

FINLANDIA  
UNIVERSITY

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Education Forum



Alumni Choir Reunion



Niskavuori Play



Art History Trip

# the Bridge

Fall/Winter 2013 • Volume 66, Number 1

Donor Edition



## From the President **PHILIP JOHNSON**

Dear Finlandia Friends and Alumni,

Thank you for sitting down with this issue of Finlandia's *Bridge*. It comes near the end of a very full calendar year at Finlandia University. There has been a sense of "reboot" following the rigorous preparation, implementation, and careful follow up necessitated by FinnFest 2013. As we catch our rhythm once again and quicken our pace, let me offer a few thoughts that are uppermost in my mind.

### **What's ahead for higher education?**

Challenge and change continue to mark higher education since the economic recession of 2008-2010:

- rising costs with diminished capacity or will to pay;
- hyper-critical, though wrong-headed, press attacks on the overall value of a college degree;
- intensified oversight by the federal government requiring new levels of compliance-related administration;
- changing student demographics with adult learners and Latinos projected to be the fastest growing college-going populations in years to come, and
- course and credit delivery systems (think on-line, for-profit, massive open online courses, and the like) that introduce new forms of competition.

### **What's Finlandia doing and planning?**

- Controlling costs: our average tuition increase over the past five years was less than three percent.
- Branding and reputation: Finlandia is partnering with a firm to better package and deliver Finlandia's intrinsic and market value to prospective students and families.
- Investing in campus development: we are pursuing strategies to build and finance facilities that can help us better attract, retain, and graduate students.
- Enrollment growth, diversity and quality: launching new programs in athletics and academics that are responsive to market demand and student interest.
- On-line instruction: augmenting traditional classroom delivery with on-line instruction that allows us to capture new enrollments not easily served with brick and mortar instruction; for example, strengthening our RN to BSN program for practicing nurses.

### **What kind of leadership is needed for what's ahead?**

Our present opportunity is to more deliberately advance Finlandia's mission commitments while successfully addressing market realities. I believe change-averse learning communities and teaching faculties will not meet the challenge ahead. Risk-intolerant administrations will fail to capture or create opportunities for growth. Complacency and convention must give way to urgency and innovation. Those leaders and institutions that are least-rutted and most nimble will emerge stronger.

This autumn I have made key changes to my leadership team to better position Finlandia for achieving her strategic goals. Finlandia now has five vice presidents. Dr. Lenny Klaver, our newest team member, is Finlandia's new VP for Advancement. His introduction is found in this issue. Julie Jennerjohn, former Director of Enrollment is now our VP for Enrollment Management. Karin Van Dyke is our new VP for University Relations. Dr. Fredi deYampert is currently serving as interim VP for Academic Affairs. And, Nick Stevens continues to serve as VP for Business and Finance. This team is capable and confident. We work hard and we work hopeful.

On behalf of Finlandia's entire learning community I offer deepest appreciation for you who have chosen to live generously with Finlandia.

Philip Johnson, Ph.D.  
President



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

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**Cover Photo:**

*Alumni Choir Reunion – Photo from the Fall 2013 alumni reception which featured a special alumni choir performance. [More on page 24]*

*Art History Trip – Photo from the International School of Art & Design November 2013 student trip to Chicago and Milwaukee. [More on page 7]*

*Niskavuori Play – Photo from The Niskavuori Saga, translated from Finnish by Melvin Kangas and Hannu Leppanen, and performed at FinnFest 2013. (June)*

*Education Forum – Photo from FinnFest 2013(June) forum, "Models and Methods: Exploring the Promise of New Directions and Practices in K-12 Education." [More on page 3]*

## FAHC Refresh Project

In preparation for FinnFest USA 2013, Finlandia's Finnish American Heritage Center enjoyed lots of loving attention thanks to many generous gifts to the "FAHC Refresh Project." Finlandia is grateful to the major donors who led the way in making these improvements possible.

The centerpiece of the refresh project, the Martha Wiljanen Community Hall, was dedicated June 21. Formerly the center's theatre, the community hall features a custom-installed hardwood floor, a well-equipped prep kitchen, new sound and lighting systems, and, soon, a custom made theater curtain. Smaller refresh projects include exterior landscaping and plantings, new window treatments throughout the building, a fresh coat of paint for all interior areas, and new directional signage.

The major donors to the Refresh Project are: John and Pauline Kiltinen, Paul Williams, David and Pat Holli, and David Sr. and Joyce Savolainen.



*L to R: Duane Aho, and Pauline Kiltinen with a commemorative plaque dedicated to Martha Wiljanen and FAHC Refresh Project donors.*

## Trustee News

**John Leinonen** - It was a milestone recognition award (a plaque and special lapel pin) for 50 years of active service to SAE International (Society of Automotive Engineers).

**Ronald Helman**, retired vice president for development and executive director of the Michigan Tech Fund at Michigan Technological University, recently was honored by his alma mater for his professional and personal service to promoting higher education. Miami University awarded Helman the Bishop Medal at the Miami University Alumni Association's annual Alumni Awards Banquet held Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, in Oxford, Ohio. The medal is named for Robert Hamilton Bishop, Miami University's first president, and it is awarded to an alumnus/alumna who has distinguished himself/herself in service to others.



*Jim Kurtti (right) and Finland Secretary of State Pertti Torstila in June*

## FinnFest 2013 Recap

The handful of Finns and Sámis who landed in Hancock on Midsummer Eve in 1865 couldn't have imagined that 148 years later everyone in the Copper Country—and thousands of guests from across the U.S. and from Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and Denmark—would commemorate that 1865 arrival with a grand celebration of Finnish-American culture and life.

More than 8,000 visitors were in the Copper Country for the week-long celebration. Festival organizers report hundreds of appreciative letters, e-mails, Facebook entries, and phone calls.

The event held June 22 to 29 was made possible through the commitment and resources of Finlandia University, Michigan Technological University, the cities of Hancock and Houghton, and a number of other festival partners.

But credit for its success goes far beyond to include more than 100 additional donors, 500-plus volunteers, 50 performance groups, over 150 lecturers and presenters, numerous art and interpretive exhibits, two tori markets with more than 100 vendors, children's programming, and the enthusiasm and hospitality of everyone in the Copper Country. On Saturday evening, more than 1,000 people made their way to Agate Beach in Toivola to enjoy a Juhannus midsummer celebration and a 20-foot kokko (bonfire).

## Student News "Roaring" with excitement

With the start of the Fall Semester 2013, students have reactivated new ways to communicate with each other. The students have new staff, more posts, and more ways to communicate, including a new correspondent mascot, "Sonny the Lionhearted". Readers can link to the student newsletter Roar at [www.finlandiaroar.org](http://www.finlandiaroar.org).

The team has also been working on website renovations, including creating a new category just for Finlandia Speaks, formerly Person-on-the-Street. There is also a new category for Faculty Profiles, in hopes that students and other community members can get to know who's who on campus.

There is a new Facebook page located at [www.facebook.com/FinlandiaRoar](http://www.facebook.com/FinlandiaRoar); as well as on Twitter @FinlandiaRoar, or go to [www.twitter.com/FinlandiaRoar](http://www.twitter.com/FinlandiaRoar).



*Education Forum participants*

## FinnFest Finnish Education Forum

In conjunction with FinnFest USA 2013, a full-day international education forum, "Models and Methods: Exploring the Promise of New Directions and Practices in K-12 Education," was presented by the Finlandia University Office of the President on June 19 at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Participants in the full-day forum learned about the features of the Finnish educational system, which has garnered numerous international accolades over the past decade.

The forum was anchored by Finland's leading education change activist, Dr. Pasi Sahlberg, author of the book, *Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland?*

Ambassador of Finland to the U.S. Ritva Koukku-Ronde and Jukka Pietikäinen, Consul General of Finland in New York, were honored guests at the forum.

Additional nation-leading thinkers and practitioners from within Finland's school system and teacher education programs also participated in the forum and in other FinnFest presentations.

"The forum intends to advance critical reflection on matters relevant and helpful to education professionals," said President Johnson in an advance press release. "It will bring together leading voices from Finland, Michigan, and elsewhere to discuss K-12 educational models and pedagogical methods that are making a difference today."

Teachers from Finland, and U.S.-based teachers using Finnish methods, shared the innovative educational strategies used in their elementary classrooms. The forum described Finland's school structure, schedule, and curriculum, and incorporated interactive demonstrations of creative learning strategies for art, music, and science. A video presentation featured Finnish children describing what they like about school and learning.

Complementing the June 19 education forum were presentations at area schools that explored topics including Finnish high school design and a typical day in a Finnish elementary school.

## Faculty and Staff News

Assistant professor of business **Rekha Ambardar's** paranormal mystery story, "The Helper," was published by Untreed Reads this spring. In May, two of her mystery stories placed first and second in the "Sleuths Ink Whodunit Contest." In June, she conducted a fiction writing workshop at the Portage Lake District Library, Houghton, entitled "Show, Don't Tell." Her article "Indian Millennials: Global or Local?" was published in October by "The World and I Journal."

