

the Bridge

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FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY



SPRING EDITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT **PHILIP JOHNSON**

Our Spring 2017 Bridge is a pilot project. We are introducing, if you will, an abridged Bridge! We hope you will enjoy this more brief, but equally rich read from Finlandia's campus.

The year 2017 is significant when considering Finlandia's ethnic and spiritual heritage. It marks 100 years of Finnish independence and commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. This issue of the Bridge offers a brief glimpse of Finlandia's students, staff, activities and ideals that express our commitments to Lutheran higher education. In the fall issue of the Bridge we will gather up a collection of articles that highlight campus expressions of Finlandia's Finnish-American heritage.

I write these words as we complete our preparations for Finlandia's 2017 graduation exercises. About this time I begin to prepare thoughts for the sermon I will preach for the baccalaureate service. Our service includes prayers for graduates in each of our colleges and schools. Our prayer for those completing their bachelor of fine arts degree reads this way:

We give you thanks, O God, for our International School of Art & Design graduates. As Creator you know the joys of creating and designing, of color and texture. May this joy be theirs as well. May they find, through these gifts, opportunity for expression and service. Lord in your mercy ...

Our litany of prayers concludes with this:

For all those who support Finlandia University as a learning community, we give you thanks: students, teachers, staff, administration, board members, community friends, neighbors and many others. We pray that Finlandia University may continue to participate in your mission ever more fully, O Lord, in this place and throughout your world. May we, even as we celebrate the privileges of education and the satisfaction of completed study, be ever mindful of your wider world and those with less. Lord, in your mercy ...

Thank you for your continued prayer for Finlandia's students and our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Philip Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P".

Philip Johnson
President



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Cover Photo:

Campus Pastor Soren Schmidt leads the Baccalaureate Ceremony on Graduation Day 2017 in the Chapel of St. Matthew. Learn more about Graduation Day on page 7 and about Schmidt's calling as a pastor within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on page 2.

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

plays vital role in modern education

For Campus Pastor Soren Schmidt, no two days at Finlandia University are ever the same. On any given day, he can find himself playing any number of roles – organizer, counselor, director, minister, social media guru, friend, activity coordinator, coach and teacher are just a sprinkle of the roles he plays at the university. “In my role, I must have my hands in a lot of things on campus to get to know our students,” Schmidt said. “We need to walk alongside one another in faith and education to more fully become the people which we are called to be.”

Into 2017 students continue to have a deep sense of spirituality at FinnU, and many come from strong family faith traditions. However, studies on students in higher education and young adults find that these years are a time to find themselves. They seek transitory time from a family faith toward a deeper understanding of a personal faith and spirituality. In this time, expressions tend to run both at an internal depth of self, as well as an outward expression in service and outreach to others. Worship services and small group bible studies sometimes border alienation and fear of acceptance. “Others will see and they could be labeled something they are not yet willing to work with,” Schmidt explained. It takes further development and personal relationships outside of community worship before they can more fully embrace this call to join together in praise and worship.

“Therefore, we must interact out and among,” Schmidt said. “When the resurrected Christ calls out to Mary and others to ‘come and see’ he isn’t merely talking about seeing himself and he certainly isn’t just talking about coming together inside a particular building. Rather, Jesus was out and among: saying ‘come and see,’ meaning: come together where you are at so you may see together and rejoice together. That is the beginning of returning to our understanding of fellowship and sense of community in Christ. We then seek to find an intentional place, such as a Chapel, to share this peace and engage in a thanksgiving worship that strengthens and encourages one another.”



With that in mind, Schmidt is finding himself hosting nontraditional events like movie nights, open mic performances and making connections with students through things like Finlandia’s curling and performing arts clubs. “Ministry changes with time and with community interaction, yet our relationship with God remains,” Schmidt said. “God still calls us together – in worship, community, etc. God’s relationship with us remains the same.”

While events help his cause, Schmidt is always aware that the role he plays is not to entertain or be an activities coordinator. “The role is to be supportive in developing relationships with students and employees,” he said. “Walking alongside with them in their growth, and making connections through a wide variety of their interests so they can understand their faith in as many aspects as possible.”

All in all, the work of Campus Ministry is to help students grow through more than simply the tangible items in education like grades and diplomas. “There are so many intangibles that go into developing a person,” Schmidt said. “When students go to Finlandia University and involve themselves in the many activities we offer, it tells you more about the path that they took, and if they actually came to understand themselves more fully. Ultimately, that’s the mission of all of us at Finlandia, to help these students grow.”

