

the Bridge

2019 • Volume 72, Number 2

FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY





FROM THE PRESIDENT
PHILIP JOHNSON

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for making time to sit down with this year's donor edition of the Bridge. It is a special edition. At its center we share with you our most important three-year fundraising initiative: *Finlandia 2021 – Rise Together*. Surrounding this central message are stories, feature articles, and campus news updates that I believe you will thoroughly enjoy.

The Bridge's annual Donor Edition always carries two themes: thanksgiving and recognition. As I write this brief greeting I am again humbled by your generosity. Your unmatched levels of giving over the past three years, especially, have been the very difference needed to advance Finlandia. When other revenues have fallen short, you have stepped up to meet the challenge each time. So, even if the printed word seems to offer so little when wanting to express so much, I say once again, thank you!

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

Philip Johnson
President



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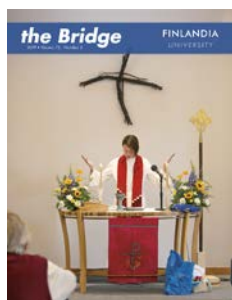
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Cover Photo:

New Campus Pastor, Sarah Semmler
Smith leads a prayer during the By Faith:
Celebrating Suomi Seminary Sunday
Service on September 22, 2019.



NEW CAMPUS PASTOR ACCEPTS CALL

Finlandia University is excited to introduce its new pastor, Sarah Semmler Smith. Semmler Smith is moving to the area after spending the past six years as an associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eu Claire, Wisconsin.

"I am so pleased that Pastor Sarah is joining our community as Finlandia's next campus pastor," said FinnU's President, Dr. Philip Johnson. "Sarah is theological astute, pastorally wise and fun. It's a great blend for our campus community."

Growing up, Semmler Smith never envisioned herself becoming a pastor.

"I grew up Lutheran and my father was an ELCA pastor, but growing up I never wanted to be a pastor," said Semmler Smith. "I first felt my calling in college when I found myself going to church even when I didn't have to."

"I found myself intrigued by theology, psychology and philosophy, and then I worked at a Bible camp where I was able to hang out with kids and share God's love all summer. Between those things, I figured that God might be calling me into the ministry."

Semmler Smith, who is originally from New London, Minnesota, obtained her Bachelor of Arts in religious studies from St. Olaf College then spent a year teaching English abroad in Thailand with her now husband. Upon arriving home, she returned to school and completed her Masters of Divinity at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. After graduation, she

spent three years at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Stanley, Wisconsin before moving to Eu Claire.

Semmler Smith, along with her husband and two children, moved to the Copper Country this past September.

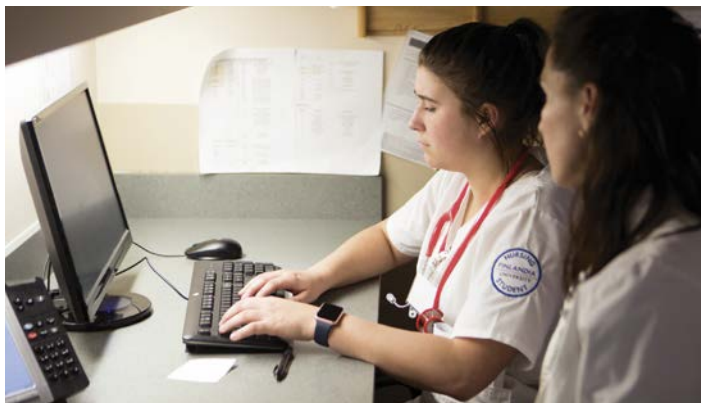
"Campus ministry intrigued me for several reasons," said Semmler Smith. "I look forward to spending a lot of time with this awesome student population of emerging adults who are in their formative years and to get to know, not just their names, but their stories. I'm hoping that I fulfill my role for the Finlandia community as a listening ear, prayer partner, advocate and cheerleader."

"I came from an ELCA college myself and I want to use whatever gifts I have to uplift the entire community."

"Her position and role is foundational for Finlandia living out its vocation in higher education," said Johnson. "We take students seriously as whole human beings: mind, heart and body. Tending to the whole, well, is how smaller colleges and universities do higher education. Pastor Sarah will do such tending with great care, deep listening and positive energy."

When asked about the snow, she admitted she enjoys skiing and is excited to see just how much the Copper Country receives.

"We are excited to get to know what the towns are like and just diving in and getting to know what's unique about the area," said Semmler Smith.



2019 NURSING CLASS CELEBRATES 100 PERCENT FIRST-TIME NCLEX PASS RATE

Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates from the class of 2019 are celebrating a 100 percent first time pass rate of their licensure exam. This is the second time in four years a graduating class has achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate on the notoriously difficult exam.

"It is with great pride that I commend the nursing class of 2019 for their accomplishment," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Fredi deYampert. "These graduates are now fully licensed Registered Nurses. As students, they worked extremely hard to achieve their goals, and that hard work has paid off."

deYampert also commended the faculty who helped the students reach this goal.

"It is said 'it takes a village', and it's apparent that everyone pulled together as a team to realize this awesome achievement. I am so proud of everyone, and I want to thank the faculty and students for all their hard work."

FINLANDIA AWARDED GRANT TO LAUNCH VOCATION & CAREER CENTER

Finlandia University has received the \$25,000 NetVUE Vocation across the Academy Grant from the Council of Independent Colleges to launch a Center for Vocation and Career Development in 2020.

"Grant support from NetVUE enables us to develop this critical project of creating a vocation and career center, but more importantly, it equips us as a campus to strategically nurture our students' imaginations about their own possibilities for impacting the world through their lives and work," said Dr. Rene Johnson, Director of Servant Leadership and Assistant Professor of Religion.



ALUMNI ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNTED GYM MEMBERSHIP

Finlandia University and Suomi College alumni can take advantage of saving \$60 on an annual membership for the Paavo Nurmi Strength and Fitness Center. The cost, usually \$260 for community members, is only \$200 for alumni for an annual membership. Discounts are also available on a monthly basis. Those interested in a membership can sign up at the Paavo Nurmi during regular business hours or contact Michael Bond at michael.bond@finlandia.edu or 906-487-7459.

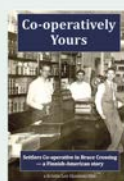
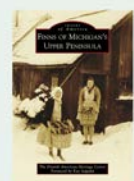


FINLANDIA RANKED AS ONE OF THE BEST ONLINE RN-BSN PROGRAMS IN MI

Finlandia University's Online RN-BSN program has been named one of 2019 – Best Online RN-BSN Programs in Michigan by Registered Nursing. FinnU's program ranked second in the state just ahead of Oakland University and just behind the University of Michigan – Flint.

"After carefully analyzing Online RN-BSN programs throughout the state of Michigan, it became apparent that Finlandia University's program not only supports students for success while in the program, but equips them with the skills needed to confidently enter the fast-paced healthcare industry," Outreach Coordinator of Registered Nursing Sally Worthington said.

The honor is the second that Finlandia's Online RN-BSN has received this year. Earlier the program was recognized for its affordability.



