1938

OBITUARIES

Minnard “Dusty” Hanson of Burr Ridge, Ill., died April 14, 2017, at age 102. Born in Spring Valley, Wis., he demonstrated a love for team sports early in life. Dusty enrolled at Luther in 1934, supporting his education by working on campus and at a variety of local jobs. He earned 11 letters in football, basketball, and baseball; his basketball team was conference champion his senior year and his football team was the Iowa Conference champion. After graduating from Luther, Dusty began teaching history and coaching all sports at Preston (Minn.) High School. From 1938-41, his football teams were district champions. During his summer breaks, Dusty played summer baseball with a variety of teams; one notable teammate was Andy Pafko, who went on to star in the major leagues with the Cubs, Dodgers, and Braves. In 1942 Dusty enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a pharmacist’s mate in California, the Aleutian Islands, and Pearl Harbor. Later, he worked as a lieutenant junior grade with amphibious landing craft at Tarawa and was honorably discharged in 1946 as a lieutenant. From 1946-47, Dusty was employed by the Great Northern Railroad, as a reservations manager of a local hotel in Glacier National Park, where he met his future wife, Carol Ronning. The two were married in 1948 and moved to Joplin, Mo., where Dusty worked as the plant foreman of a commercial fertilizer business. In 1950 Dusty and Carol moved to Chicago, and in 1960 they purchased Schweidler & Mewherter, an office, art, and school supply store, which they owned for 44 years. After living in LaGrange for 28 years and raising three daughters, they moved to Burr Ridge. After retiring at age 89, Dusty served as a Red Coat volunteer at Hinsdale Hospital for ten years and assisted in the social hours at Bing Bruwaert House. An active member of Christ Church of Oak Brook for more than 30 years, Dusty also served for many years on the board of Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, and he enjoyed traveling, especially to Norway. In 1978 he was inducted into Luther’s Athletic Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Carol Hanson; three daughters: Beth Hanson Afflebach, Chrissie Hanson Payne, and Paula Hanson; three granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

1939

OBITUARIES

Louise (Naeseth) Hubbard of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., celebrated her 101st birthday. Her town celebrated by organizing volunteers of all ages; each volunteer donated 101 minutes to help clean up a local trail created by Louise and her husband, Fred, made from a former garbage dump. Everyone enjoyed the celebration and worked hard. Louise walked the entire trail, receiving many thanks.

1941

OBITUARIES
**Eleanor (Kline) Ball** of Davenport, Iowa, died July 12, 2016, at age 95. Born in Dubuque, she received a certificate in education from Luther, a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Dubuque, and a master’s degree in education from the University of Wisconsin, Superior. Eleanor served as an educator for 10 years in Clinton, Iowa, and 29 years with Davenport Schools. A member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, she was also involved in youth activities and organized MS fundraisers in the Quad-Cities; a member of AAUW, serving as president of the organization; the first woman to serve on the Davenport Education Association (DEA) Board; and an active member of the Federation of Republican Women, having served as a past president. Eleanor is survived by her son, Mark (Cindy) Ball; two grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; brother, Keith (Charlotte) Kline; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Elden Kline ’40.

**1941**

**Eudoris (Turbenson) Hagen** of Alexandria, Minn., and formerly of Spring Valley died April 13, 2017, at age 95. After graduating from Spring Valley High School in 1939, she enrolled at Luther, receiving a certificate in education in 1941. Eudoris taught in Guttenberg, Iowa, for a number of years and later worked for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She married Kenneth Hagen on Aug. 30, 1945, at Bloomfield Lutheran Church, and the couple moved in 1955 to Kensington, where they owned and operated a restaurant, and Eudoris taught special education and served as librarian. She continued her education at St. Cloud State University, and the couple returned to Spring Valley in 1984. Kenneth died January 1, 2009, and Eudoris moved to Alexandria in 2016. An avid bowler (which she did until she was 95), she also enjoyed playing softball and cards. She was a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Spring Valley and a circle member. Eudoris is survived by her children: Bob (Elaine) Hagen, Becky (Lynn) Peterson, and Beth Grant; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and sister, Ethel “Turby” (Harlan) Marchant. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; brother, Morrey Turbenson; and two sisters in infancy.

**1942**

**OBITUARIES**

**Lee (Lewison) Bjerke** of Viroqua, Wis., died March 24, 2017, at age 93. After graduating from Viroqua High School in 1940, she enrolled at Luther and received a certificate in education. Lee continued her education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She married Arlen “Spec” Bjerke on June 16, 1945, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Lansing, Iowa. For 40 years, Lee taught for the Lansing and West Salem school districts, retiring in 1986. In 1998 she was added to the teacher “Wall of Fame” in the West Salem School District. A member of the Eastern Star-Decorah Chapter No.73, La Crosse Area Retired Educators Association (LAREA), and Wisconsin Retired Educators Association (WREA), Lee was also involved with many church-related activities: she taught Sunday school and Bible classes, sang in the choir, and was an active participant in the West Salem and Lansing churches’ ladies circles. Lee is survived by her children, John (Nancy Bekkedal) Bjerke and Jane (Marlin) Kitchen; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three sisters: Leaura Plummer, Gay Newton, and LoAnn Markno; and two brothers: Bill Hatton and Orvin Lewison. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arlen Bjerke, on Oct. 21, 2000, and brother, George Hatton.

**Loyal “Rad-Dad” Radtke** of Wyomissing, Pa., died Dec. 13, 2015, at age 95. Born in Nerstrand, Minn., he majored in history at Luther and played baseball for the Norse. At the start of World War II, Loyal was attending U.S. Navy Midshipman’s School at Columbia University, N.Y. He served as a lieutenant, second in command, on a weather ship in the Pacific Theatre during the Battle of Midway. Prior to a stint for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., Loyal played semi-pro baseball in Kenyon, Minn., and he worked as a librarian for Minnesota School of the
and Genevieve moved to Reading, Pa., where he served as general manager of the Hopper Paper
Co. In the late 1960s Georgia Pacific Corp. purchased the company; before retiring in 1987,
Loyal served as president of three plants. A member of Atonement Lutheran Church in
Wyomissing, he was also the oldest living golf member of the Berkshire Country Club, having
joined 66 years ago.
Loyal loved sports, especially baseball and golf. He loved life, his family, and grandchildren and
was a positive person; his favorite phrases were “peachy keen fine family” and “that’s a dandy.”
Loyal is survived by two children, Jennifer Curtis Radtke Noll and Jonathan Loyal Radtke
(Julie), and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by three siblings, Victor, Ethel and Justice,
and a son-in-law, Irwin Noll.

1943

OBITUARIES

John “Jack” Aaker of South Bend, Ind., died Oct. 19, 2015, at age 92, while picking tomatoes
in his garden. Born in Minot, N.D., he majored in business administration at Luther. Jack served
as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during WWII, stationed in the Pacific. After the war, he was
employed as assistant economist in the economic and petroleum departments at Chase Bank in
New York City before becoming vice president and trust department head at City Trust Bank in
Bridgeport, Conn. Later, Jack worked as vice president and head of the trust investment
department at First National Bank of Arizona, in Phoenix, and as senior vice president of bank
investments at First Source Bank in South Bend. He is survived by his daughter, Karen (Paul)
Billingslea, and his son, David Aaker. Jack was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Mackley,
and brother, William Aaker.

Carroll “Hap” Jenson of Bayport, Minn., died Sept. 7, 2016, at age 95. Born to a country
minister and his wife in west central Minnesota, he enrolled at Luther after graduating from
Appleton High School. While at Luther, Hap majored in sociology and also met his future wife,
Sara Marie Kahn ’44. During WWII, he served with the Navy in the Pacific and went on to study
dentistry at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1951. Hap worked for many years as a
dentist in Bayport and also served as the town's mayor. He was a member of the Lions Club and
Stillwater Country Club and was active on the boards of Bayport Library and First State Bank,
and in his church, Bethlehem Lutheran. Hap is survived by his sister, Lois Jenson ’51; two
brothers, James Jenson ’41 and Paul Jenson ’48; grandson; nieces; and nephews. He was
preceded in death by his wife, Sara (Kahn) Jenson ’44; son, Peter; two brothers, Sherman Jenson
’41 and Maurice Jenson ’48; and parents.

John Meyer of Houston died Dec. 13, 2016, at age 93. Born in St. James, Minn., he attended
Luther from the fall of 1940 to March 1943, when he entered the U.S. Army and spent 27
months in North Africa and Italy during WWII. John was honorably discharged from the Army
in December 1945, and in January 1946 he enrolled at the University of Houston, earning a
bachelor’s degree in business administration two years later. In 1970 John married Dora Aponte
of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, where they later spent many happy times at their home there.
He is survived by his wife, Dora Aponte Meyer; four sons: Robert, Randy (Pam), Jonathan, and
David; several grand- and great-grandchildren; sister, Ramona Meyer Christensen (Richard);
sister-in-law, Rosella Meyer; and numerous nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by
brothers Harold and Kenneth and a sister, Evelyn Meyer Nelson.

Paul Schroeder of Shorewood, Minn., died Jan. 16, 2017, at age 95. Born in Postville, Iowa, he
was the first in his family to graduate from college. Paul majored in economics at Luther and he
played football for the Norse, serving as captain of the team in 1943. A WWII and Korean War
veteran, he received a master’s degree in education administration from the University of Minnesota in 1955. During his working career, Paul taught school in Westbrook, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis., and was a school administrator for the St. Louis Park Public Schools. Known for his kindness, he also volunteered at Methodist Hospital. Paul is survived by his wife, Camille; children: Tom (Jean) Schroeder, Paula Schroeder (Mark Broms), and Becky (Daniel) Cohen; stepchildren: Pam (Tom) Langseth and Dan (Cathy) Keefe; 10 grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lois (Leikvold) Schroeder ’46.

1944

OBITUARIES

Elaine (Anderson) DeBuhr of La Crosse, Wis., formerly of Coon Valley, Wis., died Feb. 15, 2017, at age 93. Born in Coon Valley, she graduated from Westby High School before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in sociology and met her future husband, Calvin DeBuhr ’43. After her Luther graduation, Elaine began a teaching career in Spring Grove, Minn. She and Cal were married July 12, 1947, at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church. Cal’s 20-year career in the Navy took them all over the U.S., and after his retirement from the Navy in 1963, they settled in St. Paul, Minn., before retiring to Coon Valley in 1983. Elaine was energetic and charismatic with a wonderful sense of humor; her passions included music, reading, walking, travel, the Girl Scouts, Norskedalen, her faith, and the church. Always proud of her Norwegian heritage, Elaine was happiest surrounded by her family. She is survived by her daughters: Anne (DeBuhr) Hunter ’72 (Stephen), Mary Pesta, and Elaine DeBuhr (Robert Rumbolz); seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and nieces, cousins, and dear friends, Alice Marie Sather and Winnifred Stigen. Elaine was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Calvin DeBuhr ’43; and daughter, Heather Anderson. Memorials can be made to the C.H. and Elaine E. DeBuhr Scholarship at Luther.

Spencer Gedestad of Sacramento, Calif., died May 30, 2017, at age 94. A native of Petersburg, N.D., after high school he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in chemistry. After his Luther graduation, Spencer joined the U.S. Navy and he attended the University of Louisville Dental School, where he earned a medical degree in dentistry in 1946. From 1947-49 he served as a naval dentist before being honorably discharged. Spencer and his wife, Patricia, moved to Sacramento in 1950, where Spencer began a private practice, which he continued for the next 50 years, until his retirement in 2000. In the last 20 of those years, he had the pleasure of practicing with his son, Douglas. Since 1951, Spencer was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church (the foundation of his life in Sacramento), where he served in many capacities, including church stewardship and service to the community. An avid Giants and 49ers fan, he enjoyed playing golf and sports of all kinds. Spencer was a founding member of Valley Hi Country Club, where he actively played into his 90s—his regular threesome included two friends aged 90 and 96.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Patricia; four children: Stephen, Douglas, Susan, and Dennis; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Francis Haddy of Rochester, Minn., died Jan. 25, 2017, at age 94. After graduating from high school in Kiester, Minn., he attended Luther before transferring to the University of Minnesota, where he received his bachelor's and M.D. degrees. During medical school, Francis was supported by the Army and later served the Army in the Medical Corps and as a researcher. He received training in internal medicine as a fellow at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and later returned to the University of Minnesota for his Ph.D. studies in physiology, under the guidance of Dr. Maurice Visscher. Francis had a long and distinguished career as a professor of physiology. He
moved to Rochester in 2001 after retiring from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, having previously held positions in medical schools at Michigan State University, the University of Oklahoma, and Northwestern University. A beloved and respected teacher and researcher, Francis trained many medical students and research physiologists. Throughout his career, he authored about 190 primary research publications and nearly 500 other papers, editorials, and abstracts; served as chair of three different physiology departments; and assisted in the start-up of two medical schools. Francis served as president of the American Physiological Society; he received the Mayo Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Daggs Award from the APS, and a Distinguished Service Award from Luther in 2004. After retirement, he began painting in acrylics and was active in SEMVA, the SouthEastern Minnesota Visual Artists group. Deeply devoted to his family, Francis greatly enjoyed gatherings with extended family and friends for fishing, hunting, golfing, and other activities. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dr. Theresa Brey Haddy; daughters, Carol Haddy Froelich and Alice Haddy Hellen; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his son, Richard Haddy.

