

the Bridge

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FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY



DONOR EDITION



From the President
PHILIP JOHNSON

"I'll believe it when I see it" a local columnist expressed some years back.

At the time, McAfee Field was nearing completion, the lights were going up, and plans were moving forward to expand athletics programming at Finlandia University, including for the first time in U.P. and Finlandia history, NCAA Division III football. More than one year ago we brought in the leadership needed to build this program and they are doing just that. In September we launched Finlandia's inaugural football season.

We are enhancing the student experience at Finlandia by growing athletics programs from our current 12 to 22. This year we have hired our first head women's and men's tennis coach and our head coach for women's and men's cross country. These two programs will be competing for Finlandia in fall 2016. Following these launches will come women's and men's Nordic skiing, wrestling, women's and men's lacrosse and men's volleyball. These varsity programs will be complemented by junior varsity programs such as we currently have in men's hockey and women's volleyball.

Though all these program enhancements are essential vehicles for achieving our student enrollment, diversity and persistence goals in *Plan 2021*, they are only that, strategic vehicles. Placed alongside our expanding academic offerings and our enhanced student support programming, these growth vehicles best position Finlandia for a most full and durable realization of its highest aspiration: to advance expansive learning that best prepares graduates for the 21st-century workplace and world. This is our vision. It unites us. It compels us. It ultimately sets us apart.

This fall enrollment grew by almost nine percent. Our students are three times more diverse in 2015 than when I began as president in 2007. One in two is from the Upper Peninsula. More are living on campus, enrolled in four-year programs and studying full-time. We have recently been awarded a multi-year, \$1.4 million federal grant for student learning support and \$100,000 for undergraduate student research in Finland from the Paloheimo Foundation. We have completed \$1.3 million in renovations at Paavo Nurmi. In spring 2016 we will complete the Terry Talo Lion's Den at McAfee Field and begin the next \$1.3 million multi-purpose, tennis venue on the north end of the complex. Plans are developing for a residence hall expansion that we hope is ready to receive students by fall 2016. Major donors are being sought to complete renovations needed for the college of health sciences and lead gifts for comprehensive classroom upgrades on our main campus.

It has been an exciting start to the academic year for us. I am confident that what follows in this issue of *the Bridge* will leave you with this same impression.

Not unlike the columnist mentioned above, we may choose to live life opting always to believe only after seeing. I choose to live otherwise. There is too much in life that we will never see unless we first believe. I believe in Finlandia, its story, and its future in higher education. Most of all I believe in our students and their vision for life and for our world. I thank you as well, our friends and alumni, for believing.

Enjoy your read.

Philip Johnson
President



FEATURES

2 MOMENTUM

3 FINLANDIA'S #1 ADVOCATE, KEN SEATON

8 10 YEARS OF TANZANIA

10 HARRINGTON A RISING STAR

12 LETTER FROM VP LENNY KLAVER

24 FINNISH AMERICAN HERITAGE BEING PRESERVED

25 MESSING AND THE LIONS

CAMPUS NEWS4-7

- 25 percent increase in incoming class
- TRIO awarded \$1.4 million grant
- Finlandia receives continuing accreditation

DONOR SECTION15-23

- Fiscal Year 2014-15 Donors (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

ATHLETICS NEWS26-27

- Coach Chase leads men's soccer team to historic season
- Katherine Hannagan hired to lead softball program
- Calumet-native Arnie Kinnunen hired as cross country coach
- Former U.P. champ brought in to start tennis program

ALUMNI NEWS28-29

- Regional alumni chapters forming now
- Alumni reunion sees large crowd



Cover Photo:

Players on the inaugural Finlandia University football team look on the field during the final seconds of the team's first win, a 30-14 win over Maranatha Baptist University on October 3.

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MOMENTUM



When Finlandia University's visioning document *Plan 2021* was made public in 2014, one result it clearly defined is that Finlandia University will sustain an enrollment of 750 students by 2021. The document (available at finlandia.edu/mission-vision-and-commitments) outlined the many things needed to come together to make this possible.

So far, so good.

One year in, the university has grown its student population by nine percent. While the number 537 is well short of 750, it's a clear sign of progress. That progress is especially obvious when looking at the number of incoming students. For the second year in a row Finlandia University has seen growth in its freshman class. This time by an inspiring 25 percent.

That jump in enrollment means a lot to Finlandia. It improves the university's financial stability. Media is portraying some excitement for the university. The dorms are full of students excited about the experience. Morale among students and employees is rising.

Momentum is being gained at Finlandia University.

"We're honored that these students are choosing Finlandia University for their education," Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lenny Klaver said of the growth. "We cannot wait to see what they accomplish while here."

Those accomplishments are the best part about what is happening. Young people are coming to Finlandia for a transformative experience. Through the university's continued focus on providing a whole-person, liberal arts-based education, students are having that transformative experience. The examples you'll read about in this publication illustrate that experience. You'll meet alum Victor Harrington ('08), freshman football player Mitch Messing and junior nursing major Kristy Kerstner. Each of them tell their own Finlandia success story.

At the core of what Finlandia is doing, that's always what matters. Providing students with a transformative experience is what ceaselessly matters to Finlandia University.

"Everything we're doing and everything we plan to do is with student growth and success in mind," President Philip Johnson said.

And indeed, the plans in place will sustain that momentum: expanded on-campus student housing, instructional space upgrades, completion of the College of Health Sciences building, athletics program and facility expansion, and more.

As *Plan 2021* is lived out on a daily basis the results have been amazing, and university officials are confident the momentum will continue, and hope you'll be here to experience the momentum with them.

KEN SEATON

FINLANDIA'S #1 ADVOCATE

Everyone at Finlandia University knows Ken Seaton. Why wouldn't they? The guy has been a fixture at the university for more than a half century. It's not just at Finlandia, either. Some know him well through his activity at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock, some through his involvement with Canal Run, some from his time with D&N Bank (now called FirstMerit Bank), and on Finlandia's campus he's remembered most for his 50 years of service to the university as an active member of the Board of Trustees.

Those that know Ken will tell you similar things. He is always good for a smile. He has a sense of humor everyone loves. Friendly, light hearted, approachable.

What you might expect from a people person like Ken is someone who would love to talk about the great friends he made at Finlandia. And Ken does. Finlandia and its people are like family to him.

However, when Ken is asked what he's most proud of after spending 50 years as a trustee at Finlandia, he'll quickly respond by boasting about the work his fellow trustees and university administration did to keep the university in a position of strength.

"We were put in some hard situations," he said. "I am proud of the support I was able to provide to our leadership, the three presidents I served under most specifically."

That would be the late Ralph Jalkanen, Bob Ubbelohde and Johnson.

"Each of them came to Finlandia at a critical time in the institution's history, and they were the right person at the right time," he said. "We made it through some critical junctures."

For Jalkanen that included making a stand when Lutheran Church of America leadership (LCA) were interested in shutting down, and then eventually in merging the university with another LCA school. Ubbelohde tackled the immensely challenging decision to move from Suomi College, a two-year institution to Finlandia University, a four-year institution. Johnson came into a tough financial situation, and has pulled Finlandia to more stable ground. Maybe more importantly, he has a clear vision for a more stable future for the organization.

"Each of these people were so committed to the university," Seaton said. "I was proud to work with them. Somehow they were able to guide us through trying times to a stronger future."

Each of those decisions altered the future of Finlandia University, and each were decisions that Seaton proudly supported through and through. Seaton is still heavily involved with the school, including attending many events on campus.

