Left and Top: Highlights of AU’s Homecoming included the dedication of the new Vago Field and the Class of 1958 reunion. See related stories on pages 1 and 3.

GWC and AU alumni returned “home” in the fall — to be connected with current friends, to see how the campuses have changed, renew friendships with former classmates and make new friends during their campus visits. For many, visiting the GWC and Aurora campuses in October for the homecoming and reunion festivities sparked happy memories of years gone by, and for others, it meant a chance to discover new and improved facilities and campus grounds.

The events provided both groups with inspiring experiences that will become part of their AU memories, offering an opportunity to reflect on their time at school.

Coming Home to George Williams College
Colorful autumn leaves and warm Indian summer weather provided a spectacular backdrop for the second George Williams College reunion held on the GWC campus in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

More than 100 alumni, spouses and friends gathered to reconnect with old friends while sharing memories of College Camp, September Camp and GWC. For many, the weekend meant renewing friendships with those they hadn’t seen in decades and visiting a campus that was as they remembered, but still different.

Clearly, one of the best memories of the weekend will be the ceremony that included the dedication of Steinhaus Circle and the Ned Stowe Office Suite as well as recognizing the members of the Class of 1958 and prior who attended the ceremony in The Ferro Pavilion.

Steinhaus, GWC D.P.E. ’19, B.P.E. ’21, M.P.E. ’26; Ned Stowe, GWC B.S. ’52; and W. Clement Stone from family members and friends served as an inspiration for all those they remembered, but still different.

The weekend also included a recognition dinner honoring the members of the Class of 1958 and prior who attended the ceremony in The Ferro Pavilion.

Visitors to the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures to view the collection of art and artifacts.

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Other events on Saturday and Sunday included:
• Vision Latina, an event celebrating the success of Latino students
• A unique display of Aurora College history and items from the Jenks Collection
• Visits to the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures to view the collection of art and artifacts
• Campus tours and lunch on the quad for alumni, students, staff and guests
• School of Social Work gathering and a presentation on the “Destination Jerusalem” alumni trip
• A performance in Crimi Auditorium of Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues Show
• A 5th quarter reception for coaches, former athletes and guests
• The fifth annual alumni women’s soccer game and lunch

Other highlights of the weekend included:
• An exhibit in Mabel Cratty Hall with memorabilia such as photos, yearbooks, newsletters and other material tied to reunions, events, and the history of the college.
• Presentations on the history of College Camp by Rita Yerkes, Senior Research Fellow, discussing her research, and “Destination Jerusalem,” by Ron Ramer, Associate Professor of Education, who highlighted the upcoming spring alumni trip to the Holy Land.
• Tours and evening star gazing at Yerkes Observatory, campus tours by golf cart, a narrated Geneva Lake boat tour, a Black Point Estate tour, informal gatherings for Social Work and September Camp, and a Sunday morning worship service overlooking the lake.

Homecoming on the Aurora campus
For Aurora College and Aurora University alumni, homecoming on the Aurora campus brought a glorious weekend filled with great weather, interesting and educational activities, and heartfelt memories to last a lifetime.

The campus was filled with excitement as more than 1,200 alumni, students, staff and friends gathered for a variety of activities, including the afternoon dedication of the new Vago Field, a ceremony recognizing Louis Vago, AU ’51, for his contributions to the university (see page 3 for related story).

The weekend began with the invocation ceremony on Friday honoring the Class of 1938 and the presentation of an honorary degree to Norris Lineweaver, GWC B.S. ’67 (see page 5 for more information about this presentation).

Employee service awards were also presented, including a 55-year service award — the Parolini-mobile golf cart to Roger Parolini, AU B.A. ’49, Director of Special Gifts (see photo on page 10).

Other activities during the weekend were the annual alumni reception and dinner, honoring recipients of two Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Athletic Hall of Fame Awards, the Athletic Lifetime Achievement Award, and the George Peters Community Partnership Award. See page 5 for summaries of the outstanding contributions these individuals have made to the university and their communities.

Events also included the football game against Concordia University Wisconsin, with an exciting AU win of 21-19 on Vago Field.

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Aurora University Homecoming
“The changes that have taken place on campus are exciting … Yet, I can envision what it was back in 1954 when I first came here. So, it’s kind of exciting to see the growth and the way the campus has broadened and has been blessed by the growth of the educational program to meet the growing needs of the 21st century.”
— Bill Nickerson, AU B.A. ’60

“My experience as a student at Aurora University has impacted my life unbelievably. Right from day one, I knew I was in a place that they were going to take learning seriously. You could just feel the culture of quality and leadership. My daughter is a student here, and it’s been a tremendous blessing to share Aurora University in our family.”
— Jim Palmer, AU M.B.A. ’04

“If it wasn’t for Aurora College allowing me to work my way through college, I probably would have never had a degree, and without a degree, I would never have had a career. I feel very honored to be able to come back and serve on the Alumni Board at President.”
— Roger Tucker, AU B.A. ’97
Celebrating an Expanded Arts and Ideas Series

A diverse line-up, an impressive partnership of community businesses and civic organizations, and widely attended events all represent the very popular Arts and Ideas series at Aurora University this year. Politics, with a mixture of art, drama and music, defined the fall events. Spring will bring about even more events — some that have become tradition and others that are new to the series.

This year, the Arts and Ideas series has been expanded to include the popular AU Film Series presented by the General Education Department. These film presentations include faculty-led discussions. In this election year, two political movies — Dr. Strangelove and Iron Jawed Angels — were shown on campus. Both films generated many conversations about the role of government and important events that have shaped our nation.

In the spring, two more films will be presented: The Diving Bell and the Butterfly and Bigger, Faster, Stronger, two ground-breaking and critically acclaimed movies.

Also new to the series is the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action Lectures. Three presentations, given by distinguished scholars, are designed to address different religious topics in an effort to influence multi-faith understanding.

Topics include Difference and Disaffection in a Worldwide (Anglican) Church, and What Will the Church Look Like in 2050?

Each fall since the series began, Aurora University has welcomed well-known authors to speak on a variety of social and professional issues. This year, presidential historian Michael Beschloss gave a presentation to a capacity crowd in Crimi Auditorium based on his book Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789–1899. He also offered enlightening commentary on the presidential campaigns. This spring, another author will speak on campus, Lincoln scholar James Pericono.

Popular musicians are also making appearances this year in Crimi Auditorium. Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues Show played during Homecoming weekend. Two-time Grammy nominee Tommy Emmanuel will perform in February.