In September, adjunct English instructor **Earl Brogan** launched his debut book, "Various Heroes," a science fiction novel that draws on historical Keweenaw Peninsula events.

**Heather Dunne**, administrative assistant for the Suomi College of Arts & Sciences, was recently elected vice president of the board of directors for the Keweenaw Co-op Natural Foods Market and Deli, Hancock.

In February, the work of **Kenyon Hansen** ('05), adjunct instructor of ceramics, was included in "Neat: The Art of the Whiskey Vessel," an exhibit at the Lillstreet Arts Center Gallery in Chicago. First solo show at a gallery in New York City; Emerging Artist designation.

**Leslie Johnson**, assistant professor of psychology, will present her poster, "The Fat Threshold: Stigma in the eye of the beholder," at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX, in February 2014. Leslie and her husband, Corey, welcomed new daughter Iris Elizabeth Johnson on July 7, 2013.

"The Pixelated Apocalypse: Video Games and Nuclear Fears, 1980-2012," an article by assistant professor of history **Bill Knoblauch**, was recently published in the book *The Silence of Fallout: Nuclear Criticism in a Post-Cold War World*. A second article, "MTV and Transatlantic Cold War Music Videos," was published in TEMP: Tidsskrift for Historie, a Danish history journal.

Assistant professor of mathematics **Juan Marin** is included among the 2013 Top 25 STEM Professors in Michigan, a list compiled by StateStats.org that recognizes excellence of post-secondary educators of science, technology, engineering, and math.

**Terri Martin**, assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been serving as Editor-in-Chief for the Finnish North American Literature Association (FinNALA) Newsletter for the past year.

University chaplain **Soren Schmidt** ('94) has completed the "Prepare/Enrich Certification" and is now certified to give couple's counseling. He recently became a registered USCA (United States Curling Association) Level 2 Official.

Two poems by adjunct instructor **Laura Smyth** were accepted for publication in the fall 2013 issue of J Journal, a literary publication of CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Smyth also presented her work at two Great Lakes themed conferences in 2013. Thimbleberry Press just issued her Adventures in the U.P. stories for children as well.

*(continued on page 5)*



**Suzanne Van Dam**, associate professor of English, received an "Honorable Mention" for her essay, "God's Peace Bangers," in the New Millennium Writings Competition in January 2013.

**Denise Vandeville**, dean of the International School of Art & Design, was guest speaker at the Michigan Art Education Association's 63rd annual conference in October 2013 on Mackinac Island.

**Hilary Virtanen**, Paloheimo Fellows coordinator, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Michigan Oral History Association.

**Christine O'Neil**, dean of the Suomi College of Arts & Sciences, attempted to reach the 14,500-foot summit of Mount Whitney in California, the tallest peak in the contiguous 48 states. The climb, which is sponsored by Backpacker Magazine, is a fundraiser for Big City Mountaineers, which is a nonprofit organization working with under-served urban youth to instill life skills.

**Cam Williams**, dean of the College of Health Sciences, as a board member of the Michigan Physical Therapy Association, was also recently elected as a chief delegate.

In January 2013, the International School of Art & Design (ISAD) was awarded a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). The grant, spearheaded by Denise Vandeville, the Dean of ISAD, provided funding that allowed the ISAD faculty to provide student workshops in high schools covering four counties in the Western Upper Peninsula at no charge to local schools. The program specific workshops focused on careers in the arts, were taught by **Phyllis Fredendall**, **Robert Grame**, **Rick Loduha**, and **Denise Vandeville**. The second part of the project was a large exhibition of the work made by the students during the workshops. The May show highlighted the work of over 300 high school participants.

**Bonnie Holland**, executive director of the Finlandia University Jutila Center for Global Design and Business, who is also a member of the Hancock Downtown Development Authority, gave an update in October to community leaders on the Reshape Downtown Hancock program. The presentations were intended to let the community learn more about improvement efforts and the downtown businesses in Hancock. These efforts took place over the summer, and included 26 projects conducted by volunteers and organizations including students from Hancock Central High School, Finlandia University, churches, individuals and businesses.



## Home & Hall - A national home for Finnish Americans

At FinnFest USA 2013, award-winning Minnesota architect David Salmela and Finlandia president Philip Johnson shared their convictions about Finlandia's leadership role in championing Finnish America's story, and their vision for the future of the Finnish American Heritage Center.

Salmela described his design for its expansion as "a national home for Finnish America's story and its history; a community hall for the celebration of human culture and expression; and a gathering place of light and life, championing Finnish American ideals and ideas."

It's an ambitious proposal, but one of inestimable value to preserving and sharing the Finnish American legacy, said President Johnson.

David Salmela is a self-trained architect practicing in Duluth, Minnesota. Since 1985 his projects have won fourteen Minnesota AIA Honor Awards and sixteen national awards, including a National AIA Honor Award for Architecture



David Salmela



*Finnish American Chamber of Commerce VIP Roundtable panelists discuss the topic, Developing Business Between Finland and the U.S.A. Pictured are (left to right): Jukka Pietikainen, Jouko Sipilä, Ossi Rahkonen, Greg Seppanen, Keith Raisanen, Julie Badel, and Phil Musser.)*

## Business & Technology Forum

Kevin Manninen, dean of Finlandia's International School of Business, was chairman of a committee that presented a Business & Technology Forum in conjunction with FinnFest USA 2013. The day-long forum, held in the Michigan Technological University Memorial Union Building, was an opportunity for business and government leaders to learn about new and existing opportunities for developing business between Finland and the U.S.

The event's agenda included presentations, tours, breakout sessions, and networking. Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley presented the forum's opening remarks; the event's keynote address was by Dr. Hidde Ronde, director of the VTT Technical Research Center of Finland in Washington D.C.

Other speakers and participants included Susan Novakoski, director of regional attraction for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Keith Raisanen, president of TyloHelo Inc., Cokato, Minn.; Val Kratzman, head of the Finland Trade Center, Washington D.C.; and special guest speaker Jukka Pietikäinen, Consul General of Finland, New York.

Lecture topics included Biomass to Energy-Benefits and Business Potential; Bringing Sustainable Woody Biomass Microgeneration to Rural Economies; Michigan's Keweenaw as a Soft Landing Center for Finnish Companies in North America; and Developing a Finnish-North American Business Network.

A "Town Hall" discussion and reception at the Finlandia University Jutula Center for Global Design and Business was a forum for speakers to share their recent experiences helping Finnish businesses establish locations in Minneapolis and the Chicago area.

Town Hall speakers included Jukka Pietikäinen, Consul General of Finland, New York; Jouko Sipila, Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Minnesota; Keith Raisanen, president and CEO of TyloHelo, an international producer of saunas and steam baths; Julie Badel, Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Midwest; Greg Seppanen, treasurer of the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce; and Phil Musser, director of the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance (KEDA).

Sponsors of the Town Hall included the Keweenaw Area Chamber of Commerce, KEDA, MTEC SmartZone, Finlandia University Jutula Center, and Midwest and Minnesota Finnish-American Chambers of Commerce.

"FinnFest USA 2013 brought an abundance of business and cultural activities to our community, including opportunities to attract Finnish companies to Michigan's Upper Peninsula," said Bonnie Holland, director of the Jutula Center for Global Design and Business.

Other forum activities included a Technology Fair exhibit, a bioenergy tour, visits to the MTEC SmartZone, MTU's research centers, and Finlandia's Jutula Center for Global Design and Business, and individual company meetings.

The business forum was sponsored by Michigan Tech, SmartZone, Finlandia, Wärtsilä Corporation, and with the generous financial support of David and Elsa Brule.

## New Full-time Faculty and Staff

**Robin Anderson**, Administrative Assistant, University Registrar's Office

**Erin Barnett**, Academic Success Coordinator

**Leslie Dukes**, Associate Professor of Music

**Phillip Faulkner**, Visiting Artist, Studio Arts

**Stephanie Kajpust**, Instructor of Mathematics

**Jordan Kivela** ('04, '07), Assistant Professor of Nursing

**Lenny Klaver**, Vice President for Advancement

**Terry Klemett**, Head Coach, Women's Basketball

**Steve Nordstrom**, Assistant Professor of Sports Management and Men's and Women's Golf Coach

**Alison Regal**, Strength and Conditioning Coach and Athletics Academic Support

**Casey Rentmeester**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion

**Kristan Schuster**, Women's Volleyball Coach

**Karin Van Dyke**, Vice President for University Relations

**Lisa Wiitala**, High School Academic Coordinator, Educational Talent Search (ETS)

**Brittany Williams**, Head Coach, Women's Softball

**William Williams**, Head Coach, Men's Baseball and Athletics Facilities Coordinator

## Promotions and Title Changes

**Mike Baily**, Dean of Student Affairs

**Fredi deYampert**, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Julie Jennerjohn**, Vice President for Enrollment Management

**Cam Williams**, Dean, College of Health Sciences

## Student designs new product for Stormy Kromer

Finlandia Art & Design senior Sarah Jalkanen recently visited the Stormy Kromer website and was pleased to find that the company produced one of the bags she designed as part of her spring 2013 Art and Design Project class (ARD395).