"It's family," he said. "I still see Finlandia people all the time."

The relationships gained over 50 years will last forever, and both Finlandia University and Ken Seaton are better off because of it.





BUSINESS SCHOOL AMONG MOST INNOVATIVE

Finlandia University's International School of Business has been ranked among the most innovative small college business departments by Business Research Guide. The ranking was published on the organization's website in September.

Business Research Guide selected and ranked the top 50 from among the qualifying programs. Finlandia University was ranked 25th.

"We're honored to have earned this recognition," said Kevin Manninen, the school's dean. "The International School of Business provides excellent learning opportunities for students interested in a career in business."

FINLANDIA RECEIVES CONTINUING ACCREDITATION

Finlandia University recently received notice from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association for Colleges and Schools (NCA-HLC) of its continuing accredited status. This action follows a March 2015 comprehensive site visit for reaffirmation of accreditation by a commission-approved site team. Finlandia's last comprehensive site visit occurred in 2007. Finlandia has been continuously accredited since 1969.

"We are very happy with the news of receiving continued accreditation with the HLC," VP for Academic and Student Affairs Fredi de Yampert said. "Everyone at the university worked very hard on our self-study and preparing for the site visit. I especially want to thank the team of faculty and staff who helped gather our data and write the self-study."

Learn more about the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association for Colleges and Schools by visiting hlcommission.org. Information on Finlandia's accredited status can always be found at finlandia.edu/accreditation.

DICK ENBERG CREATES RADIO SPOTS

If you turned on the radio in the Copper Country during a Finlandia Lions football game week, you might have been lucky enough to hear the familiar sounds of Major League Baseball Hall of Fame announcer Dick Enberg talking about Finlandia Football.

Ohhhhhh myyyyyy

Enberg is a sportscaster for the San Diego Padres baseball team. Previously he's announced National Football League games, major professional tennis and golf events, and nationally broadcasted NCAA Division I athletics.

Listen to the commercials by visiting finlandia.edu/enberg.

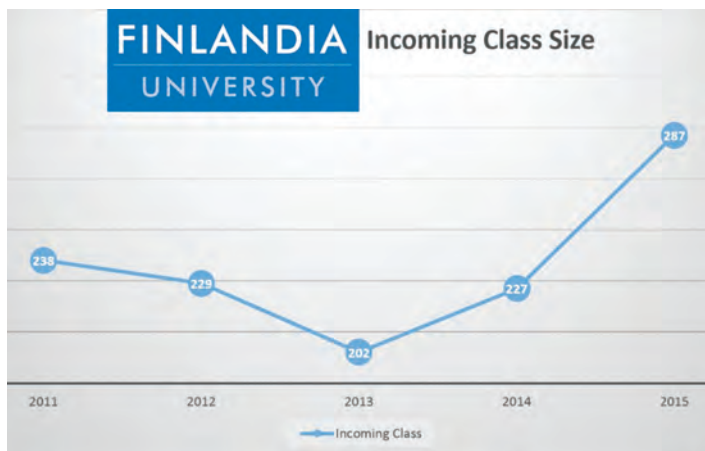


SULLIVAN ('01) TAKES OVER THE REINS AS REGISTRAR AT FINLANDIA

Jason Sullivan has been named registrar at Finlandia University. He is filling the vacancy left by longtime University Registrar Evelyn Goke, who retired at the end of May. Sullivan began his new position on Monday, June 1, moving from his previous position of assistant director of financial aid.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the financial aid office," Sullivan said, noting he specifically enjoyed the opportunity he had to work with so many different people across campus. "I am excited to have the opportunity to continue working with students, faculty and staff in this new role."

Sullivan graduated from Finlandia University in 2001. Later that year he began working in the financial aid office, where he coordinated the student loan program, work-study program, financial aid filings and helped work with families of students.



25 PERCENT INCREASE IN INCOMING CLASS

For the second straight year Finlandia University welcomed a bigger incoming group of students than the year before. This year the jump is 25 percent. At 287 students, it's the second largest incoming group in school history.

"Our campus is buzzing with activity right now," Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lenny Klaver said at the time. "We're honored that these students are choosing Finlandia University for their education, and we cannot wait to see what they accomplish while here."

Overall enrollment at the school is up nearly 9 percent to a total population of 537. Finlandia Hall, the school's lone residence hall, is up more than 20 percent. The total population at the dormitory is the most in school history.

TRIO AWARDED \$1.4 MILLION GRANT

Finlandia University has been awarded \$286,598 annually for the next five years by the U.S. Department of Education to provide students with academic and other support services they need to stay in college and earn a bachelors degree. These students meet income guidelines, are the first in their family to pursue a bachelors degree, or possess a learning or physical disability. Nationally students involved in these federally funded program have achieved higher persistence and graduation rates.

"Every student has the right to an equal opportunity to learn and succeed in college," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a press release. "These grants provide critical support to students who can benefit from extra help and encouragement along their college journey, enabling them to reach their personal goals and contribute to the economic vitality of our nation."

The funding will help Finlandia support 180 students annually for the next five years.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED

The Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA) welcomed Finlandia University to its ranks in early 2015. CCSA is a non-profit consortium that develops, plans and coordinates study abroad programs in predominantly English-speaking countries.

Erin Barnett, Director of Academic Success and Student Life at FinnU, serves as the university's CCSA campus representative. She said her university seeks to develop the whole student through study abroad experiences to help them embrace cultural diversity and explore the idea of vocation from a global perspective.

"CCSA makes traveling abroad easy, providing support and instruction leading up to and throughout the experience," Barnett said.



PALOHEIMO FELLOWS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

In 2015 Finlandia University launched the Paloheimo Fellows Program, a unique educational opportunity designed and implemented by Dr. Hilary Virtanen, director of Finlandia's Finnish and Nordic Studies program.

Each year four students will be selected to participate in a spring-semester seminar combining qualitative research methods from the discipline of anthropology with a basic course in Finnish culture. The course culminates in each student developing an individualized field research program that will take place in May in Tampere, Finland.

The Paloheimo Fellows Program is an innovative expression of Finlandia University's continued engagement with its heritage as an institute of higher learning founded by Finnish immigrants. It is funded by generous grants from the Paloheimo Foundation in Solvang, California, and John and Pauline Kiltinen, of Marquette. The initial group participated last May, and funding has been guaranteed for 2016 and 2017.

TWO GRADUATES HIRED AS ENROLLMENT OFFICERS

Finlandia University Class of 2015 graduates Augustine Brutus and Micah Laban were hired as enrollment officers by Finlandia University this past summer. Both are former student athletes and academic standouts in Finlandia's International School of Business.

"We're excited that we are able to bring Micah and Augustine into the admissions team," Director of Admissions Travis Hanson said. "Both have excelled academically and were great ambassadors of the university here as students. Now they're on the road spreading the Finlandia message all over the Midwest, and helping others follow their passions here at Finlandia."

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY BACK ON CAMPUS

In mid October Finlandia University held a mobile food pantry for the second straight year. A collaborative effort from the Western Upper Peninsula Food Bank, campus ministry, the community, Feeding America Western Michigan and more than 60 Finlandia student volunteers made this possible.

With the help from all the volunteers, 16,408 pounds of food were handed out to roughly 1,013 community members. Many of those who received the food arrived hours before food was distributed, and Servant Leadership House director René Johnson estimated that at some points more than 500 people were waiting in line for the food.