"SIRKKA: PAST AND PRESENT" DOCUMENTARY NOW AVAILABLE

With the recent release of the documentary film "Sirkka: Past & Present," the Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) has several items that will make great Christmas gifts this year.

Along with "Sirkka," which shares the riveting life story of well-known Finnish-American author and activist Sirkka Tuomi Holm, the FAHC has also produced two other films: the award-winning "Co-operatively Yours" about the Finnish American cooperative movement, and "The Finnish American Club of New Port Richey," a short film that encapsulates the history of that club.

All of the items produced by the FAHC, including the popular books "The Finns of Michigan's Upper Peninsula" and "Tastes of Finnish America: Foods That Make Us Smile," are available through North Wind Books or at finlandia.edu/fahc/merchandise.

CAMPUS READ 2019 TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE WITH AUTHOR KATYA GORDON

Katya Gordon of Sea Change Expeditions was the featured author for the 2019 Finlandia University Campus Read. She was on campus on October 22 reading from her book "Climate Change Musings and Studies from Lake Superior's North Shore."

"The committee was intrigued by Gordon's local approach to climate activism and the similarity of her Two Harbors community on the Minnesota shoreline of Lake Superior to ours," Assistant Professor of English Dr. Carolyn Dekker said. "We hope her visit can help energize campus and local conversations and actions around climate change and sustainability."

FINNISH TIES GROW STRONGER WITH ALUMNA NATALIA BORGEN

Finlandia University is pleased to welcome Natalia Borgen to the FinnU family as the Administrative Assistant for Suomi College of Arts & Sciences (SCAS) and International School of Business (ISB). Originally from Helsinki, Finland, Borgen came to Finlandia as an exchange student in 2013. As a student from Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences she studied in an international degree program for multilingual administrative assistants.

"I chose Finlandia after moving to the US for its cultural heritage, its versatile, equal and interesting position and warm and welcoming work atmosphere," said Borgen. "Finlandia is truly a unique university, and I am very proud to be a part of it."

FINLANDIA EARNS AWARD FOR AFFORDABILITY

Finlandia University is celebrating another award, this time for affordability. FinnU was ranked by Affordable Schools as the most affordable school in the Upper Peninsula as part of the Most Affordable Schools in Michigan for a Bachelor's Degree. Across the entire state, FinnU was ranked 13th out of 20.

"The sticker price is not the final price in private higher education," Dean of Students Erin Barnett said. "For smaller schools like Finlandia, closing the gap between the cost of tuition and a student's overall need is important. We do this from the beginning of the process, with a free application, through the final scholarships awarded, based on both need and merit."



STEVE 'N' SEAGULLS RETURNS TO KEWEENAW

The Copper Country welcomed back Finnish rockers Steve 'N' Seagulls to the Rosza Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday September 4. Their unique blend of bluegrass and hard rock classics by AC/DC, Guns and Roses, Metallica and others has made them a hit on both sides of the Atlantic. The event was hosted by the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Upper Michigan, Finlandia University, Good Times Music, Houghton Community Broadcasting and the Rosza Center for Performing Arts.



HALEY BUSSELL STEPS INTO DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST ROLE

Finlandia University is excited to welcome Haley Bussell as its new Digital Marketing Specialist in the Marketing and Communications Office. Bussell is a 2019 graduate of Northern Michigan University's Public Relations program and will

be focusing on helping to launch Finlandia's new enrollment software.

"I am looking forward to highlighting the unique experiences that FinnU provides students, faculty, and staff," said Bussell. "Spearheading the new customer relationship management system with the help of admissions and the UMC creative director will be a challenge that demonstrates great rewards for the university. Another aspect that I'm thrilled about would be that I am able to join in on FinnU's enriching and engaged faculty of educators, community leaders, and lifelong learners."

ANASTAZIA HARTMAN TO LEAD SOCIAL MEDIA EFFORTS

Anastazia Hartman is the newest member to join Finlandia's marketing and communications department as a social and digital media specialist. Hartman will be leading FinnU's social media efforts to continue the process of growing the brand's social presence. She will also be



assisting in a wide variety of marketing activities for the university including writing, website management and graphic design work. Hartman, earned her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism: Public Relations with a minor in advertising from Central Michigan University.

"Social media is a great way to reach people" Hartman said. "I think this is the opportunity to show them what Finlandia has to offer."



MYERS TAKES OVER MARKETING

Olivia Myers has stepped into the role of Marketing Director. Myers joined the FinnU family in April 2018 as a Marketing Coordinator before moving to her previous role as Coordinator of External Relations in August 2018. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism-Public Relations from

Indiana University and is currently pursuing her Masters in Organizational Leadership.

"I am excited to come back to my roots and take on the challenges and opportunities working in the marketing department provides," said Myers. "We have a great team with diverse experiences and backgrounds that should help propel Finlandia into the 2020s with confidence."



DANA PAKULSKI NEW ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Finlandia University is excited to welcome back Dana Pakulski ('18), who is one of two assistant librarians at Maki Library. Pakulski received her Bachelor's degree in English and plans to earn her Master's degree in Library Services and Sciences.

DR. JEFFREY PETTIBONE WELCOMED AS NEW PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR

Finlandia University is pleased to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Pettibone as Assistant Professor of Psychology. Pettibone is joining FinnU after spending time as a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of California. Pettibone received his Doctorate in Biopsychology from the University of Michigan where he also earned his Bachelor's of Science in Biopsychology and Cognitive Science.



"With a small classroom size you get a better human connection," said Dr. Pettibone. "I appreciate that I can work more closely with each student to help them with academic growth and also with navigating long-term career goals."



NICHOLAS KWIEK NEW ACADEMIC CAREER COACH AT TRIO SSS

Finlandia University is excited to welcome Nicholas Kwiek as the new TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Academic Career Coach. Kwiek earned his Bachelor's Degree in History from Kenyon College and is working on his Masters of Education in Online Innovation and

Design from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"I am excited to be working with the students and helping them use their college experience to become themselves," Kwiek said.

By Faith: Pay Tribute



"Karl, I always felt bad for taking such a nice piece of collateral for my notes," said Reverend Leslie Niemi as he handed Reverend Karl Aho back his nine iron.

Aho had given Niemi his nine iron over 50 years ago in exchange for class notes that he didn't return on time. On September 21 at Finlandia University's By Faith event honoring the Suomi Seminary, Aho was reunited with the beloved golf club.

Aho and Niemi were just two of the seven living Suomi Seminarians gathered together for a weekend of events designed to celebrate and honor the rich history of the Suomi Seminary, along with the lives and ministries of its graduates. They were joined by 100 family and friends, the Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, (ELCA) other special guests and Finlandia students, faculty and staff. The name By Faith is a scripture reading, "We walk by faith, and not by sight," in 2 Corinthians 5:7.

"By Faith allowed us to honor and celebrate those who helped lay the foundation that is Finlandia University," said Vice President for Advancement Karin Van Dyke. "We were so delighted by the turnout and so thankful to all the friends and family who joined us for this celebration."