**1946**

**OBITUARIES**

**Bernice “Bunny” (Blockhus) Baird** of Reno, Nev., died Sept. 5, 2016, from complications of Alzheimer's disease, the day before her 89th birthday. Born in a log cabin on her family’s farm in Fayette County, Iowa, she graduated from Elgin High School at age 16 and enjoyed telling others that she walked two miles to and from school for 12 years, rain or shine! Bernice earned a certificate in education at Luther and taught elementary school in Decorah and McGregor before moving to Greeley, Colo., to attend Colorado State College. After receiving a B.A. degree in education in 1952, she taught elementary school in Boulder. While attending a Lutheran Student Association meeting at Colorado State, Bernice met the love of her life, Gerald “Jerry” Lee Baird, and they were married June 21, 1953, at East Clermont Lutheran Church. After Jerry’s service in the Air Force during the Korean War, the couple lived briefly in Portland, Ore., and San Diego, Calif., before settling in Ventura, where they raised their children and spent the next 50 years. Bernice worked as a secretary for Trinity Lutheran Church and devoted much time to helping seniors, volunteering at the food pantry, and supporting charitable endeavors. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; son, Jim Baird (Jeanne); daughter, Susan Abeloe (Dave); two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and brother, Ken (Harriet) Blockhus. Bernice was preceded in death by her daughter, Janet Baird, and her brothers, Michael Blockhus and Harlan Blockhus ’51.

**Earl Winter** of Decorah died on Feb. 16, 2017, at age 92. Born in Waterloo, he graduated from East Waterloo High School in 1941 and enlisted in the Coast Guard at the age of 17. During World War II, Earl served as a radio communications technician, spending time in Iceland, the Caribbean, and on the East Coast. After four years of service, he returned home to Iowa and attended Luther for a year. Earl married Barbara (Falck) Winter ’64 on Aug. 5, 1948, in Harmony, Minn., and they farmed together for more than 50 years in Winneshiek County, Iowa. Earl enjoyed farming, drinking coffee at the Country Express, reading books, and sitting on his deck. He served on the North Winneshiek School Board for many years and was active with the Winneshiek County Republicans. A member of the Mabel American Legion Joseph B. Lund Post #299, Earl was also a member of the same church his grandfather was a charter member of in the early 1900s, Burr Oak Lutheran Church. He is survived by his wife, Barbara (Falck) Winter ’64; two daughters, Catherine (Jim) McLain and Ellen (Steve) Sexton; eight grandchildren, including Michelle McLain-Kruse ’91; seven great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Harriet Roed. Earl was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters-in-law: Sally (Allen) Sampson, Judy Doyle, Elsie (Archie) McIntosh, and Frances Falck; and brother-in-law, Charles Falck.
OBITUARIES

Warren Burstrom of Freeport, Ill., died Dec. 3, 2016, at age 92. Born in Chicago, he graduated from Portage Park and Schurz High Schools in Chicago before enrolling at Luther. Warren interrupted his education to serve in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and by the end of the war he was stationed at Treasure Island, Calif. While in the Navy, Warren played on the Treasure Island baseball team; he also held the highest recorded score in navigation. After his discharge from the Navy, Warren completed his studies at Luther, majoring in mathematics. He pursued graduate education in philosophy at the University of Minnesota, completed a master’s degree in mathematics at Western Illinois University, and continued post-graduate studies at Case Western and New Mexico State University.

Warren married Rosella (Opsand) Burstrom ’50 Aug. 9, 1952, in Gunder, Iowa, and she died April 30, 1981. He married Deloris (Smedstad) Womeldorf Burstrom ’50 June 19, 1983. Warren began his teaching career in Mt. Morris, Ill.—where he also coached football, golf, and baseball—and went on to teach at Highland Community College in Freeport from 1963 until his retirement in 1988. In addition to serving as chairman of the mathematics and science departments at Highland, Warren was also instrumental in the foundation of Highland’s School of Nursing. Having served as a former president of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Golden "K" Kiwanis Club, he was also a member of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, Jane Addamsland Park Foundation that supports the bike path, Highland Community College Chorale, and Board of Directors for the FACC. Warren volunteered and supported the Salvation Army active with the Highland College Foundation and was a member of First Lutheran Church of Freeport, where he served on the church council. He loved playing tennis, baseball, and bicycling; enjoyed woodworking; and was known as a "storyteller par excellence." Warren is survived by his wife, Deloris (Smedstad) Burstrom ’50; daughters, Kathryn (Frank) Hall and Ruth Burstrom ’81(Niels Chapman); son, Frank Burstrom; step children: Vicki (Mark) Brunsvold, Mark (Holly) Womeldorf, Marti (Dan) Guetzlaff, Dale (Cathy) Womeldorf, and Erik (Shala Cunningham) Womeldorf; two grandchildren; 15 step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; nephew; several cousins; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Rosella; brother, George (Eva) Giles; and cousin.

Dolores (Hanson) Docken of Hudson, Wis., died Jan. 12, 2017, at age 92. Born in Willmar, Minn., she attended Willmar schools before graduating from Luther, where she majored in religion. Dolores married her Luther classmate, L. Donald Docken, in 1948, and she taught third grade at Hayden Heights School in St. Paul, Minn., while Donald attended Luther Seminary. For 39 years, she and Donald were partners in ministry, and they were blessed with three sons: James (Cindy), Mark (Lois), and John (Cathy); six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. Dolores was grateful to God for family, friends, and the many blessings in her life.


Marie (Holmen) Robinette of Greenfield, Wis., died Jan. 26, 2016, at age 89. Born in Nordfjord, Norway, she emigrated to the U.S. when she was three years old and was raised in Mason City, Iowa. Marie received a certificate in education from Luther in 1948. While caring for her family, she worked as the bookkeeper for her husband’s business. Marie is remembered for her warm, loving spirit and is survived by her husband of 66 years, Don; children: Don (Diane) Robinette, David (Shirley) Robinette, Sue (Jim) Koch, Mary (Bob) Binter, Tom (Mary) Robinette, and Jim (the late Tracey) Robinette; thirteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; other family members; and friends.
OBITUARIES

Nancy (Ellison) Bufford of Greensboro, Ga., died Oct. 20, 2016, at age 88. Born in Chicago, she graduated from high school in 1945, before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in elementary education. Nancy married Harry Bufford on July 11, 1952. His military career took them all over the United States and to Italy, and she taught in Minnesota, Michigan, California, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Georgia, and Guam. After twenty years of teaching, Nancy retired in 1979. She was a member of the National Teachers Association and Walker United Methodist Church, served as a Pink Lady volunteer, and enjoyed needlepoint. Nancy is survived by her husband, Harry Bufford, Sr.; daughter, Brenda Stainback (Frank); sons, Joel Bufford (Deborah), Harry Bufford, Jr., and Randy Bufford (Susan); brother, Joel Ellison ’58 (June); nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Grace Ellison ’60.

Frederick Miller of Midland, Mich., died Sept. 12, 2016, at age 89. Born in La Crosse, Wis., and raised in Brownsville, Minn., he graduated from high school in 1944, before enrolling at Luther. Fred’s studies were interrupted in 1945 when he was drafted into the U.S. Navy. After his military service, Fred resumed his studies at Luther, majoring in chemistry and mathematics. In 1953 he earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from Iowa State University, where he had met his future wife, Elaine. Fred and Elaine were married in 1951, and they raised their four children in Midland. Fred began working for Dow Chemical Co. in 1953 and enjoyed a 33-year career as a research chemist in the synthetic latex field. He and Elaine were charter members of Midland’s Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where Fred served as financial secretary and sang in the church choir. He also loved flower gardening and wrote a memoir of his childhood. After retiring from Dow in 1986, Fred and Elaine pursued volunteer activities, doted on their grandchildren, and traveled frequently, and he enjoyed watching the Detroit Tigers play baseball. In 1998 Elaine died. Fred married Joan Pfruender on Sept. 11, 1999, and she provided much love and support in his final years. They celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary the day before Fred died. In addition to his wife, Joan, Fred is survived by his children: Steven (Cheri Fulton), Betsy (David) Hoggatt, Julie (Charles) Dukes, and Mary Miller; eight grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; two brothers, Marvin (Etta) and Melvin (Lorene); two sisters, Marian Lowrey and Marlene (Ron) Levendoski; Elaine’s sister-in-law Diane Peterson; and Joan’s children and their families: Daniel, Richard, David, Dean, Diane, and Dawn. In addition to his first wife, Elaine, Fred was predeceased by a brother, Donald Miller; Elaine’s siblings: Eleanor, David, Margaret, Charles, and Elizabeth; brother-in-law, Donald Lowrey; and by Joan’s son, Donald Pfruender.

Ruth (Stoll) Peterson of Prescott, Ariz., died Jan. 5, 2017, at age 87. Born in Decorah, she graduated from Cresco High School in 1946 and attended Waldorf College in Forest City before enrolling at Luther, where she earned a certificate in education. Ruth taught school at Fremont Township #7 from 1947-48 and at Lime Springs Elementary from 1948-49. She married LaVerne Peterson on April 24, 1949, and they lived in Grundy Center and Locust before moving in 1953 to a farm in northeast Iowa, just south of Harmony, Minn. Here Ruth and LaVerne raised their seven children, farmed crops, and milked cows, and Ruth was an active member of the Fremont Lutheran Church and 4-H. In 1971 the family moved to Prescott Valley, Ariz., where they started L & H Building Center with Harold and Donna Stoks. Ruth was instrumental in creating the Prescott Valley Library; she also served as a Girl Scout leader and was an active member of the American Lutheran Church. After LaVerne retired in 1983, the couple moved to Lake Havasu City, where they lived until LaVerne’s death in 1992, and in 1993 Ruth moved back to Prescott to be near family. She served
as a volunteer at the Prescott V.A. hospital and was a member of the Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild, Thumb Butte Quilt Guild, and Prescott United Methodist Church, where she also sang in the choir. An avid reader, Ruth loved to travel, work in her garden, sew, and quilt. She is survived by her step-sister, Clarissa Hein Sutton; step-brother, Arnold (Norma) Hein; sister-in-law, Luanne Peterson; and brother-in-law Willard Peterson; her children Anne (Gerald) Worner of Prescott, Ariz., Loren Peterson (Cheryl Largent Hanks) of Prescott Valley, Ariz., Bonnie (Phil) Raney of Ash Fork, Ariz., Sharla Peterson (Robert McBurnie) of Prescott, Ariz., and Carrin (Alan) Jacoby of Iberia, Mo.; her grandchildren Beth, Lisa, Michele, Paul, Scott, Adam, Christina, Jennifer, Danelle, Eddie, Tony, Luke, Tiffany, Willy, Tim, Jesi, Lorelei and Nicole; and her 40 great-grandchildren. She also had many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Then there are the many friends that will miss her every day at morning coffee.

was preceded in death by her husband; mother; father; step-father William August Hein; half sister Annette Emily Hein Rasmussen; daughters-in-law Tracey Lee Larson Peterson and Jean Marie Skelton Peterson; and her great-granddaughter Scarlett Peterson.

Maxine Swiggum of Decorah died April 14, 2017, at age 91. Born in Soldier’s Grove, Wis., she enrolled at Luther in 1945. After graduating from Luther in 1949, with a major in sociology, Maxine earned a master’s degree in business education from the University of Northern Iowa. She taught business education at Minnesota schools, in St. Peter, then Chatfield, followed by 26 years at Decorah High School until her retirement in 1987. During retirement Maxine enjoyed traveling, attended many Elderhostels, and loved playing Scrabble. A member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, she often said that although she had no children of her own, she really had hundreds, because she considered her office education students her children. Maxine was also a good aunt to her nieces and nephews. She is survived by her two sisters-in-law, Jean (Nesheim) Swiggum ’48 and Eunice (Johnson) Swiggum ’50; seven nieces and nephews, including Mary (Swiggum) Monroe ’72 (Mark Monroe), Lois (Swiggum) Appel ’75 (Tom Appel ’73), Joanna (Swiggum) Petersen ’77 (Norman Petersen ’77), and Margaret (Swiggum) Little ’77 (Keith Little); 14 grandnieces and grandnephews; and 12 great-grandnieces and -nephews. Maxine was preceded in death by her two brothers, Peter Swiggum ’49 and Buel Swiggum.

1950

OBITUARIES

James A. Anderson of La Crosse, Wis., died Dec. 18, 2016, at the age of 92. Born in Poynette, he majored in history at Luther before earning master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology at the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin. James married Ruth (Aas) Anderson Sept. 5, 1950. From 1954-60, he taught sociology at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., and from 1960-88, at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. During his last four years at UW-L, James served as associate dean of the College of Arts, Letter, and Sciences and he was a fellow of the American Sociological Association.

James believed in institutions and worked on their behalf. He served on the board of trustees of La Crosse Lutheran Hospital, the board of directors of the La Crosse Lutheran Hospital Foundation, the board of trustees of Carthage College in Kenosha, the board of trustees of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, the board of directors of Norskedalen, and on the church council of English Lutheran Church, where he was a member for 55 years. James is remembered as a man of faith who did good work, was committed to education and his community, and who loved, and was loved by, his family. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth (Aas) Anderson; four children: Judy Anderson (Kim Brown); David
Anderson (Priscilla Paton), Paul (Kathy) Anderson ’76, and Mark Anderson ’85 [Beverly (Stark) Anderson ’85]; five grandchildren and a step-grandchild, and her three children; two sisters, Shirley Benzine and Joyce (Merlyn) Lienke; a sister-in-law, Eunice Anderson; and many nieces and nephews. James was preceded in death by his brother, Marvin, and sister, Arlene.

**Curtis “Curt” Anderson** of Alpharetta, Ga., died May 16, 2015, at age 86. He grew up in Cannon Falls, Minn., on the family farm near White Rock, and attended his first eight years of school in a one-room schoolhouse. In high school Curt loved sports, especially football and basketball, capturing the team. Following his graduation from Cannon Falls High School in 1946, Curt joined the U.S. Navy and served as a radioman on the USS Graffias AF29, a refrigerator ship carrying supplies to naval bases throughout the South Pacific and Far East during WWII. After his military service, he attended Luther and met his future wife, Leona Christ, in Decorah. Curt enjoyed a 41-year career with Sunkist Growers in Sherman Oaks, Calif., working in public affairs, grower relations, and crop forecasting. He became vice president of member and public relations in 1984, a position he held until his retirement in 1993. Highly respected by his peers, Curt was frequently called—locally and abroad—for his expertise in the citrus industry. After retiring from Sunkist, he joined others in organizing an electric-power buying cooperative and was in charge of membership. The first year of operation the co-op realized $24 million in business with 18 members. Curt and Lee were long-time residents of Westlake Village, Calif., where they raised their two daughters, but a desire to be closer to grandchildren motivated the move to Georgia in 2005. He is survived by his wife, Leona Christ Anderson; daughters, Cynthia Chaney (Larry) and Mary Reany (Jonathon); four grandchildren; and sister, Leora Carpenter. He was preceded in death by a sister, Carol Peterson.

