

EXPRESS



Joy overflowing at Augustana

There's a marvelous, upbeat spirit on the Augustana campus following the decisive vote by the Camrose Lutheran College Corporation on June 13. With 80.8 per cent of the delegates supporting the move, the vote authorizes the Board of Regents to enter into negotiations with the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government Ministry of Learning, with the expectation that the results will lead to Augustana becoming a faculty of the University of Alberta.

Augustana will maintain its reputation for small class sizes and personal interaction between students and professors. The institution's heritage, tradition and Lutheran campus ministry will be honored. The move also assures that government funding for students and capital projects will be at a level similar to that of the University of Alberta. There will be no change in the cost of tuition for the upcoming academic year.

Faculty, staff and administration are overjoyed at the vote result. The alliance with the University of Alberta will mean higher salaries and increased benefits for all Augustana employees. There is also elation in the City of Camrose: one of the region's largest corporate ventures will continue to make this a desirable community in which to live, work and retire.

But, the top winners in all of this are the students. Enhanced course offerings, increased service to rural Albertans and better access to one of the best research universities in the country will be hallmarks of the Augustana/University of Alberta alliance. Each school



The Rev. Dr. Richard Husfloen

has a high regard for the other. As Dr. Doug Owram, Provost of the University of Alberta said, "Augustana fills a long-desired niche in the total learning environment at the U of A." For the first time, the University of Alberta will have a respected and high quality Faculty of Arts and Sciences in a rural setting.

On July 1, the administration at Augustana changed. I will be retiring to Lethbridge, Alberta, where I will be on a leave of absence, giving attention to long-delayed surgery requirements. Dr. David W. Dahle, Academic Dean and Vice-President for Academic Affairs will be on leave studying in Greece. Coming on board was Mr. Ted Langford, who will be the Interim President and the chief guide for negotiation with the University of Alberta and the Ministry of Learning. Dr. Roger Epp, a long-time professor at

Augustana, became the Interim Academic Dean and Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

After seven years, it's nice to depart on a high note, knowing that the university college has made immense progress since July 1, 1996. Augustana has enjoyed a long and extraordinary history. The journey is not over. Like the captain of an aircraft on an oceanic crossing, it has been my privilege to "fly" one leg of this trip. With high hopes and expectations for Augustana's future – and the future of the University of Alberta – I depart in peace.

Richard L. Husfloen
President

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The many faces of the debate over the future of Augustana

By Dr. Gordon Jensen (Class of '79)
Assistant Professor of Reformation
History and Theology,
Lutheran Theological Seminary,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

It was a momentous decision. Over 80 per cent of the Camrose Lutheran College Corporation delegates voted to convey Augustana University College to the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta. The vote came after passionate debate that lasted at least three hours.

As I watched the debate, I looked into the faces of staff and faculty members of the Augustana community. In a way, their fate was being decided by people who may not have been dedicated to the mission and values for which Augustana has aimed over the years. I saw the helplessness in their faces, for they could do nothing. It must have been painful to watch, to know that those on the convention floor could grant them hope or snatch it away. Perhaps it was a good thing that Augustana has one of the finest paramedic training programs around! The relief on the faces of so many, who had come to listen to the debate, was

"We are challenged, now, to ensure that Augustana becomes stronger; that new doors open up, that the people at this place and this school can continue to be a place of God's grace, capturing and preserving the best of our Lutheran tradition."

an indication that the right decision was made. Faces of worry and trepidation were replaced with faces filled with a future and a hope.

As I watched the debate, I looked into the faces of the Board of Regents and the administration. They knew that the proposal they had brought forth was not going to be a popular one for many. They faced criticism. They had been accused of mismanagement. But mostly they had been questioned about how they could give up the founders' visions for Augustana. There was worry that the motion might not pass. Letters of resignation were ready. But the worry lines began to soften as they sensed the delegates understood the perilous situation, and the need to

take decisive action. Their vision for Augustana might be viable after all – and it might provide a new expression of the vision that has always defined Augustana's mission.

As I watched the debate, I looked into the faces of those who were in great pain at the thought of losing Augustana as a school of the church. You could hear their passion for the school in their speech. For many, this was a wake. We grieve with them. Others, however, saw a resurrection – a hope for a new life for Augustana.

As I watched the debate, I thought about the gifts we have in the church, and the strength and vision of so many people at Augustana. The gift some have of being prophetic, and challenging the church to be more, to think beyond the box. And I think about the gift we have offered to our society of a gifted school with gifted people serving at this school. We are challenged, now, to ensure that Augustana becomes stronger; that new doors open up, that the people at this place and this school can continue to be a place of God's grace, capturing and preserving the best of our Lutheran tradition.



A watershed day in Augustana's history

Students can look forward to revitalized, expanded programs

Friday, June 13, 2003 was a watershed day in Augustana's history. The voters at the Camrose Lutheran College Corporation general meeting that was held that day authorized the board to negotiate a transfer of Augustana to the Alberta public post secondary system with a preference that Augustana become a part of the University of Alberta.

The events of the Corporation meeting are covered in a separate story in this edition of the *EXPRESS*.

On Friday, June 20, the University of Alberta Board of Regents voted unanimously to authorize its part in the negotiations.

Students, faculty, staff, the Alumni Board, and the Board of Regents are excited about the potential for Augustana's growth and development. If an agreement is reached, the resources of a large, internationally respected Alberta university will be combined with the supportive environment characteristic of Augustana. That environment is something the University of Alberta intends to nurture on the Augustana campus and, where possible, export to the main U of A campus in Edmonton.

Augustana's students can look forward to revitalized programs and to expansion of programs. If the transfer is completed, it is likely the number of students will increase along with support for new courses. Over time, increased students will lead to capital expansion on the Augustana campus.

This opportunity has invigorated faculty, staff and students. One faculty member recently wrote, "Affiliation will allow Augustana faculty and staff to move beyond the stresses of mere financial survival and toward doing the work they are called to do."

Over the coming months, there will be a great deal of work required to ensure an agreement is reached. The Board of Regents has authorized the formation of a board negotiating committee, a transition advisory committee and a church relations advisory committee to advise the negotiating committee. The transition advisory committee will represent Augustana's stakeholders and will also include members of the church relations advisory committee. By the time this is in your hands, committee membership will be confirmed and information will be posted on the Augustana web site (<http://www.augustana.ca/>). It is the Board's intention to provide information on the web site as the process unfolds. We invite you to consult it regularly.

While becoming a part of the University of Alberta will provide solutions to many of Augustana's financial and stability problems, it will not be the full answer to ongoing development. Every university in Canada looks to its alumni and other supporters to provide funding for special projects and to supplement government funding. You can rest



**Board of Regents Chair
Jackie Dojack**

assured Augustana will not forget you.

As a Board, we are mindful that this opportunity does not come without cost. For more than 90 years, Augustana has been associated with the Lutheran church. Many of us mourn the loss of those close ties. As we come to terms with loss, we urge you to look for opportunities to support the Church's mission in education at Augustana. There will be many places for you to contribute your time and your talents.

It has been a privilege to serve as chair of the Board of Regents for the past two years. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the Board members for their hard work and dedication. It is a Board of diverse backgrounds, talents and experience, but one absolutely united in the goal of ensuring a long and bright future for

Augustana.

My thanks and best wishes to President Richard Husfloen and Dr. David Dahle as they leave senior administration at Augustana.

Welcome to Interim President Ted Langford and Interim Vice-President Academic, Dr. Roger Epp. We have an exciting several months ahead of us.

Jackie Dojack
Chair, Board of Regents
Augustana University College

Seven crucial conditions

The Augustana University College Board of Regents has determined any agreement with the Province of Alberta and/or the University of Alberta must meet at least seven crucial conditions.

