



# AURORA UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE ————— VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 — SPRING 2015



**OPENING DOORS**



AU IS KNOWN AS A PLACE THAT OPENS DOORS THROUGH EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN IDENTIFY ALL OF THESE DOORWAYS ACROSS THE VARIOUS AU CAMPUSES?

TEST YOURSELF FIRST, AND THEN LOOK FOR THE ANSWERS ON PAGE 33.



“ IN A VERY REAL SENSE, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF OPENING DOORS FOR STUDENTS. ”



REBECCA L. SHERRICK  
PRESIDENT

Welcome to the new Aurora University magazine! In recent months, we evaluated every aspect of our communications strategy and decided that the time is right to introduce a new magazine. This format will provide an opportunity to explore subjects in greater depth, to share stories that reveal the heart and soul of our university. In between editions of the magazine, you will continue to receive regular updates on campus news through existing publications, such as *AU Today*.

The new magazine debuts with a most appropriate theme, *Opening Doors*. Several years ago, we took a deep breath and then set about the task of replacing the doors on historic Eckhart Hall. As the project unfolded, all of the elements of a classic AU success story were present. A dedicated university employee approached the project with love and respect, first conducting careful research on the building and then locating the right craftsman to fashion the new doors.

There were moments of drama and suspense too. As the old doors were removed, I peered into adjoining walls, glimpsed original construction materials and sensed the dedication and courage of Eckhart’s builders. (What a bold vision they possessed as they packed their tiny college into a single train car in Mendota for the journey to Aurora and their new campus.) Then it was time to step aside and to hope that the next phase of the project would be successful.

And it was. The new doors fit beautifully in place, thanks to the skill and patience of our team. With their deep reddish-brown stain and detailing, they added a special dignity to the entrance of Eckhart. (In fact, it seemed to me that the building stood a little taller in the weeks after their installation.) It wasn’t till several days later that I discovered the best surprise of all. As I approached the side entry of the building and reached out to open the door, I discovered that each handle bore an etching of an ichthus.

Each time I come or go through the new Eckhart Hall doors, I experience feelings of pride and gratitude. In a very real sense, colleges and universities are in the business of opening doors for students. We invite them through our doors as freshmen and then hold the same doors wide as they exit at commencement. If we have done our work well, they take their leave with confidence and anticipation—ready to embrace all that life has to offer and secure in the knowledge of what truly matters.

It is our great joy as educators to stand in the door and wave farewell to our students—for a time. Of course, we always look forward to the day when they return for a visit ... or perhaps an advanced degree ... or to walk a special friend around the Quadrangle ... or to show a high school junior their *alma mater*. And then the familiar story begins again; for at Aurora University, our hearts and doors are open always.

A





# TIES TO THE PAST



# EYES TO THE FUTURE

**THE YEAR WAS 1912 AND THE AURORA COLLEGE FACULTY WELCOMED 65 STUDENTS THROUGH THE MAIN DOORS OF ECKHART HALL FOR THE FIRST TIME.** In the decades that have followed, doors to more academic buildings and residence halls have opened for thousands of students on the Aurora campus. And while the entryway to pursuing education at Aurora University today includes three additional locations, an online program and an on-campus school for third through eighth graders, it all began in one building, thanks to the gift of one man.





Looking out across Aurora University's main campus, its most distinctive features are the red-tiled roofs found on most of the buildings. The inclusion of these distinctive roofs was specified by benefactor Charles Eckhart (1841–1915), an Advent Christian who was the founding president of the Auburn Automobile Company in Indiana. Perhaps similar roofs in Los Angeles, where he spent much of his golden years, influenced Eckhart, or maybe he just liked the look—either way, he requested that all future buildings maintain this feature.

Eckhart donated \$40,000 to the college, of which \$10,000 was used to furnish the administration building as well as appoint the two other original structures: Davis Hall and Wilkinson Hall, both similar looking dormitories. All three buildings had ground broken with a horse and plow.

Although styled in English Tudor Revival, Eckhart Hall “was not a fancy building,” said Susan Palmer, professor emeritus of history for the university and curator of the Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventual Materials. “It was simple with a pointed Gothic front door.” A source at the time of construction described the design as emulating “the old English style of architecture as employed at Oxford and Cambridge, and recently at the University of Chicago.” The trim is largely limestone; most of the building is faced with brick.

The four-floor building is 30,000 square feet and originally housed all of the fledgling college's classrooms, offices, library, chapel and gymnasium. The first floor (a raised basement) was the home for science studies until the 1960s, when Stevens Hall of Science was constructed.

\$40,000

DONATION FROM CHARLES ECKHART

30,000  
SQ FT

ORIGINALLY HOUSED ALL  
CLASSROOMS, OFFICES, LIBRARY,  
CHAPEL AND GYMNASIUM

178  
DONORS

RAISED OVER \$7,500 FOR  
THE THEODORE P. STEPHENS  
MEMORIAL ORGAN

The modest gym was situated in a two-story area on the west side of the building. “I think the students hated the gym from day one,” Palmer said. “In fact, there are complaints from the students that I found as early as the 1920s in student publications, stating the need for a real gym.”

The first major renovation of Eckhart Hall occurred in the early 1960s, including remodeling and expanding Lowry Chapel, then on the second floor and facing west. “The pulpit was at the northern end of the room, so the audience seating was fairly deep, especially after the remodeling when the chapel was opened up to the room behind it,” Palmer said.

In 1965, the Theodore P. Stephens Memorial Organ was installed in the chapel, thanks to 178 donors who raised over \$7,500 for the pipe organ. The organ was used for both chapel services and student organ lessons.

The chapel was again remodeled and reoriented in the 1980s, with the pulpit on the western side of the room and the audience facing west. “This meant that seating was much shallower, but also much wider,” Palmer explained.

Lowry Chapel was moved to what is now the third floor in the mid-1990s, facing east, but in a much smaller space and without the organ.

Davis Hall is named after Bro. D. A. Davis (1841–1924) and his wife from California, who donated 5,000 shares of mining stock with an estimated value of \$14,000, among other sizable monetary contributions. The four-story building was originally designed as a women's dorm, and back then the college dining room was in the basement (seating for 150 people). The hall also contained a laundry, reception room, four large storerooms and accommodations for 35 young ladies.

# RESTORING ECKHART HALL'S ORIGINAL WOODEN DOORS

While Eckhart Hall's structure has stood the test of time well, its doors were in need of attention and repair to restore them to their original glory. The eight pairs of doors surrounding Eckhart Hall were replaced in the summer of 2011.

“Over the years, the doors had aged with the building,” said Mark Spangler, director of special projects for the university. At some point, the doors were even painted brown, “which made them look very institutional, taking away from the doors' original character.” Likewise, one set of doors in the main entrance had been widened from two feet to four feet to accommodate disability access.

The summer-long restoration project included closely matching the hand-carved original wooden doors, akin to intricate church doors with ornate scrolling. Bill Wampach, owner of Kunden Architectural, Inc. in nearby South Elgin, was able to emulate the scrolling by using a computer numerical control machine, as well as duplicate the process of bending the wood to the limestone that surrounds the entrances by steaming the wood.

The curved doors were stained a dark mahogany color, similar to the original color. “We also found historically accurate hardware, based on some old photos of the building from 1911,” Spangler noted. However, the glass above the doors was updated for improved energy efficiency.

The door handles for the project match an older handle from Lowry Chapel, also located in Eckhart Hall. The identical handle was purchased from House of Antique Hardware. The ichthus, also known as the “sign of the fish,” is carved numerous times into each of the door handles—this symbol consisting of two intersecting arcs resembling the profile of a fish, was used by early Christians to represent their faith.

“The restoration process has revitalized the historical value of Eckhart Hall,” Spangler said. “Through careful planning, we were able to preserve the past, perhaps for another 100 years, at which time the same template can be duplicated again, to last an additional 100 years.”