Jalkanen also created a selection of stripe designs for Stormy Kromer, which they may consider for their line of wools and cotton hats and garments.

Stormy Kromer, a UP-based manufacturer of the well-known wool caps, is a division of Jacquart Fabric Products, Ironwood, MI. Phyllis Fredendall, ISAD fiber and fashion design professor, said, "Though I have regularly taken fiber students on tours of the Jacquart Fabric factory, this is the first time a student has done design work for them. I'm so proud of Sarah! We hope to continue this expanded relationship with Stormy Kromer." See Sarah Jalkanen's Stormy Kromer bag design at <http://www.stormykromer.com/bags/the-kromer-tote>.







*Sibelius Academy students-musicians and  
Road Scholars in Copper Harbor September 25*

## Finlandia Seeks HLC Reaccreditation

Finlandia University is seeking continued reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools for an additional term. In March 2015, a reaffirmation evaluation team will visit Hancock. In preparation for this site visit, the university is conducting an in-depth self-study analysis to examine and reflect upon our strengths and challenges as an institution of higher education. This self-study process will serve as a road map, as it were, of where we have been and where we want to be going. The visiting team will interview students, faculty, and board members to verify

and clarify that our self-study accurately reflects the present status of our university curriculum and service.

In general, accreditation is the institutional peer review of colleges, schools, and programs performed by an objective, not-for-profit external agency established to evaluate colleges and universities for continuous quality. Most importantly, accreditation in higher education is the seal of approval for schools, employers, and most importantly, for students.

Overall, accreditation:

- Provides assurance of our institutional quality and an opportunity to improve;
- Holds the University accountable to internal and external stakeholders;
- Enables students to transfer credits to other accredited colleges, and
- Allows students to obtain federal financial aid to attend Finlandia University.

Students who earn a degree at a regionally accredited institution can be assured that the quality of their education and the commitment of the institution to maintain and improve educational quality meet the standards of the accrediting body.



## Picturing the Past

*Picturing the Past: Finlandia University, 1896 to the Present* takes you on a historical tour of Suomi College and Finlandia University through the years. This treasure is a 256-page, full color book filled

with a wealth of historical facts and photographs. The book can be purchased at North Wind Books in Hancock or through their website <http://bookstore.finlandia.edu>.

In a narrative sent to the Finlandia Communications office, alumnus Chuck Altonen (1958) offered a glowing review of *Picturing the Past*: "If one listens dutifully, he/she can hear the cheers of those who came before. He/she can feel the warmth of their pride. You will love this work and seek to share it with family and friends."

The cost of the soft cover book is \$20 and the hard cover is \$30. However, if you make a first time gift of \$100 or more, to Finlandia University you will receive the soft cover book as our way of saying thank you for starting your tradition of giving to Finlandia.



*An icon painting by  
Seppo Latvala*

## Finnish Exhibits featured

Seppo Latvala of Finland presented (and later donated to the university) an exhibit focused on Finnish Orthodox buildings and icons at the Finnish American Heritage Center, June 17-23. The exhibit explores Latvala's research on building traditions in Finnish Orthodox churches and chapels (tsasounas), and includes information about and images of the churches and chapels Latvala has designed, and the religious icons that he has painted.

The autonomous Finnish Orthodox Church has three dioceses and more than 61,000 members that account for 1.1 percent of the population of Finland, according to Latvala.

Another FinnFest exhibit, this one in the Finnish American Historical Archive, presented Latvala's research on the ancient, traditional Finnish savutupa (smoke cabin). The smoke cabins exhibit was also donated to the university. The exhibits were curated by Seppo Latvala and David Brule, and sponsored by and gifted to the university by David and Elsa Brule.



*A panel of the smoke  
cabin exhibit*





*The Men's Baseball Team helped clean up a Department of Natural Resources Trail in Hancock during the recent Make a Difference Day in Hancock. Top (From Left): Luke Paul, Chris Saari, Joe Richard Bottom (From Left): Coach William Williams, Rian Hyland, Jon Crawford*

## Outstanding Students

Three Finlandia students, Kelsey Norz, Audrey Small and Caitlin Spera, received a Heart and Soul Award at the 17th annual Michigan Campus Compact (MiCC) Outstanding Student Service Awards Celebration in April. This award is given to students to recognize their time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service. This year, more than 450 students from 33 member campuses received awards.

## ISAD Chicago Trip 2013

The International School of Art & Design took its annual trip to Chicago at the beginning of November 2013. The trip, which is organized through HIS 303 Art History III, is an opportunity for ISAD students to spend time looking at the real paintings, sculptures, and objects that they have studied in class. Lasting three days, the students spent time at the Kohler Design Center, the Baha'i Temple, the Art Institute of Chicago, and The Milwaukee Art Museum. Finlandia student, Dylan Peterson, commented, "The Baha'i Temple was really interesting to see because it really brings together old world architecture and modern architecture to make the building emanate the religion's ideals of unity and oneness."

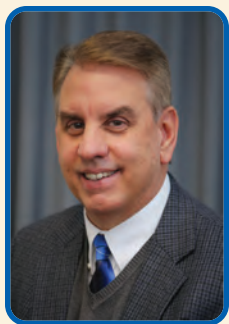
## AD Salani Representing Finlandia on the NCAA DIII Management Council

Finlandia Director of Athletics, Chris Salani, will be completing his first year of duties on the NCAA DIII Management Council in December 2013. As a member of this body and serving a term of four years, Salani is one of 15 nationally elected officers comprised of DIII Director of Athletics, university Presidents, Faculty Athletic Representatives and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Members. The Management Council is the second highest governance body within the federated make-up of the NCAA structure and second only to the NCAA DIII Presidents Council. Duties of this body are as follows:

NCAA Division III Bylaw (4.7.3):

- Implement policies adopted by the Presidents Council and Executive Committee;
- Resolve Division III issues;
- Make recommendations to the Presidents Council related to Division III matters;
- Adopt noncontroversial and intent-based amendments, administrative bylaws and regulations to govern Division III;
- Recommend legislative proposals for sponsorship by the Presidents Council;
- Make interpretations of Division III bylaws;
- Delegate the resolution of DIII issues to the DIII substructure and consider relevant reports and recommendations from the substructure;
- Review appeals by member institutions of decisions made within the Division III governance structure; and
- Administer duties related to the business session of the annual Convention.

Aligning with his service on the DIII Management Council, Salani is also appointed to the NCAA Student Athlete Reinstatement Committee for DIII, and the Association wide Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, which is comprised of delegates from all three associations DIII, DII and DI. "This service to DIII has been extremely interesting and beneficial to not only to myself and Finlandia, but also to all DIII members who are 'peer' colleagues of our institution. The ability to be involved in national conversations and policy/legislative discussions undoubtedly helps to get 'our message' out and helps Finlandia prepare and position our athletics program for equal footing relative to our larger and more prominent DIII universities," comments Salani. "It's important that our greater NCAA DIII membership is aware and keen to the challenges and perhaps limitations institutions like ours confront on a daily basis relative to the athletics landscape, so it's been a great opportunity to keep that message alive within the governance dynamic of DIII."



Lenny Klaver

## Sisu and the Finlandia Paradigm

Although much more than a simple word, *sisu* has been referred to as the most wonderful of all in the Finnish language. Its references include a host of descriptors, underpinnings, and an over-arching sense of purpose. With a deep-seeded meaning referring to such characteristics as: strength of will, determination, perseverance, courage, an inner fire, tenacity, stubborn determination, energy, and innate ability to

get things done, *sisu* possesses utility and a robust essence.

Now, I admit, even though I have been to Finland and had heard of Finlandia University, I had not encountered the word *sisu* prior to the time in late summer when I came to campus for an interview. One simple word; it was intriguing. It spoke to me as a journey on the paths of my professional career and a few aspects of life in general. It spoke to challenge. It spoke to what I sought in the people, place, and spirit of a career move – and it called to me as vocation. This is where I needed to be and the door was open.

In the brief time I've been at Finlandia, it has become clear that the meaning of *sisu* is significant; it's also the foundation of a paradigm of what Finlandia University and its forbearer, Suomi College, have been and remain all about. Persistence, gritty determination, following through, eyes focused on the goal and an unwavering commitment to success, are thematic and embodied in the heritage of the Finlandia family. Collectively, it comes down to people and the strength of relationships.