1. A degree-granting post-secondary campus that preserves the Augustana identity and heritage will be maintained in Camrose.
2. A strong Lutheran presence, including provision for a Lutheran campus ministry, will be maintained on campus.
3. Augustana will be assured of realizing sufficient resources to achieve and sustain its mission.
4. The faculty of Augustana's programs will be maintained so students experience no disruption in completion of degree programs.
5. Augustana's commitment to excellence in undergraduate teaching will be maintained.
6. There will be assurances Augustana's employees will be treated fairly and equitably.
7. Camrose Lutheran College Corporation will be relieved of all liabilities in exchange for transfer of its assets.

Dr. Richard Husfloen announces retirement

Augustana University College said goodbye to its president, the Rev. Dr. Richard Husfloen July 1.

Augustana University College was on the financial edge and facing a number of daunting problems when Dr. Husfloen arrived in 1996. During his tenure he and his administration eliminated salary rollbacks, balanced the budget (for the past five years), and brought the university college's enrolment up to 1,022 students. At the same time, Augustana increased its service to students in rural Alberta and continued to produce excellent graduates dedicated to leadership in community service.

"Dr. Husfloen has worked tirelessly to ensure financial stability and sustainability for the institution," said Jackie Dojack, chair of the Augustana Board of Regents. "As a result of his efforts, the Board is currently pursuing a unique opportunity which we hope will see this rural-based liberal arts and sciences institution become a faculty of the University of Alberta. In recognition of those contributions, the board has named him President Emeritus."

Dr. Husfloen said he is very pleased to have contributed to the future of Augustana University College.

"I am particularly satisfied to have instituted new initiatives in community education, developed one of the finest paramedic training programs in Western Canada, and undertaken the necessary steps to overcome the financial instability Augustana has experienced over so many years. I have great conviction that a potential alliance with the University of Alberta will provide an opportunity for Augustana to broaden its service to rural Albertans with increased baccalaureate degree opportunities, and continue its proud tradition far into the future."

Dr. Husfloen was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon May 9. The following is a citation read by an Augustana alumnus.

"The Rev. Dr. Husfloen is a person who does not fit into any of the stereotypes that one envisages of a pastor and as a typically pious Norwegian. He has had a career in the airline industry. He served as an administrative assistant to synod bishops in the American Lutheran Church for 15 years, a development director at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, an assistant professor of sociology at Augsburg College in Minnesota, a visiting lecturer on church and society at Warburg Theological Seminary in Iowa, and since 1996, the president of Augustana University College. He has often placed himself on the margins of the church, and has called for the church to face issues and realities that the church has often not wanted to face. Yet this has been one of the gifts he brings to the church.

"The Reverend Husfloen holds the earned degrees of Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity from Luther Theological Seminary, and Bachelor of Arts from Augsburg College. In service to the community he has been associated with the Kitchener Waterloo Philharmonic Choir, the Winnipeg Bach Festival, the Norwegian-Canadian Club, and the board of Luther College in Regina. He is also presently the Canadian representative on the advisory board of the Norwegian Research and Technology Forum for the United States and Canada."

Dr. Husfloen will be spending his retirement in the city of Lethbridge.

Dr. David Dahle will be returning to classroom

After six years as Academic Dean and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. David Dahle is returning full-time to the classroom.

"I am stepping down from my position now because I believe that, as we move into negotiations with the University of Alberta, this is an appropriate time to turn over the job to someone else and prepare to return to teaching, which was always my first love," said Dr. Dahle. "It seems that each time in the past when I wanted to leave administration to return to teaching there was a new administrative challenge offered to me."

Dr. Dahle has been granted an administrative leave, which he will be using to attend the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece, this fall.

"I think spending some time in Greece is going to be the best possible preparation for my return to teaching," said Dr. Dahle, who taught one course

in Greek mythology this past year. "It will allow me to get updated archaeologically on what has happened in Greece over the past 10 to 15 years. I'll be able to take some digital images and complete the first draft of a textbook on Greek civilization that I will be able to use in my classes."

It was during Dr. Dahle's deanship and with his encouragement and support that Augustana added two four-year professional programs: The Bachelor of Management in Business Economics and the Bachelor of Music. He was also instrumental in bringing in a new workload policy which was fair to faculty in all divisions and was the first dean to take seriously the long-standing dissatisfaction when it came to institutional governance. An ad-hoc committee established by him studied university governance across Canada and was preparing to make recommendations that would have brought Augustana's

governance structures more in line with the general Canadian university community.

Dr. Dahle was involved in negotiating a 10-year agreement with the Augustana Faculty Association to bring salaries up to the average of 16 primarily undergraduate institutions in Canada. The only way it seemed possible to him to bring salaries up to an appropriate level was to work in the direction of Augustana becoming a public institution with full support for its budget, rather than only 75 per cent of funding for 750 students that it receives now.

Dr. Dahle is very interested in leading tours to Greece for students, alumni and interested community members when he returns to Canada.

"Greece has been putting a lot of work into its archaeological sites and museums because of the upcoming Olympics. The spring of 2005 should be a great time to visit."

Langford becomes interim president

Mr. Ted Langford was appointed as the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer for Augustana University College by the Board of Regents effective July 1. Mr. Langford has had extensive experience in the post-secondary system within the colleges-technical institutes in the province. Of particular note is his experience in managing institutional mergers and transitions.

Most of Ted's career as an educator and administrator has been in Lac La Biche, Alberta, where he served 24 years as President of Portage College. Prior to this time he taught social studies, music and language arts in the public school system. He has a B.Ed. from the University of Alberta, with a major in music.

Mr. Langford has been involved as President and CEO in assisting with and implementing a number of institutional transitions: Alberta College to Grant MacEwan College and NAIT, and Western Institute of Technology to NAIT, and the transition of Alberta's four vocational colleges from provincial administration to board governance. In addition, he spent two years as President at NorQuest College, where he planned and implemented structural changes.

In the many years he has lived in Lac La Biche, which he describes as his "home community," Ted was extensively involved in a wide range of community activities and organ-



Ted Langford

izations. His most rewarding role was as chairman of the Regional Economic Development Council, a strong local organization focused on proactive community development. Having twice been elected to town council, Ted served a period of time as acting mayor, and subsequently chaired a number of other community boards and committees. As well, in the late 1960s, Mr. Langford and a colleague were instrumental in establishing the Lac La Biche Post, the community's regional newspaper.

He believes this experience of living in and contributing to the growth and development of small rural communities has provided him a wealth of knowledge and unlimited opportunities, and a deeper appreciation and understanding of the issues and challenges facing families and communities in a period of ever escalating change.

Mr. Langford has developed personal interests that have led to his active involvement in: local history, including the publication of two books dealing with the history of the Lac La Biche region, natural resource management and environmental issues, and Aboriginal culture and community development activities.

Mr. Langford and his wife, Fran, have four adult children and six grandchildren. His 'free time' interests include curling, gardening and music.

Looking forward to an exciting future

**By Dr. Roger Epp
Interim Academic Dean and
Vice President of Academic Affairs**

There is a tiny fortune-cookie message high on my office door that only the most curious of students have read: *All your hard work will soon pay off.* I never knew what "soon" meant, or what kind of pay-off – for whom – would have satisfied the promise. I put up that message years ago, and noticed it again only as I prepared to move to a new office as interim academic dean.

With my wife Rhonda and our two young children, I came to Camrose and to what was soon to be renamed Augustana in 1990. That was a vibrant, creative place, in which new faculty members were drawn into the excitement and commitment of building a university. Since then, we have suffered our share of financial stresses – who expected that North Hall and the wooden sidewalks would still be here? – but I have realized a scholarly career at Augustana different and better than I could have imagined. I have been privileged to work with colleagues who shared the ambitious conviction that a small university outside a major city did not mean second-rate. I have helped shape a political studies program. I have taught good students, watched them graduate, stayed in touch, and begun the cycle anew each fall standing before intimidating first-year classes. I have sung alongside



Dr. Roger Epp

students in a performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor; cheered a Viking Cup victory, shared meals, and been invited to their weddings. In other words, I have experienced the luxury of encountering students as whole persons.

