

# *the Bridge*

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FINLANDIA  
UNIVERSITY





## FROM THE PRESIDENT **PHILIP JOHNSON**

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Finlandia's graduation exercises were held on May 5. Our keynote speaker was Bishop Katherine Finegan of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA. Below I share an excerpt from her commencement address:

As you apply yourself to the challenges of your future life, I'd like to share with you some strategies that I have found helpful to revisit as necessary:

**Number one:** Do not exclude the opposing voice, nor give in to the temptation to demonize it. If we only surround ourselves with those who agree, we miss out on learning something new.

**Number two:** Remember, you don't even know what you don't know. There are often extenuating circumstances. Perspectives you haven't thought of. Wisdom from another. Be wary of forming opinions too soon. Leave room for your own error or a course correction.

**Number three:** Try to give people the benefit of the doubt. Chances are they're doing the best they can, just like you. They too have a story worth sharing, experiences that have shaped them and a great capacity for making mistakes.

**And finally, number four:** Find a center, a grounding, something that will tether you to what really matters even as the winds of change blow and kick up the dust. For me, that center is the love of God in Christ Jesus. But even if you are not one who strives to follow the example of Jesus, you really can't go too far wrong if your actions are weighed against the standard of love; love for yourself, love for humanity, love for creation, love for your family. There is value in kindness. In forgiveness. Not only for others, but for yourself.

We all can benefit from revisiting such counsel from time to time. Don't you agree? An openness toward the different, a teachable heart, a matured perspective, a centered life ... This is not only good counsel. It is Finlandia's vision for every student. Why so? Because we believe such qualities are not only necessary for building meaningful careers but necessary for building an enduring vision of humanity. This is higher education at its best. This is Finlandia at its best.

We have had another fabulous year at Finlandia! I encourage you to visit our website, listen to our podcasts and follow our alumni stories. We cannot do what we do without you. Your generosity and goodwill make all the difference. I'm grateful.

Enjoy your reading,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Philip Johnson  
President





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#### Cover Photo:

Laura Sieders cannot contain her joy for teaching as she assists a student during her office hours. The Instructor of Accounting just finished up her third year teaching at Finlandia and first as a full-time faculty member. Sieders, a Calumet native, lost her daughter in a tragic car accident in 2015. She moved back to her hometown to heal shortly after and in the process she discovered her new mission in life. Read her story on page 8.

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### INAUGURAL KALEVALATHON HELD IN FEBRUARY

A new tradition was started this winter with the first Kalevalathon taking place at the Finnish American Heritage Center. Students, faculty, staff and community members came together for a 5.5-hour marathon reading of the Kalevala, Finland's national epic.

"The Kalevala is an enduring symbol of Finnishness that is present around us, even in the Copper Country," said Dr. Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Assistant Professor of Finnish & Nordic Studies. "Many local residents have their own copy of the epic, characters from the Kalevala are key figures in the annual Heikinpäivä parade as well as the annual Art from the Kalevala exhibit at the Copper Country Community Arts Center."

Students from Finlandia's Finnish & Nordic Studies Program participated in the new tradition. The event was held on Kalevala Day, which is celebrated in Finland on February 28 each year.

### DR. MICHELLE RAUCH BROUGHT IN TO LEAD ONLINE INITIATIVES

Dr. Michelle Rauch has joined Finlandia's ranks as the university's first Director of Innovative and Online Learning.

"As we move further into the world of online education, Dr. Rauch's wealth of online teaching and instructional design experience will no doubt prove invaluable to the campus community," Vice President of Academic Affairs Fredi de Yampert said. "Her enthusiasm for working with faculty to ensure their success in the online classroom demonstrates an indispensable commitment to overall student experience."

Dr. Rauch earned her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from Grand Canyon University. She has been in education 20 years, starting as an elementary school teacher, and for the past 14 focused on online, curriculum development and university leadership.

As director of innovative and online learning, Dr. Rauch will be leading online education efforts, a role she knows well. She has been an online professor since 2006 and most recently was the Associate Professor for Online Programs at Arizona Christian University. A school that was ranked No. 1 on College Consensus' Top Ranked Online Schools in Arizona in 2018.



### 85 RECOGNIZED AT COMMENCEMENT

The most magical moment of the year took place in early May when 85 students were conferred degrees in the Paavo Nurmi Center. At the ceremony those students and their guests heard from Student Representative and Marketing major Haley Makela, and Commencement Speaker Bishop Katherine A. Finegan.

Bishop Finegan, of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA, spoke to the students about the importance of their voices in a time of social change.

"You are in a position to shape the world, or at the very least your own corner of it, your own sphere of influence," said Finegan. "You have a better understanding about how to learn, how to think and how to organize those thoughts into a clear line of communication, into a well-structured argument. And you are able to contribute meaningfully to rational and civil discourse."

Visit [finlandia.edu/graduation](http://finlandia.edu/graduation) to watch a video or see photos from the event.

## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HAS NEW PARTNER

The International School of Business is now a Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) Educational Partner School. CGBP is overseen by the National Association of Small Business International Trade Educators (NASBITE), a leading authority and industry standard for global business, education, trade credentialing, training and practice.

NASBITE wanted to develop a professional credential that would raise the level of practice in the field, provide professional development goals and showcase competency. The CGBP Student Pathway Program did just that and now students at Finlandia can become members.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our students," said Kevin Manninen, Dean of the International School of Business. "With lowered trade barriers and new communication technologies easily and affordably available, more companies are or should be engaging in international trade. Those that do will need the expertise that our program provides."



## TWELVE INITIATED INTO FIRST-YEAR HONORS SOCIETY

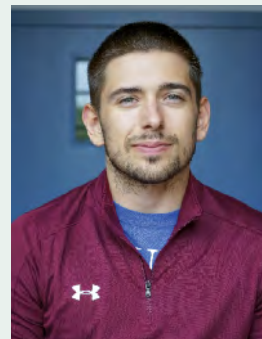
Student success in the classroom was celebrated in late March as 12 freshmen were initiated into the Finlandia University chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society for first-year success.

"It helps students to recognize the importance of doing well as a student," Co-Advisor Dr. Hilary-Joy Virtanen said. "The other part is that it creates yet another kind of point of community for our students to become active members of Finlandia University and do their best while they're here including in academics, public service and in social opportunities."

This was the fourth FinnU class to be initiated. Prior to initiating the new members, six seniors were recognized for their academic excellence, receiving ALD medallions to be worn during commencement.

## NICK TOBEY SELECTED AS PONSSSE INTERN FOR 2019

Nick Tobey was chosen as the 2019 Ponsse Eineri Vidgrén Foundation intern, giving him the opportunity to complete an internship with the Finnish company that includes stops at their North American headquarters in Rhinelander, Wisc. and Finnish headquarters in Vieremä.



