



AURORA UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE ————— VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 — SUMMER 2016



**GROWING BEYOND
LIMITATIONS**



Rebecca L. Sherrick
REBECCA L. SHERRICK
PRESIDENT

A few days ago, I learned that Aurora University again has been designated a “Tree Campus” by the Arbor Day Foundation. This recognition is awarded annually to colleges and universities that satisfy five national criteria, thereby demonstrating an ongoing commitment to conservation, beauty and a healthy planet. This spring the AU community celebrated Arbor Day by planting a ginkgo near Eckhart Hall. A newly installed camera is chronicling the flowering of the Greenspire Lindens that flank the new entry to the campus. We look forward to sharing this “time lapse story” with you on the website.

The news from the Arbor Day Foundation caught me in a reflective mood and reminded me of the amazing trees I grew up with in rural Illinois. My parents’ barn-red house was surrounded by cottonwoods, elms, spruces and maples, where we built many tree houses. My sisters hid bags of candy in the hollow of a neighbor’s apple tree and all four of us looked for perfect buckeyes on the way to school and gathered persimmons in my grandmother’s back yard. And then there was the statuesque ginkgo tree at the end of the street, where frequently we paused to make leaf bouquets to share with favorite teachers.

As I close my eyes, I can see each tree yet today. I have vivid memories of the hours spent in their company, the secrets exchanged as we pried open buckeye shells. I realize now that I have no idea who planted the trees or why they selected particular species. I’ve come to realize that planting is an act of faith, a belief that future generations will befriend the tree someday and will appreciate its beauty. It won’t surprise you that I view our work at Aurora University in much the same way. Each year we welcome new students and say goodbye to others — always hoping that the time we spend together will matter over the course of a lifetime and beyond.

Spring has come to the campus again. In higher education, this is a wonderful time of year. As the temperature climbs, the parkas and boots of winter give way to sandals and shorts and the Quad is alive in activity. Each day I notice some new sign of the season as students polish papers, ready poster presentations, anticipate interviews and await news from graduate and professional school applications. The Spartans are victorious on the field and diamond and are setting new records on the track. At Aurora University, these rites are sure signs of spring. And so we plant trees together, secure in the knowledge that our work will grow in meaning as the years come and go.

Communication majors *walk the talk*

For communication major Kari Huizenga, it all came together in her senior capstone project: a semester-long blog called “Campus Meets Community.”

“It was a sort of travel and lifestyle blog for AU students,” she explained. In each of the blog’s 12 installments, Huizenga featured affordable local restaurants and entertainment or highlighted volunteer opportunities available to students throughout the area.

“The posts would range from written reviews to videos to multi-media,” she said. “I was responsible for everything — writing the scripts, operating the camera, editing, posting. It required that I apply everything I had learned in my communication classes.”

And that’s no accident, according to Toby Arquette, associate professor and chair of the university’s department of communication. In fact, preparing communication students to tackle real-world hands-on projects like “Campus Meets Community” is a key component of the department’s philosophy.

Through a variety of co-curricular activities, including student media, competitive forensics, professional organizations, and internships — some required, others elective — students receive a broad and deep understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of communication as well as the nuts-and-bolts, day-to-day know-how of, say, producing a weekly newscast, writing a feature story or planning and executing an advertising campaign.

Arquette has overseen rapid growth in the communication department since his arrival in 2008. Then, the department enrolled only some 30 majors and employed a single full-

time faculty member. Today it boasts five full-time faculty, a full-time lecturer and a host of adjuncts who instruct almost 200 students seeking bachelor’s degrees in either traditional communication (public relations, advertising, professional speaking and writing) or media studies (multimedia journalism, broadcast media production, graphic design and film studies).

In addition to building the faculty and refining course offerings, Arquette paid special attention early on to building the department’s co-curricular offerings.

“

OUR GOAL WAS TO BOOST THE DEPARTMENT’S PROFILE AND THE QUALITY OF THE DEGREE, WHILE CREATING THE VERY BEST EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS.
— TOBY ARQUETTE

”

Walking the Talk

Co-curricular activities ultimately help prepare communication majors for employment, too, a fact not lost on Kari Huizenga. In addition to her capstone project, she completed a yearlong stint working on the news team with AU Spartan Media (AUSM), a co-curricular that encompasses student-produced and distributed streaming video, audio and digital publications.

All communication seniors are required to work for AUSM on one of four teams — news, sports, culture, or public relations and advertising — in any of a number of roles, including reporter, editor, account executive, camera person, director, digital designer ... the list goes on.

For Huizenga, who plans to pursue a career in broadcast journalism after graduation, the hands-on experience AUSM provides is invaluable. “You can’t just go out and say, ‘I’m going to be a broadcast anchor,’

without ever having been in front of a camera or read from a teleprompter,” she said.

Her classmate Robert Zeglinski agrees. He played football for AU during his first two years here, and later combined his love for sports and writing as editor of AUSM’s sports team, writing for AU’s online student newspaper and producing and hosting various sports shows and podcasts. His “Sports Editorial Round-Up” from October 2015 won second place last fall in the Illinois College Press Association’s (ICPA) annual Award for Excellence in Illinois College Newspapers competition. His radio and television work has also helped him land an internship with Chicago’s WGN-TV this summer, as well as a job covering the Chicago Bears for the Rockford River Times and a staff writer position with SBNation’s SecondCityHockey.com.

KARI HUIZENGA AND ROBERT ZEGLINSKI



Speaking of Communication

It’s been said that Americans fear public speaking more than death itself, but in today’s world the ability to persuade, inform and educate — and to do so face-to-face in an engaging manner — is a highly valued skill. That’s why the communication department last fall created a special topics course designed to prepare students not only to speak publicly but also, as part of the AU speech team, to participate in intercollegiate speech competition.

The team competed in 10 tournaments this season, traveling as far afield as Butler University in Indianapolis and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the Public Communication Speech and Debate League National Tournament (PCSDL) held at Butler, the team placed second in Division II School Sweepstakes and fourth in Overall School Debate Sweepstakes.

Attaining national ranking, especially in a team’s first year, is no small feat, according to Brianne Giese, a communication lecturer and AU’s director of forensics. “Most of the team’s 10 members had never given a speech in front of people,” she said. “It was an exciting year, and I’m looking forward to seeing what we can do next year.”

Alyssa Gibbas, who placed in three categories at the PCSDL National Tournament, will be back to compete this fall. A sophomore studying English and music, she is one of several team members who are not majoring in communication. Nevertheless, she appreciates the value that participation in speech can add to any field. “First, it’s a great asset in an interview to be able to speak extemporaneously,” she said. “It also gives you the skill set necessary to connect various topics. I am always looking for ways to connect my two interests, English and music.”

Real-World Experience

Professional organizations provide other opportunities to gain experience. The communication department works closely with the marketing department to co-sponsor AU’s chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA). Communication students provide public relations and advertising support for the chapter as well as communications surrounding its annual Collegiate Conference, which attracts AMA chapters from across the country to AU each fall. The three

AMA communication teams also support the chapter’s activities at AMA’s spring International Collegiate Conference held in New Orleans.

Alyssa Mok, a junior studying graphic design, takes over as vice president of the AMA’s public relations and advertising team in fall 2016. Her affiliation with the group has already led to a project to create a social media guidebook for the League of WWI Aviation Historians, and plans are in the works to develop a rebranding strategy and new promotional material for a local wedding chapel. “I’m getting real experience doing work for companies that will look great on my resume and in my portfolio,” she said.

With her AMA work and the experience she received as an intern with the university’s communications office, Mok said she feels “very prepared” to pursue her dream of becoming a professional graphic designer.

“I appreciate how much the communication department has grown during my four years here,” said Zeglinski. “The faculty has taken great care to make sure we are prepared, and for me it’s been the best experience in my life.”