A



# JACK THORNTON

The William G. Thornton Gymnasium within the Alumni Hall of Physical Education was completed in 1970 and is a memorial to the son of 1931 alumnus Jack Thornton. The younger Thornton was killed in 1961 from an accident on the Thornton farm a few miles west of Aurora.

In 1966, Jack Thornton and his wife Alice (Bigler) Thornton, also an Aurora College graduate (Class of 1928), challenged other alumni to help fund a new gym. The couple promised to donate \$150,000, if alumni would raise an additional \$300,000. After several years, the fundraising goal was met.

Jack Thornton, active in the Advent Christian denomination, was owner and president of Jackson Press in Chicago. He also served on the Aurora College Board of Directors. Alice went on to receive her degree in library science from the University of Minnesota, and then worked as a teacher and assistant librarian at Aurora College.

“I remember Jack as being Mr. Aurora College,” said Susan Palmer. “He was a gregarious man who was an exuberant supporter of the college.”

Jack and Alice lived their adult lives in the Aurora area, before retiring in 1971 to the Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, Florida.

A

Wilkinson Hall has a more varied history. Named after William Wilkinson (1855–1913), who invented the Wilkinson band saw used in lumber plants, the four-story hall originally served as a dorm for 35 men. However, the southern third of the building was not completed until 1925, with one of the improvements being a hospital room with bath on the fourth floor.

## IT WAS SIMPLE WITH A POINTED GOTHIC FRONT DOOR.

All three buildings, with red brick and red tile roofs, remained the only three structures on campus until 1955, with the opening of Memorial Hall.

Today, campus visitors will view a stunning juxtaposition of the most historic and the most modern facilities on campus. Close to Eckhart Hall is the new John C. Dunham STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Partnership School. Opened in fall 2014, it is one of the few buildings on campus without a red tile roof, in part because it was connected to another building that lacked the signature roof. “The overall concept is more of a contemporary and high-tech style,” said Jeff Cali, assistant vice president of administration for the university.

Half of the single-story building serves roughly 150 third to eighth graders from surrounding school districts (which will increase to 200 students in fall 2015), while the other half is devoted to high-tech labs used by both Aurora University students and the same grade-school children.

But the hallmark of the STEM building is sustainability, including solar panels and a wind turbine. “When the conditions are right, the electrical meter will actually spin backwards; in other words, generating more energy than we use, thus becoming a producer for the local electrical utility,” Cali conveyed.

Maximum use of natural light is another feat, thanks to exterior windows in every room and strategically placed light shelves that efficiently distribute exterior light. Moreover, there are sensors in every room that adapt and compensate for exterior light conditions, dimming sections of the room or an entire classroom as needed. These sensors are also connected to the heating and ventilation system.

In addition, the STEM school has 12 environmentally friendly fume hoods that efficiently filter air internally, resulting in less energy use and a lower installation cost for heating, air conditioning and electrical. “We filter the air instead of basically exhausting it out,” Cali said. “We are not exhausting pollutants at all.” The green roof of the building also features a greenhouse and garden.

All of these efforts culminated in the STEM school being awarded LEED Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in May 2015. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the USGBC’s rating system for the design and construction of energy-efficient and high-performing buildings, and the Platinum level recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. The STEM school is one of three schools in Illinois and one of only 44 schools worldwide to obtain the LEED Platinum status.

A

## DOES AU HAVE A GHOST?

We’ve all heard stories, either first-hand or handed down, of ghost sightings around the AU campus.

There are rumors of a ghost in Eckhart Hall, as lights mysteriously turn on and off on their own. Is it the ghost of Charles Eckhart himself? Actors in Perry Theatre have out of nowhere felt a tap on their shoulders, perhaps as a cue that it’s time to speak their next line. And countless spooky tales have been told over the years of ghosts roaming the various AU residence halls, always friendly ghosts of course.

Do you have a ghost story to share?

A photo or a video? Please let us know at [uc@aurora.edu](mailto:uc@aurora.edu).





# The Perfect Partnership

**“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”**

While he wasn’t talking about Aurora specifically, this quote from American industrialist Henry Ford perfectly describes the ongoing partnership between the university and the surrounding community.

The warm welcomes and excitement that filled the streets of Aurora as Mendota College students arrived in 1912 represented the humble beginnings of what would prove to be a very successful collaboration between the Aurora community and Aurora University. Through milestones like the Great Depression and continuous institutional growth, the partnership has evolved, becoming the robust, mutually beneficial relationship it is today.

## EARLY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

The community of Aurora first sparked the historic partnership with Mendota College when leaders were determining which town to choose for the school’s new location. A land grant from Old Second Bank and financial donations from numerous local businesses showed that Aurora appreciated the value the college could bring to the town and made the decision an easy one. Originally an Advent Christian institution with limited financial support, the newly-named Aurora College benefited from the strategic business acumen

of president Orrin Roe Jenks. It was Jenks who proudly led the parade of educators and local townspeople from the Aurora train station to the new campus on April 3, 1912.

“Jenks clearly understood the importance of a supportive Aurora business community,” says curator of the Jenks Memorial Collection of Adventual Materials, Susan Palmer, PhD. “He tirelessly worked local connections to form partnerships and although there were many ups and downs, he knew the importance of helping the community see what a thriving university could do for Aurora.”



**THE SCHOOL'S MOVE FROM MENDOTA WAS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AS THE CITIZENS OF AURORA DESIRED A COLLEGE TO ENRICH THE CULTURE AND STATURE OF THE CITY, WHILE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS SOUGHT TO RELOCATE TO A MORE POPULATED AREA. HERE PRESIDENT ORRIN ROE JENKS HELPS TO LAY THE CORNERSTONE FOR AURORA COLLEGE'S FIRST BUILDING, ECKHART HALL, ON JULY 5, 1911.**

### ADAPTING WITH THE TIMES

With the onset of the Great Depression, traveling far from home to attend school had become difficult, and the national makeup of the student body began to change. By the late 1930s, AU experienced a surge in local student attendance. "The increase in local attendance goes hand-in-glove with the Community Campaign of the 1930s," says Palmer, who describes the campaign as a group of community members who donated and fundraised for the college. "The school was in desperate shape after the Great Depression and to serve area students, it needed help from local businesses." The Community Campaign lasted almost 60 years, eventually combining with an alumni fund to become today's A Fund.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS DEEPEN

A growing force of Aurora College-educated professionals also has strengthened community support. As the city's population boomed, the school system has followed suit and given young teachers the ability to hone their skills through training and employment. Over the years, noneducation majors have had just as many local opportunities to work in the community. "This relationship demonstrates a

true partnership," says Palmer. "The community provided a training place for our future educators and employees."

### INNOVATION AND INGENUITY

Creative solutions for community needs expanded as the college-community relationship evolved. After World War II, the school opened the first evening program in the area, extending community education access to returning soldiers who worked full time. Beginning in the 1960s, the Management Development Center connected local businesses with much needed middle management candidates.

Today, in partnership with local organizations, AU's Career Services department prepares students for internships and employment

through event and long-term programming. "Having these relationships intact and approachable—it's so helpful for students to see and be a part of that," says Tory Nair, director of career services. "The students learn that these are people just like you and me in the same community we live in. These are important connections to make." Nair is currently working toward participation in the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program, which would allow otherwise unpaid student internships to be eligible for payment while further enhancing public-private sector affiliations.

### COLLABORATION FOR THE FUTURE

Founded in 2003, the AU Institute for Collaboration unites university resources

with the greater Aurora community in the areas of education, health and human services, business and government to address critical community issues. "In October 2005 we began to investigate what community issues could be addressed by a collaborative effort of multiple institutions," says Sherry Eagle, executive director of Aurora University Institute for Collaboration. "We came together to achieve a desired outcome and had lots of conversations about what would be the Institute's work."