In this edition of *the Bridge*, *sisu* and the Finlandia paradigm are evident. Your gifts of time, talent, wealth and wisdom perpetuate true spirit and drive this small university toward big results. As generosity to Finlandia continues, year to date giving has seen an increase, with progress in phone-a-thon gifts and bequests notable. Further, alumni events this year experienced wonderful turnouts and legendary story memories. We are very thankful for all you do and the generous support you provide. As an advancement team, we assure you our work continues to benefit students, programs, and this campus so many love and cherish.

Gratefully,

Dr. Lenny R. Klaver  
Vice President for Advancement  
Phone: 906-487-7349  
E-mail: lenny.klaver@finlandia.edu

## Foundation Relations

**The Charles M. Bauervic Foundation** approved a grant allocation of \$1,000 towards the acquisition of a student response system for the College of Health Sciences.

**The Coleman Foundation** Faculty Entrepreneurship Fellows Program awarded \$12,000 in continued support of Finlandia programs to promote self-employment education. This fall, Cynthia Coté, International School of Art & Design instructor, challenged students to see themselves as self-employed artists while researching practical opportunities such as commissions, grants, artist residencies, art fairs, and competitions in Art Business (BUS 125). Robert Grame, associate professor of Graphic Design, introduced students to the fundamentals of solving complex graphic design problems while introducing business skills related to the designer as an innovator, author, conceiver, stakeholder, producer, and entrepreneur in Intermediate Problems (ARD 314). Pam Audette, assistant professor and director, Medical Assistant program, and students in Healthcare Delivery (HCM 412) developed a small center run by senior level healthcare management students in the context of legal, ethical, economic and medical criteria. The Arvo Ylppö Wellness Center officially opened on November 4, 2013 and provides health and wellness offerings to the entire university community.

## "Called to Servant Leadership"

Finlandia University was recently selected to receive a NetVUE Program Development Grant in the amount of \$49,740 for use between January 1, 2014, and January 31, 2016. NetVUE is the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, a network of 179 colleges and universities committed to fostering the theological exploration of vocation on their campuses. Finlandia was among 36 NetVUE member institutions selected to receive this award to deepen the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. René Johnson, servant leadership director, will serve as the project leader and coordinate the initiatives to help promote meaningful exploration of one's call to servant leadership more broadly across the university campus through curricular and co-curricular initiatives. NetVUE Program Development Grants are made possible thanks to a generous grant to the Council of Independent Colleges from Lilly Endowment, Inc.





*SISU Seminar students taking a break during a service project helping a local artist relocate community art work.*

## SISU Seminar

Following the birth of the *SISU* Seminar from an idea in January 2011, this program, with generous support from the Paloheimo Foundation, has undergone a planning stage (2011-12) and a pilot stage (2012-13). In September, the Paloheimo Foundation affirmed continued support of the *SISU* Seminar with a grant of \$83,800 for full implementation during the 2013-14 academic year. The *SISU* Seminar is what is known in higher education as a first-year semester course. The main purpose of such first-year seminars is to assist students in the many adjustments the transition to college brings. Finlandia's first-year seminar utilizes the Finnish concept of *sisu* to frame these adjustment issues, focusing on the characteristics of fortitude to assist students in the persistence to the goal of graduation. The combination of the Finnish cultural aspects of *sisu* with the concepts *sisu* embodies provides a unique and robust approach to the concept of a first-year seminar. The implementation phase represents our commitment to incorporating this unique first-year experience course as a cornerstone of Finlandia's curriculum.

## Thrivent Choice Continues to Make a Difference

Sincere thanks to all of the Thrivent Financial for Lutheran members who have identified Finlandia University as their Choice Dollars® recipient. Since September 2010, Thrivent Choice Dollars® have been used to support student activities and projects as well as campus-wide initiatives. This year Choice Dollars® were used to support the university's campus-wide recycling initiative. We are grateful for your support.

To find out how you can choose to help Finlandia with your Thrivent Choice Dollars®, visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com), call 800-847-4836, or contact a Thrivent Financial representative.



*Shannon Vairo*

## Will you answer the call?

Here at Finlandia we have hard working, dedicated students who work diligently to make a difference. One of the biggest impacts some of our students make is through our annual Telefund program. Finlandia students call alumni and friends throughout the year to encourage support of and involvement in the university.

Has it been awhile since you've been back to campus for a visit? A phone call from a student is an opportunity to bring you up-to-date on campus news, inform you of upcoming events and answer many of your questions. If our students don't have the answer immediately, we'll find it!

In addition to answering any questions you may have, our student callers update your contact information. We know the best way to keep you informed is by making sure we have your current information. Verifying this information ensures you will continue to receive important communications from the university such as *the Bridge* magazine, newsletters, academic updates and upcoming reunion events.

Our student callers are a critical part of the university's advancement efforts. The funds raised support many university programs as well as scholarships which are vital to our students.

We understand that in today's world life is extremely busy, and we value your time. So, when the phone rings and you see it's Finlandia, we hope you will choose to answer the phone and speak to the student on the other end of the line. This is not simply a job to our student callers. They call because they have a passion for Finlandia. They believe in the institution and its mission and they want to see the university soar into the future. These students chose to better the university because every day, they see the difference a gift like yours can make.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Vairo*

Shannon Vairo

External Relations Coordinator

Phone: 906-487-7206

E-mail: [shannon.vairo@finlandia.edu](mailto:shannon.vairo@finlandia.edu)

## Donor Recognition

In each donor edition of *the Bridge*, we are pleased to recognize and thank the many individuals, organizations, churches, clubs, associations, and businesses that generously donated to Finlandia University in the preceding fiscal year ending June 30. Some have pledged deferred giving or named the university in their wills. Some have given in memory of loved ones or to honor a special date, event, or person. Others have made donations out of a sense of

loyalty—cherishing their time at Finlandia University or Suomi College. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers of our friends and alumni, and for their gifts in support of our students' educational goals.

Sincere thanks to all who have supported Finlandia University between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013, and in years past.

## Cumulative Giving

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

*Lifetime membership in the President's Circle is granted to those who have given \$50,000 or more to Finlandia University during any five-year period, and to those who have named the university in their estate plans for \$50,000 or more and informed the university of their intentions. The list excludes deceased President's Circle donors and entities which no longer exist.*

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## Distinguished Giving

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

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

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

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

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## Wargelin Council — (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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

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## Waino "Pop" Lehto League — (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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## Old Main Society — (\$500-\$999)

*Built in 1899, for many years Old Main was the sole Suomi College building. In its early years it housed classrooms, a chapel, offices, a cafeteria, and a dormitory. Today it is the home of the Office of Admissions and administrative offices.*

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*continued on page 12*

## Old Main Society (continued)

(\$500-\$999)

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## Quincy Club

(\$250-\$499)

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

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## Minnie Perttula-Maki Circle

(\$100-\$249)

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

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MS LYNN RAASAKKA  
MS HELMI J RAASKA  
MR OSSI J RAHKONEN  
MR NICK R RAJACIC  
MRS ELIZABETH A RAJALA  
MRS ELLEN E RAJALA  
MS JOYCE RANDOLPH  
MR & MRS ANSSI A RANNIKKO  
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MR & MRS JAMES M ROBERTSON  
MR & MRS JOE RODGERS  
MR & MRS STANLEY ROGERS  
MRS JUDITH E ROOD  
MRS HELEN SAARI ROSS  
MR LARRY L ROSS  
MR MARK A ROTHSCHILD  
MR & MRS CHRIS R ROY  
MR FLOYD RUDY  
MRS BETTY RUOHONEN  
MS ELVI RUOTSALA  
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MR & MRS JON L SAARI  
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MR & MRS DAN SALO  
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MR PAUL SALSINI  
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MRS MARION J SODERLUND  
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MS SUE STACKHOUSE  
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MRS TANYA M STANAWAY  
MR BRIAN K STEINHOFF  
MR ROBERT W STENFORS  
MS APRIL L STEVENS  
MR & MRS MARK STIEVE  
MR FRANK J STIPECH  
MR VICTOR STORHOK  
MS MARY ANNE STORM  
MR STANLEY W STRANGLE  
MS PAULINE STRATTON  
MS MARY E STREUFERT  
MRS ESTHER N STRONG  
MR JASON L SULLIVAN  
MS LORI SULLIVAN  
MR GARY J SUMMERS  
MRS FLORENCE E SUO  
MRS ANNE E SUOMI  
MRS NANCY TUOMELA SWANSON  
MR ROBERT R SWANSON  
MS HELEN SWEENEY  
MS LYNNE M SWEENEY  
MR & MRS EUGENE J SYRJALA  
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MR & MRS P RUDY TAHTINEN  
MR & MRS CARL A TAMMINEN  
MR RAYMOND P TAMPPARI  
MR JOHN C TAUREN  
MS KAREN TEMBREULL  
MR & MRS WESLEY K TERVO  
MR & MRS JOHN D THIRY  
MR & MRS KENNETH N THOMAS  
MRS S LILLIAN LINDROOS  
THOMPSON  
MR & MRS TODD W THOMPSON  
MR & MRS WILLIAM W TOIVONEN  
MRS GEORGENE M TOMAZIN  
MR & MRS WAYNE TORGESON  
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MR & MRS THOMAS N TUORI  
MR ROGER TYYSKA  
DR & MRS ROBERT A UBBELOHDE  
MR & MRS ROBERT O ULLAND  
MR & MRS JAMES R URPILA  
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MRS JOY E VANDOCK  
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MRS RUTH M VERVILLE  
MR JONATHAN P VETTER  
MR & MRS THOMAS M VICHICH  
MS ARLENE M VLAHOS  
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MR GERALD R WAARA  
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MR EVERETT T WAISANEN  
MR & MRS PETER B WAISANEN  
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MRS BETTY L WARD  
MS LINDA A WARD  
MS NORMA L WARE  
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MRS ANJA H WEIHERMAN  
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**A LUCILLE MATTSON - 95TH BIRTHDAY**  
DR & MRS ROGER MATTSON