The events kicked off with a Festival of Hymns, which offered the participants the opportunity to sing culturally and historically important hymns. Later that afternoon, Pastor David Van Kley delivered the inaugural annual lecture for the Rudolph and Darley Kemppainen Lecture Series.

Following the lecture, participants gathered for an event reception and banquet at the Finnish American Heritage Center. The program began with greetings from Reverend Mark Wilhelm, representing the ELCA Churchwide office in Chicago, and the Reverend Tapio Luoma, the Archbishop of the Church (Lutheran) of Finland.

After the greetings and dinner, FinnU president Philip Johnson presented the President's Distinguished Service Award in the form of a custom made birds-eye maple serving tray to Niemi for his help in stewarding Finlandia through several decades.

"This matches my birds-eye maple cross," said Niemi, holding up the two pieces side-by-side.

The emotional highlight of the program was the recognition of the Suomi Seminarians present at the event which included Niemi and Aho in addition to Revs. Henry Aukee and Wallace Leno. The family of the other three Seminarians who were unable to attend, Revs. Martin Saarinen, Giles Ekola and

Rodger Foltz, were also recognized. The attending seminarians offered their comments and shared a few stories, followed by an open time of sharing by audience and family members. Several humorous and heartfelt memories were shared, including Niemi's and Aho's story of sharing class notes that led to the eventual repossession of Aho's nine iron.

The symbolic centerpiece of the By Faith weekend occurred on Sunday morning with the dedication of a sculpture titled "By Faith" created by Finnish American artist, Bruce A. Niemi from Kenosha, Wisconsin. The

*"By Faith allowed us to
honor and celebrate
those who helped lay
the foundation that is
Finlandia University"*

sculpture was installed outside the front entrance of the University's Chapel of St. Matthew. From its hillside perch, the sculpture can be easily seen from many areas on campus, and now offers a unique, new focal point. Three stainless steel spirals representing the Holy Trinity surround a fourth brass spiral that emerges from the center to represent the Copper Country. Following the sculpture dedication, participants processed inside, passing a walnut and brass plaque on the interior wall of the Chapel entrance, bearing the names of the 140 Suomi Seminarians.

Once inside the Chapel, a commemorative worship service began with standing-room-only attendance. Reverend Katherine Finegan, Bishop of the NGLS of the ELCA was the preacher. Included in the service was the installation of Finlandia's new Campus Pastor, Reverend Sarah Semmler Smith. The service was followed by the usual coffee hour in the lower level of the Chapel, featuring the Finnish sweet bread nisu (or pulla).

To conclude the By Faith weekend event, Finlandia recognized Reverend Rudolph (dec.) and Darley Kempppainen for their gift naming not only the Kempppainen Lecture Series held on Saturday, but the lower level of the Chapel as "A Place of Grace". The Kempppainen's generosity has been valued over the years, not only with Suomi College and Finlandia, but with many churches and congregations throughout the Upper Peninsula and beyond.

Darley and her family reflected on service to others, and in particular, the importance of sharing food with neighbors and friends. Their financial support of "The Table" will continue to serve Finlandia's students and others through the needs pantry located in the lower level of the Chapel.

Since the event, the University has continued to receive additional financial support for By Faith, as well as notes of thanks and appreciation. One of those attending and representing her husband, a '54 seminarian who passed away in 2010, summed up the Sunday service by sending this note:

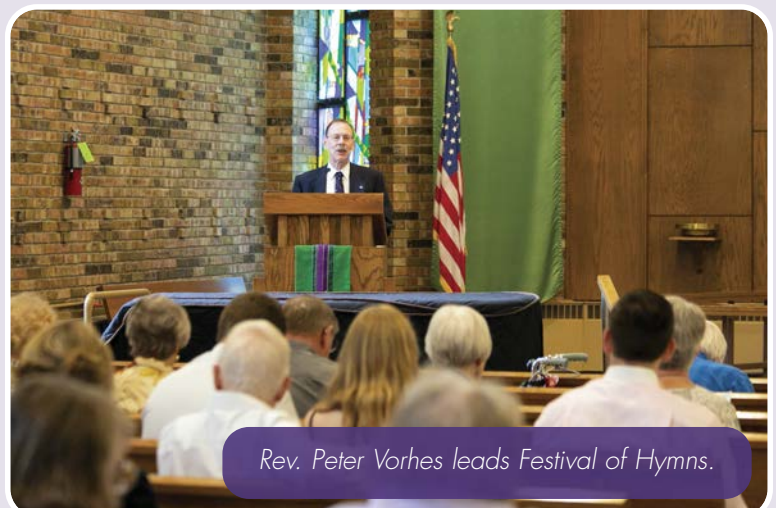
"The service was very moving, with its well-chosen texts, loud-singing Lutherans, and excellent sermon by Bishop Finegan. The installation of Pastor Sarah was a lovely present reminder of the past good soil of Suomi Seminary: a shiny new leaf on an old, well-rooted tree."



Artist Bruce A. Niemi speaks at sculpture dedication.



The Kempppainen's support allowed for the inaugural annual Kempppainen Lecture Series and named the lower level of the Chapel of St. Matthew, "A Place of Grace." Their gift also helps support the student food pantry, The Table.



Rev. Peter Vorhes leads Festival of Hymns.

A LEGACY OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP



A light blue house on Quincy St., just past Finlandia University's Old Main building, bears the name "Servant Leadership House." The house has been known by other names and had other purposes in the history of the university, but since 2014 it has been a residence for female students who desire to grow as servant leaders. Put simply, servant leaders focus primarily on influencing their communities with positive change by being acutely aware of the needs around them and by responding with generosity and humility in any way they can.

On October 12, 2019 the Servant Leadership House recognized its fifth anniversary by celebrating the servant leaders who built the Servant Leadership House. Substantial financial support came from Judy Juntunen, Edith Niederer, and Philip and René Johnson to get the

renovations underway in 2014. Several individuals donated furnishings, kitchenware, window treatments, artwork, or rugs. 56 individuals volunteered more than 1,350 hours repairing windows, knocking down walls, painting, or cleaning. In recent years several individuals made financial contributions to replace the old windows in the house, and in the summer of 2019 Norma Nominelli spearheaded a campaign to replace all 28 remaining old windows and support the vision for remodeling the attic space of the house.

"I'm so grateful for all the individuals who've been a part of the development of the Servant Leadership House," said Dr. René Johnson, Director of Servant Leadership at Finlandia. "And it's especially meaningful to me to rename the house the Koskela Servant Leadership House after my great-grandparents, Matt and Alina Koskela."

Mathies (Matt) Koskela, a Finnish immigrant who came to America in 1891 at the age of 18, came with some carpentry skills, an industrious spirit, and a kind and generous heart. He started working for farmers near Westbrook, Minnesota, where he learned the farming trade and eventually owned three successful farms. He was married to Alina Koskela (née Nerva) for 20 years when in 1896 she died from complications in her ninth pregnancy. Matt was left to raise the five surviving children. Two of the Koskela grandchildren decided to honor this family legacy of caring generosity with a gift to Finlandia University.



Koskela Servant Leadership House Residents.