FINNISH AMERICAN REPORTER WINS FOUR AWARDS

The Finnish American Reporter was recognized early this year with four Good News Awards. The awards included a news story by David Maki, feature story by Minna Salomaa, editorial by James Kurtti and a photo by Kurtti.

Nearly 50 media professionals and groups from throughout the Upper Peninsula were recognized for the positive stories they wrote and programs they produced during 2014 at the 18th annual Good News Awards luncheon held at Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette.

The FAR also unveiled a new website this year; visit the website at finnishamericanreporter.com.

FINLANDIA FRIENDS AWARD INTRODUCED

Finlandia University introduced Finlandia Friends, a tuition initiative that rewards enrolled students for referring friends to join them at Finlandia, in early 2015.

"The Finlandia Friends Award intends to grow Finlandia's learning community with academically successful, socially responsible and community-engaged students," President Philip Johnson said. "It achieves this by more intentionally engaging Finlandia's most effective recruiters: its students."

To learn more about the program, and Finlandia's other tuition initiatives visit finlandia.edu/future.



SECOND ANNUAL KEWEENAW JOB FAIR

Michigan Works!, Finlandia University and The Finlandia CEO Club hosted the second annual Keweenaw Job Fair in April at the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock.

The fair featured regional employers looking to fill career, full-time, part-time and seasonal positions. It was created for Finlandia University students and Keweenaw residents that are in the market to jump start their career.

In 2014 the event saw nearly 200 job seekers come through the door; it's estimated a similar number attended the second annual event.

FINLANDIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES – NEW MEMBERS

Board governance at Finlandia continues to go from strength to strength. New members elected since 2014 include Dr. Sarah Kemppainen, Ms. Shelby Hamar, and Mr. Alan Fries ('76). Each of these trustees bring the human qualities and professional acumen needed to advance Finlandia's mission and vision. This past September, Dr. Art Puontinen was elected to the board and will begin serving in January 2016. Art previously served on the board in the 1990s.

The board has also seen retirements: Mr. Ron Helman, Ms. Patricia Van Pelt and Mr. Ken Seaton. These three trustees represent a total of 78 years of service on the Board of Trustees. All three of these trustees were granted emeritus status for their distinguished service. One of them, however, stands alone for years of service, leadership and generosity (see page 3).



FINLANDIA BREAKS GROUND ON FIRST PHASE OF FIELDHOUSE

Prior to Finlandia's first NCAA Division III football game, university leadership had something a little more long-term in mind as they announced the start of construction on the first phase of the athletics fieldhouse at McAfee Field.

"This is a good day for Finlandia," President Philip Johnson said. "This project marks another step toward meeting the commitments we have made in our strategic vision, *Plan 2021*."

Johnson was joined by several members of the community for a groundbreaking ceremony at McAfee Field (pictured above). The project was designed by OHM Advisors, with LJJ Construction serving as the general contractor on the project. Finlandia is investing \$700,000 for this phase of the project.

The 3,970-square foot structure will house the "Terry Talo Lion's Den," accommodating a football roster of 110 student athletes.

HANCOCK'S JARED KORPELA NAMED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jared Korpela was named student representative for the Finlandia University Class of 2015. Korpela, a Hancock native, was chosen for this role by the Finlandia Academic Achievement Committee based on the success he has had inside and outside of the classroom.

"This is an incredible honor for me," Korpela said. "I know that any member of our class could have earned this recognition, as all of us have worked hard to get to this point."

Korpela was an accounting major who received a bachelor's degree in business administration. He graduated with a grade point average of 3.97, and graduated Summa Cum Laude. As student representative, Korpela delivered a speech at the university's commencement exercises. Aside from the excellent GPA, Korpela worked nearly 40 hours a week, participated in the FUEL Studio and was the president of the university's accounting club.





That's exactly how it ended up working out. Johnson, who lived in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia prior to taking the job at Finlandia, worked with university officials, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churches throughout the Upper Peninsula and contacts in Tanzania to set up the original trip, which included a total of 18 people.

"For the first two years it was half Finlandia students and half students from Lutheran churches in the U.P.," Johnson said. "The experience was a bit different in those early years as it was really about developing our relationships."

Those two years were special for Panasiewicz, who went on the first trip as a senior at FinnU and the second trip as a chaperone.

You can't find someone who's participated in the Finlandia University Service & Learning in Tanzania Experience who won't unreservedly speak about the remarkable experience.

"It was absolutely life changing," said Becky Panasiewicz, a 2006 graduate of Finlandia who was lucky enough to experience the trip twice. "There is no way you can have that experience, and not be changed for the rest of your life."

Panasiewicz's statement is bold. But it's just that kind of life-defining opportunity, rich in possibility for personal growth, that keeps program director René Johnson excited about it every year.

"My years of living in East Africa taught me how to be a better human, and I get to witness that transformation in our students," Johnson said. "It's only three weeks, so it's only a seed, but you can see the beginnings of this shift in perspective in each and every student that takes part."

Johnson was hired at Finlandia in 2005 specifically to develop a connection between Finlandia and Tanzania as part of a grant from Thrivent Financial that was co-written by Judy Budd and Rev. Jimalee Jones.

"The idea was to develop a servant leadership presence on campus," Johnson said.

"One idea was to take advantage of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Companion Synod Relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania."

"I can't believe that was 10 years ago already," she said. "I found the people there to be so loving, so welcoming, so accepting. It was a beautiful experience. The culture is so active and fun. The music, the dancing, it was all so beautiful."

While there Panasiewicz and crew helped build a library and a community kitchen. More importantly, though, they learned how life worked in a different part of the world.

"The welcoming nature of the families was heartwarming," she said. "That's definitely what I took away the most from my experience. Some of them were in what we would see as survival mode, living in small homes that may or may not have adequate roofs, but yet they were incredibly welcoming."

The whole experience still holds a special place in Panasiewicz's heart. She hopes students at Finlandia realize the opportunity they have.

"This will broaden their perspective of the world, and give them a hands-on experience with a culture that has a lot of lessons to provide," she said. "Go in with no expectations, and open up your eyes to just how big and different the world can be."

That thought has never swayed from Johnson's eyes as she created plans for the trip. By the third year, she had come up with a structure that provided the best possible experience: Accept a few less students, make the work more interactive and focus on putting Finlandia students right in the midst of day-to-day life in Tanzania.

10 YEARS OF TANZANIA

2015 TRIP MARKED 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE & LEARNING IN TANZANIA EXPERIENCE

"By the third year, we started to have relationships in place," Johnson said. "We now have some really dear friends who receive our group with a lot of enthusiasm. That's one of the key markers of this experience. It's critical for us to interact with Tanzanians (not just Tanzania) to create a more intimate, authentic experience where we are able to truly interact with people and learn from them."

Students stay with local hosts. They use public transportation. The experience is, if nothing else, truly genuine.

"I love it because I get to see Africa fresh again every year through the eyes of the students," she said. "The friendships we've developed there are very authentic; Finlandia is a known entity in the Lutheran church in Tanzania."

The experience is still everything it was meant to be.

"It opened my eyes," said Kristy Kerstner, a junior nursing student who made the trip in May of this year. "I wanted to travel, I wanted to see a different culture and actually experience it. That's what we got to do on a daily basis with our host families."

Kerstner was one of four nursing students who participated in a new twist to the trip. In 2010 Finlandia nursing instructor Mark Miron started attending. It took him a couple of years, but he eventually developed a relationship with staff at Muhimbili National Hospital.

"The nursing students who make the trip get a great experience," Miron said. "They get exposed to a healthcare system that is a lot different than ours. It gives you some perspective on how fortunate we are."