I have also learned to be a scholar at home in east central Alberta – part of the same rural, prairie world in which I was raised. What animates my writing are questions about what it means to live here and think with those for whom this is a beloved country. The book I co-edited, *Writing Off the Rural West*, has led to invitations to comment in national media, advise public-policy processes, speak in communities across the prairies – even preach from the same pulpit in Saskatchewan as my great-grandfather. Locally, my commitments have involved me in the renewal of Camrose's historic Main Street and the renewal of political conversation in a lively weekly coffee group.

At this important time in Augustana's history, I am excited by the prospect of a new relationship with the University of Alberta. It will require more hard work of faculty and staff. Its pay-off, we believe, will be the opportunity to build again on our strengths, to live out our commitments to students, and to sustain the special character for which this human-scale campus has made its reputation.

The Alumni Board is working for you

The Augustana Alumni Association Board of Directors is made up of 10 former students who meet five times a year, in January, March, April, September and November. The election of directors takes place at Homecoming each October. Directors who were elected for the first time last October were: Tina Myles, Kristy Mandrusiak, Dean Kelndorfer, Kristy Bruce and Sue Storvik.



David Moore
Class of 1955



Kristine Bruce
Class of 2002



Renae Hewitt
Class of 1995



Dean Kelndorfer
Class of 1987



Ray Hook, Dir.
Development and
Alumni Relations



Susan Malone
Admin. Assistant
Alumni Relations



Michelle Munroe
Class of 1987



Sue Storvik
Class of 1996



Tina Myles
Class of 1990



Kristy Mandrusiak
Class of 2002



Joel Vinge
Class of 1955



Jane Christenson
Class of 1970

Munroe's Musings

The Augustana Alumni Association is set for a new and exciting future. We know that for some alumni this decision to go public and become part of the University of Alberta was filled with uncertainty. However, let me assure you that this was a positive move, for without this decision, this college that we know and love would not have survived. I can say this as I have sat as an advisor to the Board of Regents at meetings for the last five years and I know what kind of financial state the college is in.

Our Alumni Association will still work on behalf of Augustana students, yet it will give us an opportunity to possibly reach many missing alumni given the reach and resources possessed by the

University of Alberta. Rest assured, the Alumni Board will have opportunities over the next while to be part of the decision-making process to see that the interests of our Alumni Association are looked after.

I would also like to say how much our Alumni Board is going to miss President Husfloen. He has been at nearly all of our Alumni Board meetings over the last six years and has provided vital assistance and support for all alumni throughout my time on the board. His vast knowledge and experience will be sorely missed. We wish him much good luck in the future.

Till Next Time

Michelle Munroe

B.A. 1987

B.Ed. 1989

From the Desk of the Director

Your Alumni Relations staff has been working very hard over the past year to try and make your Homecoming weekend an event worth coming "home" to! Because Susan Malone (your Alumni Relations Assistant) and I (the boss) were both new to Augustana last year, we organized the annual Homecoming along very similar lines to previous years. Although those who showed up were small in number, they had an excellent time. Just after last year's event, I approached your Alumni Association Board with a proposal to dramatically expand the number of classes who were invited to Homecoming.

The proposal was enthusiastically endorsed. We will base the annual Homecoming event along more traditional lines of other universities, at five-year intervals. Based on your last year of full time attendance at Camrose Lutheran College or Augustana, five

years after that is your first Homecoming event! This new approach was first mentioned in our most recent annual fund drive in March.

While the more senior classes (before 1985) have always been keen to come back, we want to attract more of the recent grads. This year, the Dean of Residence Life (Mark Chytracek) and his capable assistant, Rob Ford, are organizing a reunion within a reunion for all past RAs – an event that should be quite the time!

Although we may lack the more traditional homecoming event that other bigger universities may enjoy, the reasons for coming back to Augustana (or CLC) still remain – the people, the friendships, the relationships and the experiences that you all shared here.

Ray Hook, Director of
Development and
Alumni Relations

Sawai will be special guest



Gloria Sawai with Ole Uffda, mascot of the City of Camrose.

The 2003 recipient of Augustana University College's prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award is Gloria Sawai (nee Ostrem), from the Class of 1948. Most recently, she was awarded the 2002 Governor General's Literary Award in English Fiction. Gloria will be our special guest at Homecoming 2003 from October 17 to 19, where she will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Homecoming banquet on Saturday, October 18. Please plan on attending this wonderful evening.

As part of Saturday's activities on campus, Gloria would like to invite all alumni to join her for a reading from her award winning book *A Song for Nettie Johnson* – a collection of nine short stories about love, life and redemption. There will be a book signing reception later that afternoon (October 18) in the foyer of the Faith and Life Centre. Janice DePaoli, owner of Camrose's finest bookstore – Pop'lar Books – has graciously agreed to be on hand with copies of Gloria's books for purchase and signing. More details on the event appear in the weekend timetable.

Augustana University College is proud to join with Gloria in celebrating her accomplishments.

Homecoming 2003 will be an event to remember

You'll have the chance to renew old acquaintances and feel like a student again at Homecoming 2003 October 17 to 19.

Events are scheduled to get underway Friday evening with registration at Ronning House (4606-49 Street, Camrose), followed by a president's reception at a location to be announced.

Saturday morning begins with registration in the Faith and Life Centre, after which alumni will be encouraged to reminisce with former classmates, pose for photos, view displays and tour the campus.

The Alumni Association annual meeting and election of board members will be held in the afternoon, after a brunch. The afternoon will also feature a President's report, book reading and signing by Gloria (Ostrem) Sawai (Camrose Lutheran College, 1948), and class activities.

Augustana Alumni Association award presentations and entertainment will highlight the Homecoming banquet, which will be held at Camrose and District Senior Centre. Gloria Sawai will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in her vocation. Dan Jensen will receive the Lois Aspenes Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the alumni association and to the life of Augustana University College. And Dr. Harry Prest, professor of English, will receive an Honoured Professor Award in recognition of 25 years of service to Augustana University College.

Homecoming sporting events on

Saturday will include men's and women's basketball games against Concordia in the Augustana gymnasium beginning at 6:30, and a Vikings hockey game versus Mount Royal College at Max McLean Arena at 8:00.

The weekend will wrap up with a Sunday worship service in the chapel, and a brunch.

Honoured class years for Homecoming 2003 are: 1951/1952 and prior, senior class; 1952/1953, 50th anniversary class; 1957/1958, 45th; 1962/1963, 40th; 1967/1968, 35th; 1972/1973, 30th; 1977/1978, 25th; 1982/1983, 10th; 1997/1998, fifth. A special reunion will be held for residence life staffers.

The Augustana alumni office can help alumni who wish to organize get-togethers

by providing class lists.

Homecoming weekend passes, which include the President's reception on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday brunches in the dining hall, light refreshments on Saturday morning and afternoon, the banquet on Saturday evening and entry to the athletic events, may be purchased at a cost of \$40 for singles and \$75 for couples. The cost of the Saturday banquet only is \$25 per person, while the cost of each brunch is \$10 per person.

More detailed information and registration forms will be sent to alumni of honoured classes in August. Early registration is always appreciated.

A printable version of the schedule and registration form will be available on the alumni web page.



The Class of 1953 – it's 50 years

By Arlene Person

Do you remember the grand time the Class of 1953 had in 1993? We look forward to another great reunion October 17 to 19. Please mark your cal-

endars now. Details to follow from your organizing committee: Arlene Skaret Person, Alver Person, Peggy Moen Nichols, Joyclyn Myrehaug Bergh.