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ALYSSA GIBBAS



ALYSSA MOK



Seizing the Home Field Advantage

The band blares the *Fight Song* as cheerleaders clap in time. The scoreboard flashes, and fans jump to their feet to greet the Spartans.

It's another Aurora University home game and the setting could be either Vago Field or Thornton Gymnasium. Like their namesakes of old, the Spartans are on the march, confident that the home field advantage is theirs. And so we are pleased to announce our plans for developing the all new Spartan Athletic Park.



Tentative concept as of spring 2016.
Final design subject to change.

Spartan Athletic Park

Shortly after the purchase of the land necessary for the new Spartan Athletic Park, a number of architects that specialize in such projects were invited to submit proposals for consideration. At the conclusion of the review process, the nationally recognized firm of Hastings+Chivetta was selected to develop plans for the new athletic campus.

As this initial phase of dialog unfolded among the various stakeholders in the project, the university's Board of Trustees affirmed its commitment to establishing championship-caliber facilities suitable to host National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III tournament competition as well as other high-profile contests. Several additional principles will guide the project as it advances:

- » The new Spartan intercollegiate athletic facilities will exist in a parklike environment, where the natural beauty of the terrain is accentuated.
- » Primary emphasis will be placed upon the creation of excellent playing surfaces and support facilities for student-athletes utilizing the facility.
- » Attention also will be dedicated to ensuring that fans in attendance at competitions are provided with suitable accommodations and support facilities.
- » Given the university's commitment to development of truly excellent learning environments, care will be taken also to ensure that landscaping, signage, lighting and circulation are enhanced throughout the new intercollegiate park.
- » Consistent with Aurora University's evidence commitment to sustainability, facilities will be developed in an environmentally responsible way.

University leaders recognize that multiple years will be required to complete the development of all aspects of the new intercollegiate athletic park. In order to facilitate this process, the institution will assume primary responsibility for expenses associated with site preparation, circulation and management, and will turn to individual donors and the wider philanthropic community for investment in particular competitive resources. Current estimates suggest that an investment of approximately \$20 million will be required to bring this vision into reality.

The university community is proud of AU's recently renovated training, conditioning, practice and competition spaces on the main campus. We are proud also that our hockey teams claim home ice at the nearby Fox Valley Ice Arena. Our challenge now is to ensure that ALL of our Spartan teams experience a distinctive home field advantage.

Certainly such playing environments are important for the recruitment and retention of gifted coaches and student-athletes. Like excellent science laboratories, smart classrooms and gracious performance venues, they bespeak an institutional emphasis on educational excellence as well as a value system that prioritizes safety, conditioning and learning.

In recent years, the university invested heavily in the renovation of existing on-campus facilities, including Thornton Gymnasium, Vago Field and Alumni Hall. Concurrently, leaders launched a search to identify a site for development of additional facilities. This effort culminated in the 2015 cash purchase of 45 acres of land less than a mile from the campus.

The parcel, located just south of the Aurora Country Club, is large enough to accommodate championship-quality softball, baseball, soccer, tennis, and track and field venues. The availability of additional land in the vicinity of the new property is more than sufficient to satisfy future expansion of athletic, recreational, academic and residential facilities.



Up First: A New Softball Stadium

Few Midwestern colleges and universities claim as victorious a softball tradition as Aurora University. From its early years with Dr. Sam Bedrosian as coach, to more recent seasons under the leadership of Coach Mike McKenzie, the Spartan softball program is a study in excellence.

Since 1976, AU softball teams have amassed a record of 963 wins, 469 losses and 6 ties. In the process, the Spartans earned 22 conference championships and advanced into NCAA tournament play 16 times. AU's strongest showing in post-season play came in 1982, when the Spartans finished fourth in the nation.

The first facility to be developed in the new Spartan Athletic Park will be a \$1.7 million softball stadium. The site preparation phase of the project, which will require the moving of over 11,000 cubic yards of dirt, will begin later in 2016. Approximately 40,000 square feet of premium synthetic field turf will be required for the outfield, batting cages and infield surround. The NCAA-recommended mix of clay, sand and silt will be used for the warning track and outfield.

Two 800-square-foot dugout structures with polished brick walls and AU blue metal roofs will be located along the first and third baselines. Blue fencing with white safety padding on top, customized with the Spartan logo, will be used throughout the stadium. Two bullpens with professional quality mounds will be placed in close proximity to each team's dugout. Six 70-foot tall light towers will provide professional grade illumination for night games.

Amenities for the new softball stadium will include seating for 300 fans immediately behind home plate with natural grass areas along the first and third baselines for overflow crowds. A high-quality wireless digital scoreboard is planned for the outfield. The stadium will be completed with a two-story press box structure with live camera feed, public address system, restroom facilities and equipment storage.

It's easy to see why Head Softball Coach Mike McKenzie and his team are so enthusiastic about plans for the new facility. In the words of a current player who hails from California, "The new stadium will attract a wide range of softball recruits that will help better our program. I'm excited to have a place to call our own!"

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LARKIN LANGSTON

Intensity and focus ensure success on and off the field

Even off the field, AU softball standout Larkin Langston's blue eyes maintain a certain hawk-like intensity.

And it's that intensity, she said, along with a self-described aggressive playing style, that makes her tick as the Spartan's shortstop and powerhouse hitter.

A sophomore majoring in nursing, Langston was raised in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Although she grew up playing basketball and running track, softball was her first and abiding love.

"I've played since I was in kindergarten," she said, adding that in a family with brothers who played baseball and an ex-ball-player father who coached her softball teams, it was almost impossible not to play the game and be very good at it.

The high school team on which she played shortstop, for example, Westosha Central, won the 2014 Wisconsin state championship her junior year, and as a senior she was named Wisconsin's high school infielder of the year.

Heavily recruited, Langston could have attended any number of larger schools, according to Mike McKenzie, AU head softball coach. "We are really lucky to have her," he said.

McKenzie has nothing but praise for his starting shortstop, citing her conference-leading 13 homeruns during the 2015 season and her NACC Freshman of the Year honor.

Langston credits McKenzie with bringing her to AU, in part because she likes his own intense, winning attitude, but also because he was instrumental in allowing her to weave her passion for playing softball with her studies.

"At most universities, softball is a full-time job," he explained. "A nursing major would not be able to play during her junior and senior years because of the clinical obligations. We find ways to work around that."

In addition to the flexibility that allows her to be as intense about her studies as she is about playing, AU's intimate setting and small class sizes appealed to her as well. After having completed "a bunch of science classes" during her first two years, Langston will enter her nursing program next fall, her goal since high school when she watched her mother provide long-term care for her grandmother, who was suffering with Alzheimer's disease and a massive antibiotic-resistant infection.

Already a certified nursing assistant, Langston said that her decision to become a nurse sprang largely from her religious faith and from observing the impact that doctors, nurses and others, like her mother, can have on the patients' outcomes. "I love the aspect of helping people to get better," she said. Upon graduation she hopes to work as a pediatric nurse or with premature babies in a neonatal intensive care unit.

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A New GWC Chapel

MAKING SPACE FOR

REFLECTION ♦ STUDY ♦ WORSHIP ♦ FELLOWSHIP



At Aurora University and George Williams College, we understand our purpose to be transforming lives through education.

We immerse our students in inclusive learning environments and emphasize the mastery of vital skills, knowledge and values, always with the goal of preparing graduates for lives of meaning and leadership. On our historic Geneva Lake campus in Wisconsin, we affirm the special opportunity to draw upon the timeless values of the GWC tradition to serve the needs of today and tomorrow.

Integral to this tradition is the understanding that human beings possess “body, mind and spirit.” At George Williams, we affirm this perspective and are committed to helping our students grow as whole persons. The current academic year began with the designation of a chaplain, who works with students and faculty in many settings to foster spiritual growth. Now we seek to create a worship center on campus, a place for reflection, study, worship and fellowship.



