saw grizzly bears near our campsite and a huge moose was milling around, so a feeling of slight ill ease started to drain me. But despite that, I gained a feeling of accomplishment from the physical activity paired with collecting data in a wild and beautiful place.

**What was most challenging?** We had a very tight budget, traveled in a small car, and our budget was \$35 each, each day, which we stuck to fairly well. We camped the majority of the trip and I wouldn't have had it any other way....except maybe on the Oregon coast, where a dry place to sleep would've been welcome.

**What was most surprising?** Even though there were so many different landscapes, the issues communities faced were often similar. This helped me feel a stronger connection to our country.

**How do you feel changed?** There has been a broadening of opportunities in my mind and I have a better connection to the outdoors. I brought back ideas that I've tried to incorporate into my job, and I saw a lot of fantastic art that has re-inspired my own art-making.

**Can you attribute some of your motivation to take the trip to your time at Finlandia?** Having goals as simple as daily homework and more complicated projects to complete helped me realize that planning and hard work equals culmination of ideas and dreams. I studied invasive species my final semester and created a series of large-scale oil paintings based on my research, leading to an interest in volunteer work that dealt with invasive species.

**What else would you like *Bridge* readers to know?** After having this experience, I want to encourage others to do the same. By volunteering, I learned far more than I would have just walking around taking pictures. And I found that volunteers were just the kind of people I wanted to meet—people who cared about things beyond themselves.

I would especially like to tell students that nothing interesting happens to people whose main focus is to watch TV or play video games. I also feel it's important to be able to leave work once in a while. Even with a great job, one still needs to seek inspiration and new experiences. I wish every working person could have this opportunity.

*Bonnie Loukus, 29, Laurium, completed a B.A in Arts, Culture, and Environment (ACE) in 2010. She graduated summa cum laude and was inducted into the Sampo Society. She attended Finlandia on a full four-year scholarship, which she was awarded in 2006 after winning an ACE essay contest. She is the assistant director of the Copper Country Community Arts Center, Hancock.*

*Bonnie graduated from Calumet High School in 1999. She is the daughter of John and Mary Loukus of Laurium. She serves on the board of Lake Linden's Downtown Development Association and volunteers for the Copper Country Humane Society, Chassell.*

**Class of 2010**  
Bachelor of Arts in ACE (Arts, Culture, and Environment)



*Left to right: J.R. Demers, Dawn Hiltz, Jaimianne Amicucci ('10), New York artist Bonnie MacAllister, Amanda Mears, Amanda Moyer, Stephanie Trevino, and Susie Danielson*

## YWC in NYC

In February, International School of Art & Design (ISAD) students participated in the 2011 Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) conference in New York City. The conference presented opportunities for networking, sharing work, art-making, performances, videos, and discussion panels—all themed around working together as individual artists and in formal organizations, caucuses, and collectives.

The students—Susie Danielson, J.R. DeMers, Dawn Hiltz, Amanda Mears, Amanda Moyer, and Stephanie Trevino—are members of the Young Women's Caucus for Art, an internal caucus of the WCA which was originated at Finlandia in 2009. Also attending the conference from Finlandia were studio arts professor Yueh-mei Cheng and 2010 ISAD alumna Jaimianne Amicucci, who belongs to the New York chapter of the WCA.

At the conference, the Finlandia students presented two performance art pieces. The first, "A Penny for Your Thoughts," invited individuals to share their ideas in exchange for a penny. The young women also produced a short film—which documents the process of knitting and crochet—showing it while they shared with the audience their desires, common threads, and other ideas—some silly, some deep. View the video at <http://vimeo.com/20167675>. Visit the YWC blog at [youngwc.blogspot.com](http://youngwc.blogspot.com).

## Jeffers Grads Get Head Start on Business Degree

Beginning in Fall 2011, an agreement forged by the Finlandia International School of Business (ISB), Jeffers High School, Painesdale, and the Copper Country Intermediate School District will grant tuition-free college credit to Jeffers High School students. Terry Monson, ISB dean, explains that Jeffers High School juniors and seniors who complete the Jeffers courses Business, Management and Administration I and/or II with a final grade of "A" qualify

to receive college credit for Finlandia courses Fundamentals of Business (BUS 138) and Introductory Computer Applications (CIS 102). "The Jeffers graduates who enroll at Finlandia and take advantage of the agreement will get a head start on a bachelor of business administration or other Finlandia degrees," Monson says.

## New Entryway Welcomes FAHC Guests

If you haven't been to the Finnish American Heritage Center in a while, you're sure to notice a change next time you visit. The building's entryway has been renovated, with new doors and windows, and a ramp for handicapped access. The result is safer patron entry and exit, and improved traffic flow. The project was made possible through a City of Hancock Downtown Façade Improvement Program grant. It was completed just in time for Hancock's annual Heikinpäivä mid-winter celebration, January 29, when hundreds of people passed through the new entry. The general contractor for the renovation work was Hancock-based World of Wood, with local businesses Bay Electric and Northern Plumbing and Heating also lending a hand.



*Carl Rahkonen*

## Rahkonen is FFN Lecturer of the Year

Carl Rahkonen, music librarian and professor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has been named 2011 Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year. Rahkonen is a member of Finlandia's Finnish Council in America. His lecture, "The Finnish-American Musical Journey: From Rune Singing to the Rockland Opera," explores how Finnish-American music came from the old country, was transformed in America, and still retains many connections with current Finnish music. Rahkonen will present his lecture at the Finnish American Heritage Center July 12. For more info and a schedule of Rahkonen's presentations, visit [www.finlandiafoundation.org](http://www.finlandiafoundation.org).



## Curling Is What's Roarin'

Finnish curler and politician Markku Uusipaavalniemi would be proud. Finlandia has formed a Curling Club! Already, the ROAR of Finlandia curling rocks led to a bronze medal finish in this February's Midwest College Curling Championships in Calumet. The bronze medal match came down to a rematch between Finlandia and Michigan Tech. Finlandia was ready with brooms in hand to sweep their way to a 9-3 victory, stealing almost every sheet. The Finlandia Curling Club is open to all students and employees—beginners to advanced curlers. Follow the curling team at [www.collegecurling.org](http://www.collegecurling.org).



*Hilary Sproule (left) and Anne Halgren demonstrate the web-based CPI*

## PTA Student Assessment Goes Online

Hilary Sproule, PTA program associate professor and academic coordinator of clinical education, is thrilled with a new web-based assessment tool developed by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

In full use this academic year, the APTA Clinical Performance Instrument, or CPI, replaces a paper-based assessment process implemented in 1999. The Finlandia PTA program participated in field testing the web-based CPI in 2008. Sproule and PTA administrative assistant Anne Halgren are working to fully integrate the new assessment tool into the PTA academic and clinical programs, and already it is saving them a considerable amount of time and reams of paper.

Students in Finlandia's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program complete 560 hours of off-site clinical learning in three separate health care settings, such as hospitals, private clinics, and rehabilitation facilities. Those involved in evaluating the students' learning progress include Finlandia faculty and staff, and the physical therapists and physical therapist assistants at the clinical sites.

Previously, assessment paperwork was considerable. Each of the 24 Finlandia PTA students involved in clinical practice

## Faculty and Staff News

**Pam Audette**, director and instructor, Medical Assistant program, will complete an M.B.A. in healthcare management this summer through Western Governor's University. Audette attended the 54th annual American Association of Medical Assistants conference in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., where she participated in a workshop to learn about Medical Assistant program accreditation.

The work of Studio Arts professor **Yueh-mei Cheng** was featured in a solo exhibit at the Hastings (Neb.) Museum of Natural and Cultural History, January 16 to March 11. This summer, Cheng will participate in a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin home in Spring Green, Wis., teaching an art workshop and conducting tours of Wright's home and Asian art collections.

**Judy Crotty**, assistant professor, Nursing, has completed the comprehensive exams for a doctorate in nursing education through Capella University; she is currently working on her dissertation.

**Fredi de Yampert**, co-dean and professor, Nursing, is treasurer for the board of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing.

**Phyllis Fredendall**, associate professor, Fiber Arts, will teach a workshop titled "Mapping Memory: The Felt Journey" for the Midwest Weavers' Conference, which is at Finlandia in June. This August, a solo exhibition of her work, "Terveisiä Uudesta Lapista" (Greetings from New Lapland), will appear at the Kaamos Gallery, Kuusamo, Finland.

**Jacqui Gorczewicz**, has joined the Medical Assistant program as an adjunct instructor. Gorczewicz previously taught at Baker College, Cadillac.

**Anne Halgren**, administrative assistant, PTA and Medical Assistant programs, instructs Aqua-Fit classes three times weekly at the Paavo Nurmi Center pool.

**René Johnson**, director of Servant Leadership, was the chapel speaker at Baylor School, Chattanooga, Tenn., April 11, addressing the student body on "Living and Serving with Passion and Purpose." Baylor is a coeducational college-preparatory school for grades 6-12.

**Debbie Karstu**, assistant professor, Nursing, is assisting Aspirus Keweenaw, Houghton, in the expansion of their cancer clinic. In addition to teaching, Karstu is a nurse practitioner in the practice of oncologist Dr. A. Soliman Behairy, M.D., Houghton.

This fall, **Amber Letourneau**, visiting assistant professor, Nursing, will complete a master of science in nursing through Walden University.

**Janine Nottke**, administrative assistant and purchaser, Facilities Management, will complete an associate degree in general studies at Finlandia this July. Nottke is working to complete a bachelor of arts in elementary education.

*(continued on page 10)*

**Mark Miron**, assistant professor, Nursing, is working with René Johnson, director of Servant Leadership, to incorporate a nursing experience in the Service and Learning in Tanzania course.

In February, Finlandia alumnus and adjunct instructor of graphic design **Aaron Radzowilicz** ('08) and his rock band, Somnium, presented "The After Days," a performance and related art exhibit at the MTU Rosza Center, Houghton. Additional Finlandia faculty and alumni who created artwork for the show were **Phyllis Fredendall**, **Melissa Hronkin**, **Jordan Siegler** ('09), **Denise Vandeville** ('01), and **D.C. Wilson** ('10).

**Heather Reinke**, assistant athletic director and head Women's Hockey coach, completed a master's degree in sports management through New England College in August 2010.

In March, **Soren Schmidt** ('94), university chaplain, completed a Youth & Family Ministry Certification in cooperation with Vibrant Faith Ministries through a 2010-2011 Bishops' Initiative Grant for the Wisconsin and the Northern Great Lakes synods.

**Hilary Sproule**, PTA program associate professor and academic coordinator of clinical education, coordinated the implementation of a new web-based student assessment tool. Sproule serves on the board of the Finlandia Blue Line Hockey Booster Club.

**Lori Sullivan**, assistant professor, Nursing, is working to complete a master's of science in nursing through Fort Hays State University.

**Johnna Therrian**, assistant professor, Nursing, is in the dissertation phase of a Ph.D. in healthcare administration through the University of Phoenix. In addition to teaching at Finlandia, Therrian is a nurse manager at Aspirus Keweenaw, Houghton.

This spring, **Wade Tillett**, assistant professor, Elementary Education, will receive his Ph.D. in curriculum studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Tillett's dissertation, "Living the Questions," is a series of articles that investigates the act of selection in daily life. A chapter of his dissertation, titled "Creating the Real," was recently published in *Curriculum Inquiry*, a highly regarded journal in the field of curriculum studies.

In February, **Beth L. Virtanen**, Paloheimo Professor, gave a presentation about her research and scholarly work at Finlandia Days, Lake Worth, Fla., titled "A conversation regarding *Finnish North American Literature in English: A Concise Anthology*, the *Journal of Finnish Studies*, the Finnish North American Literature Association, and *Kippis!*" Her presentation is the subject of articles in *USA Suomeksi* and the Finlandia Foundation newsletter.

