

the Bridge

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FINLANDIA
UNIVERSITY





FROM THE PRESIDENT **PHILIP JOHNSON**

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The cover says it all!

Not really.

Don't get me wrong. COVID-19 has deeply impacted Finlandia. The real story, however, is something other. It is about Finlandia's students, faculty, and staff, day after day, absorbing, pivoting, and innovating through a season of extraordinary disruption and loss.

In the stories that follow, you will experience a good dose of Finlandia fortitude. Our stellar TRIO Student Support Services program has earned another five years of funding. Our gold-star accredited health sciences programs are on pace to be delivered from newly renovated spaces starting in January. So too, the venue for Finlandia's new Center for Vocation and Career. Finlandia's Esports program has launched and plans are in place for a new student center as early as spring semester. And, thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,800,000 toward our 3-year, \$10,000,000 mark for Rise Together.

Finlandia continues to advance commitments such as these and others that point forward, beyond our present circumstances, beyond the daily challenges and relentless demands, beyond COVID-19.

So, the cover doesn't say it all.

Yet, admittedly, it does speak to a shared reality we dare not dismiss. Every reader, each one of us, has and continues to experience personal and difficult loss of one kind or another. There are among our readers those whose work or age or health place them at higher risk. There are among our readers those that have lost a loved one, a friend, or a neighbor to COVID-19. We are mindful of these realities. And so, at such a time as this, Finlandia is truly grateful for your prayers, your continued financial support, and your good will.

Sincerely,

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

Philip Johnson
President



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Note: Throughout this issue you may come across photos of people not social distancing or wearing masks. These photos were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Cover Photo:

Finlandia University freshman and criminal justice major, Amanda Staeger, follows campus safety and social distancing protocols during a study session on the steps of Old Main.

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COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: TOGETHER FOR GOOD

"I just wanted to do more, and do it now." This was the sentiment shared by Ray Hirvonen in spring of 2018 when he pledged to support Finlandia's health science programs with a gift of \$1,000,000 to the Finlandia Fund. Together with other strong support from Finlandia's alumni and friends, and in cooperation with a local developer, Finlandia is now preparing to move its health science programs to its new location on Quincy Green, the former Hancock Central High School. Though exterior work remains, interior renovations are in their final phase of completion.

Finlandia acquired the iconic building in 2009 in an agreement with Hancock Public Schools called, *Campus and Community: Together for Good*. From the beginning, Finlandia has been committed to renovations that preserve the building's historical character, enhance its community spaces, and create inspiring learning environments. Finlandia plans to deliver its health sciences programs from the newly renovated space by January 2021, in time for spring semester.

"I am excited for the things that will be possible for our programs with this new space."

"We are very excited about the new educational spaces for our health science programs," said VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Health Sciences Fredi deYampert. "A new cohort model will be implemented, placing learning spaces and faculty offices within designated spaces, allowing for easier access for students and faculty. In addition to the newly upgraded instructional spaces, the building's 700-seat auditorium and adjacent gymnasium will become available for community use as well as for university events" deYampert said.

Most of the instructional spaces are nearing completion and deYampert anticipates the full move to begin as early as November. REMC, Finlandia's internet and IT service provider, is currently working with FinnU to complete the internet/technology pieces.

In addition to the new facility, the College of Health Sciences received a grant from the Harry A. and

Margaret D. Towsley Foundation for new equipment.

"The CHS faculty appreciate the generous grant provided to us by the Towsley Foundation," said deYampert. "This five-year \$220,000 grant supports program enhancements in technology and learning environments."

Finlandia has been a recipient of several Towsley Grants in the past. The most recent, in 2018, funded a third patient simulator.

For CHS students, the anticipated move to the new building is a welcomed one.

"The new space will allow us to use more of our simulation equipment," said nursing student David Carlson. "I am really looking forward to getting into the new building because it will allow us to have more space. The nursing and PTA programs don't typically mix with the other majors, so having our own building that we can have more room in to work is going to be very useful. I am excited for the things that will be possible for our programs with this new space."

"I am excited to have classes there because it will be a new environment dedicated to all students who are studying health sciences," said sophomore nursing student Hillary Hantz. Hantz transferred to FinnU last year after spending two years at Lansing Community College. She enjoyed her experience so much, she convinced her older brother, Nick, and younger sister, Madeline, who are also studying nursing, to transfer to Finlandia this year.

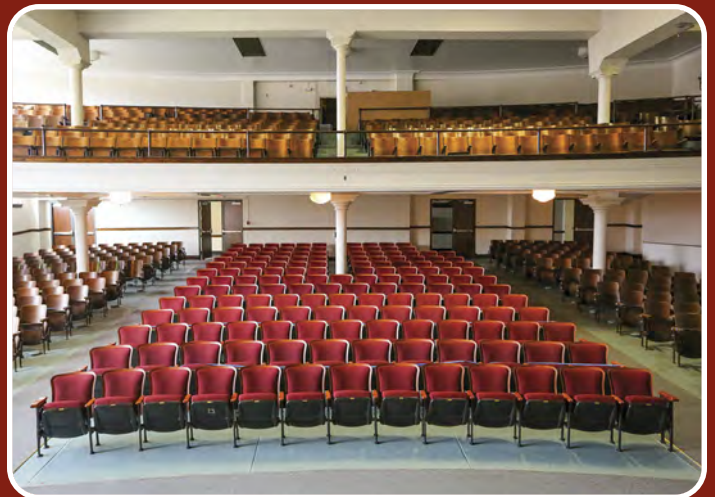
Although the space for health science majors will be bigger, students will still have the small class sizes and connection with the professors they've come to know and appreciate.

"I suggested that my brother and sister should join me here at FinnU because of my positive experiences," said Hantz. "I love that the classes are smaller than other colleges and universities. I truly feel that the professors here want us to succeed and care about their students."

The College of Health Sciences building will be named in recognition of the Hirvonen family's lifetime legacy of generosity, leadership, and healthcare careers. An opening for alumni and friends with a naming ceremony and other donor recognitions is planned for 2021.



One of the future classrooms for the College of Health Sciences. New windows were installed throughout the building.



The auditorium is currently being used to host socially-distanced classes from a number of different programs.



A space on the fourth floor is being reimagined for FinnU's Esports program.



CALUMET GRAD NAMED BRULE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Calumet graduate, Lia Tervo has been selected as the 2020 Brule Scholarship recipient by the International School of Art & Design. The Brule Scholarship is a \$20,000 competitive art scholarship for new students. "I'm thankful that Finlandia offers such scholarships like this one because I like going to school and, to be honest, I probably would have decided not to go anymore if it weren't for the Brule Scholarship," said Tervo, who plans to major in Graphic Design. "So, I would say that my greatest reaction to winning was mostly happiness that I can still go to school and get a degree in something that I love doing."