Homecoming 2003, October 17, 18 and 19 Registration

Alumna/Alumnus Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Class Year _____

E-mail _____

For purpose of name tags, I will be attending with _____



Banquet Ticket: \$25.00 per person (GST included)
Weekend Pass: \$40.00 per person or \$75.00 per couple (GST included)
 (Weekend Pass includes Saturday banquet, brunch on Saturday and Sunday, coffee and refreshments as well as admission to athletic events on Saturday.)

I/We plan to attend the President's Reception on Friday evening: Yes No

Please reserve:

_____ Banquet Tickets x \$25.00 = _____

_____ Weekend Passes x \$40.00 = _____

_____ Couple Weekend Passes x \$75.00 = _____

Total _____

Weekend Passes and
Banquet Tickets will be held for
pickup at the Registration Desk
(Friday evening and Saturday)
and at the Banquet on
Saturday evening.

Payment: Cheque payable to Augustana Alumni Association

Credit card: VISA # _____ Expiry Date _____

 MC # _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Please return this form with payment by September 30 to:
Alumni Office, Augustana University College, 4901-46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3

Memories of our one big happy family at CLC

Marie Minaker (nee Nagloren) graduated from CLC's grade 12 program in 1947 before going on to a career in which she was a stenographer, school teacher and a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. She and her husband, Art, a professional engineer, raised two children in Burlington, Ontario, while she attended McMaster University, curled, taught co-ed fitness classes at the Y and sat on the board of directors of the Royal Botanical Gardens, of which she is presently an archivist. Her articles and fiction have been published in more than 20 different publications. The following is one of her stories from *Canadian Stories*, reprinted with her permission.



Marie Minaker

Fifty years ago seems forever when one looks ahead; when one looks backwards it is but a blink in time. As I prepared for the 50th anniversary reunion of my graduation from Camrose Lutheran College residential high school, now Augustana University College, I wondered what to expect. This would be my first time back to a reunion.

There had been 61 students in my graduating year and 130 students in the whole school. I still remember when classmates teased me about being only 17 and the youngest kid in our class. How many would return for the reunion? How did college life differ today? Most of us had lived as one big family in what is now referred to as Old Main or Founders' Hall under the watchful eye of the resident principal, who enforced strict rules of behaviour. Our parents demanded it. After three years of living almost like siblings, through good times and bad, there were few, if any, secrets among us students.

Two classmates would not be there. One had been in the Royal Canadian Air Force with me. He left to become a test pilot, and died doing what he loved best. The other classmate, a mathematical wizard, had passed away after a successful scientific career. By coincidence, he had been in my husband's physics class at Queen's University.

I knew that my grade school pen pal from Saskatchewan would be there. We had never met but she had married one of the class "heartthrobs" who we all envied because he lived off campus and was not subject to our rigid discipline. Photographic bulbs flashed when my pen friend and I caught our first glimpse of each other. Although her husband had lost a few hairs, he was as debonair as ever.

The rest of the evening we renewed old friendships and tried to guess the names of those who arrived after us. One white-haired gentleman stumped us all and enjoyed teasing us about his identity. He turned out to be the minister's son, who possessed a wicked sense of humour and who used to have a wavy thatch of black mane.

Before long, like any normal teenage brother or sister, most of us reminded each other of embarrassing moments that we had hoped to forget – like the time I used a purple/blue rinse for platinum blonde hair because most of the other girls used a reddish rinse to highlight their darker hair. Even with the numerous washings my hair stayed purple for two weeks. Today the incident would be nothing, but at the time the stigma hung on for the rest of the year. Despite whatever hard-

ships or successes class members had experienced since College Daze, it soon became apparent that almost everyone was basically still the same "college kid."

Next day, reunited with two of my graduation year roommates, we joined the campus tour. Buildings had sprouted everywhere. Old Main remained in the centre of it all and filled with offices now. We wanted to have our picture taken looking out of our old room four girls' flat. It had an unbroken view along the tree-lined path where we used to hang out of the window to wave at the boys com-

ing to class or to throw water on the boys below us. One of my roommates married a professional photographer who once tried to photograph Queen Elizabeth's knee but Prince Philip elbowed him out of the way. The gods foiled him again; our guide could not find the key to the locked door of room four.

Later on in the tour, my mouth dropped, probably with envy, as we snooped through the dorms. Unsupervised male and female students lived on different floors in the same building with no curfew – unbelievable! A cafeteria, with choice of food – incredible! I had been born too soon – just my luck.

One thing had not changed. The college choir sang with the same dedication and enthusiasm. Since my singing voice has always resembled that of a tomcat yowling to the full moon on the back fence at midnight, no one invited me to join the choir. Nonetheless, when the choir sang my hair still rose toward the ceiling with little shivers pulsing up my spine.

The final banquet took place all too soon. Moments before we sat down, our fourth roommate, voted the girl most likely to succeed, arrived by car over mountainous back roads. She indulged in a Bohemian lifestyle where she and her late husband had operated a sawmill. She was happy.

Another surprise awaited us. Wine on the table! The chatter picked up and we toasted our favourite escapade, which we relived in detail. One Sunday we decided to skip church and hide under our bed until our dean and her toddler son departed. We pulled the bedspread down to the floor around the largest bed. All four of us squeezed under it and tried not to giggle. The door flew open and her little lad lifted up the covers and peered under the other bed. Then he began to shake the coverlet of the bed that we covered under. His mother hollered, "Come out of there this minute. The girls wouldn't like it if they knew you were in there." She grabbed him by the collar and marched him out. We held our breath and did not move until we heard their footsteps at the bottom of the stairs. We speculated over whether that young fellow, now an important Canadian diplomat, ever knew how close he had been to exposing us to the authorities.

Yes, we posed for our class picture – a group of 23 mature smiling individuals. Photographs, however, do not reveal everything. Had I actually flicked the ears of that prominent gentleman when he sat in front of me 50 years ago? He always retaliated by informing me that I had the loudest voice in college. I tittered to myself.

There is no doubt about it; it had been an unforgettable experience to be part of our "one big family" again.

Augustana University College Class Notes

2000s

Michael Henkel ('00) will graduate in August, 2003, from the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto, where he has been training in singing, acting and dancing.

Shauna Ulmer ('00) works as a youth director at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Cochrane, AB. Greetings to all her former Marken dorm mates.

Rob Wiesner ('00) has completed his third year of the MDiv at WLS and had a great time while he was there! To all his 1996-2000 friends: keep in touch at robertwiesner@hotmail.com

1990s

Fiona Cavanagh ('98), who completed her Masters Degree in International Education at the U of A in December, 2002, left for Uruguay in January, 2003, for six to eight months. While at the U of A she received a \$10,000 academic scholarship, three research assistant scholarships, and was one of eight Canadians selected to do a six-month work internship in Bolivia.

Nils Didriksen ('98) and **Deanna Clark** ('01) were married in September, 2002, in Stony Plain. They are living in Camrose.

Rania Page (Nader) ('98) was married in July, 2002. She lives in Edson where she works as an addictions counsellor and her husband is a GIS specialist.

Diane Sandbrand (Isaman) ('97) lives in Calgary where she works as an environmental consultant. She married **David**, a computer consultant, at Varadero, Cuba, in March, 2003.

Chad ('96) and **Kelly Kendall** (Willis) ('96) are very busy parents of three young children: **Tanner, Jacob and Sawyer**.

Cristin Smith (Reilly) ('96) will celebrate her second wedding anniversary to husband **Bob** in July, 2003. Married in Nanoose Bay, BC, they reside in Duncan, where Bob co-owns Panago Pizza.

Sue Storvik ('96) is enjoying her work at the Camrose Chamber of Commerce. Her two daughters have graduated from high school; her son is in junior high.

Eugene Dakin ('95) recently received his Ph.D. in Chemical

Engineering. He now has his Professional Chemist (P.Chem) designation for Alberta.

Karyn Forst (Morrison) ('95) received her Masters in Speech Language Pathology in 1998 from the U of A. She lives with husband Rob and pet pug Oscar in Sherwood Park. She often thinks of the great times she had at Augustana and has recommended the university to several new students.