Completing the schedule for Arts and Ideas are AU Theatre Department dramatic plays, University Chorale performances and Schingoethe Gallery art exhibitions. In November, theatre students performed the Shakespeare play, As You Like It, in Perry Theatre. Rehearsals for the spring play, The Habituation of Dragons, begin soon. The University Chorale provided a wonderful evening of song during the Joy to the World! performance last month and will return to the Crimi Auditorium stage in May to present An American Sampler III. The Schingoethe Gallery will be presenting three art exhibitions in the spring. Beginning in January, Contemplation/Contemplation will be showcased. The artists featured in the photography exhibition face the world head-on with their work about issues of war, loss and humanity.

Due to the overwhelming response to many of the Arts and Ideas events, seating may be limited for certain presentations. Although all events are free, some require reservations. For information about the series and to be included on the mailing list, please call 630-844-4924 or e-mail artsandideas@aurora.edu. The complete schedule, including reservation information for some events, is available at www.aurora.edu.

Advent Christian Heritage Honored at AU

Celebrating ties to its founders, Aurora University hosted approximately 400 people from the Advent Christian faith from around the world during the Advent Christian Heritage Sunday event in June. As part of the denomination’s triennial conference in Naperville, Illinois, AU welcomed Advent Christians to a day of tours, exhibitions and special programs coordinated by the Office of Alumni Relations.

“Advent University was proud to host a portion of the Advent Christian Triennial Conference,” said Rebecca L. Sherrick, President of Aurora University. “Our strong relationship with the church is an important part of our heritage and our history, and this conference allowed us to work together toward a shared goal.”

Ron Thomas, Jr., AU B.D.V. ’70, a member of the AU Board of Trustees and Executive Director of the Advent Christian General Conference, said, “The fact that our denomination has a history with Aurora University has really provided opportunities in itself. It is always an exciting time to remember and reminisce with people who have shared experiences with us — it’s an opportunity for us to reflect on what we enjoyed at the college.”

Celebration highlights included special presentations, music performances and exhibitions showcasing prophetic charts and other artifacts from AU’s Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventist Materials. AU students led group tours of the Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventist Materials in Phillips Library and the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures in Dunham Hall. At the library archives, hosts were Richard Kearney, AU B.S. ’51, grandson of Orrin Roe Jenks, president of the College from 1911 to 1933; Roger Tucker, AU B.A. ’61, President of the AU Alumni Association; and Anne McKern, University Archivist.

A number of other alumni and invitations were offered. President Sherrick and Aubrey Huelsman, AU ’18, explored Aurora College Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Roles of Hymns and the Church — Why We Sing in Worship was presented by Roger Parolini, AU B.A. ’49, and Marilyn Parolini, AU B.A. ’54; and A Bible Study of the Lord’s Prayer was held by Martin Forward, Executive Director of the AU Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, and Joe Dunham, Professor of Philosophy and Senior Fellow in the Wackerlin Center.

After an afternoon of visiting classmates and exhibitions, those who visited campus broke bread at a picnic dinner held under a tent on the campus quadrangle. The celebration concluded in Crimi Auditorium with an evening of musical celebration. Rosemary Humble, AU B.A. ’56, and Marilyn Parolini lead an old-fashioned hymn sing before Advent Christian musical artists from across the nation provided solo and group selections.

The Charles B. Philips Library was transformed into a large museum during Advent Christian Heritage Sunday in the summer. The library showcased the Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventist Materials, which included a display of large prophetic charts, for the 400 guests who visited campus.
Hamlin Welcome Center to Highlight Academic Focus at GWC

Plans have been drawn for a new building at George Williams College that will serve as the “front door” for potential students. The Hamlin Welcome Center will be home to the Admission and Registrar offices. It will be named in honor of the college’s sixth president, Dr. Richard Hamlin, GWC ‘49, who served as president from 1961 to 1983.

The proposed design of the facility will create a warm and inviting atmosphere and will include a visitors lounge and conference rooms to serve students and their families who are interested in earning a degree at GWC. The vision for the approximately 2,800-square foot building emphasizes the natural beauty of the campus. Visitors will view Geneva Lake shining in the distance through floor to ceiling windows. The overall style of the building is reminiscent of the Beasley Campus Center design.

“With the addition of an admissions building on the George Williams College campus, we continue to make the transition from being seen as a small college to one of university status,” said Bill Duncan, GWC M.S. ’68, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer. “This beautiful center will help us provide better service to our visitors and will create a more accessible entrance to GWC.”

The support of alumni and friends is needed to fund the center, which is projected to cost approximately $600,000. Construction is planned to begin in late spring or early summer, but will not go forward until funding for the project has been pledged or is in hand.

A Very Fine Day for Vago Field

There were two major victories for the Spartans during Homecoming weekend. The first was the dedication of the long-awaited Vago Field on the northwest corner of the campus. The second was when the Spartans won their first football game played in the new stadium.

Before kickoff, Calvin Myers, AU B.A. ’64, Chair of the AU Board of Trustees, led the field dedication ceremony along with President Rebecca L. Sherrick and Head Football Coach Rich Duncan. They honored Louis Vago, AU ’51, for his leadership gift to the university which supported the field’s renovation during the past summer. Vago Field, which hosts football and soccer contests, consists of a 240 by 400-foot artificial turf field, a grandstand that seats hundreds, a sports information center and restrooms.

“I am grateful for the educational experiences I had while a student at Aurora College, and I have been extremely impressed with the growth Aurora University has experienced in recent years,” said Vago after the announcement of the new field name. “As a result, I wanted to help AU continue to improve its facilities. I have enjoyed AU football games for many years and hope my support will help the university serve its students for years to come.”

In return, student-athletes and coaches had much praise for Vago:

“When football was reintroduced in 1986, Coach Scott always talked about a foundation being laid for the AU football program. Many classes have come through and have been building blocks on that foundation. Vago Field will enable current Spartans and those who will follow to build upon that.”

— Tim Betzutak, AU B.A. ’80, M.S. ’01, Assistant Football Coach

“I absolutely love playing on the artificial turf field. It definitely has made our team better because it allows us to focus better on the details of the game.”

— Kendra Sickinger, Senior Women’s Soccer Midfielder

“Vago Field is a great beginning for a new generation of the Spartan football program. As a team, we feel a sense of pride and gratitude when we are playing on the field. The field doesn’t represent a change in the program, but merely a change in the game.”

— Reed Sullivan, Junior Football Safety

“The stadium is beautiful and it makes playing the game that much more enjoyable. It completely changes the atmosphere, making it a better place to play. It has definitely made the team perform better and at a faster pace. With the new turf, our team can carve out a home field advantage.”