The hospital is a 1,500-bed facility, and is the only large hospital in a country with a population of more than 45 million.

"Every morning there is a huge crowd waiting outside of the hospital hoping to be seen," Miron said. "It gives you a different perspective of the world. What is seen in Tanzania is more typical than what we see here when you think about the population of the world."

Kerstner, a Rapid River, Michigan native, certainly had her eyes opened by the experience. She spent time in the birthing unit, pediatric burn unit and emergency room at the hospital.

"We really have nothing to complain about here," Kerstner said. "It opened my eyes to that. We complain a lot about our healthcare system. Over there they try so hard to utilize the resources they have, technology is pretty much a zero over there."

The results aren't surprising. According to the World Health Organization life expectancy is 61 for men and 65 for women in Tanzania, compared to 76 and 81 in the United States. Infant mortality rates are 35 per 1,000 compared to just six in the United States (according to World Bank).

"The acceptance of death is a striking difference," Miron said. "It's a lot different over there."

The hospital they work at has an emergency room that's about the same size as the one in Hancock, but the city has a population equal to that of Chicago. The differences are stark. Students get to see that on a daily basis when there. It's hard, but it's meaningful.

"This is a truly developing country," Kerstner said. "Their way of life is filled with challenges. We don't realize how good we have it here."

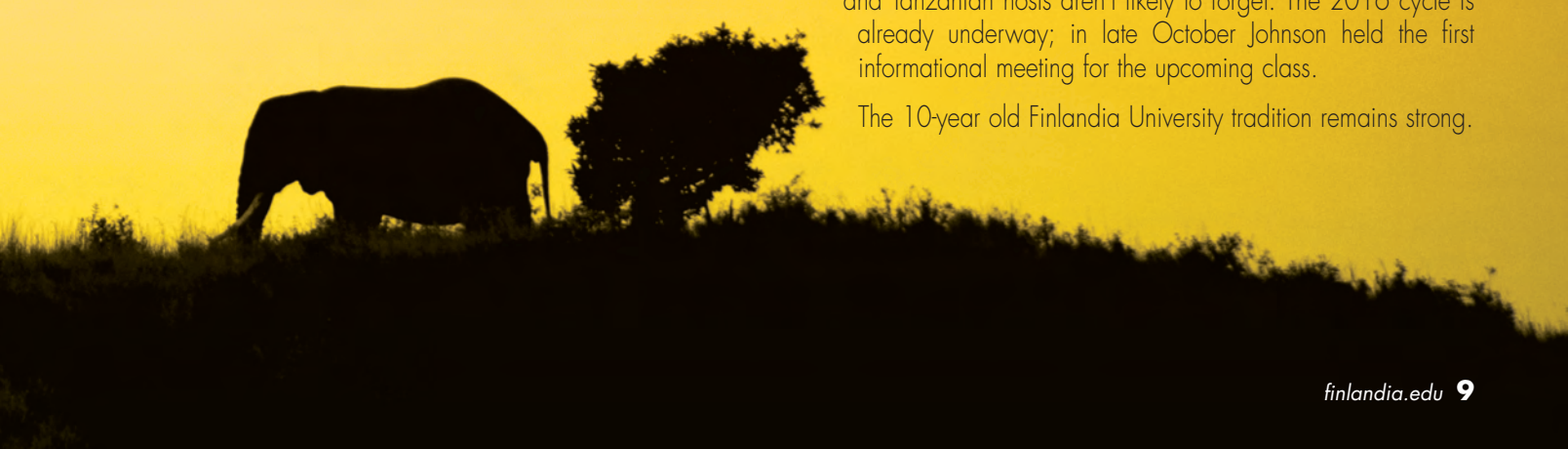


Finlandia students and staff help on the floor when there, and sometimes there's more than that.

"[Local healthcare providers] are often learning on the job," Kerstner said, meaning that Finlandia students weren't just observers while at the hospital, but also helpers and occasionally teachers in certain circumstances.

It's a meaningful, authentic and real experience that the students and Tanzanian hosts aren't likely to forget. The 2016 cycle is already underway; in late October Johnson held the first informational meeting for the upcoming class.

The 10-year old Finlandia University tradition remains strong.





HARRINGTON A RISING STAR IN UPPER PENINSULA

**UP HEALTH
SYSTEM**

THIS TIME FOR SUCCESS OFF THE COURT AS HE MOVES UP THE RANKS IN U.P. HEALTHCARE MARKETING

It was only eight years ago that Victor Harrington was spending late nights in the lab at the Jutila Center, sporting a Finlandia Lions jersey on the basketball court and beginning an internship as a graphic designer at the local hospital in Hancock.

Flash forward to 2015, and Harrington is attending 5 a.m. meetings with world-class specialty physicians, leading a team of 10 talented creative types and handling a sizable advertising budget that spans through many

outlets. He is now serving as the regional director of marketing and business development at the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's largest private employer, UP Health System.

"If someone told me that in eight years I'd be a regional director of a large healthcare organization, I would have laughed," Harrington said.

Those that know him best are not surprised. For years he showed obvious signs of leadership, his professional demeanor was noticeable from afar and he never stopped pushing himself to be better.

"Above all you have to be a go getter," Harrington said of his career. "You always have to be looking for ways to improve yourself, and not only live up to your own expectations on a daily basis, but exceed them."

Harrington is often noted for his height. And for good reason. At 6-foot-7 he'd turn heads on most NCAA basketball rosters. As a Finlandia Lion it was a huge asset. He was a standout for the team, earning a spot in the 1,000-point club. He is currently seventh in all-time scoring for the Lions.

While impressive, the numbers on the court aren't what helped Harrington after his playing career ended.

"Being a part of Finlandia athletics, I was able to develop leadership and communication skills," he said. "That has helped me tremendously. Being an athlete helped me just as much as being a student, the lessons you learn on the court are invaluable."

It is never one without the other. Harrington was an art student at Finlandia, working his way through a tough curriculum in FinnU's graphic design program.

"I was proud, and still am proud, to have been an art major," Harrington said. "I'm proud of the foundation that I have."

It is not your typical mix – an athlete being an art major – but it is a mix that created lightning in a bottle for Harrington, who grew up in nearby Chassell.

"I loved the facilities that were available to me at the Jutila Center," he said. "I have fond memories of having top-of-the-line equipment available to me to get my work done. The spaces were, and still are, so beautiful with everything I needed to develop my creativity."

The International School of Art & Design at Finlandia University provides so many advantages to its students. Four years of private studio space, a diverse staff with real-world experience, access to facilities that would make much larger schools blush, a focus on the Finnish model of education and the most important thing: intimate access to creative people who can help a student grow.

"Working with my instructors in the art and design department, I received so much individualized attention," Harrington recalls. "It was very similar to working with someone in the workplace. The transition to a professional workplace was made much easier for me because of it."

Harrington started at Portage Health in Hancock as an intern, and then landed a full-time gig as a graphic designer after graduating in 2008. He held that position for a few years, and eventually worked his way to earn more responsibility.

"I put myself out there quite a bit building relationships with people, exposing myself to different parts of the business," he said. "With that came more responsibility. Eventually I was promoted to marketing specialist, where I was helping with strategy and working with vendors. Eventually that led to a director role."

In 2014, Portage Health went through a joint venture with LifePoint Hospitals, which led to the hospital affiliating with Marquette General Hospital. Eventually Bell Hospital in nearby Ishpeming became involved as well. When the group of hospitals rebranded as UP Health System, Harrington was able to once again step up and take on more responsibility, moving up to his current role in Marquette.