Campus ministry through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is an opportunity unique to Finlandia University and its 25 peer ELCA institutions. It’s core to what makes these institutions a place to receive more than just a career-preparing degree, but instead a life-changing opportunity for whole-person growth. “This is why education and faith are so interconnected, because we are interconnected,” Schmidt said. “The more we learn and grow, the more we are called to embody, to be the body of Christ in the world. And all this in thanksgiving, praise and rejoicing.”



U.P. COMMITMENT GRANT, SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND FROZEN TUITION FOR 2017-18

Finlandia University has introduced a new \$4,000 grant for students who graduated from an Upper Peninsula high school, and announced it will maintain current rates for tuition and room and board for the upcoming year. "Finlandia has a strong record of controlling price increases over the long-term and maximizing financial aid to prospective students," President Philip Johnson said. "We can do more, however, especially for our neighboring communities in the Upper Peninsula."

The \$4,000 U.P. Commitment Grant is geared to make higher education more affordable to incoming students

from communities in the U.P., an area that the university has seen a disproportionate decrease in student population in recent years. The short-term actions, which are in addition to current levels of financial aid awarding for all students and a new \$2,000 Service Scholarship for students located outside of the U.P., belong to a larger project for the university – a comprehensive redesign of financial aid practices.

"This redesign will ensure that we are distributing financial aid dollars in such a way that Finlandia remains affordable for growing numbers of academically successful students, including those in neighboring communities and from across the Upper Peninsula," Johnson said. "Pricing is only one of Finlandia's five enrollment strategy buckets: programming, pricing, recruitment, retention and marketing. Our strategic plan commits all of us to greater levels of effectiveness within and coordination among these five areas. No pricing strategy will have its intended effect unless coordinated with others."

The redesign is expected to be in place for incoming students for fall 2018. The new scholarships are only for new incoming students in fall 2017, and can be combined with other merit-based scholarships and tuition initiatives, such as Finlandia Four and Finlandia Future. Assuming eligibility is maintained, all advertised scholarships, grants and tuition initiatives will be kept for all four years of a student's education. More information on financial aid at Finlandia University can be found at finlandia.edu/finaid.

BLOOD DRIVES BRING AID TO COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION TO STUDENTS

The Finlandia University Student Nurses Association (FUSNA), in association with the U.P. Regional Blood Center, hosted two blood drives this academic year. The blood drives offer nursing students a great opportunity to develop their professional skills, while also providing an invaluable service to the community. Nursing students are responsible for taking the vital signs of donors throughout the process. As the U.P. Regional Blood Center does not supply any nurses to help with the blood drive, this is not only a good arrangement for the students to gain hands-on experience, but is also vital to the operation of the program.

As a service to the community, there are few opportunities that parallel the blood drive's positive impact. "Every pint that's donated can save up to four lives," said Patrice Lompre, Vice President of FUSNA. "It's very important, and I don't think enough people donate blood." There is a high



demand for more donations, as blood is always needed for emergency events, as well as a number of other functions. Donated blood is broken down into various components, which can go to benefit anemics, hemophiliacs, cancer patients and trauma patients.

DR. JASON OYADOMARI NAMED DEAN

Dr. Jason Oyadomari has been named Dean of the Suomi College of Arts and Sciences (SCAS) at Finlandia University after serving as the Interim Dean for more than a year.

"Jason has done an exceptional job in his leadership role over the past 14 months as Interim Dean," said Fredi de Yampert, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. "I am confident Jason will continue to professionally represent and advocate for the faculty, staff and students with SCAS and across the Finlandia campus." Dr. Oyadomari has been with the university since 2006 when he was brought in as an adjunct faculty member. In 2008 he moved to a full-time faculty role and in 2015 he earned tenure status. His disciplines include aquatic ecology, evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology, fisheries biology and biostatistics.

"I'm honored to be appointed as Dean," said Dr. Oyadomari. "I like the small environment here at Finlandia, it allows us to respond quickly to the unique student and faculty needs." Prior to being hired at Finlandia, Dr. Oyadomari earned his Ph.D. in biology from Michigan Technological University, M.S. in biology from Eastern New Mexico University and B.A. in zoology from University of Hawaii, Manoa. While taking on the additional duties associated with the role of dean, Dr. Oyadomari will continue to teach courses.



SCAS is the largest of the four schools at Finlandia University in terms of students and programs, and includes the university's general education curriculum. Currently the school is home to more than a dozen academic programs. Learn more about SCAS at finlandia.edu/academics/arts-sciences. A full biography of Dr. Jason Oyadomari can be found at finlandia.edu/about/directory/user/joyadomari.

"WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET" COMES TO FINLANDIA

The Finlandia Performing Arts Club put on quite the show in early April as they presented "Women Playing Hamlet," a comedy written by William Missouri Downs. The play took place in the historic auditorium of the future College of Health Sciences Building. It was the first time the auditorium was open to the public since the former Hancock Central High School building was acquired by Finlandia University in 2010.