Initial efforts included school day extensions for elementary and middle school students and safety programming for active senior citizens. But the team's most groundbreaking collaboration began in 2008 when they focused efforts on a partnership school. The





on-campus John C. Dunham STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Partnership School opened in fall 2014 and serves 150 third through eighth grade students (the student population will grow to 200 later this year). Taught by community educators with input from local businesses, students benefit from multiple laboratories, the latest technology and hands-on education.

“The students are actively engaged in meaningful learning exercises,” said Edward Howerton, assistant to the president for STEM education. “They aren’t just reading about something. They are hands-on. Corporate partners pose problems, the students work on them and come back with solutions. They watch university students in the laboratories and can relate to having done similar work. And learning on the Aurora campus is inspiring many of them to look ahead and plan their futures—with college being a primary goal.”

This strong connection and substantial involvement from the university is a vital part of the process—AU School of Education students participate in classes; AU School of Nursing students serve as health aides; AU faculty teach at the school; and nearly 25 university students mentor STEM school students during an after-school program, which was developed by education and psychology majors.

“Together, we have created an educational reform model, transferrable and sustainable,” says Eagle. “And early evaluations show improved academic achievement of students.”

Today, Aurora University encourages students to “Discover What Matters. And Build Your Life Around It,” and the institution takes that mandate to heart. Since 1912, AU has discovered what matters in the Aurora community and through innovation, ingenuity and collaboration built successful programs and services around those needs. In turn, the Aurora community has supported the university, grateful to help cultivate the talents of the young students and professionals it welcomes into its businesses, schools and neighborhoods.

A



## Celebrating the arts

The university has also shared cultural events through the years that both the internal and external community have enjoyed. For example, the Celebrating Arts and Ideas series brings nationally known leaders to campus and events are open to the public, free of charge—a practice that continues to thrive today. Plays and concerts are shared with the community, students participate in local political campaigns, community members hold roles on the college’s board of directors and theology students assist local ministers. As the student body grows, so do the community partnerships, with new and exciting connections that offer mutual benefit.

“It’s been a pleasure connecting the campus to the community in so many ways over the years,” says Sarah Russe, vice president for community relations. “Our collaborative work sets the stage for a better Fox River Valley and also empowers students to positively participate in their own communities upon graduation.”

A



**“Our collaborative work sets the stage for a better Fox River Valley.”**





# Learning How to Learn

*Longtime AU sociology professor Barbara Strassberg, PhD, gives students the ultimate gift—the life skills that unlock their potentials.*

Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, the students, faculty and staff of Aurora University enter its doors focused on higher learning and their place in the achievement of it. What they experience is likely more than they expect, and all are better for it.

Such is the case for Barbara Strassberg, PhD, professor of sociology and AU educator since 1991, who treasures her experience helping students achieve their goals. Strassberg began her career in Poland, at Jagiellonian University, an institution that boasts a 650-year tradition of teaching and research excellence. After immigrating to the U.S. in 1984, Strassberg taught at the University of Chicago, DePaul University, Columbia College, Triton College and College of DuPage before finding her home at AU.





IN 2014 DR. STRASSBERG RECEIVED THE SPIRIT AWARD, ONE OF AURORA UNIVERSITY'S HIGHEST HONORS. THE AWARD RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUALS FOR UNSELFISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND STEADFAST LOYALTY TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND ITS CONSTITUENTS. TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: NATHAN RIEMER, AU '06, JULIE GREGG, AU '14, REBEKAH BURROWAY, AU '00, DEANNA CHILDRRESS, AU '06; BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: FATIMA SATTAR, AU '06, BARBARA STRASSBERG, CHERYL JOHNSON, AU '89

"I have to admit that from the very beginning I had a sense Aurora University was 'my place.' It was small, very family-like, and faculty had a lot of freedom in designing courses," Strassberg says. "At the same time, the small classes allowed us to develop strong relationships with students."

The building of those relationships would be a cornerstone of Strassberg's work. With the leadership of AU mentors like sociology

professor Kenneth Olenik, AU President Rebecca Sherrick and former provost Andrew Manion, Strassberg fine-tuned her ability to connect with AU students. Quickly, she injected the European system of education into her instruction. This meant increasing expectations of her students, getting to know them as individuals, ensuring their undivided attention and reserving praise for praiseworthy effort.

"I learned quite early in my career that

teaching according to 'one size fits all' is not the most effective way to stimulate students' learning. Moreover, I realized that as teachers we project our own self into every course we teach," Strassberg says. "Therefore, I experienced a cultural shock when I first encountered community colleges where one textbook was used for all sections of a given course, and student learning was assessed based solely on multiple choice tests."

"One size fits all" has never been the teaching style of

Strassberg, something her students appreciate. In fact, grateful past and present students spoke on her behalf last fall when the professor received AU's esteemed Spirit Award, honoring her as a model of citizenship, integrity and steadfast commitment to the institution and its mission.

When describing her relationship with Strassberg, former student Fatima Sattar '06 said "little did I know that I'd be given an unexpected, everlasting gift of passionate instruction, intellectual stimulation, professional development, valuable mentorship and motherly affection." Student Cheryl Johnson '96 offered, "you opened all of our eyes to the international community in which we live and are challenged to work and serve. You moved us all, regardless of age, out of our comfort zone."

It's clear that students

benefit from Dr. Strassberg's challenging yet nurturing environment where she concentrates on the transformative power of learning. "I do call my students 'disciples' and they accept that label, because they understand that this relationship has always expanded over and beyond the transmission of information," Strassberg says. "At AU I focus on the 'production of my professional replacements,' making sure they are going to

*"Students have to develop the skills of self-education, because regardless of the starting point on the day of commencement, these skills will let them get as far as they are willing to go and where they need to go to succeed in the labor market."*



## L.E.A.D. program helps students help others

Understanding their place in the global family is a thriving concept among AU students, who have an innate passion for helping those in need. Combining principles of social change and servant leadership, the Leadership Education And Development (L.E.A.D.) program is committed to student growth, community building and stewardship.

“Sometimes people think that service starts when you’re older,” says Kris Johnson, director of student leadership, academic advisor and director of the L.E.A.D. program. “But when you’re young you have the passion. Our students get excited and engaged knowing they can make a difference.”

Through four yearlong tiers of service, students discover who they are as leaders and then apply their strengths in various environments. Ranging from personal work to social change projects of increasing size, culminating in a mission trip in tier four, students plan and execute projects and evaluate their success.

Like much of the programming at AU, the L.E.A.D. program was an answer to ideas from the student community, specifically socially-conscious students who wanted to learn more about themselves and give to others.

From simulating homelessness during Sleep Out on the Quad to building homes with Habitat for Humanity, students have been growing their social consciousness through L.E.A.D. since 2007. “The university’s service initiatives have grown so much over the 14 years I’ve been here,” says Johnson, who considers it an honor to watch her students become servant leaders. “I just love my job. If I won the lottery today, I wouldn’t quit.”

A



**SHAWN GREEN, PHD, PROFESSOR OF MARKETING AND VERNON HAASE PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS (LEFT) AND SENIOR AU STUDENT, COLBY GURA (RIGHT), REVIEW AND DISCUSS GURA'S PRESENTATION AT AU'S 2015 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE. THE CONFERENCE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO LEARN DISCOVERY AND REFLECTION, CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, AND HELPS PREPARE THEM WITH SKILLS NEEDED IN BOTH GRADUATE SCHOOL AND THE WORKFORCE.**

be of a higher quality than I am, and be better adjusted to functioning in the unknown future.”

“Learning how to learn” is a key goal Strassberg sets for her students in order to prepare them for those unknown futures. “Students have to develop the skills of self-education, because regardless of the starting point on the day of commencement, these skills will let them get as far as they are willing to go and where they need to go to succeed in the labor market.”