A chapel for George Williams College

University leaders have developed a plan that calls for the redevelopment of the Ingalls Children's Building for service as a campus chapel. As the illustration on the preceding pages suggests, we envision an open space with large, expansive windows and flexible seating. Elements of vibrant stained glass will enliven the environment as will graceful chancel furnishings and a small spinet piano tucked in the corner.

Immediately in front of the chapel, in the area once occupied by a playground, we anticipate a garden for reflection and prayer. Scattered among the plantings will be small sculptures, artistic and scriptural reminders of God's purpose for our lives. The new chapel will relate closely to the Mabel Cratty building through a shared courtyard and walkway. Estimates place the cost of the renovation phase of this project at \$491,000.

In many ways, our vision for the new chapel is reflective of the university's larger commitment to preserving the GWC tradition. Recent years included the renovation and repurposing of a number of existing structures, including Weidensall, Lowrey, Meyer, Brandenburg and Mabel Cratty. We seek now a similar future for the Ingalls Children's Building.

The story behind the building

As the owner of the North Western Refrigerator Line Company, J. Kibbin Ingalls played a vital role in the development of Chicago's meatpacking industry. His firm leased the refrigerated rail cars necessary to transport product from the stockyards throughout the country. In memory of daughter Ruth, a victim of tuberculosis at the age of 6, Florence and J. Kibbin Ingalls contributed \$2,500 to launch construction of the Children's Building on the George Williams campus.

Like many of the iconic buildings on the GWC campus, the Ingalls Children's Building was designed by architect Emery Stanford Hall. The child-scaled facility included a kindergarten, a nursery, a kitchenette and two fireplaces. A large, tree-shaded playground developed nearby proved especially popular with older children who accompanied their parents to the campus.

Ingalls was dedicated in 1926, just months before a similar ceremony was held at the adjacent Mabel Cratty building. With the development of the two buildings, still connected today by a shared courtyard, an early vision of the camp's Ladies Auxiliary was realized.

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Student job helps former basketball player find what matters

If anyone had told high-school student Andrew Spellman that in college he would be heading up one of the campus's largest student volunteer service activities, he would have laughed.

Volunteerism was never very high on his list back then. In fact, he didn't have a list. He pretty much had basketball, and as it turned out, basketball was what led him to Aurora — at least that's the way it seemed at the time.

"I had always really wanted to play in college," said the junior business major from Lee Summit, Missouri. "That's what I wanted to do. Aurora recruited me, provided academic funding and made it a reality."

But after his freshman season, Spellman's passion for basketball faded and he left the squad. His love for the game had given way to other interests, interests that would ultimately affect every aspect of his life. Primary among them was a deepening of his Christian faith; another was a part-time job at the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, the heart of AU campus ministries.

There he was put in charge of organizing the center's biannual Morning of Service, an opportunity for students to join forces for a day of volunteering at nonprofit organizations throughout the Aurora area. This spring's Morning of Service (April 9) brought out some 140 student-volunteers who did maintenance at a local soccer facility, spruced up a homeless shelter and pitched in on other jobs around town.

The experience, he said, has given him a better understanding of what motivates others. "I know that many people have a passion for volunteering. It's cool to put other people where they want to be."

The Wackerlin Center job has affected Spellman in other ways, too. It's given him the opportunity to polish his professionalism, especially in communicating with supervisors, potential volunteers and nonprofit organizers.

"The experience has helped me to grow, not just how to become more professional," he said. "It's helped me to grow as a person, to be more considerate of other people and their backgrounds. The Wackerlin Center is about faith, but not about a particular faith. It's really helped me to be more thoughtful about other people's thoughts and feelings."

"When I first came to AU, I didn't know how the slogan 'Discover what matters and build your life around it' would apply to me," he added. "But in my three years here, I think I have done that. I really believe that when I'm walking away from Aurora, I will have discovered what matters to me."

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The flora of AU explode in an array of colors every spring, intimating warmer days, outdoor activities and the end of the academic year. Here are a few shots of AU springing to life in recent months.

The GWC Bucket List

40 ideas for all four years

The first set of undergraduates who started as freshmen at George Williams College of Aurora University graduated in May. The newest members of the GWC alumni family reflected on their time on campus and offered current and new students a Top 40 list of favorite activities, giving new meaning to the term “experiential learning.”

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|---|--|--|
| 1 Participate in a faculty/staff vs. students volleyball game. | 15 Start a fundraiser for a club or a community organization. | 28 Go bowling. |
| 2 Have coffee at the Coffee Mill. | 16 Go rock climbing. | 29 Slide down the hills. |
| 3 Walk the Geneva Lake Shore Path. | 17 Enjoy ice cream on the pier from the College Inn. | 30 Visit small shops and businesses in downtown Williams Bay. |
| 4 Say “dirt” to Associate Professor of Environmental & General Sciences Richard Boniak (it’s soil!). | 18 Volunteer on an Alternative Spring Break trip. | 31 Explore downtown Lake Geneva. |
| 5 Explore the East Campus and Vision Hill paths. | 19 Stay on campus over the summer. | 32 Go horseback riding. |
| 6 Tour Yerkes Observatory. | 20 Take an elective unrelated to your major. | 33 Visit AU’s main campus in Aurora, Illinois. |
| 7 Walk through the campus. | 21 Volunteer in the local community. | 34 Study abroad. |
| 8 Attend a Lunch & Learn session. | 22 Have a game night or a movie event. | 35 Walk across the Ferro Pavilion stage. |
| 9 Play a game of pool in Beasley Campus Center. | 23 Attend the annual Murder Mystery Dinner. | 36 Set a good example for underclassmen. |
| 10 Kayak, sail and paddleboard on Geneva Lake. | 24 Sing karaoke. | 37 Participate in a photo shoot or campus promotional video. |
| 11 Study in the woods. | 25 Enjoy a Music by the Lake concert. | 38 Purchase GWC attire at the Campus Shop. |
| 12 Tap maple trees on upper campus for syrup. | 26 Schedule a tutoring session in the Learning Commons. | 39 Work on campus. |
| 13 Join a campus club. | 27 Have a bonfire on campus with friends and fellow students. | 40 Attend a Sundays at 4 performance. |
| 14 Volunteer at the Research and Education Farm. | | |

MUSIC BY THE LAKE



YOUR TICKET TO SUMMER ON GENEVA LAKE

World-class entertainment combined with the natural beauty of the George Williams College of Aurora University campus will draw thousands of visitors to Music by the Lake this summer. This year marks the 16th season of the festival, which runs during weekends from June to August on the scenic shores of Geneva Lake.

Complementing the Celebrating Arts and Ideas series on the Aurora campus, Music by the Lake upholds a tradition of the arts at the university. Guests of all ages enjoy the outdoor setting of the Wisconsin campus while listening to artists present classical, contemporary and family entertainment.

Whether sitting in the Ferro Pavilion or gathering with friends and family for a picnic on the lawn, the sights and sounds of Music by the Lake make for memorable weekends and enjoyable summers. More than 80 performances have been hosted at George Williams College since the music festival’s revival in 2001 — a true commitment to connecting the campus to the community.



JUNE 26 | 4:00 P.M.
LAKE GENEVA SYMPHONY SUMMER WALTZ



JULY 9 | 7:30 P.M.
MICKY DOLENZ THE VOICE OF THE MONKEES



JULY 16 | 7:30 P.M.
POSTMODERN JUKEBOX



AUGUST 7 | 4:00 P.M.
IMAGINATION MOVERS



AUGUST 13 | 7:30 P.M.
CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC THE SONGS OF RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN



AUGUST 20 | 7:30 P.M.
AN EVENING WITH STRAIGHT NO CHASER

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2016 SEASON, VISIT MUSICBYTHELAKE.COM

On Being the Color Peanut Butter

Jade Strong is a secondary education/English major from Lake in the Hills, Illinois. “Poetry has this wonderful capacity for telling stories,” she said. “It captures the essence of a moment. ... It says what can’t be said.” Strong read this poem during Honors Convocation in April.