**CARSON & CAMRYN OLLANKETO**  
MRS MARILYN OLLANKETO

**KEN SEATON**  
MRS SANDRA SEATON MICHEL  
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**AMANDA YODER**  
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MRS CHRISTINE AHOLA

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MARTIN

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM & HELEN APP**  
MR DALE APP

**LILLIAN ARMBRUST**  
DR & MRS ROBERT NOMINELLI

**ILONA HATTULA ARNTZ**  
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MRS SUSANNA ECOLA  
TRITTSCHUH

**EDWIN HAKALA**  
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**DAVID T HALKOLA**  
MRS VIOLA HALKOLA

**TOM HARJU**  
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REV & MRS C THOMAS KANGAS  
MR & MRS HARRY LAMPPA  
MR & MRS PAAVO PELKONEN  
MR & MRS J HOWARD TAMMINEN  
REV & MRS GARY TERRIO

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MR ROBERT JONES

**JOHANNES JUNTUNEN**  
MR & MRS RICHARD SALANI

**PAUL KAARE**  
LOIS, DAVID, MARTY & DARLA  
KAARE; MARY & SEAN DORAN  
MR ROBERT KEEKE  
REV DALE & DR JEANNE  
KEMPPAINEN  
MR & MRS KENNETH LAKE  
MR C ARTHUR OLLIE  
MRS KAREN MALILA PALMER

**ELMA KAHELIN**  
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MR DAVID KALLIAINEN

**GORDON P KALLUNKI**  
MS LOIS KALLUNKI

**ANDREW KANGAS**  
REV & MRS ERIC IVERSEN

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MS JUDITH WILSON

**EDWARD A KANGAS**  
MRS MARIE KANGAS

**RUTH & SULO KANGAS**  
DR CLAUDIA KANGAS ADKINS

**INA KARKIA**  
MRS DOROTHY GOLDSWORTHY

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MRS EUNICE KELJO

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**EERO B KERANEN**  
MRS ELEANORE KERANEN

**HELEN MAKI KIRK**  
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MRS JUNE EATON

**CLYDE & GRACE KNAPP**  
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**LILY HIVALA KORPI**  
MR & MRS DOUGLAS MARSHALL

**RAY J KOSKI**  
MRS MAXINE KOSKI

**SYLVIA KOSKI**  
MRS ESTHER PEKKALA  
DR KENNETH SEATON

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MRS MARY KUUSISTO

**GEORGEANNE LAITALA-TAYLOR**  
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**DARYL FURGASON LAITILA**  
MR & MRS CARL BERRY  
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MS H ANNELI JOHNSON  
MR WILLIAM LAITILA

**ELI & HELMI LAITILA**  
MS KAREN LAITILA JOHNSON

**ARMAS LAUHA**  
MR ERIC LAUHA

**MARY ELLEN & IDA LEHIKONEN**  
DR U ALBERT LEHIKONEN

**WAINO A "POP" & E ELIZABETH  
(TUORI) LEHTO**  
DR & MRS PAUL LEHTO

*continued on page 17*

## Memorials... given in memory of friends and loved ones (continued)

**CLAUDE H LEINONEN**  
MR & MRS DENVER LEINONEN  
**REV ANTTI LEPISTO (FORMER**  
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**REV DR ANTTI LEPISTO**  
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MR & MRS RICHARD CHESLAK  
MR DONALD DAVIDSON  
MS SUSANN DEVRIES  
MR & MRS MATTHEW ECKMAN  
MR & MRS PATRICK FALGIER  
MS ANNA FISCHER  
DR SYLVIA & MR SIDNEY  
FLEISHMAN  
MS PAT FOSTVEDT  
MR & MRS PAUL FREDERICKSON  
MRS ELIZABETH GLASOE  
MS KRISTIN HEBRANK  
MRS AINO LEPISTO HUSEN  
MR & MRS LAURI ISAACSON  
MS ARDIS JACOBSON  
MR & MRS RAY JERD  
MR & MRS JERRY JOHNS  
MS ELIZABETH JOHNSON  
MR & MRS ROBERT JOHNSON  
DR & MRS THEODORE JOHNSON  
MRS SHIRLEY KELTTO  
REV DALE & DR JEANNE  
KEMPPAINEN  
REV DR & MRS RUDOLPH  
KEMPPAINEN  
MS WYNNE KENAT  
DR & MRS JOHN KILTINEN  
MR & MRS PAUL KNUUTI  
MR LAURI KOSKI  
MRS MARY KUUSISTO  
MS KAREN LAFOILLE  
MR & MRS KENNETH LAHTI  
MRS JANE LEPISTO  
MR & MRS VEIKKO LEPISTO  
MR JOHN MARQUARDT  
DR & MRS ROGER MATTSON  
MS BONNIE MATUSESKE  
MR & MRS PHIL NAST  
MS ANN NIEDRINGHAUS  
REV & MRS LESLIE NIEMI  
MS JANE OLSON  
MRS KAREN MALILA PALMER  
MR & MRS PAAVO PELKONEN  
MS HELMI RAASKA  
MRS HELEN RANKINEN  
MR & MRS ANSSI RANNIKKO  
MRS AUDREY RATKOVICH  
MR & MRS GARY SAARI  
DR KENNETH SEATON  
MR RAYMOND STEINBIS  
MS MARY STREUFERT  
MR & MRS J HOWARD TAMMINEN  
REV & MRS GARY TERRIO  
MR & MRS HARRY THEISEN  
MRS HELEN TOIVONEN  
MS ARLENE TUCKER  
MR & MRS ROBERT ULLAND  
MS ARLENE VLAHOS  
MR & MRS PHILIP WUORI  
**MARY & VICTOR LEPISTO**  
MR & MRS CHARLES ANDERSON  
**NANCY LEPISTO**  
MR & MRS VEIKKO LEPISTO  
**ESTHER WENDELA LINDBERG**  
BETH COLLMAN ESTATE  
**LOVED ONES OF MRS JEANNE TERRY**  
MRS JEANNE TERRY

**LOVED ONES OF MR & MRS FRITZ**  
**WILSON**  
MR & MRS FRITZ WILSON  
**REV RICHARD MACKEY**  
REV & MRS LESLIE NIEMI  
**CHARLES MAKI**  
MRS PATRICIA MAKI  
**NORMAN A MAKI**  
MR & MRS WILLIAM MAKI  
**MR & MRS NICK MANNISTO**  
MR & MRS JAMES STOOER  
**FLORENCE MARIUCCI**  
MRS HELEN ESALA  
**BEATRICE MEYERS**  
MR CLYDE ANDERSON  
MS JULIE BADEL  
MR & MRS JOHN BERG  
MS ELVI CHICANNTEK  
MRS MONA ELLIOTT  
MS LORRAINE FOLLARD  
MRS HERTTA HOLFELD  
MR & MRS CARL HYYPIO  
MR HAROLD JARVINEN  
MS MARTHA JUKKALA  
MR DAVID KLEE  
MR & MRS CARL KUKKONEN  
MR & MRS JAMES KURTTI  
MR & MRS RAYMOND LESCELIUS  
MS ALMA LUOMA  
MR DONALD MAKI  
MR & MRS GEORGE MANNINEN  
MARDELL MARSYLA  
MR DAVID MEYERS  
MRS EDITH NIEDERER  
DR & MRS ROBERT NOMINELLI  
MS IRENE RUOHONEN  
DR KENNETH SEATON  
MR & MRS WILLIAM STAFFORD  
TRI-COUNTY COUNTRY 4H CLUB,  
SPARTA, MI  
DR & MRS ROBERT UBELOHDE  
**PHILIP R MICHEL**  
MRS SANDRA SEATON MICHEL  
**JEAN WEALTON MICHELS**  
MR GARY MICHELS  
**ANDY MIILU**  
MS MARCIA MIILU RIDER  
**TAUNO MURTO**  
MR & MRS PHILIP WUORI  
**REV K V & IMPI MYKKANEN**  
MRS OLGA MYKKANEN WILLIAMS  
**KAARLO W NASI**  
MR & MRS WILLIAM NASI  
**COLLEEN GRACE EKOLA NAYBACK**  
REV & MRS HENRY AUKEE  
THE HON RUBEN NAYBACK  
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MR & MRS WILBERT HEIKKINEN  
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MRS RUTH NIEMI  
**KARL, HELMI & ERIC NISSI**  
MR & MRS HARRY MARSHALL  
**MARTIN OJA**  
MRS MARIE OJA  
**SANFORD & HILDA OJALA**  
MS ELAINE OJALA  
**WILFRED A PAGEL**  
MRS HELEN PAGEL  
**PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF**  
**MARY ABADI**  
MRS MARY ABADI  
**OSCAR & DENNIS PEKKALA**  
MRS ESTHER PEKKALA