"Grandpa Koskela was a quiet and reserved man," said Rev. Myron Grams, grandson of Matt and Alina. "He didn't talk about the death of his wife. In fact, I don't know that we talked a lot, but I always knew that he cared for me. That caring foundation really shaped the family, you know, and it's an honor to have the Koskela name attached to a house that promotes caring for others and is connected with a Koskela descendant, René Johnson."

Matt Koskela's care for family left a lasting impression on another grandson, Jim Norton, who remembers his grandfather's generosity in his boyhood. "I walked about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to country school, and when I was probably in seventh grade Grandpa Koskela came to visit us at our farm when winter was setting in. He saw how poorly dressed I was for the cold walk to school and took me straight down to the J.C. Penney where he bought me rubber boots lined with sheep fleece, new

jeans, new gloves, a cap and a lined overcoat. Our family wasn't rich so the next day when I went to school dressed in all these new clothes all the kids asked if my dad had robbed a bank! I remember it like it was yesterday."

Norton was often compared to his grandfather when he was a boy. "That's okay with me," he said, "that's why I give a lot of my money away. I learned generosity from him. You know when people ask, 'Who would you like to talk to again, if you could?' I'd pick Grandpa Koskela. He was just a good guy willing to give a helping hand to others."

"I certainly learned hard work and the importance of making a contribution from my parents. I learned that one's earning power is greater when it benefits more than yourself," said René Johnson. "My parents were offering financial support and friendship to old bachelors in town, and young people trying to get a start in life. They've certainly been generous with me and my sisters, and now with this major gift to the university and a project that is dear to me. I didn't know that I was being schooled in servant leadership as a kid, but now I see it as part of my family legacy."

Robert K. Greenleaf, the founder of the modern servant leadership movement said that servant leadership "begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first." And if you look at the Koskela Servant Leadership House, you can see that it ends with community.



Phyllis and Jim Norton (parents of René Johnson) and Rev. Myron and Florence Grams.



ONNI AND DOROTHEA HARJU ENDOWMENT

Finlandia University has received one of its most significant endowment gifts to date from the estate of Onni and Dorothea Harju.

Like many other Finnish American men, Onni grew up on a farm with very humble beginnings. Through his lifetime of hard work and investment – which included growing Christmas trees on the Red Granite, Wisconsin farmland – Onni planted his strong Finnish roots by investing in the future.

Onni was born in Bessemer, Michigan in 1918, earned a degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and spent most of his career as the treasurer of the Consolidated Paper Company in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. While there, he also served as the director and treasurer of several of the company's subsidiaries and affiliates. He participated on many corporate and non-profit boards, including the Suomi College Board of Trustees and Finlandia's Finnish Council of America. Reverend Les Niemi, a Suomi Seminary alum working with Suomi College's advancement office at the time, was a close friend of Onni's and laid the groundwork for what would become a monumental gift.

As a successful businessman, Onni made frequent contributions to the college, leveraging his company's matching gift program. While Onni was a strong supporter, he expressed humility by re-affirming his hardscrabble Finnish conviction for investing for the future, in a letter written to former president Dr. Ralph J. Jalkanen.

"At some time in one of our earlier conversations I told you that I am not yet of a mind to make very much of a financial contribution. This, no doubt, harkens back to my early years when I truly had nothing – it was a hard beginning. But, as you know, I have made a generous provision for Suomi in my will. This is as it must be now."

Onni R. Harju,
November 15, 1987

Sadly, Onni passed away only three years later at age 72. Upon his death in 1990 his wife Dorothea established a scholarship fund, as well as naming a room in the Finnish American Heritage Center in his memory. The couple had no children, and upon Onni's death, Dorothea's amended estate plan then reflected an endowed gift to Suomi College/Finlandia University which would occur after her passing.

The university's advancement office was notified of Dorothea's death in 2017, and began the process of working with the estate and other financial and legal institutions to verify and receive the gift. One year later, the Onni R. Harju Endowed Directorship of the Finnish American Heritage Center, and four scholarships for Finnish studies was established.

32 years have now passed since Onni wrote that letter. His confident vision was rooted in tradition, and today his generous legacy continues in service to others. Kiitos, Onni.

HOW TO SAVE TAXES IF YOU ARE 70 ½ YEARS OLD

An easy way for retirees to support and fund annual donations to nonprofits such as Finlandia University is by designating your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to the organization. An RMD is the minimum dollar amount you must withdraw from your retirement account each year. Once you reach age 70 ½, you generally have to start taking withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account. By directing your RMD to a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, you can help to avoid paying taxes on your annual required withdrawal.

- You can withdraw more than the minimum required amount.
- The deadline for taking RMDs is December 31 each year. If you have an IRA, you may delay taking your first RMD (and only your first) until April 1 of the year after you turn 70½. If you choose to delay your first RMD, you'll have to take your first and second RMD in the same tax year.
- For more information on calculating your RMD and the withdrawal process, consult your financial planning professional, and/or tax accountant.
- To direct your RMD gift to Finlandia University contact Karin Van Dyke, Vice President for Advancement at Karin.vandyke@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7344

THE POWER OF THANK YOU

By Dale Skogman,
Northern Great Lakes Synod Bishop Emeritus

I served as the pastor of First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan from 1971-76. During that time, Norman Lamberg, who grew up in Gladstone and whose family were members of First Lutheran would send occasional gifts to the congregation. My secretary, June Hawkinson, would be very excited when the checks would arrive in the mail. Norman had moved out east and became a most valuable employee of the Ball Seed Company as a horticulturalist and top salesman. In the process he amassed a lot of money.

Much to my amazement Lisa Zulke, our church secretary, called me one day and said, "I have a \$50,000 check here designated for "Skogman Projects!"

I was amazed, humbled and most grateful for Norman's thoughtfulness and generosity. The money was divided between First Lutheran, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, The Northern Great Lakes Synod and Finlandia University. I humbly thanked Norman for his generous gift and shared with him the invaluable ministry that his benevolence would support.

I learned from Norman's sister, who is a member of First Lutheran, that he was battling cancer and I reached out to him reminding him of his past generosity to First Lutheran and thanking him once again for his benevolence which was deeply appreciated. I also sought to affirm and support him in his illness.

More amazement! Zulke called saying, "I have another check in the amount of \$100,000 earmarked for "Skogman Projects."

Now my previous amazement turned to utter astonishment! Again, the money was divided between

our synod's ministries and I provided a careful accounting and most grateful thanks to Norman for his astonishing and wonderful gifts.

The story doesn't end there! Recently Norman succumbed to the cancer and he managed to amaze me once again, this time beyond belief. In his will he designated \$1,000,000 for "Skogman Projects" under the auspices of First Lutheran Church!

Yes, I lost a little sleep pondering how to be a good steward of Norman's profound generosity! One thing was certain: in my experience as a pastor and bishop I knew the very worst thing I could do was to give the entire amount to First Lutheran, as it would stifle our sense of responsibility and stewardship for the support of our ministry!