In third grade my class did a heritage project. Each student was to study one country of his or her ancestry bringing in food and pictures, and creating a paper plate snowman dressed in the country’s traditional garb. It was meant to be a marvelous study of the great American melting pot.

I stole home that afternoon to tell my mom the news and to ask eagerly what country our ancestors came from. And my mother gently explained that our ancestors were slaves and their cultures were stripped from them and it was very unlikely that we would ever know where in Africa they came from.

I went to school the next day to tell my teacher and she came up with an easy solution: “That’s OK! You can just study Africa!” ...“Yeah. OK!” And to the library we went, my class and I. I approached the shelf with the books on Africa as an adventurer on the cusp of discovery, and there I came to a startling realization. I went to tell my teacher and said, “Africa is a continent.”

“Oh...well...that’s OK, you can just pick a country in Africa.”

I had the best ancient Egyptian snowman in the whole class.

In those days it was popular to give the playground pie chart presentation of one’s ancestry. “I’m mostly Irish, but I’m also English, French, and Norwegian on my dad’s side.” “Well, I’m one-half Swedish, 40 percent German, 20 percent Irish, and the rest Dutch.”

“I’m 14 percent Russian, 25 percent Italian, 45 percent Lithuanian, 14.7 percent Polish, and 1.3 percent Cherokee.”

It came to me. I announced that I was 20 percent from Narnia, 20 percent from Oz, 20 percent from Wonderland, 20 percent from Neverland, and 20 percent from Atlantis.

When you have no heritage you create your own.

In 12th grade I remember sitting in my Recent Fiction class reading “The Help.” And a woman in the story asks her friend how would she like it if her daughter had to sit next to a black boy in English class? I turned to my friend sitting next to me with a grin, “How would you like it if you had to sit next to me in English class?” And she said, “Jade, I forgot you were black!” And I said, “Me, too.”

And I remember watching “The Princess and the Frog” and another friend remarking wistfully that she wished she could sing like a black woman. And I said, “Me, too.”

And I remember listening in my Current Events class as they discussed a lingering discomfort the country had with cross-racial couples to the point a Cheerio’s commercial was pulled for the presence of a black father, a white mother, and their biracial daughter, and I remember thinking how every boy I’d ever liked had been white as snow.

And I still hear an echo from somewhere in those times when someone remarked, “Jade, you are the whitest black girl I know.”

Except as I recall, I find I can’t remember whose voice that was: someone else’s or my own?

And thus when I stepped on a college campus from a school whose pie chart read percentage of Black students 2.2 the questions of race still made my head twist and turn like a screw. My blackness was a question I did not know the answer to, was a question I wasn’t sure was worth asking, or should be asked at all. After all, was I not to be judged by the content of my character and not by the color of my skin? After all, aren’t all men created equal? After all, no one really saw me as black anyway, right? And I was almost afraid of being pigeonholed into someone I wasn’t except I was, except was I really? For I talked different, dressed different, I listened to different music And the thought sounds racist now, but maybe I didn’t know what that meant because I was shielded from that ugly word by an ivory tower of compassion.

But still the thoughts turned when the questions were asked and I did not know how to answer the article about this thing called white privilege that pointed out that when you’re white you’re almost guaranteed to know that the person at the salon — any salon — will know how to cut your hair. (I thought of numerous botched relaxers from hairdressers who *thought* they could do black hair and having to drive over 30 minutes to find someone who wouldn’t burn my scalp) Or to answer the presentation that discussed movie theatres in the ’70s and how you had to go to a certain kind of theatre to see a “black movie.”

(I thought of having to drive to a different town just to see “Fat Albert”). I didn’t know how to answer, but a part of me heard it all and whispered, “Me, too...me, too.” But the questions still spun me like a dancer or a pinwheel turned on the axle of this thing called identity.

Then one day I read a book about newly emancipated slaves hungry for knowledge and the power to decipher words on the page, a power so long denied them. The power to read a sign, or the Bible they were exhorted to follow that told them that they too were God’s children made free in the Spirit. And they built school buildings or church buildings used as schools or held them in their homes, or on plantations. And they walked for miles and miles, little children and old souls, barefoot and as they passed the “real” schools they needed to beware of stones and words like stones thrown at them by the children and the adults. And an educated black teacher who came down South and still found herself unable to sit and eat with her fellow teachers in the school room or live in the same place of lodging. The very idea of a black teacher at times caused scandal because it was all well and good “those people” learning *their* ways, but a whole other thing when they took up the power to mold minds themselves.

I read and I read and when I was done I left my college dormitory

and walked a hundred feet to my class in a perfect peaceful silence. I had shoes on my feet, and clothes on my back, and the knowledge that I would be welcomed when I got there. When I finished that class and all the others I would be certified to teach English — *English!* — because I am so obsessed with words that to imagine my life without a pen in my hand is to imagine a swordless knight.

And on that day I realized that I was the culmination of my ancestors’ dreams.

I looked down at myself, at my arms, and it struck me for the first time like a baby discovering her feet that I was the color of peanut butter, sweet and smooth, just a little bit quirky. And a few weeks later when a hairdresser slowly cut away the crumbling remains of the relaxer that was cutting my hair for me and she turned me around I saw in the mirror my natural hair for the first time in nearly 20 years. I didn’t know it could curl like that — like a storm cloud, like everything wonderful. And I went back to school and other girls who’d gone natural would stop and tell me with a knowing smile that they loved my hair and they told me what they put in theirs. And my heart skipped to the beat of “Me, too! Me, too!” And I was part of something.

And at the end of the day I did not have to segregate myself to learn about all of myself and I didn’t change myself either — except maybe my mind for the better.

’Cos at the end of the day all men are created equal but that doesn’t mean the world is a checkerboard. But that it is seeped in a kaleidoscope of colors all marvelous to behold. ’Cos at the end of the day I had always been — dare I say it — black enough.

This I say to my great-great-great-great-great grandmother who bore a daughter by her slave master and — if what the family lore says is true — went North on the underground railroad. And to her great-great-great-great granddaughter, daughter of a high school educated woman, who was the first black, female valedictorian in her high school and did not receive recognition for it for 50 years. To her great granddaughter, who graduated from the same high school as valedictorian — recognized. To her cousin, who as a girl was teased for looking too white to be black and too black to be white and as a woman asked what race they *thought* she was as an icebreaker on dates. To her daughter, who made an ancient Egyptian snowman for a heritage project, sang “Let It Go” for a black history month open mic night, and has finally discovered the beauty of being beautifully unboxable and of being the color of peanut butter.

CONNECTING AU ALUMNI

As of April 11, 2016

'10s

NORMAN ALLISON, BA '13 PLANO, ILLINOIS

Allison recently earned a master's degree in public safety administration.

JAMES BAILEY, BA '11 MONTGOMERY, ILLINOIS

Bailey founded Bailey Accounting & Co. in 2013.

MATTHEW BERMES, BA '13 OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Bermes teaches social studies and coaches soccer.

ELIZABETH CASEY, MSW '12 RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIFORNIA

Casey is an associate clinical social worker, managing foster and adoptive family caseloads.

BRIAN CONLEE, BSN '15 OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Conlee recently passed the National Council Licensure Examination and works for Newsome Home Health Care.

MICHAEL CONLEE, BSN '12 OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Conlee is now categorized as a Progressive Care Certified Nurse in the Intermediate Care Unit at Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois.

OLIVIA CRUMP, BSW '15 BUNDANG, SOUTH KOREA

Crump teaches preschool in South Korea.

SILVIA (ROMERO) CRUZ, BA '11 AURORA, ILLINOIS

Cruz works for the Kendall County State's Attorney's Office in the Felony and Juvenile Criminal Division.