Jeff ('94) and **Laura Fechter (Gregory)** ('94) were joined by baby Claire in August, 2002. You can reach Laura and Jeff (aka **Skippy**) at jeff.f@sk.sympatico.ca.

Sherri Carnley (Robinson) ('93), who is married to **Shon**, an electrician, is living and teaching in Hempstead, Texas.

Vance Koberstein ('93) graduated from the University of Lethbridge in 2002 with a Bachelor of Management degree. Chartered accounting wasn't for him, so he is currently employed with ATB Financial in Lethbridge.

Richard Verhaeghe ('93) is practising law at Gawlinski, Parkatti, Verhaeghe, in Athabasca. To reminisce about the good ol' days, send him an e-mail at gpvlaw@telus.net

Chad Bannister ('92) has been the proud owner of Bannister Chevrolet Oldsmobile Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd. dealership in Edson since December, 2001.

Jeff ('92) and **Heather Pitts**

Scholarship presentation



Augustana University College Alumni Association Board member **Renae Hewitt** (left) presented scholarships of \$544 each to **Jacqueline Ackerman** and **Greg Luchak** at the 2002 Augustana scholarship banquet.

(Riding) ('92) welcomed son **Connor** to their Edmonton home in October, 2002.

Robert McKoen ('91) and **Kamilla Reid** were married in August 1997. They live in Edmonton where Robert is an actor and Kamilla a writer/director. They are busy running their own theatre/film/video production company and Kamilla has had several of her screenplays optioned by producers, but their greatest production so far has been their daughter **Tylar**, now three.

Mark ('90) and **Kristine Pederson** ('90) are enjoying life in Maple Ridge, BC, with their 2 children, daughter **Anneke** and son **Matej**.

Atma Persad ('90) and wife **Karen** are medical doctors who completed their residencies in family medicine at UBC last year. They live with their 14-month-old son **Isaiah** in Oliver, BC, where they are doing their family medicine locums.

1980s

Mark ('89) and **Jayme Pelech (Loge)** ('92), married 10 years ago, will welcome the arrival of their first child this July. They live in Fort McMurray, where Mark teaches music and band at a K-8 school and Jayme works in an early intervention program. Any of the old gang can e-mail them at logemj@telus.net

Karl Terry ('89) lives in Calgary and works for WestJet as a flight attendant. He would love to hear from **Steve, Kelly, Hugh, Jackie, Jeff** and **Ian** and all his other buds 'n pals. He can be reached by e-mail at karlterry@shaw.ca

Anne Tyrrell (Birchill) ('89) graduated from the U of A with a Bachelor of Education specializing in Music Education. She married **Bruce**, also a teacher, in 1994. She teaches at Thunder Lake, AB, where she has had the opportunity to use the ski and canoe skills she learned at CLC. She feels blessed to have had some outstanding educators – **Dr. Giesen, Dr. Dahle, Dr. Friesen** and **Gibber**, to name a few – and is proud to have been part of CLC.

Catherine Mary Turriff (McGrath) ('88) and husband **Mark** are living in Saskatoon with their two young children, **Dominic** and **Natalie**.

Continued on page 18

Vikings preparing to defend championship

The Augustana University College men's hockey team will be defending its championship against seven teams and possibly as many as nine when Viking Cup action gets underway in Camrose this Boxing Day (December 26). Viking Cup teams that had been confirmed as of *EXPRESS* publication were the Norwegian, Swiss, German, Finnish, Slovak and Czech Republic under-18 selects, as well as the USHL all-stars. The appearance will be the first for the Norwegian, Swiss and German teams, which have been asking about participating in the tournament for a number of years. Teams from the Czech Republic, Finland and Sweden have been tournament mainstays since the very beginning.

"We're very excited about the new

additions and the opportunity to give the tournament a truly international flavour," explained Augustana alumnus Verlyn Olson, who is Viking Cup director of hockey operations. "We feel it will add a little extra excitement."

Viking Cup has long been billed by media and talent scouts alike as one of the premiere prospect tournaments in the world. National Hockey League stars who have been part of the championship include Mike Comrie (Edmonton Oilers), Robert Holik (New York Rangers), Sergei Brylin, Darius Kasparitus and Oli Jokinen.

Tickets for Viking Cup 2002 may be reserved by calling the Viking Cup office at 679-1170 or by visiting the web-site at www.vikingcup.com.



A scene Augustana University College Vikings fans hope to see again at the upcoming Viking Cup.

Sports teams travel the world

It wasn't only the men's hockey team that experienced international competition this past year. The women's basketball team, coached by Dawn Schooler, travelled to Cuba early in January to work out and play against members of a club program in Havana, while biathlon team members Jamie Masters, Roddy Ward, Michael McKinney, Chris Halldorson

and Andy Hallett, along with coach/general manager Garry Gibson and coach Jacqueline Ackerman, travelled to Tarvisio, Italy, in mid-January, for the World University Games. Coaches described the trip as a good opportunity to experience different levels of competition and styles of play, while at the same time enjoy an unforgettable cultural experience.

Hard way to end season

It was the kind of season for which every team hopes. Except, that is, for the final two games. Augustana's female basketball Vikings blazed through the regular league schedule with a record of 24 wins and no losses, then won a pair of quarter-final matchups against Medicine Hat College to advance to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference Final Four tournament in Lethbridge March 14 and 15. Pitted against Mount Royal College in the first game,

the Vikings came out on fire, and were up at one time by as many as 10 points. Unfortunately, whether it was Mount Royal starting to play better, an Augustana let down or a combination of both, things began to unravel and by the end of the first two quarters the lead was down to six. In the second half, Mount Royal tied the score with about four minutes to go, and went ahead by two with less than a minute remaining, causing Augustana to call a time out. With just seconds left, the Vikings tried and missed a three point shot that would have been the winner and the

perfect season came to an end.

Crushed and broken-hearted, the Vikings played the bronze medal game against Grant MacEwan College, only to come up short once again. Their hopes of taking a number six ranking into the national college championship had been reduced to the familiar battle cry, "Wait until next year!"

"It was a hard way to end the season because I and the players believed, and still believe, that we were one of the best teams in the province, and that we deserved to be playing in the national championship," said coach Dawn

Schooler. "At the same time, however, it does not diminish from what we accomplished this year as a group. To go 26 wins without a loss while facing academic demands and illness and fatigue is an incredible accomplishment and one in which we should be proud."

The women Vikings should be able to take another good crack at the Canadian championships next year, since only three of the team members who performed so well in 2002-2003 will not be returning.

"I expect to be competing for the north division again next year," said coach Schooler.

Behind the scene at the Augustana cafeteria

President Emeritus Richard Husfloen has often referred to the Augustana cafeteria as "The best private restaurant in town." To understand why, the editor of the Augustana Express spoke with food services co-managers Lilas Bielopotocky and Frances Pfeiffer.

EXPRESS: How long have you worked in food services at Augustana? **Lilas:** I am currently going into my fifteenth year, the last six of which have been with Frances as co-manager. **Frances:** I have been here 18 years and co-manager the same amount of time as Lilas, since December of 1996.

EXPRESS: How many people do you feed on a daily basis? **Lilas:** I will do a run through. We serve about 200 at breakfast, 365 at lunch and right around the 400 to 425 mark at supper.

EXPRESS: Can you give us an idea of the annual food budget? **Lilas:** We are actually given one million dollars but we have to contribute right around \$400,000 back into the Augustana pot at the end of the year. So our budget for food only is approximately \$385,000. Last year we had 465 students to feed and were still able to meet our yearly budget.

EXPRESS: How many staff do you have in food services? **Lilas:** Frances and I rotate in and out of the office as co-managers. One week she works in the office doing the ordering and I work in the kitchen and next it's the other way around. That way we always know what is going on in the office and in the kitchen. We also have 10 staff who work full-time from September to April and part-time from May to August when we hold our conferences.