— Brian Barnett, Senior Men’s Soccer Defender
Katie Lunsford, AU ’10, returned to campus last fall after a summer-long internship in medical research at Texas A&M College of Medicine–Department of Surgery and at Scott & White Hospital in the Neuroscience Institute. She collaborated on a project to determine if depriving infant rat brain cells of oxygen results in a greater susceptibility to epileptic seizures as adults.

A junior this year, Katie has been working on campus to complete the summer project. Her team plans to submit its research this fall to Epilepsia, the peer-reviewed Journal of the International League Against Epilepsy. Her experiences will also form the basis of an Honors Project that she is designing this year and will present as a senior seminar.

Katie’s developing relationships with the Texas research group are exactly what Dan Hipp, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program, had in mind when he and his colleagues designed the honors curriculum. Freshmen from the top 10 percent of their high school classes are invited to participate. In the first two years, honors sections of the core curriculum offer this group of students different ways to fulfill core course requirements.

Closer to graduation, students are encouraged to develop academic experiences that will help prepare them for graduate school or one that they can discuss with future employers. Katie’s internship and the resultant research project serve as a model.

Katie took the high expectations of the Honors Program in stride — she’s used to being a straight A student. What has caused her a little inconvenience was the serious concussion in her sophomore year as a member of the women’s soccer team. During an NCAA tournament game last year, an opposing player accidentally kicked Katie in the back of the head. In Katie’s head fall forward, she slammed into her own teammate’s knees. The resulting concussion was a Grade 3 — the most serious level of diagnosis.

Despite developing anterograde amnesia — the type that causes difficulty in remembering what happened since an injury — Katie finished the academic year and landed the Texas internship. While she estimates that she is 75 percent back to where she was before the concussion, she knows that her “new normal” brings with it specific challenges in her hectic academic and athletic life. To compensate for difficulties in concentrating and focusing that will always be with her, she now spends more time studying, frequently writing information 10 to 15 times to train her memory to retain it.

What stands out from the experience to Katie? She received her first “B” in a university class after the injury. Still she is committed to the Honors Program: “I like being in honors classes because it is very challenging,” she said. She also described the program as “very welcoming” because of the small size of the classes, which typically include 20 other students. A few other outcomes of her last year are due to the injury. She switched her major to psychology rather than general medicine. Katie wants to learn about the brain.

She plans to pursue a joint M.D./Ph.D. program. With her academic and research responsibilities set, the Spartans’ right marking back/defender considered her fall semester a success — no headers on the soccer field.

AU Welcomes New Chair of Music Department

Cathryn Wilkinson has joined Aurora University as Chair of the Music Department. In her new role, Wilkinson will help support the growing arts program at AU. Wilkinson earned a doctorate in music theory and a Master of Fine Arts in organ performance from the University of Iowa School of Music in Iowa City. She has lectured and published on the history of Slovak music, organ pedagogy, and the motets of J.S. Bach, including presentations for several national and regional music organizations.

Schingoethe Center Awards

Schingoethe Faculty Fellowships

The Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures has awarded Schingoethe Faculty Fellowships for the 2008–2009 academic year to Donovan Gwinner, Assistant Professor of English, and Denise Hatcher, Assistant Professor of Spanish. These fellowships are designed to allow faculty to pursue scholarly related to the development of classroom methodologies based on the use of artifacts, collections, and material culture studies, problem-based learning, and discovery-learning approaches. Gwinner provided a professional development workshop for faculty based on the work of Native American author, screenwriter, and poet Sherman Alexie. Alexie was a guest lecturer in the Celebrating Arts and Ideas series in the fall. Hatcher’s fellowship focuses on her travel last summer to three Spanish-speaking countries. Photographs from her trips were displayed in the Schingoethe Center Education Gallery in the exhibition, The Lure of Language: A Personal Portrait of Mexico, Spain & Costa Rica.

Bodeens and Hamlins Welcomed to Campus

From left, George and Nancy Bodeen of Winnetka, Illinois, and Dick, G.W.C. ’49, and Joan Hamlin of Naples, Florida, visited with Dr. Rebecca L. Sherrick, President of Aurora University, on the George Williams College campus last summer to learn about plans for the new Hamlin Welcome Center and the campus. Dick Hamlin was president of GWC from 1961 to 1983. During Hamlin’s presidency, Bodeen was a chairman of the George Williams College Board of Trustees. The Bodeens have established a scholarship in the Lindberg name in honor of Nancy’s parents.

Rich Sounds of Pipe Organ to Grace Crimi Auditorium

As a way of continuing its commitment to the arts and to enhance campus celebrations, AU is planning the installation of a new pipe organ in Crimi Auditorium. The organ will allow performances featuring a full orchestra, the University Chorale, concert grand piano and organ.

Cathryn Wilkinson, Chair of Music, is enthusiastic about the addition. “An organ is a unique instrument that can set the mood for an event or activity and provide music for almost any occasion,” she said. “A pipe organ provides a certain kind of artistic experience that nothing else can. It’s an incredibly versatile instrument.”

Wilkinson considers the new organ one part of a broad-based music program and a benefit to the students’ learning experience.

“Pipe organ will become just one component of the whole spectrum of ways to study music at AU,” she said. “If I can show a class how it works, the students are sure to have a deeper appreciation for musical instruments in general. It doesn’t mean they will turn into organ music fans, but they have learned to listen to something completely new and that’s valuable.”

The project is in the beginning stages. Wilkinson researched organs at local churches so that AU wouldn’t duplicate what community members already experience. Several organ builders were contacted to make a proposal, and a small family-owned business from Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada was chosen. Létourneau Organs, Limited has built approximately 113 organs in Canada, England, New Zealand, Australia, Austria and the U.S.

The process of building an organ requires a great deal of time and expertise that brings together tonal designers, engineers, woodworkers, pipe makers and more. The current projected completion date is summer 2010. A true lover of organ, Wilkinson adds that another interesting dimension is that the organ is a piece of architecture. “The organ is really a marriage of spatial art with tonal art,” she said.

A number of alumni reunion classes, including those of the classes of 1957 and 1958, have contributed to the funding of the pipe organ along with an anonymous donor and additional leadership donors. To make a contribution to the AU pipe organ fund, please contact Mary Dougherty, AU B.A. ’74, M.B.A. ’03, Director of Development, at 630-844-3854 or mdougher@aurora.edu.