Strassberg says all AU faculty members shape the lives of AU students. “My students are our students, and my colleagues also influence our students even though in different

ways than I do, and in different aspects of the college experience,” says Strassberg, who credits AU’s liberal arts history as a contributor to future student success. “Successful education today is less about specific skills relevant at the start of the career and more about skills to acquire knowledge throughout life and to evolve as circumstances require. I am pleased that our newly redesigned general education core that incorporates disciplinary distribution is going to help our students ask the ‘ultimate questions’ about the deeper meaning of their own existence within the context of their personal and professional microcosm, and of the global human family.”

A



**SENIOR AU STUDENT VEREENA MESSIEHA EXPLAINS HER POSTER PRESENTATION ON A MATERIALS STUDY OF POLYMERS USED IN 3D PRINTING: A STUDY OF DURABILITY AND ELASTICITY IN REGARDS TO CHILDREN'S HAND PROSTHETICS - AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH STUDY FUNDED BY THE MONTICELLO FOUNDATION, SPONSORED BY DR. SHARON MILLER. THE CONFERENCE PROVIDES ATTENDEES THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE A PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SIMILAR TO WHAT THEY MIGHT LATER BE EXPOSED TO AS PART OF THEIR OWN CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATIONS.**



# Revisiting Selma, 50 years later

**PERHAPS HIS TRANSFORMING PERSONAL JOURNEY BEGAN BACK IN 1961 WHEN HE ARRIVED AT AURORA COLLEGE AS A YOUNG, NAIVE 18-YEAR-OLD. GROWING UP ACROSS SEVERAL DIFFERENT STATES IN THE SOUTH, JOHN ALAN BORYK, AC '65, LIVED AS MANY PEOPLE DID AT THAT TIME, UNAWARE OF THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD AND TUMULTUOUS EVENTS THAT WERE TAKING PLACE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.**



**JOHN ALAN BORYK (LEFT) AND TED JONES REVISIT SELMA IN MARCH 2015.**

Coming to Aurora in the early 60s from rural Oklahoma, Boryk had very little exposure to or appreciation for diversity—like most Southerners at the time, he attended segregated schools and it wasn't until he made his way north to advance his education that he discovered people with differing beliefs.

"Aurora exposed me to a larger world than I grew up in, and it challenged me to think beyond my earlier experiences," said Boryk. "My eyes were opened to different philosophies and different cultures. It definitely broadened what I would now call my narrow thinking."

Then again, maybe his transformation from boy to man, from wide-eyed kid to worldly adult, actually took place in early 1965. It was one week after the historic "Bloody Sunday"\* event

happened, and a small group of Aurora College students were invited to go to Chicago's Orchestra Hall to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak.

When the group entered the auditorium, Boryk realized that they were not there to attend a rally, but more of a worship service. Boryk grew up an Advent Christian and was actually attending school to become a pastor, but he was still skeptical. However, the service moved him intellectually and emotionally in what he now refers to as a "conversion experience."

After the worship service, Boryk introduced himself to Dr. King and shared how that day's events had so monumentally altered his ideas and thoughts. In response, Dr. King put his hand on Boryk's shoulders saying, "You'll be okay, and I'll pray that you'll be okay." A few days later, Boryk and several

Years later, Boryk and alumnus Ted Jones, AC '66, returned to Selma for the 50th anniversary of the original march.

"It was an emotional experience to say the least," said Jones, who did not receive parental consent to travel to the 1965 march, but remembers attending a Sunday evening service when the students returned to campus. "Their stories were filled with emotion and they gave courage to many of us to speak out about the right for African-Americans to vote."

When Jones received a call from Boryk months before the anniversary event, he jumped at the chance to finally go to Selma after 50 years. "We have many bridges to cross yet in this beloved country. The issues for racial justice have hit a strident chord of late," he said. "We never move ahead without telling our stories. They anchor us, challenge us and transport us across divides that we never thought possible."

With more than 70,000 people in attendance, Boryk and Jones were able to share stories with others who were there in 1965, and hear directly from Rep. John Lewis and President Barak Obama. The President's moving speech was one of Boryk's most memorable moments of the celebration, as it allowed him to realize the importance of the Voting Rights Act that was passed, particularly on the presidency today.

"I am glad that Aurora College provided the space and place for me to find out what was really important, and that's what I did," said Boryk. "Not everyone was in agreement with what Dr. King was doing, but the college was supportive of me and the others who went down there, and for that I am grateful."

**A**

**“MY EYES WERE OPENED TO DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES AND DIFFERENT CULTURES.”**

other students were invited to attend the march in Selma led by Dr. King, an opportunity that Boryk could not pass up.

*\*On Sunday March 7, 1965, approximately 600 civil rights marchers led a peaceful protest in support of African-American voting rights out of Selma, Alabama. They were only about six blocks into the march when state and local lawmen drove them back into Selma with billy clubs and tear gas. Soon after this event, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a "symbolic" march to the bridge.*



# CONNECTING ALUMNI OF AU

*As of April 16, 2015*

'10s

**ETHAN CASHEN, BA '14**

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Cashen recently finished playing semi-professional soccer in England.

**ERIK DABBS, BA '13**

HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE

Dabbs is a police officer with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

**ELISE FIELDER, BA '14**

WESTMONT, ILLINOIS

Fielder is a correctional officer at Sheridan Correctional Center.

**CAMERON GOLTRY, BA '13**

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

Goltry recently began an assets protection career with Target.

**JESSICA GRAZULIS, BA '13**

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Grazulis recently served as Fellow of the Week through the AmeriCorps program.

**SUSAN HARVEY, MSW '12**

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Harvey is a medical social worker at JourneyCare.

**JULIE HUFFMAN, BSN '14**

STREATOR, ILLINOIS

Huffman is employed as a peripherally inserted central catheter line nurse.

**COURTNEY (MURRAY) KIBBLE, BA '11**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Kibble got married in December 2014.

**LAUREN KING, BSN '13**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

King is currently working as a health assistant at Child Service Center.

**JOSHUA MIKA, EDD '13**

MONTGOMERY, ILLINOIS

Mika, a teacher and librarian at Beebe Elementary in Naperville, Illinois, received the Indiana University School of Education-Jacobs Educator Award. Mika has taught in the library and media center for nine years. In 2011, he was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, and he now serves on the U.S. Apple Distinguished Educator Advisory Board, responsible for planning and implementing annual summer institutes. Mika holds a doctorate of education from Aurora University, where his research focused on the mobile generation. He speaks regularly at national EdTech and library media conferences and also works with the Illinois State Library as an instructor for Illinois ILEAD (Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover) USA, an organization that promotes best use of technology by librarians.

**KIMBERLY (TACKES) MOONEY, BSN '14**

LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Mooney is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program at Aurora University Woodstock Center.

**WILBERT PEREZ, BA '13**

OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA

Perez was promoted to Accountant II at the Florida Department of Transportation.

**KATELYN PIETRASZAK, BA '13**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Pietraszak works at Emergent Safety Supply and is getting married this spring.

**LISA RACIAK, MSW '14**

LEMONT, ILLINOIS

Raciak is a social worker at Presence Saint Jospeh Medical Center.

**ANGELA SCOTT, BSN '11**

ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA

Scott is teaching Aurora University Online RN to BSN program classes.

# WELCOME, BABY SPARTANS!

**STEVEN HARRY, BA '12**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Harry and his wife, Melissa, welcomed their son, Payton James, in January 2013. Harry works at Grand Ridge National Bank.

**JOANNA (CABALLERO) BURKNAP, BA '09**

PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

Burknap is the proud mother of Edward Richard.

**CHRISTIAN DE KOK, BA '07, AND KERBY**

**MICKELSON, BA '07**

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

The de Kok family welcomed son Phineas in July 2014.