"I'm eager to build international connections and learn business practices from an international perspective," Tobey said.

Tobey, a junior majoring in accounting, is the fifth FinnU student to earn this opportunity.

"He'll have a great time and gain valuable experience working for a world-class company," said Kevin Manninen, Dean of the International School of Business and liaison of the internship.



## ONLINE RN-TO-BSN PROGRAM RECOGNIZED FOR AFFORDABILITY

Finlandia University has been named in the top 10 of the 2019 Most Affordable Online Christian Colleges for the online RN-to-BSN program by SR Education Group.

The RN-to-BSN program is designed for current Registered Nurses to go back to school to earn their Bachelor's of Science in Nursing without having to come, physically, to campus.

"Recognizing the challenge of balancing school with other commitments, we have created a well-rounded program that offers flexibility and affordability," said Lori Sullivan, RN-to-BSN Director. "Our goal is student success and the convenience and accessibility of our online RN-to-BSN program sets nurses up to achieve this."

The schools selected represent Christian-affiliated online colleges that are committed to affordability. Specifically, those with tuitions under \$11,000 for their online programs. Finlandia University was selected as number eight out of the 25 schools that were honored.

"We pride ourselves on thorough research and fair assessment of all available online programs, with the hopes of helping students make educated decisions when choosing an online degree," SR Education Group representative Adria Vaughn said.

This is the first time Finlandia has been selected. Learn more about FinnU's RN-to-BSN program at [finlandia.edu/rn-bsn](http://finlandia.edu/rn-bsn).





### **DR. HILARY-JOY VIRTANEN NAMED 2019 RECIPIENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD**

Dr. HilaryJoy Virtanen was honored as the Board of Trustees Distinguished Faculty Award recipient at the 2019 Commencement Ceremony.

Dr. Virtanen, an assistant professor of Finnish & Nordic Studies, joined Finlandia's Suomi College of Arts and Sciences in 2014. She teaches 12 courses including Cultural Anthropology, Finnish Language, Gender in Nordic Society and the Kalevala. She is an ethnologist specializing in Nordic and Upper Midwestern (USA) cultural practices, including festivals, traditional arts, oral genres, music, folk dance, ethnic and national dress, and heritage language maintenance.

"Her passion is so infectious and inspiring," recent alumna Monica Freeman ('19) said. "When I was a student it showed me that if you love what you do everything will work out."

Dr. Virtanen received her B.A. in English & Anthropology from Michigan State University, her M.A. in Folklore from Indiana University, a second M.A. in Scandinavian Studies from University of Wisconsin, and her Ph.D. in Folklore/Scandinavian Studies from University of Wisconsin.

### **CAROLYN DEKKER NOMINATED FOR THE PUSHCART PRIZE**

Creative nonfiction may be new to Dr. Carolyn Dekker, Assistant Professor of English, but you'd never know it based on her piece, "October Pomegranates." The essay, which was recently nominated for The Pushcart Prize, focuses on what it's like to live in the north country and the contrast between living life and teaching literature here at Finlandia University.

"I felt a little like I was leading a double life when I first moved up here," said Dekker. "I had just bought a house and was running back and forth between doing serious manual labor with my father on my roof and teaching my students about poetry."

Up North Lit, a web-based literary journal focused on Midwest writers, published and nominated the piece for The Pushcart Prize. Every year Pushcart Press publishes this anthology, The Best of the Small Presses.

"It would be pretty amazing company to be in, as this anthology is eagerly awaited by other writers each year," Dr. Dekker said.



### **MICHIGAN TRANSFER AGREEMENT NOW IN PLACE**

Finlandia University's effort to become a transfer-friendly leader continued in 2018 with formal participation in the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA).

"While FinnU has always honored many of the elements of the MTA, this allows us to take an official position and showcase our transfer friendliness across Michigan," Assistant Director of Admissions and Transfer Coordinator Craig Kangas said.

Participating in the MTA helps make things clearer for students and other participating institutions. It was formed in 2014 by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers, who continues to maintain it.

Learn more about FinnU's transfer-friendly initiatives at [finlandia.edu/transfer](http://finlandia.edu/transfer).

### **DR. KNOBLAUCH PUBLISHES BOOK CHAPTER**

Associate Professor of History Dr. William Knoblauch's newest publication, "Selling Star Wars in American Mass Media," is a featured chapter in the recently released Palgrave Collection entitled *Media and the Cold War in the 1980s: Between Star Wars and Glasnost*.



The publication focuses on a media phenomenon of the cold war, the Strategic Defense Initiative, later coined Star Wars, and the feasibility of such a project during the 1980s.

"I got interested in the topic watching media in the 1980s as a kid," said Dr. Knoblauch. "To me it was fascinating, the public was consumed by a concept."

As an Associate Professor of History, Dr. Knoblauch teaches courses on topics including the Middle East, U.S. History, 20th century world history and history through film — which, last semester, focused on America during the 1990s.

### **THREE RECEIVE KUHLMAN FOUNDATION GRANT**

Each year Fiber & Fashion Design students have the opportunity to apply for the Barbara L. Kuhlman Foundation grant, and this year three students were grant winners. Gina Geliche, Jessica Shields and Hannah Smith are all Fiber & Fashion Design majors in FinnU's International School of Art & Design.

This grant is open to all fiber arts students from an accredited university. Over 40 Finlandia fiber design students have received the grant since it was made available in 2005.

## FINLANDIA RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS FOR PSYCH MAJORS

Finlandia University has been named one of the 2019 Best Christian Schools for Psychology Students by Psychology Degree Guide.



"It's wonderful that Finlandia has been recognized as a university that has the resources available to fulfill students' spiritual needs, making students happier, healthier and better equipped to reach their potential," said Brittany Nelson, Visiting Professor of Psychology.

This is the first time that FinnU has been recognized on this list. The school was ranked 20th out of the 50 schools that made the cut.

## TWO STUDENTS AWARDED FREE FINNISH STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

As most students settled into summer jobs at home, two students – Mindy Aho and Lindsey Johnson – instead are traveling abroad to study at Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences in Finland, tuition free! The women took advantage of one of the many international partner opportunities Finlandia offers students.

"The course material will revolve around how to start and run your own business, which is what I want to do after I graduate," said Aho, a fine arts major. "I have several art-related business ideas that I have been researching over the years, and I am very excited to gain more knowledge regarding the actual business side of things."

Johnson, just as excited, is looking forward to learning a great deal about the way the Finns do business, how their school system works and about herself.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," she said. "I am excited to see how I will grow as a person from traveling abroad and seeing how another country does business."

Both students have Finnish heritage and are excited to explore the countryside and learn more about the place their family roots came from.



## NURSING PROGRAM INTRODUCING ACADEMIC FAMILIES

Finlandia University's nursing program will be introducing an exciting and unique tradition of academic families this fall.

