Centennial projects leading AU into the next century
Updated master plan envisions expansion southward to support a thriving institution

Nearly 100 years ago, the early leaders of the institution that would become Aurora University moved their small college from Mendota, Ill., to today’s campus location on the west side of the City of Aurora. Seeking a prosperous future for the young college, they recognized that Aurora’s growing business environment and easy access to Chicago would provide a place where their institution of higher learning could reach its full potential.

The college flourished over the next century, expanding from its initial three buildings to more than 20, and transforming into a comprehensive liberal arts university with more than 4,000 students. In 2012, as Aurora University celebrates the 100th anniversary of the move from Mendota to Aurora, the university also is putting into motion a new master plan that will support a thriving student population, expand academic programs and position the university as a vital resource in the Fox Valley into the next century.

Over the past decade, AU has become more visible in the life of the community. Each year, the university welcomes friends and neighbors to free lectures, concerts, plays and athletic events on campus. Students and faculty are involved in service activities throughout the city, improving the lives of Aurora residents.

The centennial celebration provides the perfect opportunity to start writing the next chapter in the university’s history, said President Rebecca L. Sherrick.

“AU is no longer a ‘best-kept secret,’” she said. “As we unveil our new master plan, we embark upon an effort to make the university even more visible as a center for the exchange of ideas and the development of shared solutions to complicated problems.”

Continued on page 6
Community service events draw record number of students

Despite the early hour on a Saturday morning, Aurora University students were chipper and excited as they arrived at the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action on Dec. 3. By 8:30 a.m., more than 100 people packed the center on the southwest corner of campus, filling the gathering place with the buzz of anticipation.

No, this wasn’t Homecoming or game day. The students were eager to take part in the campus Morning of Service, a semiannual event that puts AU students out in the community to volunteer.

A total of 111 AU students participated in the fall “Give Thanks, Give Back” event, which partnered with six Aurora organizations on community service projects. That marked a fourfold increase from the first event in the spring.

“The first time we did this we had 30 students, and to see that increase now is pretty awesome,” said Jonathan Dean, Assistant Professor of Religion and Wackerlin Fellow. “There has been a big emphasis around campus geared toward community service.”

That also was evident in late October, when almost 200 AU students gathered for the first-ever Sleep Out on the Quad to raise awareness about homelessness in the area. Students also collected more than 2,000 items through a corresponding campus food and clothing drive.

The success of both events is a reflection of how enthusiastically AU students are embracing the AU mission of service. The Wackerlin Center has been instrumental in organizing the projects as it plays an increasingly visible role in campus life.

Senior Max Mickey, a business major from North Aurora who helped coordinate work at one of the Morning of Service sites, teamed up with other AU students to help make 15 area homes more energy-efficient through the organization Rebuilding Together Aurora. The group, which included 25 student-athletes on the men’s soccer team, did things like replace old light bulbs, insulate electrical outlets and apply weather stripping for low-income residents.

“This is about getting involved and helping out,” Mickey said. “A lot of the people we’re helping don’t have the opportunities we have. We want to help make their lives a little bit easier by giving a little bit of our time.”

Kris Johnson, AU Director of Student Leadership and Wackerlin Fellow, said the university is working to involve more Aurora-area organizations in future service projects as the number of participating students continues to grow.

“I hope this continues to gain momentum and we continue to partner with more community organizations,” she said. “We want this to keep building.”

AU launching flexible online degree programs this fall

Aurora University will offer online courses this year to expand the reach of its signature programs.

Select general education courses will be offered online to currently enrolled students in the second half of the spring semester and during the May and summer terms. Starting in the fall, AU will offer fully online degree programs.

The first programs will include special education and ESL/bilingual endorsements, RN to BSN completion, bachelor’s degree completion and master’s degree in communication, business degree completion, and MBA in marketing. Other programs in education, nursing, social work and business will follow. George Williams College will start by offering a doctoral degree in social work and master’s degree in recreation administration as online programs.

Each online course will be eight weeks long and offered year-round.

“We are building upon our strong programs and trying to reach new markets,” said Jodi Koslow Martin, Interim Dean of the College of Professional Studies. “We’re targeting students who recognize our name but need greater flexibility in how they learn.”