**Dr. Cameron Williams**, co-dean, College of Health Sciences and PTA program professor and director, was appointed to serve as Director #2 on the 2011 Michigan Physical Therapy Association's board of directors, with duties including oversight of professional development. For the 16th consecutive year, Williams will serve as a delegate to the American Physical Therapist Association's House of Delegates, which is this June in National Harbor, Md.

**Laurene Ziegler**, professor and program chair, Elementary Education, is serving on the Michigan Department of Education program review team for Alma (Mich.) College to assess the alignment of their education program with new standards. Ziegler attended the 29th annual National Education Association Higher Education Conference this March in Boston.

placements each semester completed a self-assessment of 20 performance criteria, and as many or more clinical instructors completed student evaluations using the same 20 criteria. Numerous file cabinets have been needed to store the paper records. Sproule says the revised 14-criteria process is more efficient and the records are retained electronically.

Sproule notes that one of the biggest benefits of the web-based CPI is the solid communication link it creates between the PTA program and the clinical sites. Other advantages include free online training, easy and secure access by registered users, 24/7 technical assistance, the ability to view, sort, and compare completed reports, easy data retrieval, and secure data storage.



Steve Niemi



Esther Nelson

## FAHC Aided by Volunteers

In November 2010, two Finnish Americans with unique skill sets – and who traveled great distances – provided assistance to the Finnish American Heritage Center and Historical Archive. Steve Niemi, who lives near Detroit, came to Finlandia to give a lecture as part of the university's Lunch and Learn program, which is sponsored by the university's Finnish Council in America. Most recently, Niemi worked at the Detroit Institute of Arts as an interpretation specialist, and he shared his knowledge on that subject with archive staff.

The same week, the daughter of former (1949-52) Suomi College president Bernhard Hillila volunteered her time as a way to re-connect with Finlandia. Esther Nelson, who lives in Oregon, spent a week in the archive developing an inventory for the collection's used book section and reorganizing some public areas. "Heritage Center staff members are very appreciative of volunteers such as Steve and Esther," says FAHC director James Kurtti. "Their contributions are an essential component of what we provide to our patrons each day."





*Lloyd Ratkovich*

## Lloyd Ratkovich

Lloyd Ratkovich has joined Finlandia as a philanthropic advisor and will assist university friends and donors in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin with planned gifts to Finlandia. Now retired, for 25 years Lloyd was a philanthropic advisor at Luther Seminary, St Paul, Minn. "The university is pleased that

Lloyd will draw on his charitable gift fundraising experience in service to Finlandia," says Duane Aho, EVP of external relations and CAO. Lloyd and his wife, Audrey, reside in Stillwater, Minn. Contact Lloyd at 651-275-5353.



*Fred Knoch (left) and John Gershenson*

## SeeThinkDesignDelight

This Spring semester, Finlandia Art & Design instructor Fred Knoch and two Michigan Technological University engineering professors, John Gershenson and Kurt Paterson, are co-teaching SeeThinkDesignDelight, a course which engages Finlandia and MTU engineering, design, and business students in designing collaborative solutions to contemporary societal issues. These multi-disciplinary teams are using "Design Thinking," a human-centered, action-oriented process designed to transform problems into viable and desirable opportunities. The students' prototyped solutions must be environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable and will be pitched to "investors" at the end of the school year. This is the first year the class has been offered, and the instructors hope to create a dedicated innovation hub for this class and other collaborative creative endeavors between MTU and Finlandia.



*An artist's rendering of Finlandia Hall Cafeteria renovations*

## Cafeteria Is On the Move

This summer, Finlandia Hall is receiving a make-over! Targeted for completion in time for Fall semester move-in, residence hall improvements include expansion and renovation of the Finlandia Hall café to become the university's central cafeteria. The new eating place will feature raised seating, pizza and specialty food stations, an enlarged kitchen, and new restrooms.

Also on the ground floor of Finlandia Hall, a new kitchenette and enlarged game and activity rooms will provide more space for student recreation. A larger, updated computer lab will give resident students convenient 24-hour computer access.

Student rooms, hallways, and social areas will also be refreshed to create a more welcoming, less institutional environment. Hallways will be refaced with sound-absorbent materials and new lighting installed. The student lounges on each floor will be updated, each with their own kitchenette, and student room bathrooms will be improved.



*Ana León (left) and Arantza Aguirre  
performed at the 2010 Sibelius Festival*

## 13th Annual Sibelius Festival

Mark your calendars! The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Finlandia University Sibelius Academy Music Festival will take place September 18 to 24, 2011, in Chicago, Hancock, Calumet, and Negaunee. Watch for details at [www.finlandia.edu/sibelius-fest](http://www.finlandia.edu/sibelius-fest).



*A Juhannus Eve bonfire at Agate Beach, Stanton Twp.*

*Photo by Jim Kurtti*

## FinnFest 2013: A Midsummer Eve's Dream

When hosting FinnFest USA 2013 was proposed to the Copper Country community at a public forum last July, the response was enthusiastic. Since then, community leaders have begun shaping the festival, and in February the Copper Country's hosting bid was approved by the FinnFest USA board of directors.

Billed as "A Midsummer Eve's Dream," FinnFest USA 2013

organizers believe the dates chosen—June 19-23, 2013—are an excellent time to invite the world to experience the mystery and beauty of midsummer in the Copper Country. In fact, the first Finns to settle on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula arrived on Juhannus Eve in 1865, one of several themes from which the FFUSA board will draw inspiration. The dates of the festival also coincide with the centennial anniversary of the copper miners' strike of 1913—an event which significantly defined Finnish-American history and culture.

Organizers anticipate new youthful energy to rise from the ashes of the past and embrace the spirit of FinnFest 2013. "The festival will undoubtedly take on the casual, friendly persona of the Copper Country, while emphasizing copper over gold, sauna over spa, and pasties over paté," says Jim Kurtti, one of the organizers and director of the Finnish American Heritage Center.

If you would like to help plan FinnFest USA 2013, contact Kurtti at 906-487-7302 or [james.kurtti@finlandia.edu](mailto:james.kurtti@finlandia.edu). FinnFest USA 2013 representatives will also be present at FinnFest USA 2011 in San Diego, Calif., August 10-14.

## Celebrate the Earth!

The Finlandia campus and the Copper Country community are invited to Celebrate the Earth on Tuesday, April 19, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the university's Sustainability Committee and funded by the Student Senate, the Campus Enrichment Committee, and the Office of Student Affairs. In addition to Earth Day-inspired student speeches, the event will include student-led games, opportunities for campus service, a drawing for prizes, a picnic, and music and dancing. Weather-permitting, most of the activities will take place outdoors. For information, contact Diane Miller, assistant professor of communication, at [diane.miller@finlandia.edu](mailto:diane.miller@finlandia.edu).



*An artist's rendering of McAfee Field at the future Finlandia University Athletic Complex*

## Lead Gift Provided



*Sandy McAfee*

Emeritus Board of Trustees member Alexander "Sandy" McAfee and wife, Marianna McAfee, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, have provided a lead gift for the future Finlandia University Athletic Complex. In recognition of the McAfee's generous support, the main competition field at the

Athletic Complex will be named for them. McAfee Field will be the official home turf of Finlandia men's and women's soccer programs and a future Lions men's football program, as well as home to Hancock Central High School's varsity and junior-varsity football teams and several community youth sport associations.

Sandy McAfee is a strong believer in the value of intercollegiate athletics and the positive impact student-athletes have on a college campus. Each year since 2002, he has contributed to the financial operations of Finlandia Athletics, and he was the single largest donor to the 2006 addition of men's and women's hockey locker rooms at the Houghton County Arena, Hancock.

For additional information about the future Finlandia University Athletic Complex, please contact Duane Aho, EVP, at 906-487-7349, or Chris Salani, Athletic Director, at 906-487-7378.



Since Kindergarten, Haley Gauthier, 23, has wanted to be a police officer—just like her Dad, Bill Gauthier. Bill is a 33-year veteran of the Houghton County Sheriff's Department.

"My Dad is an important role model in my life," Haley says. "I relentlessly pursued becoming a police officer and jumped many hurdles to follow my dream. This is more than just a job. It takes time, patience, dedication, and determination."

Haley graduated from the Northern Michigan University Police Academy in August 2010, and now she is a patrol officer for the City of Houghton Police Department.

"I absolutely love my job and helping keep Houghton safe," Haley says. "I would not trade it for anything else."

Haley's Dad, and her Mom, Sharon Gauthier, earned Criminal Justice degrees at Suomi College in 1978. Haley's sister, Emily, will complete a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) at Finlandia this spring.

"We are very proud of Finlandia and all it has done for our family!" says Sharon, who suggested we share Haley's success story with *Bridge* readers.

Haley struggles with dyslexia, and Sharon is grateful that Haley found the support she needed through Finlandia's Disability Support Services (DSS).

"We are so proud of her! Haley's success is a tribute to your program for students with learning disabilities," Sharon says. "Students with disabilities do not need to fear going to college when a program like this exists."

"Kellie Raffaelli helped me get through Finlandia," Haley says of Finlandia's director of academic support. "Without her help, I feel strongly that I would not have succeeded."

Haley also participated in the TRiO Student Support Services program and studied in the Teaching and Learning Center. She graduated from Houghton High School in 2006. Haley loves to play hockey, fish, mountain bike, camp, and jet ski.

## Class of 2009

Associate in Applied Science, Criminal Justice

## Class of 2011

Bachelor of Science, Nursing

After four semesters at Eastern Michigan University, Aypsilanti, Emily Gauthier, 25, wanted to return home. "Finlandia was the place I wanted to be, and the Nursing program welcomed me with open arms," she says.

Emily's Mom, Sharon, inspired Emily to become a nurse. Sharon is a licensed practical nurse in the Emergency Department at Portage Health, Hancock.

"Helping people is more than just a job," Emily notes. "Nurses care for people at their most vulnerable. It takes dedication and heart to care for the ill and dying."

Emily completes her BSN this May. "I appreciate that Finlandia offers the BSN degree. I believe it takes four years to learn what a nurse needs to know," Emily says. "We complete more clinical hours than in any other Michigan nursing program, and it is in clinical placements that we gain invaluable critical thinking skills."

Finlandia clinical instructor Aimee Mikesch, an RN at Portage Health, helped Emily discover that she would like to become an obstetrics nurse, and Emily notes that everyone in the Nursing program works to make sure students are successful and the program is exceptional.

Since 2005, Emily has worked as a pharmacy technician at the Portage Health Apothecary. She assists with day-to-day activities and fills prescriptions, among other duties. "It's a wonderful place to work and I have learned a lot about pharmacology," Emily says.

Emily graduated from Houghton High School in 2005. She is engaged to marry Ed Knoch in August. She enjoys mountain biking, cross country skiing, walking her dog, and riding horses.