STUDYING BUSINESS IN FINLAND A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

After visiting Finland in May of 2015 as part of the Paloheimo Fellows Program, Schwartz Jarmond (pictured above) decided he enjoyed it so much he would like to return someday. That opportunity came when he decided to spend the fall 2016 semester as an exchange student at the JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Jyväskylä. Jarmond, a senior majoring in management and entrepreneurship, studied courses including cross-cultural management, human resource management, strategic management and beginning Finnish during his semester at JAMK.

The business program Jarmond studied in was truly international, with students from several other countries, including France, Russia, China and Germany to name but a few. "There were several different cultures interacting with varying levels of English," Jarmond said. "Some of my classes had asylum seekers from countries like Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq. I actually had to work in-class projects with them." Free time was spent playing basketball and traveling around Finland, plus one trip to Estonia. There were also a lot of student-organized activities. Schwartz especially enjoyed participating in activities the Finns are famous for. "The saunas and the times we spent by the Finnish lakeside were great."

STUDENT SENATE DONATES TO HUMANE SOCIETY

In March Jenna Ollanketo and Alena Fiala from the Finlandia University Student Senate stopped by the Copper Country Humane Society to make a \$115 donation. The funds were raised during the senate's Winter Week celebration. The week included a slew of events such as a pie-in-the-face event, a sledding event, worship and the annual series of events based around MLK Day.



FINNISH TV STAR VISITS FINLANDIA

In March Finnish television star Antti Holma, pictured above during his Finlandia Fridays interview, was in the Copper Country to shoot a television series, "Maastamuuttajat" for MTV 3 in Finland. The area was one of several stops around the world that Holma and his three-person film crew selected for the series, which will highlight Finnish people living abroad.

"Traveling around the world we see many aspects of being Finnish, but here in Hancock it is huge," said Holma, a 34-year-old Helsinki native now living in London who gained popularity after appearing on the 2014 season of the Finnish sketch comedy show "Putous." "There are a lot of people around the world who take the Finnish culture abroad kind of seriously, which is lovely," Holma said. "This community here is very active and I think it's also very American in a way — in a very, very good way."

FINNISH AMERICAN FOLK SCHOOL TO LAUNCH

"Although our region maintains a strong ethnic pride in its Finnish roots, the loss of language and traditional arts and crafts has left many among our residents very little onto which they can attach their ethnic identity," so says Finnish American Heritage Center Director Jim Kurtti. Now, he's doing something about it. He and his staff at Finlandia University's Finnish American Heritage Center are spearheading an effort to establish a Finnish American folk school in the Copper Country.

Operating under the title "The Milking Stool: Cultural Sustainability, a Three-Legged Approach," the program, which gets under way in 2017, is designed to counteract the decline in authentic ethnic activity in the region, particularly in the area of folk arts and culture. The program is centered on the region's three existing Finnish-American celebrations – January's Heikinpäivä festival, the Juhannus (Midsummer) events in June and the recently developed Festival Ruska each fall. The folk school will connect experts in Finnish traditional folk arts, both from Finland and from

Hancock was the only community in North America the crew visited, and it left a lasting impression on the group. The crew's chief videographer admitted prior to departing that he knew they had gathered far more footage than they could possibly include in the series. The series is expected to air on Finnish television this fall. Specific air dates have not yet been determined.

BUSINESS STUDENTS COMPETE IN COMPETITION

Throughout the spring 2017 semester, a group of Finlandia University business students competed in THEProject, a collegiate project management competition sponsored by the Western Michigan Chapter of the Project Management Institute (WMPMI). This is the third straight year that FinnU has participated in the event. This year's assignment was to develop a project plan to increase community farming in gardening. As their project focus, the students, or Team SISU as they were known, chose to focus on an expansion project for the Ryan Street Community Garden in Hancock.

"Although it was a ton of work and coordinating our busy schedules was a challenge, it gave us a real feel for what project management is about in real life," said Jenna Ollanketo, a senior from Hancock. Much of this was learned in previous classes and directly applied to this experience. "The group work was a huge part of the project," added Sara Martin, a senior from Durango, Colorado. "It was nice to apply what we learned in (BUS395) Project Management."



the Upper Midwest, with people interested in learning and sustaining traditions, eventually becoming the next generation of tradition bearers in the region.

For further information about the Finnish American Folk School, contact Kurtti at james.kurtti@finlandia.edu. The Finnish American Folk School is made possible in part by a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

FINLANDIA FRIDAYS COMPLETES SEASON ONE

After an astonishing 26 episodes, the first season of Finlandia Fridays has been completed. The weekly interview series included guests from all over the Finlandia University spectrum – including alumni, faculty, coaches and many current students.