In this program, junior-level students "adopt" freshmen and transfer students to help guide them through their first year. The practice of academic families is being brought over from European schools and is a great way to make first-year students feel more comfortable in a new environment.

"With this tradition we want to make sure that the new incoming students feel supported in their journey," Assistant Professor of Nursing Irina Sergeyeva said. "Nursing students receive a lot of new information, have to stay organized and structure their day effectively. Characteristics like those are important for successful academic performance as well as in the professional field."



## HERITAGE CENTER PUBLISHES COOKBOOK THAT'S MORE THAN RECIPES

The Finns' influence on Copper Country food ways is well documented. Now, it's also well compiled. The Finnish American Heritage Center has recently completed a picture- and story-laden cookbook titled "Tastes of Finnish America: Foods That Make Us Smile."

The volume features stunning photography from Finnish photographer Timo Villanen, who spent weeks in the U.P. during the summer of 2018 with his wife Satu Huttunen, immersing themselves in the many "flavors" of Finnish-American life that are ever-present in the region.

"The contents of this book celebrate the summer food traditions of the Finnish Americans who call the Copper Country their home," said FAHC Director Jim Kurtti, who crafted the text in the book.

The book is available now from North Wind Books at [bookstore.finlandia.edu](http://bookstore.finlandia.edu).





FIBER & FASHION DESIGN MAJOR  
**Designs Her Own Wedding Dress**





Most little girls dream of what their wedding dress will look like someday. Jessica Shields, a 2019 Fiber & Fashion Design graduate, couldn't shake the idea of what her wedding dress would look like after getting engaged. So she took matters into her own hands.

"I had been to a wedding for a family member and fallen in love with the bride's dress, but after looking at a few online shops I knew I could never afford the dress of my dreams," said Shields. "Thankfully I was in Phyllis (Fredendall)'s Fundamentals of Garment Design class where I learned how to make all the different parts of a garment, and decided that I could probably make my dream dress myself."

She did just that, and in the summer of 2018 she walked down the aisle in a dress perfectly made for her.

"I've known forever that I wanted to be in the arts," she said. "Ever since I was young, I've had my own style. I was always taking different things apart and putting my own things together. I didn't know then that it would become my major, but it just felt right."

A transfer student from nearby Bay College, she worried she couldn't stay connected to her Upper Peninsula roots and be in fashion.

"I was originally in graphic design because I always heard that I would have to move to New York or California to be a fashion designer," Shields said. "What I wanted more than anything was to be able to create things close to my family and here in the Upper Peninsula."

Shields is a recipient of the Dave & Elsa Brule Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to two incoming International School of Art & Design students each year and is designed to help students with the cost of tuition while getting their Bachelor's in Fine Art.

"When I came for my scholarship interview, I'd never had such an intense critique," she said. "It was nice to talk about my art and what it meant to me. I was over the moon to get the scholarship because I knew I had the support that I needed to pursue my dream."

She chose to make her dress as part of a project management course intended to prepare her for her senior project known at FinnU as Diploma Works.

"Jessica is a terrific student, a graceful and warmly inclusive human being," said Fredendall, Professor of Fiber & Fashion Design. "There were many stages, some back steps and reconsiderations. She researched the history of wedding garments and gave a fascinating final presentation. She persisted through sampling and sketch ideations to create her marvelous dress."

The relationships she formed during her time at FinnU, she believes, helped her to achieve her goals.

"I look up to Phyllis in so many ways, both in the art community and just the way she lives her life," said Shields. "She was incredibly supportive during the whole process, and always knew I could make the dress even when I wasn't sure myself."

The ability to create her own wedding dress gave her both the acceptance and drive to continue to create her art for herself and for others.

"The way everyone reacted to the dress made me feel so great about something that I made," she remembered. "It's one of my biggest accomplishments to this day and I couldn't have done that without the support I got from the Finlandia community."







# Finding New Life at Finlandia

*"I lost everything that day. I lost my only child. I lost the exquisite joy of watching my daughter continue to grow and achieve the tremendous potential she had already demonstrated in her almost 19 years. I lost the chance to fulfill all the travel adventures and plans we had talked about. I will never hold my grandchildren. I will forever hear the echoing in my head of those 10 words that shattered my life to dust."*

On the morning of August 7, 2015 Laura Sieders, Instructor of Accounting, received a phone call that is every parent's worst nightmare. Somewhere on an expressway in Texas, her beloved and precious daughter Holly had been killed. The following is her story of loss and eventual discovery of her new mission in life in her own words.

"My focus shortened to just beyond the tip of my nose. I remembered to breathe, but forgot what it was like to do so without feeling like an elephant was sitting on my chest. Each morning my first thought upon waking was 'well, another day to get through without Holly' and each night I went to sleep with the thought 'well, I made it through another day without Holly.'

I've always known my direction in life, but now I was completely adrift. Something so tragic only happens on television or to other people and yet I was now living that life, the one I never planned for, never expected.

I knew instinctively that I couldn't continue with my life in Virginia. The memories were too difficult, the stress of D.C. suburban life too much to cope with on





top of the grief I knew would not recede any time soon. I needed to be back home in the Copper Country with my family, with Lake Superior, with the quietness of the pine forests that, if you listen closely, aren't really all that quiet. There are memories here, too. Summer vacations and Christmas visits to home, but the memories are not suffocating. They are comforting. I could heal here. So, I resigned from my job and in December 2015, I moved back to my childhood home.

The fog of grief had graciously shrouded those first 12 months of going through the motions of living. I still don't know what prompted me to visit the Finlandia University website for open positions, but that's where I found myself one day. I saw the posting for an accounting opportunity in the International School of Business and sent an email to the dean, Kevin Manninen. I didn't even have any deliberate intentions or desired outcomes. When I had a response back regarding an adjunct teaching opportunity, I was surprised and, for the first time in what felt like forever, delighted.

I didn't have much time to prepare to teach Intermediate Accounting, but after working in the field since my university graduation, I would be teaching what I knew. I was a little nervous, but quite excited by this new challenge. After being numb for so long, it was a novelty to feel something other than grief.

Somewhere along the way during the Fall 2016 semester, without me noticing it was happening, I started to look forward to class days. I didn't need to convince myself to roll out of bed and keep putting one foot in front of the other, literally and figuratively. I realized, much to my surprise, that I was actually looking forward to those two days of the week: a feeling I had completely forgotten.

I didn't have to think twice when asked to return as an adjunct instructor the next academic year. It only got better and better as the weeks and months passed with my 2017-2018 students. They figured out that they could make me laugh, and did they ever make me laugh. I don't know if they appreciate how much they helped me wake up to life again.

Then an opportunity arose to go full time.

It was during this time of uncertainty that I saw a commercial for Finlandia University while watching the 2018 Winter Olympics. A clip of President Philip Johnson speaking was included and he said 'It's not simply what we do that matters, it's how we do it.' I'm pretty sure time stopped. The sentiment expressed by President Johnson is precisely the type of environment I wanted to be a part of.