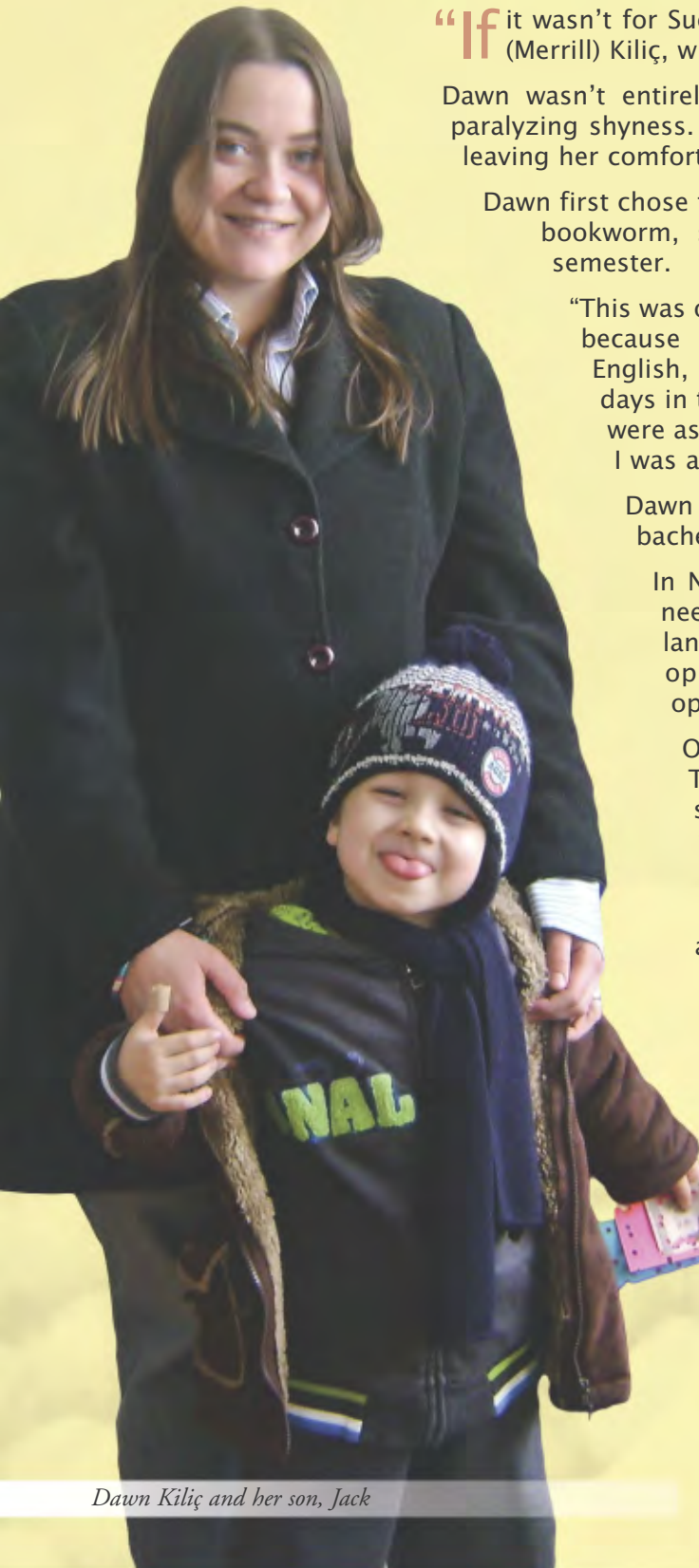
The Gauthier family belongs to St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Houghton.



Left to right: Sharon, Emily, Haley, and Bill Gauthier

# Dawn (Merrill) Kiliç

*Teacher, Mother, Spouse, World Traveler, Survivor*



**“If** it wasn’t for Suomi College, I would not be where I am today,” says Dawn (Merrill) Kiliç, who lives in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Dawn wasn’t entirely sure she would attend college, as she suffered from paralyzing shyness. But she overcame her fear and enrolled at Suomi College, leaving her comfort zone in Minnesota to discover a wider world.

Dawn first chose the Physical Therapist Assistant major, but always a bit of a bookworm, she switched to English before classes began her first semester.

“This was one of the smartest decisions of my life,” Dawn says. “It was because I changed my major that Lauri Anderson, professor of English, was appointed my advisor. Hearing Lauri’s stories of his days in the Peace Corps and his world travels, plus the readings we were assigned, made me want to get more out of my life than what I was allowing myself to experience.”

Dawn completed an associate of arts in English in 1999, and a bachelor of arts in Liberal Studies/Literature in 2001.

In November 2002, Dawn’s first son, Jack, was born and she needed a decent-paying job. The instructor of an Arabic language class she was taking at the time told her of a teaching opportunity in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia, and Dawn’s opportunity to travel the world was at hand.

On the way to International Ataturk–Alatoo University, a Turkish university in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Dawn spent some time with friends in Turkey. It was on the flight from Istanbul, Turkey, to Bishkek that she met her husband, Veysel Kiliç.

“The university had asked Veysel to escort me to Bishkek and help me find a flat,” Dawn recalls. “We hit it off, despite his not knowing a lick of English, and my not knowing any of the four languages he speaks fluently (Turkish, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, and Russian).”

Today, Dawn teaches Introduction to American Literature, American Drama, American Poetry, British Drama, British Poetry, and Introduction to English Literature at Ataturk–Alatoo University.

She and Veysel, who is Turkish, live in Bishkek, about six miles from the city center, with their three children: Jack, now eight, Dani, three-and-a-half, and 18-month-old Yağmur. (Yağmur is Turkish for “rain” as it started to pour the moment she was born, Dawn explains. Jack is fluent in Turkish and English, and he can communicate in Russian with other children on the playground. Dani is fluent in Turkish and English.)

*Dawn Kiliç and her son, Jack*



Kyrgyzstan, which gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, is a small, mountainous, landlocked Central Asian nation just south of Kazakhstan. It borders Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China. Its contemporary history is marked by political and ethnic unrest, most recently in 2005 and 2010.

"I thought Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan would be a decent, if not odd, place to raise my kids," Dawn reflects. "We've now lived through a revolution (Bishkek, 2005) and the beginnings of ethnic cleansing (Osh, 2010)."

In 2004, revolution was brewing in Bishkek and Dawn and her family fled Kyrgyzstan to live in Izmir, Turkey. "Life in Turkey was much calmer than in Kyrgyzstan, and we missed the first revolution," she says.

In 2007, shortly after the birth of their first daughter, they returned.

"We had been asked several times throughout our time in Turkey to return to Ataturk–Alatoo University, but the time was never right," Dawn explains. "The university missed us and wanted us back, so we packed up and, once again, flew from Istanbul to Bishkek. We were pleased to find that the university's student population had grown quite a bit, as had the campus, but that the students were the same as always: intelligent, hardworking, and respectful."

In 2008 and 2009, the price of electricity in Bishkek increased 400% and there were power outages six to eight hours a day, especially difficult for Dawn and her family since their second daughter, born in July 2009, required midnight diaper changes and feedings.

But for the citizens of Kyrgyzstan it was worse. "They were angry because the price of electricity was now more than one family may earn in a month. We began to hear word-of-mouth rumors of a possible revolt," Dawn says.

On April 5, 2010, Dawn remembers that Internet connections were lost in Bishkek. The next day she learned that a demonstration had occurred in Talas, northwest Kyrgyzstan, and that Internet services had been suspended by the government in an attempt to prevent widespread communication about the demonstration.

"But it was too late, and people in Bishkek started to rally," Dawn says. "I heard this at work, called my husband, and he picked me up in the early afternoon. We went to a bazaar where we had a stall and packed everything for storage, fearing the very real possibility that bazaars in the capital would be burned."

That evening, Dawn and Veysel stocked up on bread, water and candles.

April 6 was a day of violence in Bishkek. "Protestors were shot by government snipers a mere five miles from our house," Dawn recalls. "It was a frightening time, but as a family we kept each other sane. We followed the curfew and fell into fitful bouts of sleep, awakened by random gunshots only blocks from our house. We are lucky not to live in the center of Bishkek, where millions of dollars' worth of property and merchandise were looted and destroyed."

In June 2010, there were more problems in Kyrgyzstan. This time, ethnic clashes between the Kyrgyz and the Uzbek started in the southern cities of Osh and Jalalabad.

"My family and I started our summer holidays as soon as we could, leaving two weeks earlier than we had planned," Dawn says. "We're still struggling with memories of videos we have seen and words we have heard, but we love this country."

In August 2010, Dawn and her family returned to their home in Bishkek.

"We are proud to be here," Dawn says. "I am proud to be an educator in a developing country. If I had been told in 1997 that I would be raising my international family in Central Asia in the 21st century, I would not have believed it."

"Yet here I am, a girl who never thought she'd leave Minnesota, and who barely spoke in class due to shyness," she adds. "I am a mother to three beautiful children—all born in different countries—the wife of an exceptionally caring man, and teacher to scores of the brightest young people in Central Asia."

"I like it here," Dawn reflects. "I have made a niche here, and I don't think I am ready to leave it quite yet."

Dawn reports that of late things have calmed down substantially in Kyrgyzstan. "Everyone is well, and things are quiet now," she says.



Gary Fish

# Gary Fish

*Vice President, Banker, Team Builder,  
Community Volunteer, Son*

Houghton. His responsibilities are to ensure the overall growth and success of the bank, while being an active member of the community.

"Building communities through banking is important to me and to my company," Gary says. "I believe an individual can truly make a difference by caring about the people and the communities one is a part of."

Gary is a member of the Houghton Rotary Club and he has helped with a number of local charitable activities. This March, he volunteered as a handler and vet's assistant for the second annual Copper Dog 150 sled dog race, of which River Valley Bank was a major sponsor. "It's amazing to see how the community has come together to make this event happen," Gary notes.

Gary's says his father, Daryl Fish, taught him a lot about accountability and taking responsibility for his actions.

"My Dad means a lot to me and I am grateful to him," Gary explains. "He raised a family of three on his own and he has been instrumental in my success, making sacrifices so I could go to college, earn a degree, and pursue a professional career."

Gary is just 26 and he's moving up fast. He doesn't know where his career will take him next, but he knows he'll continue to learn and grow.

Gary graduated from L'Anse High School in 2002, and enrolled at Finlandia that fall. He played Lions basketball and baseball, and was the first Finlandia baseball player to reach base safely.

"Athletics were an important part of my growth at Finlandia," he says. "In most careers it is crucial to work as a team in order to achieve goals. In many ways, athletics teaches that. Each member of a sports team is accountable for his or her part in the achievement of success, which is synonymous with the work environment."

In his free time, Gary likes to be outdoors and with his friends and family. He adds, however, that "right now my hobby is my work. I enjoy what I do for a living and I want to do my best."

**G**ary Fish started his banking career in 2006 immediately after he completed his bachelor of business administration at Finlandia University.

He learned a lot in his first position as a mortgage officer, and enjoyed it. "Helping others meet their goals is important to me, and it was especially rewarding helping people purchase their own homes."

After a while, Gary wanted to learn more. In his next position, he did. "As a personal banker, I did everything from open IRAs, CDs, and checking and savings accounts, to helping with personal, car, home equity, and small business loans."

Then he became a bank manager. "All my previous education and work experience led me to this point," Gary notes. "I was responsible for the daily activities of my bank, as well as assuring the success of my team members. I found it was rewarding to coach, train, and motivate a team of hard working people."

As a team leader, Gary nurtures a positive and dynamic environment. "The main thing I try to communicate to my team is that I want them to enjoy and be successful in their work," Gary says. "I like seeing their excitement about their careers and the bank."

Gary's interest in a positive workplace is personal, too. "I am more productive when I work in an encouraging environment and I know that I am cared about professionally and personally. This is the atmosphere I want to encourage for all bank employees."

His efforts are definitely paying off. Today, Gary is vice president and bank manager at River Valley Bank,

# Class of 2006

*Bachelor of Business Administration*



# Kari (Gervais) Holzberger

*Nurse, Mother, Spouse, Business Owner*

*Bridge: Please tell us a little bit about yourself.*

**K**ari: I'll begin with a bit about my background and family. First of all, I was married to Tom Holzberger on October 1, 2010, after 15 years together. I have three children, Brianna and Brett Gervais, who are 20 and 18 years; and Tom and I have a 10-year-old daughter, Shay, who is in the fifth grade. Brianna is enrolled in the Radiography program at Finlandia. Brett is a high school senior and will attend Michigan Tech this fall to play football.