Features of the New AU Pipe Organ

• Tracker mechanical action
• Two manual keyboards with 58 keys each; 33 pedal keys
• Solid state adjustable combination stop action
• Free-standing custom-designed case of natural wood
• 20 ranks of 1,123 pipes from wood, tin, lead and zinc
• Movably swell expression shutters
• Sound produced by air from a motorized organ blower

After an internship at Texas A&M College of Medicine–Department of Surgery, Katie Lunsford, AU ’10, was returned to Aurora University applying what she learned to her honors program project.
Awards Presented During Homecoming and Reunion Weekends

Several awards and honors were presented during AU Homecoming and GWC Reunion festivities held in October. Honorees included:

Norris Lineweaver, Conferal of the Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa
AU conferred the Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa, upon Norris Lineweaver, GWC B.S. ’67, who, throughout his more than 40-year career with the YMCA, has worked on peace, community development, and justice in every community he has served. Currently the Immediate Past Director General of the Jerusalem International YMCA, Norris’ achievements in youth development and delinquency prevention programs, large-scale community redevelopment programs, financial development campaigns, and international leadership, have demonstrated the effectiveness of working with youth, families and communities in order to establish peace and justice.

Jeffrey Schielke, AU B.A. ’85, AU Distinguished Alumni Award
Jeff has served as the Mayor of the City of Batavia in Illinois for 28 years, the longest serving mayor in the city’s history. During his tenure, he has worked on the expansion of the city’s industrial square footage and retail square footage and the riverwalk, among other issues. He has served on the executive committee of the Chicago Area Transportation Study Council of Mayors and was elected Chairman in 1996, a position he continues to hold.

Louis N. Vago, AU B.A., ’51, AU Distinguished Alumni Award
A Certified Public Accountant who graduated from DePaul College of Law, Louis was the Vice President of Warrenville Window Company and then started his own company, General Aluminum Corporation. He served on several local bank boards and as trustee of B.P.O. Elks of Aurora and as president of the Aurora Catholic Education Foundation. Louis made a substantial leadership gift to AU in support of the football and soccer stadium renovation.

James Pilmer, AU B.M.A. ’04, AU George Peters Community Partnership Award
As Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Aurora, Jim was instrumental in working with AU on the development of Solfisburg Park for the baseball program. He was AU’s spokesperson and advocate with the city throughout the process. Jim is currently serving on the board of Waubonsee Community College and Provena Mercy Medical Center in Aurora.

Dana (Lettowe) Wagner, AU B.A. ’97, AU Athletic Hall of Fame Award
Dana is a coach at Waubonsee Community College who has directed the programs of basketball for nine years, softball for eleven years and volleyball for two years. She is also the Assistant Athletic Manager at WCC and runs the intramural program.

Basketball Coach Don Holler, AU Athletic Lifetime Achievement Award
Coach Don Holler’s career spanned 47 years and many parts. During his 14-year career at AU as Men’s Varsity Basketball Coach and Assistant Professor of Physical Education, he won seven conference championships. During his tenure, the AU team defeated national champion University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He was also one of 20 coaches in the state to defeat national champion University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Ernest R. Jenkins, GWC M.S.W. ’72, GWC Distinguished Alumni Award
Ernie began his career as a group worker in Chicago in 1956. Since that time, street gangs and related inner-city problems, community organizing and development have been Ernie’s life work. He has served as executive director for three YMCA centers and as Vice President for Community Development for the YSICA of Metropolitan Chicago. One of his most outstanding and enduring accomplishments is the establishment of the Westside Association for Community Action, or WACA, which he organized and founded in 1971. He currently serves as CEO.

Albert E. Smith, GWC M.S. ’63, GWC Distinguished Alumni Award
Albert started his career at the University of Pittsburgh, and later worked at Eastern Michigan University and North Carolina A&T State University where he served as Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations, Professor of Education and Executive Director of the North Carolina A&T State University Foundation. In 1986, he became the sixth president of South Carolina State University where he created an honors college and the school gained university status. He is also the former president of Florida Memorial University.

Lyle K. Johnson, GWC M.S.W. ’79, GWC Distinguished Alumni Award
Lyle’s career path took him to the Minneapolis YMCA where he was community program secretary for four years. He then applied his skills as director of Camp Iduhapi for a number of years. For nearly two decades, he was a dedicated George Williams College Professor of Behavioral Science, teaching graduate courses in human behavior and social environment, and serving as director of student volunteers. He also served as Assistant Director of the division of social work education.

Spirit Award
The Spirit Award was created by the Alumni Association Board of Directors to recognize individuals for unsilent contributions and steadfast loyalty to the institution. The brass lantern presented with this award symbolizes the recipient’s love of and devotion to the ideals and people of the institution.

Carolyn Gramley
Carolyn served as Director of the GWC campus from 1970 until 1985 and retired after 26 years of service. As director, she established a well-managed operation with financial stability. Among other efforts, she helped create a more cohesive appearance throughout the campus with the establishment of a standardized paint color scheme and uniform signage. She was also responsible for the planting of hundreds of new trees and shrubs throughout the campus grounds and golf course. In addition, GWC’s nationally recognized outdoor education program flourished under her leadership.

Tom Cox
For nearly 50 years, Tom contributed to the GWC campus in a variety of roles: first as head cook and baker, and then as host in the dining hall. He served as a mentor to younger employees and guided many dining room staff members throughout the years. His personal touch is still present today. Cox is famous for his booklets titled Tales from the Dining Room Door, filled with short stories featuring individuals who visited the campus.

Franklin Fund Provides Financial Relief to Families

Due to the financial challenges facing some families in today’s economic climate, Aurora University has established a program to further support its efforts to offer an excellent education at an affordable price. “The Franklin Fund,” a special grant fund to assist currently enrolled traditional students confronting serious financial hardships caused by home foreclosures, bankruptcies, job losses and serious illness. The fund is named for Benjamin Franklin who argued that nothing is more important to the public welfare than “to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue.”

Franklin urged colonial colleges to enroll gifted students from all walks of life and to prepare them for meaningful citizenship. Aurora University has been committed to this goal for more than 100 years through careful management, cost control and fair pricing. The Franklin Fund, coordinated by the Office of Financial Aid, is representative of AU’s continued dedication to the greater good.

To learn more about The Franklin Fund, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 630-844-6190, 800-742-5281 or finaid@aurora.edu.

GWC Bistro Speaker Series Showcases Business Leadership

The George Williams College Bistro Speaker Series continued to garner community interest during events held this past summer and fall. The series features local commerce leaders who discuss their experiences in business with guests from the community, GWC students, faculty and staff members.