**JESSICA (WITKOWSKI) BATEMAN, MSW '05**

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

Bateman is pleased to announce the arrival of her daughter, Jocelyn Rose Bateman, who was born last December.

**MATTHEW CLOHESSY, BA '05**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Clohessy welcomed his first child, Sadie Anne, last October.

**CHRISTOPHER MCVEY, BS '04**

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

The McVeys welcomed Benjamin Thomas to their family in August 2014.

**BRIAN KIPLEY, BA '02, AND SAMANTHA**

**(AKERS) KIPLEY, BSN '10**

MONTGOMERY, ILLINOIS

The Kipleys welcomed their second child, Chad, last September.

**DID YOU HAVE A BABY? SEND A PHOTO OF YOUR BUNDLE OF JOY TO ALUMNI@AURORA.EDU, FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE AURORA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE.**

**ALEXIS SICHERMAN, BSN '14**

GENEVA, ILLINOIS

Sicherman is working at a residential psychiatric facility.

**TRACY SWAIN, BA '13**

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Swain is a special education teacher for students with emotional disabilities.

**MELANIE TOPPMEYER, MSW '14**

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

Toppmeyer is working as an elementary school social worker.

**TIFFANY WALZ, BA '13**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Walz has been accepted to the College of Marine Mammal Professions to study marine mammal behavior, care and training in Florida.

**MEGAN WEBSTER, BS '14**

ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS

Webster is teaching integrated mathematics at Antioch High School.

'00s

**BRENT BAKER, BS '08**

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

Baker is the head of new business development at B-O-F Corporation.

**MELISSA BYRNE, BA '06, MAEL '10,**

**EDD '15**

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

Byrne completed a doctoral degree in education in March 2015 from Aurora University.

**JULIE (GREENWALDT) EKLUND, BA '02**

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Eklund is a seminary student at Chicago Theological Seminary.

**DANIEL ERMITAGE, BA '07**

LYONS, ILLINOIS

Ermitage coaches the Illinois State Championship boys basketball team at St. Joseph High School.

**PEGGY FRANKLIN, MAEL '08**

SHABBONA, ILLINOIS

Franklin recently earned a doctorate in education leadership.



**JAMES GEER, BA '07, MAEL '13**

STERLING, ILLINOIS

Geer is the principal of Tampico Elementary School.

**JENNIFER (FINN) GOODWIN, BS '08**

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

Goodwin works in the medical field, helping to hire physicians and advance practice professionals.

**THOMAS KRIEGLSTEIN, BA '03**

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Krieglstein was named the 2014 Association for the Promotion of Campus Ministries Campus Student Leadership Speaker of the Year.

**SYLVIA (MARQUIS) MARQUIS-HURST, BSW '06, MSW '11**

PERU, ILLINOIS

Marquis-Hurst is a caregiver counselor for Hope and Promise EAP.

**LAURA MARTINEZ, BS '08**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Martinez practices optometry in Bolingbrook.

**DUANE MEIGHAN, EDD '04**

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Meighan is the director of teaching and learning at Arlington Heights School District 25.

**CATHERINE (ZANIS) OLIVER, BA '09, MSW '14**

ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS

Oliver is a screening assessment and support services provider for Kane and Kendall counties.

**RAQUEL TERAN DE VALDEZ, BA '06, MA '14**

AURORA, ILLINOIS

De Valdez is teaching first grade bilingual at Dieterich Elementary School.

**STEVEN TORRES, BA '09**

NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS

Torres is a web content writer.

**JUNE WOOTEN, MSW '09**

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Wooten was recently appointed as one of the five fire and police commissioners for the City of Elgin.

**AMANDA (DAVIS) ZIRZOW, BA '00, MAEL '02**

DE KALB, ILLINOIS

Zirzow is teaching 8th grade mathematics with 1:1 technology (Chromebooks).

**'90s**

**KELLY BANKS, BSN '97**

SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS

Banks recently earned a Doctor of Nurse Practice degree.

**NANNETTE BANKS, BA '92**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Banks is with the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ.

**CRAIG FISHER, MSW '90**

CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

Fisher was elected to the board of directors of the Renal Network.

**AMY (ROGERS) GATELY, BA '96, MA '11**

ELBURN, ILLINOIS

Gately was married in 2014 and continues to work as a special education teacher.

**DANIEL HUMPHREYS, BA '95**

POWDER SPRINGS, GEORGIA

Humphreys is the director of sport and high performance for the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.

**ANTHONY JANISCH, MS '95**

WASHBURN, WISCONSIN

Janisch was recently profiled in the Penzeys Spice catalog. To read the article, visit [bit.ly/1EiVwJL](http://bit.ly/1EiVwJL).

**MAGDALENE MOORE-HUGHES, BA '96, MBA '04**

BATAVIA, ILLINOIS

Moore-Hughes recently celebrated 40 years of dedicated service at Caterpillar Inc.

**KARISSA (HIGGINS) RELIFORD, BA '99**

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Reliford got married in 2013.

**JORDON WOLF, MSW '98**

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

After his deployment to Afghanistan, Wolf took a job with a Veterans Health Administration hospital.



**DR. JENNIFER BUCKLEY, AU '95**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE, AURORA UNIVERSITY**

**UNDERGRAD EXPERIENCE GATEWAY TO TEACHING FUTURE**

Working in the health field was never a consideration for Dr. Jen Buckley when she began as a first-generation student at Aurora University. She was unsure how AU could help shape her future, but fondly recalls two mentors who led her on a path of discovery.

“Dr. Jane Davis and Coach James Lancaster had a tremendous influence on my future,” said Buckley, who is now associate professor and chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance at AU. “They guided me as I determined that helping people was what matters and empowered me to believe that I was capable of academic success.”

After three years as a certified athletic trainer, Buckley returned to AU. “My career has been influenced by what I discovered about myself as a college student,” she said. “My professional experiences have allowed me to help people.”

As a professor, Buckley impresses

upon her students to discover what matters. “I want students to open their eyes to different possibilities and realize their greatest purpose,” she said. “That’s what my mentors did for me. I’m continuing that tradition.”

She’s also collaborating with her colleagues through participation in various committees. “When faculty work together, we’re investing in the well-being of the university,” she said. “It’s an extension of how we help and mentor students.”

It’s this spirit of a student-centered culture that inspires Buckley today. “Early in my educational career, I focused on how to be a good teacher,” she said. “Now my focus—and that of my colleagues—is on how to help students learn best. Faculty are here for the students. I know from personal experience, we are the foundation to their future.”

**A**

**'80s**

**ROBERT ARVIN, '83**

OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Arvin is an auxiliary deputy with the Kendall County Sheriff’s Department, a member of the Kendall County Emergency Management Agency, and a member of the Kendall County Search and Rescue Team.

**CINDY (HICKMAN) DAVIS, MSW '89**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Davis is working on a PhD dissertation for Walden University where she is studying public health/epidemiology.

**BONNIE (KISIELEWSKI) KISIELEWSKI-REYES, BA '87**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Kisielewski-Reyes married Juan Reyes in 2013.

**JOHN MAYNEN, '84**

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS

Maynen is working to establish public-private-nonprofit partnerships to help lift people from the dependencies that keep them in poverty.

**BEATRIZ (PEREZ) MUNOZ, BA '80**

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Munoz has been a social worker for 30 years.

**JILES TAYLOR-GEORGE, BSN '88, MSN '89**

HAZEL CREST, ILLINOIS

Taylor-George is a parish nurse at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.





**BRIAN STADING, AU '85**  
**NORTHWEST REGION PRESIDENT, CENTURYLINK**

**ENTRY TO LEADERSHIP SUCCESS STARTS AT HOME PLATE**

Aurora University has always been known as a place for people to maximize their unique talents—even when they are on display behind a mask, chest protector and shin guards. For alumnus Brian Stading, playing catcher on the AU baseball team gave him a special viewpoint looking out onto the field, and allowed him to gain experiences that would serve him well going forward into the business world.