All courses will be designed and taught by full-time AU instructors, which means they will be held to the same quality standards as traditional courses, Koslow Martin said.
GWC to launch sustainability and environmental management major

This fall, George Williams College will offer a new undergraduate program in sustainability and environmental management to meet the needs of a growing niche in the market and prepare students to be advocates for environmental responsibility.

“The program takes an inter- and multi-disciplinary approach,” said Richard Boniak, Assistant Professor of General and Environmental Sciences. “Students need a combination of science and liberal arts education to be successful in understanding sustainability issues, devising solutions and mobilizing society to make change. Our classes teach effective communication strategies, critical thinking and environmental studies.”

The courses will ask students to examine environmental literacy, compare different theories in environmentalism, and explore historical, geographical and cultural differences in how civilizations relate to their environments. Additionally, students will take practical courses in topics such as soil management and food production.

Like many programs at GWC, the sustainability and environmental management major incorporates hands-on learning and service opportunities in the curriculum. Students will gain a significant amount of outdoor experience on Lake Geneva and surrounding rivers, as well as at the neighboring Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy.

When students graduate from the program, they will be armed with a strong foundation in liberal arts and sciences, knowledge of contemporary trends in environmental management and communication skills to be effective advocates for sustainability.

Pyle to strengthen, expand academic programs and marketing at GWC

In just a few short months, John Pyle has already crafted a big vision for the future of George Williams College.

As the new GWC Senior Vice President, Pyle will lead operations on the Lake Geneva campus and key university-wide initiatives, including the exploration of blended online-classroom courses and new academic majors and programs. He started in the position in October.

“I am excited to work with those here to expand what we’re doing and create new programs,” Pyle said. “GWC is rooted in a strong mission and sense of place, with a clear focus on mind, body, spirit and service. It is a mission that is relevant to the challenges that many students will face after college, no matter whether they are undergraduates or graduates.”

At the core of Pyle’s plans to enhance the GWC experience is adding programs that build upon the college’s legacy of serving others while still being relevant to today’s job market. An undergraduate major in sustainability and environmental management will launch in fall 2012 (see story above), and a blended summer residential and online Doctor of Social Work program also is being explored.

Social entrepreneurship — the study of business principles not for the sake of monetary gains, but for the advancement of individuals and the betterment of communities — also is central to GWC plans for the future. Courses at GWC will continue to be focused on improving the lives of the people served by the college and its graduates.

To help maintain affordability and provide students with experiential learning opportunities, Pyle and his team are exploring a work-college concept. In this model, students gain hands-on experience through meaningful work on campus and in the surrounding areas while helping offset the cost of their education.

“I see a future where our students operate a co-op at the college, helping transform the delivery of human services with area agencies,” he said. “I envision a future where George Williams graduates help rebuild the fabric of American society.”

Pyle joins GWC from Hamline University, where he played a key role in developing and implementing the institution’s strategic plan.
Local singers help make GWC Christmas concert a community event

Normally, opera and Christmas carols don’t end up in the same program. But the annual holiday concert at George Williams College wasn’t your usual performance.

It all started with casting for the one-act Christmas opera “Ahmal and the Night Visitors,” the centerpiece of the Dec. 9 concert in the Beasley Campus Center starring local performers with the Music by the Lake Festival Orchestra. The lead role calls for a boy with an unchanged voice, so Executive Director Christine Flasch found an 11-year-old singer to play the part.

After that, a theme emerged. Flasch asked choral music directors at four middle schools around Williams Bay to find their best vocalists to participate in the concert. After the opera, a choir of 52 singers from the middle schools joined professional soloists and the orchestra on stage for “This Christmastide.”

“All four schools got on board immediately,” Flasch said. “It was so deeply satisfying for me to have such a marvelous response from the local teachers.”

The GWC Christmas event turned into a concert for and by the community. The night opened with 12-year-old local pianist Matthew Zaremba performing the Allegro movement from Mozart’s “Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” with the Music by the Lake Festival Orchestra — his first experience performing with full orchestral backup. For the finale, the middle school chorus led the audience in a Christmas carol sing-along.

Invited guests included students from a special-needs school, plus residents of a local senior home and a respite center for adults with disabilities.

“My hope here was to bring in a whole group of people we’ve never served before quite in that capacity,” Flasch said. “I really feel music is the international language. It just touches the heart, and it moves you like nothing else.”