In the summer, Jeff Neal, an expert in private equity investments, was the featured speaker. Neal is co-founder of Horizon Capital, comprised of a highly professional and dedicated investment team. Prior to co-founding Horizon Capital, Neal held the position of Chairman of the Global Investment Banking Group of Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. His discussion on emerging foreign markets and the world of Wall Street helped provide a window into this exciting world.

In the fall, Martin Ellen, Senior Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Snap-on Incorporated, gave a presentation. Snap-On, a $2.5 billion, S&P 500 company headquartered in Kenosha, Wisconsin, is a leading global developer, manufacturer and marketer of tool, diagnostic and equipment solutions for professional tool users. With Ellen’s extensive background in strategic and operational planning and performance measurement, he was able to offer a fascinating glimpse and insight into the behind-the-scenes world of manufacturing.

The Bistro Speaker Series continued its impressive line-up in November with Skip Bliss, President and CEO of Bliss Communications, Inc., a communications company that owns and operates newspapers, radio stations and Web sites in Wisconsin, Illinois, and the upper peninsula of Michigan. Bliss offered an understanding of the many opportunities and challenges that come with running a large communications company.

The Bistro Speaker Series offers ongoing learning opportunities outside of the classroom and generates discussion among community members.

Aurora University Receives Prestigious Accreditation

Last fall, AU received full accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). This “gold standard” for the field of teacher education indicates that the school and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community and demonstrates accountability to produce high quality educators who can help all students learn.
Die Fledermaus Performance Receives Outstanding Reviews

One of the finest young casts and choruses ever assembled for a Music by the Lake production was fea-
tured last year at the summer festival. Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss, the most popular operetta in the world, was performed last summer with Christine Brandt, Executive Director of Music by the Lake, as music
director and conductor. Jim Edwards, esteemed opera critic for The Beacon News, wrote in his review of the performance: “The cast and her cast brought youth and a freshness to this magnificent work which demands
great acting skills and split-second timing. It was, quite frankly, a tour de force. There was not a loose nut or
bolt in the performance.” The production showcased several young stars as principals and the opera’s cast
included a number of soloists, a 65-voice opera chorus and a 37-piece orchestra.

Electronic Newsletter Connects Readers to AU and GWC

Nearly 8,000 alumni and friends are receiving AU/GWC Connections every month. The electronic newsletter features upcoming events and happenings at Aurora University and George Williams College. The publica-
tion also contains links for more information about main events on the campuses. To be included in future mail-
ings, please e-mail connections@aurora.edu or call 630-844-4869.

AU Students to L.e.A.D.

Aurora University offers students an opportunity to help them succeed in the competitive job market with
the L.E.A.D. (Leadership education and Development) program. The L.E.A.D. program promotes a generalized
leadership competence which will ultimately better prepare AU students for leadership roles in civic engagement
and future employment. L.E.A.D., is a two-tiered sequential
program. The first tier, “Emerging Leaders,” will focus on
the development of self-knowledge. This includes developing and understanding one’s talents, values and interests in the specific area of leadership. The second
tier, “Leadership Practices,” focuses more on managing
people and tasks as well as mobilizing innovation and change through service. The second tier seeks to match
research done by Evers, Power & Mitchell (2003), which
found that employers wanted to hire employees who were able to manage people and tasks as well as mobilize
innovation and change.

Yerkes to Write History of College Camp

On the heels of the recently published GWC group memoir, Strong Roots, alumni and friends of George
Williams College will soon have an opportunity to learn much more about the history of the campus in Williams
Bay, Wisconsin. One of GWC’s most distinguished fac-
ulty members and administrators, Rita Yerkes, accepted
the university’s invitation to write a history of College
Camp, as the campus was known in its early years.

AU Museum Hosts Passport to Adventure

In an annual summer tradition, AU’s Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures co-sponsored the Passport to
Adventure program. The Schingoethe Center was among
56 museums and nature centers in the Kane-DuPage
Regional Museum Association hosting the free program for
children ages 4-12. To participate, children picked up a
free passport at the center. Each page in the passport profiled a participating museum. Students then visited museums and completed an activity to receive a stamp in their passport. At
the end of the summer, children turned in their pass-
ports to the museum which issued them and received a
recognition certificate or an incentive prize.

May Term Offers a World of Discovery

With a wide variety of on-campus and travel-
study courses available in the late spring, stu-
dents are preparing for the most diverse May
Term to date. New travel-study courses this year include
trips to China, Luxembourg, Belgium and Walt Disney
World in which students will be taken behind the scenes
to explore the creativity and technology involved in the
park and resorts.

“May Term has become extremely popular with both
students and faculty,” said Carol Dunn, Vice President for
Enrollment. “Faculty members have proposed some very innovative
courses and have worked diligently
to provide AU students with
a wide array of unique experiences.
I have spoken with many students who
are having fun trying to decide
which course to take this May. For
many, it’s something to look forward
to after spring semester finals.”

May Term 2009 includes 11 undergraduate travel-study courses. There are also 15 on-campus under-
graduate courses covering topics such as art theft, human biology, Chicago
culture and marketing. May Term
meets for three weeks immediately
following spring semester. The term
makes it possible for students to take
one additional course and still have
time for summer jobs or traditional
summer school classes. Last year, more
than 200 students participated in study
abroad and on-campus courses. May Term 2009 takes
place May 11–30.

A complete overview of May Term is available online at www.aurora.edu/mayterm. For a brochure, contact
Terri Schmutz, Director of Summer Session, at 630-844-4228 or tschmutz@aurora.edu.

Campus Safety Remains a Priority

The size of Aurora University’s campus and its loca-
tion in a quiet residential neighborhood are two
critical factors popular students say for choosing AU.
Despite the “home feel” of the campus, AU faculty and
staff members have identified safety and security as top priori-
ties. While there is no perfect plan, Aurora University is taking steps to ensure a safe learning
environment.

Faculty and staff members have adopted a team approach to emergency prepared-
ness. With a focus on communication, threat assessment and risk assessment. University departments are also making
efforts to be better prepared in all types of
situations. For example, the University
Communications staff participated in a
two-hour Federal Emergency Management
Agency (FEMA) training program. The
course clarifies the role of each staff member
in the event of an emergency.

Additionally, several faculty and staff
members have agreed to serve on a new
behavioral intervention team. This team
will support situations in which a student’s behavior has been identified as being dis-
ruptive or disturbed.