After much prayerful consideration and conversation with trusted friends and church leaders, the previous and current money was divided with almost \$600,000 directed to Finlandia University. Finlandia struggles mightily with the costs of providing a viable academic institution in a rural context, as it is distanced from its Finnish roots by the passing of generations and

faces competition from public schools with cheaper tuition. I served on the Finlandia Board of Trustees for 14 years and as Chair for nine. I was also responsible for persuading President Philip Johnson to accept the presidency despite his hesitancy and I am most grateful to him for doing so!

Never underestimate the power of saying thank you for kindness and generosity past, present or future! It has been at the heart of my ministry as a Christian, pastor and bishop and remember: "God is able to provide you with every blessing... abundance for every good work!"



MATCHING PROGRAMS

Every year Finlandia receives matching gifts which make a big difference. This past year the total was over \$22,000. These matching funds, available through a donor's employer, former employer, or other association, allows alumni and friends to exercise faithful stewardship while multiplying their gift. If you aren't sure if your company offers a matching gift program, please give a call to your Human Resources Department. In doing so, you are helping us realize an extra \$20,000 in matching gifts each year.



A MEANINGFUL WAY TO GIVE

In February of 2019, the Finlandia Alumni Board (FAB) determined it wanted to give back to current students in a meaningful way. The FAB, led by president Monica Hill ('76), ultimately decided to raise funds to support an Alumni Association Textbook Award, to be given out in the form of a gift certificate to North Wind Books to help offset the rising cost of textbooks. The best way to do this? Set up Finlandia's first Giving Day.

"The FAB wants to create an active relationship with Finlandia students," said Hill. "We remember grants, loans, scholarships, and work study that helped most of us pay for a college education. Helping with textbooks is a tangible and immediate way to show our students that we care about them."

On June 19, 2019, Giving Day officially kicked off. A social media post went out every 90 minutes to keep people engaged, complete with fun videos such as Yooper Devin, Guess that Textbook Cost quiz and even a Coaches Coloring Challenge.

With a few last minute donations trickling in after June 20, the total raised was just over \$9,750. The application for the Alumni Association Textbook Awards went live shortly after the announcement and criteria for receiving an award included being a full-time student in good academic standing. Over 150 students applied and 39 were selected based entirely on their response to the question, "How would receiving money toward textbooks help your future endeavors?"

"We decided to notify the recipients with a phone call," said Hill. "Every one of us was humbled by the

expressions of thanks, the relief and excitement in their voices so clear. One young man even asked to put me on speaker phone so he could share this news with his mom and dad."

One such student who received an award was Daniella Gonzalez, a junior studying psychology from Bell Gardens, CA. In her thank you letter, Gonzalez wrote:

"I am extremely grateful to receive this award. I had just woken up and I always check my emails to see if there's anything important. I saw a congratulations! I was ecstatic. That's definitely something you don't get to wake up to very often. Receiving this scholarship to me means that no matter how hard life may get, there will always be that light at the end of the tunnel. This summer vacation I was trying to save every little penny for books and now with this award I can buy textbooks with less stress."

For the Alumni Board, continuing the program is a no-brainer. The next Giving Day has been determined and will be March 18.

"Many thanks to those of you who gave and encouraged others to help out," said Hill. "You can be assured that the recipients were truly worthy. With so many needs out there, this award program is a direct way to help hardworking students concentrate on learning instead of worrying."

"It is our hope that these 'future alumni' will keep a relationship with Finlandia as members of the Alumni Association and continue the new tradition of giving to help students."



FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY 2021

Rise Together
\$25,000,000

OUR STORY. OUR VISION.

Nearly 125 years ago, hardy and hard-working Finnish Lutheran immigrants founded a school in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Their lives were marked by a gritty quality captured in the Finnish term, *sisu* – grit and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Begun in the late 19th century as Suomi College to prepare young men and women from immigrant families for work in the United States, we are today Finlandia University inspired by our vision to prepare graduates for the 21st workplace and world.

Finlandia's roots are not only Finnish. They are Lutheran as well, today belonging to a 26-member Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) whose shared vision is to graduate men and women who are called and empowered, to serve the neighbor, so that all may flourish.

Over the next three years Finlandia 2021 - *Rise Together* will deliver the funding needed to more fully realize Finlandia's vision. Finlandia's alumni and friends have demonstrated extraordinary generosity in raising \$15,000,000 toward our \$25,000,000 goal. And now, *Rise Together* spurs all of us on to a strong finish: \$10,000,000 over the next three years.

Rise Together is about Finlandia, rising to the challenges and opportunities in higher education today. And it is about you, our alumni and friends, rising to be counted among those who choose again or for the first time to live generously with Finlandia and her students. We rise together.



“Finlandia has done a lot for me. It truly developed me into the person I am today. I will always have Finlandia in my heart, and always look back at the memories and the relationships I have made along the way.”

Tyler Borkadi

'19, Business Sports Management
Assistant Soccer Coach,
North Central University, MN

Rise Together

Students are up-front and center in *Rise Together*. \$10,000,000 over the next three years will have an enduring impact on Finlandia's capacity to fund the following four student-centered priorities:

\$3,400,000

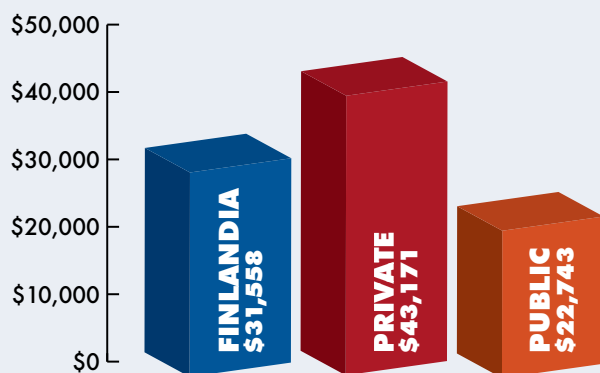
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Meeting the financial needs of those who deserve and desire to go to college—this has always been Finlandia at its best. We are able to offer students one of the most affordable private college experiences in the upper midwest by controlling costs, managing tuition increases, and offering generous financial aid.



**100% FULL-TIME
DOMESTIC STUDENTS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID**

**50% OF STUDENTS
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL
LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE**



MICHIGAN COLLEGE TUITION COMPARISON

TUITION + FEES + ROOM = BACHELOR'S DEGREE



\$2,000,000

ACADEMIC QUALITY & INNOVATION

The quality of our academic programs is directly linked to the quality of our faculty. Recruiting and retaining top faculty requires funding levels that enable Finlandia to attract those with qualities and credentials students expect. The result is higher numbers of students successfully entering their careers of choice or enrolling in desired graduate studies.

**100% CLASS OF 2019
NURSING NCLEX FIRST-TIME
PASS RATE**





\$1,000,000

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

Finlandia supports student learning with a constellation of up-close and personal advising, tutoring, and academic coaching, all contributing to our students' success and well-being. Increased funding will ensure that students will rise to their full potential.

8-TO-1

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO



\$3,600,000

STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

SMART CLASSROOMS - SMARTER STUDENTS

A complete furnishing and technology upgrade for all 21 classrooms in Finlandia's central instructional block. This project will revolutionize the student experience and improve student learning by creating truly inspiring learning environments.