BPA HOSTS BUSINESS DAY EVENT FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

The Finlandia University Business Professionals of America student group hosted a Business Day event for 60 local students in February that featured networking opportunities, an exploration of careers in business and a case study.

FINNU NAMED A 2020 BEST VALUE COLLEGE

Finlandia University has been named a 2020 Best Value Colleges by University Research & Review. This marks the third time in four years Finlandia has made the list. "At Finlandia, 100 percent of traditional full-time students receive some form of financial aid," said Sandra Turnquist, Director of Financial Aid Services.



FINLANDIA INTRODUCES NEW NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Finlandia University introduced two new need-based scholarships in 2020 to further its commitment to providing quality affordable private higher education to all. The Rise Together Scholarship provides free full tuition for qualifying Michigan students when combined with federal and state grants for students. The Western Great Lakes Scholarship provides up to \$4,000 for qualifying students from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.



US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS FINNU #12 FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY

Finlandia University has been ranked by US News & World Report as a top university for Social Mobility. Finlandia came in at #12 on the list of universities in the Midwest region. The ranking was based on Finlandia's enrollment and graduation of Pell eligible students. Currently, FinnU's Pell eligible population sits at just over 50 percent.

"Finlandia has long prided itself on the educational attainment of low income and first generation college students by providing academic and social support, scholarships, such as the Rise Together Scholarship, and networking opportunities for students who may fall through the cracks at a larger school," said Dean of Students Erin Barnett.

NEW 2+2 PTA PROGRAM OFFERS PATH TO DPT

Finlandia's newest 2+2 offering pairs the popular associate degree in Physical Therapy Assistant with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts to create a pathway to a Doctor's of Physical Therapy program.

FINLANDIA LISTED IN TOP 30 BEST NURSING SCHOOLS IN MICHIGAN

Finlandia University has been listed as one of the Top 30 Best Nursing Schools in Michigan according to Nursing Schools Almanac. Nursing Schools Almanac researched over 3,000 schools in the country on the institution's academic prestige and perceived value, the breadth and depth of nursing programs offered and finally student success, particularly on the NCLEX licensure examination. Graduates of FinnU's prelicensure BSN program consistently perform strongly on the NCLEX-RN national licensure examination, including a perfect 100 percent first-time pass rate in 2016 and 2019.



BUSINESS STUDENTS ASSIST AREA FIRMS WITH INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

This spring, students in the International School of Business's Global Entrepreneurship class worked with two area businesses to develop plans that assisted them in expanding their international operations. For the Lake Linden-based company, NECi Superior Enzymes, students explored opportunities for expansion into the eastern European market. For ProNav Marine of Hancock, students put a plan together to allow the company to expand its international sales in Canada, Australia, and the Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, and Finland.

81 GRADUATE DURING VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

The Finlandia University Class of 2020 had a graduation ceremony unlike any other. On May 21, 81 students had their degrees conferred in a virtual ceremony. The ceremony featured alumna, Darlene King ('90, Liberal Arts) as the keynote speaker and Nicholas Tobey ('20, Accounting) as the student speaker. The full graduation can be viewed on Finlandia's YouTube channel.

FINNU NAMED A TOP 30 LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN THE MIDWEST

Finlandia University was named a Top 30 Liberal Arts College in the Midwest according to Great Value Colleges. "We are the only liberal arts university in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our tuition is competitive and the quality of the educational experience here is outstanding. We are proud of the programs we offer and the success of our students," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fredi deYampert.



SCAS EXPANDS MAJOR AND MINOR OFFERINGS

The Suomi College of Arts & Sciences (SCAS) began offering a Bachelor of Science option in Biology and Psychology this fall. It previously only offered a Bachelor of Arts in both degrees. SCAS also introduced three new minors: Military Science, Global Studies, and Creative Writing.

NEW STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC OPENS

Finlandia has partnered with the Upper Great Lakes Family Health Clinic to open a new student health clinic in Nikander Hall. Run by Cindy Blake, NP, and staffed by nursing students, the clinic will provide basic care services for students and employees while giving health sciences students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with patients.



3RD RANKED ONLINE RN-BSN PROGRAM IN MI

Finlandia University's Online RN-BSN program was ranked third in the 2020 – Best Online RN-BSN Programs in

Michigan by Registered Nursing. "At Finlandia, we recognize the challenge of balancing school with other commitments and have created a well-rounded program that offers the flexibility needed for students to achieve their goals," said Lori Sullivan, Director of the RN-BSN program. This honor is the third that Finlandia's Online RN-BSN program has received in two years.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON CALLS SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd by local enforcement officers this summer, President Johnson created the President's Social Justice Task Force. The Task Force, led by TRIO Director Cindy Cowell and composed of students, faculty and staff, seeks to be advocates for social justice in the campus community and identify places on campus to improve support for disenfranchised populations.

FOLK SCHOOL LOOKS FORWARD TO BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Though the pandemic has temporarily halted public operations of the Finnish American Folk School (FAFS), organizers have been planning for a post-COVID world and are preparing a slate of Nordic and folk art programs, building on the recent successes of the Folk School – which is the only exclusively Finnish folk school in North America. The FAFS team is enthusiastic, buoyed by the results of their most recent courses, which have included Lapland boot (lapikkaat) making, folk dancing, birchbark harvesting and instrument making, to name a few. Stay up to date on all Folk School programming at finlandia.edu/fahc



ALPHA LAMBDA DELTA CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

This year, Finlandia's Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) chapter celebrates its fifth anniversary. The ALD is a National Honor Society for First-Year Success and to become a member, students must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher in their first semester at Finlandia. "ALD, aside from being a resume line, offers competitive scholarships for graduate school and study abroad, and provides opportunities for leadership on campus as well as access to leadership development through the national organization," said Erin Barnett, Finlandia's Dean of Students and ALD Chapter Founder. Since 2015, 62 Finlandia students have been inducted into the National ALD.



PAAVO NURMI CENTER UNDERGOES UPDATES

The Paavo Nurmi Center gym underwent several changes this summer including painting the ceiling black, and a refinished floor by Horner Flooring. "I'm incredibly happy with the Paavo updates," said Women's Basketball Head Coach Mariah Dunham. "It's important that we do as much as we can to stay competitive in a recruiting aspect, and the gym is certainly a big part of that recruiting piece. I'm excited to have a game day experience with the new looks."

ISB LAUNCHES E-NEWSLETTER

The Finlandia International School of Business (ISB) has launched a new e-newsletter. The e-newsletter allows people to stay up-to-date on the ISB alumni, faculty and program news. Currently, the newsletter is scheduled to go out once a semester, but Kevin Manninen, Dean of the ISB, is eager to send it out more frequently. Sign up to receive the newsletter at finlandia.edu/business.