"It's a privilege for me to be in this position," Harrington said. "I work with great people with many different skill sets and responsibilities to produce amazing results as a team. The opportunity to design isn't there as much, but with the background I have, I feel like the quality of our collateral is able to stay at a high level."

The work is seen daily on television, radio and other advertising outlets throughout the Upper Peninsula. It was also noticed quickly by Finlandia staff, who chased after Harrington to serve on the school's alumni board. In the summer of 2014 he accepted the offer.

"It's great to provide input, to have that contact with administrators at Finlandia, to see what Finlandia is doing moving forward," he said. "It's good to be able to feel like you're making a difference."

He is now one of more than a dozen board members who serves on the Finlandia Alumni Board. The group meets annually in Hancock, but also talks throughout the year via e-mail and conference calls.

"Finlandia is our foundation, that's where we laid our roots," he said. "It's good to get back on campus to see the students, see how the university is progressing and try to do my part to improve the future."

The transformation of the young star for Finlandia University on the court, to the star for the university off the court is impressive, and undoubtedly, an asset for everyone involved moving forward.

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY



Hello to all of our Finlandia alumni and friends. I hope all of you are finding this issue of *the Bridge* informative and interesting. The production of this annual publication contains a great amount of work and care of colleagues Michael H. Babcock and Brad Beaudette in the communications and marketing office, as well as the tremendous amount of time and effort Doreen Korpela puts forth in assisting President Philip Johnson and myself in our advancement work. To not acknowledge and offer gratitude to these fine professionals would certainly be remiss. As well, the excellent work of faculty, staff, students, fellow administrative colleagues and the board of trustees is remarkable. And, of course, President Johnson and I offer heartfelt thanks to you as donors and advocates for the help you provide in furthering our efforts to move the university forward.

The work toward moving Finlandia ahead is a labor of love. It's not merely a job, profession or desire to provide support; it's a calling that many people, including you, find as our personal missions to invest time and talent to the betterment of individual lives and society at large. Finlandia's mission of being "a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth and service" embodies the calling we undertake. It is a privilege to be a part of

this lofty endeavor. Changing lives for the better is a calling I believe we all share. It is perpetuating and enduring.

The calling and work I mention is not always easy. Looking at higher education today finds a realm of growing challenges. Keeping college affordable, reducing student debt, as well as offering programs and services that provide paths to careers and callings for our students takes a collective effort.

The aforementioned are themes that continue to garner headlines. Meeting such challenges is why we developed *Plan 2021* to guide our work. A year into its implementation we are clearly showing progress. Increasing enrollment toward a carrying capacity of approximately 750 students by 2021 is vital. The class of incoming students (287) reflects a growth of 25 percent, as does an overall enrollment boost of 9 percent to 537 students. We are also working hard to increase retention. Those are surely the two key catalysts to the trajectory we are determined to maintain throughout the course of the plan.

To meet the needs of our students while keeping our tuition as a private college on the lower end, there is a need to increase private support. We are broadening our base of donors to the Finlandia Fund which helps meet institutionally based financial aid



for students and supports academic and co-curricular programs and services as well as general operational needs. In addition, President Johnson and I are working tirelessly to raise money in the form of major and transformational gifts for three major areas: The College of Health Sciences (facilities, program needs and scholarships), a complete renovation and remodeling of all classrooms on the main campus, and Phase II of McAfee Field.

To the right you'll find a list of ways to support Finlandia. We kindly ask you to consider these in your giving decisions. With all respect to means, if you are not an annual donor, please consider a first step within your capacity and continuing with additional gifts as time goes. To those who are consistent with gifts to Finlandia, we ask that you kindly consider an increase to help meet the growing cost for students and the campus. If you are considering a possible planned gift, please give me a call or drop me an e-mail to have an initial discussion. And finally, those among readers of The Bridge who have the ability of a transformational gift as a legacy to your family name or that of another, please contact President Johnson or myself to have what can be the legacy you leave to a calling of commitment to bettering the lives of others for years to come.

On behalf of our entire campus constituency, thank you for your support of Finlandia.

God's Blessings,

Dr. Lenny R. Klaver

Vice President for Advancement & Enrollment



WAYS TO GIVE

Finlandia Fund Gifts:

Annual unrestricted gifts provide immediate and flexible support for the university and its colleges, schools and units. With these powerful gifts the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, deans and directors can act quickly on new opportunities and urgent needs. With its unique flexibility the Finlandia Fund is a vital current-use resource to support the university where its impact is most felt. To make your gift on-line, please click "Make A Gift" on the top of the site from any page on our website.

Endowment Gifts:

Plan 2021 expresses Finlandia's highest aspirations. With bold visioning we have imagined Finlandia's best self. With rigorous planning we have charted a course for its fullest realization. We will, with collective resolve, work diligently and confidently to realize these signature achievements.

Planned Gifts:

Gift planning allows you to select ways to give that help you meet your goals – and Finlandia's. You can:

- Earn income, pay fewer taxes and secure your retirement
- Enhance your net estate
- Create a personal legacy
- Get more from your real estate

Committing up front cash is not the only way to make a charitable gift. Benefactors can also choose to employ a variety of giving techniques that offer a number of advantages.



Locker Room Legacies

A tradition of fierce loyalties and competition are hallmarks for Finlandia University student-athletes. They are individuals and teammates of high reputation and a spirit of *sisu* akin to the stalwarts of Finnish-American heritage for which this region and university are known. Lions student-athletes of today stand on the legacies of their predecessors who donned blue and white as champions. And now, you can be a part of that tradition.

Finlandia is pleased to announce a program that acknowledges the men and women who have in the past and who today, represent the university so well.

The Lions Locker Room Legacies program provides the opportunity to present your name in Finlandia tradition and history.

This program allows those interested to purchase a plaque bearing their name, the years they played and a special quote if desired. The name plaques will be permanently displayed on a locker in Paavo Nurmi Center. Your legacy can live on as a reminder of your commitment to the past, present and future of Finlandia Lions athletics!

The one-time cost of the Lions Locker Room Legacies program is \$600.

Give online at fulions.com/legacies.

For more information contact:
Lenny Klaver, VP for Institutional Advancement
601 Quincy Street • Hancock, MI 49930
906-487-7349

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, 2014, and June 30, 2015, 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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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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(\$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)

Waino "Pop" Lehto graduated from Suomi College in 1918. From 1920 until 1962 he served as instructor and dean of the business, commerce and liberal arts programs at Suomi College.

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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 administrative offices.

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continued on page 17

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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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continued on page 18

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continued on page 19

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Mr. & Mrs. Tim Lowe

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Saari

Kopra Family

Mrs. Martha Kopra

Jane Lepisto

Northeast Minnesota Synod, Duluth, Minnesota

Roger & Karen Mattson's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Dr. & Mrs. Roger Mattson

Sean McBride

Ms. Elizabeth Howe

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Dr. Kenneth Seaton

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Mrs. Christine Ahola

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Mrs. Martha Asuma

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continued on page 21

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GERMAN PRESERVES FINNISH-AMERICAN CULTURE

He has no Finnish ancestry whatsoever, but you wouldn't know that when you meet him. After all, owning 443 pieces of Finnish art glass and ceramics can certainly sway one's first impression.