"This was such a fun experience," host Michael H. Babcock said. "I'm thankful for all of the people that helped make this happen and all 26 of our guests for sharing their unique stories and perspectives about Finlandia University."

In total the weekly interview series had more than 22,000 listens/views between nearly a half dozen outlets as a podcast, and as a video on Facebook and YouTube. Over the summer of 2017 it is expected another 2-5 episodes will be created, and in August season two of Finlandia Fridays will begin again on a weekly basis. See the archive at finlandia.edu/fridays.

NURSING PROFESSION CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

For nearly three million Americans, the nursing profession is a life-supporting trade, both financially for themselves, and for the patients that nurses care for. A universal nursing certificate that can provide high job placement across the nation and requires only two years of school is a hard bargain to pass up. Times are changing, however, as education demands for nurses have been increasing over recent years.

Traditionally, hospitals required only a two-year degree in nursing (RN), but the benefits of achieving a four-year bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) have been noted by the medical community. "There are several pretty large studies over the last 10 years that were done on the national level showing an improvement in patient outcomes in hospitals that have



higher percentages of BSN nurses," said Mark Miron, a professor of nursing at FinnU. Miron added that nurses with a BSN see a higher likelihood of being promoted to management positions. "Some of the premiere hospitals in the country, such as University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, now only hire BSN nurses, and that trend is growing."

Learn about the RN-BSN program at Finlandia University by visiting finlandia.edu/rn-bsn, and be sure to subscribe to the RN-BSN Newsletter for more insight on the industry.



DUROCHER HIRED IN DUAL ROLE

Finlandia University has named Bridget Durocher as the Senior Woman Administrator and Strength and Conditioning Center Coordinator. "Bridget's expertise and community contacts will allow us to expand our community programming

and build a membership base. I look forward to her leadership and assistance that she will bring to the management of our athletic department," said Athletic Director Curtis Wittenberg.

Durocher is also the head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams. "Being an integral part of NCAA Division III sports has always been a dream of mine," said Durocher.

SCHMIDT INSTALLED AS PASTOR

On November 29 Campus Pastor Soren Schmidt was officially installed as the pastor at Finlandia University. An installation ceremony recognizes an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) minister as the new pastor at the place they are called to serve. The formal service was held in the Chapel of St. Matthew. Nearly a dozen other pastors, including those from other local clergies, long-time friends of Schmidt's and the Northern Great Lakes Synod's bishop were in attendance. The ceremony was the final moment of a long journey for Schmidt. In spring 2016 he was ordained a minister of the ELCA during a ceremony at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Escanaba. For most of the previous year he completed an internship by serving several congregations in the western U.P. Schmidt is a Finlandia University alumnus who has now been at the university since 2009.

KURTTI HIGHLIGHTED ON EMBASSY OF FINLAND WEBSITE

Finlandia University's own Jim Kurtti was featured recently on the Embassy of Finland's website for his work to promote Finnish American culture. "Here in Hancock – a place the early Finns called, "Ameriikan Lappi" – the Honorary Consul office is located on the campus of Finlandia University in the Finnish American Heritage Center," the article states. Check out the full story at finland.org.



FINLANDIA GRADUATES 86

DURING EMOTIONAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



When Finlandia University students, faculty, alumni and employees talk about the small-school atmosphere, they're often referring to the close-knit relationships you gain on campus. On Sunday, April 30 those relationships were on full display as the 86 students that make up the Finlandia University Class of 2017 were awarded their degrees in a ceremony that won't soon be forgotten.

Emotions hit a high when business major Schwartzen Jarmond passionately addressed the crowd with an impromptu speech. "Looking up at my faculty and professors and staff, I see my super heroes," he said while fighting tears. "This is not just me up here." Jarmond studied internationally during the fall 2016 semester, and while abroad his father passed away. "The people that were texting me were the people here, President (Philip) Johnson, (Coordinator of Residential Life) Leann Fogle. More texts were from people here than at home in New York. You guys became my family."

Prior to Jarmond's remarks, which was done while graduates were being introduced, alumni speaker Jordan Siegler ('09) talked about how his experience prepared him to better serve society, while urging students to never forget their potential to do good. The Student Representative Matt McLaughlin gave a stirring speech about the sisu that has been instilled upon him and his classmates. "What makes us as Finlandia students unique is our grit, and what gives us our grit is this community," McLaughlin said. The commencement speaker was Consul General of Finland to New York Manu Virtamo, who was also awarded an honorary degree during the ceremony. The ceremony also included the inaugural bestowing of the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Faculty Award, which was given to Mary Jane Hatton from the International School of Business.