FINNU INTRODUCES NEW CERTIFICATES

Finlandia University is excited to announce new online certificate offerings in Marketing, Sports Management, and Teaching & Learning: Professional Development. Each certificate consists of four, five-week long courses that e-learners can complete on their own time. A full certificate could be earned by taking two courses at once for a total of 10 weeks. E-learners also have the option of completing one course at a time, for a total of 20 weeks. E-learners can also opt to take courses à la carte, if they are not interested in completing the entire certificate. Learn more at finlandia.edu/certificates.

GARY BLACK took over as Chief Financial Officer at FinnU last December. Black previously worked as the Senior Financial Director at DRS Naval Power Systems in Milwaukee and has almost 40 years of experience in financial and leadership roles that span two continents. Past employers include Johnson & Johnson, Pearl Vision, Quelle AG in Austria, and Trident Maritime Systems, among others.

Black brought on **CYRIL FOXPETROV** as Accounting Manager in January and **ALBERT HAMMOND** ('20, Accounting) as an Accountant. FoxPetrov was born and raised in Madison, Wis. and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a degree in Accounting in 2014, and earned his Masters in Professional Accountancy in 2015.

MARIE BONENFANT ('13) recently moved back to the Financial Aid department as a Financial Aid Counselor after working in North Wind Books as a Book Clerk for the past few years. Bonenfant previously worked as a Financial Aid Counselor until 2018. Taking her place at North Wind Books is **CINDY LORENZ**, who previously worked in Accounts Payable at the Business office.



JASON DART joined the FinnU admissions team in October 2020 and will be assisting men's athletics prospects with their admissions needs. Dart moved to the UP from Florida where he's most recently served as a middle and high school teacher. Dart also has experience as an admissions recruiter for Le

Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando and National College in Charlottesville, Va.

GINA GELICHE ('19, Fiber & Fashion Design) joined the FinnU admissions team in winter 2020. Geliche was a member of the Servant Leadership House, Helsinki Slang, a Palahemio Fellow and a member of the Young Women's Caucus for Art while a student at FinnU. She will be recruiting business majors and students from upper Michigan.



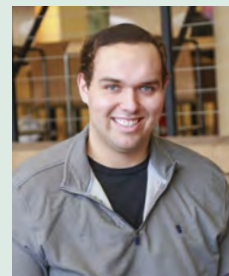
SCOTT HENDRICKSON has been promoted to Head of Security for Finlandia. Hendrickson has worked as a security officer at FinnU since 2008 and assumed his new role in August 2020.



LAUREN HUESTED joined the FinnU admissions team in October 2020 and will be assisting the women's athletic prospects with their admissions needs. Husted has worked closely with Dean of Enrollment Anthony Schwass previously as an Admissions Counselor at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

JOE KOEPEL ('00) has taken the role of Human Resources Director at FinnU. Koepel is a Suomi College graduate and most recently worked as the President of Edgewood Education Group as an executive recruiter for engineering firms, and colleges and universities.

NATHAN PERREAULT ('12 Medical Billing & Coding, '14 Healthcare Management) joined the International School of Business this past year as an Assistant Professor of Management. Perreault has a Master's degree in Business Administration from Western Governors University and will be teaching leadership team skills, principles of management, business finance, and business research.



ANTHONY SCHWASS was named as Finlandia's new Dean of Enrollment in March 2020. He came to FinnU from Davenport University where he worked his way up from Admissions Officer to Director in four years. During his time at Davenport, he revolutionized their existing customer relationship

management system, led strategic partnerships with over 130 key high schools and technical career centers, and exceeded student enrollment targets at 111 percent. Schwass earned his BBA in Human Resources Management in 2016 and his MBA in 2018, both from Davenport.

SHERRY WYETH joined the admissions team as a recruiter for the College of Health Sciences and transfer students in winter 2020. Wyeth has experience working alongside FinnU CHS alumni in the field, and says she wants to be a part of bringing more of them into the world.





THE SEATON CENTER FOR VOCATION AND CAREER: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIVES OF MEANINGFUL WORK

The first assignment in the Sisu Seminar course taken by all incoming Finlandia students is to write a short reflection on the value of education. Students used phrases like “to help me find my calling,” and “to make me a better person,” or “to do something that makes an impact in the world as well as makes me happy” in describing how they see the value of education. They are not only interested in knowing what kind of work they’re preparing for, but why that work matters and how it relates to their personal well-being.

The 2019 study “Forging Pathways to Purposeful Work” conducted by Gallup with Bates College promotes career planning that addresses the “why” of work. They found that 80 percent of college graduates desire work that is purposeful, but less than half actually find meaning and purpose in their work. The study refers to this as the “purpose gap” and concludes that “colleges and universities may benefit from focusing on how to prepare students to lead meaningful and engaged professional lives.”

As an expression of Finlandia University’s commitment to accompany the whole student toward a whole life, The Seaton Center for Vocation and Career (CVC) aims to prepare students for rich professional lives in which they find meaning and purpose. The CVC has been under development for the past year, supported by funds from a NetVUE grant and the generosity of the Seaton family.

“The reason Erin (Barnett) and I applied for this grant is twofold,” said Dr. René Johnson, the Director of Vocation and Servant Leadership at the CVC. “One, we recognized all the good efforts on campus to work closely with students, but also the need to consolidate those efforts and even increase opportunities for students to receive career guidance. Two, Finlandia values the holistic approach, combining opportunities for both personal and professional development, which occurs with the marriage of vocational discernment and career building experiences.”

The CVC staff, which includes Johnson and Emma Dorst, the Director of Career Services, have developed a framework for charting career pathways that integrates the concepts of Vocation and Career into a holistic vision of professional development through which students see the possibilities within themselves and in the wider world. The CVC works collaboratively with academic advisors, community leaders and student support services to offer layers of support and challenge in both the “why” and the “what” of career preparation.

All incoming Finlandia students take an initial step in charting their pathway to purposeful work by examining their strengths. Students complete the CliftonStrengths® assessment followed by a 40-minute coaching session with Johnson, who is a Gallup certified strengths coach.



**Examine your
Strengths**



**Explore your
Possibilities**



**Enlarge your
World**

"My initial thoughts of the Strength's Finder exercise was that I was excited to understand more about myself and that maybe it would give me a different perspective of myself because, as an individual I always go straight to the negatives," said Jordan Pertile, a freshman pre-nursing major from Hancock, Mich. who hopes to become a traveling nurse one day. "I had a great experience doing this exercise and it helped more when we had our individual meetings with Johnson because she explained each strength and gave me more knowledge. It made me realize that I shouldn't be so hard on myself because it was all positive."