“As the catcher, it’s your job to make sure everyone is aligned in the right position on each play,” said Stading, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. “You’re making decisions on every play—this is very transferable to life in business.”

Graduating from AU with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Stading realized early on the benefits of both higher education and building his professional network.

“Getting the degree is what opened the door for me,” said Stading. “Like anything, networking is a very significant part of the job and pursuing opportunities.”

Currently President of CenturyLink’s Northwest Region, Stading has ultimate authority of all operational and financial areas in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Clearly Stading’s successful experience playing AU baseball had a positive impact on the type of person and leader he has become.

“You can make a choice in life—you can either try to just get by, or you can be willing to go out and make those difficult decisions. To me, that is the true definition of a leader.”

A

**DANIEL TOPPING, BA '80**  
**HELENA, ALABAMA**

Topping is a custom car technician/fabricator and restoration technician.

**JACK WESTPHALL, BA '88, MBA '11**  
Westphall was appointed Merit Commissioner of the Kendall County Sheriff’s Office in March 2015.

**'70s**

**MARGARET (SEVERIN) BAUMGARTNER, BA '78**

**ELBURN, ILLINOIS**  
Baumgartner is celebrating 24 years as a child care provider.

**RAYMOND BEZANSON, '71, AND JANET (GIBB) BEZANSON, '73**  
**WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN**

In addition to being the pastor at Watertown Advent Christian Church, Bezanson serves as Central Advent Christian Mission Society regional president.

**JANE BODINE, BA '77**  
**NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS**  
Bodine is working to help more families who need specialized treatment for obsessive compulsive disorder, trichotillomania, excoriation disorder, panic and hoarding treatment.

**DEBORAH (MEYER) CONLEE, '76**  
**MONTGOMERY, ILLINOIS**  
Conlee has completed the Registered Health Information Technician and Professional Coder certification and is completing apprenticeship hours.

**RONALD DAYTON, BA '71**  
**CAMBRIDGE, WISCONSIN**  
Dayton is an education and team-building consultant.

**DOUGLAS GEETING, BA '73**  
**WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA**  
Geeting is looking forward to leading his fifth tour of the Holy Land next summer. He is active in the National Capital Area Emmaus community.

**CHARLES HOYER, BA '78**  
**NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS**  
Hoyer continues to train real estate agents, listing and selling homes.

**KENNETH INGALLS, BA '71**  
**GRANGER, INDIANA**

Ingalls will be inducted into the Iowa Golf Coaches Hall of Fame this spring, in Ames, Iowa.

**KATHY (LIIMATAINEN) JOHNSON, BA '77**  
**CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND**  
Johnson is the director of the U.S. Diplomatic Center Museum.

**STEVEN JONES, BA '75**  
**THOMASTON, CONNECTICUT**  
Jones is volunteering to mentor youthful offenders at Manson Youth Institution, Cheshire, Connecticut.

**STEVEN RUSHER, BA '78**  
**BLAINE, MINNESOTA**  
Rusher is an entrepreneur with his Roosters Men’s Grooming Center.

**DIANA (HART) RYBINSKY, '73**  
**MANASSAS, VIRGINIA**  
Rybinsky works for CVS Minute Clinic as a nurse practitioner.

**'60s**

**LEONARD BADAL, '66, AND RUTH (HOFELDT) BADAL, BA '67**  
**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**  
Leonard and Ruth recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

**JOHN ALAN BORYK, BA '65, BT '65**  
**DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS**  
Boryk participated in the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voters Rights March, recalling being in the demonstration 50 years ago.

**THOMAS GANDEE, BA '69, AND CYNTHIA (COOPER) GANDEE, BA '69**

**EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA**  
The Gandeess celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary last year.

**NANCY (SMITH) HOPP, BA '68, MS '82**  
**AURORA, ILLINOIS**  
Hopp was recently appointed to the board of The Conservation Foundation.

**ARTHUR MORSE, BA '64**  
**PITTSFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
Morse recently finished serving on the school board, marking four different decades of serving on the board, totaling a little over 16 years of service. In March, he was elected as School District Moderator to accompany his position as Town Moderator.

**JOHN PEAVY, '66**  
**JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**  
Peavy is on the board for the Mayor’s Fire Museum and president of the Fire Fighters Death Benefit Fund Inc.

**JOHN WEBB, BS '64, AND JANET (KUNZ) WEBB, '61**  
**NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS**  
John and Janet recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

**KENNETH ZELLMER, BA '66**  
**SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS**  
Zellmer is secretary for three service organizations and member of four more.

**'50s**

**ROALD BERG, BA '56, AND FRANCES (WALDRON) BERG, '57**  
**AURORA, ILLINOIS**  
Frances is celebrating her 80th birthday by participating in the Avon Breast Cancer Walk in honor of Linda Lou Seeley, AC '77, and Helen Scofield Carver, AC '57.

**LEE KILLGORE, BA '58, BT '58, AND MARY (HAGER) KILLGORE, BA '58**  
**LAKE KIOWA, TEXAS**  
The Killgores celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in 2014.

**RONALD MURCH, BA '53, BT '55**  
**LEWISTON, MAINE**  
Murch is publishing a book about time as seen scientifically and as interpreted in the Bible.

**HOLICE TURNBOW, '52**  
**STURBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
Turnbow exhibited his more than 35 years of work as a designer, teacher and writer of quilting. The exhibit was organized by the Original Sewing and Quilting Expo, a subsidiary of F&W Publishing which is a major publisher of textile art material, Internet and other media.

**KENNETH WEBSTER, BA '57**  
**PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA**  
Webster was awarded Honorary Doctor of Religious Education from New Covenant University of Jacksonville, Florida, in 2013.



# CONNECTING ALUMNI OF GWC

*As of April 16, 2015*

'10s

**JUNE WILLHITE, BA '13**  
WALWORTH, WISCONSIN  
Willhite is writing for Lake Geneva area newspapers.

'00s

**CYNTHIA BLEVINS, BS '06**  
GILBERT, ARIZONA  
Blevins works for Deluxe Financial Services.  
**HAYDEN HOWES, BS '09**  
BATAVIA, ILLINOIS  
Howes is a recruiter/advisor for Aurora University Woodstock Center.

'80s

**NOREEN (BURKE) COUSSENS, MBA '86**  
MOUNT PROSPECT, ILLINOIS  
Coussens is a geriatric care management consultant.  
**MATTHEW ELLMANN, BS '82, AND KATHLEEN MLYNIEC-ELLMANN, BS '83**  
BATAVIA, ILLINOIS  
Kathleen is a recreation specialist. Matt is executive director of Wood Dale Park District.  
**DONNA FITZGERALD, BA '85**  
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Fitzgerald recently published “Reruns,” a collection of poetry and prose.  
**SUSAN (TAMILLO) GAGE, BS '81**  
WHEATON, ILLINOIS  
Gage is a corporate coach program coordinator at Advantage Coaching & Training.  
**KAREN HYDE, MS '86**  
WESTMONT, ILLINOIS  
Hyde is working for InSite Health as an industrial sports medicine professional.  
**ANA (WIENER) KING, BA '81**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
King earned a doctorate in community college leadership. She is a faculty member at Truman College – City Colleges of Chicago.  
**PHILIP KOEHL, BS '81, MSW '82**  
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS  
Koehl was elected chair of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Social Work Examining and Disciplinary Board.  
**PATRICK MCCLAUGHRY, MS '86, AND SUSAN (OLDHAM) MCCLAUGHRY, BS '85**  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
Susan is working in geriatric nursing. Pat is a certified physician assistant.