**Vernon “Bud” Bahr** of Decorah died Feb. 13, 2017, at age 92. Born in Appleton, Wis., he graduated from Iola High School in 1942 and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, only to be called home to work in the family’s cheese factory business when his father became ill. Bud was drafted into the Army at the end of World War II and served in the military police department offices. After his discharge in 1946 he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in science and played baseball. Bud was awarded the Junior Bickle Scholarship and was named in *Who’s Who in American Colleges*. After graduation, he enrolled at the University of Michigan and received a master’s degree in zoology in 1951. Later that year, Bud began teaching in the biology department at Luther, where he met his future wife, Donna Haugen ’53. The two were married August 15, 1953, and Bud began teaching—and coaching baseball and basketball—at the high school in Lansing. Later, he worked for Oscar Mayer in Davenport before returning to Decorah to teach. Bud enjoyed a second career in sales at Larson-Juhl, doing custom picture framing, before retiring in 1985. In retirement he enjoyed genealogy research, Audubon annual bird counts, and following sports, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes, Green Bay Packers, and Chicago Cubs. A modest, quiet, and kind man, Bud loved his wife and family above all else and was happiest when they all gathered for birthdays, Christmas, and other special occasions. He is survived by his wife, Donna (Haugen) Bahr ’53; four children: Stephen (Le) Bahr, Jan (Erling) Larson, Michelle Ruen, and Jackie (Loren) Carlson; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Rod (Grace) Bahr; two sisters, Nadine (David) Ross and Maureen Foster; a sister-in-law, Judy (Grant) Nelson; four brothers-in-law: Bob Koehler, Tom Haugen ’61 [Lola (Pederson) Haugen ’62], Jerry Haugen ’62 (Sally), and David Haugen ‘64 (Joan); and many nieces and nephews. Bud was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Ruth Koehler; and his father- and mother-in-law, Thomas and Evelyn Haugen. Memorials may be given to the Luther College Biology Department, Development Office, 700 College Drive, Decorah, IA 52101.

**Vernell (Stephens) Haugen** of Eugene, Ore., formerly of Decorah and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Jan. 15, 2017, at age 88. Born in Decorah, she graduated from Decorah High School in 1946,
before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in English and minored in religion and sociology. Vernell was employed as a social worker for six years before receiving a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, in 1958, and continued to work in the field four more years. On August 26, 1962, she married Merlin Haugen, and they made their home in Cedar Rapids from 1962-94. While their two children were growing up, Vernell stayed busy as a housewife, scout leader, and active church member at First Lutheran, returning to the work force when the children became teenagers. She worked in the cafeteria at Kennedy High School; participated in the 1980 U.S. Census as a census taker; joined Frank Magid Associates and worked as a telephone surveyor, supervisor, and editor; and was later employed with a local publishing company as a proofreader, before retiring in 1993. In 1994 Merlin and Vernell relocated to Decorah, where she reunited with old friends and was active in Decorah Lutheran Church. Vernell volunteered at Winneshiek County Hospital and Vesterheim Norwegian Museum and was presented with a State of Iowa Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with Iowa Work Force. After Merlin’s death in 2004, Vernell moved to Eugene, Ore., to be closer to her daughter’s family, making her home at Cascade Manor Retirement Community, where she found a wonderful group of friends and became involved with committees and activities. Vernell is survived by a son, Eric Haugen (Susan) and daughter, Julie Haugen (Tom Brase); five grandchildren; and a sister, Marcella Norgard. She was preceded in death by her husband, Merlin, and sisters, Esther (Stephens) Miller ’37 and Evelyn Stephens.

Edgar Nordgaard of Wilton, Conn., formerly of New Canaan, died Aug. 11, 2016, at age 85. Born in Glenwood, Minn., to Edgar ’23 and Esther Nordgaard, he attended Luther for a year and earned a business administration degree from the University of Minnesota. Ed’s working life spanned 80 years, beginning at age five, when he regularly cleaned out the popcorn machine at the town bandstand for a dime, and ending on June 30, 2016, when he retired from consulting for the Town of Wilton and Wilton Board of Education regarding employee health benefits. For the 37 years in between, Ed held a number of management and executive positions for Equitable Life, Equicor, and Cigna, before launching a consulting business for clients that included 3M, Unocal, and U.S. Steel. He was a member of the Financial Executives Institute and the Council on Employee Benefits. An active member of the Congregational Church of New Canaan, Rotary of New Canaan, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, Kiwanis Club of Wilton, and Silvermine Golf Club, Ed also held board positions on the Silvermine Woods Homeowners Association and Pelican Lakes Association. He cherished growing up in a small Minnesota town that fostered his curiosity, kindness, and generosity as well as his love of fishing, golf, and cars. Later, Ed enjoyed windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, and downhill and cross-country skiing. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nita Nordgaard; two daughters, Kristi Nordgaard (Tim Nelson) and Tracie Jaser (Kevin); and grandson. Ed was preceded in death by his sister, Katherine (Nordgaard) Malmer ’49.

Charlotte (Christian) Wolfe of Rochester, Minn., died March 15, 2017, at age 90. After graduating from Thompson (Iowa) High School in 1944, she worked at Naeve Hospital before enrolling in 1946 at Luther, where she majored in business and sociology. After her Luther graduation, Charlotte taught business education at Kiester (Minn.) High School and was known as a kind and patient teacher, a favorite of many. She married Dale E. Wolfe of Kiester at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kiester on June 20, 1954, and retired from teaching in January 1959, to devote herself full time to being homemaker and mother to her family. In later years, Charlotte took evening classes at Mankato State University, taught adult education classes, served as substitute teacher at area schools, and worked at the Kiester Library. Her hobbies included reading, feeding birds, painting, playing cards, camping, entertaining, racing snowmobiles, and turkey hunting. An active member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Charlotte served on Church Council, ALCW, quilting group, and youth groups in her early years. She also worked with 4-H, scouts, and Kiester’s Saddle Club, Legion Auxiliary, and Fire Fighters Auxiliary. She is survived by her children, Kyle (Becky) Wolfe and Nona (Tom)
Charlotte was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Clara Christian; husband, Dale Wolfe; sister, Alice Peterson; and brother, Irving Christian.

Carmen (Havnen) Sunde of Decorah died Jan. 10, 2017, at age 87. After graduating from Rake High School in 1948, she attended Waldorf College in Forest City for a year before transferring to Luther. Carmen received a certificate in education from Luther in 1950. She married her childhood friend, Carroll Sunde ’53, Aug. 5, 1950, at Liberty Lutheran Church in Rake. The couple moved to Story City, and Carmen taught school there and in Zering, and Carroll attended Iowa State College in Ames. The Sundes farmed the Havnen home place in rural Rake for the next eight years, before moving to Decorah. Carmen was an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and she volunteered at Aase Haugen Home and its auxiliary. An advocate for people with disabilities and special needs, she and Carroll helped with Opportunity Homes and Carmen became very involved in the lives of her nieces and nephew after her sister died. She enjoyed reading, quilting, needlework, flowers, gardening, and cooking, and her family especially looked forward to her Norwegian pastry, Kringla, during the holidays. After her sons graduated from high school, Carmen resumed her studies at Luther, majoring in elementary education and receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1987. In May 2016 she became a resident of the Memory Care Unit at Traditions of West Union. Carmen is survived by her three sons: Donavon Sunde ’77, Paul (Cindy) Sunde, and Craig Sunde; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Carroll Sunde ’53 on Nov. 11, 2007; son, David, on May 27, 1997; and sister, Betty (Havnen) Osnes ’50.

1951

OBITUARIES

Alphine “Al” (Peterson) Bennett of Clarion, Iowa, died March 25, 2017, at age 87, after a long battle with cancer. Born and raised on a farm, she graduated from Frost (Minn.) High School in 1947. Al majored in sociology at Luther, where she met her future husband, Ron Bennett ’53, and she taught business classes in the area after graduation. Al and Ron were married on April 12, 1952, at the Dell Lutheran Church in rural Frost, and they made their home in Clarion, raising six children. For 28 years, Al worked as a part-time school photographer, but first and foremost she was a mom. She and Ron enjoyed many years wintering in Arizona, making many close friendships. A long-time member of First Lutheran Church, Al also enjoyed golfing, reading, cooking, playing Bridge, and hosting parties. She will be remembered for her strength and fighting spirit; one of her favorite quotes was “never give up.” Al is survived by her husband, Ron Bennett ’53; her children, Robin (David) Elledge, Susan (Charlie) Harken, Mark (Janeece Dent-Bennett) Bennett, and Bill (former wife, Sue) Bennett; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Paul Peterson; and numerous nieces, nephews, and family friends. She was preceded in death by her son, David; daughter, Cathy; siblings, Burton (Canthy) Peterson, LaVonne (Bob) Volz; sister-in-law, JoAnne Peterson; and step-grandchild, Rachel Dent.

David Hexom of Coon Rapids, Minn., died Dec. 30, 2016, at age 88. A 1946 graduate of Decorah High School, he majored in mathematics at Luther and excelled on the French horn. Dave served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, N.C., and band director in Gonvick, Minn., and Prairie du Chien, Wis. Known as “Steinway Dave” for his love of music, he sold pianos for many years. Dave is survived by his seven children: Debbie, Sue, Linda, Judy (Nick), Eric (Mary), Mark (Pam), and Lisa (Jason); 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and siblings: Paul Hexom ’61, Connie (Hexom) Bolson ’45, and Eunice Stoen. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann Hexom; parents, Pastor William T. Hexom ’17 and Charlotte Hexom; sister, Audrey (Hexom) Jordahl ’48; and brother, Charles Hexom.
Lois Jenson of Stillwater, Minn., died May 12, 2017, at age 88. Formerly of Hopkins, most recently of Bayport, she was a longtime nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Lois attended Luther and Fairview School of Nursing. She was a faithful member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Hopkins. Lois is survived by brothers, James Jenson ’41 and Paul Jenson ’48; nieces; nephews; and many friends.

Verene (Godtland) Klausen of Bloomington, Minn., died May 13, 2017, at age 92. Born in Moland, she majored in economics and business education at Luther, where she also met her husband of 65 years, Bill Klausen ’51. Verene spent many years as a homemaker and teacher; she loved spending time with her family and friends and sewing, camping, and traveling. She is survived by her children: Susan (Klausen) Stone ’74 (Sam Stone), Paul Klausen ’78, Julie (Klausen) Moe ’82 (Dave Moe ’81), and Anne Howard; and eight grandchildren.

Darleen (Helgerson) Rem of Mt. Sterling, Wis., died Nov. 19, 2016, at age 89. After high school she joined the Cadet Nurse Corps and graduated from Fairview Hospital School of Nursing in 1948. Darleen worked for Luther’s Health Service, continuing her education while there—and singing in Nordic Choir—before graduating in 1951 with majors in biology and religion. She married Richard Rem ’51 on Oct. 14, 1950, and served alongside him in parishes and nursing homes in Wisconsin during his ministry, but always considered Mt. Sterling her home. Darleen is survived by a daughter, Ruth (Rem) Thickpenny ’73 [Richard]; three sons, Paul (Erica Fishman), Dave (Margie), and Steve (Michelle); seven grandchildren, including Jon Rem ’04 (Sara) and Rachel Rem ’16; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Richard Rem ’51; sister and brother-in-law, Laurayne (Helgerson) Solberg ’49 and Lee Solberg ’50; and a grandson.

1952

OBITUARIES

Conrad Larson of Apple Valley, Minn., formerly of Willmar, died March 31, 2017, at age 87. Born in Minneapolis, he grew up in Hawk Creek Township, Renville County, and later moved to Minneapolis. Following the death of his parents, Conrad was raised by his three sisters. In 1947 he graduated from Minneapolis South High School before enrolling at Luther, where he majored in music. After his Luther graduation, Conrad was drafted into the U.S. Army and served overseas during the Korean War. He married Florence Holien ’54 on Dec. 19, 1954, and they made their home in Mora, where each taught school. In 1955 they moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., and Conrad entered the University of Michigan Medical School, graduating in 1961. He served a general internship and residency in pathology at Mercy Hospital in Toledo, Ohio, and began his medical practice in Decorah. In 1975 the couple moved to Willmar, where Conrad spent most of his years of practice, at Rice Memorial Hospital, serving as chief of pathology, laboratory director, and, later, as chief of staff. He was elected chairman of the Willmar School Board and later appointed to the Willmar Municipal Utilities Board of Commissioners. A member of Vinje Lutheran Church, where he was active in the church choir, Conrad loved music and the fine arts. He also enjoyed writing music and plays; performing as a singer and actor; as well as reading, traveling, and watching old time classic movies. Conrad is survived by two children, Kristin (and Kevin) Amundson and Eric Larson ’86 (Karen); two granddaughters; two sisters, Gertrude Franzén and Dorrie (Larson) Walen ’45; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence (Holien) Larson ’54, in 2015, and a sister, Marilyn Goodman. Conrad served as class agent for his class from 1994-2000.

Leigh Wold of Golden Valley, Minn., died Aug. 3, 2017, at age 86. He majored in English and mathematics at Luther and worked for many years as an engineer at Honeywell. A devoted
churchman and wonderful baseball coach, Leigh served his Luther Class of 1952 as class agent from 2000-05. He and his late wife, Joyce (Harris) Wold ‘53, received a Distinguished Service Award from Luther in 1997. Leigh is survived by his wife, Solveig Misner; four children: Gail, Marv (Joan), Phil ’82 (Laura [Holcomb] Wold ’83), and Tim Wold ’88 (Leida); grandchildren; and brother, Don. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce (Harris) Wold ’52; brother, Harry; and sisters, Rachel and Ruth.