I graduated from Lake Linden-Hubbell High School in 1984 and from the Wisconsin College of Cosmetology in 1985. After working in Green Bay as a hairdresser, I returned to Lake Linden and opened my own shop. I've been in business for 25 years and have one employee working with me.

My mother and father, John and Renée Butkonen, both attended Suomi College in the 1960s.

Another interesting bit of

information is that my great uncle was Ralph Jalkanen, president of Suomi College from 1960 to 1990.

*B: How did you become interested in nursing and why did you choose Finlandia?*

**K:** My interest in travel nursing, as a sort of retirement plan, was how I ended up taking a tour of the Finlandia campus. With Finlandia just 15 miles from my home, I knew it would be a good choice. At that time I had three kids ages three to 14, so attending college close to home was essential. With the financial aid I received, I was able to begin my schooling. For instance, I received a Michigan Nursing Scholarship of \$8,000 and a scholarship from TRiO.

I started at Finlandia in Spring 2004, taking nine credits, sort of testing the waters to see if I'd be able to juggle owning a business, raising a family, and going to school. (Not to mention that I hadn't been in school for about 20 years!)

*B: What were the challenges of returning to college as a working adult?*

**K:** When you've made the decision to go back to school and you already lead a very busy life, you have to take it very seriously. I replaced the extracurricular activities college has to offer with the library, the Teaching and Learning Center, and study groups. The instructors were important and communication with them was essential to get through some very tough classes.

And as an older student, I believe you look at college a bit differently. I was there because I chose to be, and I had to work much harder and "multi-task." (Not every student is running to pick up kids, go to ball games, and work full time!)

In the spring of 2008, I graduated summa cum laude. We were the second class to receive B.S.N. degrees from Finlandia.

*B: Tell us about your nursing career so far.*

I have been employed at Portage Pointe, Hancock, since May 2008. I work the night shift, providing nursing care to the 60 elders that reside there. I work with a great group of nurses, and their knowledge is exceptional. This is a career where a person never stops learning and the chance to grow is always there.

I continuously rely on the materials from my years of college to provide me with resources for my job. I also work with the Finlandia senior Nursing students while they do their clinical work. It's amazing to think that was me just a short time ago!



*Kari (Gervais) Holzberger*



DUANE AHO

## Advancement ... A Rough and Rocky Road to Heaven

"You've got to stop and smell the roses, you've got to count your many blessings every day."

As I write this letter, I am reminded of this line from the Mac Davis song, "Stop and Smell the Roses." Those of you my vintage or older probably remember the song, and perhaps you hum a few lines of it every now and then.

The lyrics go on to say, "You're going to find your way to heaven is a rough and rocky road." Isn't that the truth?

Those in university fundraising agree that it's tough work, and we can easily feel overwhelmed. Mostly I think it's because, like many others do, we start to think that advancement is only about how much money is raised.

To keep things in perspective, I try to remember that advancement is more like a marathon than a sprint. Of course, raising funds is an important outcome, but it doesn't tell the whole story.

In its fullest sense, advancement describes everything an institution does to strategically align its mission with those who possess similar aspirations, and to communicate these

commonalities to those inspired to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Finlandia is fortunate to include among its friends many such individuals and businesses. It is these people and organizations that give us reasons to "stop and smell the roses."

On Finlandia's way to heaven are some rough and rocky roads. Although I look at these as temporary roadblocks, the challenges below are real and immediate.

- Declining state and federal student financial aid;
- Increasing fixed costs, such as utilities and health insurance; and
- Decreasing levels of donor support as the economy struggles.

But Finlandia is growing and we are optimistic. Each day, our work helps so many young men and women recognize and draw on their full potential.

We thank each of you who help sustain our educational mission. We are grateful that you have joined Finlandia in running this marathon. Much progress has been made and your continued support is a key to its continuation.

Please contact me at any time. I'd love to hear from you.

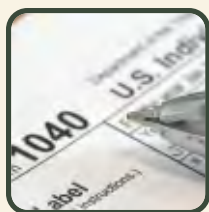
Warm regards,

*Duane W. Aho*

Duane Aho  
Chief Advancement Officer  
EVP, External Relations



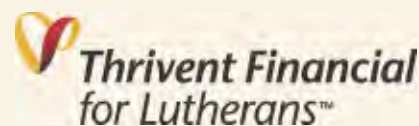
*Your Gift Matters!*



## IRA Charitable Rollovers Renewed

Welcome news! The IRA Charitable Rollover has been reinstated through 2011. This giving option allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to Finlandia University (or other

qualified charity) without having to claim the distributions as taxable income. An easy way to start an IRA Charitable Rollover is to send an e-mail to your IRA custodian. Please visit [www.finlandia.edu/ira-rollover](http://www.finlandia.edu/ira-rollover) for more information and a sample e-mail message.



## Thrivent Choice Is Making a Difference

Sincere thanks to all of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members who have identified Finlandia University as their "Choice Dollars" recipient. We are grateful for your support. To learn more about this Thrivent charitable outreach program, please contact Robin Bonini, director of foundation relations, at 906-487-7205.



## Endowed Scholarship Honors Edith Dreelan

To honor her mother, Edith (Impi) Turpeinen Dreelan ('46), Elizabeth (Dreelan) Hakola, Pelkie, has established an endowed scholarship at Finlandia University.

"She valued education," Hakola says of her mother. "As a single working mother, she instilled that value in me. She believed that education is the path to a secure, fulfilling, and happy life."

A recipient of college scholarships herself, Hakola says that the Finlandia scholarship is also a way for her to give back and help others build their futures.

The Edith (Impi) Turpeinen Dreelan Endowed Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a Finlandia student according to financial need and academic merit, with preference given to a student who might not be able to attend Finlandia were it not for the scholarship.

Throughout her life, Edith Dreelan, who died October 29, 2009, was a supporter of Suomi College and believed in its mission. She attended Suomi College in the 1945-46 academic year.

"She was proud of her Finnish heritage and the Finnish immigrants who founded Suomi," Hakola explains. "Both of her parents were Finnish immigrants. I'm very happy to honor her memory in this way."

The youngest of 10 children, Edith Dreelan grew up in Pelkie, later relocating to Royal Oak where for 34 years she worked at Detroit-area employment firm, Kelly Services. In 1993, she returned to her family's 80-acre farm in Pelkie.

"My mother was a great gardener, an avid reader, and she loved to attend cultural events," Hakola recalls. "She was a great friend and companion to me."

In 2006, Elizabeth Hakola retired from a 31-year career with Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. She now lives in Pelkie. She volunteers for the Baraga County Home Care & Hospice, L'Anse, and other community organizations.



*Edith Dreelan*



*Eric Savela*

## Eric Savela

Born in 1901 in Viljakkala, Finland, Eric Savela immigrated to the U.S. in 1904 with his mother, Iita (Niittuoja), and three siblings, where they joined Eric's father, Manuel (Sahblom) Savela, in Mass City.

Eric completed grade school in Mass City then worked on his family's farm until he moved to Detroit in his early 20s, finding work at Alcoa Steel.

For 12 years, Savela attended evening classes at Detroit's Northern High School in pursuit of a high school diploma. He graduated with honors and perfect attendance in 1938, the only member of his class who attended night school.

In 1945, Savela completed a bachelor of science in business administration at Wayne State University. Following, and until his retirement, he worked in the unemployment offices of the State of Michigan. On vacations, Savela would often visit his brother, Eino Savela, in Mass City.

Savela never married and he never owned a car. He lived frugally in an apartment close to Wayne State, saved his money, and took up investing as a hobby. When Savela died in 1982, he left a trust fund, the balance of which was recently distributed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Mass City, a college scholarship fund for graduates of Ontonagon Public Schools, and for scholarships at Finlandia University.

Although Savela had no affiliation to Finlandia University, except that it was Finnish and "up north," he strongly believed in the importance of education. Scholarships from his estate benefitted 40 Finlandia students this academic year. Individual awards, based on academic achievement, ranged from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Prior to its dissolution, the Eric Savela trust fund was managed by Eric Savela's nephew, Donald Savela, of Livonia. Information for this article was provided by Donald's wife, Judy Savela.



Adam Jeffery — Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Amanda Moyer — Bachelor of Fine Arts-Integrated Design

## Class of 2011 Valedictorians

Adam Jeffery, 33, Lake Linden, is one of two Finlandia University Class of 2011 valedictorians. Amanda Moyer, 21, Livonia, is the other.

“Both Adam and Amanda are outstanding students and involved community members,” says TyAnn Lindell, executive vice president for student affairs. “Typically, just one valedictorian is selected, but this year we were presented with an impossible decision, so we chose both.”

Adam and Amanda graduate this spring with 4.0 GPAs: Adam with a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN), Amanda with a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in integrated design. They agree that the small classes and friendly, approachable teachers and staff at Finlandia added significant value to their college education. But, in many ways, the two valedictorians are completely different.

Adam admits that he is not at all artistic, while Amanda decided early that a health

care career was not for her (both her mother and grandmother pursued health care careers). Adam is a “non-traditional” student, while Amanda is a “traditional” college student. They agree, though, that learning is fun and that their respective fields of interest fascinate them.

Amanda Moyer’s creativity takes many forms, including fiber arts, metalwork, clay, and sculpture. She believes art-making holds more meaning when it is done for a larger purpose.

“For me, it’s not enough just to create art,” Amanda explains. “Wherever my career takes me, it will have to involve creativity and working with my hands, as well as helping others in some way.”

In a few years, Amanda plans to attend graduate school, but for now she’s looking for a position in the Detroit or Ann Arbor area. She hopes to work at a small design firm that focuses on sustainability in some way.

In part, Adam Jeffery was inspired to become a nurse by his brother, Aaron, who completed a BSN at Finlandia in 2008. Adam also wants to help others and he likes the advancement and specialization opportunities of a nursing career. In the near term, Adam is seeking a nursing position in the Upper Peninsula. In a few years, he plans to continue his education to become a nurse practitioner.

For 12 years, Adam has been a member of the Lake Linden Volunteer Fire Department and is currently the treasurer. For the Salvation Army, Adam has volunteered for Adventure Corps, mentoring boys ages six to 12, and coached basketball for five and six year olds. During the school year, Adam works part-time for Baccus Dairy Farm, Lake Linden, and in the summer works there full-time.

Amanda lived on campus each of her four years at Finlandia, and has been a resident assistant for the past two years. She is active in Finlandia Campus Ministry and the Young Women’s Caucus, was on the staff of the student-run Reflection Gallery in the 2009-10 academic year, and appeared in the university play, “Two Plus Two” her freshman year. She worked at Kukkauppa Flower Shop, Hancock, for 18 months.

Amanda has been involved in Rotaract and she is enthusiastic about community service. She says she especially enjoys chopping wood for Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly!

Now that she has finished her bachelor’s degree, Amanda says she won’t miss having to “pack up and move twice a year.” She’s also looking forward to having more freedom to create as she is inspired, free from deadlines.

Amanda graduated from Stevenson High School in 2007. She is the daughter of Stuart and Theresa Moyer, Livonia. She has a younger brother, Adam, who is 17.

Adam is married to Tina; they have three daughters, ages four, six, and 19 months. He is the son of Judy Jeffery of Elkhart, Ind., and the late Jim Jeffery. Adam has five brothers and one sister, and he is one of a set of triplets. He graduated from Copper Country Christian School in 1995.

With school over, for now, Adam is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children, and fishing.



# Melanie (Babcock) Taylor

*PTA Team Leader, College Student, Spouse, Coach, Athlete, Rock Star*

Melanie (Babcock) Taylor, a 2006 alumna of Finlandia's PTA program, has been working for Agility Health at a skilled nursing facility in Grayling for five years. Now a team leader, she was hired in as a PTA and was promoted just a few months later.