EXPRESS: Tell us about the menus and how they are set. **Lilas:** We usually set the menu three weeks at a time and we always post it on a bulletin board for students to see so they always know ahead of time what we are having. We follow the Canada Food Guide, which is why we have a very nice salad bar and at least one hot item per meal. Whether it is protein, starches or vegetables we have something for everyone.

EXPRESS: What special considerations do you have to keep in mind? **Lilas:** We provide separate meals for students who are given a special identification card at the beginning of each school year. If they can't eat deep fried foods like french fries or fish we prepare for them meals that are baked in the oven instead. We will also prepare separate meals for those who can't eat foods made with flour, such as spaghetti, or who can't have lasagna because of the cheese. It's not so bad with the diabetics because we always have fresh fruits and vegetables.

EXPRESS: When does a typical day begin and end? **Lilas:** The two staff who come in at 6:00 to get breakfast going work until 2:30. Then we have another person who comes in at 8:00 and works until 5:30. At 11:00 another shift comes in to help finish off the lunch and start getting ready

for supper. We are usually out of here and on the way home by 7:30.

EXPRESS: Is there a certain meal that is harder to prepare than others?

Lilas: Our staff have been here long enough now that no meal is really very hard any more. Grilled cheese sandwiches, one of the cheapest meals, probably involves the most work because you have to butter and put cheese on between 80 and 85 loaves of bread.

EXPRESS: Give us an idea of how many eggs and sausages or bacon you would go through during a typical breakfast. **Lilas:** What we do on weekends is have a brunch, which is when we use the most eggs. We normally go through about 60 dozen eggs on Saturday and again on

Sunday, about 40 pounds of sausage on Saturday and about 70 pounds of bacon on Sunday. Besides that we go through 30 to 40 pounds of taters and 30 to 40 pounds of hashbrowns during a meal. We do all the bacon in the oven, otherwise we would never get finished frying it on time.

EXPRESS: Do the students here have a favourite meal? **Lilas:** Well you know what, the meal of grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup is probably the one they enjoy the most. We hear students coming through the line saying, "Yes, we're having grilled cheese." The next favourite meal I think would be chicken burgers and fries. Of course roast beef and mashed potatoes are always popular, as are lasagna and bread sticks.

EXPRESS: What do you do with all the leftovers? **Lilas:** We don't usually have too many leftovers but when we do we use them up fairly quickly. Last night, for example, we cooked too much chicken, so what we are doing today is cutting it up and putting it in the soup. We will also put leftovers out at the end of the salad bar. Lots of times the students really enjoy having leftover lasagna or leftover shepherd's pie.

EXPRESS: What is the most rewarding part of your work? **Lilas:** In my case the most rewarding part is dealing with the students, especially the international students. We learn so much about what happens in other countries and can be so thankful that we live in Canada. Once a year we have an International Week where we put together meals from different ethnic origins. That's always lots of fun because the students come into the cafeteria dressed in the clothing they would wear in their country and help with the serving of food. It is just a wonderful week. It is more money to do all this but it is a great experience and the students love it.

EXPRESS: How do you feel when Richard Husfloen tells people the Augustana cafeteria is the best private restaurant in Camrose? **Lilas:** I think it is wonderful that he enjoys the food so much. He has probably been out in the world a lot more than we have so he has seen what there is out there. And it feels wonderful. I think he is a wonderful man because he has always been so good to the kitchen staff.



We know where you live!

As a Camrose Lutheran College/Augustana University College Alumni Association member, your name, address and other relevant information are part of our alumni database. We use this information to send our alumni magazine and other Alumni Association news to you. It also allows the Alumni Association to participate in fund development programs conducted on behalf of the institution. If you would like to have your name removed from the CLC/AUC database, please inform us by mail, telephone, fax or e-mail.

More donations needed

Your generous help is urgently needed for these two big projects on campus this summer – resurfacing the roof on the Faith & Life Centre and the Convocation Centre, and renovating the science labs (replacing the fume hoods and work stations). These repairs must be done now. We must find public funding for these projects. Gifts are tax deductible.

Donor update

Last year 20% of our alumni made a contribution to Augustana, 19% (871) have given before but not last year; and over 61% of our alumni (2,812) have never made a financial contribution. Last fall we mailed letters to 4,603 of our alumni asking for contributions for building repairs and improvements, for which we receive no government funding. We sincerely thank those who gave, but with an average gift of \$37, this is very little money to support major projects. When you get the annual appeal letter in the fall, please be generous. Thank you.

Generous donations appreciated

The road next to Founders' Hall has new curbs and sidewalks thanks to the generosity of Branco Concrete, of Wetaskiwin. The paving of the road was sponsored in part by Border Paving, of Red Deer, as well as many generous alumni and friends. The new sidewalk, besides being more aesthetically pleasing, eliminates the safety concerns that the old, rotting wooden one posed, while the lane pavement has helped reduce the amount of mud tracked into buildings, reducing the amount of cleaning that has been required.

Branco Concrete donated the full cost of the curbing and sidewalks as their in-kind commitment to the 2001 Viking Cup. Border Paving assumed responsibility for a portion of the total cost of the paving as part of their ongoing support to Augustana, which dates back to at least 1986. The remaining amount was successfully raised by



The lane outside Founders' Hall has pavement, curbs and sidewalks thanks to donations by Branco Concrete, of Wetaskiwin, and Border Paving, of Camrose.

Augustana during the fall of 2002 through a mini campaign for infrastructure improvements. The campaign has been extended into 2003 to include much-needed repairs to the roof of the Faith and Life Centre and Convocation Centre, as well as upgrades to the science labs.

Being a private university college, we don't have

the same degree of funding in the budget for repairs and improvements as the public facilities, so we must raise this kind of money on our own. Once again we call on our alumni and friends to help in whatever way that they can. Thanks again to all those kind and generous alumni and friends who have supported this project.

New scholarship undertaken in memory of Pastor Lunde

It was with great sadness and many fond memories that we learned of the passing of Pastor Karel Lunde on June 3, 2002, at the age of 82 here in Camrose. In honour of Pastor Lunde, Garry Gibson and Wynn McLean have undertaken to start a scholarship in his memory.

Pastor Lunde is best known as the coach of the Camrose Lutheran College (CLC) football program that he led from 1959 until 1972, when the program was discontinued. During that era, the CLC football program

was known as the premier high school football program in the province. Pastor Lunde also coached the wrestling team, helped coach the hockey team and served as a dormitory supervisor. Pastor Lunde was extremely well liked and respected by students and faculty alike. His kindness, dedication and leadership had a major impact on all who knew him and we are very excited to be going forward with the development of a scholarship in Pastor Lunde's name.

As we begin developing

the scholarship, we are seeking the names and addresses of former students who had the privilege of being coached by Pastor Lunde. If you are a former player, wrestler or student who would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please contact Wynn McLean at 780-672-3640 (work) or via e-mail at wmclean@cre.ab.ca, or Susan Malone at the Augustana Development and Alumni Relations Office, 780-679-1105, 1-800-590-9992, ext 1105, or alumni@augustana.ca

Happenings on the Augustana campus

Norwegian explorer and author Borge Ousland was a guest lecturer at Augustana December 4, 2002. Regarded as the "Greatest Living Arctic Explorer" by *Outside Magazine*, Ousland spoke about the determination and mental preparation required to make solo trips across the Arctic and Antarctic without re-supply.

"I don't do it for anyone other than myself," said Ousland, who in 2001 skied 82 days from Siberia to Canada while pulling a sled weighing 375 pounds. "To me it is a challenge and a sports achievement. You can't do it for money or fame or anything else. You have to want it for yourself?"

Augustana University College president Richard Husfloen was granted an honorary doctorate in May from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.