Another incoming student affirmed that, "Without this [strengths assessment] I would still be lost without being on a path; but now I have been put on a path and I am blessed to be shown a way to find and better myself while still helping others."

Dorst's role is to help students plot a course that takes full advantage of their time at Finlandia by exploring academic, co-curricular, and fieldwork opportunities. This approach prepares students to enter the world of work or further education, equipped with a strong sense of vocation, applicable skills and the ability to articulate their talents.

Understanding that we learn the most about ourselves when we venture beyond our comfort zones, the CVC also encourages students to expand their horizons. The staff can help students consider and apply for internships, study abroad, or community service opportunities.

Finally, the CVC staff prepare students to confidently and clearly express the self-worth they obtain when they honor their academic preparation, life experience, and unique personhood. Workshops, events, and one-on-one consultations help students enlarge their networks of opportunity, create strong applications, and chart pathways toward a professional life that is engaging and purposeful.

"I think it definitely will help me have a better understanding of myself and that I will be able to put myself out there more and not be so scared or insecure because the strengths I have are something that I should be proud of and not something I should hide," said Pertile. "Everyone has their own strengths, it just depends on how you use them."



**Express your
Worth**



Emma Dorst joined Finlandia in August 2020 as Director of Career Services for the CVC. Over the last 10 years, Dorst has worked for non-profit organizations in the fields of education, research, direct service, and program design and administration.

Originally from Wyoming, Dorst earned her BA at Oberlin College in Ohio, majoring in Russian and East European studies and politics. She subsequently moved to the country of Georgia, where she lectured at the Telavi State University for two years, preparing students to enter the international job market. In 2014, she earned her MA in International Migration at the University of Kent's Brussels School of International Studies. From Brussels she moved to Washington, D.C., where she spent the last five years working in international policy analysis and refugee resettlement. Along the way, she gained expertise in many aspects of the employment process, overseeing professional hiring processes, managing internship programs, and providing career preparation support to diverse groups, including university students, interns, asylum seekers, and resettled refugees.

In her work with the CVC, Dorst looks forward to helping students recognize and articulate the skills and talents they develop throughout their time at Finlandia. "I want to help people think more broadly about the meaning of 'career' and how they measure personal and professional success," said Dorst.

Her favorite aspect of working at Finlandia is how closely she can partner with students to help them expand their interests, dispense with limiting self-perceptions, and open themselves up to new, exciting visions of their future.



GRANT RESTORES KALEVALA PAINTING

Through the financial support of Finlandia Foundation National and Suomi Seura, and the skillful and delicate work of a Detroit-area art conservator, a painting and an early draft of an illustration for "Kalevala" by Akseli Gallen-Kallela (1865-1931), one of the most historically significant works of art in the Finnish American Historical Archive collection, now looks brand-new.

PAYING TRIBUTE

Each issue of the Bridge recognizes friends and alumni whom we have lost. With this fall 2020 issue, Finlandia wishes to pay brief tribute to two individuals whose generosity and leadership have left an enduring mark. Very successful Wisconsin businessmen, both of them. One built things. The other sold things. Each lived into their nineties. This past June, they died one day apart: Oscar Charles (OC) Boldt, the builder, at the age of 96, died on June 9. William Raymond (WR) Sauey, the salesman, died on June 10, at the age of 92. OC once

remarked, when reflecting on the lessons learned from the Great Depression, "Finlandia seems to do a lot with just a little. I value that." WR's unwavering commitments to Finlandia are no more evident than in his 44 years of service as a member of Finlandia's Board of Trustees from 1968 to 2012.

It was in the fall of 2017 that these two men and their spouses first started to visit together about their affinities for Finlandia and the Upper Peninsula. Some months later, a challenge was issued and met, culminating in a \$1,000,000 gift. Other significant gifts preceded and others have followed. Both men, both families, like so many other friends and alumni, chose and choose to live generously with others. Finlandia is grateful.

CAMPUS SECURITY TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Finlandia University has received \$47,589 from the Michigan Department of State Police and Michigan's Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program reimbursement grant initiative towards campus security technology upgrades geared toward sexual assault prevention. The University will use these funds to add a new camera security system as well as an RFID card access system and enhance campus LED lighting in Finlandia Hall.

MATCHING PROGRAMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Some companies and organizations match, at various levels, employee or member giving. Over the past four years Finlandia has received \$65,000 through such programs. Supporters are encouraged to check with their company or other associations to see if such an opportunity may exist. Multiplying one's gift with a match makes a big difference for Finlandia.

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 the Advancement office at doreen.korpela@finlandia.edu or (906) 487-7201



A LEGACY OF STUDENT SUPPORT CONTINUES

TRIO

The U.S. Department of Education announced that Finlandia University's TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant program will be renewed for \$1,705,835 over five years to help more students succeed in and graduate from college. FinnU's TRIO SSS program has been providing services on campus for almost 30 years and assists 180 students annually.

TRIO SSS helps college students who are low income, first generation (those whose parents do not have a four-year college degree) or students with disabilities. The array of services the grant will provide are comprehensive and will include academic tutoring, financial aid advice, career and college mentoring, help in choosing courses, and other forms of assistance. Such services enhance academic success and make it more likely that students will graduate or transfer with the lowest possible debt.

"TRIO SSS is critical to the success and graduation of first-generation, low-income and students with disabilities at Finlandia University," said TRIO SSS Director Cindy Cowell. "The goals of TRIO SSS align strongly with the mission of ELCA Lutheran higher education, 'Called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.'"

Recent campus research by FinnU's TRIO SSS showed that over 60 percent of the student body in the fall of 2019 graduated from under-resourced high schools in 37 states.

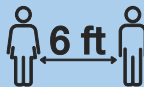
"Students are not arriving at college with all of the tools that they need to be successful," said Cowell. "TRIO SSS serves to equip these students beginning with their first day on campus through to the bachelor degree graduation stage."

For the students TRIO serves, they couldn't imagine life at FinnU without it.

"TRIO is a vital part of a student's academic success here at Finlandia and always will be,"

said Rebecca Showers, a senior accounting major who transferred into Finlandia her sophomore year. "It has so much to offer its participants that will help them better prepare themselves for college life. I have utilized each of the services TRIO has to offer and can say that they have greatly contributed to not only my academic success but my entire experience here at Finlandia. Being a TRIO participant has been one of the best experiences I have had in school."

“TRIO SSS is critical to the success and graduation of first-generation, low-income and students with disabilities at Finlandia University”



SISU ON DISPLAY

FOR SAFE OPEN

On March 17, 2020, Finlandia University did something that, at the time, was radical: it sent students home to finish the semester online due to the COVID-19 pandemic with no timeline for when students would return. Immediately after the announcement, university officials quickly began working to help students get home, identify funds to help cover unexpected expenses as a result of the transition, and ensure students would persist in the new e-learning environment thrust upon them.