ITZEL DE LA HOYA, BA '13 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

De La Hoya teaches Spanish, English and history at Vienna European School.

EMMANUEL DENTON, BSW '15 AURORA, ILLINOIS

Denton is working with children with special needs for the Menta Group.

JULIE GREGG, BA '14 BAGANUUR DISTRICT, MONGOLIA

Gregg is a secondary education and community development Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia.

ASHLEY HENDRIX, MSW '15 ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

Hendrix is a licensed social worker.

KATHERINE MCCLUSKEY, EDD, '16 PLAINFIELD, ILLINOIS

McCluskey recently co-authored "Game Plan: A Playbook for Developing Winning PLCs at Work" (Solution Tree Press, 2015).

MATTHEW MANISCO, MBA '13 GENEVA, ILLINOIS

Manisco is a construction underwriter with Zurich North America.

HEATHER MARTINEZ, BA '15 BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS

Martinez is a media analyst with NSA Media.

LINDA MEDRANO, BA '11 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Medrano earned a master's degree in organizational leadership in higher education and is pursuing a doctoral degree in education.

JESSICA MILLS, BA '14 EUSTIS, FLORIDA

Mills is a fourth-grade teacher.

SHAWNA-JOY OGUNLEYE, BA '14 BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS

Ogunleye is a Montessori research teacher.

ERIK ROSTAMIAN, MSW '15 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Rostamian is a licensed social worker in private practice.

DESIRAE RATHBUN, BA '12 NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS

Last summer, Rathbun participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Belize.

JENNIFER (MOSS) RUSSELL, EDD '11 CLAYTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Russell is the Education Department chair at William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

ELISE (RAZ) SARNELLI, BA '14 AURORA, ILLINOIS

Sarnelli is an eighth-grade science teacher.

KASIE-MARIE SMITH, BA '14 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Smith is a sixth-grade teacher.

SERI STOPPENHAGEN, BS '15 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Stoppenhagen is pursuing a master's degree in nursing at Vanderbilt University.

KRISTINA TEJEDA, BA '14 SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

Tejeda is pursuing a master's degree in applied behavior analysis at AU.

MEGAN WEBSTER, BS '14 ALGONQUIN, ILLINOIS

Webster is a high school mathematics teacher.

TAMARA WILFONG, BSN '10 GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS

Wilfong recently finished the requirements for the Family Nurse Practitioner Certification and passed the Board Certification Exam.

MARCY WILROY, MSW '11 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Wilroy is an adjunct professor at Aurora University, where she is also pursuing a doctorate in social work. She works in private practice in Skokie, Illinois.

'00s

JENNIFER DABROS, BA '00 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

In 2014, Dabros earned a PhD in counseling psychology. She supervises three intensive outpatient programs for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness.

SHAYLA DAY, MBA '05 NEW MADRID, MISSOURI

Day appeared on a mid-season finale of the FOX television show "Empire."

JIMMIE DELGADO, BA '05 OSWEGO, ILLINOIS

Delgado was recently appointed to the Waubonsee Community College Board of Trustees.

DANIEL ERMITAGE, BA '07 BROOKFIELD, ILLINOIS

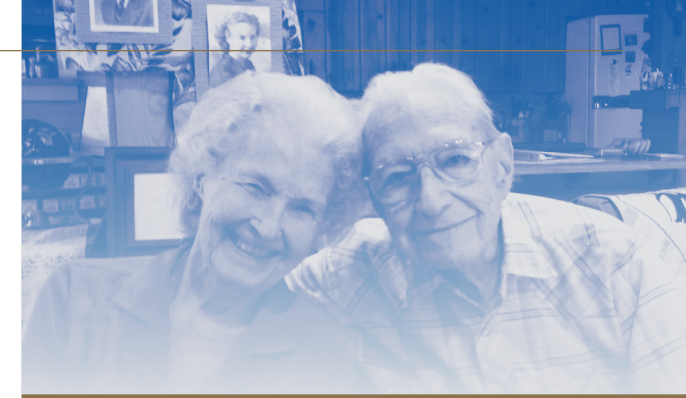
Ermitage has been a boy's basketball coach at St. Joseph High School for seven seasons. The team recently clinched its second state championship.

KEVIN FITZGERALD, BA '09 JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Fitzgerald teaches history and economics and is head baseball coach at Joliet Central High School.

CLAUDIA HANTEL, MSW '05 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Hantel is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Naperville.



A LEGACY OF LOVE

REMEMBERING ROBERT AND BEATRIX (HUBBARD) CRIMI

Among the 25,000+ alumni of Aurora University, two special individuals witnessed the institution's growth from a small college with fewer than 400 undergraduate students to today's multiple-campus institution with more than 2,400 undergraduates. Reflecting the deep love and partnership Bob and Betty Crimi shared, their lives ended earlier this year, just 48 days apart.

Betty, a social alumna from the Class of 1942, died peacefully with Bob at her side on Jan. 25. On March 13, Bob passed away in his home. Bob earned his bachelor's degree from AU in 1940 and received the Spartan Award that year. He worked 33 years in banking and was California's first chartered auditor. The Crimis were married just shy of 75 years; their romance began more than 80 years ago.

The Crimi-Aurora University alumni legacy includes daughter, Nancy Crimi Beggs; son-in-law, Richard Beggs; and son, Gene Crimi. Bob's brother, James, graduated in 1938 and served as the college's president from 1962 to 1973.

A

MARRIAGES

JUSTINE (MUELLER) DIAZ, BS '13
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Diaz married her high school sweetheart in November 2015.

CAMERON KAMP, BA '14
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
Kamp got married in September 2015.

MICHAEL TUCKER, BS '14 AND CATHERINE (PAULS) TUCKER, BA '13
NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS
The Tuckers got married in May 2015.

JAVIER SILVA, BA '15, AND KATIE (THICKSTEN) SILVA, BS '14
YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS
The Silvas are now married and enjoy volunteering for the AU Band.

MICHAEL HARDEN, BA '02
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Harden was recently honored for community service at the 15th annual Aurora Black History Program.

EMILY (PAGE) HINTON, BSW '03, MSW '04
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Hinton is the manager of the Access Center for Disability Resources at Waubensee Community College.

DOREEN HOWELL, BSN '06
OSWEGO, ILLINOIS
Howell is a nursing clinical instructor at Waubensee Community College.

BRETT JENNINGS, BA '03
HIGHLAND, INDIANA
Jennings is a middle/high school educational technology teacher.

THOMAS KRIEGLSTEIN, BA '03
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
Krieglstein, founder of Swift Kick, was named the 2016 Entertainer of the Year by the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.

NICOLA LOVELACE, MSW '05
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI
Lovelace is pursuing a doctorate and recently earned a specialist degree in educational design and curriculum instruction.

KELLY (SHAFF) MCCLEARY, MAEL '01
AURORA, ILLINOIS
McCleary recently began a two-year term as president of the Aurora Public Library.

LINDSAY (AUGUSTINE) METCALF, BS '09
WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS
Metcalf is a licensed emergency medical technician.

DEON ROBIN, BA '07
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS
Robin is the assistant director of employer relations at Florida Atlantic University.

PAMELA (HUTCHISON) SCHWARTZ, BS '01, MBA '04
SUN CITY, ARIZONA
Schwartz is the newly elected president of the Sun City Home Owners Association, which consists of about 28,000 homes with a population of about 44,000.

RACHEL ZAJICEK, BSW '08, MSW '09
BRADLEY, ILLINOIS
Zajicek is pursuing a Doctor of Social Work at Aurora University, where she is also an adjunct professor.

PAUL BISHOP, '90
YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS
Bishop recently completed his first IRONMAN triathlon. He will compete in another one this summer in Germany.