KENT COMPLETES NURSING DEGREE

Laura Kent's hard work paid off on April 30 as she graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Kent, who was featured in the last edition of the Bridge, is expanding her role at Aspirus Keweenaw now as a graduate. While she's ecstatic to have completed her bachelor's degree and to start her career as a nurse, the studying continues. She is taking her NCLEX board exam in late May, and is considering continuing her education in a Nurse Practitioner program as soon as this fall.



Path to the Pastorate

DAVE HENDRICKSON'S STORY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT FINLANDIA

Finlandia University's storied history as a Lutheran school has made it the perfect academic stepping stone for students looking to gain a deeper understanding of their faith traditions in an intellectual space devoted to growth in all areas of life. From his first forays into faith to his current position as North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church's pastor, Dave Hendrickson was one student who saw Finlandia's spiritual and academic offerings as a source of personal growth.

A lifetime resident of the Upper Peninsula, Hendrickson first began considering his faith to be a serious part of his life through his experiences at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan. While he was pushed to attend by his father, going to camp in seventh grade was a turning point. It was a place where his faith was not ridiculed or belittled, Hendrickson said, where he was free to let religion be a part of his life. "It started to become something that was important for me."

As the years went by, Hendrickson noticed a disparity in his behavior at camp and at home. "In some ways, I was one person when I was living at home, which oftentimes was not my best self. Other times, when I would go to camp and be living in a faith community and living out my faith, I would see flickers of my best self coming through." This realization led Hendrickson to spend more time considering his belief, and starting at the age of 15, he began working at Fortune Lake. "It became pretty apparent that when I was living out my faith, that's when I was at my best and feeling fulfilled in life."

While camp had given him a point through which to begin finding his faith, Hendrickson was still not certain of where to go next. As the first in his family to go to college, Hendrickson's journey to finding his place at Finlandia was not a straightforward one. "My parents didn't really have the ability to help me in the transition from graduating high school to getting any type of further education," he said. For the first several years out of high school, Hendrickson attended Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, hoping to find his direction there. After four years, he graduated with an associate's degree.

"At this point, I was starting to think more of going to seminary and becoming a Lutheran pastor." However, the next step in Hendrickson's journey toward his best self came through a fellow Fortune Lake staff member Simon

Johnson, who suggested a visit to Finlandia. The opportunity sounded appealing, with the school's ties to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as the size and academic offerings and soon enough, Hendrickson was enrolled.

"Finlandia was a great fit for me because of... the 'uncommon attention,'" he said. "I wasn't easily lost in the mix, as I might have been in a large state school." Hendrickson's desire to deepen his understanding of the history of his faith led him to the Christian Vocation and Servant Leadership programs offered by Finlandia. "It was a good concentration for me to start to dig into theology and spirituality." In his pursuit of a bachelor's degree, Hendrickson also took a concentration in the sustainable design systems program in the International School of Art & Design offered at the time. His academic disciplines deeply influenced his approach to life, both in his faith and in the development of his environmentally conscious outlook. "Because of my sustainable design concentration, I have become more conscious of my environmental impact." Impressed by his professors' commitment to more ecologically friendly methods of transportation, Hendrickson has adopted a similar approach, and prefers riding his bicycle to meetings and other functions.

The most important thing Hendrickson said he learned from Finlandia was the value of a close-knit community. In his exploration of his faith, and in his studies in sustainable design, the unifying factor of the people he worked alongside has been his most important takeaway. In his pursuit of self-improvement, and the betterment of the world around him, he has found that true accomplishment requires the collaboration of everyone involved. As he continues to serve as the pastor for North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, this is one lesson he always returns to. "The thing that I came to discover about Finlandia, which really has helped me in my ministry, is the fact that in a small community, if anything is going to happen, everybody has to come together to do it."





GERALDS AND JAIME HIGHLIGHT STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD CEREMONY

Senior Marcus Gerald (Men's Basketball) and sophomore Serena Jaime (Softball) were named the Finlandia University Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year. This was announced at the Student-Athlete Award Ceremony, Thursday, April 13 at the Paavo Nurmi Center. Gerald became the first basketball player to win his award. He capped off one of the most productive seasons in school history by being named to the All-Association of Division III Independents first team. Jaime, who was recognized for her accomplishments in the 2016 season, is the third softball player to win the award. She earned All-Great South Athletic Conference first team honors, and was 16th in batting average and 22nd in on-base percentage in NCAA Division III. She excels in the classroom with a 3.3 GPA while majoring in nursing.

A complete list of team award winners is below.