1953

OBITUARIES

Rodger Nelson of Berlin, Conn., died Feb. 26, 2017, at age 83. Born in Little Falls, Minn., he attended Luther for two years before continuing his education at the University of Minnesota, where he graduated from medical school in 1959. Rodger completed his residency at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in 1968; he served in the U.S. Navy as a flight surgeon on the USS Coral Sea CVN-43. While making rounds at the St. Albans Military Hospital, he met his future wife, Rose Marie, an RN. For 30 years, Rodger worked as a pediatrician at Grove Hill Medical Center. Passionate about high quality education for all students, he served on the Berlin Board of Education for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rose Marie Nelson; son, Theodore Nelson (fiancé, Monica); two daughters, Stephanie Hale (Karl) and Lynae Brescia (Vincent); several grandchildren; sister, Myrtle Nelson; and extended family and friends.

George Schenck of Burlington, N.C., died Jan. 3, 2017, at age 85. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he majored in biology and chemistry at Luther and was employed with IBM for more than 25 years. George was also an avid sailor and reader, who loved to travel and spend time with his family. A Rotarian for many years and life-long member of the Lutheran Church, from 1993-98 he served Luther as a class agent. George is survived by his wife, Charlotte Schenck; four children, Alice Wolfe, Bill Schenck ’78, David Schenck, and Jean Glick; 17 grandchildren; and a sister, Lois Torrey.

Waldo “Wally” Varberg of Neenah, Wis., died May 25, 2015, at age 83. Born in Minot, N.D., he graduated from Minot High School in 1949, having served as senior class president and receiving statewide recognition in football and basketball. After attending Luther for two years, Wally graduated from the University of North Dakota in June 1953. He attended medical schools at the University of North Dakota and University of Oregon, receiving a medical doctorate in July 1957. Wally served an internship at Milwaukee County General Hospital, and he joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps from July 1958-July 1961, serving as a captain and stationed at Fort Lawton Army Hospital in Seattle. After his honorable discharge in 1961, Wally completed a medical residency at Marquette University School of Medicine, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, in 1965.

He established a private practice in Neenah—the Orthopedic Clinic of Neenah—and years later he established a practice with Dr. Jan Sarnecki, before retiring in 1991.

During his tenure as an orthopedic surgeon, Wally chaired various departments at Theda Clark Hospital and held memberships in many medical societies, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Wisconsin State Medical Society, and Wisconsin Orthopedic Society. He married his high school classmate, Mary Meyer, in July 1953, and they enjoyed and celebrated 61 years of marriage. Wally is survived by his wife, Mary; four children, Mark, Dan (Nancy), Vicky and Ted (Tammy); and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bernie Varberg.

1954
OBITUARIES

Helen (Mart) Martinko of Sharon, Pa., formerly of Sharpsville, died May 5, 2017, at age 83. Born in Knoxville, Iowa, she graduated from Des Moines Technical High School in 1951 and attended Luther, receiving a certificate in education in 1954. Helen taught in Minnesota and Montana before moving to the Shenango Valley area of Pennsylvania; she graduated from Youngstown State University in 1959. In 1960 Helen married James Martinko. She taught elementary school in Brookfield for more than 35 years, retiring in 1995, but continued to teach preschool and tutor students in her retirement. An active volunteer, Helen was a member of Sharon Regional Health System Auxiliary, Friends of the Library, and Christ Lutheran Church, and she belonged to College Club of Sharon and Thursday Nite Mixed Bowling League at Thornton Hall. She is survived by two sons; Kevin Martinko (Moe) and Gary Martinko (Beverly); seven half-siblings; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Helen was preceded in death by her husband, James; a brother, Larry Mart; and five half-siblings.

1956

OBITUARIES

Donna Olson of Lake Geneva, Wis., died Jan. 10, 2017, at age 82. Born in Calamus, Iowa, she attended St. Olaf College for two years before transferring to Luther, where she majored in elementary education. Donna went on to earn master’s degrees from New York Theological Seminary (in religious education) and Cardinal Stritch University (in education). She served as director of Christian education for four years at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Commack, Long Island, N.Y., and five years at First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam, Wis. Donna worked as a reading specialist in the Lake Geneva Elementary Schools for more than 24 years. She was active in the National Education Association, Wisconsin State Reading Association, and Wisconsin Education Association Council, and she served as former president of the Lake Geneva Teacher’s Association- Grievance Committee Chair and Southern Lakes Reading Council. A longtime member of the negotiating team of the Lake Geneva School District, Donna also served as secretary of the Geneva Lake Museum Board of Directors, was a volunteer tutor of Hispanic adults, and received the 1986 Lake Geneva Teacher of the Year Award for Special Services. She taught Sunday school and adult Bible study at Williams Bay Lutheran Church and served on their church council. An avid traveler who made a number of trips to Norway to visit relatives and study genealogy, Donna also did post-graduate study in England and Ireland and made visits to Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Israel, and Australia. Her favorite trip was with Global Volunteers to help build a school in Pommern, Tanzania. Donna happily attended the special events of her nieces and nephews and loved attending the Lyric Opera, Milwaukee Symphony, and her dinner club. She is survived by two sisters, Elaine (Olson) Oehler ’59 [Paul] and Esther (Dean) Nelson; a sister-in-law, Lenora Olson; and many nieces and nephews as well as grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins. Donna was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Frances; brother, Robert; and a nephew.

Thomas Robinson of Grand Forks, N.D., died May 23, 2017, at age 82. Born in Volga, Iowa, he graduated from high school as valedictorian in 1952 before enrolling at Luther, where he majored in mathematics and chemistry and was a four-year starter on the baseball team. Tom completed a master's degree in 1958 from Iowa State University (ISU) before moving to Grand Forks to teach mathematics at the University of North Dakota (UND). He married Sandra Erickson on Aug. 28, 1959, in Fertile, Minn. From 1960-63, Tom taught math at ISU, while earning his Ph.D., and he served as a math professor at UND from 1963 until his retirement in 1997. Tom authored Analytical Trigonometry in 1967, Algebra and Trigonometry in 1970, and a second edition of Analytical Trigonometry in 1972. He played baseball for most of his life, was a volunteer baseball coach at UND for approximately 20 years, and closely followed UND sports.
Over the years, Tom enjoyed fishing, running, and golfing. He sang with a barbershop chorus in Grand Forks for 27 years and was actively involved at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where he served on the church council, sang in choir, led the JOY group, and served as president of the congregation. Tom is survived by his wife, Sandra; two sons, Timothy (Pamela) Robinson and Paul (Jeffrey Longenecker) Robinson; two grandchildren; two sisters, Mary Cox and Peggy Koeneke; cousins, nieces and nephews; and extended family members.

CLASS NOTES

Bev (Scheffert) Haas of Waukon, Iowa, celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary with husband, Earl Haas. The couple was married December 26, 1956, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

1957

OBITUARIES

James Casterton of Decorah, Iowa, died Jan. 11, 2017, at age 85. Born on a farm three miles north of Highlandville, he graduated from Decorah High School in 1949 and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1949-53, stationed in the Philippine Islands. Jim graduated from Luther in 1957 and taught high school social studies in Waukon and Decorah. He married Shirley Ann Thompson June 25, 1961, at Ridgeway Lutheran Church. After graduating from Drake University, where he received a master’s degree, Jim served as high school principal in Wellsburg. From 1964-76, he served the Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock School District, first as high school principal, next as superintendent of schools. In 1976 Jim began working as an assistant administrator for the Area V Education Agency in Fort Dodge, and from 1978 until his retirement in 1993, he served as superintendent of schools for the Mabel-Canton School District in Mabel, Minn. He also served as superintendent of the Harmony (Minn.) Area School District from 1989-92. A hard worker who filled many additional roles—as farmer, waiter, truck driver, gas station attendant, singer, school bus driver, director of the Decorah Kilties, airman, and realtor—Jim had a “can do” attitude and unassuming nature. He positively influenced hundreds of young people and was especially sensitive to students who needed a pat on the back or words of encouragement. Jim was a member of the Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church, American Legion Post 299 of Mabel, and VFW Post 1977 of Decorah. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; four children: James (Patti) Casterton ’85, Stephanie (Jim) Rollins, John Casterton ’93, and Joel (Lori) Casterton; eight grandchildren, including Noah Casterton ’17; brother, Bernard (Martha) Casterton; sister, Belva Fadness; brother-in-law, Leonard Olson; sister-in-law, Sherry (Don) McDowell; and many nephews, nieces, neighbors, and friends. Jim was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, James and Lawrence (Ethel) Casterton; sisters, Edna (Alvin) Swenson, Palma (Orville) Wermager, Myrtle (Melvin) Noecker, and June Olson; and brother-in-law, Harold Fadness.

Marilyn (Olson) Rem of San Diego died Sept. 27, 2016, at age 84. Born in Holmen, Wis., she attended Luther for a year. Marilyn was proud of her Norwegian heritage and very active in the Sons of Norway and House of Norway at Balboa Park for nearly 40 years. Known for being a great role model and an inspiration to others, she had a deep love for animals, especially dogs, and enjoyed traveling. Marilyn is survived by her husband of 62 years, John Rem ’59; two sons, Jonathon (Marsha) and Mike; daughter, Diana “Deede” (Frank Rapallo); two grandsons; three brothers, Charles (Carol), Johnny (Mary), and Larry (Mary); sister, Ruth (Brandt Werner); aunt; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

CLASS NOTES
Eli Crogan of Watertown, Wis., was honored as Luther’s 2017 Alumni Coach of the Year, and returned to campus to speak at the Norse Awards Program on Feb. 19, 2017. Crogan coached basketball for 40 years before retiring at the end of the 2004 school year. He also had 20 years of coaching baseball. Most of Crogan's coaching career was at Watertown, where he coached basketball for 22 years. He also coached high school ball at Soldiers Grove, Fennimore and Wayland Academy, as well as some college basketball at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Crogan was also a scout for the NBA's Houston Rockets from 1975 to 1977.

Lowell Gangstad of Northwood, Iowa, is a retired schoolteacher and for the past 20 years has worked for the Hogan-Bremer funeral home, driving limousines, helping with services, and sometimes singing for the funerals. He has sung in the North Iowa Choral Society for the past dozen years or so and before that was a part of the Bob Davis Chorale at North Iowa Area Community College. He was featured in the *Mason City Globe Gazette* for directing the choir at First Lutheran Church in Northwood for the past 60 years.

1958

OBITUARIES

Harlan Bakken of Waukon, Iowa, died Dec. 27, 2016, at age 78. He attended Luther for two years. Harlan’s wish was to donate his body to the Mayo Clinic Department of Anatomy in Rochester, Minn., for medical education and research. He is survived by his partner, Dana Waters; daughter, Michelle Bakken; son, Michael Bakken; grandson; and two sisters, LeAnne (Bakken) Upward ’63 [Gerald] and Andrea (Bakken) James ’61 [Wendell].

Helen (Moe) Barth of Lindstrom, Minn., and Cozumel, Mexico, died Aug. 24, 2016. After graduating from Decorah High School in 1956, she attended Luther for two years before enrolling at the Minnesota School of Banking in Minneapolis. Helen worked in Minneapolis at Marquette National Bank and Dayton’s department store. She married her high school sweetheart, William “Bill” Barth ’60, June 4, 1960. Much of their married life was spent in Lindstrom, enjoying life on the lake, and at their winter island home in Cozumel. An accomplished swimmer, Helen loved to swim and snorkel in the ocean. She enjoyed traveling with Bill, visiting many foreign countries. They retired from Dayton’s in 1992 and have been long-time volunteers at community and church events, for Family Pathways and Ebenezer, and in Cozumel. Helen is survived by her husband, William “Bill” Barth ’60; daughter, Juliana Barth ’86, and her friend, Lane Schwarz ’89; son, John Barth ’84 (Kathy); and two grandchildren.

Allen Hermeier of Decorah died April 4, 2017, at age 80. Born on a rural Waukon dairy farm, he played football and was active in speech, drama, and debate before graduating from Waukon High School in 1954. While a Luther student, Allen majored in theater and history and he married his high school sweetheart, Helen Ruen, on Aug. 18, 1957. After his Luther graduation, he enrolled at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, graduating in 1962. Allen interned at First English Church in Fergus Falls, Minn., and was ordained at Glenwood Lutheran Church on June 17, 1962. He went on to serve Lutheran congregations in Burr Oak and Hesper, St. Paul’s in Atlantic, First Lutheran in Northwood, and St. Olaf in Fort Dodge before retiring in 2000. In retirement Allen served interim roles at First Lutheran in Mabel (Minn.), Immanuel Lutheran in Cresco, and St. Paul’s in Postville before settling in at Waterloo Ridge of rural Dorchester for the past 11 years. He also taught at Buena Vista College for many years and was active with prison ministry, Urban Ministry, and Interfaith forum, serving on more than 60 Brothers in Blue weekends at Iowa and other prisons. Allen received multiple awards for his
church and public service, including two Iowa Volunteer of the Year awards. For 12 years, he was a member of the Waldorf Board of Regents and served several years as its chairman. In his 55 years of ministry, Allen mentored dozens of interns and pastors. In his free time, he enjoyed trout fishing and, together with his family, summer vacations at the cabin he built on Leech Lake in Walker, Minn. An avid reader and scholar, Allen accumulated a library of thousands of books. He enjoyed baseball—attending more than 25 Twins home openers with his children—and travel, having taken many trips to Israel, prison trips to Belize, and trips to Alaska, Europe, and Africa. Allen is survived by his wife, Helen Hermeier; two daughters, Elizabeth Hermeier ’83 and Ami (Glen) Campbell; son, John (Julie) Hermeier ’85; five granddaughters, including Amy Hermeier ’14 and Sarah Hermeier ’16; grandson; brother, Gene Hermeier ’53 (Ruby [Totman] Hermeier ’53; sister, Carol (Ron) Stockdale; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Robert (Wanita) Ruen, Lucille (Ruen) Christianson ’63 and Dean Christianson ’61, and Diane (Ruen) Lovstuen ’74 and Norbert Lovstuen; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and other family. He was preceded in death by his son, Steven, in 1963 and niece, Kristi Hermeier ’78.