Aurora University Choirs perform free concerts

The Aurora University Choirs celebrated the season with two free Christmas concerts on the Aurora campus on Dec. 4. The University Chorale, Chamber Singers, AU Flute Ensemble and the new Spartan Singers male quartet performed classical and popular holiday selections. The event also included audience caroling and festive pipe organ music performed by artist-in-residence David Schrader.

Aurora University economic impact continues to rise

A new report estimates that Aurora University contributes more than $325 million to the Chicago area economy annually, up more than 6 percent from three years ago. The study also found that the university provided 1,407 new jobs in the region in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, including 349 positions at AU.

The economic impact study, conducted by EconImpact using American Council on Education methodology, factors in direct and secondary spending, alumni earnings and social benefits. The report estimates that AU contributes $110 million to the Kane County economy, a 17 percent increase. The study also weighs the value of an Aurora University education for the 16,000 working alumni in the Chicago area. A graduate with a bachelor’s degree earns $21,657 more than someone with a high school diploma, while alumni with master’s degrees earn $26,544 more than someone with an undergraduate degree.

Read the full report at aurora.edu/economicimpact.

Women’s lacrosse program drawing recruits from across the country

The new AU women’s lacrosse team is shaping up to be an eclectic mix of student-athletes from across the country.

Since being hired in July, Head Coach Lauren Rippy has been busy recruiting high school students for the first varsity season in spring 2013. So far, her committed and interested recruits hail from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Maryland, Colorado and Alabama.

“It’s going really well,” she said. “The biggest hurdle in starting from scratch has been identifying what kind of student-athlete will be successful here at AU.”

The former high school coach, who compiled a 98-39-3 record and won six conference championships over seven seasons at Neuqua Valley High School in nearby Naperville, has been looking for well-conditioned athletes who will outwork the competition.

Rippy hopes to build a roster of 18 players for her first season in the Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Conference, including current students who might be interested in joining the team. Eventually, she hopes to have a roster of 26 to 28 student-athletes.

Read the full report at aurora.edu/economicimpact.
When I first heard of the AU Storytellers project — an effort to capture the history of the university through videotaped interviews with alumni from across the nation — I thought it sounded like a good idea, but that my experience wasn’t important enough to participate. What could I add to what other graduates had already contributed that was worthy of being added to the university’s archives?

But as time passed, and after visiting campus in the fall, I realized that the success of the project depends on including as many alumni as possible, and I didn’t want to be left out. I am still a part of Aurora College, and it still is a part of me.

In my interview, I shared a picture that was taken during the week of graduation in 1967. My parents had driven from Oregon to be there as their first child graduated from college. Also visiting the campus that weekend was Col. Harland Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken. I had been a recipient of grant funds that Sanders gave to the college. He also donated the carillon bells that had been recently installed to play that weekend.

I not only was appreciative of the financial assistance Sanders provided, but I also felt honored to meet him. I have often bragged about my relationship with him, and have shared the picture of the two of us at graduation with many through the years. I still think of him occasionally when our family makes a visit to a KFC, and I contain myself when I get the urge to tell strangers that I once knew Col. Harland Sanders.

During the interview, I also gave a good description of what it was like living in the residence halls in the late ’60s by sharing a poem about dorm rules that was presented to the incoming female students. Back then, no men were allowed on the floors that housed our rooms, except during certain evening hours. We had to sign in every evening and, if you were late, you would receive a “campus” for the following Saturday night, which meant you couldn’t leave the dorm. Though strict, these rules provided security, a continuation of similar guidance we had in our parents’ homes.

I also recalled, when I lived on the third floor of Memorial Hall, hearing pebbles hitting the window. I would lower a basket out the window and my male friends, who didn’t have the same hours, would put in food from Bob’s Hamburgers for us to enjoy.

Through the Storytellers project, I realized that my story is unique — as is the story of each of my fellow graduates. Through our stories and our support, we can continue to make an impact on the future and mission of Aurora University.

Share your AU story

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our move from Mendota to Aurora, we are engaging alumni in video interviews as part of the Storytellers oral history project. By asking Aurora University, Aurora College and George Williams College graduates to reflect on the meaning of their educational experiences and share their vision for the institution, we hope to preserve our heritage while building on that legacy into the next century.