**LAILA E PELTO**  
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**MAE SHOUP**  
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**GORDON SIBILSKY**  
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Finlandia University gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following gifts this year:

- \$639,000 from an anonymous donor for capital improvements to Wargelin Hall and the College of Health Sciences, and a faculty endowment for visiting professors of Finnish or Finnish American heritage.
- John Kulju's gift of \$42,000 will provide support to the Finnish American Heritage Center Archives and unrestricted annual scholarships.
- It was Robert Turunen's wish that his gift of \$110,000 be used to honor his sister thereby establishing the Lucia Esther Turunen scholarship for nursing students.
- Waino Wahtera's gift of \$290,000 will support improvements to the College of Health Sciences.
- Charles and Lucille Gebhardt directed \$338,000 of their total gift of \$562,000 to the Charles and Lucille Gebhardt Endowed Scholarship. The Gebhardt scholarship was established in July 2000.

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## Donors to the Finnish American Historical Archive & Museum Collection

*It was a year unlike any other at the Finnish American Heritage Center and Historical Archive. With the Copper Country playing host for FinnFest USA 2013, we spent months preparing for the thousands of people who came to the area for that event. The newly-dedicated Wiljanen Community Hall (described in an article elsewhere in this issue) received a new coat of paint and had a hardwood floor installed, perfect for the many events that took place in the FAHC during FinnFest.*

*As a result of FinnFest, the Heritage Center is now home to new exhibits donated by festival patrons — the “Finnish” photography by “Helsingin Sanomat” photographer Vesa Oja; “Hunttarit!” an exhibit about Finnish-American hunters created by Ilja Koivisto of the Hunting Museum of Finland; and “Finnish Smoke Cabin and Log Construction,” “Finnish Churches, Chapels, and Icons” by Finnish artist Seppo Latvala. The Latvala exhibits were made possible by the generous support of David and Elsa Brule of Iron Mountain, MI.*

*Donors on this side of the ocean were equally generous. The Heritage Center is now home to a hand-crafted wooden boat, which was created in the Copper*

*Country and is now on indefinite loan from the Michigan State University Museum (see related article). Other recent gifts among the 100-plus donations this year include an early 1900s wedding dress, an accordion, a conductor’s baton and trumpet belonging to Victor Taipale, and collections of archival records from the Minnesota-based Koivun Kaiku kantele ensemble, as well as the Painesdale (MI) Apostolic Lutheran Church, the Rock (MI) Co-operative Store and a photo collection from Lanisville (MA).*

*The FAHC remains committed to the collection and preservation of Finnish-North American history and we invite donors to contact us regarding possible gifts. In particular, we encourage the donation of original records and documents, such as diaries, journals, letters, society minutes and photos. Please direct queries to Archivist Joanna Chopp at [Joanna.chopp@finlandia.edu](mailto:Joanna.chopp@finlandia.edu) or 906-487-7347. Patrons can see regular updates of Heritage Center activity by visiting the FAHC’s Facebook page, where special events and some donations are posted.*

*The Finnish American Heritage Center gratefully acknowledges the following donors, in-kind donors and volunteers:*

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Michigan Technological University Archives, Houghton, MI  
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Painesdale Apostolic Lutheran Church, Painesdale, MI  
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## New Faces Around Finlandia Athletics



### Kristan Schuster

Head Volleyball Coach, Senior Women's Administrator

After spending a season as the Head Coach of Finlandia's inaugural volleyball program in 2000-2001, followed by twenty years of high school coaching, Coach Schuster has returned to the Lions. As the former head coach of Hancock Central High School,

Schuster amassed a 316-132 record, and received Coach of the Year honors during the 2000, 2001 and 2003 seasons. While at Hancock, Schuster also served as the school's athletic director between 2009 and 2011.

"Having the opportunity to bring a coach like Kristan back to the Lion's program will undoubtedly be the catalyst to resurrecting our volleyball program to being a solid DIII competitor," comments Chris Salani, director of athletics. "I have full confidence in her competitive nature, excellent communication skills, networking and recruiting ability to develop and support a volleyball environment that is representative of the type of program all NCAA institutions aspire to have."

Schuster earned a Master's of Science in Spanish Teaching from the University of León, Spain in 2010 and a Teaching Minor in Spanish from Northern Michigan University in 2006.

### Brittany Williams

Head Softball Coach

"We are extremely excited to welcome Coach Williams as the new coach for our women's softball program," said director of athletics Chris Salani. "She is recognized as a 'rising' and energetic coach with both an



excellent playing and coaching pedigree; and through our search process, it was evident that Coach Williams will be an excellent fit not only with the women's softball program, but with our entire Finlandia community."

Williams comes to Finlandia after serving as the head softball coach (2011-2013) and assistant softball coach (2010-2011) at Pasadena City College in Pasadena, CA. During her time at Pasadena City College, Williams assisted student-athletes in moving to the next level, including three players who went on to play at the Division I level.

Williams has also served as the assistant softball coach at DI Lafayette College in Easton, PA from 2009 to 2010.

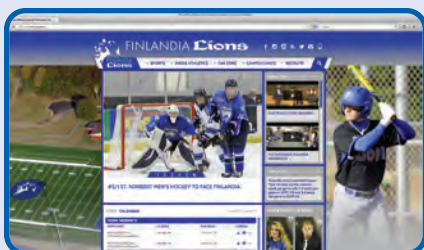
Williams earned her Bachelor's Degree in kinesiology from Sonoma State University in 2009. She also earned a Master's in coaching/athletic administration from Concordia University (Irvine, CA) in 2011.

### Alison Regal

Strength & Conditioning Coach and Academic Coordinator

"Regal adds a key component to the Athletics Department as the Strength & Conditioning Coach and Academic Coordinator. She comes to Finlandia after a stint at Michigan Technological University as the Strength and Conditioning Graduate Assistant. In addition, her academic experience will provide academic guidance to our student-athletes."

While at Michigan Tech, Regal completed her NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist Certification, and as a graduate assistant, she was a lecturer for various physical education and psychology classes.



## Finlandia's Athletic Website gets a Makeover

After three years of having our first athletic specific website, Finlandia Athletics has again worked with Sidearm Sports to give their website a new look. The goal in this re-work with our website host was to give the website a fresh, clean look and to keep up with the changing technological advances being made within the fervid pace of our social media world.

This change includes color photos of Finlandia student-athletes in action and Finlandia facilities in the background. The website includes links to things such as the Finlandia Athletics

Facebook page, Twitter page (@fu\_athletics), YouTube channel, and a chance to receive text updates of your favorite Finlandia team.

The website continues to have write-ups on your favorite Finlandia sports teams, schedules (including a composite calendar), information regarding upcoming camps and clinics, places for potential recruits to connect with coaches, and links for live streams of Finlandia athletics, whether it is video, audio, and/or live stats.

If you haven't already, please go to [www.fulions.com](http://www.fulions.com) to check out the new design and follow Finlandia Athletics.

Regal earned her Bachelor's Degree in health promotion and wellness from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she was a member of the women's varsity soccer team. She earned a Master's in applied cognitive science and human factors from Michigan Technological University in 2013.



### Will Williams

Head Baseball Coach and Facility & Game Event Coordinator

"We are happy to have William Williams as our head baseball coach, and as such, he will direct the baseball program, scheduling of the Paavo Nurmi Center and McAfee Field, and coordinate home athletic events for Finlandia," according to

director of athletics, Chris Salani.

Williams has been involved with the Finlandia athletics programs for the past three years, as assistant baseball coach and assistant sports information director. Prior to his work at Finlandia, Williams played baseball for four years at Finlandia.

Williams earned his Bachelor's Degree in sports management from Finlandia University in 2011.