Dr. Marc Hafso, professor of choral music and director of choral music at Augustana for the last 10 years, announced his acceptance of a similar position at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. Dr. Hafso's choirs have published CDs and performed across North America and Europe, including one time at the Crystal Cathedral in Anaheim, California. He said his lasting memory of Augustana and Camrose will be

working with everyone who helped him over the years bring together his various musical experiences.

Don't discount the importance of athletic programs in a school's ability to attract and retain students. That was the message conveyed by student athletes through an Augustana University College athletic department survey last November. Of the 126 who were asked to provide a response, 86.5 per cent said the athletic program was either very important or important in choosing a post-secondary institution, while 79.4 per cent said they would not have chosen to attend Augustana if it did not offer a particular athletic program. Further, 72.2 per cent of student athletes responded that it was either very important or important that their coach also teaches at Augustana and is readily available for consultation. The hiring of off-campus coaches by other post-secondary institutions has led to a serious disconnection between the academic and athletic programs, which in turn diminishes the ability of the athletic program to further the mission of the institution.

Dr. Jack Waschenfelder was named 2003 recipient of the Augustana Distinguished Teaching Award for innovative teaching, incorporation of his most recent research into his teaching, devel-

opment of new courses, and strong evaluations from students and colleagues. Dr. Waschenfelder spent a 10-month sabbatical in India, where his research and experience led him to develop a course entitled *Introduction to Hinduism*, which was offered for the first time last year. At Augustana, Dr. Waschenfelder said he is able to touch on a much broader range of religious study than he might in another academic setting.

Christian activist and author Father G. Simon Harrak, S.J. was the guest speaker at the Theological Lecture Series March 13 and 14. Father Harrak claimed that oil is the number one reason the United States was threatening (and did) to wage war on Iraq. He said by controlling Middle Eastern oil the United States can control the amount that is being pumped and thereby put pressure on its economic competitors, the European Union and the Pacific Rim.

A haircut event put on by students at the K. Glen Johnson Faith and Life Centre raised \$240 for the Canadian Cancer Society and collected over 30 pony tails. Participants could get their hair cut for \$9, with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society, or have their hair cut free if they had at least eight inches of hair to donate.



Marc Hafso announced his acceptance of a position at Whitworth College.



Drama students received good reviews for *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.



Dr. Jack Waschenfelder received the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Borge Ousland has been described as the Greatest Living Arctic Explorer.

Chester Ronning's daughter reflects

By Audrey Topping

In 1971, during a sumptuous banquet in his honour at Beijing's Great Hall of People, my father, Chester Ronning, invited our host, his old friend Chou-En-lai, then Foreign Minister of China, to visit him in Camrose. "I would like to return your hospitality," he said in fluent Chinese. "I have the smallest and most humble home in Camrose, but I will personally cook Chinese food for you."

Chou threw his head back and laughed heartily, and at that moment I snapped a photo that was later published on the cover of *Life* magazine, *Newsweek*, and several other magazines around the world. It also became the official photo of Chou En-lai – all because of our house in Camrose, of which I will write more later.

When someone asked Dad how he learned to speak Chinese he would say, "Oh, it's easy. You just have to be born in China." He was born December 13, 1894, the first non-Chinese baby in the County of Hsiangyang, where his parents, the Rev. Halvor Ronning and his wife, Hannah, were American Lutheran missionaries. In 1899, the family escaped during the anti-foreign Boxer Rebellion and moved to Canada, where Halvor had bought land at \$3 an acre, with twenty years to pay.

After a stint as minister of the church in Bardo, Halvor established a Norwegian community called Valhalla, where Chester and his brothers helped him clear the land for farming. Chester loved the challenge of pioneer life and wanted to become a rancher; but when the local school teacher died, Grandfather said: "Don't worry. Chester will teach our children. He's a born teacher." So Chester became a teacher.

After one term he decided to go to Camrose Normal School to get a teacher's certificate, but could not afford it. However, Dr. Lavik, president of Camrose Lutheran College, offered him board and room if he would be dean of the men's dormitory and teach mathematics and agriculture. He accepted, even though he had never taken a course in agriculture. His brother Nelius also came to teach and they both played in the school orchestras.



The esteemed Chester Ronning

When Chester graduated from Normal School he returned to Valhalla and fell in love with my mother, Inga Horte, whose family had come from Minnesota. After a romantic interlude where Dad boasts of how he won her heart by breaking her palomino mare, they married and moved to Edmonton, where he taught school and where my sister, Sylvia, was born. When World War I broke out, Chester joined the RCAF and flew fighter planes known as "Death Crates." In 1920 Chester took Inga and Sylvia to China, where he became headmaster of the Hung Wen Middle School in Fancheng, established by my grandparents in 1894, which he had attended until he was 13 years of age. In 1927, all foreigners were ordered to leave China because of the turmoil and, like his father before him, the Ronnings escaped by sailing down the Han River, in a junk to Hankow. While in Hankow, Chester received a request to become head of Camrose Lutheran College. He accepted and that is how Chester and Inga Ronning came to Camrose with their children.

Our house was built in 1928. Chester hired a master carpenter, Roy Mulvik from Kingman, to help him build it. Dad applied most of the spruce shingles himself. Both Mom and Dad

took pride in building a solid home surrounded by blue spruce trees that are now taller than the house. It was the right size for the five of them, but when I was born in St. Mary's, then my sister Kjeryn and brother Harmon, the house became rather crowded. Dad built two bedrooms in the attic and one in the basement beside the coal bin. He also built a playhouse of split logs and a red roof with flying eaves like a Chinese pavilion, where we could sleep in the summer and play house with the Servold boys, who lived next door and became like family. We also had a beautiful Chinese rock garden with a goldfish pond, a large vegetable garden, rabbits, Fluffy the cat and Shep, a dog like Lassie who followed us to school.

In 1932, Chester was elected to the Alberta Legislature representing the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA). That summer the UFA joined the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and he was elected for another four years with the support of the college.

Dad remained principal of CLC for 15 years. We all grew up in the cozy little house and have many fond memories of our childhood, which we still reminisce about during our frequent reunions. Mom and I helped Dad plant the trees along the College Walk, as well as corn and peas in the vegetable garden that Alton and his friends raided periodically. When we were older we all attended CLC, except for Harmon.

When World War II began, Dad joined the RCAF as a squadron leader in charge of the discrimination unit of RCAF intelligence. Alton lied about his age and, at 17, joined the RCAF as a pilot. Mother tearfully pinned on his wings. Sylvia stayed in Camrose to teach school and the rest of us moved to Ottawa and left the Camrose house to Dad's colleague, Edwin Marken. We returned soon after V-J Day. Dad was asked to join External Affairs and go to China as a diplomat. He soon left for his first assignment in Chungking, Chiang Kai-shek's war-time capital. The rest of us moved back into the house, joined by Alton, who had returned and married his college sweetheart. He later joined the RCAF again.

on her father and life in Camrose

Sylvia married Harry Cassady, had seven children, got her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and taught at Chester Ronning School.

When Meme and I graduated from CLC in 1946 we sailed with Mom, Kjeryn and Harmon on a converted troop ship to China, where Dad met us. We lived in Nanking, then the capital of China, and wore our pink chiffon graduation dresses to our first diplomatic ball at the Siamese Embassy. It was during the Civil War and the city was swollen with refugees from the fighting between the Communists and Nationalists in the north. Nanking was cultural shock for girls from Camrose. Meme and I worked for the American Military Advisory Group and I attended the University of Nanking. Every morning, riding to school in a rickshaw, I would pass corpses of people who had died of starvation or frozen to death. Meme met and married David Westlein, an ensign in the U.S. Navy and left China for the Phillipines and later South Africa as assistant naval attache. She is now widowed, living in Maryland.