"It was really an emotional roller coaster," said Matt Peterson, a senior transfer student in the physical therapist assistant program from Kingsford, Mich. "It was crazy watching people just flood out and be gone. I had

many conversations with President Johnson about things such as the school's gameplan and he always got back and was honest and helpful. As a student, I really appreciated that coming from the top of the university. I felt like I was in the loop as much as was appropriate for a student and I also felt really supported and understood by my professors. Overall, I felt like our school handled everything and continues to handle this pandemic extremely well."

Despite the abrupt change, Finlandia students persevered and FinnU graduated 81 students in its first ever virtual commencement.

After the successful completion of the spring semester, the focus shifted from "how can we ensure students succeed

online?" to "how can we bring students back safely for safe face-to-face instruction?" While online learning met the needs of our community at the time, students overwhelmingly agreed they preferred in-person learning. Tucked away in the UP where the pandemic did not have quite as strong a grasp, Finlandia was in an advantageous position to offer safe face-to-face instruction for the fall.

FinnU also had a number of other key tools in its toolbelt to help it open safely: guidance from the Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU) and the local health department, a collaboration with the Upper Great Lakes Family Health Clinic and Michigan Tech, faculty and staff who dedicated their summer to updating campus, and a little thing called sisu.

"Over the summer I worked every day, literally, to improve the safety of our campus through safe distancing efforts," said Associate Professor of History, Dr. William Knoblauch, who is a member of the Safe Distancing Sub-Committee. "Of course, this is a team effort, and maintenance has been involved. My colleagues Ric Loduha, Jeff Pettibone, and even my Dean, Jason Oyadomari, have helped out. Additionally, I know that Erin Barnett was in charge of purchasing PPE and that I believe Fredi DeYampert was central to the baseline testing efforts.

"Unlike at larger Division 1 universities, we assume a responsibility to pitch in and get things done, and not that others will magically do it for us. That's one of the things that makes Finlandia special: those people who volunteer to help out in a timely fashion. They put our students first."

On August 19, students arrived on campus and were checked-in to the residence hall during their 15 minute appointment window. After moving in, they said farewell to parents and headed to the Finnish American Heritage Center for a baseline COVID-19 test, which was subsidized through the Finlandia Alumni Board's Giving Day efforts. They were then ushered back to their dorm room and asked to self-isolate until their results came back in approximately 72 hours. Dining services offered room service, new student orientation moved online to encourage students to stay in their rooms, and students got to know each other through online social events such as online Bingo.

"Move-in week was exciting, meeting your roommate in-person for the first time," said Kate Drier, a freshman nursing student from Iron River, Mich. "Finlandia was very accommodating through quarantine and did multiple things to help us through without losing our minds. Bingo was one that was really fun for me and my roommate.

"When you think of college, you think of classes, study groups and making friends, as well as going out and exploring the surrounding area. I will say that we can still do all of that, but in an environment that is considered safe. So my experience has been what I imagined it would be, just with masks and a six-foot distance between us."

In order to ensure all baseline test results were obtained, the first week of classes was moved online. By the end of the first week of classes the results came back: one asymptomatic student had tested positive for COVID-19.

University officials quickly moved the student, who had followed self-isolation protocols, to a quarantine suite.

"Our students, faculty and staff have embraced the idea that we are all accountable to one another to keep our semester safely face-to-face," said Dean of Students Erin Barnett. "We realize there is no way to make our campus a COVID-free fortress, as much as we would appreciate that, but we also know that the next best thing is to mask, distance, wash our hands and be honest if participating in contact tracing"

***"Overall, I felt like
our school handled
everything and
continues to handle
this pandemic
extremely well."***

– Matt Peterson

The idea that we're all accountable for each other expanded into FinnU's Community Promise for all employees and students. Still, faculty and staff are continually surprised by how adaptable Finlandia students are. New and returning students have found a new normal at FinnU that consists of wearing a mask when inside buildings, completing a daily symptom tracker, socially distanced events, hybrid learning modalities and even smaller class sizes.

"From the students to the professors, to even President Johnson I really felt like we were all there for each other and in this together," said Peterson. "We all had the same goal and continue to have the same goal and that's to stay open, stay safe, stay healthy, and also have an enjoyable, memorable time here at Finlandia. I feel really proud to be a Finlandia Lion because I don't think you could show me a school that's handling this pandemic better."

Rise Together

What a strong start! You, Finlandia friends and alumni, have, in year one, raised \$3,800,000 toward our 3-year Rise Together \$10,000,000 goal. Your gifts have improved college access for financially challenged families, supported student success initiatives, and funded new instructional technologies and facility enhancements. You have achieved great things this year. Congratulations! Below are examples of your money at work this past year as well as two vitally important projects yet unmet for 2021.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In January of 2020, Finlandia doubled-down on its commitment to make private higher education affordable for all through the introduction of two new need-based scholarships: Rise Together and Western Great Lakes. The Rise Together Scholarship provides to students with exceptional need, free full tuition when combined with federal and state aid. The Western Great Lakes Scholarship provides up to \$4,000 for students from Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Grant gifts provide crucially important funding for these and other programs such as the U.P. Commitment Grant and Finlandia's Finnish Strong Transfer Scholarship. First-year scholarship recipient, Lilian Stenberg, expresses her gratitude in this way:

"I was extremely excited to find out that I had been a recipient of the Finnish Strong Scholarship. I don't come from a wealthy family and the cost of Finlandia was a large factor I had to consider when deciding to attend. Thank you, for believing in the kids applying at this school with nothing but hope. You are the reason they are able to attend."



ACADEMIC QUALITY & INNOVATION

In 2020, Finlandia advanced innovations improving both in-person and online course delivery. The same is true for improving student learning data collection. This fall is the first full year with Finlandia's new LMS (Learning Management System) called Canvas. Now, with this tool, students are able to learn more effectively with quality, digitally-based learning tools while learning either in class or remotely. Also, in 2020 Finlandia designed three new online certificates aimed at the adult learner and working professional. These include Marketing, Sports Management, and Teaching and Learning. Next for this year, and again aiming at the working professional, is a fully online degree-completion program for a Bachelor's in Business Administration.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

First in Michigan! Finlandia is the first and only campus in Michigan to sponsor a chapter of the Tri Alpha Honor Society. In addition to Finlandia's Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, this honor society supports students who do not come from families with a history of higher education. Finlandia proudly and effectively serves many such first-generation students. Through our own campus Chapter, Alpha Pi, eligible students, faculty, and staff will foster an even stronger support network and sense of community, the things that make for higher levels of academic achievement.