But that's Bill Hoffman's story, and the Brantwood, Wisconsin resident wants to be sure his story – which is almost synonymous with that of the Finnish-American

culture – is preserved for future generations, Finnish or not, to enjoy. That's why he opted to donate his collection to the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) at Finlandia University, where the long-term plan is for it to be displayed in one of the new museum spaces that will be created as part of the Home and Hall campaign the university is currently undertaking.

Hoffman is entirely of German descent, but that hasn't stopped him from embracing the predominant culture in Brantwood, a community that has significant Finnish roots. His collection of glass art and ceramics — which is very likely the largest collection of its kind in North America — includes pieces from the 1940s to the present, including many of the iconic pieces that Finnish art enthusiasts will recognize.

Through the generosity of Bill Hoffman, patrons of the Finnish American Heritage Center will have the opportunity to view many examples of Finnish glass art pieces when they visit. Once the Home and Hall project is complete, visitors can enjoy the Bill Hoffman collection in a space that can display it in its full magnitude.

FINNISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ARCHIVE & MUSEUM COLLECTION DONORS

The 147 donations that came to the Finnish American Historical Archive this past year were as varied as the locations from which they came. Donors from 22 different states, as well as Canada and Finland, saw the value of donating materials from their lives to the archive to help tell the story of immigrants from Finland to North America.

Whether it was the pastor records from one donor's father, the pair of Sami boots that a couple gave, or a collection of Finnish-American and Finnish music that took three separate carloads to deliver, every donation plays a key role in the Archive's mission to preserve and promote Finnish-American and Finnish culture on a national scale. Every one of these 147 donors is helping to make the ongoing Home and Hall campaign a reality.

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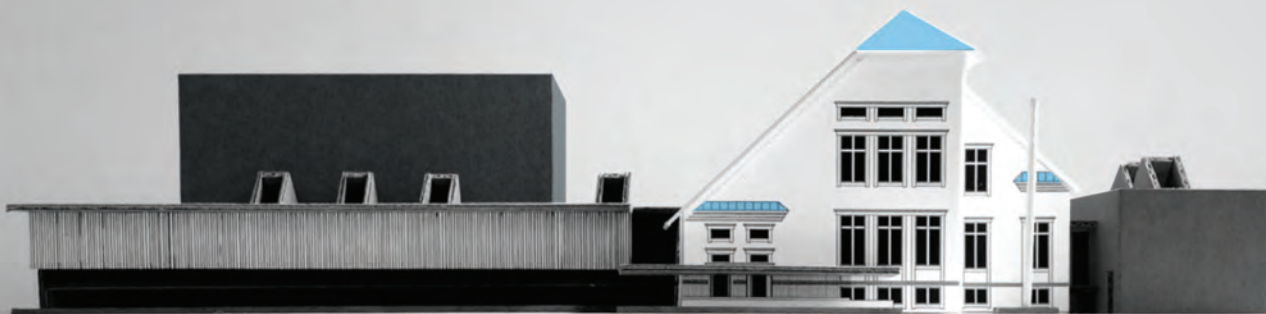
The Finnish American Heritage Center is committed to the collection and preservation of all Finnish-North American history, and we invite donors to contact us regarding possible gifts. In particular, we encourage the donation of original and irreplaceable records and documents, such as diaries, journals, letters, society minutes and photographs. Please direct queries to Archivist Joanna Chopp at joanna.chopp@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7347. Patrons can see regular updates of heritage center activity by visiting the FAHC's Facebook page or Twitter account, 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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An artistic rendition of the completely renovated Finnish American Heritage Center. Learn more about the vision at a finlandia.edu/home-and-hall.

HERITAGE CENTER DONATIONS KEEP HOME AND HALL VISION ON FOREFRONT

When Finlandia University unveiled the Home and Hall concept for the expansion of its Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) 2.5 years ago, it clearly explained the center's mission of becoming the national site for collection and preservation of Finnish-American archival and museum materials.

This will occur through an expansion of the center's archive and museum—which will nearly quadruple the available space—and an outreach campaign to create a national network and database of sites that are currently housing Finnish-American materials.

This effort is already well under way, as the actions this past summer of a Massachusetts-based friend of the center exemplified.

On an otherwise-ordinary afternoon in June, Gardner, Massachusetts resident and devoted Finnophile Barry Heiniluoma was made aware of a small ad in his local newspaper announcing the auction of three storage facilities. These units, as it turned out, contained years worth of Finnish-American material collected and previously owned by another Massachusetts resident—the former office manager of the now-defunct Finnish-American weekly newspaper “Raivaaja,” Jonathan Ratila, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Ratila is a walking encyclopedia of Finnish history in New England.

Thinking quickly, Heiniluoma contacted Finnish American Heritage Center Director Jim Kurtti, who had shared with Barry—and several dozen of his friends and neighbors—information about the Home and Hall project during a meeting in November 2014. Those folks supported the need for a national center for archiving, and recognized Finlandia University as being in the ideal position to host and maintain such a facility. After all, Finlandia is one of the only places in North America where several employees work full-time with Finnish-American history and culture, and the Finnish American Historical Archive is the only archive that's actively collecting and preserving Finnish-American materials.

Through a series of phone calls, Kurtti and Heiniluoma arranged to have a presence at the auction of these storage units, and Heiniluoma successfully bid to take possession of two. Then, the real work began.

Over the course of several weeks, Heiniluoma worked tirelessly sorting through decades of Finnish-American materials, records and artifacts. The FAHC staff is making plans to bring the large collection to the center, where it will be preserved into perpetuity as the Jonathan Ratila Collection.

It's the actions of folks like Barry Heiniluoma (pictured left) that are making the Home and Hall concept a reality. But it doesn't take such an extraordinary effort to be a part of Home and Hall. In order for the center to truly become a national center, it takes not only nationwide contributions, but also nationwide awareness. There are people out there from all corners of the country who have taken the necessary steps to ensure that Finnish-American history from their region is properly preserved. But there's still room—and a need—for more.



The most challenging part of making Home and Hall a reality is, quite simply, outreach. The FAHC seeks to visit—or at least communicate with—Finnish-American communities or regions throughout the country to help spread the word about the center's mission. Through

this communication, the FAHC is looking to work with groups and organizations to create management plans for their archival materials; these plans create a clear path for how and when a particular group's materials will be preserved.

To date, there have been regional meetings in New England, central Florida and northeast Ohio. Kurtti will be visiting the Detroit area as this issue of the Bridge goes to press.

If your local organization, club or church is able and interested in hosting a Home and Hall regional meeting, contact Kurtti at (906) 487-7302. You can help the FAHC's efforts of preserving Finnish-American culture on a national scale. Call today to find out how.

MESSING AND THE LIONS

PROUD OF INAUGURAL FOOTBALL SEASON

As a senior at Westwood High School Mitch Messing spent a lot of time debating his next step in life. One thing he knew was that college was in the books for him. But where would he go? He debated several state schools as he looked far and wide for a great option to fit his desires. As he kept looking, one thing kept getting to him. The itch to play college football.

"Playing college football is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Messing said.

It's true. For student athletes it's the best of both worlds. They get to play the game they love at a high level, and get an education that will prepare them for a meaningful career.

Being a student athlete is even better when it can be done close to home. For Messing that's what made the difference; you see Messing isn't just a talented defensive football player, he's a proud Yoooper.

"There were other schools who reached out to me," Messing said. "But to come here and start a program in the Upper Peninsula is something special. I knew being part of the foundation of this program would be sweet."



At moments, it certainly has been sweet. Messing was one of the Lions' best players all season. He paced the team in tackles, finishing in the top 10 in the nation for tackles per game by a freshman. The personal accolades are one thing; more importantly for Messing was the team's success. Despite a losing record, the team has a lot of things to be proud of, especially considering how hard of a schedule they had.