Another important resource relating to
emergency response is Aurora University’s
Office of Campus Public Safety. Eight
out of 12 Campus Public Safety officers
are certified law enforcement officers and all Campus
Public Safety officers are National Incident Management
System (NIMS) compliant. This training includes
rehearsing roles in a realistic emergency situation, while
at the same time identifying additional planning needs.
Campus Public Safety officers also have extensive medical
training as first responders and emergency medical tech-
nicians. This means officers are equipped to provide pre-
hospital care for medical emergencies. In collaboration with several local, state and federal agencies, the Office of
Campus Public Safety is also cross-trained in emergency
response tactics.

Earlier this year, Roy Garcia, former Director of
Campus Public Safety, was named to the new position of
Director of Emergency Preparedness. Michael Cubbie, AU
B.A. ’93, now serves as Director of Campus Public Safety.
“It’s important that we remain vigilant in our efforts to
protect our campus community,” said Garcia. “However,
I always tell students that they are only as safe as they
want to be. Each student has a responsibility to become
knowledgeable about safety. It takes the entire campus
community to ensure our well-being.”

Safety Measures and Initiatives in Place at AU Include:

• Emergency Code Blue phones are located in several places
around campus. These phones automatically connect to a
centralized dispatch unit.
• A bike patrol unit is deployed in the fall. Bike patrol is a
cost efficient and effective means of law enforcement and
emergency medical response.
• Emergency preparedness guides have been published and
distributed to every faculty and staff member.
• Residence halls are locked 24 hours a day and are equipped
with a card access system.
• Locks are on every classroom and laboratory door on campus.
• Every classroom and laboratory has an evacuation map
posted at the entrance.
• Emergency notification information is made available on
the AU Web site, e-mail and through text messaging.
New Ferro Pavilion Highlights Exceptional Music by the Lake Season

There were many reasons to celebrate during the 2008 season of Music by the Lake. The addition of The Ferro Pavilion and expanded season performances. This new seasonal space continues to provide an intimate, unique setting that is the hallmark of the music festival. An important step in the growth and development of Music by the Lake, the lakeside pavilion is an essential element in the festival’s mission to present and create excellent musical events for the enrichment, education and entertainment of GWG friends, neighbors and visitors in the Lake Geneva-area community.

The building of the pavilion provides an anchor for the community and for George Williams College as a summer cultural destination for the arts. This new venue increases the ability to attract leading artists with its expanded seating, improved sound and lighting, and enhanced artistic capacity.

Each year, the goal for Music by the Lake is to present and create outstanding musical performances. This summer’s season demonstrates the appeal to artists and audiences alike. Enthusiastic audiences enjoyed the popular new Sundays at 4 Series, featuring acoustic, chamber performers in an intimate setting on Sunday afternoons. The series featured Prometheus Trio, an acclaimed string ensemble, a performance of Die Fledermaus, featuring soloists and the Music by the Lake Chorus and Orchestra, and the Chicago Brass Quintet, who performed a wide range of periods and styles, with a dose of good humor.

The secret of this success comes from the generosity of people who make up the extended AU and GWG family — trustees, alumni, faculty and staff, friends and neighbors, businesses, and organizations that support AU’s mission of being an institution committed to the transformative power of learning. Through the kindness of others, AU is able to support this mission and change lives for the better through education.

Today, the thousands of loyal and charitable donors, and growing number of benefactors, this consistent and increasing commitment gives the university the ability to establish a fiscally responsible budget that relies on the A Fund to provide support for key programs.

"In these tumultuous economic times, we understand that philanthropic dollars are stretched," said Mariann Hunter, Director of Annual Giving. "Gifts to the university have an immediate impact on the day-to-day operations on both campuses. The commitment and assistance of AU and GWC donors is greatly appreciated." This year will bring even more opportunities to change lives for the better through learning.

To support the A Fund, you can make your tax deductible gift online by visiting our secure Web site at www.aurora.edu and selecting ‘Give’, by calling 1-866-556-E-AU or 630-844-6668, or by mailing your gift to Aurora University, Founders House, 347 S. Gladstone Ave., Aurora, IL 60506.

THE A FUND Passes Million Dollar Milestone

The A Fund for Aurora University and George Williams College topped $1 million in 2007–2008 for the first time in the university’s history — breaking the previous milestone of $964,000 set last year.

"The achievement of $1 million is not only a significant milestone in the history of the A Fund, but for the entire campus," said Bethany J. Sprague, Director of Annual Giving. "Gifts to the university have an immediate impact on the day-to-day operations on both campuses. The commitment and assistance of AU and GWC donors is greatly appreciated.

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www.aurora.edu • WINTER 2009
Alumni Reminisce in Reno

Several AU and GWC alumni took it upon themselves to coordinate an alumni gathering in Reno, Nevada, this fall. Organizers of the event were Ralph Drake, GWC B.S. ’59; Carl Dubois, GWC B.S. ’55, M.S. ’59; Carl Kuhn, AU B.A. ’64; and Harriet (Piska) Kuhn, AU B.S. ’65; Doug Sprague, GWC M.S. ’64; Debra Welkley AU B.A. ’89; and Don Zerwer, GWC B.S. ’57.

“This was a great way to ‘marry’ the AU and GWC alumni groups,” said Carl. “It’s a marriage that can be invaluable to the university.”

Alumni attended several receptions and also heard remarks from Rebecca L. Sherrick, President of Aurora University. Sherrick shared the rich history of both institutions with the group and discussed future goals for the campuses. Ralph and Barbara Drake also opened their home for further conversation and visiting. The weekend concluded with a devotional service.

“I believe it is important to keep one’s ties with his or her alma mater,” said Don. “This was even more apparent after it appeared that we had lost GWC in the 1980s. I think regional reunions every couple of years are great and equally as important as attending Homecoming.”

If you would like to be included in a future western alumni gathering or are interested in helping to coordinate a different alumni event, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 630-844-5486 or alumni@aurora.edu.
The Search Is On!

If you would be willing to part with your cherished Aurora College/Aurora University or George Williams College yearbooks, the Office of Alumni Relations would love to have them! We are trying to build our collection so that alumni and friends who visit our campuses can share these wonderful memories. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@aurora.edu, or 630-844-5486 or 800-377-2782. You can also mail your yearbooks directly to the Office of Alumni Relations, Aurora University, 347 S. Gladstone Ave., Aurora, IL 60506-4892.

Have you updated your alumni profile form recently? Check out the alumni Web site, www.aurora.edu/alumni, and click on the “update your information” link. We would love to hear your latest news!

Callling all former resident assistants! Were you a member of Residence Life while at AU? Are you interested in reconnecting with your friends and former staff members? Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 630-844-5486, 800-377-2782 or alumni@aurora.edu with your updated information, stories, and photos for a future Residence Life gathering.