This is exactly where I was supposed to be.



*This is exactly where  
I was supposed to be.*

A few weeks later, my students and I were working through the culmination of learning at the end of Intermediate Accounting. It is a very challenging section for the students, forcing them to stretch mentally and remember everything that they've learned since week one of fall semester, and bring all of it to bear to successfully work through that chapter's material. At one point, one student was completely baffled. Before I could verbally lead this student to the solution, another student looked over, and I heard myself speaking. It was a glorious moment. I'd spent months encouraging them to think like accountants and speak like accountants and suddenly, like magic, it was happening.

Everything clicked. In August 2015, I lost my mission in life. In March 2018, I found a new mission. Somehow I found myself in the right place, with the right people, doing the right thing.

At the conclusion of my first year of full-time teaching, I remain passionately committed to the success of my students and to the future of Finlandia University. This new career is deeply fulfilling and profoundly rewarding. I can't imagine what life would be like if I hadn't, on a whim, looked at jobs at Finlandia and reached out to the dean.

Holly's all-too-short life had been about sending out ripples that positively affected the people around her. I can't help but see the perfect symmetry of how my new mission in life honors her as much as it gives me daily purpose."



## GIVING TUESDAY EXCEEDS LOFTY GOAL

On the morning of November 27, 2018, Finlandia University launched its first major Giving Tuesday campaign. The main event focused on a one hour Facebook Live Extravaganza replete with pies to the face for each \$10,000 raised, guest speakers and an energetic Riku filling in a donation thermometer.

With a lofty goal of \$60,000 in one day, no one knew how the day would turn out.

Amazingly, Finlandia's Giving Tuesday campaign saw over 100 donors raise over \$65,600 for scholarships.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the university would not have reached its goal if it had not been for Board of

Trustee Chair Julie Badel's \$20,000 match," said Coordinator of External Relations Olivia Myers. "Her match inspired others who hoped to double their donation and accounted in a number of first-time donors."

One such couple inspired by Badel's match was Mel and Gloria ('57) Visser, who were one of the first to donate on Facebook. The Visser's \$8,000 donation shortly after 8 a.m. served as a good kick off for the day.

"We had lunch with Karin (Van Dyke) and she explained Finlandia's Giving Tuesday event," said Mel. "We thought it was an excellent chance for us to leverage our gift to its maximum capacity."

For the Visser's, who currently reside in Kalamazoo, donating to organizations in the Copper Country is a personal choice rooted in history. The Visser's have been regular donors at Mel's alma mater, Michigan Technological University as well as giving to Little Brother's Friends of the Elderly. They decided to give generously to Finlandia in 2018 to support nursing scholarships as they have three granddaughters in healthcare.



"At this stage in our lives of giving, we would like to be close to what we give and understand what it's being used for instead of sending it off into the wild blue nothing," said Mel. "That's one nice thing about Finlandia is that you can see where you're doing some good."

The Visser's already have plans to donate to Finlandia's 2019 Giving Tuesday campaign, which will be December 3. For Myers, the challenge in 2019's campaign will be expanding it even further.

"I speak for everyone at Finlandia when I say thank you for helping us go above and beyond our goal for 2018," said Myers. "We have so much momentum going into 2019's campaign, which will be even bigger, better and more fun."

## DONATE TO SIRKKA DOCUMENTARY

"Sirkka" is a documentary film by the famous Kristin Ojaniemi about the life of Sirkka Tuomi Holm. Holm turns 99 this summer and has witnessed incredible things in her life. From her grandfather fighting for the Reds during the Finnish Civil War, to her immigrant parents' involvement in labor strikes, to being trailed by the FBI and being the first woman on the East Coast to be subpoenaed to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Learn more about the film and donate to help keep it on schedule at [finlandia.edu/sirkka](http://finlandia.edu/sirkka).



## "TULIAISIA"

I greet you "bearing gifts" from Finlandia University!

While visiting friends living in Wisconsin and Minnesota recently, I learned a new Finnish word. As I walked into the cozy kitchen of a treasured Suomi College alum and friend, I set down a Finlandia University coffee mug, a copy of the "Picturing the Past" historical book, the latest Finnish American Reporter and a loaf of nisu. Her coffee table was set with a festive spread, loaded with goodies, which literally begged me to sit down and share some time with this wonderful woman. She looked at the items which I had contributed to our table, offered her appreciation and thanks, and said that I didn't just bring gifts – I brought her "tuliaisia."

Upon my puzzled look, she explained the meaning of the word to be that these were homecoming gifts, special gifts that Finnish people would give each other upon returning to their house after being gone on a long trip. These items were meant to "restock" the pantry. She said that while some would define the word to mean simply souvenirs or hostess gifts, to her, these items were meaningful treasures, given from the heart after being gone for a long time. I was touched, and asked her to pronounce and write down the word so I could remember it. Tuliaisia – the



accent is on the first syllable, and you need to say every letter.

Likewise, the continued generous gifts which you give back to your home – whether it was Suomi College, or now Finlandia University – are received as tuliaisia. The gifts from your heart help to restock the university's pantry of opportunity and education.

We have been sharing stories this year about our student support services. The academic assistance we provide through the TRIO programs, the TLC (tutoring and learning center), and student advising goes far beyond simply tutoring and coaching a student in order to pass a class. The assistance provided by our professional staff brings everyone to the table, to share, learn and succeed.

Whether through one of these formal programs, a quick meeting with a faculty member in a hallway or a conversation shared over a meal in the Finn Hall cafeteria, student support services and assistance is a profound expression of what it means to be part of the Finlandia family.

Thank you for sharing your "tuliaisia" with the next generation of Finlandia students as they make their way into their new home, their future.

### SAVE THE DATE



Suomi Seminary  
Class of 1951

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY  
CELEBRATES SUOMI  
SEMINARY, 1904-1958

*"By Faith"*

PLEASE JOIN US  
SEPTEMBER 21-22  
IN HANCOCK, MI

## "BY FAITH" – AN EVENT CELEBRATING SUOMI SEMINARY COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The rich history of Suomi Seminary and the lives and ministries of its graduates will be honored and celebrated September 21-22. This event, titled "By Faith," will gather living alumni, family of alumni, the bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod (ELCA), other special guests, area clergy, synod and community members, and Finlandia students, faculty and staff.

The seminary was active from 1904 to 1958 as the theological training institution for pastoral leadership in the Suomi Synod, part of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Over this period of time the Seminary prepared, and graduated men called to serve in various

capacities, both within and outside the Suomi Synod.

Events planned for this special weekend include community worship, organ recital with hymn sing, the unveiling of a commissioned sculpture in honor of the seminary's graduates and inauguration of the Finlandia University annual Theological Lecture Series.