BASEBALL (2016 SEASON)

MVP – Luke Paul
MIP – Tyler Jacobson
Lion – Joey Krug

BASKETBALL – MEN

MVP – Marcus Gerald
MIP – Austin Carlson
Lion – Brandon Robinson
Academic Award – Nick Cercone

BASKETBALL – WOMEN

MVP – Kelsie Richards
MIP – Molly Berg
Lion – Mikayla Hakala
Academic Award – Haley Makela

CROSS COUNTRY

Men

Lion – Zong Deng

Women

MVP – Kaylor Holmstrom
MIP – Hailey Watson
Lion – Ashley Aho
Academic Award – Abigail Tembreull

FOOTBALL

MVP – Tyler Kangas
MIP – Eddie Yearby
Lion – Dillion Hueckstaedt
Academic Award – Nic Walli

MEN'S GOLF

MVP – Tommy Malkmus
MIP – Andrew Martin
Lion – Chuck Marcoe
Academic Award – Jayson Dahlquist

MEN'S HOCKEY

Varsity

MVP – Andrew Martin
MIP – Matt Benolkin
Lion – Matt McLaughlin
Academic Award – Walker Enstad

JV

MIP – Nicholas Tobey
Academic Award – Matt McLaughlin

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

MVP – Sierra Meiners
MIP – Natasha Kern
Lion – Theresa Wolf
Academic Award – Jordan Thoma

MEN'S SOCCER

Varsity

MVP – Chris Johnson
MIP – George Bidance
Lion – Steven Nelson
Academic Award – Kasey Barber

JV

MVP – Kasey Barber
MIP – Albert Hammond
Lion – Logan Cortez

WOMEN'S SOCCER

MVP – Haley Makela
MIP – Aylee Dessellier
Lion – Zuleiki Wight
Academic Award – Haley Makela

VOLLEYBALL

MVP – Jessie Diaz
MIP – Makayla Mickam
Lion – Monica Freeman
Academic Award – Monica Freeman



BOSS NAMED OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR FOR FOOTBALL

Finlandia University has named Robert Boss as offensive coordinator for football. He has spent the past eight years on the coaching staff at Northern Michigan, where Boss served as Co-Interim Head Coach in Nov. and Dec. 2016. "Rob Boss brings a wealth of college coaching experience to Finlandia," said head coach Tim Driscoll. "He is a great addition to our football staff. We are very excited about the direction of our program."

Boss got his coaching start at St. Norbert in

2007 where he coached the linebackers. In 2009 he started at Northern Michigan in charge of the defensive line. Boss moved to the offensive line in 2010 where he coached nine All-GIAC performers and three players who moved on to the NFL. "I am honored and thrilled to be joining the Lion football family," said Boss. "It is exciting to be part of building this program in a way that will make the Upper Peninsula and alumni of this great institution proud."



NEW NCAA D-III MULTI-SPORT CONFERENCE APPROVED

Seven NCAA schools have come together to form the first new multi-sport Division III conference in several years.

The American Collegiate Athletic Association (ACAA) recently received approval from the NCAA Division III Membership Committee to begin official operations effective Sept. 1, 2017. Alfred State SUNY College of Technology, SUNY Canton, Finlandia University, Mills College, Pine Manor College, University of Maine Presque Isle and the University of Valley Forge proudly announced the new conference.

Current ACAA sports include men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball and softball. With the support of the D3 Independents Association, the ACAA has already initiated and completed unofficial postseason championships this year in volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's soccer. All sponsored sports will be holding official postseason championships starting in 2017-18.

ROBINSON JOINS 1,000 POINT CLUB

The Finlandia University men's basketball team has added another member to the 1,000 point club. On Feb. 3 at North Central (Minn.) Brandon Robinson became the ninth Lion to reach that plateau. Robinson arrived at Finlandia in the fall of 2013 as a freshman. In 2015-16 he made the All-Association of Division III Independents third team, and now he's left his name on the record book.

Robinson has 1,061 points which puts him eighth all-time. He is ranked among the top 10 in eight other categories. "It's not so much the accomplishment of reaching 1,000 points that I am most proud of. Although it is something I am more than grateful to achieve, I am more grateful for the coaches, teammates and trainers



that have shaped the player I am today. Thank you to the Aim High Foundation, coach William Middlebrooks, coach Bob Becker, and of course coach Mike O'Donnell and coach Keith Arnold. In my four years here at Finlandia University, not only my teammates but the FinnU community has continuously been supportive of my successes, thank you to all."



MOTHERWELL NAMED HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

John Motherwell has been hired as the head coach of women's basketball at Finlandia University. He was an assistant coach at Valparaiso this past season. "I am very pleased to announce the hiring of John Motherwell as the new

Finlandia women's basketball coach," said Athletic Director Curtis Wittenberg. "Coach Mo comes to us as an excellent recruiter with plenty of experience at various levels. He is a coach that will invest in his players and make sure that their experience at Finlandia, on and off the court, will be one they won't forget."