Student success is directly affected by levels of emotional health and wellbeing. Together with new honor society programming, Rise Together funding has enabled Finlandia to open its on-campus health and wellness center, continue to provide robust emotional and spiritual support through the office of the campus pastor, and operate Finlandia's student needs pantry, The Table. Student learning support



programs, professional tutoring, study tables, academic coaching receive crucial support through gifts to Rise Together. These combined efforts are substantially reducing the number of students whose academic standing places them at risk of persisting from one year to the next.



STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

SMART CLASSROOMS - SMARTER STUDENTS

Instructional technology upgrades continues to be one of the biggest, annual expenses in higher education. Finlandia's campus contains pockets of industry-leading

technology. What we offer in pockets we need to offer across campus. Smarter Classrooms-Smarter Students is a \$1,000,000 proposal and plan that addresses this need. A comprehensive upgrade of 21 classrooms in the heart of Finlandia's campus will have a truly transformative impact on student learning. Furnishings, instructional technologies, and renovations will combine for the most inspiring, "smart" learning environments on campus. This top priority, capital project remains unmet in our Rise Together efforts.

STUDENT CENTER

Finlandia needs a new, inviting gathering space for commuter and residential students. Our former dining area offers the most exciting opportunity for creating a low-cost, spacious, attractive student center. A gift of \$50,000, with a naming opportunity, will fund all furnishings, technology, and renovations. Plans are in place, including a snackbar/coffee shop area, new bathrooms, technology, study corners, and game and entertainment areas. This priority also remains unmet in our Rise Together efforts.



STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The demand for health science degrees continues to grow. Rise Together gifts and grants received in 2020 build on earlier, generous gifts, most notably, a \$1,000,000 naming gift from Ray Hirvonen. This renovation project is ready to receive Finlandia's health sciences programs. Offices, classrooms, and labs are being prepared in time for a spring semester start and an opening celebration to follow at a later time. Finlandia is deeply grateful for all those who have accompanied this project with generous gifts. (see full story, page 2)

CENTER FOR VOCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Finlandia strives to be both mission-centered and market-savvy. This project, as much as any other, tends to both. In 2020, Ken Seaton and family raised a grant match and made a Rise Together gift and pledge totaling over \$175,000. The new venue, with plans for opening in spring 2021, will be named the Seaton Center for Vocation and Career. (see full story, page 8)

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/RISETOGETHER.



DONOR RECOGNITION

In each donor edition of the Bridge, we are pleased to recognize and thank the many individuals, foundations, organizations, churches, clubs, associations and businesses that generously donated to Finlandia University in the preceding fiscal year between **July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020**, 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.



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THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS ARE IMPORTANT

Finlandia University has received more than \$100,000 Thrivent Choice Dollars over the years. Choice Dollars directed to Finlandia provide assistance and support to our students and programs, and make a real difference. We encourage our supporters who are Thrivent Financial members 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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DISTINGUISHED GIVING

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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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Though this has been an extraordinary year, the FAHC continues to pursue its mission to preserve and promote Finnish-American and Finnish culture and heritage. We have been closed to the public much of 2020, but continue to receive donations, print *The Finnish American Reporter*, and plan future Finnish American Folk School programming.

Many donors have contributed archival materials, and while there are too many to list here, some examples are: The only known surviving records of the Finnish Farmers Milling Company and the Rock Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company; a painting by Finnish-American artist Axel Sacrisson of

South Dakota; writings from the late labor activist Harry Siitonen; and organizational and historical records from both Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter and the choral group Amerikan Laulajat.

While our Finnish American Folk School programming has been on hold, its mission is still going forward through our partnership with the CLK School District and recent purchase of blacksmithing equipment so a new generation of potential tradition bearers can learn the art of traditional knife making.

We appreciate the support of all of our benefactors and we hope to welcome you back to the FAHC someday soon. Voikaa hyvin!

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Melvin Suokas, Clarkston, MI
Ehel Suominen, Brooklyn, NY
Ruth Swanto, Daytona Beach Shores, FL
Dorothy Tamminen, St. Paul, MN
Brian Tarro, Hurley, WI
Workinesh Tianen, Seattle, WA
John & Evelyn Tielking, Roanoke, VA
Airi Tomasini, Sudbury, ON
Annikki Tompkins, Painesville Township, OH
Clayton & Sally Tracy, Ashby, MA
Noel Trinidad, Bellingham, WA
Susana Tritsch, Deland, FL
Richard Tuisku, Hancock, MI
Allan & Linda Tuomala, Royal Oak, MI
Russell Tuovara, Lake Linden, MI
Roger & Sharon Tyyska, Goodrich, MI
Ruth Uitto, Florence, SC
Börje Vähämäki, Toronto, ON
Mark Van Fleet, Daytona Beach Shores, FL
Karen Vance, Durham, NC
Dana & Colleen Varney, L'Anse, MI
Raimo Vetonen, Oulu, FI
Arlene Vlahos, Bruce Crossing, MI
Marjorie Voigt, Trout Creek, MI
Cathy Wainio, Ewen, MI
Richard Waisanen, Champion, MI
Karen Ann West, Fort Wayne, IN
Karen Wiemer, St. Anthony, MN
Mary Jane Williams, Winter Spring, FL
Karoliina Wills, Rockford, MI
Barbara Wilson, Bloomington, MN
Judith Wilson, Independence, OR
Ruth Wisti, Hancock, MI
Doug Woodruff, Atlantic Mine, MI
Donald & Joanne Wuori, Columbia, SC
Daniel Zwickel ben Avram, Vallejo, CA

GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Amerikan Laulajat, Toronto, ON
Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church, Bruce Crossing, MI
Cape Ann Finns, Rockport, MA
Champion/Beacon/Humboldt Historical Society, Champion, MI
City of Hancock's Finnish Theme Committee, Hancock, MI
Finlandia Foundation National, Portland, OR

Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter, New York, NY
Finlandia University Baseball, Hancock, MI
Finn Funn Weekend Committee, New England, US
Finnish American Heritage Society, Canterbury, CT
Finnish American Society - Midwest, Chicago, IL
First Lutheran Church, Dollar Bay, MI
Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Worcester, MA

Journal of Finnish Studies, Huntsville, TX
Kansan Sivistysrahaston, Helsinki, FI
Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission, Calumet, MI
Kipinä Kerho, Reston, VA
Split Rock Studios, Minneapolis, MN
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Warren, OH
Suomi Seura, Helsinki, FI



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MAKE HISTORY WITH ACAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Everything fell into place for the 2019-20 Finlandia University women's basketball team. The Lions (16-11) won the ACAA Championship (first in program history) and set the school winning streaks for home (7) and overall (11).

Finlandia had two All-American Collegiate Athletic Association (ACAA) selections, two ACAA All-Tournament honorees, seven ACAA academic honorees and 23 additions to the record book with eight school records. In addition, it was the first winning season in five years and the most wins since 2004-05.