Thomas Ames Scharfenberg of Edgerton, Wis., died July 3, 2017, at age 80. After graduating from Edgerton High School in 1954, he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in physical education. Tom married his high school sweetheart, Judy Burdick, June 20, 1959, and they lived in Delavan, Wis., where they raised their family, and Tom spent his 38-year career in education at Delavan-Darien High School, teaching history and health, and coaching football, basketball, baseball, and tennis. He also served as the school’s athletic director for 10 years. Tom received a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1972. In his free time he enjoyed working in his yard, helping at Central Lutheran Church, where he was a lifelong member, serving as a member of the election board, played dart ball with his church team, and going out for breakfast every Wednesday with friends. For many years, he and Judy wintered with friends in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. In 2017 Tom was elected to the Edgerton Athletic Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Judy; son, Steve (Barbara); two daughters, Stacey Ryan (Tim) and Susan (Chris); seven grandchildren; two brothers, Jim and Gary (Edith); sister, Laurie (Pierre La Plante); sister-in-law, Dorothy Martinek (John); and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

1959

OBITUARIES

Charles “Chuck” Austad of Bemidji, Minn., died Jan. 23, 2017, at age 79. Born in La Crosse, Wis., his first job was to deliver milk and newspapers from his red wagon, with his dog, Mopsy, when he and his family lived in Zumbrota, Minn. Chuck and his family moved to Rushford when he started 10th grade, and he met Ann Ferden ’58, who became his high school sweetheart and, later, wife. Chuck and Ann were married at Highland Prairie Lutheran Church, Peterson, Minn., on June 13, 1959, after he graduated from Luther with majors in biology and chemistry. He was employed as a teacher in Cambridge and at Winona State University and counselor in North Branch and Moundsview. Chuck received a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969. He served as a professor at Bemidji State University for 23 years, chairing the education department and enjoying a distinguished career. Chuck also played cornet with the polka band Just Because for 27 years, and Ann would often travel with him. He was involved with First Lutheran Church and the local Parkinson’s support group. In the weeks before his death, Chuck and Ann had moved from their home of 45 years on the north end of Lake Bemidji to WindSong, an assisted living facility in town. He is survived by his wife, Ann (Ferden) Austad ’58; sister, Louise Bell; sons, Christopher
Kinley Eittreim of Huntsville, Ala., died June 3, 2017, at age 84. Born in Decorah, he played the bassoon in the Decorah High School Band and graduated in 1950. Kinley attended Luther for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Navy, where he served four years in the Silent Service as an electronics technician, on board the USS Sabalo submarine. After his military service, he returned to Luther and graduated in 1959 with a major in classical languages. While at Luther, Kinley met Ann Neiswanger ’60, and they were married Aug. 6, 1960. He attended Luther Seminary in Minneapolis and interned at Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, Calif. In 1963 Kinley was ordained at First Lutheran Church in Decorah. He served as a pastor in Sarles, N.D.; McVille, N.D.; at Trinity Lutheran in Newman Grove, Neb.; Messiah Lutheran in Vestavia Hills, Ala.; Prince of Peace Lutheran and All Saints Lutheran in Huntsville, Ala.; and Faith Lutheran in Birmingham, Ala. For 32 years, he was active in the naval and marine corps reserves as a chaplain, receiving the rank of commander, Chaplain Corps. Some of the highlights of Kinley’s career were the swearing of his son, Mark, into the Navy, and being asked to be the commissioning ceremony chaplain for the USS Annapolis, his son’s boat—the only reserve chaplain ever asked to do so. He earned a Navy Commendation Medal for service in the Navy's fleet hospital and was surreptitiously given a coveted drill instructor's hat.

Kinley served as director of Vestavia Hills (Ala.) Counseling Center at Messiah Lutheran Church and as a police and hospital chaplain for the community. He loved making and sharing homemade fudge, bread, and donuts and relaxed during his down time by working on cars and riding his motorcycle. Kinley is survived by his wife, Ann (Neiswanger) Eittreim ’60; daughter, Susan (Mark) Power; son, Mark (Debra) Eittreim; two grandsons; two sisters, Marlyn Eittreim ’47 and Janice (Eittreim) Imse ’58; aunt; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his four brothers and a sister.

CLASS NOTES

Marva (Paulson) Baldwin of Evergreen, Colo., is retiring after 33 years of directing community, public school, and church handbell choirs. She has been a state and district officer of Handbell Musicians of America as well as a clinician at handbell functions, co-authored a handbell education book and represented the U.S at several international handbell symposiums.

1960

OBITUARIES

Janet “Jan” (Olson) Iverson of New Ulm, Minn., died Oct. 8, 2016, at age 78 from injuries sustained in a car accident. Born in Albert Lea, she graduated in 1956 from New Richland High School before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in English. Jan married Michael Iverson on Aug. 4, 1962, in New Richland. She spent her career in education, as a teacher with the New Ulm Public Schools. In 1982 she received a master’s degree from Mankato State University. Jan retired after becoming ill with Multiple Sclerosis and became an active helper with Camp Courage. A devout member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in New Ulm, she also participated in the church choir and shared her musical talents with the congregation for many years. Jan is survived by her sisters, Judy (Jim) Supalla, Jean Anne Eliasson, and Trudy Olson ’65, and brother, Russell “Rusty” Olson Jr. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Michael Iverson in 2006; and sister, Christine Billiet.

Sharon (Finberg) Wilkinson of Chandler, Ariz., died June 29, 2016, at age 77. Born in Decorah, she majored in history at Luther and, after graduation, earned a master’s degree in library science at the University of Michigan. Sharon married Joseph Wilkinson in 1964, and they made their permanent home in Tempe, Ariz. She was active in Arizona State University’s
faculty wives club and also volunteered at the Tempe Historical Museum. Sharon also spent many years working in the King of Glory Church library and adult education programs. She is survived by her husband, Joe; brother, Robert (Norita) Finberg; three sons, Mark (Yi) Wilkinson, Tod (Jill) Wilkinson, and Eric (Gayle) Wilkinson; and six grandchildren.

1961

OBITUARIES

Jon Wogen of Olivia, Minn., died Jan. 16, 2016, at age 77. Born in Lake Mills, Iowa, he enrolled at Luther after graduating from Lake Mills High School. Jon majored in biology at Luther and went on to receive a master's degree in biology from the University of South Dakota. He married Jan Putz on Sept. 5, 1964, at Fountain City, Wis., and they were blessed with two sons. Jon taught science at schools in Norway, Iowa, and Olivia, Minn., where he and his family moved in 1977. He retired from teaching in 2001 from BOLD (Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian District) School and is remembered for teaching others how to appreciate nature. A member of Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, Jon enjoyed Friday morning ecumenical Bible study at Masters Coffee Shop. His community involvement was extensive; he was a member of Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Friends of Renville County Parks, Tatanka Bluffs Corridor Group, National Rifle Association Renville Rangers Shooting Club, Prairie View Bike/Hike Trail Committee, Olivia Parks and Recreation Team, and Buffalo Lake Rod and Gun Club, and he served on the county park/trails board. Jon also assisted the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H youth groups with outdoor activities and lure making. He is survived by his wife, Jan Wogen; two sons: Matthew Wogen and Erik (Sheila) Wogen; two grandchildren; brother, Phillip (Mary Jo) Wogen; and two brothers-in-law: Harry (Judy) Putz and Donald (Dorothy) Putz. Jon was preceded in death by his parents.

1962

OBITUARIES

Lee Nylander of Noblesville, Ind., died Jan. 6, 2017, at age 76. Born in Elmwood Park, Ill., he majored in chemistry at Luther and went on to receive a doctorate in chemistry from Loyola University in Chicago. Lee was retired from Broutman & Associates in Chicago, where he had served as a vice president for 19 years. A member of the Noblesville Baptist Church and Blatchley Nature Club, Lee raised prized orchids and was also a past-president of the Illinois Orchid Society and Society of Plastic Engineers.
He is survived by his wife, Belva Nylander; children, Kimberely (Lou) Nylander Herrera and Neil (Aliya) Nylander; four step-children: Lisa (Kurt) Herron, Richard (Kathy) Gigante, Andrew (Shannon) Gigante, and Lauren (Matt) Wilkens; 14 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

CLASS NOTES

Marilyn (Miller) Anderson of Decorah presented the program “Christian Churches in Israel and Palestine: Protectors of the Holy Sites” for the December Lutheran Church Women’s Advent-Christmas potluck.

Lois (Stole) Berg of St. Anthony, Minn., is retired.
Paul Heltne of Chicago was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

1963

OBITUARIES

David Teske of Manchester, Iowa, died Feb. 7, 2016, at age 75. After graduating from Manchester High School in 1959, he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in speech and sang in choir. David moved to New York City in 1963, where he served as the morning announcer for classical music station WBAI. Through Hayden’s Planetarium, he produced a radio program, Arm Chair Astronomy, which played twice a week, was broadcast on all Pacifica Stations, and noted weekly in the New York Times. David also worked with CBS in filming the construction of Kodak Pavilion at the World’s Fair. In 1966 he moved to California and worked in Los Angeles as a stagehand delivering scripts to TV and radio programs, and movie sets. In San Francisco David produced an astronomy program that was broadcast to the Armed Forces Radio worldwide, and he participated in a number of Renaissance fairs, selling star maps he created. Known as the most-published star mapper on file at the Library of Congress, his maps were described by the National Cartographic Center as the “most accurate and artistic star maps ever.” David created eight different star maps; he knew the names of the 8,602 stars, their origin, number, and constellation. One of his maps, Original Size, was an award winner in a design competition sponsored by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Navigators, stargazers, planetariums, astronomers, and universities have purchased his maps, and they were used in the movie Star Gate. In 1970 David returned to Manchester and continued to refine his maps and create versions for the blind. He also enjoyed talking on his ham radio, listening to music, and riding his bike. David is survived by his sister, Diane Drake; niece, Carolyn Radda (Steven) and their five children; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a niece, and nephew.

CLASS NOTES

Sandra (Sellers) Hanson of Brooklyn, N.Y., received the 2016 Francis Andrew March Award for her work as a teacher and administrator at LaGuardia Community College.

E. Joan (Gulsvig) Whiting of Rochester, Minn., died March 23, 2017, at age 76. Born in Sunburg to Esther and Joseph Gulsvig ’31, she graduated from Wanamingo High School before enrolling at Luther. Joan began working fulltime at Mayo Clinic in 1976, spending most of her career in human resources. She retired in 2000 but continued to work on a part time basis until 2009. Joan married David Whiting Sept. 25, 1965, in Wanamingo. She was a member of Zumbro Lutheran Church and its Miriam Circle. Joan and David wintered in Gulf Shores, Ala., and enjoyed traveling, golfing, and visiting their adored grandchildren. She is survived by her husband, David Whiting; two children, Christine Metzke and Chad (Susanne) Whiting; three grandchildren; and sister, Karen (Gulsvig) Johnson ’61. Joan was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Margaret (Gulsvig) Lunde ’64.

1964

CLASS NOTES

Dick Edwards of Menomonie, Wis., joined the board of directors at Lutheran Social Services in Milwaukee.
OBITUARIES

Carl Erickson of Orlando, Fla., died May 7, 2017, at age 74. Born in Elkader, Iowa, he grew up in the Elgin area and graduated in 1961 from Valley High School, where he excelled in academics and sports, playing basketball, football, and baseball. A member of the sub-state basketball team in 1960, Carl was voted Outstanding Athlete at Valley in 1961. During his college years at Luther, where he majored in Spanish, Carl spent some of his summers working as a smokejumper out West, fighting forest fires. After his Luther graduation, he taught high school Spanish in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., for four years, before returning home in 1969 to farm with his father and brother, in Wadena, raising cattle and corn for 30 years. Carl married Colleen Burger in 1973, and they later divorced. He and his longtime companion, Shirley Louw, became the parents of their daughter, Nicole, in 1982. Carl enjoyed bowling, golfing, mushroom hunting in the spring, and socializing with friends. He worked for Shafar Fiberglass in West Union for 10 years before moving to Orlando in 2003. While in Florida, Carl continued to stay busy working several part-time jobs. He is survived by his companion, Shirley Louw; daughter, Nicole Louw; grandson; two sisters, Joyce (Dave) Munson and Mary Lou Loeb; a brother, Leigh Roger (Joyce) Erickson; and many nieces and nephews. Carl was preceded in death by his mother in 1979 and father in 1986.

Gayl Gitch of Fredericksburg, Iowa, died June 1, 2016, at age 73. Born in New Hampton, he attended Luther before graduating from Wartburg College in 1964 and the University of Northern Iowa in 1970. Gayl was an all-state football and baseball player, all-state vocalist, musician, and avid sports fan. He taught mathematics, coached, and worked as a school administrator in Iowa and Minnesota. Gayl married Dianne Laabs and they later divorced. He married Ruth Sassmann Fink in 1984; she died after an auto accident in 2003. Gayl was a member of Faith United Church of Christ in Tripoli for 20 years and a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, where he was baptized and confirmed. He is survived by his brother, Jerry (Georgia) Gitch; two children, Stephen Gitch and Renee (Chuck) Smith; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; five stepchildren: Terri (Glenn) Meier, Jerelyn (Brent) Steere, David (Deb) Fink, Mary (John) Gorh, and Lynne (Fink) Rasmussen ’84 (John); 15 step-grandchildren; 23 step-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-grandchild. Gayl was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; his parents, Alvin and Beth Gitch; a brother, James Gitch; daughter-in-law, Marlyne Barker, and her husband, Garth Barker.