She is responsible for organizing all the therapy activities at her building, Mercy Manor, a 40-bed long term care facility attached to Mercy Hospital Grayling. She oversees eight full- and part-time medical therapy staff members.

"My boss is a great leader and a great role model to me," Melanie says of Agility service area manager Shawn McCauley, PTA. "I believe she has molded me into a manager that can be fair, fun, and still get the job done."

"She just kept shining, thinking outside of the box, problem solving," Shawn says of Melanie and of offering her the team leader position. "We decided to let her try it—with all of six months experience! She jumped in head first. She's not fearful to take on new things, and she's doing an incredible job."

Shawn couldn't say enough good things about Melanie, whom she calls her "pink rock star."

"She's got her heart, her mind, and her attitude in the right place. The patients love her.

I am very lucky to have her on my team, as is Agility Health."

Melanie graduated in 2003 from Fairview Area Schools in Lower Michigan. She spent her freshman year of

college at a large state school and says she didn't feel like she belonged there.

"I came from a very small high school, and I did not like the large lectures at the state school—plus I wanted to play basketball. I decided to look around and found Finlandia on the Internet."

Melanie knew she wanted a career in the medical field, but at first was unsure what to pursue at Finlandia. She has always been interested in exercise, so Melanie decided on the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Melanie played Lions basketball for two years, at that time holding the Finlandia record for the best free throw percentage in a single season. She was also president of the PTA Club.

"I received a great education at Finlandia," Melanie says. "The class sizes are small and the professors take a personal interest in your education and your future. They expect the best out of each of their students. I feel that I was prepared for life as a PTA after graduation."

Melanie will complete a bachelor's degree in finance next spring through DeVry University. Her educational goal is to earn a doctorate in physical therapy (DPT).

Melanie's true love remains basketball. Currently, she is assistant coach for the men's basketball team at Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, and she plays every chance she gets.

Melanie, 25, is married to her junior high school sweetheart, Jeremy Taylor. They own a home in Mio and have three dogs—Libby, Forest, and Fiona. Melanie and Jeremy spend most of the summer months playing in softball and volleyball leagues, and, of course, the winter is all about basketball.

Melanie is the daughter of Tammy and Jerry Babcock, Fairview. Her favorite color is pink.



*Melanie Taylor*

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*Serving Together. Better.*

*Associate in Applied Science, Physical Therapist Assistant*

**B**rigitte LaPointe, 25, Baraga, is the Tribal Employment Rights Officer (TERO)/Workforce Coordinator for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), a position she began in October 2010.

"This position is more than a job," she says. "You have to be passionate about what you do here. And I am. As a member of the KBIC, I want nothing but the best for the people within our Tribal community."

Brigitte is in charge of developing the KBIC workforce and making sure KBIC Native Americans receive primary preference for the jobs and training that become available. She also assists tribal members gain job skills and search for employment.

"It's a difficult task because of the exceptionally high unemployment rate in Baraga County and within the Tribal community," Brigitte says of her work. "But I have a lot of people on my side who respect me and are always available to answer questions and guide me in the right direction."

Brigitte is proud to be employed by the Tribal government. "Everyone in the community looks to the government for help, and there's no better feeling than when you are helping your own people."

Brigitte was recruited to attend Finlandia by Steve Nordstrom, the women's basketball coach at that time. "The team was the right fit for me with lots of upper classmen to learn from," she says. "And Coach Nordstrom was great. At the same time, it was close to home and I knew I would earn a top-notch education"

Brigitte played Lions basketball from 2003 to 2007. "We were National Champions my freshman year, and Northeast Regional DIII Independents Champions my sophomore year," she notes. Brigitte was named Most Improved Player her sophomore year and Most Valuable Player her senior year.

At Finlandia, Brigitte learned that life is a process. "School work and tests all come and go," she explains. "But in the end, one is happy knowing that what once seemed like an impossible mountain to climb is finished."



*Brigitte LaPointe with Larry Denomie, KBIC CEO*

Fresh out of Finlandia in 2007, Brigitte used her PTA degree to land part-time jobs with U.P. Rehab Services and Body Mechanix, both in Marquette, and Mather Nursing Center, Ishpeming.

"I loved working with these organizations because it gave me the chance to use the skills I learned in the PTA program," Brigitte says. "Rehab employers rely on Finlandia to produce the best PTAs out there. It was rewarding to know that I was welcomed and respected."

In 2009, Brigitte was awarded a bachelor of science in sports science from Northern Michigan University. She is currently working to complete a master's degree in human training and development at NMU.

From 2007-2010, she was an assistant coach for the NMU women's basketball team.

Brigitte volunteers for KBIC Youth Programs, which works to ensure the success of KBIC youth through programs and activities and by promoting knowledge of and pride in the Ojibwa culture. "Finlandia taught me that serving your community is what life is all about," she says.

Brigitte graduated from Baraga High School in 2003. She enjoys working out, playing pick-up basketball, spending time with her two dogs, Maya and Meeka, and visiting with her many nephews and a special niece, Jailyn. Brigitte's mother, Carole LaPointe, graduated from Soumi College in 1985 as an RN.

# Brigitte LaPointe

*Native American, Workforce Coordinator, Athlete, Volunteer, Aunt*



# Teresa (Colombino) Graff

*PTA, PT, DPT, Newlywed, Home Owner*

From the start, Teresa (Colombino) Graff planned to become a physical therapist. A job shadowing opportunity in high school led to her interest in the field, and she liked the job options and learning opportunities of the medical professions.

Teresa's older brother, Brian Colombino, completed a bachelor of arts in Rural Human Services at Finlandia in 2007. (Brian is now a city police officer in North Hudson, Wis.) While she was still in high school, Teresa visited Brian at Finlandia and got to know the campus, which prompted her to find out more about attending.

"I was accepted to a physical therapist program in Lower Michigan and had every intention of going," Teresa recalls. "But when I discovered Finlandia's PTA program, I realized that I could gain valuable academic and work experience closer to home, and then go on to physical therapy school."

Today, Teresa, 26, is a physical therapist for Northstar Health System, Iron River. She provides patient care in several environments, including out-patient and in-patient care, at a skilled nursing facility, and through home health care.

"Throughout my experience at Finlandia I valued the small classes and individual attention, the active listening of my academic advisors, and the relationships I had with all of my professors," Teresa notes. "Most of

all, my PTA professors understood my goals and became important in helping me meet them."

After completing her PTA degree at Finlandia, Teresa worked at the Western Upper Peninsula District Health Department and for Cypress Manor Health & Rehab, both in Hancock. "These jobs prepared me significantly for PT school," Teresa says. "The therapists I worked with knew of my goals and constantly exposed me to new things."

Teresa worked on a bachelor's degree at Michigan Technological University for several semesters, and when she was accepted to attend graduate school at the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn., she started immediately, completing a bachelor of arts in health science there. In May 2010, she was awarded a doctorate in physical therapy (DPT) by St. Scholastica, and was honored with a peer mentoring award and an academic achievement award.

In July 2010, Teresa married her high school sweetheart, Michael Graff. They recently purchased their first home, which is in Crystal Falls. Michael has a degree in electrical engineering technology from Michigan Technological University.

Teresa belongs to Sion Lutheran Church, Amasa, where she is a council member and volunteer. "It means a lot to me to belong to a congregation," she says. "Our church is very small, and because of that I feel very close to everyone there. Attending encourages me on a weekly basis to be patient and become a better person."

Teresa always enjoys spending time with her family and friends and she loves the summer months. She and her husband enjoy their dogs, Trigger and Rebel, boating and fishing in the warmer months, and in the winter, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

Teresa grew up in Amasa, and graduated from Forest Park High School, Crystal Falls, in 2003. She is the daughter of Linda and Kurt Colombino, Amasa.



*Teresa and Michael Graff*

*Associate in Applied Science, Physical Therapist Assistant*

# Ryan Sohlden

*Trail Blazer, Designer, Researcher, Leader, Motivator, World Traveler, Newlywed*

**“It** is called the Wild West of design and I am one of the people defining it,” Ryan Sohlden (’04) says of his career. “Thanks to my education at Finlandia and in Helsinki, I am working in a field that was rare a decade and a half ago.”

Ryan is a lead design researcher for Brooks Stevens Inc., one of the world’s most prestigious product research and design firms. The company’s clients include scores of Fortune 500 companies, such as Evenflo, GE Medical, Harley Davidson, HON Company, John Deere, Mercury Marine, Miller Brewing, Remington, Snapper, and Thermo King.

“Design is something that is all around us,” Ryan notes. “Nearly every time someone has an experience with a product or service, a designer carefully planned and executed

how that all plays out. In my profession, design research, we discover what those experiences should be and how to best recreate them.”

“I work for a consultancy that has a wide product range, which means I’ve been exposed to many things,” Ryan says.

He’s not kidding. Since he started with Brooks Stevens in June 2009, he has traveled around the world, observed open heart surgery, ridden in commercial agriculture equipment, visited manufacturing facilities in tropical climates, and taken a ride on the 1913 Canadian Pacific Rail Train.

“I act as a witness to people’s lives and observe how they use a product or service,” he explains. “I then share that with design teams in inspiring ways.” In turn, the design teams draw on Ryan’s research and inspiration to create the new products and services that make our lives better.

Ryan says he has always been torn between art and science. In fact, he was studying mechanical engineering when he learned of the product design major at Finlandia.

“I’ve always had trouble focusing on just one thing. (I attended three universities before Finlandia.) But I have great intuition and a strong drive to excel,” he says.

Ryan attended Finlandia from 2002 to 2004, completing a bachelor of fine arts in product design.

“I was pretty shy back then, and I liked the atmosphere at Finlandia,” he says of his decision to enroll. “I liked the lower number of students and the one-on-one teaching I hoped to get.”

At Finlandia, Ryan was particularly inspired by a Noetic Skills class, instructed by associate professor Rick Loduha. “The class had a casual environment in which we were encouraged to challenge the way things are routinely done,” he says. “Today, I use the methods I learned in Rick’s class in workshops I lead to ‘reframe’ people’s mindsets.”

Ryan spent his final Finlandia semester studying abroad at the University of Art and Design Helsinki, where he focused on industrial and strategic design. One of the



*Ryan Sohlden*



reasons he went there was to learn more about his Finnish roots.

“My great-great-grandfather’s last name was Koivupalo,” Ryan explains. “He came from Finland to Hancock when he was young, and later in his life he started a Finnish hospital in Hancock. I am a mix of many nationalities, but Finnish is the greatest percentage. Traveling to Finland was a good way to learn about my roots.”

“This initial study abroad experience exposed me to a much larger world,” Ryan notes. “The university in Helsinki had an international atmosphere because the students were from countries around the world.”

Ryan liked Finland and the University of Art and Design Helsinki so much, he returned the next year and completed a master’s degree in industrial and strategic design with a focus on design research.

“With my BFA in product design from Finlandia, I felt I was just touching the tip of the iceberg where a design career could go,” Ryan explains.

The summer after he completed his master’s degree, in 2007, Ryan spent three months traveling from one country to another, visiting all the friends he made in Finland.

Ryan was an associate product design professor at Finlandia in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years.

“It was an outstanding career development experience,” he says of the teaching position. “It was a true test of my design research knowledge, because I had to teach others what I knew. It’s much easier said than done.”

Ryan taught his Finlandia classes at the Jutila Center campus, home to the studios and classrooms of the

International School of Art & Design. Before its recent renovation, the Jutila Center was a community hospital and Ryan recalls that his grandfather worked there as maintenance director and his father as an x-ray technician. “That building has seen three generations of Sohldens,” he notes.