The first half of the season saw Finlandia at 5-11. The turning point was a 64-55 loss to UW-Superior (Dec. 29). Little did anyone realize, that would be the last time Finlandia lost in the season. The Lions closed the regular season with nine straight wins.

FinnU came into the ACAA Tournament as the No. 2 seed and sent a message early with a 78-62 win over Pine Manor. Sophomore Carsyn Osterman had 11 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists, the fourth triple-double in program history.

Finlandia then took a hard fought 60-50 win over No. 1 seed UC Santa Cruz to bring home the ACAA championship. Osterman was named MVP and was joined by sophomore Katie Lundeen on the All-Tournament team.

Lundeen earned All-ACAA first team honors for the second straight year. She averaged 17.1 points and 7.8 rebounds a game while shooting 49.7 percent from the floor and 79.3 percent from the line.

Osterman was named to the All-ACAA second team. She averaged 9.4 points, 4.3 assists and 2.0 steals a game and shot 80 percent from the free throw line.

STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR NAMED

Connor Hannon (men's hockey), Kirsten L'Esperance (women's soccer) and Katie Lundeen (women's basketball) have been named the 2019-20 Finlandia University Student-Athletes of the Year.

Hannon, who was a junior from Houghton, Mich., had eight goals with four assists for 12 points in 20 games. He was a team captain and led the squad in goals. Hannon was named to the NCHA All-Academic team for the second time.

L'Esperance, who was a senior from Brighton, Mich., scored 14 goals with 20 assists for 48 points. L'Esperance had a school record six assists vs. Mount Mary (Oct. 27), the highest total for all three NCAA Divisions. She ranked among the top 20 in NCAA Division III in four categories and led the nation in assists per game (1.11) and total assists for the second straight year.

L'Esperance, who becomes the first athlete to win the award twice, helped the Lions go 11-6-1 and reach the ACAA Championship game, the first conference final in program history. She was a three-time ACAA Player of the Week, ACAA Offensive Player of the Year, ACAA All-Tournament, All-ACAA first team as well as earning All-ACAA and U.S. Coaches All-North Region third team. L'Esperance broke every game, season and career record for assists, goals and points.

Lundeen, a sophomore from Maple, Wis., averaged 17.08 points and 7.76 rebounds a game while shooting 49.7 percent from the floor and 79.3 percent from the line. She had 18 double-digit scoring and seven double-digit rebounding games with seven double-doubles. Lundeen was the fourth player in school history to score 400 points in a season and set school records for free throws made and attempted in a game (14-of-16 vs. St. Mary's (Ind.) Nov. 16) and free throws made (119) and attempted (150) in a season.

Lundeen helped the Lions go 16-11 and win the ACAA Tournament, the first conference championship in program history. She was a four-time ACAA Player of the Week, All-ACAA first team, ACAA All-Tournament and ACAA All-Academic.

MOVING TO THE CAPITAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FinnU has accepted an offer to join the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC). Finlandia will join fellow ACAA members; UC Santa Cruz, Mills, Mount Mary, Pine Manor and Pratt Institute.

With the move, Finlandia will have the chance to qualify for the NCAA Tournament in men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

RUNNER-UP IN ACAA PRESIDENT'S CUP

Finlandia University was the runner-up in the 2019-20 ACAA President's Cup standings. The Lions had a percentage of .591 (19.5 points of 31).

The ACAA President's Cup is calculated using a formula that awards points based on finishes in ACAA Championships and the final Massey Rankings, where applicable. Each institution receives a percentage of points possible to determine the final standings.

On the men's side, UC Santa Cruz was the top team at .781 percent (12.5 of 16). The Lions finished in fifth place with a third place finish in soccer. For the women, UC Santa Cruz finished at the top at .962 percent (25 of 26). The Lions placed second (.714 percent, 15 of 21 points) having won basketball and finishing second in soccer.



BENT EARNS ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

Denia Bent has been selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-American Division III Softball second team. Bent is the first Finlandia student-athlete in any sport to be recognized.

Bent had a 3.80 G.P.A. majoring in Graphic Design. She finished her career with four season records and was ranked among the top 5 career in 17 hitting and pitching categories.

Bent is the all-time leader in assists (233), hit by pitch (33), on-base percentage (.588), runs (155) and walks (75). She was a three-time All-ACAA first team selection, two-time FastPitch News Pre-Season All-American and a two-time FastPitch News All-American. Bent led NCAA Division III in runs per game (1.55 in 2018) and least walks per seven innings (0.17 in 2019).

HOCKEY PLAYERS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

Finlandia University men's and women's hockey were well represented on the Krampade/AHCA (American Hockey Coaches Association) Academic All-Stars. To qualify, a student-athlete must have attained a 3.75 GPA for the fall semester and participated in 40 percent of their school's games.

Making it for the second time for the men was senior Connor Hannon, sophomore Dylan Paavola, sophomore Cory Richardson, senior Nick Tobey and sophomore Tyler Watungwa. First-time recipients were senior Jayson Dahlquist, sophomore Jack Giddings, freshman Lucas Patton, freshman Phil Schader, junior Santeri Seppinen and freshman Tyler Vanuden.

Making it for the second time for the women was senior Kait Rynnanen. First-time recipients were senior Bella Abear, freshman Cassidy Becia and freshman Kylee Hopp.



MACY SELECTED AS WOMEN'S HOCKEY HEAD COACH

Lindsay Macy has been named head coach of the Finlandia University women's hockey team.

Macy comes to FinnU from Idaho, where she started an AAA girl's program for Coeur d'Alene Hockey Academy located in Coeur d'Alene, which was the only US program in the prestigious Canadian Sports School Hockey League.

She began her coaching career at Owatonna High School (Owatonna, Minn.) where she coached the girl's and boy's JV and Varsity programs. Her coaching experience also includes her business, Lamplighters Hockey, which offers coaching private lessons, small group lessons and running hockey schools for kids of all ages.

Macy played collegiate hockey at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she scored 74 points in 66 games for the Badgers. Macy finished her collegiate career at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Macy had a stint on the United States U-22 national team, where she played one season for the Minnesota Whitecaps of the Western Women's Hockey League (WWHL). Macy helped the Whitecaps win the WWHL championship and reach the Clarkston Cup final.

Macy has a B.S. in Sports Management with a minor in Marketing from Minnesota State-Mankato.

GOODMAN TO GUIDE ESPORTS

Thomas Goodman has been named the first Director of Esports at FinnU.

Goodman has been the Esports Director and Coach at Siena Heights since 2018. During his tenure, Siena saw significant achievements, finishing 5th place in the nation in Tespa Rocket League, and national spotlights for its Hearthstone teams. Goodman oversaw an expansion from four games to eight games and an esports team of six in the first year to 45 students competing in the program today.