John Norback of Middleton, Wis., died March 10, 2017, at age 73. Born in Minneapolis, he lettered in high school football, basketball, and tennis and played competitive tennis during his four years at Luther, while majoring in mathematics and physics. After his Luther graduation, John continued his education, receiving master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business, in mathematics and quantitative analysis. He taught mathematics at Marion College for six years and spent the remainder of his career in the Food Science Department at UW-Madison, solving business problems for the food industry, applying math and software tools. John also served as director of the WISPLAN Computing and Telecommunications Unit and taught in Mexico, Tunisia, Australia, Uganda, Bangladesh, Japan, and England. In 1993 he married Kathleen Ley, and together they formed Norback Ley & Associates LLC, a food safety software company. Their work helped businesses, governments, and universities around the world reduce and eliminate hazards in their food systems. John loved
to hunt and garden at his farm in Sauk County. He also enjoyed fly fishing, being on the shore of Lake Superior and walking its beautiful beaches, dinners at home with family and friends, and applying his talents to encaustic art, acrylics, oils, wood cuts, and sculpture. John is survived by his wife, Kathleen Ley; sons, Sebastian, Nathaniel, and Christopher Norback ’90; grandson; five siblings, Sally Polarski, David (Sher), Tom, Joan Verdegan (Colby), and Carol Forsberg (David); and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father.

CLASS NOTES

Glenn Borreson of Holmen, Wis., is the author of a book of local history entitled, “Look out Below! Ski Jumping in Western Wisconsin’s Trempealeau County.” His research on the subject was inspired by five of his Borreson uncles who were competitive ski jumpers including the Gilbert Borreson ’28.

Dennis Christian of Minneapolis is retired.

1967

OBITUARIES

Michael "Mike" Van Auken of Forest City, Iowa, died April 17, 2017, at age 72. Born in St. Paul, Minn., he lived in Arcadia, Wis., and Winona, Minn., while growing up. Mike attended Winona State University for two years, where he met his future bride, Inghild “Pøtt” Nørstebø, who was an exchange student from Norway. She returned to her homeland and Mike transferred to Luther, where he became involved in various musical endeavors and had the opportunity to tour Europe with the Nordic Choir, and visit Pøtt in Norway. After two years of courting across the sea, they decided to marry on Feb. 10, 1968, in Winona. The couple made their first home in Gays Mills, Wis., and Mike taught band and choir in the Gays Mills and Soldiers Grove junior and senior high schools for two years, before moving to Forest City in August 1970. For 16 years, Mike directed the Waldorf College Concert Band and New World Singers and led them on tours, including four to Mexico. While on sabbatical during the 1974-75 school year, he and his family lived in Oslo, Norway, and Mike taught music at a junior high school. In 1986 he began working in the insurance, investments, and financial planning industry, eventually establishing Van Auken Financial Services, housed in the big red barn at their home in the country, where he advised clients until his retirement in 2011. Mike pursued many interests in the country including gardening, bird-watching, tree-planting, chicken-keeping, and building a fish pond. He also enjoyed singing with the choir at Immanuel Lutheran Church for 46 years, directing the junior choir, playing jazz with Rank & Tenure and worship music with Psalm 100, and enjoying live performances of many kinds. A voracious reader himself, Mike served as a volunteer for reading with elementary school children; he was also a member of Rotary, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and helped to create a community garden. He spent many glorious summer days at the Nørstebø family cabin in Norway and Van Auken family cabin in Montana, where he especially enjoyed the Glacier Park mountain vista. Mike is survived by his wife, Pøtt; daughter, Kari (Van Auken) Stern ’93 (Chuck); son, Paul (Courtney); five granddaughters; sister, Becky (Bill); niece; three nephews; and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Karen.

Richard Rambo of Bullhead City, Ariz., died Jan. 25, 2017, at age 71. A native of Burlington, Iowa, he majored in physical education at Luther and had lived in Bullhead City for the past 31 years. Richard was a retired teacher and he also worked in surveillance. He is survived by his wife, Marlene Rambo; two sons, Scott (Sara) Rambo and Kent (Danielle) Rambo; daughter, Jill (Ebed) Martinez; and eight grandchildren.
Kenneth Tetrick of Minneapolis died Feb. 20, 2017, at age 70. A native of Boscobel, Wis., he attended Luther from 1964-66, taking classes in physics and astronomy, but completed his bachelor’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, majoring in philosophy. Ken also took courses at the University of Minnesota and declared himself a conscientious objector during the Vietnam conflict. He worked in designing and testing computer firmware in Minnesota at Honeywell/Alliant Techsystems, Integris, and DataCard Group, and at Esterline AVISTA in Platteville, Wis. Ken also pursued his interests in computer programming, photography, Christian faith, yoga, marksmanship, music synthesizers, amateur radio, and other areas, including quadcopters. He was also a University of Minnesota Golden Gophers hockey team fan and shared his life with many cats over the years. Ken is survived by his two brothers, Steven Tetrick and Mark Tetrick (Cathy); nephew, Bryce Tetrick; and niece, Lily Tetrick. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant brother, John Isaac Tetrick.

CLASS NOTES

Beverly (Erickson) Bodelson is semi-retired and teaches English-as-a-second-language to adults at English for Internationals in Roswell, Ga.

1968

OBITUARIES

Barbara (Bauman) Finger of Janesville, Wis., died March 10, 2017, at age 70. Born in Colorado Springs, Colo., she graduated from Lancaster (Wis.) High School before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in sociology. Barbara married Thomas Finger on August 26, 1972, in Lancaster. She worked for more than 38 years as a social worker for Rock County Human Services, mainly in foster care, until her retirement. An active member of Rock Prairie United Presbyterian Church, Barbara had been a longtime member of Zonta Club and had been active in Girl Scouts, serving as a troop leader and board member. She also served many years as board president for the Janesville Community Day Care Center. Barbara loved antiquing, and she and Tom enjoyed their trips to Mexico, Caribbean cruises, and, in past years, spending much of the winter in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. Barbara is survived by her husband, Tom; three siblings: Kenneth (Gail) Bauman, Jr., Jody (Octavio) Portu, and Kim (Bob) Elliott; sister-in-law, Penny (Paul) Hendrickson; several nieces and nephews; grandnieces and nephews; and many friends.

Thomas Van Horn of Lafayette, Ind., and Louisville, Ky., died Sept. 12, 2015, at age 70. Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, he majored in biology at Luther and received a master’s degree in economics from Penn State University in 1972, and a doctorate in soils and land use from Purdue University in 1985. Tom married Deborah Hedrick in 1978, and they later divorced. For more than 20 years he worked as a city planner for the City of Lafayette and also served as Boy Scout troop leader, chauffeur for his children’s soccer and gymnastics practices, and amateur architect. Tom retired in 2010 but was always quick to volunteer for city events and his children's activities, including Dancing in the Streets, A Taste of Tippecanoe, and the Jefferson High School Haunted Mansion. He spent his retirement years studying history, researching his family's genealogy, and drawing various versions of his dream house. Tom had recently moved from Lafayette to Louisville to be closer to his daughter, Erin. He was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in West Lafayette for more than 30 years, where he served as an elder, sang with the choir, and played in the hand bell choir. Tom is survived by his son, Kyle Van Horn (Kim Bentley), and daughter, Erin Van Horn. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Marcia Van Horn.
Thomas Tuttle of Alameda, Calif., died April 7, 2017, at age 73. Born in Charles City, Iowa, he enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from Clear Lake High School in 1961. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Tom attended the University of Iowa, then enrolled at Luther, where he majored in political science and sociology. He continued his studies at Vanderbilt University and Iowa State University, receiving two master’s degrees. Tom had an award-winning career in journalism as a sports and news writer, editor, columnist, and editorial director working at newspapers in Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and California. He was proud to have recently served on the Alameda County grand jury for a year and enjoyed reading, writing, music, sports, and daily walks with his dachshunds. Tom is survived by his wife, Mary Jacobs Tuttle; daughter, Denise Tuttle O’Donnell (Kevin); grandson; three brothers: Gary (Lara) Engebretson, Robert (Sarah) Engebretson, and Dennis Engebretson; two brothers- and sisters-in-law: Nancy Wonder (Rob) and John Jacobs (Patty); and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

CLASS NOTES

Laura (Blackmore) Bachman is an editor for Frederick Thomas USA, Inc. from her home in Burlington, Wis.

Dave Hagemeier of Sioux Falls, S.D., is retired.

David Hanford of Columbia, S.C. is a life coach and a church mission consultant.

Bill Pettit is provost at Oklahoma State University’s (OSU) Center for Health Sciences, senior associate dean of OSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, associate dean of the Department of Rural Health, and a professor in the Department of Family Medicine. In April 2017 he received the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association “Doctor of the Year” award. (PHOTO) Alex Rowell of Eden Prairie, Minn., is retired. He is chairman of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, serves on the executive committee of the Minnesota Twins Community Fund, and is chair of the program committee for Minnesota Youth Athletic Services. He was invited to join the 2019 NCAA Final Four Advisory council.

Robert Sathe is chairman of MCF Advisors, LLC. in Covington, Ky.

1969

CLASS NOTES

Nel Becker of Plymouth, Minn., is retired.

Catherine (Turner) Boulanger of Highland, Ill., retired and is a volunteer through Woman’s Club as the local president and serves on the General Federation of Women’s Clubs district board. She also volunteers once a week at Fairmont City Library as a bilingual aid.

Michael Fossum of St. Cloud, Minn., retired after 34 years as a financial associate with Thrivent Financial
Keith Johnson of Pine Hill, N.J., retired from a lifetime of working under the (virtual) sky, having served in five planetariums across the nation (including Luther’s). Most recently he was the initial director of the Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University working there for 12 years.

Nancy Jones has received the Hancher-Finkbine Medallion from the University of Iowa, one of the highest awards the University bestows on faculty and professional staff. The honor recognizes learning, leadership, and loyalty over the span of a professional career. Nancy has directed the Writing Resource Center at the College of Law since its founding in 1990, the first law school based writing center in the country and a model subsequently adopted by numerous law schools throughout the United States. (PHOTO with Dean Agrawal and President Harreld)

Karen (Schiesser) Montgomery of Northfield, Minn., is retired.

Meg (Funfar) Nielsen is outreach development director at Triangle Community Ministry in Madison, Wis.

1970

OBITUARIES

Dennis Johnson of Eldridge, Iowa, died July 31, 2017, at age 69. Born in Decorah, he majored in physical education at Luther. Dennis married Linda VanGorp on Aug. 21, 1971, in Decorah. He served six years in the Army Reserves. For more than 40 years, he was a teacher, administrator, and softball coach for North Scott High School. Dennis began his career teaching driver’s education and went on to become dean of students and activities director, starting the high school’s At Risk Program. He coached 1,249 wins for the North Scott High School softball team, taking the team to state ten times, winning the championship twice. Dennis also coached girls cross country from 1978 to 1990, winning state in 1998. He was the only North Scott coach to win state championships in two sports and was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998 and the North Scott Hall of Fame in 2013. Dennis was selected the Athletic Director of the Year for his district in 2006. He enjoyed watching Western movies, playing pinochle and golf, fishing, hunting deer and pheasant, taking annual trips to Minnesota with his family, and spending time with his grandchildren. Dennis is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Troy (Tomomi Watanabe) Johnson and Kelly (Justin) Diercks; three grandchildren; two brothers, Davis Johnson ’66 (Shirley [Rovang] Johnson ’66) and Mark Johnson; sister, Wanda (Ron) Hemesath; and a large extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents.

CLASS NOTES

Diane Alshouse of Roseville, Minn., is a retired district court judge.

Sue (Johnston) and Lyle Luzum have donated their 170-acre farm near Calmar, Iowa, to the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust – the largest donation ever made to SILT. The donation includes their home, outbuildings and equipment. Lyle’s family has farmed the land since 1873, but they decided to pass it on to SILT as a way to profit future sustainable farming practices.

Pam (Espinosa) McFarland of Fresno, Calif., was recognized as a Lawyer of Distinction within the top ten percent of lawyers nationwide.

Kurt Sandstrom of Pittsburgh is a self-employed consultant with experience in Logistics Business Development.
OBITUARIES

Donald Luettjohann of Hiawatha, Iowa, died Feb. 15, 2016, at age 66. Born in Cedar Rapids, he graduated from Washington High School, where he was a member of the diving team. Don majored in biology at Luther and went on to earn a D.O. degree in 1974 at the University of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines. After completing his orthopedic residency in Lansing, Mich., he practiced there for several years. Don married Linda K. Pins on August 27, 1976, in Dyersville. He and his family moved to Havre, Mont., where he practiced medicine until retiring in 1993. After retirement, Don attended the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and pursued a career in writing. Don enjoyed computers, photography, motorcycles, cooking, diving, travel, and—most of all—time spent with his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Laura (Derek) Hurt; son, Robert Luettjohann ’04; two sisters, Mary (Bob) Wangsness and Sue (John) Seitz; two grandchildren; sister-in-law, Rosie (Bob) Platz; four brothers-in-law: Herbert Pins, Chuck (Andrea) Pins, Dave Pins, and Mike (Nancy) Pins; and mother-in-law. Don was preceded in death by his parents, nephew, and father-in-law.

James O’Brien of West Union, Iowa, died Dec. 26, 2016, at age 67. Born in Waterloo, he grew up in Sumner and graduated from Sumner High School. A business administration major at Luther, Jim continued his education at the Graduate School of Banking and College for Financial Planning, earning the Certified Financial Planner designation and becoming a mutual fund counselor. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain. Jim was the co-owner of O’Brien Brothers Drug and served as executive vice president and director of Farmers Savings Bank, and president of O’Brien and Associates. He married Valerie Peterson on Jan. 18, 1986, in Elgin. An active community member, Jim served as past president of Rotary International, West Union Industrial Development, West Union Country Club, West Union Ambassadors, West Union Betterment Foundation, Zion Endowment Trust, Jaycees, Northeast Iowa Shriners, and the Bank Administration Institute. He was also a member and past master of Masonic Lodge #69 in West Union and Lookout Lodge #395 in Sumner and Cedar Rapids Consistory and a member of the Troop 54 Committee, American Legion Post 15, various committees at Zion Lutheran Church, Ducks Unlimited, the library board, West Union Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, Fayette County Economic Development, West Union Chamber, and the committee to build the PAC at North Fayette Valley High School. Jim volunteered for many hours at North Fayette Elementary, Middle, and High Schools and was also named West Union Citizen of the Year in 1988, 1989, and 1999. His hobbies include camping, fishing, hunting, backpacking, coin collecting, reading, traveling, archaeology, and genealogy. Jim volunteered his time recording cemeteries for Fayette County and has compiled a database of more than 30,000 individuals. He enjoyed history and facts and was known for his stories and jokes. Spending time with friends and family was what he loved most, and he was always ready to play games. Jim is survived by his wife, Valerie; son, Michael O’Brien; brother, Thomas (Darlene) O’Brien; mother-in-law, Janice Peterson; sisters-in-law, Joni (Steve) Gisleson and Renee (Rodney) Ray; and several nieces, nephews, grandnephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and father-in-law.