Mom, Kjeryn, Harmon and I were evacuated with the women and children when the Communist troops occupied Nanking. We returned to our house in Camrose and I attended UBC. In November, 1949, I married Seymour Topping, a journalist I had met in China. We were married in Sylvia's house and immediately left for Saigon to cover the Indochina War. I also worked as a photojournalist. Our first daughter was born in



Chester Ronning in his home

Saigon. Then we were transferred to London, where two more daughters were born, then Berlin, where a fourth daughter arrived. We were also stationed in Moscow for three years and Hong Kong, where Top covered the Vietnam War and, finally, in 1966, to Scarsdale, New York, where Top became managing editor of the *New York Times*, and where our fifth daughter was born.

Kjeryn and Harmon spent many years in India when Dad was High Commissioner. Kjeryn married a Norwegian diplomat, Thomas Ronning, whom she met there. They

have four children. Thomas was Norwegian Consul General in Canada, Egypt and Holland. Harmon attended schools and colleges in India, Switzerland and Canada before becoming a captain for Air Canada and an avid fisherman. He is married with two children and living in British Columbia.

Chester stayed on in China until the Korean War broke out. He left in 1951 to serve as the head of the American and Far Eastern Division of the Department of External Affairs; then as Ambassador to Norway and Iceland; as High Commissioner to India, Nepal and Ceylon; as Acting Head of Delegation to the Geneva Conference of Korea (1954) and Laos (1960 to 1962), and as Special Representative to Hanoi and Saigon in 1966. Chester and Inga spent their last days in the house in Camrose and filled it with treasures from their journeys. They both took up painting and Mom won several prizes. She died in 1967. Dad remained a teacher at heart and kept traveling and lecturing until he was stricken with Alzheimer's Disease at the age of 88. He received the Order of Canada from Prime Minister Trudeau. All of Dad's children returned to China with him to celebrate his 90th birthday in the town where he was born. Before he died he expressed a wish that the house he built be turned over to Augustana University College, which was dear to his heart and where his teaching career began.

Chester Ronning's compassion compelled attention

By **Berdie (Anderson) Fowler** (39)
Editor, *The Camrose Booster*

Chester Ronning was a fascinating person. Tall and handsome, he was outstanding in any crowd. His compassion and concern for all people compelled attention, too. He was kind and gentle yet always in command. He greeted each day with good humor, eager with excitement and readiness for challenges of the day. An aura of confidence was his constant companion.

It was my good fortune to have been Chester Ronning's office secre-

tary in the late 1930s, when he was principal of Camrose Lutheran College (now Augustana). He demanded excellence, quietly explaining that every letter, every response to a telephone call, every encounter within or without the office, portrayed an image of the institution we represented. I have been forever grateful for having been taught that invaluable lesson when a young woman just entering the labour force – a lesson still vivid in memory more than sixty years later.

I observed Ronning in the roles of

educator, choir director, family man and politician.

At that time the College, a residential high school, offered courses, Grades 9 to 12 inclusive, plus a post-secondary business course. Many of the students were from rural areas and had never before lived away from home. Ronning welcomed them with empathy. In the opening day general assembly of students and teachers, he would welcome these teenagers, some as young as fourteen, in an enthusiastic, warm and

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Augustana University College Class Notes

Continued from page 11
Doug Salzwedel (Rix) ('87) sends greetings from Ottawa where he works as a web content manager for

the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.
Ken ('86) and **Cathy Beard (Hoyland)** ('86) are in Olds, AB, with their two

Ronning's compassion compelled attention

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fatherly way, stating that he and the faculty members understood that it would take a few days to become adjusted to the new environment but that he had every confidence that they could do it well and quickly. The fact that he believed in students and their potential to succeed inspired them to do so. Who would disappoint the man who thought they could? Students respected him and he never had a discipline problem in his classes. The progress of each student was always a primary and acute concern of his.

As choir director, he conducted an award-winning group of voices, year after year. He had an excellent singing voice himself and, to the delight of the students, would occasionally render a solo in general assembly.

He was proud of his family which was apparent whenever any of them visited the college. During my tenure Sylvia had already graduated from CLC; Alton was a first-year student; Meme and Audrey were not yet of high school age but would sometimes drop in; occasionally the quiet and regal Mrs. Ronning would come to the office with pre-schoolers Kjeryn and Harmon.

During my tenure as his office secretary, he was also leader of the CCF political party in Alberta. As a sideline, I did his political stenography and took notes at some of his public appearances. He moved with ease and dignity on the public stage. Never, ever did he resort to mean, crude or insulting rhetoric. He spoke with sincere conviction when he had a point to make and, in that way, was a model to emulate.

In 1942, Ronning joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and we did not meet again until his retirement to Camrose many years later. In the meantime he had established himself as a diplomat on the world stage and an expert in Asian affairs. I remember my delight, at Expo '67 in Montreal, seeing prominently displayed, a lifesize photograph of Dr. Ronning, once Canada's High Commissioner to India, with Prime Minister Nehru of India.

Chester Ronning was a versatile man, as comfortable with royalty and world leaders as with Alberta homesteaders breaking colts or workers in the rice paddies in China. Of all the places in the world he could have retired, he chose to return to what he called his humble family home in Camrose. In spite of a long absence while serving in prominent diplomatic posts, he renewed acquaintances as if he had never been away.

I remember Ronning with fondness and respect, grateful for having known him.

children, **Kaitie and David**. After working for 10 years in management with Weyerhaeuser, Ken has fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a RCMP officer. They'd love to hear from their CLC friends at cbeard@telusplanet.net

Brad Lay ('80) sends best regards from Medicine Hat to all alumni friends who he went to school with. He encourages everyone to use the alumni web page as a means of updating news and staying in touch with each other.

Fay Robertson (nee Wahlstrom) and her three boys are living in Unity, SK, where she works for the health district as an EMT.

1970s

Kari-Lynn Black (Dorin) ('78) lives in Red Deer with husband **Barry** and their children, **Jeffrey and Jillian**, where they have their own business making custom furniture. She would enjoy hearing from former classmates at kari-lynn@blackboardcreations.com

Richard Aistrophe ('77), says hi from Santa Rosa, CA. For the 2002/03 school year he assumed the role of lead teacher in Piner High School's IT Networking Pathway program, designed to prepare high school students for industry-standard A+ and MCSE certification.

Margaret Teasdale (Masonchuck) ('77) would like to connect with any one who attended CLC from '75-'77! She is married with two children, lives in Edmonton, and works with developmentally disabled adults, helping them find employment. Contact her at margt@shaw.ca

Cecile Campbell (Bosch) ('75) returned to Calgary last July with hus-

band **Stephen** after living for 11 years in Scotland and two years in Norway.

1960s

Arnold Torgunrud ('68) now calls Mountain View, California, home.

Mark Spence-Vinge ('63) would love to hear from his CLC classmates. E-mail salvador@monarch.net

1950s

Jack Popjes ('52), who took Grade 10 at CLC, lived for 24 years in Brazil as a missionary Bible translator. He is executive director for Wycliffe Caribbean, traveling in seven different countries throughout the year.

In Memoriam

Herbert Johanson ('43), May 2003

James Stuart Kar ('38), June 2002

Pastor Karel Lunde (Professor Emeritus), June 2002

William Einar Sigurdson, MD ('45), April 2001

Laurie Swanson ('71) October 2001

Where do we get our information for Class Notes? From you! Many readers tell us that the first page they turn to in the EXPRESS is the Class Notes page. Keep in touch with your fellow classmates by registering yourself on our alumni web page (www.augustana.ca/alumni) or send a note with your news to the Alumni Relations Office, Augustana University College, 4901-46 Ave, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3. We love hearing from you!

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Ray Schultz in his
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– A prayer at the graduation worship service service Sunday morning





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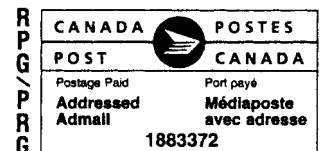


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