### Terry Klemett

Head Women's Basketball Coach

Klemett comes to Finlandia after serving the past three years as an assistant men's basketball coach (2010-2013) at Michigan Technological University under Head Coach Kevin Luke. During his time at Michigan Tech, Klemett assisted the team to three straight winning seasons, two GLIAC North Division Conference titles, and a Sweet 16 birth in the 2013 National Tournament.

Klemett had a nine-year international professional playing career with stops in Finland and Mexico. In addition, while the head women's basketball coach in Forssa Finland, in 2006-07, he helped lead the team to a Division I qualification for the first time in 15 years, with a 15-8 record.

"We're extremely excited to have Terry as our next head women's coach," commented Chris Salani. "Coach Klemett brings an extensive knowledge of the sport and perhaps an unparalleled work ethic when it comes to the sport of basketball itself." "He is recognized not only locally but regionally as a 'to-go-to' basketball individual, and we'll look to him with his extensive basketball network to help identify exceptional student-athlete recruits for the future, as well as providing the additional discipline, support and structure our women's program will continue to need as we align opportunities strategically for women's basketball and our athletics program."



*Aurora Battalion Jr. ROTC Raise  
Commemorative Flag*

### Finlandia Adds Flagpole Alcove at McAfee Field

On Thursday, September 26, 2013 Finlandia University, with its Board of Trustees, held a ceremony to dedicate the addition of a flagpole alcove at McAfee Field. This was made possible by a generous gift by Rev. Melvin Johnson. Rev. Johnson's wish was to honor his sister, Marjorie E. (Johnson) Larson, and his brother-in-law, Duane T. Larson; both of whom were strong proponents of America's freedoms.

The center flagpole in the alcove was fabricated by Dante (Dan) Lorenzetti, dedicated on June 6, 1944 and stood for years on the former Condon Field site. Finlandia University is grateful to Dan and Joan Lorenzetti and their son Michael for re-fabricating the pole and providing the materials to make this alcove a reality.

Present to make remarks and honor the dedication were Rev. Mel Johnson's daughter and current Finlandia Trustee, Kristin Hebrank, and Suomi alum Dan Lorenzetti and Family.



**Kelsey Norz**, Senior in Graphic Design (ISAD), recently had her work selected for inclusion in the international book, *Keep Delete: Turning Messages into Keepsakes*. The book featured work by students, graphic designers and artists from around the world. Kelsey completed the work as part of the course requirements in ARD 223 during the spring 2012 semester.

**Jana (Riutta) Underwood ('07)** a registered nurse, assistant director of nursing at Valley View Villa in Fort Morgan, CO, received Life Care Centers of America's Mountain States Division Whatever It Takes and Then Some Award on Sept. 11, 2012, for her dedication to customer service.

**Shannon Miller and Stephanie LaMore ('13)** were commissioned into the U.S. Army as Second Lieutenants on Saturday, May 4, 2013. This is a special honor as completing both the rigors of the nursing program and an intense ROTC curriculum is quite an accomplishment. As new nurses, Shannon and Stephanie are well prepared to enter leadership roles.



### From the Desk of Alumni Relations

As director of alumni relations I have had the opportunity to get to know hundreds of our alumni. One message I hear consistently is that the years spent at Suomi/Finlandia have been some of the best and most memorable

times of their lives. Life after graduation seems to move at a faster pace and even the closest of friends part ways to begin their own journey. Twenty years pass in the blink of an eye. That's just the way it is.

This is why reunions are important, because they allow us to reconnect with others who have shared a special time in our lives. Not a lot compares to the joy felt when friendships are rekindled, laughter is shared and new memories are made.

Are you interested in an annual alumni weekend? What time of year and what type of activities should there be? Are you interested in serving on a reunion planning committee? Please call or email me, I'd like to hear from you!

*Cheryl Ries*

Cheryl Ries, Director of Alumni Relations  
601 Quincy St., Hancock, MI 49930  
Phone: 906-487-7317  
E-mail [alumni@finlandia.edu](mailto:alumni@finlandia.edu)

**Teresa Graff DPT ('05)** after working as a PTA, completed her doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the College of St. Scholastica in 2010. She now works as a physical therapist for Northstar Health Services in Iron River, MI.

**Erin Johnson PTA ('10)** serves as the rehab coordinator for UP Rehab Houghton County Medical Care Facility.

**Donald Muir Watson ('10)** was recently promoted to night shift supervisor at a hospital in Boise, ID.

**Jamie Bellinger ('10)** Elementary Education. Currently serving a second year in the Americorps program, affiliated with the Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw (BHK) Child Development Board. Working in the Baraga Village preschool assisting with improving school readiness by working with children who may have diverse disabilities, behavioral issues, and trouble learning the criteria needed for kindergarten. For more information regarding the Americorps program, please email [jjbellin@bhkfirst.org](mailto:jjbellin@bhkfirst.org).

**Adam Arthur ('12)** is currently employed by Eastbay, an online subsidiary of Footlocker, specializing in athletic footwear and apparel. Arthur writes product copy for basketball, running, cross country, and track & field. Including Athlete Resource Center (ARC) articles as part of an online athlete resource database that offers athletic training advice.

**Mariah Mumford ('12)** The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (UDM Law) is proud to announce that Mumford was awarded the 2012 Dean's Scholarship in recognition of her academic achievements. UDM Law is best known for its innovative curriculum that produces practice and career-ready grads. UDM Law, located in downtown Detroit, has been educating and inspiring law students since 1912.



### Race to Save Old Main!

The River Bank Run is an annual event in Grand Rapids, MI, and will be held on May, 10, 2014 (<http://www.53riverbankrun.com>). Stephen Szuber ('77) and Sue Henning ('77) realized an opportunity for an alumni event with purpose and created "Race to Save Old Main!" a Suomi/Finlandia Alumni Team. Each participant will recruit sponsors with proceeds going to the Old Main Restoration Fund. For more information please go to the "Suomi College/Finlandia University Alumni Association" Facebook page.



*Suomi Roomies gathered for a picnic at McLain State Park.*

## Suomi Roomies, Classes of '75, '76 and '77 Reunion

After a year in the making, the "Suomi Roomies" Reunion was a great success! Alumni from 16 states, as well as Finland and Thailand, came to Hancock to gather with long lost friends and to make new ones. The spirit of fellowship and camaraderie were enjoyed all weekend and continues on today.

The Suomi Roomies reunion planning committee was sure to include the two things that must not be forgotten on a trip down this memory lane, a color tour to Copper Harbor and a trip to McLain State Park. The chartered color tour bus departed from Hancock Friday morning and made a stop at Fort Wilkins. They traveled on to the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge for a leisurely lunch before returning along the lakeside to Hancock in the afternoon. The Alumni Banquet was held on campus Friday evening and the food was fantastic! The attendees had "open mic" time, sharing entertaining memories of their good old Suomi days. David Strang, former dean of students, and his wife Donna were special guests at the dinner.

*continued on page 24*



*Former dean of students, David Strang and Donna Strang were special guests at the Alumni Banquet.*



*Judy Laitinen ('76) and David Crabtree ('75) cruising through the "1975 Suomian".*



*Debbie Harrison ('77), Sue Henning ('77), Monica (Githens) Hill ('76), Stephen Szuber ('77), Antoinette Swett ('77).*



*Affectionately known as the "Hippie Chicks", Melodie (Newlin) Heller ('75) and Maura (Malone) Lunoe ('75) were reunited after 37 years!*



*Randy "Harpo" Miller ('76), Union, MI and Aire (Tenhovuori) Kallio ('75), Kontio, Finland.*



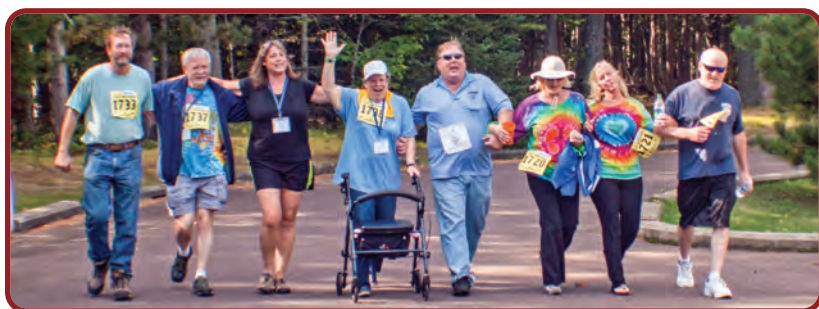


*Paokasem "Doe" Kongchamnian, ('76) from Bangkok, Thailand and Terri (Hilton) MacKenzie, ('76) from Battle Creek, MI at Fort Wilkins.*

Saturday morning began with a bang as the Roomies participated in the first ever, "Back to the Beach" 5K Race at McLain State Park. Participants crossed the finish line amidst fellow Roomies cheering them on waving blue and white pom-poms. Everyone was awarded an official Suomi Roomies medal. Saturday afternoon was a beautiful day in the park with more good food and good times. The White House boys recreated a photo from the 1976 yearbook, including the official White House sign. The sign mysteriously reappeared on campus with the return of these alumni.