MICHAEL CLARK, MAT '97
GENOA CITY, WISCONSIN
Clark is a sixth-grade science and robotics teacher.

KAREN (KUKLA) LOFTUS, BS '95
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
Loftus is the Wisconsin ambassador for the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation.

DARLENE PAGAN, BA '91
HILLSBORO, OREGON
Pagan is the author of “Blue Ghosts” (Finishing Line Press 2011) and “Setting the Fires” (Airlie Press 2015).

BRENDA (KAHLE) PEARSON, BA '93, MA '10
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS
Pearson is a teacher in East Aurora School District #131.

JULIE (GILLESPIE) SENGENBERGER, BA '98, MAT '05
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Sengenberger is a sixth-grade teacher.

LESLY WICKS, BSW '94, MSW '95
POLO, ILLINOIS
Wicks, executive director of Hope Haven Homeless Shelter, was recently honored with a proclamation from the DeKalb Township Board of Trustees for her 20 years of service and leadership.

ANN (BRADSHAW) DECKER, BA '83
NORTH AURORA, ILLINOIS
Decker is teaching fifth grade at the John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School at Aurora University.

GLORIA (SHANK) DRAKE, BA '84
OSWEGO, ILLINOIS
Drake is a book reviewer for Library Journal.

CAROL (COWELL) NAVARRO, BS '83, MS '86
OSWEGO, ILLINOIS
Navarro is the athletic director and athletic trainer at Newark High School, where she also teaches biology/anatomy and sports medicine.

EUGENE BARTON, BA '71
EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO
Barton retired from FedEx as a captain after 42 years of aviation, including 20 years with the Air Force.

LINDA MAYNARD, BA '71
MARGATE, FLORIDA
Maynard recently retired after 23 years with the city of Sunrise, Florida, as public service manager.

KENNETH WINSLOW, BA '78
HOBART, WASHINGTON
Winslow is retired from the Air Force Reserve after 28 years of service. He continues to work as a practitioner in urgent care and family practice.

ALLAN BENSON, BA '64
AURORA, ILLINOIS
Benson received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the Aurora Noon Lions Club.

FAYE (HARMON) BIELSER, '68
LAKE CITY, COLORADO
Bielser retired from banking and is now self-employed, creating beaded jewelry, French-beaded flowers and beaded wire trees.

JOHN ALAN BORYK, BA '65, BT '65
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
Boryk participated in mission trips to the Mayan area in eastern Guatemala, where he helped build a school on the Rio Dulce.

RUTH (MERRIMAN) BROWN, BA '69, MBA '92
PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
Brown spent 24 days biking 400 miles through Europe and enjoying Paris and London.

CARROLL KISSER, BA '68
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Kisser is retired after a 45-year career in mortgage banking, including management and staff positions with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the FDIC.

NICK TANGORRA, BA '69
CASTLE PINES, COLORADO
Last fall, Tangorra went to Bogota and Cartagena with the Whole Planet Foundation, an affiliate of Whole Foods Market, to support efforts of microfinance institutions implementing microcredit programs to empower the poor.

WELCOME, BABY SPARTANS!

**ALEXANDRA (REDENIUS)
ENGELHARDT, MBA '14**
SOMONAUK, ILLINOIS
Engelhardt and her husband welcomed twin boys, Elias John and Noah Blair, in September 2015.

AUBREY (HUELSMAN) LEISZ, BA '10
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
The Leisz family welcomed daughter, Adylade, in September 2015.

JOSHUA COOK, BA '08
CORALVILLE, IOWA
Cook recently welcomed twin boys, Luke and Reid.

CHRISTOPHER FORBES, BA '06
PLANO, ILLINOIS
Forbes welcomed his second son, Cameron, in January 2016.

DID YOU HAVE A BABY? LET US WELCOME YOUR BUNDLE OF JOY INTO THE AU FAMILY. SEND INFORMATION TO ALUMNI@AURORA.EDU.

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

CELEBRATING STEW BROWN



As a child in the late 1930s and 1940s, Stew Brown made annual visits to the George Williams College campus in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. There he developed an appreciation and love for the outdoors that he carried through his entire life, in both his professional and volunteer activities.

Until his death in February, Brown, a 1955 GWC graduate, shared the values and philosophy of the college's namesake, beginning his professional career as the youth and camp director at the Oak Park, Illinois, YMCA. He later served in leadership roles at the YMCA in Delaware, Michigan, Georgia, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

During retirement, he served in a variety of leadership capacities, including president of the North American Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (now Association of YMCA Retirees), and found time to drive veterans to their medical appointments, serve as a shuttle driver to the Denver airport, and run a successful snowplowing business.

Brown also served his beloved Colorado, finding every opportunity to promote its history and natural beauty. He was honored by the Salida Chamber of Commerce for his 50 years of service, and by the Colorado Trail Foundation. It's no surprise to recipients of "Stew's Pot," his annual letter to family and friends, that Brown also received the YMCA Stahl Award for Creative Writing.

Brown was an active and supportive GWC alumnus, making gifts in support of the renovation of the Weidensall and Lowrey buildings and attending alumni events. In 2006 he received the GWC Distinguished Alumni Award.

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CONNECTING GWC ALUMNI

As of April 11, 2016

'10s

AMANDA PENNEY, BSW '15
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Penney is pursuing an advanced master's degree in social work at GWC and works with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ANDREW REPP, BSW '13
MCHENRY, ILLINOIS
Repp is a second-year doctoral student at Jane Addams College of Social Work, where he also earned a Master of Social Work degree. His research focus is on structural barriers to veteran service access.

'00s

MICHAEL HUFFSTETLER, MS '05, AND ANGELA (NIEPORTE) HUFFSTETLER, MS '06
ACWORTH, GEORGIA
Huffstetler recently accepted a position with Morale, Welfare and Recreation (Navy). He also serves the National Recreation and Park Association as an accreditation visitor to other agencies.

JENNIFER LATHROP, MAT '07
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS
Lathrop is a teacher in Khartoum, Sudan, and volunteers in the local community by teaching English and working with local Sudanese teachers to improve the quality of education in Sudan.

'80s

CATHLEEN ADAMS, BS '80
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS
Adams is retiring after 35 years of service with the YMCA movement.

FRANCIS CONRAD, MSW '82
SEDONA, ARIZONA
Conrad is a travel coach, helping people who are close to retirement to have more passion, vitality and satisfaction in their lives.

JENNIFER (MALLORY) DUBOW, BSW '85
TOLEDO, OHIO
Dubow expanded her private practice to include yoga therapy for children struggling with anxiety, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder or autism.

MELODIE (ELZA) ERICKSEN, BS '82
BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS
Ericksen has worked since 1979 in social work at hospitals settings, skilled rehab settings, chemical dependency settings and 12 years in private practice.

JUSTINA HALE, MSW '86
REDDING, CALIFORNIA
Hale was awarded a fellowship in thanatology from the Association for Death Education and Counseling, and works for Interim HealthCare and Hospice.

KERRY HAYS, MS '83
CASSVILLE, MISSOURI
Hays was honored as the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Employee of the Month for December 2015. He received this honor for leading a team that evacuated Roaring River State Park during a flash flood emergency.

PATRICK MCCLAUGHRY, MS '86, AND SUSAN (OLDHAM) MCCLAUGHRY, BS '85
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Patrick has practiced medicine in orthopedic/spine surgery for the past 17 years. Susan has been in nursing for almost 25 years; she is currently involved with geriatric medicine.

'70s

PAUL ATKINS, BS '78
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN
Atkins and Ken Losinski were able to provide a personalized weekend tour of Green Bay for Joe Dyll and Bill Bergoeron, including a game at Lambeau Field.

LINDA BUCHANAN, BS '77
CUTHBERT, GEORGIA
Buchanan is president of Andrew College.

BETH BURGESS, BA '74
BOX ELDER, SOUTH DAKOTA
For the past 10 years, Burgess has traveled the country, volunteering at state and national parks.