Motherwell spent two years at Minnesota (2014-16) helping the Golden Gophers win 43 games and earn an NCAA Tournament berth. In his time at Minnesota, Motherwell helped coach a pair of First Team All-Americans and three WNBA draft picks, including working directly with post players Amanda Zahui B. and Shae Kelley, both of whom were selected in the 2015 WNBA Draft – Zahui B. second overall to the Tulsa Shock. He also coached Rachel Banham who was the number four overall pick in the 2016 WNBA Draft. Motherwell had assistant positions at North Dakota (2010-11), West Florida (2012-13) and Detroit Mercy (2013-14).

HAVLICHEK PROMOTED TO HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

Finlandia University has named Aubrey Havlichek head coach of volleyball at Finlandia University. "We will look to Aubrey to continue building the volleyball program and offering volleyball camps for kids of all ages as we have in the past," said Athletic Director Curtis Wittenberg.



A native of Thornton, Colorado, Havlichek was an all-region and two-time All-East Metro Athletic Conference selection at Thornton High School. Following graduation, Havlichek earned four letters in volleyball at Michigan Tech. She was a two-time GLIAC All-Academic selection. Havlichek has a B.S. in Sports and Fitness Management with a minor in coaching. "I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and honored to be put in this position," said Havlichek. "I'm confident I can bring the good I've had impressed upon me throughout my playing career to the table and really impact the team. I look forward to helping put this program on the map."



LUTHERAN HIGHER EDUCATION

A BRIEF REFLECTION BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON

People around the world are commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, 1517-2017. This anniversary not only marks the beginning of a religious reform movement in 16th-century Germany. It marks, as well, an education reform movement, spurred by some rather radical notions from Luther and others. We sometimes forget that the Reformation movement began in a German university by a university professor, Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546).

Luther's thoughts on education led to deep and enduring changes in how Western Europe and eventually much of the rest of the world would think about education. They included things like universal education for boys and girls alike; the idea of public financing for schools; the championing of the liberal arts and the idea that education is for the purpose of serving one's neighbor—education, that is, understood as a public good, not a private benefit.

Today ELCA colleges and universities are thoughtfully considering how, together, we may find common language for articulating and advancing our shared identity as ELCA institutions of higher learning. Today, Finlandia's visioning document, Plan 2021, reads:

*Finlandia wishes to more deliberately draw upon themes and values inherent in Finlandia's ethnic and spiritual heritage that speak meaningfully to our diverse community today. Finlandia desires to more fully embrace and evolve her distinctives, not jettison them, to be fully rooted in her story and yet full relevant to the world, an aspiration we hold for each of our students as well ... Therefore Finlandia encourages diverse spiritual expression found in all traditions and those valued in ELCA Lutheran faith and practice: **vocation—life as a calling, openness to all, service, freedom to pursue all knowledge, and bold questioning.***

These five values or gifts of Lutheran higher education are not, of course, unique to the Lutheran intellectual

tradition, nor Christian tradition for that matter. The point is that each of these have an authentic root and an enduring expression in ELCA Lutheran tradition that invites a corresponding authentic expression on campuses affiliated with the ELCA. Our opportunity is to deliberately create and sustain campus and classroom environments in which these ideas can be purposefully explored, tested, and experienced by students, faculty, and staff—life as a calling, welcoming those different, fostering habits of service, cultivating life-long curiosity, and encouraging questions of radical consequence and enduring significance.

For this reason, Lutheran higher education is a daring and risky enterprise. It is daring because we believe it is actually possible to genuinely live both rooted in our story and yet relevant for a religiously pluralistic context. It is risky because the way forward is not settled and clear but requires continual reflection and reform. And herein lies one Reformation idea that energizes all the gifts of Lutheran higher education: *semper reformanda*—always reforming.

Semper reformanda invites a positive posture toward change. This positive posture creates a space for honest institutional self-assessment that can lead to continuous improvement. But also, it can inform decisions about how we best organize ourselves for responsiveness, for nimbleness if you will, in order that we operate, in a strategic sense, change-prepared. This best practice in higher education today has a true theological root in our self-understanding as an ELCA institution—to operate change-prepared is to live authentically within a spiritual tradition that embraces *semper reformanda*. And, what is true institutionally is true for the graduates of our institutions. Lutheran higher education is about graduating change-prepared men and women who can be open and responsive to ever-changing 21st-century needs of the workplace and in the world. In so doing we live both rooted and relevant.