"We started out with some really tough opponents," Messing said.

Merely saying tough opponents is an understatement. The Lions played schools with enrollments three-to-20 times larger than Finlandia's 537 students. The schools the Lions played against were nationally ranked, regularly producing National Football League players and maybe most noteworthy on a sunny Saturday in southern Wisconsin the Lions stood on the sidelines as University of Wisconsin-Whitewater raised the team's national championship banner.

There Finlandia was with no juniors or seniors on its roster. Not a single player who had played a 60-minute football game prior to this season (high school games are 48 minutes). And they were playing against the reigning national champions. The Lions certainly took their licks, losing by more than 40 in each of the first four games.

"We knew it was going to be tough, but it showed us what worked and what didn't, and how we could improve," Messing said.

On October 3 the Lions finally went head-to-head with a similarly built program, and everything about it was better. Between the tackle runs were going for positive yards instead of negative. The passes were connecting. When Messing saw a play develop he was able to read it and make the stop.

"I'm pretty sure everyone on the sidelines let out a sigh of relief as that game got going," he said. "We saw the offense putting points on the board, and our defense was getting stops. We were all excited."

The Lions ended up winning three of their five games in October. The team in blue saw great performances from the likes of corner Jalyn Wade who tallied six interceptions. Wide receiver Darrion Robinson turned heads with a 200-yard performance in the team's second win. Quarterback Ronald Brown quickly became a Copper Country fan favorite with his poise in the pocket.

The optimism was felt throughout the team.

"Our team came together this season," Messing said. "We were a bunch of kids from all over the Midwest, and we've come together to be more than teammates, more of a family. We now know that our team can compete with Division III teams, getting those wins gives us the excitement to go out and win more, to be hungry, to just keep going."

It's tough to know what the future has in store, but it's quite clear Finlandia's youthful 2015 football team learned invaluable lessons and should be ready to take a big step forward in 2016.

MEN'S SOCCER FINISHES SEASON AS BEST IN AD3I WITH 11 WINS

There is a ton of optimism, excitement and pride coming from McAfee Field this year because of the Finlandia University men's soccer team. This season the team came together like they never had before, and the results were the best in school history.

The Lions went 11-7 on the year, finishing with the best record of Association of Division III Independents (AD3I), and breaking more than a dozen school records along the way.

"I am proud of what these young men were able to accomplish this season," second-year coach Brent Chase said.

The youthful team set school records for wins (11), win percentage (.611), goals (47), goals per game (2.6), shots per game (19.1) and shots in a season (344). The team also tied several team records, and defensively was strong throughout the season, keeping opponents to 0 or 1 goals in 11 of the team's 18 games.

Why the success?

Coach Chase attributes it to the team coming together for a common cause, which is especially impressive considering the wide variety of backgrounds. The team's roster had players from 13 states on it.

"This is a unique group of young men," Chase said. "Very early in the season they were able to bond, and it really helped us get some early success."



The Lions won the first three games of the season before suffering a heart-wrenching one-goal loss at Martin Luther College. Rather than sulk on the disappointing loss, FinnU went right back at it and won the next five games by a combined score of 23-4.

Finlandia's offense was clicking at an absurd rate. The team was amongst the top scoring in the nation, and forward Alex Freeman (pictured left) was making noise nationwide. He led the nation in goals and points for more than a week in early October. He was twice named AD3I Player of the Week, and once Player of the Month.

"That early success gave us the confidence to compete with more senior teams," Chase said.

That was a hard truth all season for the Lions. They had no juniors or seniors on the active roster. Nearly every team they played was loaded with veteran talent. It didn't sway the Lions, though, and the upstart team continued to battle.

When the dust settled at the end of the season, the list of individual accolades was long.

Freeman set new school records in goals (19), points (42), shots (100), game-winning goals (4), minutes played (1,288) and goals in a single game (5). It wasn't just Freeman who excelled, sophomore Robert Hernandez set a school record with eight assists, Chris Johnson set a new freshman record with 28 points and freshman goalkeeper Ricardo Almanza set a new record for shutouts with three.

The excitement for Finlandia soccer is just getting started. The majority of the team should return next year, and with experienced juniors on the roster, next year's freshman class will be welcomed into a great atmosphere in a highly competition NCAA Division III region.

"This group is ready to keep building for an even brighter future in the years to come," Chase said.



KATHERINE HANNAGAN HIRED TO LEAD SOFTBALL PROGRAM

Finlandia University softball will be led by Katherine Hannagan moving forward. The former NCCAA All American began working at the university this fall preparing for the upcoming season.

"I would like to thank Chris Salani and Finlandia University for giving me the opportunity to be a part of such a great institution," Hannagan said. "I am extremely excited to contribute to the development of my players athletically, academically and personally. I will strive to create an environment that reflects a passion to succeed at a high level, a desire to win both on and off of the field, and a high level of respect for the game of softball."



Hannagan was a four-year standout pitcher for Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. She held an impressive 87-28 record as a starting pitcher, and earned many NAIA,

NCCAA, NFCA and CCAC accolades.

For the past three seasons Hannagan has served as an assistant coach at University of St. Francis. While there her team achieved a 79-63 record, including a 35-win campaign and berth into the NAIA National Tournament in 2015.

"We are extremely pleased and excited to have coach Hannagan join our athletics program and Lion family," Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Chris Salani said. "Her proven and successful coaching experience in a highly competitive Illinois conference, combined with her own playing experience as a dominating pitcher and player, will undoubtedly help to get our program back in winning form. Our current roster and recruits will be able to develop in an environment accustomed to success."

NEW MEN'S HOCKEY ASSISTANT HAS PLAYED MORE THAN 200+ NHL GAMES

Early in the 2015-16 hockey campaign the Lions welcomed in assistant coach Peter White, a former NHLer who has played more than 200 games with the Edmonton Oilers, Toronto Maple Leafs, Philadelphia Flyers and Chicago Blackhawks.



"We're very excited to have a guy like Peter join our hockey staff here at Finlandia," Lions head coach Dane Litke said. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and has a great deal of experience when it comes to the game of hockey. He

will be a welcome addition to both the varsity and the junior varsity hockey teams."

White will not only serve as assistant coach with the varsity Lions, but he'll help as the head coach for the junior varsity team.



CALUMET-NATIVE ARNIE KINNUNEN HIRED AS CROSS COUNTRY COACH

Arnie Kinnunen has been hired to reboot the university's cross country program. Kinnunen comes to Finlandia after an incredibly successful 10 years of coaching at local high schools.

"This is an exciting opportunity for me," said Kinnunen, who was born and raised in Calumet. "I'm excited to get out and watch the amazing athletes in the Upper Peninsula, and bring them together to run at Finlandia."

After a short stint at Houghton High School, Kinnunen has spent the past eight seasons coaching at Calumet High School. He earned U.P. Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2010, when the Copper Kings won back-to-back D-1 team championships. He's also coached five individual U.P. champions.

More importantly to Kinnunen, he's coached four students who earned valedictorian honors at Calumet High School.

"NCAA Division III athletics is exciting to me because the emphasis is always on academics," Kinnunen said. "That's truly what the college experience is about. Our teams will be competitive. They will work hard at their sport. But athletics always comes after the classroom experience."

FORMER U.P. CHAMP BROUGHT IN TO START TENNIS PROGRAMS

Finlandia University athletics has hired Marquette-native Rick Halverson to start the university's men's and women's tennis programs. Both teams will begin play in the fall of 2016.