To watch alumni interviews and participate in the project, visit aurora.edu/storytellers, or contact Alumni Relations at 630-844-5482 or alumni@aurora.edu.
The Master Plan

At the core of the master plan is the university’s growth south toward Prairie Street. As a result of a successful effort to purchase residential properties over the past seven years, AU now has an opportunity to create a prominent campus entrance and envision future academic and administrative buildings. Under this plan, the university will expand from 32 acres to 40 acres and be more visible to the community and prospective students.

In keeping with the vision of the early benefactors of AU, the new structures will incorporate the brick and red tile roofs that are hallmarks of the campus. The plan also reflects the university’s commitment to its surrounding neighborhoods by addressing issues of parking and maintaining a residential setting, said Tom Hammond, Vice President for Administration.

The new master plan was presented to elected officials and city administrators in the fall and gained an overwhelmingly positive response, Hammond said. This spring, the university will pursue formal approval to proceed from the City of Aurora.

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Welcome Center

A 21,000-square-foot brick, stone and tile building to house admission and alumni offices as well as the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures. The two wings will be connected by a central archway that will guide visitors into the sculpture garden in the rear courtyard. With its gracious public spaces and location at the entrance to campus, the new Welcome Center will be a place of hospitality for receptions and dinners before and after university events.

Location: Calumet Avenue
Projected Cost: $7 million

To date, the university has secured $4 million toward the project, and the Class of 1965 is leading the way to complete the fundraising effort with a class gift of $100,000.

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Centennial Gateway

A red brick and red tile structure with a wrought iron element that spans the roadway into campus; individual monuments to delineate the corners of campus; preservation of the existing brick and stone column at the corner of Gladstone Avenue and Marseillaise Place. The monument will signify the university’s role as a strong educational pillar in the Fox Valley and its openness to the community.

Location: Prairie Street and Calumet Avenue
Projected Cost: $232,000

Thanks to a gift from a loyal donor and contributions from members of the Class of 1961, nearly half of the funds needed to construct the gateway has been secured.
Centennial Projects
As part of the centennial celebration, AU will embark on the construction of three capital projects in the southern expansion area: the Centennial Gateway, the Welcome Center and an addition to the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action.

The new gateway at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and Prairie Street will designate an official AU entrance for the first time. The brick and wrought iron structure will span Calumet, which will become the primary roadway into campus.

As visitors pass through the gateway, they will approach the new Welcome Center. One wing of the building will house a reception and office center for the admission and alumni offices, and include dining and gathering spaces for university events. The other wing will house the Schingoethe Center with collections and exhibits oriented around a large central art gallery. The museum's move will create additional classroom space in Dunham Hall.

Together, the two projects will welcome current and future AU students, alumni and the public to campus and extend AU’s traditions of hospitality and fellowship, said John Boryk, ’65, Class Committee and fundraising effort member.

“The Centennial Gateway and Welcome Center will announce that visitors have arrived at an institution of higher learning, where the experiences and values that defined Aurora University 100 years ago are still relevant today,” he said.

The final centennial project is an addition to the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, the university’s hub for campus ministry, leadership studies and community service. The new space will house a large classroom that will be used for a variety of functions, such as Bible studies, leadership and religion seminars, dinners, small group discussions and community gatherings.

“As the work of the Wackerlin Center — exploring life’s deepest questions and seeking meaning for living life — grows and flourishes, we need a space to accommodate our students and to be a focus for community outreach and student-led service,” said Jonathan Dean, Assistant Professor of Religion and Wackerlin Center Fellow. “The new building addition will act as an inviting place for students to gather, build community and share their life’s journey.”

To participate in the centennial campaign, please use the enclosed envelope or visit aurora.edu/alumni.

Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action Addition
Construction of a large classroom space, keeping with the architectural style of the original building designed by Keck and Keck. The addition will expand the center’s role on campus as a place where students can explore questions of faith and meaning and join forces to improve the world around them.

Location: South Evanslawn Avenue and Southlawn Place
Projected Cost: $650,000

To date, the university has secured $200,000 toward the project.
Alumni Awards

Aurora University honored five alumni for lives and careers of service during Homecoming and GWC Coming Home Reunion last fall.