Correction

Kim L. (Kring) Day, B.A. ’83, M.S. ’89, Montgomery, IL, was honored for her five years of service to Aurora University during the Fall Convocation 2007.

Richard L. Dilworth, ’65, Eugene, OR, was incorrectly listed as having been in the Navy. Richard actually served in the Air Force.

AU Class Notes

Men’s Alumni Soccer Game

Approximately 20 alumni participated in an action-packed soccer game last summer. The men were coached by Pete Watkins, AU M.S. ’07.

AU Alumni Gathering

Aurora College, Aurora University and George Williams College alumni and friends gathered for lunch in August, in Maine, last August at the Senator Inn and Spa. Helen Scoggins, GWC B.A. ’82, M.B.A. ’96, Barrington, IL, joined the group in New England as alumni shared memories of their time at AC/AU and GWC.

Corrections

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2000s

Kristy L. Cunningham, M.A. ’07, McHenry, IL, recently accepted a computer/media teaching position at a small K-8 school. Kristy will be implementing a curriculum for approximately 220 students.

Lena DeJohn, B.S.N. ’08, Wheaton, IL, was nominated by her peers to receive the third annual Dr. Tom Williams Peer Award for Clinical Excellence at Central DuPage Hospital. She was one of seven nurses recognized for her leadership, volunteerism, or clinical excellence at a celebratory event concluding Nurse’s Week 2008. Lena holds an associate of science degree in biochemistry and an advanced degree in nursing from J. Sterling Morton College. She is the single mother of four and a proud grandmother of one.

Ian E. Klink, B.A. ’07, Aurora, IL, recently graduated with a Master of Arts degree in film and television from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA.

Matthew Dahbros, B.A. ’06, West Lafayette, IN, earned his M.A. in political science with an emphasis in international relations and comparative politics from Purdue University in May 2008. Matthew is currently pursuing his doctorate in political science at Purdue University.

Jamie B. Klein, M.S.W. ’06, South Boston, VA, is working with at-risk teenagers at a therapeutic boarding school.

Brenda Beard, M.S.W. ’05, Dixon, IL, is a therapist in an inpatient psychiatric unit at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, IL. She is also a therapist in the adult partial hospitalization unit. Additionally, Brenda performs therapy at the hospital’s outpatient facility.

Kathleen M. (Glessen) Joyce, M.S.W. ’05, Genoa, IL, is in her fourth year as a school social worker at Marengo High School. Kathleen has also implemented a freshman mentoring program and started the pom pom squad, which she coaches.

Laryssa J. (Jurkew) Lavender, AU B.S. ’05, married Jay R. Lavender, AU B.A. ’05, on June 14, 2008, in Lisle, IL. Laryssa received her M.S. in management and organizational behavior from Benedictine University in May 2007. She is currently working as a community development coordinator in residence life and housing at College of the Holy Cross. Jay received his M.S. in management from Worcester State College in May 2008. He is now an assistant baseball coach at Denison University.

Etheline A. Ferdinand, M.B.A. ’04, Montgomery, IL, has recently accepted a position as Division Administrator at the Illinois State Board of Education External Assurance Division. Etheline has been employed with the Illinois State Board of Education for more than 22 years.

Roxann M. Camparone, M.S.W. ’03, Aurora, IL, is working at both Valley West Hospital in Windsor, IL, and the Breaking Free facility in Aurora, IL. Roxann is fulfilling both her great passions, using her social work skills, as well as addiction counseling.

Bryant J. Erickson, M.S.W. ’03, Rockford, IL, works for the Salvation Army. His major function is to evaluate programs run by the Salvation Army within 11 central states.

Judith H. Hanson, M.S.W. ’02, St. Charles, IL, is working in the area of grief and loss and is continuing her education relating to trauma in children. She was recently appointed to the board of directors for the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) at the organization’s annual meeting. Judith has a private practice in St. Charles and is also working as a contractual therapist for the nonprofit organization Communities In Schools.

Lisa A. (Hernaandez) Ochoa, B.A. ’02, North Aurora, IL, has been very busy working full-time and raising her family: daughters Emily, 6, and Lily, 2. Lisa was recently sworn in as an adult probation officer for the 18th Judicial Circuit Courts in DuPage County. She is very excited about starting her new career in criminal justice.

David K. Bohmann, B.A. ’01, Naperville, IL, has been teaching since his graduation from AU and recently received his master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. David and his wife, Melissa, have a 1-year-old daughter.

Amy E. Brown, B.S. ’01, Carlinville, IL, earned her master’s degree in human services in December 2007 from Concordia University Chicago where she was also employed from Worcester College from 2004 through 2008. While at Concordia, Amy served as a residence hall director and disabilities accommodations coordinator. Last May, Amy accepted a position as Director of Student Activities and Recreation/Resident Director at Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL.

1990s

Julie E. (Locke) Moore, B.S. ’99, Casa Grande, AZ, worked as the head athletic trainer at the Illinois Math and Science Academy from 2002 through 2007. In July 2007, Julie moved to Arizona and loves it. She finally feels settled in her new home and is currently applying for Arizona licensure. She plans to return to work as a certified athletic trainer and a personal trainer.

Donald R. McCoy, B.A. ’96, Krosuk, IA, is currently trading stocks and attending Western Illinois University.

Carlos E. Faret, B.A. ’96, Chicago, married Keith Tyschper on August 31, 2008. The couple had a three-day destination wedding in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Their parents, siblings and close friends, including an AU professor, were in attendance for the occasion. The couple recently purchased a home in the Edgewater neighborhood and plan to remodel. Keith is an architect with the firm Harley Ellis Deveraux,

Submit your own photos and stories by e-mailing us at alumni@aurora.edu. We love hearing from our alumni!
John C. Bettison, M.S.W. ‘95, Houston, TX, works in private practice in Chicago. In February of 2002, he moved to Houston and started another private practice. Despite being “semi-retired,” he is still meeting with 20 clients a week and is teaching substance abuse classes at the Institute for Clinical Studies. John enjoys being very active.

Nikola Prvulov, M.S. ’94, Glen Ellyn, IL, managed several humanitarian programs in the Balkan region from 1996 to 2002. In late 2002, she returned with her family to the Chicagoland area where she resides today. She has worked at the Center for International Rehabilitation as the field operations manager for five-and-a-half years, implementing programs and traveling to the Balkans, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East.