Today, Ryan is an occasional guest lecturer in the Business and Anthropology departments at the University of Minnesota, and he attends and presents at international conferences. He also mentors children through the Invention Crew at the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, a program in which kids work on creative, community-focused invention and design projects using an engineering focus.

“Community service helps both the recipient and the giver,” Ryan reflects. “It helps others to receive guidance from someone with experience who can share perspectives they haven’t considered.”

For Ryan, it helps put his thoughts in order. “In a speaking or leadership role, I have to reflect on where I’ve

been and where the journey is going. It helps put me in check for my design research.”

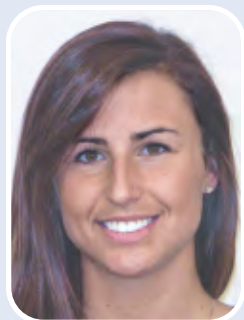
Ryan, 29, has been married to Jill for eighteen months. They live in St. Paul, Minn., with their pet dog, Banff. Ryan enjoys cross country and downhill skiing, wilderness backpacking, playing piano, painting, and relaxing and hanging out with family and friends.

Originally from Rothschild, Wis., Ryan is the son of Steve and Janice Sohlden, Green Bay. He graduated from D.C. Everest High School in 2000. He is a member of King of Grace Lutheran Church (ELS).

*“Design is  
something that is  
all around us.”*

## Student-Athlete Spotlight

It often comes down to personal preference when high school student-athletes choose a college. Factors such as the school's location, cost, and size, its sports programs, facilities, and reputation, and, of course, friends, all play a role in the decision-making process. We asked six Finlandia student-athletes to share why they chose to attend Finlandia and reflect on their positive experiences here.



### Nicole Schumacher #10

**Sport:** Ice Hockey

**Year:** Senior

**Position:** Defense

**Hometown:** Brighton

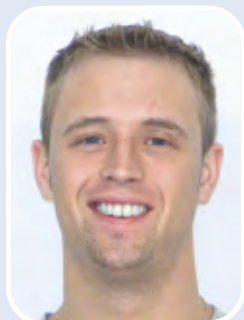
**Major:** Criminal Justice

Nicole arrived on campus four years ago from the small Lower Peninsula town of Brighton. A ten-hour drive to Hancock, Brighton is close to many Metro Detroit colleges and universities. But Nicole decided that, for her, Finlandia was the right fit.

"I chose to attend Finlandia because I enjoy the small school atmosphere," said Nicole. "I was attracted by the low student-to-teacher ratio and the opportunity for more one-on-one interaction with teachers. Finlandia also offered a Criminal Justice major, and I had the opportunity to play college hockey."

When Nicole isn't playing hockey or hitting the books, she enjoys water sports, hiking, waterfalls, and the beauty of the Keweenaw Peninsula. She also likes going to Lions volleyball games and hanging out with her friends. Nicole lists sledding down Hancock's Scott Street among her most memorable moments at Finlandia.

Nicole graduates this spring with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She hopes to work for the F.B.I. someday.



### Nik Patrick #11

**Sport:** Basketball

**Year:** Senior

**Position:** Guard

**Hometown:** Ironwood

**Major:** Sports Management

Three years ago, Nik transferred to Finlandia from Gogebic Community College, which is in Ironwood, Nik's hometown. He chose to continue his

education at Finlandia because it offered the best opportunity to play NCAA Division III basketball.

"Finlandia gave me the option of continuing my basketball career while earning my degree," said Nik. "I was also attracted to the small class sizes and the challenging Lions basketball game schedule."

Nik enjoys playing all sports, having fun with his teammates outside of practice or competition, and the area's beauty. He lists the "college experience" of playing intercollegiate athletics among his most memorable moments at Finlandia.

Nik graduates this spring with a bachelor's degree in Sports Management. His goal is to finish college with a 3.50 cumulative grade point average. He is looking forward to a successful future.



### Kara Rastello #5

**Sport:** Volleyball

**Year:** Senior

**Position:** Middle Hitter

**Hometown:** Houghton

**Major:** Physical Therapist Assistant

Kara graduated from Calumet High School, just ten miles north of campus. She was one of the best high school volleyball players in the area, and as a senior she led her team to the state semi-finals. She could have made an athletic impact at another school, but she chose Finlandia.

"I chose Finlandia because it is a small school and close to home," said Kara. "Finlandia had a Physical Therapist Assistant program, which is the career I have wanted to pursue since tenth grade. I also wanted to play volleyball with Head Coach Mary Kaminski."

Kara enjoys attending Finlandia basketball and hockey games when she has some free time. She lists playing "I-pod karaoke" on volleyball team road trips among her most memorable moments in college.



One of Kara's athletic goals was to make the NCAA post-season volleyball playoffs. Although her goal wasn't achieved this season, Kara left her mark in the Lions career record books as one of the best players in school history. Kara graduates this spring with an associate in applied science degree in PTA.



### **Eric Monticello**

**Sport:** Men's Cross Country and Men's Golf

**Year:** Junior

**Hometown:** Hancock

**Major:** Nursing

Eric graduated from Hancock Central High School. He decided to attend college in his hometown

because he wanted to study nursing at Finlandia, one of the university's most successful academic programs. He didn't plan on becoming a student-athlete, but when the opportunity presented itself, he ran with it, literally.

"I chose Finlandia because of the Nursing program," said Eric. "I didn't plan on running cross-country, but when I found out the team needed more runners, I figured I could help out. Being a student-athlete has helped me manage my time in college."

Eric says he plays sports for the excitement. He relishes competing in cross country and golf with some of the "amazing people" at Finlandia. The friendships and memories he is making with his college peers are the most important thing to him.

After completing his Nursing degree, Eric plans to pursue a career in emergency medicine.



### **Mariah Mumford #19**

**Sport:** Golf and Ice Hockey

**Year:** Junior

**Hometown:** Mt. Pleasant

**Major:** Business

"Mummy," as Mariah is commonly known around campus, is one of

Finlandia's most colorful student-athletes. She hails from Mt. Pleasant, which is in the heart of central Lower Michigan. The combination of academics and athletics led her to the Upper Peninsula.

"The freedom to create my own class schedule at Finlandia helped me tailor my needs in preparation for law school," said Mariah. "I also liked the small size of Finlandia and the opportunity to play college hockey and golf."

Mariah says one of her finer moments in a Finlandia uniform was scoring her first collegiate hockey goal (with one glove on) in an upset of #9-ranked UW-Eau Claire. Portraying "McGruff the Crime Dog" in the annual "Pigs-N-Heat" fundraiser was another thrill. Mariah also will never forget spending the entire day in Maki Library with half the women's hockey team during finals week.

Mariah is on track to complete a bachelor of business administration in Spring 2012. She plans to enroll in law school and aspires to become a corporate lawyer.



### **Collin Saint-Onge #8**

**Sport:** Ice Hockey and Golf

**Year:** Freshman

**Hometown:** Marquette

**Major:** Radiography

Collin joined the Finlandia campus community in Fall 2010 after a successful junior hockey career in Marquette, his hometown. In his first season with the Lions, Collin was the team's leading scorer as a freshman.

Collin chose Finlandia because, "It's a small school which allows for small class sizes. This means more interaction between teachers and students. At Finlandia, I can advance my education while still participating in NCAA Division III sports at a highly competitive level."

One of Collin's fondest first-year memories at Finlandia was when he saw the Stanley Cup, the oldest trophy in all of professional sports, at the Houghton County Arena, and he and his teammates were photographed with it. He is also proud of his performance in two 2010-11 season home games against Lawrence University, when he had an assist on every goal the Lions scored.

Collin hopes he and his teammates will win MCHA and National championships during his time at Finlandia. He is completing the College of Health Sciences Radiography program.

**Visit the official Finlandia Lions website at**  
**[www.fulions.com](http://www.fulions.com)**



*Beth Bellinger (left)  
and Sandra Harris*

## BEST Friends

University chaplain Soren Schmidt recently visited with two of his graduating Finlandia Campus Ministry (FCM) work-study students, Sandra Harris and Beth Bellinger, to ask them about their time together on the Campus Ministry Team (CMT) and its impact on their lives, past and future. “I’ve appreciated each of them as we worked, prayed, and shared in ministry to encourage a faith-filled community at Finlandia University,” Schmidt said of Sandra and Beth.

### **Soren Schmidt: When did you become roommates?**

**Beth Bellinger and Sandra Harris:** In 2008—we met at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. We started rooming together Beth’s third year and Sandra’s second year at Finlandia. It’s great because we are both from Downstate (Michigan), which saves us gas money, and we have company in the car!

### **You’ve been roommates for three years!**

#### **Why has it worked out so well?**

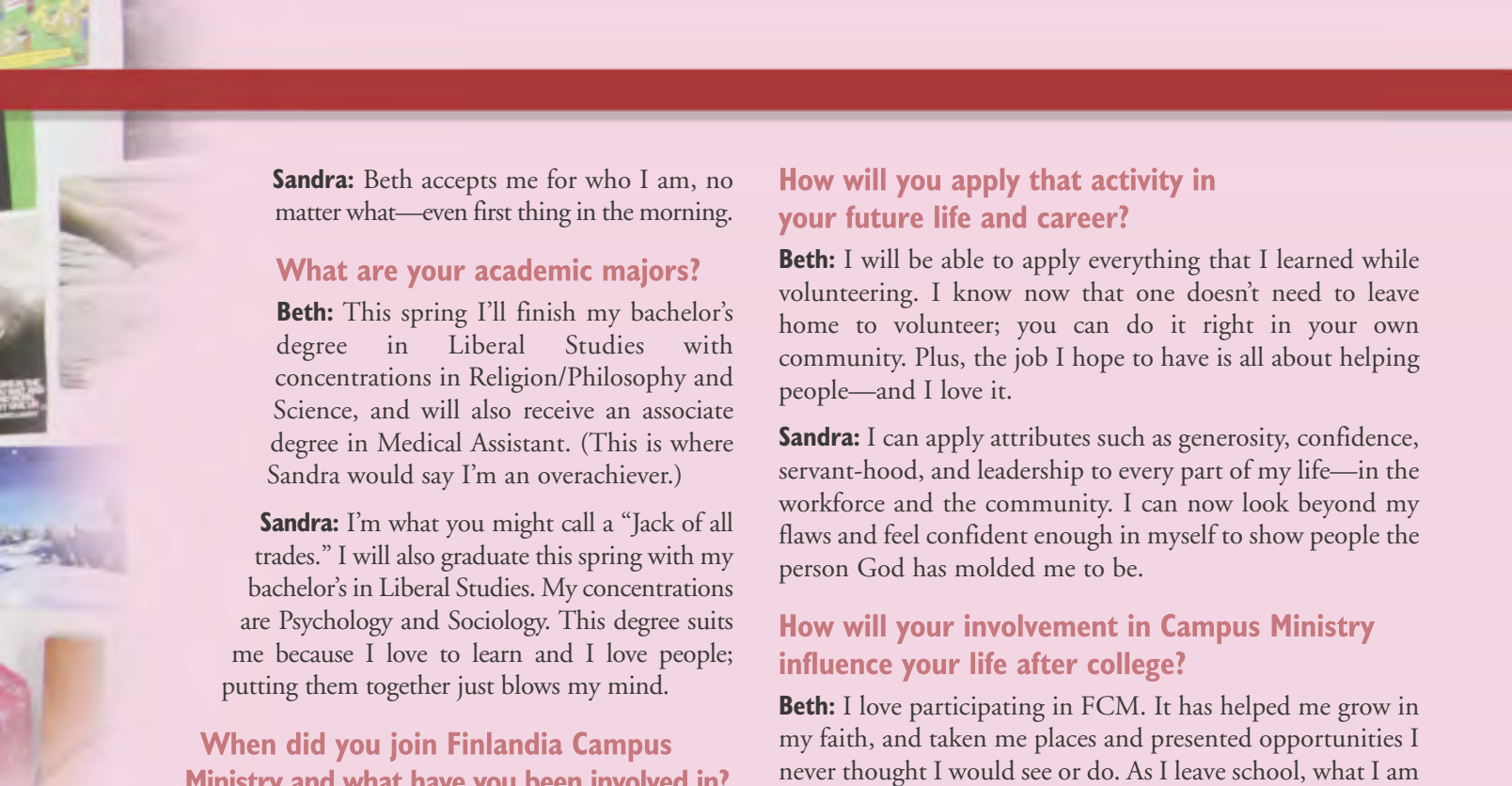
**Beth:** Because we both have the same beliefs and Sandra is super FUN.