## A TRADITION ROOTED IN SERVICE

# MLK DAY OF SERVICE

On a snowy Monday in early January you'll find students and staff of Finlandia University forgoing the traditional classroom in favor of community outreach and service to honor a man who had a dream.

As a Baptist minister who saw no separation between faith and social activism, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed the trajectory of civil rights in the United States. To honor his legacy, classes are suspended for the day so that Finlandia students, staff, alumni and friends of the university can make their little bit of difference serving the community.

It's a tradition that began in 2016 with a handful of students and staff who believed that MLK Day had the possibility of being more significant for Finlandia and the surrounding community.

"This was a student-led initiative by members of the Black Student Union," said Leann Fogle, Director of Residence Life. "They wanted to work with Finlandia to make MLK Day a special event rather than just holding regular classes."

With the help of the Coordinator of Student Engagement and Leadership at the time, Tempest Bryant, they were able to connect with local schools, non-profits and agencies to organize the event for its first year. A new tradition was planted.

In addition to taking time to give back and serve the community, the day's purpose would be to take time away from the everyday grind to be intentionally curious about the struggle for racial equity in the country and engage in dialogue on the difficult issue of racial inequality.

Four years later the Day of Service has grown to 20 services sites around the community, with more than 200 students and staff partaking in the day's events. Service sites stretch from Calumet to South Range and have volunteers providing a helping hand anywhere from local elementary schools and retirement homes to parks and community centers.

"Our goal is always to assist our students in establishing the habit of that day gaining some sort of significance in their lives," said Dr. René Johnson, Assistant Professor of Religion and Director of Servant Leadership. "There are rituals and traditions associated with other holidays and our hope is that we can establish in the heart of students that same recognition of MLK Day, making it a ritual to take time away from our own concerns and be of service to others."

Fogle, who also serves as coordinator of transportation for the Day of Service, agreed.

"It's become a vital part of the experience at Finlandia," she said. "After students get involved, the feedback we hear is that they want to find more ways to get involved and keep helping the community."

"The feedback from the community has also been positive," said Johnson. "Community members are extremely grateful for the help and continue to reach out each year."

Truly, the day is a team effort. Students, staff, alumni and friends of the university have bought into the idea of service and the tradition continues to grow.

This upcoming January of 2020 will mark the fifth year of this special tradition and service still remains at the heart of it all.

"Service is important," emphasized Johnson. "It is part of our mission statement and contributes to the well-rounded education we provide at Finlandia. This speaks to the kind of human we want to graduate."

That's ultimately what the day is about. Growing as a person through honoring the memory of a man who stood up for injustice by engaging in a dialogue, giving back and being a part of the community.

Learn more at [finlandia.edu/mlkday](http://finlandia.edu/mlkday).



It's often said that less is more, and when it comes to homes one Finlandia University student found no exception. Justin Woolever, recent physical therapist assistant (PTA) graduate, took his future into his own hands and chose to build himself a home while attending Finlandia.

"My house is originally a 1973 Dodge Sportsman motorhome," said Woolever. "A buddy of mine actually had the idea to turn it into a tiny house, instead of just a motorhome."

Woolever, a transfer student from St. Ignace, MI, had previously lived in dorms and found that he wanted the security of owning his own home.

"Throughout my life, I've faced numerous struggles with homelessness and just my home life," said Woolever. "I wanted to make sure I would never be homeless again."

He took it one step further, and chose to build his tiny home from the bones of the motorhome he purchased.

"I didn't run into many obstacles building my house, just had to learn how to actually build it," said Woolever. "Mostly I had to manage my time as a work study, getting ready for the (football) season and try to get the house done before school started."

While learning to build a home came easy, it didn't come without help. The same can be said for Woolever finding his way through the struggle of putting himself through college.

"I have independently put myself through college, but I don't think I would've been able to do that without the help of the financial aid team at Finlandia," said Woolever. "They went the extra mile and helped me find scholarships and even put me in touch with Michigan Works to get a job. I've been so thankful for them, and it's motivated me to work hard."

Many students struggle with financial health and stability, and as a society we accept the stereotype of the "broke college student." However, Woolever believes that learning to manage your finances is something you should learn in college.

"No matter what, as a college student you have to be able to manage your finances," said Woolever. "It's the first time you're really in charge of your financial situation. Building this house and owning a home definitely made me realize that sooner than most students."

Along with being a student and homeowner, Woolever was on the Finlandia football team. His character and grit was noticed on and off the field by all.

"Justin personifies *sisu*," said Travis Wiltzius, head football coach and neighbor of Woolever. "His determination and grit is what makes him a good football player and a great person. I watched Justin build his home all summer and he attacked that project like he does on the field with relentless work ethic and a get-it-done attitude."

At FinnU Woolever found not only a place to compete and learn, he found a place to help him grow into the person he wants to become.

"I'm a transfer student, and at my previous university I was just a student getting my education," said Woolever. "At Finlandia, I feel that I'm learning to help people."



## FROM MOTORHOME TO TINY HOME

*Featuring*  
NO OBSTACLES TOO  
BIG OR SMALL





# TRIO

## THE VALUE OF A **SUPPORTED STUDENT**

It was an average day at work for Kailee Laplander ('12) as she walked through the halls of one of the 16 school districts served by TRIO Pre-College Programs when a student ran up to her frantically urging her not to leave until he showed her something. Moments later he returned with a document that showed all of the work they had done was worthwhile – a full ride scholarship to the University of Michigan.

"At the beginning of my relationship with that student he didn't know if he was capable of leaving his hometown," Laplander said. "He thought he'd go into the workforce or military and as we talked more, he realized he had options. He realized how intelligent he was, something he wasn't always being told."



It was a rewarding moment Laplander won't soon forget.

"I love being able to give back as a first-generation student myself," she said. "It shows that first-generation students are fully capable of everything that their peers with higher socioeconomic status are capable of. That status has nothing to do with your talent, skill and drive."

Overall the TRIO programs that Finlandia University hosts help more than 750 students in the Western U.P. Laplander serves as the Academic Advisor and Media Specialist. She's been at the university since 2014.

The summer before her senior year at Finlandia that seemed like an impossibility. She was heading into her final year in the nursing program. However, a sneaking suspicion that nursing wasn't for her turned into a full-blown situation prior to her final year. She wasn't sure what to do, but because of the support provided to her through TRIO Student Support Services, she was able to find a light at the end of that tunnel.

"I was encouraged to study what I love," she said.

The encouragement came from her advisor Mark Cavis. Cavis and Laplander knew each other from work Laplander had done outside of FinnU when she worked with Cavis' daughter.

"She has a tremendously wonderful personality," Cavis said. "Our goal was to flush out the positive attributes that she had in working and studying."