STUDENT SUPPORT COMMONS

A newly renovated student-friendly campus space that gathers up all of our student support and student service programs that students rely on every day for success.

MANNERHEIM CENTRAL STUDENT CENTER

Renovating Finlandia's former dining area with Finnish style furnishings and student-popular amenities, study corners, and a coffee shop will greatly enhance the campus experience for both residential and commuter students.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

These state-of-the-art technologies will include, among other things, a complete family of computer patient simulators that brings real-life clinical experiences into our labs. Together with our outstanding faculty and program-leading clinical site requirements, these institutional technologies will enable Finlandia to graduate the best prepared health care professionals in the region.



CENTER FOR VOCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Finlandia will become a model of vocational discernment and career preparation in higher education. Strengths oriented self-exploration will empower students to reflect most meaningfully on career and lifestyle choices while enrolled and preparing for life and work following graduation.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Most recent generosity from alumni and friends has enabled us to:

- Recruit and retain top faculty whose first love is to teach;
- Build stronger, persisting student cohorts;
- Improve retention by 20 percent in two years;
- Increase the size of our marketing and communications team by 100 percent; and
- Invest wisely and substantially in three partnerships aimed at growing enrollment and revenue.

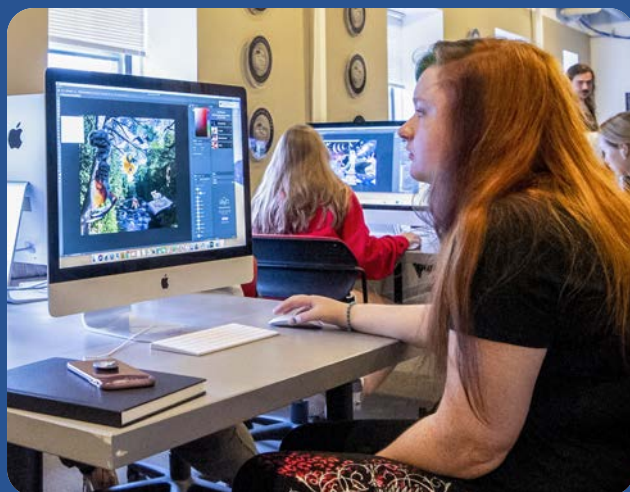
Raising \$10,000,000 over the next three years means students will:

- Have greater access to a Finlandia degree than ever before;
- Experience deeper levels of engagement with faculty and staff who enthusiastically embrace our brand of up close and personal higher education;
- Achieve higher rates of academic success and deeper levels of personal growth; and
- Live and learn in spaces that inspire curiosity and more fully prepare them for the 21st-century workplace and world.

RISE TOGETHER NOW

We envision Finlandia's 125th anniversary as both a landing and a launch. We look now to you, Finlandia's alumni and friends. It is your generosity and investment in our students, our programs, and our facilities that will make the difference as we rise together for Finlandia's next season of growth.

Rise together. Give now. Learn more at finlandia.edu/risetgether.



DONOR RECOGNITION

In each donor edition of the Bridge, we are pleased to recognize and thank the many individuals, organizations, churches, clubs, associations and businesses that generously donated to Finlandia University in the preceding fiscal year between **July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019**, and in years past. Some have pledged deferred gifts, or named the university in their wills. Some have given in memory of loved ones or to honor a special date, event or person. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers of our friends and alumni, and for their gifts in support of our students' educational goals.

ANONYMOUS GIFTS

Names of donors who have made anonymous gifts do not appear in the lists below. Finlandia, however, wishes to acknowledge their generosity.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS ARE IMPORTANT

Finlandia University was the beneficiary of \$10,288 from 12 individuals during 2018-2019 fiscal year from the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. This year's total brought Finlandia over the \$100,000 mark in Thrivent Choice Dollars received to date over the years. Dollars directed to Finlandia provide assistance and support to our students and programs. Every little bit helps, and in selecting to use your Choice Dollars, you are making a real difference. Finlandia supporters who are Thrivent Financial members are encouraged to contact their agent with any questions. You may also call Ross Rinkinen or Travis Hanson at (906) 231-4630.

CUMULATIVE GIVING

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

(\$50,000 AND ABOVE)

Lifetime membership in the President's Circle is granted to those who have given \$50,000 or more to Finlandia University during any five-year period, and to those who have named the university in their estate plans for \$50,000 or more and informed the university of their intentions.

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NIKANDER CLUB

(\$10,000 AND ABOVE)

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

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continued on page 18

DISTINGUISHED GIVING

NIKANDER CLUB (continued)

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NISONEN ASSOCIATES COUNCIL

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

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

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WARGELIN COUNCIL

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

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

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WAINO "POP" LEHTO LEAGUE

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

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

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OLD MAIN SOCIETY

(\$500-\$999)

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

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QUINCY CLUB

(\$250-\$499)

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

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MINNIE PERTTULA-MAKI CIRCLE

(\$100-\$249)

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

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The Finnish American Heritage Center (FAHC) has concluded another momentous year of events, programming, history and cultural awareness. The Center was recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan with the "Superior Award" for efforts in preserving Upper Peninsula history. And through the outreach efforts of FAHC staff, the Center continues to see a marked increase in the number of international and regional visitors, researchers, and donors who share our vision.

In addition to the research opportunities provided by the irreplaceable archival collections at the FAHC, the programming of our Finnish American Folk School has allowed visitors and community members to learn traditional skills and crafts that have all but disappeared. A new cadre of tradition bearers was created this year in areas such as Finnish riverboat building, boot making, folk music and crafting folk instruments out of natural materials.

Other facets of the FAHC, such as the *Finnish American Reporter* newspaper, have led to other unique opportunities as well. Beloved long-time contributor to the newspaper Sirkka Tuomi Holm, celebrated her 99th birthday this year, and the Center was honored to produce a feature-length documentary about her fascinating life. Sirkka also entrusted her personal archive of more than 30 boxes of material to the care of the FAHC Archive.

The DVD of this film is available for sale, along with our other books and DVDs, and would make meaningful gifts this holiday season.

As the Center's visibility continues to grow, so do the donations of historical materials to the archive and museum collections. In the past 12 months, the Archive has received more than 130 donations from across North America and Finland. The "By Faith" events on campus to commemorate the former Suomi Synod Seminary, and remaining seminarians called attention to recent donations from the late E. Olaf Rankinen, and the congregational records and materials from the First Lutheran Church of Dollar Bay, MI and St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Warren, OH.

Other unique donations include the history and records of the Finnish-American Club of New Port Richey, FL, a telegram and scrapbook related to "Big Louie" Moilanen, two portraits by artist Arne Salo, and materials related to *Työmies* and Mesaba Park in northern Minnesota, including two large-scale handcrafted banners.

The Finnish American Heritage Center gratefully acknowledges these, and all donors, in-kind donors, and volunteers who have helped us carry on the mission of preserving and promoting Finnish-American life and culture.

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L'ESPERANCE & HUECKSTAEDT NAMED 2019 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Kirsten L'Esperance and Dillion Hueckstaedt were named the 2019 Athletes of the Year for Finlandia.