The weekend would not have been complete without visits to the Old Main fire escape. There is a rumor circulating that a few brave souls may have even slid down the structure when no one was looking! The weekend also included gatherings at old haunts such as Nutini's Supper Club, Gino's Restaurant and dancing at the Duck!

Thank you, Keith Burkard, ('77) for sharing your photography skills and talent; because of you we have documentation, (evidence?) of a great reunion! Thank you, Eric Sauey, ('75) for supplying the incredible Suomi Roomies keepsake mug; may they be raised proudly to commemorate the weekend. Thank you to all of the Suomi Roomies who were able to join us for the weekend and those who joined us in spirit. Last, but not least, sincere thanks to the Suomi Roomies reunion planning committee: Meg (Beardsley) Gustafson ('76), Monica (Githens) Hill ('76), and Stephen Szuber ('77). I am grateful for being given the opportunity to work with each of you; I am grateful that I can now call all of you my friends. Long live the Suomi Roomies!



*A few of the Saturday morning racers making their way to the "Back to the Beach" finish line.*

## All-school and Suomi Choir Reunion

Finlandia's Office of Alumni Relations stepped up during FinnFest week to welcome more than 150 Suomi College/Finlandia University alumni to an all-school reunion.

All week, an Alumni Welcome Center on the Hoover Center enclosed porch found alumni relaxing, chatting, and enjoying nisu, lemonade, and coffee.

An outdoor Pasty Picnic fundraiser, hosted by the Finlandia Alumni Board (FAB), served more than 100 guests, and a well-attended alumni reception featured a special alumni choir performance in tribute to the late Arthur Hill, longtime Suomi College music professor and choir director.

Professor Hill is a name that resonates with generations of Suomi College alumni. Dr. Hill shared his passion for music with hundreds of Suomi students. A portrait of Hill, was commissioned by the FAB and painted by Finlandia



*The 2013 Finlandia University Alumni and Friends Choir*

art and design student Marlo Russell.

Wrapping up the alumni reunion was a special Sunday morning worship service at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Hancock, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Suomi Special Interest Conference of the ELCA.

For information about future alumni reunions, contact Cheryl Ries, director of alumni relations, at 906-487-7317.





*The White House boys: John West ('76), Gary Hall ('77), Jack Dietz ('76), Dean Spaulding ('76), Randy "Harpo" Miller ('76). Seated, Stephen Szuber ('77), Brad Bradley ('76).*

## In Memory

### **Joel G. Marttila ('31)**

99, Oskar, May 29, 2012

### **Rev. Karl G. Wilkman ('40)**

99, Glendale, AZ, Nov. 1, 2012

### **Sylvia I. Pikkarainen**

95, Hancock, Dec. 30, 2012

### **Clarence R. Monette ('41)**

94, Houghton, May 14, 2013

### **Peter Maierle ('47)**

90, Calumet, Feb. 9, 2013

### **Margaret D. (Gorup) Skufca ('47)**

90, Ishpeming, May 25, 2013

### **Raymond E. Peterson, Sr., ('51)**

89, Chicago, IL, & Hubbell, Sept. 27, 2011

### **Rita J. (Bishop) Peterson ('42)**

89, Chassell, Sept. 9, 2012

### **Carl A. Tamminen ('48)**

87, Mendota Heights, MN, Apr. 2, 2013

### **Martha Eleanore (Johnson) Kulla ('60)**

86, Brush Prairie, WA, Mar. 5, 2013

### **Loretta (Rowe) Blau ('86)**

85, Calumet & Cedar Bay, Nov. 30, 2012

### **Colleen "Grace" Nayback**

85, Southfield, Aug. 14, 2012

### **Andrew "Antti" Conrad Kangas ('47)**

84, Hancock, Nov. 26, 2012

### **Marianne Laila (Alatalo) Keranen ('72)**

84, Alston, July 11, 2013

### **Rev. Dr. Gust A. "Gusty" Wuorinen ('51)**

84, Elida, OH, Sept. 9, 2012

### **C. Rudolph "Rudy" Marin ('49)**

83, Haslett, Mar. 18, 2012

### **Roy M. "Red" Luttinen ('50)**

81, White Pine, Jan. 12, 2013

### **Rev. Richard Mackey ('50)**

80, Warren, OH, July 13, 2012

### **Donald. E. Wanhala ('59)**

79, Tapiola, Mar. 15, 2013

### **Leona Katherine (Pyykkonen) Gustafson ('53)**

77, Green Bay, WI, & Hancock, Jan. 20, 2012

### **Joann (Shimandle) Kehoe ('56)**

76, Eagle River, Aug. 7, 2013

### **Helen K. (Kaarre) Koski ('54)**

78, Marquette, Feb. 11, 2013

### **Shirley A. (Warrick) Zerbst**

74, Houghton, Feb. 25, 2013

### **Loretta Maxine (Chapman) Wisti ('60)**

73, Mason and Chassell, Aug. 3, 2013

### **Karl Mella ('59)**

72, Little Rock, AR, Jan. 20, 2013

### **Judith Ann (Manty) Hambley ('59)**

71, Port Saint Lucie, FL, & White Lake, Mar. 13, 2013

### **Lawrence "Laury" Jukuri ('63)**

71, Laurium, June 10, 2013

### **Paul W. Kaarre ('61)**

71, of Gwinn & Osprey, FL, Oct. 5, 2012

### **Roy M. Kempainen ('59)**

71, Round Lake, IL, June 16, 2012

### **James Paul Brulla ('62)**

70, Manistique, June 17, 2013

### **Betty J. (Wiinamaki) Kalliainen ('64)**

70, Portage Entry, Oct. 6, 2013

### **Martin Logan ('65)**

67, Chassell, Oct. 22, 2012

### **Kenneth R. Frantila ('71)**

65, Franklin Mine, Oct. 3, 2013

### **Gloria Pauline (Saari) Karinen ('67)**

65, Pelkie, Jan. 7, 2013

### **Duane Jon "Butch" Wasberg ('73)**

61, Tamarack City, Oct. 16, 2012

### **Pamella J. (Marshall) Gasparovich ('87)**

57, Ann Arbor, Oct. 4, 2013

### **Darrel John Vertanen ('75)**

57, Canfield, OH, Jan. 24, 2013

### **Daniel John Landen ('83)**

50, Indianahoma, OK, Feb. 26, 2013

### **Katherine Melissa (Kunz) Fisher ('89)**

44, Saint Cloud, FL, Feb. 25, 2013

### **Mary Margaret (Mason) Yonker ('40)**

Muskegon, Sept. 7, 2012

### **Carl Arthur Kulla ('42)**

Brainerd, MN, Jan. 2, 2013

### **Elsa (Kesatie) Dross, ('45)**

Albuquerque, NM, Sept. 14, 2012

### **Judy (Williamson) Watson, ('64)**

Detroit, Nov. 1, 2011

### **Sandra Fay "Sandy" (Nuranen) Ruscio ('62)**

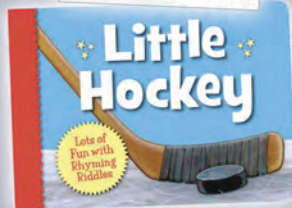
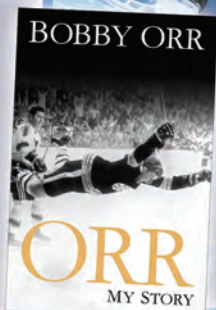
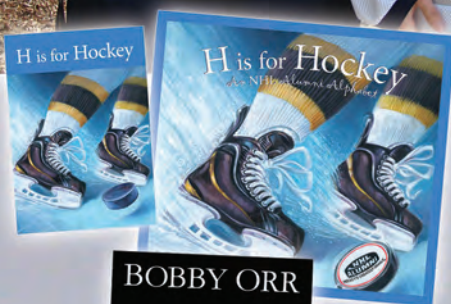
Hancock and Mesa, AZ, June 4, 2013





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Hardcover .....\$16.95

The great game of hockey is introduced from A to Z using simple language for the youngest reader. Topics include fans, goalie, ice, and jersey. Detailed artwork brings the game's action to these sturdy, board book pages.

Board Book version .....\$7.99

### Orr: My Story by Bobby Orr

Bobby Orr is often referred to as the greatest ever to play the game of hockey. No defenseman had ever played the way he did, or received so many trophies, or set so many records, several of which still stand today. But all the brilliant achievements leave unsaid as much as they reveal. They don't tell what inspired Orr, what drove him, what it was like for a shy small-town kid to suddenly land in the full glare of the media. They don't tell what it was like when the agent he regarded as a brother betrayed him and left him in financial ruin. They don't tell what he thinks of the game of hockey today. Penguin Group, 2013

Hardcover .....\$27.95