**Roger Tucker**, AC BA ’61, was presented the Spartan Spirit Award for his commitment to the institution and its mission. While at AU, Tucker excelled as a student-athlete and was involved in nearly every aspect of student life. Since graduation, he has been one of AU’s strongest advocates.

**Cheryl L. Johnson**, AU BA ’96, was presented the George Peters Community Partnership Award. As executive director of the Kendall County Health Department, Johnson’s work as a compassionate public health administrator and health and wellness advocate has earned the respect of colleagues and community members.

**Ole Hovland**, AC BA ’61, was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award for his professional accomplishments and embodiment of the AU values. In 1971, Hovland took the reins as CEO of Partek Norspenn in Norway, one of the world’s principal producers of precast and pre-stressed concrete, where he held leadership positions for more than three decades.

**Gordon E. Kaplan**, GWC MS ’70, known by colleagues as “Mr. Camping, USA,” was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award. As a GWC graduate student, he helped grow the outdoor education program. During his career, he served as executive director for the American Camping Association in Illinois, working tirelessly to promote camping and train camp directors.

**Aurellia Wyrzykowski Sobczyk**, GWC BS ’37, was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award in honor of her 30-year career as a social worker in Chicago and South Carolina. In addition to assisting women and children in accessing much-needed benefits, she also is a political activist and active community volunteer.

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**Spring Calendar**

**Annual High School Art Show Opening Reception**
March 13, 5 to 7 p.m. • Exhibit runs through April 5
Schingoethe Art Gallery

**Arts and Ideas: Kent Keith**
March 19, 7:30 p.m.
Crimi Auditorium

**Arts and Ideas: Thomas Pandolfi**
March 31, 7:30 p.m.
Crimi Auditorium

**AU Graduating Art Majors Exhibit Opening Reception**
April 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. • Exhibit runs through Sept. 15
Schingoethe Art Gallery

**AU Theatre Department Presents “Proof”**
April 13-14 and 18-21, 7:30 p.m.
Perry Theatre

**George Williams College Commencement**
April 25, 2 p.m.
Ferro Pavilion

**Spring Concert of the AU Choirs**
April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Crimi Auditorium

**Commencement**
May 6, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Quadrangle

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**Stay connected**

Join the growing AU social media community and connect with other students, parents, alumni and friends.

- Get instant news and athletic updates at [twitter.com/aurorau](http://twitter.com/aurorau) and [twitter.com/au_spartans](http://twitter.com/au_spartans).
- Watch video from campus events at [youtube.com/aurorauniversity](http://youtube.com/aurorauniversity).
- See photos from campus events at [flickr.com/aurorauniversity](http://flickr.com/aurorauniversity).
- Want daily news from the AU community? Check out the new AU Today website at [news.aurora.edu](http://news.aurora.edu).

For more information on these and other events, visit [aurora.edu/calendar](http://aurora.edu/calendar).
Aurora Alumni

2000s

Dr. Rebekah A. Burroway, BA ‘00, Port Jefferson, NY
Burroway graduated from Duke University with a PhD in sociology and is an assistant professor of sociology (tenure track) at the State University of New York, Stony Brook campus.

Kristin K. (Browning) Hoeft, MAT ‘03, Champaign, IL
Hoeft and her husband, Brian, have three sons: Jacob, Jackson and Jude. She is a special education teacher.

Christopher M. Burks, BSW ‘07, MSW ’08, Galt, IL
Burks recently completed his required licensed clinical social work supervision hours and obtained permission from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to take his license exam. He will be taking the study course provided by the National Association of Social Workers. He married Ashley Renee Clayton in September.

Jacob J. Cate, BA ’07, Cortland, IL
Cate has been helping recent graduates and newlyweds with their insurance and financial needs.

Marianne Chrisos, BA ‘08, Aurora, IL
Chrisos graduated from DePaul University in August with a master’s degree in writing and publishing.

Jamie L. Martinez, BA ’08, Aurora, IL
Martinez graduated with her master’s degree in clinical psychology from Benedictine University in August.

Amber R. Becker, BS ’09, Downers Grove, IL
Becker married Scott J. Nadeau, BS ’07, last October in Plano, IL. They now reside in Downers Grove, IL.