Darrell Seeley of Delafield, Wis., and Sedona, Ariz., died Aug. 12, 2016, at age 66. After graduating from Anamosa (Iowa) High School, he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in mathematics and physics. Darrell continued his education at the University of Iowa, where he received a master’s degree in physics in 1975. He was employed as a professor of physics at
Parkland College in Champaign, Ill., and later, for 22 years, at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), where he was elected faculty senate chairman by his teaching colleagues and honored as Teacher of the Year by the student body. In 2002 Darrell left MSOE to start his own laser safety consulting company. In 2011 he joined Rockwell Laser Industries as vice president. Darrell was well known in the laser safety community, was a member of many laser-safety boards and committees, and received the Laser Institute of America’s Distinguished Educator Award. He also served as a visiting laser scientist for the U.S. Army in Maryland, Cedar Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Laser Institute of America in Florida, and Austrian Research Centers in Seibersdorf, where he was the first recipient of the Herta Firnberg Fellowship.

Darrell enjoyed woodworking, dancing, singing, and music ministry at Christ Lutheran Church in Sedona; he also helped with the rebuilding of the church organ at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield. Darrell is survived by his wife, Patricia “Trisha”; children: Katy (Penny) Seeley and Dan Seeley ’02 (Jessica [Welling] Seeley ’04); two grandchildren; stepdaughter, Joanne Odden (Adam Schwindt); stepson, Erik (Jenny); two stepgrandchildren; five siblings: Dave Seeley, DonnaLou (Pete) Clagett, Clarke Seeley (Donna), Rose Anne (Dave) Steninger, and Gail (Bernie de Leseleuc) Seeley; and many Christian brothers and sisters.

CLASS NOTES

Chuck Findley is principal broker and owner of Chuck Findley Real Estate in Grants Pass, Ore.

Beverly Petersen of Rockford, Ill., retired after working 30 years for the Social Security Administration.

Duane Sauke of Rochester, Minn., was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives for District 25B in Southeastern Minnesota.

David Schroeder is a tax professional for H&R Block in Oconto, Wis.

1972

CLASS NOTES

Paul Grabow of Richardson, Texas, is retired.

Francine (Zitterich) Hedberg is an editor/proofreader at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Mark Hengesh of Weeki Wachee, Fla., retired as band director at Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn, Ill.

John Huey, Jr. is managing director at MidAmerican Aerospace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Wendy (Obernolte) Schatz retired as principal of Notre Dame Catholic School in Cresco, Iowa. Her career has come full circle; from the time that she attended St. Joseph’s Grade school in Cresco to now retiring from the same institution after a 43-year career in elementary education.
Steven Sorenson is president of the Senior Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and is celebrating 40 years of practice in Ripon, Wis., this spring. He continues to teach law and business at Ripon College and delivered his 100th seminar on “Legal Ethics” this past year.

Patricia Holman and Phil Wangberg ’70 are retired in Albuquerque, N.M.

1973

CLASS NOTES

Chuck Beatty is an Otolaryngologist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He was elected president of the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society, Inc. (American Triological Society). Founded in 1895, membership in the Society brings the distinction of being elected to the most prestigious society in otolaryngology. Active Fellowship is achieved by presenting a thesis in the field of otolaryngology considered acceptable to a panel of peers. The Society disseminates scientific information by presenting the latest basic science and clinical information at scientific meetings and through publication of its scientific journals, The Laryngoscope and Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology, and the newsmagazine ENTtoday. The Society promotes research into the causes of and treatments for otolaryngic diseases by attracting promising physicians to scholarly otolaryngology research and supporting their development, providing financial support for the research efforts of young scientists, and promoting the highest standards in the field of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. (PHOTO)

Pat (Holtorf) Branstad is an instructor of German at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.

Jim Froisland is chief financial officer of Titan International, Inc. in Quincy, Ill.

Barbara (Elmer) Marshall Nickell of Salina, Kan., was selected as Kansas Wesleyan University’s 2016 Faculty of Distinction honoree. This annual Kansas Independent College Association award honors a faculty member at each school for their outstanding achievements in and out of the classroom.

Richard Nading retired from the U.S. Army after almost 30 years of service and has worked the last 10 years with Green River District Health Department in Owensboro, Ky., where he develops and presents programs for tobacco/substance abuse prevention and cessation to students from fourth grade through college level in seven counties.

Judy Olson of Austin, Texas, retired after 42 years of teaching secondary English and theatre.

1974

OBITUARIES

Ellen (Peters) Dennis of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Jan. 12, 2017, at age 64. A Spanish major at Luther, she is remembered by her friends as the best listener, supporter, and cheerleader. Ellen was a world traveler who maintained friendships across the globe and regaled her friends locally with stories of her journeys. Her passion for life and humor was unmatched; there is not one person who does not have humorous anecdotes or vivacious memories of their time with Ellen. She fiercely adored and loved her family; she enjoyed caring for all of her pets, playing with her grandchildren, teaching her kids to be adventurous and respectful, and being a supportive wife every day. Ellen was intelligent, strong, and compassionate, and her vigor for life will be missed.
She is survived by her husband, David; daughter, Hannah (Will) Robertson; son, Peter Ilten ’06 (Katie); four grandchildren; half-sister, Janet McMillan; niece and nephews; two birds and two cats. Ellen served as a class agent from 2003-10.

CLASS NOTES

**Terry Bizzell** is president and CEO of Asset One Foundation, LLC in Lovejoy, Ga.

**Ele Clay** is a pastoral intern at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, Iowa. (PHOTO)

**Renate (Fabricius) Hunter** retired from teaching social studies after 19 years full time teaching and 23 years as a substitute teacher with South Winneshiek Schools. She still substitutes once in a while and is a social dance and country western teacher at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar, Iowa.

**Kari (Yung) Saba** is Deputy Chief Development Officer for the Chicago Housing Authority in Chicago.

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**1975**

**OBITUARIES**

**Rachel Elson-Canfield** of Hot Springs, Ark., died May 15, 2017, at age 63. Born in Leon, Iowa, she graduated from Central Decatur High School, where she participated in basketball, vocal music, instrumental music, art, and drama. Rachel also spent time in church activities and riding her horse. She graduated magna cum laude from Luther with a major in biology before receiving a master’s degree in speech therapy from Oklahoma State University. After living briefly in Albuquerque, N.M., Rachel started working for Grant Wood AEA as a speech and language therapist, working in elementary schools in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, area. She married Ted Canfield on Feb. 20, 1987, and they taught Sunday school, played hand bells, and were actively involved in Saturday celebration services at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, with Rachel providing music for 22 years. She also served as President of the United Methodist Women organization. In 2011 Rachel retired to pursue a career in art, and in 2015 she and Ted moved to Hot Springs, where she had an art studio in her back yard and her art was also featured in the Artist Workshop Gallery in downtown Hot Springs. Rachel participated in her local Diamondhead community activities, Lion’s club, and First United Methodist Church, where she again played hand bells. She is survived by her mother, Nancy Elson; husband, Ted Elson-Canfield; two sons, Nathaniel Iverson (Julie Barst) and Benjamin (Frances) Iverson; five stepchildren: Chris, Cheri, TJ, Chad (Kristina), and Todd (Shelly) Canfield; 12 step-grandchildren; brother, David Elson (Julie); and sister, Sylvia Anspach (Larry) and their children.

**Ronald Olson** of Viroqua, Wis., died Jan. 31, 2017, at age 63. After graduating from Viroqua High School, he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in music and played violin and tuba. From 1975-82, Ron directed the string orchestras at New Richmond Schools. He studied computer science at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, and worked for AG-RE-CO and taught at WWTC in Viroqua. Ron was a founding member of the Viroqua Rotary Club, and he started Viroqua Business Systems, which he owned and operated. After receiving a master's degree in computer science from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, he moved with his family to the United Arab Emirates, where he and his wife, Margaret, taught from 1993-96. Ron later worked as a computer network engineer in Wausau and Stevens Point before moving back to Viroqua in 2008 to retire. For the past six months, he served as president of the Eagles Club. An accomplished musician, Ron enjoyed playing in the Wausau Symphony and Band, and in many local community theater pit orchestras. He was a founding member of the OPUS String Quartet
in Wausau, and he continued to play music throughout the Driftless Region in his retirement. Ron is survived by his father, Ramon Olson; sister, Renee; brother, Randall (Deborah); ex-wife, Margaret (Jensen) Milkovich ’75; children: Brian Olson ’96 (Rykna), Brent Olson ’00 (Caitlin), Carl Olson (Julie), and Brinne Olson; and six grandchildren.

CLASS NOTES

Steve Connell retired as director of the Pride of the Dutchmen Band at MOC-Floyd Valley High School in Orange City, Iowa. The Pride of the Dutchman Marching earned a national reputation as one of the finest marching bands in the country with performances in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, the Orange Bowl Parade, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, the Hollywood Christmas Parade, The Waikiki New Year’s Eve Parade, and NFL Monday Night Football. He began a new career as director of athletic bands at Northwestern College. (PHOTO)

Laurel Hoff of Shoreview, Minn., retired after a 38-year career in nursing and public health. She received the Jim Parker Leadership Award from the Minnesota Department of Health and State Human Health Services Committee. (PHOTO)

Aaron Schmidt of Chandler, Ariz., is a retired teacher.

MARRIAGES

MIKE OSTERHOLM and Libby, Sept. 28, 2016

1977

OBITUARIES


CLASS NOTES

Peyton Moncure of Fairfax, Va., is retired.

Jill (Wolding) Osburn is executive director of external relations at Crown College in St. Bonifacius, Minn.

Brad Schneider of Verona, Wis., retired after 38 years of teaching band in public schools in Iowa and Wisconsin. He serves as government relations chair for the Wisconsin Music Educator’s Association, and was honored to direct one of the bands at the UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic, the annual summer music camp held on the UW campus in Madison.

Marcus Thomsen of Millersville, Pa., was appointed associate dean of the faculty at Franklin and Marshall College. He is also professor of chemistry and a member of the faculty at the college.

Gene Whannel of Estes Park, Colo., is a real estate broker for RE-MAX Realty.
**OBITUARIES**

**Daniel Jordet** of Brooklyn Park, Minn., died Dec. 27, 2016, at age 62. After graduating from Park Center High School, where he was a strong musician and drum major, he enrolled at Luther and majored in religion and accounting. Dan continued his education at L'Ecole Fraternelle, Chambon sur Lignon, France, where he studied French. He worked as an American Lutheran Church administrator and treasurer for a high school in Ngaoundere, Cameroon, prior to his position as vice president for finance at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. Later, Dan served as municipal finance director for various cities: Waverly and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Mankato, Brooklyn Center, Otsego, and Saint Peter, Minn., where he also held the position of city administrator for three years.

For nearly two decades, as a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the League of Minnesota Cities, Dan taught peers and newly elected city council members throughout Minnesota how municipal finance works, and in 2014 he organized the GFOA national conference, held in Minneapolis. Dan is survived by his daughter, Signe Jordet; son, Peter Jordet and fiancé Catherine Dunn; former wife, Nancy North ’78; father and stepmother, Howard and Diane Jordet; sister, Nancy Jordet; and niece, Sasha Jordet. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marjorie Jordet, and brother, Gary Jordet.

**CLASS NOTES**

**Kim (Outten) Outten Stubbs** of Nassau, Bahamas, is chief curator at the National Museum of the Bahamas. She was inducted into the Commonwealth Association of Museum’s prestigious Cowrie Circle. Memberships in the Cowrie Circle, CAM’s highest honor, signifies a tribute to those members who have played a major role in advancing growth and development of museums in their respective countries.


**MARRIAGES**

KRISTIN WALLESTAD and KEITH NORTHWAY ’79, Oct. 20, 2016

**1979**

**Mark Heistad** of Sioux City, Iowa, died April 17, 2017, at age 59 of esophageal cancer. Born in Minneapolis, he attended Washburn High School, and, as a young man, worked for Wilderness and Amnicon canoe bases, played on the church softball team, and sang in several choirs. Mark also loved to fish in Canada and cross country ski on the Gunflint Trail. He majored in political science at Luther and managed the college radio station for several years. Mark hosted and produced for public radio stations in Marshall and St. Paul, Minn., and Cedar Falls, Iowa. From 1991-92, he hosted Morning Edition for MPR in St. Paul and produced 15 documentaries, including a story on Dorothy Molter, the “root beer lady” of the Boundary Waters, a piece on farmers still using plow horses, and a documentary on Hubert Humphrey. Mark was the recipient of 23 state, regional, and national journalism awards. He earned a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Minnesota in 1997 and served as professor of journalism at Penn State from 1996 to 2000. Throughout his career, Mark mentored many students and interns. The last 15 years of his life were spent at Morningside College in Sioux City, where he was known as “Doc” and worked as professor of mass communications. Mark is survived by his brother, David (Kristi); sisters: Carolyn, Marie (Heistad) Vandenbark ’84, and Kathy Blessing (Dave); aunt; uncle; and cousins.
Mary Jane “MJ” McLendon of Lawrence, Kan., formerly of Waterloo, Iowa, died Aug. 12, 2016, at age 59. Born in Iowa City, Iowa, she was adopted by the McLendons of Waterloo, where she grew up. As a teenager, MJ was involved in Girl Scouts, and at Luther she majored in Latin and was also a member of the swim team. She continued her education at the University of Northern Iowa, receiving master’s degrees in English and counseling, and at the University of Kansas (KU), where she received a doctorate in English literature. MJ taught composition and American literature at KU and went on to develop in 1984 a course on the literature of the Holocaust, which she taught until her retirement due to illness in 2011. She published and presented papers on many authors, including Chaim Potok, Willa Cather, Joseph Conrad, and Elie Wiesel, and won many teaching awards from the KU English Department. MJ participated in community activities such as Take Back the Night and presentations on Holocaust literature in the Lawrence schools and community organizations. She is survived by her partner of 32 years, Betty Campbell, and two stepsons, Steven Campbell and Ben Campbell-Bradley.