**Sandra:** Beth and I have bonded as close as sisters. So close, in fact, Beth will let me cry on her shoulder, talk to her through all hours of the night, and she gives me full reign over decorating our room. Beth is my best friend and I am so grateful that she is in my life!

### **What is the best part of rooming together?**

**Beth:** The long conversations that we have had. Who would have thought, at 2:00 a.m., you could start talking about the past, end up having a conversation about the future, and share thoughts on Heaven—even though we both had an eight o’clock class the next day. I love our room and how Sandra has decorated it. I also really enjoy listening to Sandra sing in the shower, even when our suitemates are trying to nap.





**Sandra:** Beth accepts me for who I am, no matter what—even first thing in the morning.

### What are your academic majors?

**Beth:** This spring I'll finish my bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Religion/Philosophy and Science, and will also receive an associate degree in Medical Assistant. (This is where Sandra would say I'm an overachiever.)

**Sandra:** I'm what you might call a "Jack of all trades." I will also graduate this spring with my bachelor's in Liberal Studies. My concentrations are Psychology and Sociology. This degree suits me because I love to learn and I love people; putting them together just blows my mind.

### When did you join Finlandia Campus Ministry and what have you been involved in?

**Beth:** I joined FCM my second year at Finlandia, and for three years I have been the chaplain's work-study. My faith has grown with each chaplain I have served (René Johnson, Peter Gundersen, and Soren Schmidt). I became leader of the Campus Ministry Team my third year, which I love. It allows me to help others, and also presents opportunities to learn from others on the CMT as we work to shape our ministry experiences.

**Sandra:** I could really feel my spirit growing in Campus Ministry, and I started to fully commit myself to it last year (2009-10). And as one of Soren's work-studies, I feel even more involved. Soren makes decision-making and conflict-solving a faith-filled and awesome experience. This experience has made me more of a leader in Campus Ministry and in my life.

### What has most impacted you in FCM?

**Beth:** The volunteering opportunities I have had. I have learned that even through hardships, the one thing that remains constant is what you believe and have faith in.

**Sandra:** Leading the student-led Chapel services on Mondays. Although I was nervous when speaking, I knew that God was speaking through me.

### What FCM activity do you feel most proud of, and why?

**Beth:** Again, the winner is volunteering. I loved going to Louisiana, Iowa, and Ohio for the Alternate Spring Breaks because we helped people and became a part of their lives.

**Sandra:** I really enjoyed participating in the 2010 Campus Ministry spring play, "The Tale of the Three Trees." I loved entertaining the little children of the community, and it reminded me to keep a childlike heart.

### How will you apply that activity in your future life and career?

**Beth:** I will be able to apply everything that I learned while volunteering. I know now that one doesn't need to leave home to volunteer; you can do it right in your own community. Plus, the job I hope to have is all about helping people—and I love it.

**Sandra:** I can apply attributes such as generosity, confidence, servant-hood, and leadership to every part of my life—in the workforce and the community. I can now look beyond my flaws and feel confident enough in myself to show people the person God has molded me to be.

### How will your involvement in Campus Ministry influence your life after college?

**Beth:** I love participating in FCM. It has helped me grow in my faith, and taken me places and presented opportunities I never thought I would see or do. As I leave school, what I am taking with me are a stronger faith and all of the memories I have. I cannot wait to start my life because I know two things for sure: I will always have my best friend, Sandra, and I will always have my faith.

**Sandra:** Since I joined FCM, I have felt more at peace with God. I am a pastor's daughter, raised Pentecostal, so the Lutheran faith was a learning process. Although Lutheranism is different from my own religion, what holds us together is the love of and belief in Jesus Christ. It is through the sharing of Christ that our growth and experiences in faith become that much more enjoyable! This experience will keep my mind open to new ways to learn about God.

### Are there others in Campus Ministry who made an impact on you?

**Beth:** Each member of the CMT has made an impact on my life. Emily Hendry and Nicole Phillips have shown me love and compassion, and tolerated my attempts to be bossy (which generally didn't work). The first FCM team leaders, Kathryn Holsworth and Hannah (Norman) Holsworth, showed me how to be strong in my faith and live it in my daily life.

**Sandra:** Beth Bellinger, Brittany Foster, and Emily Hendry have made me feel more at home at Finlandia. They are constant reminders that friends are capable of loving and caring just as strongly as family. Having a close and deep connection with friends and faith makes life away from home more bearable. God has blessed me by placing these people in my life. I can honestly say that I don't know what I would have done without them.



*Suomi College students enjoy a picnic in 1960*

## Greetings to all— especially the class of 1961!

Attention Suomi College Class of 1961 and friends!

Class of 1961 alumni Dan Ojala, Paul Kaarre, and Art Ollie are planning the celebration of the summer! Make plans now to attend the 50th reunion of the Class of 1961, June 24 to 26, 2011.

Here's a snapshot of the fun-filled weekend.

### Friday, June 24

- Registration and campus tours
- Remember When? ... A time to reminisce and share stories and photos, at Gino's
- Pizza Social at Gino's ... Relive a Class of 1961 Friday night tradition!

### Saturday, June 25

- Breakfast at Kangas Café, Jutila Center campus
- Jutila Center tours ... Prepare to be amazed!
- Pontoon Party ... Tour the Portage Canal
- Authentic "Yooper Barbecue" ... Copper Island Beach Club, Hancock

### Sunday, June 26

- Morning worship service ... With nostalgic music, at the Chapel of St. Matthew

Please help us! If you know of a classmate who does not receive *the Bridge*, please tell them about this summer's reunion.

For details, reconnect with Dan Ojala (906-281-7710), Paul Kaarre ([paul.kaarre@gmail.com](mailto:paul.kaarre@gmail.com)), or Art Ollie ('61) ([j.a.ollie@mchsi.com](mailto:j.a.ollie@mchsi.com)), contact the Office of Alumni Relations (906-487-7317 or [cheryl.ries@finlandia.edu](mailto:cheryl.ries@finlandia.edu)), or visit [www.finlandia.edu/1961-reunion](http://www.finlandia.edu/1961-reunion).



*Harvey Filppula*

**Harvey Filppula ('57)**, Dollar Bay, retired from a 30-year career with Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Schools in 1982, worked with the BHK Child Development Board for 10 years following, and retired, again, in 1993. Now he's back at school coaching the girl's varsity basketball team at Dollar Bay-Tamarack City High School. Harvey finished the second half of the 2009-10 season with the girls, worked with them in

summer 2010, and he's still at it. "It's a challenge," he says of coaching the team, scheduling practice, and completing other team-related tasks. They're all good students, but they are busy!" This is Filppula's second time coaching the varsity girls. In 1979, while he was coach, the team won the district championship.

**Elaine S. (Holson) Kangas ('61)** is retired and for four years has been living in Fairport Harbor, Ohio, on the homestead where she grew up. She returned to Fairport Harbor to take care of her aging mother, who passed away in 2009. Elaine has two daughters and four grandchildren, all in Duluth. She is membership chairperson for the Finnish Heritage Museum in Fairport Harbor and a regular volunteer in the museum's gift shop. Elaine is hoping especially to reconnect with Carol Sevo, a local Suomi College student with whom she graduated. Elaine recalls that Carol's family had a Chevrolet dealership in Hancock. If you'd like to reconnect with Elaine, e-mail her at [eskangas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eskangas@sbcglobal.net).

**Charlie LaPierre ('75)**, Minneapolis, Minn., works as a Delta Airlines wheelchair assistant for G2 Secure Staff Company. He writes that occasionally he is assigned to screen Minnesota sports teams before their flights. Since the 1980s, Charlie has been a peace activist and says that over the years he has met many fascinating people who care about the world at large. He says, "The beauty of life is when one can understand one's inner self." Contact Charlie at [realchai2001@yahoo.com](mailto:realchai2001@yahoo.com).

**Robin Lee Berry ('76)**, Boyne City, started her professional singing and songwriting career in the folk clubs of East Lansing in the late 1970s. After a few years of touring, she returned to northern Michigan to put down some roots. She performed in clubs and at festivals for 20 years, and now she records in a home studio while raising her children and building exotic cedar furniture with her husband, Homer Williams, through their company, Log Art, Inc. ([www.logartinc.com](http://www.logartinc.com)). Robin has released three music CDs. Visit her website at [www.robinleeberry.com](http://www.robinleeberry.com).





*Yolando (Oliphant) Hoard*

**Yolando (Oliphant) Hoard ('91)**, is a fifth grade teacher at Gattis Elementary, Round Rock, Texas. To promote college readiness and awareness, Yolando's class has "adopted" Finlandia University this school year. She writes that she will teach her students "everything that is possible to learn about Finlandia." Yolando says she has many fond memories of Suomi College and especially

recalls helping to organize the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration on campus. She was also a member of the Suomi College Judicial Review Committee and a resident assistant in Finlandia Hall. This May, Yolando will complete a master's degree in educational leadership, with principal certification, from Texas State University. Contact Yolando at [yolando\\_hoard@roundrockisd.org](mailto:yolando_hoard@roundrockisd.org).

**Stacey Karvakko ('04)** and **Nick Rilei ('04)** announce their engagement. Stacey and Nick both graduated from Finlandia's PTA program.

**Terri Taucher ('05)**, Hancock, and Patrick Matlock, Flint, announce their engagement. Terri is employed as a physical therapist assistant in Big Rapids. Patrick is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and will complete a bachelor's degree in December 2011. A June 2011 wedding is planned.



*Ceramic pots by Kenyon Hansen*

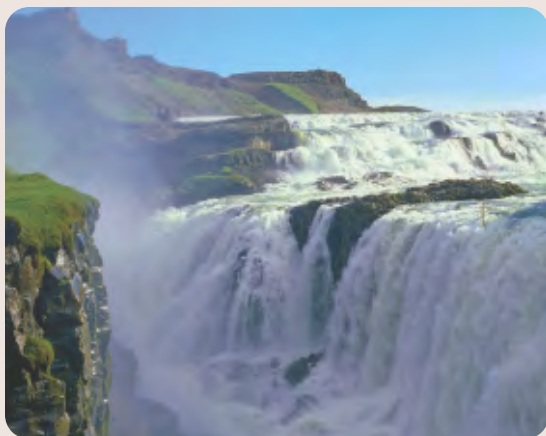


*Kenyon Hansen*

The artwork of **Kenyon Hansen ('05)** was featured on the cover of the December 2010 issue of *Ceramics Monthly*, the most widely read ceramics magazine in North America. The magazine also purchased a piece of Kenyon's artwork for their permanent collection. He is currently a long-term resident artist at the Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, Mont., and shows his work throughout

the United States. This summer, his artwork will be included in a group show in Tasmania, Australia. Contact Kenyon at [kenyonhansen@gmail.com](mailto:kenyonhansen@gmail.com).