NORA CAMPBELL, MS '72
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Campbell recently received visits from former students Willie Jones and Ebie Morris.

W. LEIGHTON CLARK, BS '79, MSW '82, AND MARY (LINDSEY) CLARK, BA '79
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS
The Clarks celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2015.

WILLIAM DAVIS, MS '76
MATTESON, ILLINOIS
Davis presented a workshop on Clinical Intervention for Placement Preservation in Illinois at the National Association of Black Social Workers' 47th Annual Conference.

JOHN B. DONOVAN, BS '71, MS '76
DUBUQUE, IOWA
Donovan was recently appointed to the advisory board for Sitka Salmon Shares, a community-supported fishery.

JAMES EBY, BS '77
ELGIN, ILLINOIS
Eby completed his 34th year in the parks and recreation field and his 24th with the Batavia Park District.

THOMAS FISHER, MS '72
BEND, OREGON
Fisher visited with Velta and Robin Wieters from Man & His Land Expeditions in Phoenix over the holidays.

DAWN (HIMLEY) HIMLEY-GRANDI, BS '76
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS
Himley-Grandi runs a law practice dealing primarily in civil defense litigation.

ELAINE (RICHMOND) JONES, BS '70, MS '79
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Jones recently received a service award from the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

JAMES KENT, MS '78
OSCODA, MICHIGAN
Kent retired from pastoral ministry after 43 years and now works as a theological seminary professor.

DARREL LEFTWICH, BS '73
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Leftwich has been a football official for 25 years in the Big Ten Conference, and was selected to referee the 2015 Orange Bowl.

AIRETTA MYRICK, BA '73
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Myrick retired from the Chicago Public Schools as a school social worker after 31 years of service.

GAIL (JACOBY) ORSER, BS '78
WINGDALE, NEW YORK
Orser works for The Salvation Army Eastern Territory.

ALEXANDER RICHMOND, BS '70
ORO MEDONTE, ONTARIO
Richmond is a volunteer at Royal Victoria Hospital of Barrie (Ontario). He received the Order of the Diocese of Toronto for his 20 years as a volunteer lay chairperson of the Chaplaincy Committee for the Diocese of Toronto.

RICHARD RYBSKI, BS '75
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS
Rybski is finishing his 42nd year in mental health and management.

ROBERT SEGRAVES, BS '74
LOMBARD, ILLINOIS
Segraves is working with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County as a recreation facility attendant.

MARY SIEU, BA '71
FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA
Sieu is completing her 25th year as a district educational administrator and finishing her third year as a district superintendent in ABC Unified School District in Los Angeles County, California.

STEVEN THOMAS, BA '74
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA
Thomas retired in 2013 after a 39-year career with the YMCA.

CATHLEEN WALLIN, BA '72
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS
Wallin recently retired as a school psychologist.

JILL WESTBERG MCNAMARA, BS '78
LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN
McNamara co-authored the book "Camps of Geneva Lake," which was published in March 2016. The chapter on George Williams College (YMCA Camp/College Camp) includes 20 photos, many of which are over 100 years old.

MICHAEL WILSON, MSW '79
EARLYSVILLE, VIRGINIA
Wilson and his wife volunteer with the Native American Student Union at the University of Virginia.

JOSE ZAYAS, BS '74
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Zayas is celebrating his 45th year working with youth and families in Chicago.

'60s

RICHARD BAILEY, BS '62
ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO
Bailey was awarded the YMCA Canada Fellowship of Honour and Springfield College Hall of Fame membership. He also received the YMCA England, Gold Order of the Red Triangle.

RICHARD BOWERS, BS '62
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA
Bowers is teaching lobbying on local, state and federal levels, relying heavily on group work processes learned at GWC.

DAVID DAWSON, BS '69, AND JUDITH (SUTHERLAND) DAWSON, BS '67
DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS
Dawson is running the Warming Center, a Saturday afternoon place of respite for the homeless.

WILLIAM DUNCAN, MS '68, HON '11, AND LAVERNE (SIEMSEN) DUNCAN, BS '68
WILLIAMS BAY, WISCONSIN
The Duncans recently welcomed their first grandson, Beau William.

KAREN (TUDOR) HANKS, BA '69
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
Hanks has been a board member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Albuquerque for two years and is past president of Senior Arts.

JANE HOLT, BS '69
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA
Holt retired from Kaiser Permanente (health education) in 2014 and has returned to part-time teaching/facilitation with the local YMCA.

JOHN KOEHLER, BS '61
MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
For the past six years, Koehler has served as a support group leader for those suffering with peripheral neuropathy.

NORRIS LINEWEAVER, BS '67, HON '08
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Lineweaver serves as president of World Fellowship of YMCA Retirees (WFYRE).

ROBERT MASUDA, BS '65
KAMUELA, HAWAII
Masuda received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Hawaii.

RICHARD PAFF, '69
NATIONAL CITY, CALIFORNIA
While pursuing a master's degree at GWC, Paff was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam for 14 months. He is now retired after a 33-year teaching career and travels to Vietnam to serve with Vets with a Mission.

DAVID PEARSON, BS '66
PLAINWELL, MICHIGAN
Pearson encourages members of the Class of 1966, as well as fellow classmates from the 1960s, to attend Coming Home Weekend, July 15–17, 2016, at the GWC campus on Geneva Lake. As classmates commit to attending, their names will be listed on the alumni website. Pearson attended Coming Home in 2014 because he saw the names of classmates he

hadn't seen in 48 years, and had a wonderful time. He now looks forward to the 50th class reunion, a wonderful milestone event, which he believes is worth a little sacrifice to attend. There is a group of classmates on Facebook, under George Williams College Hyde Park Campus, where alumni also can renew old friendships.

LARRY SEARS, BS '62
CLALLAM BAY, WASHINGTON
After 53 years, friends Larry Sears, Roger Seehafer and Bob Smeenk (known as the "3 S's"), gathered for their first reunion. All three attended GWC together and played on the championship volleyball team.

HARRY WALTER, BS '64, MS '69, AND MARY (WISEMAN) WALTER, BS '66
CREST HILL, ILLINOIS
The Walters had a mini reunion that included Max and Wes Sime and Ed and Mary Langbein.

ROBERT WILLIAMS, BS '62
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
Williams is retired. He recently met classmate Bud Darling at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

READ MORE CLASS
NOTES ONLINE AT
ALUMNI.AURORA.EDU

'50s

JERALD ALPERT, BS '58
KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI
Alpert is chairman of the Eliot Society at Washington University, Brown School of Social Work. He received the Volunteer Distinguished Alumni Award from the Brown School this past spring.

LOLA (MACEWING) COOK, '56
QUALICUM BEACH,
BRITISH COLOMBIA
Cook was named Volunteer of the Year in Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, for her community volunteer work.

HESTER HURSH, BS '58
GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS
Hursh continues teaching health at age 80.

'40s

**“GOBACK BUTTON”
BY SEYMOUR MEYERSON, '40**
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
On my computer you will see
a “GoBack” button on an upper key
It comes in handy, I must say,
as there are problems along the way.
I can return to a time ago
five minutes, an hour, a day or so,
and all the wrongs turn into rights —
no more worries, no sleepless nights.
Years have passed and as I’ve aged
another chapter, another page,
my body parts have gone to pot.
What I once had I sure don’t got.
A GoBack button, if you please,
would surely help me feel at ease.
I won’t go back too many years,
just back before the age appears,
before I became hard of hearing
and thoughts I needed were disappearing.
Back to when my hips weren’t broke
and I didn’t move like an older folk.
My legs aren’t sturdy, my movement slow.
I’d go back to when I danced Hambo.
A GoBack button if you could
would really make me feel quite good!