Gina M. Alcobia, BSW ’10, Poway, CA
Alcobia is working at an after-school program at an elementary school. She is considering applying to AU for the fall of 2012 to pursue a master’s degree in social work.

Dr. Jennifer A. (Moss) Russell, EdD ’10, Clayton, NC
Russell, her husband and two boys, Will and Ryan, moved to North Carolina, where she started a new position at Barton College in the School of Education.

Paul M. Bladen, MEL ’11, Ottawa, IL
Bladen is pastor at Deer Park Community Church, a non-denominational church.

Allan E. Gonzalez, BA ’11, Aurora, IL
Gonzalez is in training at Waste Management to become a business analyst.

1990s

Daniel T. Williams, BS ’92, West Chicago, IL
Williams was an activity therapist for eight years after graduation. While a clinician, he built a clinical behavioral tracking application used during cross-disciplinary staff meetings. For 12 years, he was with small application development in corporate America. Although he misses his work as a therapist, he is reaching out to see where he can apply his craft in the future.

William E. Dano, III, BA ’94, Oswego, IL
Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn’s office announced in October that Dano has been appointed to the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees. Dano, the son of AU employee Nancy Dano (Athletics Department), resides in Oswego and is in sales management for Extreme Networks.

Amanda R. (Periman) Scheller, BA ’94, Montgomery, IL
Scheller recently was recognized by the Exchange Club of Naperville as the 2011–2012 Firefighter of the Year. Scheller graduated in 1994 and joined the Naperville Fire Department in 1998. In 2010, she became the first female lieutenant in the department’s history.

1980s

Kimberly N. (Smith) Burbo, B.A. ’82, Milton, VT
Burbo has enjoyed a career in law enforcement spanning over 27 years. In 2004, she retired after 20 years with the Burlington Vermont Police Department and went to work at the Federal Courthouse as a Court Security Officer with the U.S. Marshals. After seven years, she was offered a position by the Winooski Police Department. She is now serving as the School Resource Officer for grades K–12. She has been married to her husband Greg for 24 years. Their son Joshua is now 15 and a freshman in high school.

David “Skip” Ober Miller, BA ’88, Pasadena, CA
Ober Miller is currently in his eighth year as business manager at San Marino Community Church near Pasadena, CA, where he manages administration, finances, property, communications and human resources. He recently celebrated 1,000 page views for his new blog, Things I Learned In The Church Office, which celebrates humorous and helpful insights gleaned from nearly 25 years of working for the church.

Lt. Jack R. Westphall, BA ’88, MBA ’11, Yorkville, IL
Westphall met his wife, Heather (Stewart), BA ’87, at AU in 1987; they were married in 1992. He has been with the Aurora Fire Department since September 1991. They have two
boys, Cory and Tyler, and have lived in Yorkville for 16 years. He recently earned his MBA from Aurora University in human resources management and leadership.

Victor R. White, BS ’89, Homewood, IL
White married Michelle Hollins in March.

1970s

Monica D. Lira, ’75, Cincinnati, OH
Lira retired from the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress more than a year ago and moved to Cincinnati to take up pastel painting. She is setting up a studio in her home and hopes to paint animals on commission.

1960s

William C. Nickerson, BA ’60, and Martha A. (Lull) Nickerson, BA ’59, Dowling Park, FL
After being widowed by the losses of their longtime spouses, Bill Nickerson and Marty Arbo rekindled a relationship that started more than 50 years ago while in college. The couple was married Oct. 1 during a private ceremony in Dowling Park.

Doris M. (Thicksten) Hagin, BA ’63, Surprise, AZ
Hagin is retired and lives in Arizona for six months a year and spends the rest of the year visiting family.

Dennis L. Jones, BA ’65, Staunton, VA
Jones is essentially in retirement, although he continues to practice photography, and he recently went on a missions trip with his local church to a small village in Zambia, Africa. He and his youngest daughter had the privilege of photographing nearly 200 schoolchildren, the images of which will be used to find sponsors for the children through Grassroots Heroes International. He has been on two other such trips, serving with each of his three children.

Dennis I. Smith, BA ’67, Greenacres, FL
Smith is semi-retired and works as a substitute teacher for the Palm Beach County School Board. He and his wife, Bonnie, have three granddaughters ages 10, 12 and 16.