Tracylyn Lendi, B.A. ’93, Lockport, IL, released her new album, Close the Door, in June of 2008. Tracylyn calls her recording “a feel good, get you singing and moving kind of album” that can relate to everyone. After only a week of promotion, her music was receiving radio play at various stations in France, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Holland, Belgium, England, Japan and Spain. Close the Door can be purchased on Tracylyn’s Web site, www.tracylyn.net.

1980s

Deloris D. Fisher, M.S.W. ’89, Sandwich, IL, is the owner and therapist of Clinical Behavior Consultants located in Lombard, IL. The agency provides specialized treatment and trauma services to victims and their families who have experienced child maltreatment. Deloris provides forensic evaluations, court preparation and expert testimony. She has three therapists currently working for her who provide specialized services. Her office continues to grow and she periodically seeks LCSWs or LCPSs who would like to provide services to those affected by child maltreatment.

Karen M. Nelson, B.S. ’80, Lakewood, WA, and her sister, Judith A. Bianchetta, recently co-authored a children’s book, Saymore’s Big Adventure. Lisa M. (Bianchetta) Hatchel, M.A.T. ’03, Yorkville, IL, was the illustrator. Karen and Judith are the daughters of Robert L. Nelson, B.A. ’49, Aurora, IL.

1970s

Sonja S. Scarseth, ’74, Kirkland, WA, is now retired and enjoying time with her new great-granddaughter, Sonja Michelle.

Welcome "New Spartans"

Peter J. Watkins, M.S. ’07, Aurora, IL, and wife, Laura, announce the birth of their son, Seth Chapman, born on May 29, 2008. Seth was welcomed home by a brother and sister.

Christine A. (Gower) Foster, R.S.N. ’97, Wheaton, IL, and husband, Pete, announce the birth of their daughter, Allison Kyle, born on August 10, 2008. Allison was welcomed home by big brothers Tyler, 14, and Jacob, 3.

Dana C. (Letlow) Wagner, B.A. ’97, Aurora, IL, and husband, Tim, announce the birth of their daughter, Sydney Grace, born on March 10, 2008. Sydney was welcomed home by big brothers Cal, 15, and Reece, 2.

Jennifer L. (Heriaud) Delaney, B.A. ’96, M.A.E.L. ’03, Yorkville, IL, and husband, Jim, announce the birth of their son, Gavin Thomas Michael, born on April 10, 2008. Gavin was welcomed home by brothers Kegan, 5, and Wesley, 2.

Jennifer L. (Lukasik) Klapak, B.A. ’96, Whitling, IN, and husband, Edward, announce the birth of their son, Reagan James, born on September 17, 2007.

Steven J. Streit, B.A. ’77, of Kokomo, IN, married Susan Major on April 5, 2008.

1960s

Phoebe Hewelling, ’65, New Castle, NH, was honored in the spring of 2008 as one of 12 finalists selected out of 400 applicants to be included in the newly formed “Creativity as Motion” Idea Bank at the University of Oklahoma.

In Memoriam


Audrey E. (Gemmier) Jorgensen, ’44, Aurora, IL, August 22, 2008

Alma N. (Fischer) Smith, ’44, Westfield, MA, September 13, 2008

Christine (Kukuk) Christofferson, ’46, Aurora, IL, August 4, 2008


Ralph E. Modlinger, ’46, Vero Beach, FL, April 22, 2008

Richard W. Wallin, ’50, April 21, 2008

Rex E. Beach, ’52, Lubbock, TX, September 10, 2008

Donald R. Mace, B.A. ’54, B.Th. ’54, Mount Vernon, WA, May 15, 2008


Zigrida (Plumanis) Veinbachs, B.S. ’55, Montville, CT, April 23, 2008

Philip L. Towle, B.A. ’58, Rochester, NH, June 25, 2008

Erik Eriksson, B.A. ’65, Egg Harbor, WI, June 6, 2008

Leon M. Pollock, B.A. ’68, Juliet, IL, May 25, 2008

Richard D. Helvie, B.A. ’73, Montgomery, IL, March 9, 2008

Welcome New Spartans

John G. Petterson, M.S.W. ’95, Houston, TX, works in private practice in Chicago. In February of 2002, he moved to Houston and started another private practice. Despite being “semi-retired,” he is still meeting with 20 clients a week and is teaching substance abuse classes at the Institute for Clinical Studies. John enjoys being very active.
YMCA's swimming pool. The 12,000 for the due to stormy weather, but they forced to cut their swim short of Ashtabula County. Chubb and to Canada to benefit the YMCA Ashtabula, OH, recently partici-

1970s

1980s

John H. Burwell, M.B.A. ’86, Farmington, CT, has been con-

1990s

in the 1990s.

1990s

Col. Richard W. Gustafson, B.A. ’99, M.S. ’71, San Antonio, TX, retired as an Army medical service corps colonel at Fort Sam Houston, TX, in 2002. He and his wife, Lynn, moved to Alexandria, VA, following his retirement so Richard could work as a civilian in the Pentagon. However, after two-and-a-half years, he and Lynn decided that home was back in Texas and not in the metro D.C. area. They have since returned to San Antonio, where Richard now works as a defense contractor. Both of their adult children, Kristin and Erik, are also living and working in San Antonio.

It All Started

At GWC...

Phyllis (Dickinson) Fairman, GWC B.S. ’44, Bloomington, MN, met her husband, George, while she was attending George Williams College and he was in the Navy. At the time, George was also attending the Illinois Institute of Technology, and some of the students were housed at the Hyde Park campus.

In Memoriam

Bea (Wood) Barner, B.S. ’45, Louisville, KY, September 13, 2008

William H. Carlyn, B.S. ’74, Kansas City, MO, April 26, 2008

Kenneth C. Tanke, B.S. ’54, Crown Point, IN, March 28, 2008


Taylor J. Strickland, B.S. ’70, Sycamore, IL, May 24, 2008

Gerald C. Parker, M.S.W. ’75, River Forest, IL, June 14, 2008

DeJen Kinney, former GWC Associate Professor of Social Work (1962–1971), Director of the Center for Continuing Education and Associate Director of Development (1971–1986) and Assistant to President-YMCA Affairs (1980–1984), passed away in Ohio on Tuesday, November 18, at the age of 86. DeJen worked tirelessly with passion for

YMG World Service throughout his life and was an outstanding example of the best in the YMCA spirit and character.

Do you have recent news that you’d like to share with fellow alumni? E-mail the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@aurora.edu or fill out the pertinent information below, and we’ll make every effort to publish it. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

We also welcome your photos. Please identify all people in the photos (color or black and white are acceptable). Do NOT send newspaper clippings. Electronic photos should be a minimum of 300 dpi and 3x4 inches.

Get the word out!