**MARGRIET (WRAGE) MURPHY, BS '80**  
MACHESNEY PARK, ILLINOIS  
Murphy works at Rockford Memorial Hospital as an activity therapist.  
**JAMES PATRIZI, BS '83**  
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA  
Patrizi is teaching wound care curriculum at Samuel Merritt University and University of the Pacific when he is not working at the VA.  
**CYNTHIA (FORD) QUARTERMAN, MS '85**  
TOCCOA, GEORGIA  
Quarterman recently began corporate team coaching.  
**JOEL TAYLOR, BS '84, BS '84, AND DIANE (SEDLACEK) TAYLOR, BS '84**  
MONEE, ILLINOIS  
Diane teaches physical education and health at a K–12 private school, and Joel works with the outdoor adventure guiding business they own.

'70s

**PAUL ATKINS, BS '78**  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN  
Atkins works with an agency that provides treatment foster care, educational and afterschool and weekend programming for at-risk children.

**MARCIA (BACKIEL) BARBER, MS '76**  
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI  
This May, Barber will lead a team of young professionals who work with immigrants and refugees, to New Zealand for a month-long vocational exchange.  
**WILLIAM DAVIS, MS '76**  
MATTESON, ILLINOIS  
Davis recently received the President’s Award of the Chicago Association of Black Social Workers.  
**MARY EVERSON, MS '76**  
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS  
Last November, Everson advocated before the United Nations Committee Against Torture for the United States periodic review regarding compliance with the Convention Against Torture.  
**THOMAS FISHER, MS '72**  
BEND, OREGON  
Fisher is working in student services at Oregon State University-Cascades.  
**RONALD GUNTER, BS '76, MS '78**  
WESTMONT, ILLINOIS  
Gunter is finishing his 38th year with the Westmont Park District where he has served as director since 1980. He was elected mayor in 2013.  
**ELAINE (RICHMOND) JONES, BS '70, MS '79**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Jones is active with the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; she currently serves as its Chicago district treasurer.  
**TERRY KNEISLER, BA '70**  
GRESHAM, OREGON  
Kneisler serves on local nonprofit boards and is

president of Rotary.  
**GEORGE KOTSAKIS, BS '76**  
PALATINE, ILLINOIS  
Kotsakis is the chairman of the department of surgery at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.  
**SANDY (MICKLEWRIGHT) MCNEIL, BS '76**  
JAYAPURA, INDONESIA  
McNeil works with international students at Colorado State University.  
**NELSON NDOVE, BS '72, MS '73**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Ndove recently started a private family foundation that focuses on food, health, education, economic development, and engineering economics research and development projects in Africa, Latin America, Asia and some marginalized communities in the U.S.  
**WILLIAM TAKACS, MS '77**  
WILTON MANORS, FLORIDA  
Takacs hires and trains sales and management staff.

'60s

**GARY ARPS, BS '61**  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
Arps is a California licensed professional fiduciary, serving as a probate administrator, conservator, trustee and successor trustee.  
**RALPH CORDES, BS '60**  
PORTLAND, MAINE  
Cordes conducts studies for the Council on Accreditation.  
**ROGER CURLESS, BS '68, MS '76**  
AURORA, ILLINOIS  
Curless is coordinator of justice

for Our Neighbors, a clinic that provides free legal services for the immigrant poor in the greater Aurora area.  
**FRANCES (PETERMAN) MEYER, BS '63**  
WESTMONT, ILLINOIS  
Meyer recently attended Virginia Wood’s 100th birthday party; Wood was an instructor at GWC.  
**LARRY SMITH, BS '63**  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
Smith retired in 2008 and became a volunteer at the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

'50s

**JERALD ALPERT, BS '58**  
KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI  
Alpert is the chairman of the Brown School Eliot Society and is active in raising funds for scholarships.  
**REGINA (BROWN) MANLEY, '56**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Manley is president of Manley & Associates Education Consultants.  
**HENRY NUSSBAUM, '54**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Nussbaum is specializing in professional liability insurance for physicians and dentists.

DO YOU HAVE A CLASS NOTE TO SHARE? SUBMIT IT AT ALUMNI.AURORA.EDU OR SEND IT TO ALUMNI@AURORA.EDU.



IN MEMORIAM *As of April 30, 2015*

AU

Dorothy (Shaw) Knox, BS '30  
Cedarville, Michigan  
*May 14, 2008*

Kate (Singleterry)  
Codington, '41  
Yucaipa, California  
*Feb. 4, 2008*

Pauline (Crouse) Crimi, BA '42  
Westminster, Colorado  
*Apr. 19, 2015*

Luella (Warriner) Johnson, BS '44  
Dowling Park, Florida  
*Apr. 11, 2015*

Allen Marshall, BT '44, BA '51  
Billerica, Massachusetts  
*Dec. 10, 2012*

William Walker, '44  
Live Oak, Florida  
*Jan. 10, 2014*

Jean (Gallier) Lewis, BS '45  
Corona, Arizona

R. Evangeline (Ward)  
Ward-White, BA '46  
Waldport, Oregon  
*Dec. 24, 2014*

Gerald Henningson, BS '50  
Naperville, Illinois  
*Dec. 30, 2014*

Katherine (Colton)  
Marshall, '50  
Waterford, California

Louis Vago, '50  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida  
*Apr. 24, 2015*

Harry Ilseman, '51,  
Oswego, Illinois  
*Dec. 15, 2014*

Richard  
McClammy, '51  
Sequim, Washington  
*Nov. 18, 2014*

Barbara (Jebens)  
Patrick, BA '52  
Beverly Hills, Florida  
*Jan. 22, 2015*

Lyle Gramley, '52,  
HON '03  
Potomac, Maryland  
*Mar. 22, 2015*

Leslie Jewett, BS '52  
Lakeland, Florida  
*July 22, 2013*

Boyd Potter, BS '53  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Feb. 23, 2015*

Charles Cain, BA '54  
Pinopolis, South Carolina  
*Mar. 30, 2015*

AU  
REMEMBERS  
DR. SAM  
BEDROSIAN

Former Aurora University Athletic Director, coach and professor Dr. Sam Bedrosian, passed away on February 2, ending his courageous battle with cancer. Affectionately known across campus as “Dr. B” and “Coach B,” Bedrosian worked at Aurora University for more than 30 years. The

SAM  
MENTORED  
AN ENTIRE  
GENERATION  
OF AURORA  
STUDENT-  
ATHLETES

teams he coached were applauded for being the finest in the Aurora College tradition of sportsmanship, courage and conduct. Bedrosian was the driving force that developed a solid athletic program at AU, and he played a major role in the design and building of Alumni Hall of Physical Education in 1969.

“As a coach, athletic director and teacher, Sam mentored an entire generation of Aurora student-athletes,” said President Rebecca L. Sherrick. “Within a few weeks of arriving on the AU campus as a new president in 2000, I began to hear stories about the legacy of ‘Dr. B.’ We were thrilled to welcome him back to campus several times in recent years, and last summer the university named the area surrounding our new bronze Spartan Bedrosian Plaza in his honor. For years to come, Aurora University students, faculty and staff will be reminded of Sam’s powerful legacy. The university community joins the Bedrosian family in mourning the loss of a great man.”

A

AU  
REMEMBERS  
PAULINE  
CRIMI

Pauline Crimi '42, wife of James, passed away on April 18. Both Pauline and James (former Aurora College president) were active in the business and charitable life of the Aurora community. Reflecting on Pauline’s life, President Rebecca L. Sherrick offered the following:

“In many ways, Pauline Crimi embodied the university’s motto of ‘Character and Scholarship.’ I knew Mrs. Crimi to be a very private person who thought carefully about important subjects and issues. She was an avid student of art and music who sometimes talked of her own wish as an undergraduate to earn a doctorate in art history. It was her passion for learning, especially about art and music, that prompted her to travel frequently as a young wife and mother to the University of Chicago for lectures, exhibits and concerts. It was this appreciation for beauty that drew me to her when I first came to Aurora University. In so many ways, she shared her life with that of the college during a very critical time in the institution’s development. I enjoyed Pauline so much and was glad to count her as a friend.”