1950s

Rev. James H. Elliott, BA, BTh ’59, Columbia, MO
Elliott has been serving as part-time pastor (at age 74) since December 2010 for Immanuel UCC in New Franklin, MO.

Mary L. (Hager) Killgore, BA ’59, and Lee A. Killgore, BA, BTh ’59, Lake Kiowa, TX
The Kilgores are still active. At 84, she is gardening and keeping up with two boys ages 7 and 14, while he plays golf four times a week at age 87.

Welcome “New Spartan”

Kerri L. (Kingsbury) Oros, BSW ’05, MSW ’06, and husband Sebastian N. Oros, BSW ’05, MSW ’06, Aurora, IL
The Oros announce the birth of Noah Phillip Oros last September. Noah was welcomed home by proud big brother, Logan, and grandparents Phillip, BA ’02, and Sherilyn Kingsbury.

In Memoriam

Dorothy (Reuss) Persons, BA ’35, Iowa City, IA, June 28, 2011
Louis R. Pauly, ’43, Aurora, IL, November 7, 2011
Margaret W. (Dickinson) Good, BS ’45, Fort Myers, FL, July 30, 2011
Edwin N. Hardison, BS ’46, Tampa, FL, March 19, 2011
Dorothy M. (Ernst) Libner, BS ’47, Geneva, IL, October 10, 2011
Melvin W. Milgate, BA ’48, Indianapolis, IN, June 4, 2011
William H. Paul, ’50, Aurora, IL, October 9, 2011
Rosemary J. (Bertrand) Schielke, ’50, Aurora, IL, October 20, 2011
Robert A. Toma, ’51, Aurora, IL, August 15, 2011
Patricia J. (Chadwick) Olson, ’52, North Aurora, IL, August 6, 2011
Ethel M. (Perry) Bower, BA ’55, Plainfield, VT, October 31, 2011

Gordon L. Boucon, BA ’57, Muskegon, MI, March 7, 2011
Murray R. Parker, ’60, Columbus, OH, March 9, 2010
Lydalane Waters, BA ’60, Fremont, NE, May 26, 2011
Robert R. Coughlin, BA ’61, Geneva, IL, June 13, 2011
Erhart Stallmann, BA ’63, Oswego, IL, October 9, 2011
Robert J. Bryson, ’64, Hurst, TX, December 31, 2010
William H. Shazer, ’69, Aurora, IL, June 22, 2011
Stephen G. Kovaly, ’70, Rochester, NY, April 16, 2010
Gilbert D. Linden, ’71, St. Charles, IL, August 13, 2011
Doris L. (Butler) Crews, ’72, Live Oak, FL, October 7, 2011
Robert A. Gilkey, ’73, Fort Atkinson, WI, September 17, 2011
Marilyn L. “Oboe” (Stroud) Smith, ’77, Aurora, IL, October 12, 2011
James A. Hall, BA ’85, Goshen, IN, November 3, 2011
William N. Keifer, ’86, Sugar Grove, IL, September 3, 2011
Todd D. Spencer, BA ’91, Fieldon, IL, April 28, 2011
Larry E. Ross, MSW ’95, Chicago, IL, July 18, 2011
Sandra J. (Naegeli) Moskopf, MAT ’99, Kenosha, WI, June 4, 2011
Jason L. Kloese, BA ’00, Geneva, IL, August 12, 2011
Brian T. Leask, BSW ’00, Aurora, IL, November 2, 2011
Chelsea L. Lloyd, BA ’04, MEL ’08, Hoffman Estates, IL, September 6, 2011

Obituary

Ethel M. (Perry) Bower, BA ’55, Plainfield, VT
Bower, who passed away on October 31, 2011, grew up in a family tightly associated with Aurora College. Her parents both graduated from the college, and her father, for whom the Perry Theatre is named, continued there as a teacher, college dean and director of plays. Her grandfather, Orrin Roe Jenks, was a pivotal founder of the college and served as president from 1911 to 1933.
GWC Alumni

1970s

Christine K. (Borowski) Conger, BA ’71, Gilbert, AZ
Conger worked as a psychiatric registered nurse for many years and retired several years ago. She volunteers at a few organizations and loves to travel.

John B. Donovan, BS ’71, MS ’76, Dubuque, IA
Donovan was recently re-elected to serve a second four-year term as a member of the United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation board for the U.S. Olympic Program.