She combined all of the credits she earned as a nursing student with a final year of classes focusing on two things that interested her quite a bit, Christian vocation and psychology. The Liberal Studies degree she earned was perfect for her.

"Liberal studies afforded her the opportunity to let her strengths shine," Cavis said. "She started down that path and grabbed ahold of the new opportunity."

"Liberal Studies is one of the broadest degrees you can get," Laplander said. "You can work at an engineering firm, a law firm, a hospital, in education, it really is a degree where you can mold your experiences and studies. They say 75 percent of people are not in the

field that they originally studied, and that's the great thing about liberal studies, it's so broad that you're not pigeonholed."

She's living proof of that. She's worked in a medical clinic. Her first job out of college was with AmeriCorps. She has experience in public relations, retail and social work. Currently Laplander works in the education field. The one thing they all have in common is that they all allow her to make a difference in the people and world around her.

"I wanted to do something that said I made a difference at the end of the day," she said.

Making the difference one student at a time in the Western Upper Peninsula has been incredible the last few years for Laplander, but next year that path will expand to include more. She has been named President-Elect of Michigan College Access Programs & Personnel (MI-CAPP).

Laplander will serve a three-year term that will include chairing committees, conferences and traveling to Washington D.C. on behalf of TRIO programs. In D.C. she'll talk to senators and congressmen about the value of TRIO.

"It's crucial for me to step out of my comfort zone and talk to someone I find to be a high figure in society and say 'these are your constituents. These are the people that will

be voting for you in the future. In order for them to support you in the future, you need to support them now,'" she said. "We need to talk to all politicians and make sure we're getting the funding we need to give students a launching pad. Give them a better chance to be successful in life."

It's a torch Laplander is carrying on from generations who did it before her. Without those people before her, fighting for her and millions of other first-generation students like her, she wouldn't have received the opportunities she was given.

"If someone told me this is where I would be, I would have told them that there was no chance," she said. "I've just taken every opportunity that has been provided to me and wherever it lands me, it lands me. I like to be continually amazed with where life can take you."



*"She started down that path and grabbed ahold of the new opportunity."*

**Mark Cavis**



## WOMEN'S SOCCER HAS BANNER YEAR

Last fall the women's soccer team enjoyed by far its best season in school history with an 11-4-1 record and 24 school records broken.

"It was an electric season," said former coach Jordan Andrews, while complimenting his group of players that was almost entirely freshmen. "We were able to accomplish so much as a group so early, which was a testament to how quickly they were able to come together. Personally, I was impressed with the mentality of the team and how we were able to overcome adversity. The 'bulldog' mentality, as I like to call it, of the team was able to lead the program into areas it has never been before."

It was obvious early in the season that things were different this year. The team jumped out to a 5-0 record against NCAA Division III teams. Transfer student Kirsten L'Esperance, whose brother played for the National Hockey League's Dallas Stars this year and sister will be playing volleyball at FinnU this fall, had 26 points in those games. Her major boost on offense helped the team finish No. 4 in the nation in scoring. Overall, the team was the most improved in the nation.

While 2018 was fun, Andrews sees it as only the start. More than 10 high-end recruits from around the country have already made the commitment to join the up-and-coming program for the 2019 season.

"When you build a winning culture and program, it draws major attention from prospective student athletes that are interested in

playing at the next level," Andrews said. "We have a bright 2019 recruiting class that all have been identified as student athletes that will help continue to move the program forward and hopefully take the next step to the national tournament."

In addition to the team success, several individuals had memorable seasons.

- L'Esperance was selected to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division III All-North Region team. L'Esperance earned third team honors. She is the first male or female soccer player in school history to earn all-region honors. L'Esperance had a great year with 23 goals, 21 assists and 67 points. She ranked among the top 10 for NCAA Division III in six categories, and led the nation in assists per game (1.40), points per game (4.47) and total assists. L'Esperance set the single-season and career records for goals, assists and points.
- Senior Haley Makela was selected to the Google Cloud Academic All-District 6 first team, as presented by CoSIDA. Makela is the first Finlandia student-athlete in any sport to be selected in school history. Makela had a 3.95 gpa majoring in marketing. Makela set single-season school records in wins, goals against average and shutouts. She is the all-time leader in wins, shutouts, goals against average and minutes played.
- Finlandia was well represented on the All-ACAA team. Earning first team honors were freshman Alexia Gonzales, freshman Daisia Knowles and L'Esperance. Second team went to junior Molly Berg and honorable mention was freshman Addie Budzinski, Makela and freshman Rylie Steele.



## HEAD FOOTBALL COACH TRAVIS WILTZIUS NO LONGER INTERIM

Finlandia University Athletic Director announced in mid-November that the "interim" status had been removed from football coach Travis Wiltzius's title. He had been serving as interim head coach since April 2018.

"I couldn't be more pleased to make this move," said Wittenberg. "Travis is passionate about football and Finlandia. That has shown in the progress we have made. I'm excited about the future of our program."

Wiltzius, an Escanaba native, has been with the team since its first season in 2015. He has served as offensive line coach, recruiting coordinator and assistant head coach.



## FOUR VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS EARN ACAA HONORS

Nicole Anderson, Shannon Anderson, Marina Dalton and Jessie Diaz earned All-ACAA honors. Diaz earned first team honors, N. Anderson and S. Anderson were named to second team and Dalton was honorable mention.

Diaz led the ACAA with 5.47 digs per set and was second in total digs (602 – School Record). Diaz leaves as the all-time leader in digs (1,611). N. Anderson was third in the ACAA in total assists. She set the career record for assists with 2,120. S. Anderson came on strong at the end of the season with 2.94 kills and 3.02 digs per set over the last eight matches. Dalton led the team in kills (265), hitting percentage (.217) and total blocks (48). She ranks among the top five career in seven categories.



## AUSTIN CARLSON NAMED TO ALL-ACAA TEAM

Senior men's basketball player Austin Carlson was named to the All-ACAA second team.

"This was a nice recognition for Austin to cap off his career," coach Mike O'Donnell said. "It shows how much he developed as a player in his four years at Finlandia. He's been a true iron man for us, having played in every game possible in his career."

Carlson averaged 11.9 points, 10.6 rebounds and 1.9 blocked shots per game. He led the ACAA in blocked shots, finished third in field goal percentage and fourth in rebounding. Carlson had 12 games in double figures for scoring and 14 for rebounding with 10 double-doubles.

## LUNDEEN NAMED ACAA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Freshman Katie Lundeen was named ACAA Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year. Lundeen was also named to the All-ACAA first team.

"I'm extremely happy for Katie to receive these two awards," coach Mariah Dunham said. "She has definitely earned both with her hard work and determination to get better. Being an undersized post, she has to outwork her competition every night. She does it all, on and off the court and there is no other person that is more deserving."

Lundeen averaged 12.8 points and 6.7 rebounds. She had 14 double-digit scoring games with seven double-digit rebounding performances. Lundeen had five double-doubles and finished second in the ACAA in free throw percentage.