"The Male and Female Athlete of the Year awards are awarded to the male and female student-athletes that had the best year on the field, court, or ice," Athletic Director Curtis Wittenberg said. "The award is not for career achievements, but what they did in that particular academic year."

Hueckstaedt, a 2019 graduate of the criminal justice program, made an impact in football's first year of the MIAA, being named a defensive player of the week (Oct. 22) and to the All-MIAA second team. He is the all-time leader in solo tackles (126), assist tackles (134), total tackles (260) and tackles for a loss (16).

"Hueckstaedt put up some amazing tackle numbers for a single season within the conference and ranked within the top 15 in NCAA DIII Football defensive statistical categories - tackles per game (3rd - 14.50), solo tackles per game (8th - 7.40) and forced fumbles per game (15th - 0.40)," said Wittenberg.

In 2018, Hueckstaedt had 74 solo tackles with 71 assists for 145 total tackles and 11.5 tackles for a loss, all single-season school records. He had 24 tackles against No. 14 Trine on Oct. 20, 2018, the third highest total in an MIAA game since 2000.

The Female Athlete of the Year, L'Esperance, led FinnU's soccer team to an unbelievable season in 2018. The Lions went from 1-11-1 to 11-4-1 and qualified for the ACAA Tournament. She was a four-time ACAA Player of the Week as well as earning All-ACAA and All-Region honors. L'Esperance is currently a senior from Brighton, Michigan majoring in PTA.

"L'Esperance broke just about every offensive statistical category for Finlandia Women's Soccer, while leading the NCAA DIII Women's Soccer in points per game and assists per game," said Wittenberg.

In 2018, L'Esperance scored 23 goals with 21 assists for 67 points. She scored in every game except three, with three hat tricks among her seven multiple goal performances. L'Esperance had four multiple assist games and scored at least three points in 11 games. She ranked among the top eight in NCAA Division III in six categories and led the nation in assists per game (1.40), points per game (4.47) and total assists.

Among her accolades include four-time ACAA Offensive Player of the Week, All-ACCA First Team and U.S. Coaches All-North Region third team (the first male or female soccer player in school history to do so).



SOCCER TEAMS GO TO TOURNAMENT

The Women's and Men's Soccer programs both qualified for the 2019 American Collegiate Athletic Association (ACAA) Championship. This is the third straight post-season appearance for the women and second straight post-season appearance for the men's team. The women's team won the ACAA semi-final game 1-0 against Mills College to advance to the final against U-C Santa Cruz, where they fell 7-0. The men's team fell in the semi-final match against UW-Whitewater in a 7-2 loss.



KOCAR ('19) GOES PRO

Timotej Kocar, a former Finlandia University men's hockey player, has signed a professional hockey contract in his home country of Slovenia. He will be playing for HDD Jesenice.

Jesenice, as they are commonly referred to, is a member of the Slovenia Ice Hockey League (SIHL) and the Alps Hockey League (AHL). Over the last two seasons, Jesenice has made it to the AHL Playoffs semifinals both seasons and looks to build on that.

"I would like to thank my teammates, coaching staff (Joe Burcar, Brian Hannon, Micah Stipek, Jeff Finger), trainers (Angel Nunez, Maria Lalone, Abbey Yeo), Steve Nordstrom, and Curtis Wittenberg for my great four years at Finlandia University," said Kocar. "I would not be where I am without them."

Kocar played from 2016 to 2019 for the Lions. He scored three goals with four assists for seven points. In 2018-19, he helped Finlandia go 8-17-2 and qualify for the NCHA playoffs for the first time in seven years.

UP NATIVE LAMPPA NAMED VOLLEYBALL COACH

Brian Lamppa has been named the head coach of the Finlandia University volleyball team. He has spent the last four years as the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at Idaho. In 2018 the Vandals went 23-10, were the Big Sky regular season champions and reached the Big Sky Tournament Championship game.

In 2011 Lamppa, a native of Lake Linden and a graduate of Lake Linden-Hubbell High School, arrived at Idaho as an assistant coach and the recruiting coordinator. He was elevated to associate head coach in 2015. Lamppa has helped to recruit and mentor 23 all-conference players and three individual award winners. In 2014, Prepvolleyball.com ranked the recruiting class as number one in the Big Sky Conference and among the top 100 in the country.

This fall, the Lions went 1-26 during regular season play.



CASEY TAKES LEAD OF MEN'S HOOPS

Sam Casey has been named head coach of the Finlandia University men's basketball team. Casey spent the last year as head coach of De La Salle Jerusalem in the Palestinian Basketball Association (PBBA). He helped to develop Mohamed Qag, who was the PBBA Rookie of the Year.

"I feel fortunate to be able to announce Sam Casey as the next head men's basketball coach at Finlandia University," said athletic director Curtis Wittenberg. "Sam brings experiences from all over the world, which will help in the growth of these young men in this program as well as the University as a whole."

Casey spent two years as head coach of men's basketball at San Antonio College (Texas). He took over a program that had just one returning player and increased the schedule from 16 to 30 games in his second year. Casey had four academic all-conference and four all-conference selections.

Casey also coached in the KPA Pro Summer League (Las Vegas, Nev.) for two years. In 2019, he was the head coach of KPA Asia which won the championship. In addition, Casey has been a coach and director at camps in Germany, Israel, Switzerland and Texas.

SOKOLOW TAKES CHARGE OF WOMEN'S SOCCER

Grace Sokolow has been named head coach of the Finlandia University women's soccer team. Sokolow comes to Finlandia after three years as the assistant coach for women's soccer at Austin College (Texas). During her tenure 30 athletes were named to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll. In addition the Roos' were awarded a United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award in 2017 and 2018.

Sokolow was a four-year letter winner and two-year starter at Vassar (N.Y.). She was named to the Liberty League All-Academic Team three times (2006-08). She holds a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) "D" License, Premier and Goalkeeping Level 2 Diplomas from United Soccer Coaches, and is an NFHS Accredited Interscholastic Coach of both Soccer and Strength and Conditioning. She is a proud member of the Alliance of Women Coaches (now WeCoach) and a 2018 graduate of the NCAA Women Coaches Academy. Her other professional memberships include the Positive Coaching Alliance, US Soccer, United Soccer Coaches, and USA Weightlifting.

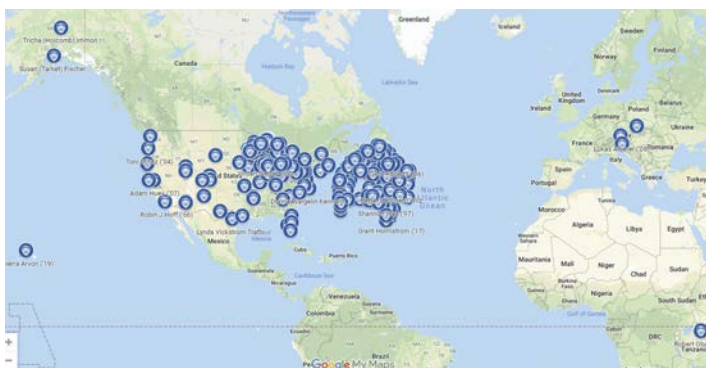
This fall, the Lions went 10-5-1 during regular season play. The women's team won the ACAA semi-final game 1-0 against Mills College to advance to the final against U-C Santa Cruz, where they fell 7-0.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR ALUMNI

As we head into yet another calendar year, we wanted to highlight some incredible ways you can stay involved with FinnU throughout 2020. Below are six New Year's Resolutions you can add to your list. We promise they'll be easy to complete.