John C. Pruehs, BA ’71, Naperville, IL
Pruehs has launched the blog Major Gifts — An Inside View, a tool to enhance major gift philanthropy written for board members, development staff, and presidents and CEOs. For 29 years, Pruehs & Associates has provided counsel to a wide range of charitable organizations nationwide.

Paul B. Atkins, BS ’78, Green Bay, WI
Atkins retired in October after serving the communities of Marinette, WI, and Menominee, MI, for 20 years in the areas of public mental health for children and families. He’ll be “wintering” in Ohio with his wife, who works for the national YMCA, and will return to their camper in Door County and home in Green Bay. He is looking forward to seeing more of his granddaughters in Indianapolis, teaching and training opportunities, and the flexibility that time off brings. He also has part-time work lined up folding towels and greeting members in at least two YMCAs in Green Bay, coming full circle to his job at the Towson YMCA as a teenager.

Bonnie L. Crouthamel, ’78, Philadelphia, PA
Crouthamel has been working in a hospital in Philadelphia as an outpatient social worker, first with sickle cell patients and now with cancer patients.

1960s

Stephen Gordon, BS ’67, Naples, FL
Gordon retired in 2002 as a coordinator of special education and moved to Naples in 2010. He has two children who also work in education and two grandchildren. He enjoys traveling.

Quin S. Gustason, BS ’54, Temecula, CA
Gustason reports gracious retirement living in Temecula. He is shepherding a poetry group, swimming a quarter mile several times a week, and singing in a choir and barbershop chorus. He has two grandchildren in college and enjoys photography.

In Memorium

Harold S. Bennett, ’36, New Albany, OH, April 16, 2010
Karla (Collins) Habbe, ’36, Hamden, CT, September 27, 2011
George E. Johnson, ’36, Lakeside, MI, March 23, 2010
Claire R. (Walters) Hart, ’37, Jackson, MI, August 24, 2010
Dorothy (Wolfe) Clayton, ’38, Myrtle Beach, SC, August 12, 2010
Ralph V. Tippett, MS ’39, Milwaukee, WI, October 19, 2010
Rev. Edward K. Trefz, ’39, Newtown Square, PA, March 29, 2010
Eleanor (Engel) Baker, BS ’41, Mishawaka, IN, January 31, 2011
Charles R. Giauque, ’41, Lebanon, PA, September 29, 2011
Ellis C. Donaldson, ’42, Stevensville, MT, November 5, 2011
Margaret L. (Simons) McBride, ’46, Muskego, WI, November 15, 2010
Lyle H. Calkins, ’47, Bloomington, IN, February 27, 2011
Anne (Aronesti) Levin, BS ’47, Norcross, GA, July 5, 2011
Edward J. Kazak, BS ’49, Chicago, IL, June 13, 2011
Paul P. Urek, BS ’49, Philadelphia, PA, July 3, 2010
William C. Zophy, BS ’49, Fort Myers, FL, November 4, 2011
Sol Frankel, BS ’50, M.S. ’52, Phoenix, AZ, June 29, 2011
Paul I. Jones, BS ’50, Amherst, MA, September 27, 2011
Richard G. Forkner, BS ’51, Salem, OR, June 20, 2011
Robert L. Pharo, BS ’51, Naperville, IL, April 13, 2011
Charles E. Upton, BS ’51, Twin Falls, ID, July 18, 2011
Gaylord S. Thomson, ’58, Denver, CO, February 2, 2010
Carl A. Fawcett, BS ’60, Albuquerque, NM, August 5, 2011
William G. Nicholson, MS ’60, Columbia, SC, April 15, 2011
Bruce C. Peterson, BS ’64, Pewaukee, WI, August 1, 2011
Uri Lipzin, BS ’66, MS ’67, Gan Yavne, Israel, April 21, 2010
Anthony K. King, MSW ’78, Tucson, AZ, July 17, 2011
Mary F. “Sunnie” Glyman, BA ’79, Wheaton, IL, June 22, 2010
Tuntion Burnett, BSW ’83, Hines, IL, April 21, 2011
Gregory A. Springman, BSW ’84, Naperville, IL, September 15, 2011
F. Scott Zingheim, BA ’85, Crossville, TN, March 31, 2011

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