## THREE FOOTBALLERS EARN ALL-MIAA HONORS

Freshman Cole Fornwald, senior Dillion Hueckstaedt and junior Wilson Spreier were named to the All-MIAA second team for football.

Fornwald averaged 39.04 yards per punt, with 10 inside the 20-yard line. He finished third in the MIAA and 28th in NCAA Division III. Hueckstaedt led the MIAA in forced fumbles, solo tackles and total tackles. He was ninth in solo tackles in NCAA Division III. Spreier was a mainstay on the offensive line, starting all 10 games at center.



## KRUG RE-WITES BASEBALL RECORD BOOK

When Joey Krug arrived on campus in the fall of 2015, he figured on getting a quality education and playing some baseball. Krug himself couldn't have envisioned that he would finish as arguably the best player in school history.

However, it wasn't something that came easy. Even at the end. Heading into the 2019 season, his final season, it looked like he might not get to finish what he started. A freak accident over the summer of 2018 looked like it was going to put him out of commission. Through physical therapy, hard work and sheer tenacity, Krug got himself healthy in time. And what a season it led to.

Krug ended up setting the single season records for at-bats (112) and home runs (5). When the dust settled, the record book had Krug's name all over the place. He ranked among the top five career in 19 categories. Krug is the all-time leader in at-bats (396), games played (121), hits (117), home runs (12) and total bases (180). Krug threw the only no-hitter in school history, and was one of only two players in school history to have 100 hits and 100 pitching strikeouts in a career.



# SISU STRENGTH

HOCKEY TEAM SHINES IN RENAISSANCE SEASON





**S**isu is the inner strength that enables extraordinary courage and strength to overcome extreme physical and mental challenge. Sisu was no more evident than in the 2018-19 Finlandia University men's hockey season. The Lions won nearly as many games (eight) as they had the previous five seasons combined (10), including a shocking upset against No. 5 UW-Eau Claire and qualified for the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association Harris Cup Playoffs for the first time since 2012.

"Coming off of the rough years of the past, this year means so much to me, Bryce (Mitzel), Paul (Lochner) and the others who have been here awhile," team captain and senior Alex Rezansoff said. "I have so much respect for my teammates who go out there and put it on the line for the guys in the locker room every night."

To truly appreciate this jump, one must look at where the team was. From 2014-16, Finlandia was 9-60-7, with just 13 losses by two goals or less. There was a constant change of players from year to year. The team went through two head coaches. It's hard to stay mentally strong and keep pushing forward under those circumstances.

The change began on August 12, 2016 when Joe Burcar returned to the bench for the Lions. Burcar, who had been the head coach from 2002-09, had taken Finlandia to the Harris Cup Championship in 2007. He took his belief in the program to heart and rolled his sleeves up to bring the program back to greatness.

Although the Lions were 0-25 in 2016-17, the improvements were there as they had nine losses by two goals or less, compared to just two the year before. In 2017-18, Finlandia snapped their 59-game non-winning streak and had 10 losses by two goals or less.

"You have to show a little sisu, a little grit," said Rezansoff. "I could tell this program was moving in the right direction."

This year it all changed, highlighted by huge 3-1 victory in front of around 1,000 screaming fans at Houghton County Arena on January 25. The success came because of several different factors. The players fully bought into the philosophy that Coach Burcar was promoting. Players were physically and mentally tough, they worked hard on and off the ice, the squad embraced the community, and they believe in their teammates and themselves.

"The boys bought in," said Burcar. "We brought in a large freshman class and had a good mixture of local talent and returning veterans. Late August and September was when the boys spent time together, whether it was bowling, a pizza party, helping the local junior hockey kids or time spent at E.B. Holman Elementary School. We had a good leadership group that helped with early success and throughout the season."

All the close losses of the previous two years had a two-fold effect. The players began to believe that they could be competitive with their opponents and it gave them tangible evidence that what Coach Burcar had been saying was true.

Another factor was that Coach Burcar returned to what had worked for him before – local talent. The Copper Country has a strong hockey heritage, and Burcar dipped into that. Seven players from the U.P. were on the roster, with the top three scorers and leading goalie all being Yoopers.

The final factor was that this was truly Coach Burcar's team, with only five players that had not been recruited by him. That statement is no disrespect to the players that Burcar inherited. No matter the sport, every coach has a certain type of player they are looking for. They also have a system that they want to run, which is predicated on getting those players.

"A majority of us were recruited by coach which definitely helps," said Connor Hannon, assistant captain and second-leading scorer. "We had strong leaders who made sure that we stayed focused. We built off what Bryce (Mitzel) and the others were doing."

Finlandia showed they were buying in as they beat UW-River Falls in the season opener. It was the first win ever over UWRF, and the first opening game win since 2011-12. The Lions would start the season at 2-0-1, the second-best start in program history. Every night opponents had to step up their game against Finlandia. After losing 4-3 to No. 5 UW-Eau Claire, the Lions beat them 1-0 the next night. January was where FinnU hit their stride as they went 5-2-1.

Next year Coach Burcar enters his fourth season back with the Lions and 11th overall as the team looks to jump from an eight-win playoff team to a team competing for home ice in the playoffs with an above .500 record. You can follow the Lions all season at [fulions.com](http://fulions.com).



***You have to show a  
little sisu,  
a little grit***

## ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS NEWS



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN HOSTS REUNION

The Alumni Association of Japan hosted a reunion in Fujisawa City in March 2018 that saw 38 alumni and a special guest "American Mother" Edith Wiard, a former Suomi College advisor and instructor of English who lives in Calumet.

## CARLSON RETIRES FROM BRADLEY SERVICES

**Jeff Carlson ('71)** retired after a long career in packaging and working part time at Wheaton College's radio station, WTEN, as a parttime producer and announcer.

## JARMOND PROMOTED AT L.A. FITNESS IN BUFFALO

**Schwartz Jarmond ('17)** was promoted to Assistant General Manager of L.A. Fitness in Buffalo, NY in April. Jarmond was hired as Membership Director in January 2019.

## KANGAS STARTS CAREER AT MARQUETTE GENERAL

**Tyler Kangas ('19)** a nursing major, landed his first job post-graduation working in the Neuro/Ortho/Peds nursing floor of Marquette General.

## LANGENBERG MOVES TO SENTEXT SOLUTIONS

**Erin Langenberg ('06)** accepted a position as a Mobile Marketing Consultant for SenText Solutions in August 2018. Langenberg graduated with a degree in International Business.

## LEPISTO HONORED AT SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

**Chris Lepisto ('14)** was awarded the 2018 Leaders Club in January 2019 for exceeding 2018 sales and profits budgets at Sherwin-Williams MWD.