1. Make sure you're signed up for our Alumni & Friends monthly e-newsletters. You can do so by emailing us, visiting finlandia.edu/alumni, or mailing us your email address. Another reason why it's important to share your email? We're going completely digital for our Spring edition of the Bridge, and we know you won't want to miss that!



2. Join over 250 alumni and add yourself to the Alumni Directory Map by visiting finlandia.edu/alumni. You choose exactly what information you want included on the map, and we won't publish anything without your permission.
3. Connect with Finlandia on social media and share your updates. We want to know what's going on with you. Students want to know what's going on with you. So connect with us on LinkedIn or Facebook and share what's going on with you.

4. Commit to supporting at least one student in 2020. Support comes in a number of different forms: whether that's by donating, volunteering through the Finlandia Alumni Board, Alumni Advocates, or Alumni Mentor Program, attending campus events, or connecting with a student on LinkedIn and offering advice, every little bit makes a difference. If you're interested but not sure where to start, reach out to us and we can help guide you to the best fit.
5. Contribute to the Alumni Board's 2nd Annual Giving Day on March 18, 2020. The Alumni Board will be raising funds for the 2020 Alumni Association Textbook Award Winners. Last year, they raised nearly \$10,000 and helped 39 deserving students afford textbooks. This year, their goal is to help 50. Visit finlandia.edu/givingday to learn more.



6. Subscribe to the Finlandia Podcast Network and listen to Leading the Pride. Did you know FinnU has three podcasts it produces? Leading the Pride is the alumni podcast, where we interview incredible Suomi and Finlandia alumni. Past guests include a cold case homicide detective, international best-selling author and social justice advocate. Visit finlandia.edu/podcasts to learn more and subscribe on Google Play, Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud, or where ever you listen to podcasts. Know someone who should be featured? Let us know!



ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWS

JAYANA BARRETTE ('19) is now a Sales Representative at MI Custom Signs in Hancock, MI after receiving her BFA this past spring.

TYLER BORKADI ('19) started a new position as Assistant Men's Soccer coach at North Central University in Minnesota.

TRAVIS CORNWELL (COMMUNICATION, '18) was promoted to Collections Team Lead at US Bank in Minneapolis, MN this past October.

SEAN DANIELS (COMMUNICATION, '17) accepted a position as Assistant Coach for Men's Basketball at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, KY in November.

TERRANCE FULLER (ACCOUNTING, '19) accepted a position as an Accounting Associate-Receivables at Acrisure in Caledonia, MI in May.

ANGELA KILPELA (GRAPHIC DESIGN, '19) is now working in creative services at the Daily Mining Gazette in Houghton, MI.

BRIGITTE LAPOINTE ('07)

was appointed to the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports in April. LaPointe currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Upper Peninsula Health Plan.



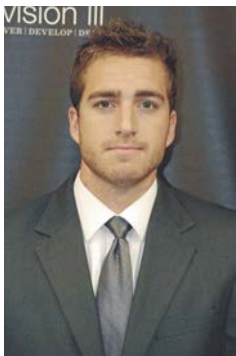
AMANDA MALECHE ('12) was named Executive Director at Anthology Senior Living in Fenton, MI this past summer.

EMMA NELSON (SPORTS MANAGEMENT & PTA, '18) started a new position at North Ridge Health and Rehab in New Hope, MN this August.

ABIGAIL TEMBREULL ('18) started as the Visitor Services Representative at Cranbrook Art Museum in June.

JIM AND LAURIE (PATRICK) TERPENNING ('81) both recently retired from full-time employment. Jim spent 34 years in law enforcement at the St. Clair Co. Sheriff's Office, while Laurie retires after 25 years in the restaurant business. They also recently celebrated 36 years of marriage after falling in love on campus in 1980.

Houghton County Sheriff's Deputy, **HANS TOLKKINEN ('12)** received a Distinguished Service Medal for bravery, sacrifice and service from the Michigan Sheriff's Association.



COLE WORKMAN (BUSINESS, '15) has been named interim head coach of the St. Olaf Men's Hockey Team for the 2019-20 season.

Following his career at Finlandia, Workman worked as an assistant hockey coach at FinnU before becoming an assistant for the women's hockey program at Adrian College in 2015-16, helping the Bulldogs to their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance that season.

CARE TO SHARE YOUR STORY?

Have you wondered what became of your college roommate, or the study-buddy with whom you spent so many hours? Chances are good that someone is thinking of you, too. Now is the perfect time to send a note and provide FinnU with your professional, personal or Finlovedia update to publish in the next edition of the Bridge. Enquiring minds want to know what you've been up to! We also invite you to connect with the Suomi College/Finlandia University Alumni Association on Facebook or contact alumni staff at alumni@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7499.

OBITUARIES**HAROLD B. AMOS ('60)**

6/1/19 • Ontonagon, MI

WILLIAM H. ANTILA ('66)

9/13/19 • Mass City, MI

ELAINE L (HARJU) ARO ('49)

5/30/19 • Baltic, MI

HILMA BACKMAN ('42)

9/9/19 • Marinette, WI

PATRICIA BLAKE

7/22/19 • Marquette, MI

ELIZABETH ANNE (LAHO) BOWEN ('72)

5/9/19 • Snohomish, WA

CHERYL BROUILLETTE

8/12/19 • Calumet, MI

DERRICK BUFFORD ('97)

5/1/19 • Detroit, MI

DORENE (MURPHY) BUTLER ('65)

5/4/19 • Laurium, MI

PAM HAAB ('63)

3/22/19 • Waterford, MI

EZRA "ESH" HAATAJA ('53)

5/4/19 • Mohawk, MI

LAUREL JOHNSON

7/15/18 • South Range, MI

MARILYN LOHELA ('48)

6/13/19 • Hancock, MI

JAMES LOHMANN

6/4/19 • Covington, MI

HELEN (KOSKI) LUND ('46)

4/16/19 • Brighton, MI

RUBEN NAYBACK ('48)

8/17/19 • Rochester, MN

DAVID OCHANDER ('58)

6/27/19 • Lake Isabella, MI

SYLVIA OJA

3/19/19 • Wakefield, MI

LES PAUL

1/1/19 • Lindale, TX

JAMES PIIPARINEN

7/30/19 • Hancock, MI

JOSEPH PODNER

7/13/19 • Atlantic Mine, MI

SHARON QUINLAN ('02)

5/2/19 • Venice, FL

JAMES SANDERSON ('66)

7/11/19 • Ada, MI

DAN TUOHIMMA ('84)

9/9/19 • Houghton, MI

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