ALUMNI UPDATES

ROELL PROMOTED TO SHAREHOLDER AT LAW FIRM

Erica N. Payne Roell has been promoted to shareholder at the law firm of Kendricks, Bordeau, Adamini, Greenlee & Keefe, P.C. Roell is a native of Crystal Falls, Michigan who graduated from Finlandia University in 2007 and earned her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She has a general practice with a diverse background in the law that includes the areas of real estate, probate and trust administration, and civil litigation in those areas. She is also trained as a general civil mediator and domestic relations mediator.

COLOMBINO PROMOTED IN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brian Colombino has been promoted to Patrol Sergeant in the Rhinelander (Wis.) Police Department. Colombino is a 2007 graduate of FinnU with a B.A. in Rural Human Services with a minor in Criminal Justice.

OBITUARIES

PAIGE LINSMEYER

Seymour, WI, Aug. 2, 2015

KARI AUTIO

Laurium, MI, Oct. 2, 2015

NANCY SWANSON (TUOMELA) '52

Ishpeming, MI, Dec. 31, 2015

JOSHUA SANCHEZ

Calumet, MI, June 25, 2016

LOUIS BRAUN '69

Hancock, MI, July 1, 2016

DONALD SALO

Chassell, MI, July 8, 2016

JOSEPH GASPERICH

Detroit, MI, July 22, 2016

JUDITH BOYD (RYNNANEN) '65

Germfask, MI, July 22, 2016

WELDON JURVA '53

Brookfield, WI, Aug. 31, 2016

JONATHAN LUOMA

Toivola, MI, Sept. 3, 2016

ROBERT BROWN

Anchorage, AK, Sept. 16, 2016

PAUL KOLJONEN '71

Laurium, MI, Oct. 5, 2016

MYRNA MARSEILLE (AITTA) '51

Sheboygan, WI, Oct. 6, 2016

SELMA KARJALA

Gwinn, MI, Oct. 8, 2016

LYNN MARINELLI

Chassell, MI, Oct. 20, 2016

ELIZABETH PERLA (JUNTUNEN) '86

Kingsford, MI, Dec. 20, 2016

CALVIN WAISANEN

Houghton, MI, Jan. 5, 2017

ELLEN ORR (PRIUSKA)

Chassell, MI, Jan. 20, 2017

LOIS SHALTZ (RAHKOLA) '49

St. Cloud, MN, Jan. 26, 2017

John Siller was a long-time special friend of Finlandia University. Together with his wife, Roma, John lived generously with Finlandia, especially Finlandia's nursing program, including student scholarships and building projects. They both have left an enduring mark and a legacy of generosity.



FUNDRAISING FOR OLD MAIN PROMISES NEW LIFE FOR A HISTORIC LOCATION

Since the very beginning of Finlandia University as Suomi College, the Old Main building has been a symbol of the school's spirit, a stalwart icon that has endured for more than a century. The first academic building on the campus, the years have seen Old Main's role shift from a classroom to a residential hall to a living monument, a testament to the working-class immigrants that brought their Finnish and Lutheran ideals of hard work and community to the university.

Time has taken its toll on Old Main since its construction began in 1899, and the roof is in need of repairs. The necessity for a renovation did not go unnoticed, however,

and members of the Finlandia Alumni Board developed a plan to help restore Old Main. Beginning on February 23, 2017, an online fundraising initiative through GoFundMe was kicked off to help renovate the historic building.

"Old Main is the cornerstone of the university," said Stephen Szuber, co-president of the Finlandia Alumni Board and one of the leaders of the renovation project. "It was the first building ever there, and it's a perfect example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, which is very prevalent in the area. Water will just destroy those buildings, and that's exactly what's happening with Old Main."

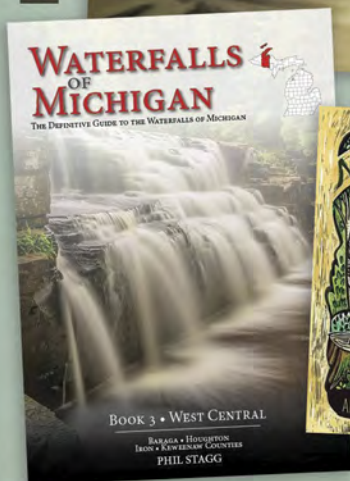
The GoFundMe fundraising campaign has been successful so far. More than \$15,000 has been raised for the cause. "Old Main deserves our best efforts," said Finlandia University's President Philip Johnson in a note accompanying his donation to the campaign. The work is not yet over, though, as the estimates for the full renovations for the roof are slated at \$45,000. Since the start of the campaign, the contributions of many generous donors have helped the Alumni Board get closer to the target amount, and with a little more help, Old Main's future will be just as optimistic, resilient, and colorful as its past century has been.

Donate now at gofundme.com/oldmain.

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