## MARTIN PROMOTED AT GITPRIME

**Sara Martin ('17)** a business admin and management major, was recently promoted to Enterprise Sales Development Representative at GitPrime in Seattle.

## NELSON AND PAQUIN MARRY

**Brock Nelson ('16)** and **Kyle Paquin ('17)** were joined in holy matrimony this past fall.

## NIEMI LANDS JOB AT HOUGHTON COUNTY BROADCASTING

**Kyle Niemi ('18)** accepted a position as Sales Representative at Houghton County Broadcasting. Niemi graduated with a degree in Business Administration-Marketing and recently served on a Young Alumni Panel for the Adulting 101 Workshops at Finlandia.

## PAIR OF NURSING ALUM JOIN UPPER GREAT LAKES FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

**Suzanne Miron, NP ('95)** and **Brittany Wadaga, NP ('16)** began serving patients at UGL this year.

## SCHMIDT'S CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

**Leigh and Connie (Bichler '67)** Schmidt will celebrate their 50th anniversary this coming August.

## NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

Four new ways to connect with current students and fellow alumni:

1. Add your information to the Alumni Directory Map so classmates and other alumni can connect with you. It is completely voluntary and you choose what information is shared.
2. Become an Alumni Advocate. Launched by Admissions in spring 2019, this program connects you with prospective students with similar academic interests. You're able to share your experience at Suomi College/Finlandia and answer any questions the student may have.

3. Become an Alumni Mentor. Be paired with a current FinnU student based on shared interests. Coordinator of External Relations, Olivia Myers, provides monthly prompts that are designed to help students think introspectively, navigate their time at university and prepare for the workforce. Alumni need not be local to participate in the program.
4. Share your story at Taste of Success. Alumni speakers are needed for the fall alumni lunch and learn series that is open to the entire campus.

For more information about any of these programs, please visit [finlandia.edu/alumni](http://finlandia.edu/alumni) or contact Olivia Myers directly at (906) 487-7499 or [olivia.myers@finlandia.edu](mailto:olivia.myers@finlandia.edu).



## SUOMI ROOMIES PLANNING 'PRACTICE REUNION' HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Suomi College graduates from 1974-78 are encouraged to attend the Suomi Roomie practice reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 3-5. This reunion is to prepare for the large one in 2020.

## HARMON NAMED CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER

**Kathleen Harmon, MS, RN, CENP ('86)** has joined PatientSafe Solutions, an innovation leader in mobile Clinical Communication & Collaboration (CC&C) solutions, as Chief Clinical Officer.



## SATO ELECTED MAYOR OF CHIGASAKI CITY, JAPAN

**Hikaru Sato ('88)** was elected mayor of Chigasaki City, Japan in 2018. Prior to his current position he was Prefectural Assembly member for 18 years and was a Chairman of the Prefectural Assembly in 2017.

## SHARE AND CONNECT WITH ALUMNI ON DIRECTORY MAP

To be added to the online directory map, alumni can voluntarily fill out a form online with what information they would like to include and then Myers will add them to the Google Map. Alumni information won't be shared or added without consent and consent can be revoked at any point in time.

"In an effort to protect privacy, we're allowing our alumni to add themselves or not" said Myers. "Alumni can provide as little or as much information as they want. We hope everyone will supply at least a name and email address so other classmates can find and reach out to them, but it's not required."

Alumni can view the directory and request to be added by visiting [finlandia.edu/alumni](http://finlandia.edu/alumni).

## 2019 ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

The 2019 Alumni Engagement Survey is now available for alumni to complete. The survey, which takes approximately five minutes to complete, is available at [alumnisurvey.paperform.com](http://alumnisurvey.paperform.com). The results help inform the Alumni Board's annual agenda and provides valuable feedback to the university.

## OBITUARIES

### RALPH J. BMMERT

11/8/18 • Laurium, MI

### MARY ANTOINETTE BERTIE ('49)

12/18/18 • L'Anse, MI

### ROBERT ERKKILA ('69)

2/16/19 • Calumet, MI

### ROBERT FITZ

3/14/19 • Sandusky, OH

### JOSEPH D. FREED ('04)

11/14/18 • Hancock, MI

### LISA SUE GOLLINGER

12/24/18 • Ojai, CA

### NANCY J. HAANPAA

10/26/18 • Negaunee, MI

### GRACE H. HANNINEN ('48)

4/16/19 • Traverse City, MI

### AUDREY (MAKI) HARJALA ('61)

1/4/19 • Traprock Valley, MI

### MELVIN J. HEIKKINEN SR.

10/21/18 • Painesdale, MI

### PAULINE HILSKA

9/29/18 • Ishpeming, MI

### JOHN HOLKKO SR.

11/5/18 • Folsom, CA

### EDWARD J. HULS

2/6/19 • Houghton, MI

### BARBARA V. (FREDRICKSON) JACKSON

3/20/19 • Novi, MI

Former Finnish Council member

### CHRISTINE L. JOHNSON

2/8/19 • Kentwood, MI

### LAUREL F. JOHNSON

7/15/18 • South Range, MI

### STEVEN B. JOHNSON ('11)

3/17/19 • Fulton, MI

### JOHN I. JUKURI ('56)

1/26/19 • Calumet, MI

### CARL THOMAS KANGAS ('51 & '54)

7/27/18 • Bremerton, WA

### MARGARET (KESTNER) KEATING ('51)

12/12/18 • Houghton, MI

### JOYCE A. (MCLEAN) KESTNER ('52)

12/1/18 • Jackson, MI

### CARL KINNUNEN

7/20/18 • Ironwood, MI

Former Finnish Council member

### SUE KNUTSON

June 2018 • Waukesha, WI

### NORMAN KOSKI

1/9/19 • Hancock, MI

### BONNIE J. (CHAMPION) KUKKONEN

1/15/19 • Hancock, MI

Former Finnish Council member

### CARL KUKKONEN

11/22/18 • Phoenix, AZ

### JACK KUJANSUU

3/8/19 • Chassell, MI

### PAUL KUNNARI ('80)

4/27/19 • Calumet, MI

### MARK E. KUURE

11/23/18 • Hancock, MI

### WENDY LABELLE

4/20/19 • Crystal Falls, MI

### ARNOLD V. LAITINEN

('47) 3/7/19 • Ripley, MI

### JOHN THOMAS MAYO ('61)

1/9/19 • Greenland, MI

### SHIRLEY EILEEN (DOERING) MEYERS

11/1/18 • Glenn Mills, PA

### PETER R. MORIN

12/17/18 • Baraga, MI

### LARRY D. MUSTAMAA ('69)

3/8/19 • Marquette, MI

### TRUDI (SMITH) NEWHOUSE ('60)

10/17/18 • Painesdale, MI

### KELLY SUZANNE NEWMAN

4/3/19 • Calumet, MI

### MICHAEL NIEMI

4/8/19 • Hancock, MI

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