IN MEMORIAM

AU

John Wredling,
BA '37
St. Charles, Illinois
October 3, 2015

Robert Crimi, BA '40
Idyllwild, California
March 13, 2016

Betty (Hubbard) Crimi, '42
Idyllwild, California
January 25, 2016

Muriel (Martin) Runyen,
BA '43
Springfield, Illinois
October 26, 2015

Olivette (Kaylor)
Kukuk, '44
Big Rock, Illinois
October 12, 2015

Ellen (Flude) Hewitt,
BA '47
Kennebunk, Maine
September 12, 2015

Fremont Prescott, BA '47
Raynham, Massachusetts
September 18, 2015

Robert Richardson, BA '49
Rockford, Illinois
April 20, 2016

Dean Hodney, '50
Oswego, Illinois
January 29, 2016

Albert McCoy, '50
Aurora, Illinois
March 26, 2016

David Morris,
BA '51
Aurora, Illinois
March 4, 2016

Orland Gibbons, BA '52
Anderson, Indiana
December 10, 2015

Vernice (Rice) Hurd, '52
Peoria, Illinois
March 25, 2016

Shirley (Schiedler)
Mortensen, '52
Troy, Michigan
December 13, 2015

Lucille (Harold) Rice, BA '56
Holt, Michigan
December 21, 2015

Joan (Givler) Wilson, '56
La Jolla, California
November 27, 2015

John Jones, '58
Otisco, Indiana
January 17, 2016

Dorothy (Christner)
Zander, BA '58
Quincy, Illinois
August 9, 2015

Marion Stoerker, BS '63
Highland, Illinois
November 27, 2015

Robert Bush, BA '64
Wake Forest,
North Carolina
September 5, 2015

Philip Vanderhoff, '65
Corry, Pennsylvania
November 2, 2015

Marlene (Hardt) Zanardi, '65
St. Charles, Illinois
October 31, 2015

Florence (Fischer)
Johnson, BA '66
Oswego, Illinois
September 26, 2015

Donald Prindle, '66
Raytown, Missouri
September 13, 2015

Sherman Barrett, BA '67
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 20, 2015

Walter Lenke, '67
Aurora, Illinois
December 29, 2015

William Newman, '67
Sidney, Illinois
March 4, 2016

Jeffrey Bootjer, '69
North Aurora, Illinois
December 15, 2015

Lawrence Gardner,
BA '70
New Lenox, Illinois
March 24, 2016

Joseph Klint, BA '70
Loudon, Tennessee
November 23, 2015

David Augustine, '71
Yorkville, Illinois
December 11, 2015

Charles Miley, Hon '72
Lawton, Oklahoma
May 3, 2016

Edward Green, BA '73
Belleville, Illinois
March 26, 2016

Walter Smith, BA '73
Aurora, Illinois
October 21, 2015

John Green, '75
Baraboo, Wisconsin
February 9, 2016

Paul Schneider, BA '75
Notre Dame, Indiana
October 13, 2015

Richard Schlindwein, '76
Geneva, Illinois
November 9, 2015

Lisa Perkins, '84
Aurora, Illinois
January 27, 2016

Rita McMurray, MA '88
Santa Barbara, California
October 31, 2015

Kathleen Darling, '89
Mesa, Arizona
March 30, 2016

Gary Streff, '89
Sandwich, Illinois
November 24, 2015

Michael Kriston, '90
North Aurora, Illinois
September 24, 2015

Laurie (Fejnas) Zei,
MAT '96
Wausau, Wisconsin
October 7, 2015

Kathleen Lopez-Gilmore,
MSW '98
New Lenox, Illinois
October 30, 2015

Nancy Goodman,
MAT '99
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 20, 2015

Autry Cole,
BA '03, MBA '13
Aurora, Illinois
January 22, 2016

Jill Johnson, MSW '06
Loves Park, Illinois
January 12, 2016

Aletha Pinnow,
MA '09
Chicago, Illinois
February 20, 2016

Todd Newton, BA '10
Morton, Illinois
September 19, 2015

GWC

Raemar (Easley) Shown,
BS '47
Austin, Texas
March 4, 2016

John Nordstrom, BS '54
Downers Grove, Illinois
February 16, 2016

Stewart Brown,
BS '55
Nathrop, Colorado
February 22, 2016

Donald Henkel, MS '55
Weeki Wachee, Florida
September 14, 2015

James Maynard,
MS '58
Wilsonville, Oregon
September 21, 2015

Sylvester Pues, BS '59
Studio City, California
October 21, 2015

Anita (Tallungan)
Brant, '60
Kenosha, Wisconsin
November 29, 2015

Peter Healey,
BS '62, MS '64
Downers Grove, Illinois
February 15, 2016

James deBoom, BS '64
Rancho Mirage, California
February 29, 2016

Glen Hamilton,
BA '68
Peterborough, Ontario
October 25, 2015

Elizabeth (Nichols-Porter)
Guyer, MS '70
Green Valley, Arizona
March 11, 2016

James Collins, MSW '71
Roselle, Illinois
January 1, 2016

William Whealy, BS '71
Sierra Vista, Arizona
March 5, 2016

Bradley Kimura, BS '74
Fort Worth, Texas
December 18, 2015

Colleen (Hennessy)
Charneski, BS '75
Wheaton, Illinois
January 6, 2016

Shirley Severino, MS '80
La Grange, Illinois
September 22, 2015

Jean (Bannon) Dale, BA '81
Wheaton, Illinois
December 3, 2015

Carlene Jones, MS '82
Hobe Sound, Florida
November 9, 2015

Mary (Dwyer) Nemtusak
Dwyer, MSW '82
Littleton, Colorado
March 17, 2016

Mary (Leonard)
Ellingson, MS '83
Indianapolis, Indiana
January 15, 2016

Sheila Ross, BA '84
Parkersburg,
West Virginia
November 1, 2015

Sharon Olds, EdD '11
Galena, Illinois
September 11, 2015

There are two ginkgos on the Aurora campus. When I learned of the plan to feature one on the cover of this edition of the university magazine, I visited the narrow strip of soil between Memorial and Watkins Halls where our oldest ginkgo is flourishing in spite of the proximity of two large buildings. It's no surprise really. Ginkgos are known for their longevity and robust ability to adapt to many different environments. It's no accident that ginkgos often are chosen for streetscapes and other urban plantings. They are the only remaining species of a genus centuries extinct and they are very hardy.

These trees long have captured the imagination of lay and professional arborists. The large ginkgo grove on the estate of Joy Morton in nearby Lisle inspired the establishment of the world-renowned arboretum. The founder treasured the trees for their varied forms, vibrant character and autumn color. We might say that ginkgos are trees with distinctive personalities. They drop their leaves each fall in a few days, creating a golden carpet around the trunk in anticipation of winter's bluster.

It is fitting that we mark the end of this academic year with a ginkgo; this year our university community did indeed demonstrate its vitality in the midst of adversity. I am writing, of course, about the unprecedented failure of the state of Illinois to honor its scholarship commitments to its neediest college and university students. At AU, the political and financial deadlock in Springfield left us with a \$6 million hole in the operating budget and over a thousand students uncertain about their future.

Faced with this educational and financial uncertainty, we made the courageous decision to substitute our own dollars for those promised initially by the state. In other words, our faculty and staff opted to make sacrifices rather than slow the progress of AU students toward graduation. We are prepared to do the same in the year ahead if necessary. The alternative is too dire for us to contemplate; for we know the lifelong value that an Aurora University education embodies.

Like all who plant, prune and nurture trees, we have a powerful faith. And so another Arbor Day has come and gone. It was the Morton Arboretum founder who celebrated the first such day in the 1920s. "Arbor Day is not like other holidays," Joy Morton wrote. "Each of those repose on the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future." And so may it be for our students and our university; for we are a people who plant trees and believe that they will see a glorious future.

A



REBECCA L. SHERRICK
PRESIDENT

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