Goodman brings a plethora of professional gaming experience to Finlandia as well including qualifying for the world championship in Nintendo games before the internet era, taking part in several Nintendo PowerFest events, and being runner-up in Tetris at the 1990 Nintendo World Championship. Goodman also held a third place world ranking in Counter-Strike in 2001-02 and competed in several world qualifiers in CS:GO and Unreal Tournament.

Goodman has a B.A. in Educational Foundations from Oregon and a Masters of Science in Recreation and Sports Pedagogy from Ohio University. He is finishing a Doctor of Education in Higher Education and Leadership.





2020 GIVING DAY

On Sept. 1, 2020, the Finlandia Alumni Board (FAB) Giving Day raised \$27,085 to support Finlandia's Safe Open efforts. In total, 70 donors gave during the 24 hour Giving Day and in the days following in support of baseline testing, personal protective equipment and safety upgrades for the campus.

For the Alumni Board, the donations show how much the community cares for the safety of the students.

"We are thankful all year for the friends, family, community partners, and alumni who love and support FinnU," said President of the FAB Monica Hill. "Through the \$27,045 raised on Giving Day 2020, we celebrate even more that, during the COVID pandemic and financially difficult times, our students were shown our commitment to have a Safe Return. Thank you all."

The FAB originally planned to host Giving Day on March 18 to raise funds for their Alumni Association Textbook Award, which was a major success in 2019. When the COVID19 pandemic struck, the FAB opted to postpone the Giving Day until a later date. After several conversations with university leadership, they decided to host Giving Day at the beginning of the school year in an effort to raise funds for FinnU's baseline testing efforts.

As a result of the generous donations, all 587 employees and students were tested prior to the start of class. One asymptomatic case was identified and the student was moved into quarantine before coming into contact with others. The testing helped prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus and allowed Finlandia to feel confident about its safe open and remain open for the fall semester.

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWS

NURSING ALUMNA, MELISSA MEIER ('09), MSN, APRN, NC-C, CCRN accepted a new position at UP Health System-Portage with its Hospitalist Team.

MARINA DALTON ('19, GRAPHIC DESIGN) is creating advertisements for Great Plains Distributors, located in Lubbock, Texas.

Nursing alumna, **JAN BIGALKE**, accepted the role of Principal at Ludington Area Catholic School.

TINA PLOE ('12, NURSING) NP-C, recently landed a job at Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital and Clinics. She'll be working alongside Aspirus orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists and nurses.

ELLE ROWE ('20, MARKETING) recently accepted a job at Cali Raised LED in Forth Worth, Texas as an E-Commerce and Customer Experience Teammate.

ANDREW BLAKE ('11, GRAPHIC DESIGN) accepted a position as an Assistant Manager at Amazon.



JESSICA SHIELDS ('18, FIBER & FASHION) made face masks for Verizon employees. Shields and her husband own a clothing store, Upcycled Hippie, in downtown Escanaba where she makes one of a kind items made from recycled materials.

BRANDON PASSLEY ('15, ACCOUNTING) was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Internal Audit Manager at American State Bank & Trust Company in Williston, N.D.

ANGIE TRIPP ('16, PHYSICAL THERAPY) recently began working as a Home Medical Equipment Specialist for the company ThedaCare.

EMMA NELSON ('18, SPORTS MANAGEMENT, PHYSICAL THERAPY) began as a PTA at Lee Health in Cape Coral, Fla. this March.

STEPHEN BOURQUE ('19, BIOLOGY/BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES) recently began working as a Bear Tech at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

NATHAN PERREAULT ('18, BACHELORS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) recently began working at Finlandia as an Assistant Professor of Management.

JAMES HARDEN ('02 AAS, CRIMINAL JUSTICE/SAFETY STUDIES) recently began working as the HRIS Manager at Michigan Tech in Houghton, Michigan.

MARIE BONENFANT ('13, PSYCHOLOGY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR) recently began working in the Financial Aid Department at Finlandia.

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

EILEEN (FRIDAY) AUSTIN ('50)

7/9/2020 • CHASSELL, MI

KAREN (URLI) ANTIN ('63)

8/14/2019 • NEKOOSA, WI

DENNIS "DOC" BEAUDOIN JR.

10/15/2019 • HUBBELL, MI

THOMAS L. DESROCHERS

4/3/2020 • PELKIE, MI

MILDRED (ERICKSON) FIEDOREK ('47)

5/8/2020 • DALLAS, TX

LINDA GIUCHIN

12/24/2019 • MINNEAPOLIS, MN

RAYMOND A. HENDRICKSON

11/1/2019 • GLADSTONE, MI

RALPH E. HIETALA

8/4/2020 • CHASSELL, MI

MARTHA (BLOM) HILL ('57)

1/9/2020 • CHASSELL, MI

THEODORE R. HOLAPPA

9/3/2019 • L'ANSE, MI

MARK E. HUGHES ('69)

2/29/2020 • LAURIUM, MI

DOUGLAS P. JARVI

11/15/2019 • LAKEVILLE, IN

SUZANNE B. MCLEAN

10/27/2019 • CHASSELL, MI

JAMES MOYLE

8/7/2020 • LAKE LINDEN, MI

WILLIAM E. OBST

11/2/2019 • HANCOCK, MI

KATHRYN R. OLSON

11/17/2019 • EAGLE HARBOR, MI

VICKI L. PETERSON ('04)

2/3/2020 • PELKIE, MI

DAVID PINI

3/13/2020 • LAKE LINDEN, MI

PATRICIA PROBSTFELD ('52)

5/24/2020 • CHASSELL, MI

KAREN E. (HANNULA) RANDELL ('61)

11/8/2019 • HARAVEY, MI

KARL E. SEPPALA ('50)

1/8/2020 • CRYSTAL, MN

SHELLY B. SIVONEN ('99, '01)

10/15/2019 • HANCOCK, MI

WILLIAM H. SLEEMAN

1/12/2020 • NOVI, MI

ALFRED M. WARREN

LORAIN, OH

ANNE WELLMAN

2/3/2020 • HOUGHTON, MI

FRIENDS OBITUARIES

PHILIP A. KOLEHMAINEN, SR

Former member, Finnish Council in America

6/25/2019 • WHITE PINE, MI

JOHN C. HARO

Former member, Finnish Council in America

4/9/2020 • PHOENIX, AZ

GEORGE KINNUNEN

Member, Finnish Council in America

2/13/2020 • HANCOCK, MI

KATHRYN OLSON

Former member, Board of Trustees

11/17/2019 • GRAND RAPIDS, MI

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SAMI REINDEER MUG

Berggren Trayner Mug - kiln fired for performance. Dishwasher & microwave safe, USA.....\$14.00

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