"The opportunity to come back to an area that I'm familiar with, and be a part of building the tennis program is what attracted me to Finlandia," Halverson said. "I'm excited about the opportunity that's in front of me to build something special from the ground up."

Halverson is a 2003 graduate of Marquette Senior High School where he was a three-time U.P. champion in tennis. He then played NCAA Division II tennis at Michigan Technological University for four seasons.

Following graduation, he spent five seasons as an assistant coach at Michigan Tech. He then spent a season as the women's head coach at Olivet College in downstate Michigan. The last two years Halverson has been the head men's and women's coach at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

The women's tennis team will join the Great South Athletic Conference beginning in 2016, while the men's team will play a fully independent schedule.





Members of the Finlandia Alumni Board during their annual meeting in September. From left to right: Donna Kennard, Jason Sullivan, Laura Bianucci, Victor Harrington, Barbara Regan, Stephen Szuber, Susan Henning, Holly Matson, Sharon Miilu Landree, Erica Payne Roell and Norma R. Nominelli.

REGIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTERS FORMING NOW

Finlandia University's alumni chapters are under development throughout the Midwest in an effort to better engage those who spent time at Finlandia University as students. Below are some quick notes on what's happening.

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

In early November a gathering was had for Finlandia's inaugural participation in "Yooper Night at the Joe." A group of FinnU alums gathered at Punch Bowl Social with alumni from Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan and Lake State before heading to the Detroit Red Wings game.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

A first-time event was held at Vintage Brewing Company in Madison, Wisconsin on November 9 as Wisconsin-based alums gathered to talk about their memories at Finlandia.

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

It's been a little more than a year in the workings now in the Upper Peninsula's largest city as Erica Payne Roell ('07) and Ryan Koski ('08) have been drumming up interest in the Marquette chapter. Learn more about the work they're doing, and be sure to find out about upcoming events, by "Liking" the chapter's Facebook page (search Suomi College / Finlandia University Alumni Association Marquette Chapter).

COPPER COUNTRY

Not to be outdone, the local chapter has been drumming up interest. The first planned event was a visit to Keweenaw Brewing Company before a hockey game in November.

SUOMI ROOMIES

Okay, so this isn't a regional chapter, but it's still a group of active and excited alumni of the university. Typically, this group has been open to alumni who graduated in 1975-1977, but this fall they opened it up to those who graduated in 1974 or 1978 as well. The group is busy planning a Copper Country reunion for fall 2016. Get involved by searching for the "Suomi Roomies" on Facebook.

For more information on all of these chapters contact Travis Hanson ('08), travis.hanson@finlandia.edu, or like "Suomi College / Finlandia University Alumni Association" on Facebook.



ALUMNI REUNION SEES LARGE CROWD

The inaugural Finlandia University football game had a bigger crowd than usual, and that wasn't only because it was the inaugural game. Alumni of the university came out in bunches to support the Lions during the squad's McAfee Field debut.

The weekend was a fun one for all involved, including a wonderful night of entertainment at the Finnish American Heritage Center for the alumni banquet, campus tours and the opportunity for alumni to gather with students in the newly renovated Finlandia Hall cafeteria.

OBITUARIES

ALUMNI

JOAN R. AIRAUDI '54

Ishpeming, MI, Jun. 9, 2015

SHIRLEY ALLEN '60

Gainesville, FL, Jan. 7, 2015

CHARLES A. ALTONEN '58

Ashtabula, OH, Jan. 16, 2015

JOHN ASIALA '72

Houghton, MI, Aug. 25, 2015

JAMES AUSTIN '75

Chassell, MI, Apr. 3, 2015

SIGRID BARTELLI '38

Atlanta, GA, Aug. 14, 2015

SUZANNE M. BARTELS '78

Fort Myers, FL, Apr. 6, 2015

SHIRLEY BLACKMAR '34

Peoria, AZ, Jun. 17, 2015

JOYCE BONEN '74

Atlantic Mine, MI, Nov. 15, 2014

GARY R. BREY '76

Dollar Bay, MI, Oct. 29, 2014

RUTH H. DE ROSA '41

Rochester, NY, Aug. 10, 2015

EUNICE E. KEJO '43

Columbus, OH, Jan. 11, 2015

BARBARA LASHOF '40

Gaithersburg, MD, Mar. 23, 2015

VIOLET FRIISVAL '90

L'Anse, MI, Mar. 6, 2015

LILITH I. HARRINGTON '35

Davison, MI, Sept. 2, 2015

LISA A. HOLMSTROM '89

Kingsford, MI, Nov. 9, 2014

MARTHA E. IVEY '42

Oakville, ON, Feb. 16, 2015

HENRY JAUHAINEN '49

Cedar Rapids, IA, Jul. 3, 2015

TERRY KARPPINEN '90

South Range, MI, Nov. 6, 2014

ELAINE M. KILPELA '74

Mission Hills, CA, Mar. 7, 2015

JAMES LAHNALA '87

Ahmeek, MI, Oct. 24, 2014

ALBERT LEHIKONEN '48

Wilmore, KY, Jun. 28, 2015

WALTER R. MAKI '46

Hancock, MI, Dec. 13, 2014

DOROTHY C. McNAUGHTON '42

Bayard, MN, Oct. 1, 2014

ALICE L. NIEMI '50

Fraser, MI, Dec. 30, 2014

LESLIE VICTOR ROSS, SR.

Marquette, MI, Dec. 31, 2014

MARIE U. SCHEEL '35

Austin, TX, Feb. 21, 2015

JOHN H. TOLONEN '86

Harvey, MI, Aug. 15, 2015

DAWN M. VANWAGNER '87

L'Anse, MI, Jun. 9, 2015

HELEN M. WAISANEN '48

Marquette, MI, Jun. 18, 2015

JAMES L. ZURCHER '85

Lake Linden, MI, Jan. 19, 2015

FRIENDS

RUDOLPH L. AITTAMA

Milford, MI, Sept. 4, 2015

EDWARD S. CHOPP

Lake Linden, MI, May 22, 2015

MARTIN CONWAY

Albuquerque, NM, May 22, 2015

RONALD EVERSON

L'Anse, MI, May 31, 2015

DOROTHY J. FREDENDALL

Eden Prairie, MN, Sept. 1, 2015

JOHN GEUEKE

Marquette, MI, Mar. 27, 2015

MARTHA HEIKKINEN

Wyoming, MI, Sept. 3, 2015

ELSIE HELSTEIN

Negaunee, MI, Feb. 2, 2015

DOROTHY J. JARVELA

Farmington Hills, MI, Apr. 6, 2015

GLENN R. KOSKI

Rockton, IL, Jun. 6, 2015

MARIE H. KOTILA

Houghton, MI, Jul. 27, 2015

LUELLA MARIN

Marquette, MI, Feb. 7, 2015

ROBERT NARA

Lake Linden, MI, Sept. 18, 2015

FREDERICK C. NIEMI

Chicago, IL, Nov. 7, 2014

HENRY J. PELLIKKA

Calumet, MI, Aug. 4, 2015

GAROLD R. RICHARDS

Appleton, WI, Dec. 30, 2014

HELMER TOYRAS

L'Anse, MI, Nov. 10, 2014

MICHAEL UOTILA

Mass City, MI, Dec. 12, 2014

LUELLA R. WILLIAMS

Iron River, MI, Dec. 22, 2014

TED WISTI

Pelkie, MI, Jan. 2, 2015

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