A

Jo (Dannewitz) Fauth, '54  
Shawano, Wisconsin  
*Oct. 21, 2014*

Eugene Downing, BA '55  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Feb. 22, 2015*

Virginia (Waterhouse)  
Procter, BA '55  
Dayton, Maine  
*Feb. 2, 2015*

Kyle Johnson, '56  
Sheridan, Illinois  
*Jan. 7, 2014*

Clayton Travis, BA '60  
Springfield, Illinois  
*June 22, 2014*

Thomas Moss, '62  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Dec. 27, 2014*

James Lennox, BS '63  
Auburn, Massachusetts  
*Dec. 3, 2014*

John Mosins, BS '65  
Yorkville, Illinois  
*May 2, 2009*

Joan (Shoemaker)  
Thompson, BA '66  
Lisle, Illinois  
*Dec. 18, 2014*

Ronald Saltzgiver, '66  
Mission Viejo, California  
*Aug. 31, 2014*

Roxanna (Tate) Sieber, BA '67  
Villisca, Iowa  
*Jan. 18, 2015*

John Sable, BA '69  
Deep River, Connecticut  
*Mar. 14, 2014*

Robert Dicks, BA '70  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
*Mar. 14, 2014*

Clifford Erickson, '71  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Dec. 29, 2014*

Richard Kunstman, '71  
Batavia, Illinois  
*Apr. 9, 2015*

George Vandeveire, '71  
McHenry, Illinois  
*Nov. 8, 2005*

Deborah (Lash) Bower, BA '72  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
*Dec. 13, 2014*

David Ruhl, BA '73  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Jan. 3, 2015*

Frederick Schroeder, '73  
Naperville, Illinois  
*Nov. 18, 2014*

Cheryl (Anderson)  
Daunheimer, '74  
Rockford, Michigan  
*Dec. 1, 2014*

Rand Ohlsen, BA '75  
Richton Park, Illinois  
*Aug. 8, 2012*

Elaine Hodapp, BA '76  
Boynton Beach, Florida  
*May 5, 2013*

Marilyn (Jansen) Smith, BA '76  
Green Valley, Arizona  
*Feb. 21, 2015*

Thomas Caldwell, BA '77  
Ramona, California  
*July 2013*

Herman Stredde, BA '77  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Jan. 22, 2015*

Elizabeth Hurd, BA '78  
Montgomery, Illinois  
*May 18, 2014*



Ruby Lee, '78  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Jan. 2, 2015*

Jack Lane, '84  
Harrisburg, Illinois  
*Apr. 15, 2015*

David Scarpetta, '87  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Jan. 31, 2015*

Carolyn (Webb) Dammann,  
BA '86, BSW '88  
Harpwell, Maine  
*Aug. 11, 2006*

Donald Puppilo, '88  
Oswego, Illinois  
*Apr. 5, 2008*

John Yurkovich, '88  
Santa Cruz, California  
*Dec. 20, 2014*

Mary Pierceall, BA '89  
Aurora, Illinois  
*Apr. 5, 2015*

Ronald Valley, BA '89  
Montgomery, Illinois  
*Feb. 1, 2015*

Ingrid (Zajone) Reese,  
MA '90  
Batavia, Illinois  
*Oct. 13, 2014*

John Luka, BA '91, MS '96  
Arvada, Colorado  
*Dec. 3, 2013*

Carolyn Wolfe, MAT '91  
Winfield, Illinois  
*Dec. 3, 2014*

Cheryl Bower, MAT '93  
Madison, Wisconsin  
*Dec. 2, 2010*

Elizabeth (Costello)  
Mikesell, MAT '95  
East Peoria, Illinois  
*Feb. 4, 2015*

Diane Fulfer, MAT '98  
MAEL '06, Plano, Illinois  
*Nov. 22, 2014*

Kathleen Cordes, BSW '01,  
MSW '02  
North Aurora, Illinois  
*Jan. 1, 2015*

Marilyn (Goryszewski)  
Winton, MAT '01  
Woodstock, Illinois  
*June 13, 2014*

Ryan Heffner, MAT '02  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin  
*Nov. 26, 2014*

Andrew Graham, BA '03  
Neenah, Wisconsin  
*July 1, 2012*

Susan Alford, MAT '04  
St. Charles, Illinois  
*Apr. 4, 2015*

GWC

Leota (Swanson) Rogers,  
BS '40  
Decatur, Georgia  
*Sept. 16, 2014*

Wayne Gocke, BS '48  
Boise, Idaho  
*Feb. 7, 2013*

Robert Brunken,  
BS '52, MS '61  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
*Sept. 9, 2014*

Russell Marchand, BS '53  
Cumberland,  
Rhode Island  
*Jan. 30, 2015*

J. Thomas Kirby, MS '54  
San Antonio, Texas  
*Nov. 21, 2014*

Kenneth Little, MS '54  
Hoquiam, Washington  
*Nov. 10, 2014*

Leroy Anderberg, '66  
Fraser, Colorado  
*Feb. 20, 2015*

Barry Thresher, '68  
Wausau, Wisconsin  
*Mar. 15, 2015*

Jacqueline (Smith)  
Schlifke, BA '69  
Carol Stream, Illinois  
*Oct. 13, 2014*

Steven Blanton, BS '74  
Hungry Horse, Montana  
*Nov. 25, 2014*

## AU REMEMBERS LOUIS VAGO

Louis Vago, a longtime friend of Aurora University and lifelong Aurora resident, passed away April 24, at the age of 89. Vago attended Aurora College from 1946 to 1948 and continued a special relationship with the institution over the years. In 2008, he provided a leadership gift for the athletic field that is named in his honor.

"Lou saw how improving the sports field would give more opportunities for practice—not just for the football team—but for soccer and other student activities as well," said Executive Vice President Ted Parge. "Thanks to his being gifted in business and having made some investments, he gave the school a sizable gift which he asked not ever be disclosed and we have honored his wishes."

A

Opening doors around campus: 1. Winston Paul Educational Center (GWC) 2. Dining Hall (AU) 3. Phillips Library (AU) 4. Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action (AU) 5. Aurora University Woodstock Center 6. Alumni Hall (AU) 7. Perry Theatre (AU) 8. Beasley Campus Center (GWC) 9. Spartan Hideaway (AU)



IN 1962, THE DOORS OF CHARLES B. PHILLIPS LIBRARY OPENED. LIBRARIAN AND ENGLISH PROFESSOR ETHEL TAPPER LED STUDENTS AND STAFF IN MOVING EVERY VOLUME FROM ECKHART TO THE NEW LIBRARY.



TAPPER'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN THE NEW RECITAL HALL NAMED IN HER HONOR. THAT FACILITY, INSIDE THE HILL WELCOME CENTER, WILL OPEN ITS DOORS LATER THIS YEAR.





347 S. Gladstone Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506-4892

# Commencement 2015

THE AURORA UNIVERSITY  
COMMUNITY GATHERED  
DURING BEAUTIFUL SPRING  
WEATHER AT GEORGE  
WILLIAMS COLLEGE AND  
ON THE MAIN CAMPUS IN  
EARLY MAY TO HONOR  
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF NEARLY 1,400  
GRADUATING STUDENTS.

**803**  
CONFERRED  
BACHELOR  
DEGREES

**538**  
CONFERRED  
MASTER  
DEGREES

**24**  
CONFERRED  
DOCTORAL  
DEGREES

**30**  
AU ONLINE  
GRADUATES