## Rockland THE OPERA



*The Golden Waterfalls in Gullfoss, Iceland*

### "ROCKLAND" OLD WORLD PREMIERE

As announced in the winter issue of *the Bridge*, Finlandia Board of Trustees chairman Gloria Jackson, with Finlandia, has planned a June 2 to 11, 2011, excursion to Finland to attend the Old World premiere of "Rockland," an opera recently commissioned by the Pine Mountain Music Festival.

Departing June 2, the first stop is a two-day visit to Reykjavik, Iceland, with organized tours of the city and countryside and time for shopping, exploring, and relaxing. Following, the group arrives in Helsinki for several days of sightseeing, Finnish dining, a concert by Sibelius Academy students, and plenty of free time. June 8, the group will travel by bus to Nivela, Finland, for the June 9 performance of "Rockland." The group returns to Helsinki June 10, and departs for the U.S. June 11.

Finlandia alumni and friends are invited to join the excursion. For information, please contact Gloria Jackson (480-998-7121, [gjxn@aol.com](mailto:gjxn@aol.com)) or Doreen Korpela (906-487-7201, [doreen.korpela@finlandia.edu](mailto:doreen.korpela@finlandia.edu)).

**Alisha Carne ('09)**, Dollar Bay, and Travis Philaja, Hancock, announce their engagement. Alisha teaches first grade at Barkell Elementary School, Hancock. Travis is employed at Midwest Loan Services, Houghton. A July 2011 wedding is planned.

**Kyle Kelley ('10)**, Gladstone, is one of 38 recruits chosen for 122<sup>nd</sup> Michigan State Police Trooper Recruit School. Kyle is one of only three recruits from the Upper Peninsula in this cohort. The 20-week academy concludes in May 2011.

**Emily Gauthier ('11)**, Houghton, and Ed Knoch, Gladstone, announce their engagement. An August 2011 wedding is planned.

## IN MEMORY

**Gertrude Esther (Jokiniemi) Altonen**, 96, Ashtabula, Ohio, died March 23, 2011. Gertrude is the mother of Charles Altonen ('58), Ashtabula, a longtime friend of the university.

**Myrtle (Sippola) Waisanen ('35)**, 93, formerly of Hancock, died Dec. 27, 2010.

**Florence M. (Elenich) Jilbert ('55)**, 75, Columbia Station, Ohio, died Feb. 5, 2011.

**Marilynn Gail Baldwin ('60)**, 70, Palatine, died Feb. 24, 2011.

**Raymond J. Gougeon ('62)**, 68, Marshfield, died Dec. 9, 2010.

**Aurilee R. (Destrampe) Smith ('87)**, 67, Houghton, died Dec. 29, 2010.

**Gerald Hyrkas ('74)**, 61, Laurium, died Nov. 29, 2010.

**Vieno Komula ('60)**, 77, Chassell, died Feb. 20, 2011.

**Wiljo Alfred Sarkela**, 88, Marquette, died March 28, 2011. Wiljo was a longtime friend of the university.

**Elsie E. (Ruohonen) Forsman**, 88, Boston Location, died March 3, 2011. Elsie worked at Suomi College until her retirement.

**Mary Ruth (Barth) Johnson ('59)**, 84, Hancock, died March 5, 2011.

## MEMORIALS & IN HONOR GIFTS

### MEMORIALS

(7/1/10-2/28/11)

Terry Anthony  
Aune Autio  
Ruth Marin Beegle  
Sofia O. Bernhardt  
Bloom Family  
David Dearmyer  
Scott Dickson  
Edith Impi (Turpeinen) Dreelan  
Hildur Enequist  
Susan M. Epich  
Emil & Agda Erickson  
Anne Holmes Esala  
Dolores Sormunen Fennell  
Martha Johnson Fischer  
Margaret W. Fox  
Clifford J.B. Fredrickson  
Irja Frenzen  
Charles Gebhardt  
Irene Wagar Goulet  
Grandparents of Dr. & Mrs.  
John Abadi  
John A. Haapala  
David T. Halkola  
Oliver E. Hanninen  
Elaine Halmekangas Hautala  
Jack Hautala  
Wayne Heikkila  
Leo Heikkinen  
Lila Heikkinen

Toini Heini  
Roy & Lorraine Heino  
Rev. Robert P. Hetico  
Richard Hill  
Theodore Hill  
Elma Hogya  
Linda Maki Elliot Horton  
June & Bob Houle  
Russell F. Hoyer  
Art & Elma Huhtala  
Jenny Ilminen  
Rev. Edward & Tylene Isaac  
Ahti Jaaskelainen  
Esther Kangas Jamieson  
Kim I. Poikonen Jarvi  
Dr. Marshall Johnson  
Mildred Evelyn Junttila  
Kathleen Wiinamaki  
Kalliaainen  
Anna Kaminen  
Ina Karkia  
Auvo John Karvonen  
Rev. Dr. Karlo J. Keljo  
Rev. Delbert Keltto ('59)  
Carl W. Kemp  
Alfie & Alice Kemppainen  
Azalea Kemppainen  
Eero B. Keranen  
Heikki & Anna Keranen  
Robert Kessel  
Jane Keto

Aarne W. Koljonen  
Lily Hivala Korpi  
William A. Kortesoja  
John & Tilda Koski  
Ray J. Koski  
Marion F. Kuehn  
Mrs. Aini (Kasari) Kulma  
Frank & Roberta Kutschera  
Rev. Wayne V. Kuusisto  
Dr. Edward E. Laitila  
William & Alma Leinonen  
Mary & Victor Lepisto  
Carl & Kathryn Liimatainen  
Ruth Jacobson Liljequist  
Jane Lindsey  
Aune Maria (Kangas)  
Luhtanen  
Jafet Lukkarila  
Martha Lurvey  
Alex & Matilda Maki  
Walter Maki  
Ed & Wilma Manning  
Martin Marin  
John Marttila  
Donald Miller  
Flora Miller  
Rick Miller  
Kaarlo W. Nasi  
Sanna Nikander  
Karl, Helmi & Eric Nissi  
Arlen Ollanketo

Wilfred Pagel  
Past Suomi College  
Presidents: Viljo J.  
Nikander, Carl  
Tamminen, Bernhard  
Hillila, Edward J. Isaac  
Meeri S. Pavelich  
Mortimer C. Plowe  
Arne & Lempi (Ranta) Posio  
Ellen Puotinen  
Sophia Rahkola  
Rev. Dr. E. Olaf Rankinen  
Rev. Robert Richardson  
Rev. Richard D. Rintala  
Aino Ristimaki  
Rev. Toivo Rosenberg  
Martha & Gottfried  
Rothenberg  
W.G. (Sully) Ruohomaki  
Irma Saarinen  
Toivo & Aili Salo  
Bethany Schultz  
Mae Shoup  
John Simi  
Fredrick Sipinen  
George B. Soorus  
Lila Summers  
Joyce Taivaloja  
Toivo Taro  
Anna (Stoole) Tenlen  
Rev. Wilbert Tormala

Karl Tuomivaara  
John Raymond Tuuri  
Daniel Wilkman  
Bessie Kangas Wilson  
Sulo Wuori  
Ila Wuorinen  
Etti Yanson  
Sylvia Ylitalo

### IN HONOR

(7/1/10-2/28/11)

Rev. Henry Aukee's 60th  
Anniversary of  
Ordination  
Helen Bjork  
Viola Jarvenpaa Brown's  
90th Birthday  
Shelby & Doug Hamar  
Gloria Jackson, Honorary  
Consul of Finland  
Rev. Rudy & Darley  
Kemppainen  
Rev. & Mrs. Wallace Leno's  
50th Wedding  
Anniversary  
Sandra & Philip Michel  
Amanda Moyer ('11)  
Ken & Lois Seaton





*Renee Eliason (left) and Marie Lanczy at the SNB branch in L'Anse. Right photo: Chris Tervo on the steps of Old Main*



## SUPERIOR ALUMNI

### Marie (Sikkila) Lanczy and Renee Eliason

Marie Lanczy and Renee Eliason have a lot in common. They were born and raised in L'Anse, graduated from L'Anse High School in 1974, and attended Suomi College in the 1974-75 academic year.

Marie received an accounting certificate at Suomi College; Renee majored in business. Both lived on campus in the Faller House, which was on Ryan Street just east of the Hoover Center.

Both women are long-time employees of Superior National Bank, with 33 and 28 years there, respectively. Marie is an executive secretary at the Baraga branch; Renee works in customer service at the L'Anse location.

"I am proud to say that I work for the only locally-owned bank in the area where we know our customers, and they know us," Renee says.

Renee has one son, Jason; he and his wife, Monica, have four children

Marie has two daughters and a son. Her youngest, Emily, is a junior Art & Design major at Finlandia. Marie's mother, Marie Stein, completed a Secretarial Certificate at Suomi College in 1951.

What Marie remembers most about her year in Hancock was spending lots of time with her fiancé, who was a student at Michigan Tech.

Renee's memories of Suomi include a food fight in the cafeteria when "all of the sudden mashed potatoes began flying," and sledding down Scott Street on cafeteria trays. "Suomi College was a perfect place to spread my wings: a small college, in a small town, for a small town girl," she says. Renee still keeps in touch with many of the 15 girls who lived at Faller House.

Still close friends, Marie and Renee see each other often. They both belong to the United Lutheran Church, L'Anse.



**SUPERIOR**  
National Bank  
& Trust Company  
Member FDIC

### Chris Tervo

"Working at Superior National Bank has been great," says Chris Tervo. "We are small enough to feel like one big family, and we know our co-workers and most of our customers."

Chris has been employed at SNB for 35 years. Currently, she is a teller at the main branch in Hancock, although for many years she was a "float," working in many bank departments. For six years, she was supervisor at the Chassell branch.

Chris attended Suomi College from 1970 to 1972, completing an associate degree in business. "I wanted to go to a smaller college and Suomi was close by, so I was able to live at home and help on the family farm," she says.

"With the size of the college, I believe that the faculty got to know the students, and we felt very comfortable asking questions," Chris adds.

Before classes started in the fall of 1971, Chris recalls that the college hosted a student trip to Isle Royale. She had a great time on the island, but the wind picked up the day they were to sail back to Copper Harbor.

"We thought the captain of the Queen was crazy to even start out that day, but he did. We were sure would never see land again," Chris says. "Of course, almost everyone was sick on the trip back. We were so happy to see the lights of Copper Harbor."

Chris and her husband, Jim, reside in Chassell. They have four children and six grandsons. Both of their daughters graduated from Finlandia, Jodi with a PTA degree and JoLinda as an RN.



## NORTH WIND BOOKS

### **The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition**

by Michael Nordskog, photography by Aaron Hautala

*The Opposite of Cold* is a commemoration of the history, culture, and practice of Finnish sauna in the north woods. With stunning photographs of unique and historic saunas, Nordskog and Hautala illustrate the importance and beauty of sauna culture in modern Midwestern life. University of Minnesota Press, 2010

Hardcover .....\$34<sup>95</sup>

### **The Year of the Hare**

by Arto Paasilinna — a new edition of an international bestseller

While on assignment, a journalist hits a hare with his car. The small incident becomes life-changing and the journalist decides to quit his job, leave his wife, sell his possessions, and spend a year wandering the wilds of Finland—with the hare as his companion. Penguin Books, 2010

Paperback .....\$14<sup>00</sup>

### **New Editions! The Moomin Books, 1-8**

Written and illustrated by Tove Jansson

If you haven't met a Moomin yet, you're missing some magical fun...READ THEM ALL!

"Jansson was a genius of a very subtle kind. These simple stories resonate with profound and complex emotions that are like nothing else in literature for children or adults: intensely Nordic, and completely universal."—Philip Pullman, author of the "His Dark Material" trilogy. Square Fish, 2010

Paperback .....\$6<sup>99</sup> each

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