CLASS NOTES

Rebecca (Hanson) Berman is a researcher at CJE SeniorLife in Chicago.

Steve Buck of Ames, Iowa, is temporarily retired.

Christopher Cudworth is communications coordinator for the City of Batavia, Ill.

Mark Gould is the director of music at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield, Wis.

Martha (Gesme) Nielsen of Palatine, Ill., is a key account manager for Scandinavian Airlines. She recently received SAS’s Global Sales “Colleague of the Year Award” at their Global Sales Days in Stockholm, Sweden.

Barbara (Vaske) Norland of Homestead, Fla., is director of development and communications at YWCA of Greater Miami-Dade, Inc.

Clark Wicks is superintendent of the Perry (Iowa) Community School District.

MARRIAGES

Suzanne Astra and CHRIS CUDWORTH Suzanne Astra, May 6, 2017

AROL BRANDT and Wes Shumar, October 13, 2013

KRISTIN WALLESTAD ’78 and KEITH NORTHWAY, Oct. 20, 2016

1980

CLASS NOTES

Keith Bruening is vice president and treasurer at Bruening Rock Products in Decorah. He is also the head bowling coach for Decorah High School.

Mary (Christianson) Hansen is chief executive officer and administrator at Mayo Employees Federal Credit Union in Rochester, Minn. She was honored as the Outstanding Professional of the Year for 2017 by the Minnesota Credit Union Network’s Awards Committee.
Mark Lamb is executive vice president at JLL Valuation & Advisory Services in Dallas.

Barbara (Hodge) Miller of Edina, Minn., is executive assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota.

Arne Sorenson received the Leadership in Diversity Award at the Committee for Economic Development’s 2017 Distinguished Performance Awards Dinner in New York City. Sorenson was cited for leading programs that foster diversity in the workplace and champion underrepresented groups, including supporting women and their advancement across the full spectrum of private enterprise.

Jeff Papke retired from Federal Service (U.S. Army) after 35 years, 11 months, on April 1, 2017 after serving at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Ford Hood, Texas, as a Health Systems Administrator.

Tim Ruff Welch is minister of music at St. Andrews Mexican Anglican Church in Chapala, Mexico. He is also the choral director of Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco, conductor of Coro Municipal de Zapopan, and director of Los Cantantes del Lago.

Mark Werning is chief operating officer and board secretary at American Bank and Trust Company, N.A./AmBank Holdings, Inc. in Davenport, Iowa.

1981

CLASS NOTES

Judith (Tollefsrud) Halverson is education coordinator at Ochsner Health System/Ochsner Medical Center in Jefferson, La., and recently earned her post-professional transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree.

Pat (Graetz) Jensen is senior account executive, Health Plan Division at Express Scripts in Bloomington, Minn.

Gina (Cleven) Olson is worship and music director at Zion Lutheran Church of Cottage Grove, Minn.

Marilee (Kelly) Vogel is director of finance at Winona Health in Winona, Minn.

1982

CLASS NOTES

David Evensen of North Las Vegas, Nev., is general manager for Tectonics.

Laurie (Peterson) Jeddeloh is director of pastoral care at Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree, Colo. She received the 2016 Outstanding Local Leadership Award from the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Mark Johnson is senior IT project manager at Express Scripts Holding Company in Bloomington, Minn.
Gaone Masire of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, visited Frieda (Amunyela) ’85 and Usko Shivute ’82 in Windhoek, Namibia last December.

Julie (Klausen) Moe of Eagan, Minn., is the patient care supervisor for Fairview Health Services in the Hiawatha and Highland Park Clinics as well as Highland Park Urgent Care.

David “Chip” Norris is group president for Alerus in Minnetonka, Minn.

Julie (Kremer) Phillips is broker and assistant team leader for Keller Williams Realty Treasure Coast in Stuart, Fla.

David Ray of Custer, Wis., is attorney and top legal counsel for Portage County, Wis.

Beth Shepard is associate archivist for Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City.

Mark Steege is president of Titan Developments & Investments in Rochester, Minn. He is also on the boards of the Rochester Downtown Alliance and the Rochester Family Y.

Tom Vix retired as a high school science teacher at Rushford-Peterson School in Rushford, Minn. Vix was also the basketball coach for the school, and led the teams to a record of 659-230, 15 visits to state tournaments and three championships in 1989, 2006, and 2015. He was inducted into the Minnesota High School Basketball Hall of Fame and is considered a legend in the world of high school sports. Tom and his wife, Judy, live just outside of Houston, Minn., where they farm and manage Cushon’s Peak Campground.

MARRIAGES


1983

OBITUARIES

Gail (Werner) Egenes of Riverside, Calif., died Feb 27, 2017, at the age of 55. Raised in Milwaukee, she graduated from Luther with majors in English and German. In 1988 Gail and her husband, Jay Egenes ’82, moved to Riverside, where she was active in Riverside Children's Theatre, National Charity League, Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California, Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful, and the California Council of Land Trusts. Gail also served as Sunday school director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverside and filled countless roles as the pastor's wife at Spirit of Hope in San Bernardino. In 2002 she joined the Rivers & Lands Conservancy (formerly Riverside Land Conservancy), where her 15-year career was dedicated to conserving Southern California's open spaces. Gail was also instrumental in the preservation of Mt. Rubidoux peak and cross, a community landmark. Because of her work at Rivers & Lands Conservancy, Gail was a recipient of the 2017 61st Assembly District Woman of Distinction Award. She is survived by her husband, Pastor Jay Egenes ’82; three daughters: Anna (Ryan) Hightower, Kirsten Egenes, and Erica Egenes; sister, Karen Herrmann; brother, Jack (Judy) Werner; and nieces and nephews.

Steven Means of Madison, Wis., died July 25, 2017, at age 56. Born in Charles City, Iowa, he graduated from Newton (Iowa) High School in 1979 before enrolling at Luther, where he
majored in political science and religion. Steve was a member of the Norse varsity swimming and track and field teams, while providing leadership to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His swimming career included multiple school records, culminating in qualification for the 1983 NCAA Division III Championships and, in 1993, he was inducted into the Luther College Athletic Hall of Fame. While at Luther, Steve met his future wife, Anne Fuller, and they were married Dec. 3, 1983. The couple attended graduate school at the University of Iowa—where Steve served as an editor of Iowa Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif—and he graduated from law school, with high distinction, in 1987. Steve began practicing law in Madison in 1988, in private practice, primarily as a partner with Michael Best & Friedrich. In 2007 Steve joined the Wisconsin Department of Justice as executive assistant attorney general, and, in 2013, he worked for UW Health as general counsel, vice president of legal affairs and compliance at UW Medical Foundation. An active member of Blackhawk Church in Madison, he also enjoyed exercising, reading, crossword puzzles, fishing, trips to the Vilas Zoo with his daughters, and the family cottage on Crystal Lake. He was an avid fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Wisconsin Badgers, and a shareholder in the Green Bay Packers. Steve is survived by his wife, Anne (Fuller) Means, and her parents; daughters, Katherine and Claire; parents; brothers, Michael (Melinda) and Daniel (Carole), and their families; and sisters-in-law, Amy Stockman (Dean) and Laura Fuller (Greg Barton).

CLASS NOTES

Faith Broman is nurse manager at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Paul Cleven is a quality analyst for Spectrum Brands, Inc. in Madison, Wis.

Mike Kerr is the executive director for TOSA Foundation, Wisconsin Technology Initiative, in Sun Prairie, Wis.

Michael Ostermeyer of Mequon, Wis., has joined Polsinelli as a shareholder in the firm’s real estate practice in Chicago.

Marty (Peterson) Parry of Waverly, Iowa, was selected as one of the “100 Great Iowa Nurses” for 2016, recognized for her courage, competence, and commitment in nursing.

Earl Sides is a customer service representative for Alpha Omega Publications in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

LuAnn (Schultz) Wachsmuth is senior director of youth development for Buehler YMCA in Palatine, Ill.

Perry White is president and CEO of Harmony Foundation International in Nashville, Tenn.

1984

CLASS NOTES

Ruth Anderson is director of music ministries at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, Ohio.

Stephen Hopkins is the nonpoint source program coordinator with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines, Iowa. He was re-appointed by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to serve on the state Watershed Improvement Review Board.
Kathy (Fjelland) Kolden of Mesa, Ariz., is senior internal auditor at Apollo Education Group. She is a certified public accountant and a certified fraud examiner.

Elizabeth (Godel) Michealson is an RN, CNN, and acute dialysis nurse at Essential Health in Fargo, N.D.

Tina (Koenig) Ray is a chaplain at Ministry Home Care Hospice where she works with patients in the field and at a hospice house, The House of the Dove, in Marshfield, Wis.

Merry (Counsell) Spiers teaches English/language arts for Worth County R-III Schools in Grant City, Mo.

Nancy (Rodenbeck) Wuttke is the Head Start family literacy teacher and academic coordinator for Capstone Community Action in Barre, Vt.

1985

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Barry of Marion, Iowa, died Dec. 11, 2016, at age 53. Born in Iowa City, he and his family lived in Salt Lake City, Utah; Owyhee, Nev.; and Iowa City, Sioux City, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during Jeff’s formative years. He graduated in 1981 from Washington High School, where he received varsity letters all three years in cross country, wrestling, and track. Jeff majored in computer science at Luther, and, following a stint in the business world, he returned to school at the University of Iowa, where he earned an MBA in 1989. He married Kalah Mocker in 1993 in Illinois, while employed at IBM. Jeff enjoyed fishing, hunting, shooting, geocaching, reading, board games, giving advice, and playing cards with his daughter, Bridget. He was talented in the kitchen and at painting great Halloween faces. A thoughtful gift giver, Jeff especially loved Christmas Eve. He is survived by his daughter, Bridget; parents; and siblings, Julia Weston and Jonathan Barry, and their spouses and children.

CLASS NOTES

Judy (Huedepohl) Collins is a special education teaching assistant at North Chicago (Ill.) High School.

Karen (Slattum) Dyson is a behavioral technician at Melrose Center in Saint Louis Park, Minn.

Greg Gerber of Salt Lake City is senior talent acquisition partner at CareerKarma360.

Charles Hoven is director of sales for Inspired Catering & Events by Karen and Gina Stefani in Chicago.

Janet (Sandquist) Jans teaches choir, classroom music, and band at South View Middle School in Edina, Minn. She recently received the Middle Level Educator of the Year Award from the Minnesota Middle School Association (MMSA). Jans has taught music at South View for nearly 30 years. She currently teaches vocal music, but over the years has taught classroom music, choir and band. Jans was nominated for the honor by her colleagues. In supporting letters of reference she was praised as a “master of her subject area,” a collaborator with staff, parents and community, and a leader. Principal Tim Anderson wrote that Jans is “someone who embodies the notion of going the extra mile… she serves as an advocate for students and families and is known by her colleagues as someone who works for inclusion and success for all learners.”
Michael Gravett of West Des Moines, Iowa, died Feb. 16, 2017, at age 55. Born in Red Oak, Iowa, he attended Luther from 1983-86 and majored in political science. Michael was a U.S. Army veteran and a successful insurance agent for more than 30 years, owning Gravett Insurance for 23 years. He married Billie Jamieson on July 14, 1991. Michael enjoyed reading, cooking, playing the piano, and going to the casino. He is survived by his wife, Billie; daughters, Mandy and Stacy; 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; his father, Roy Gravett; and his siblings. Michael was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Boeckman.

Monte Amundson is director of talent management at Midwest Dental in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Carol (Brekke) Behm is an infection preventionist at Gundersen St. Joseph’s Hospital and Clinics in Hillsboro, Wis.

Dale Kruse is visiting assistant professor of voice and lyric theater at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., since 2004, he has also been the music director for the Minnesota Opera: Project Opera education program, summer camp and children’s chorus master. He is currently serving as past-president and membership chair of the Minnesota NATS Chapter. He was recently awarded the 2016-2017 American Prize in Conducting-opera/music theater, community division for Project Opera’s production of Memory Boy by Reinaldo Moya.

Glenna (Gosch) Schneider is an involuntary market team lead at Zurich North America in Schaumburg, Ill.

Katy (Wobig) Sojka is a retired teacher and principal. She recently published her first children’s book entitled, The Blurter, a story is about a kindergarten boy named Alexander Johnathan McCarthy Jr. who has a terrible time following the sharing rule at Martha K. Banks Elementary School and needs help to cure himself of his bad habit of blurting out answers and stories all the time. (PHOTO)

Kari Solomonson is vice president and retail team leader at Peoples State Bank in Wausau, Wis. She received the 2016 Athena Leadership Award from the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce, recognizing and celebrating individuals who support, honor and develop current and emerging women leaders.

Stephen Streufert is the vice president of education at Nature Bridge in San Francisco.

BARBARA IVERSEN and Teresa Carson, Jan. 10, 2017

JACKIE JOHNSON and Kyle Howell, June 27, 2015

**OBITUARIES**

**Tim Christensen** of Luverne, Minn., died Feb. 19, 2017, at age 52. After graduating from Luverne High School in 1983, he enrolled at Luther, where he majored in management. Tim married Pam (Eidahl) Christensen ’86 on June 28, 1986, at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne. Over the next ten years, they lived in Waukon, Iowa, and in several Minnesota cities: Albert Lea, while Tim was employed at But-Rite Oil; Claremont, where he worked at Federated Insurance; and Luverne, while he was employed at Berkley Information Services. In 1996 Tim received a B.S. degree in elementary education from Mankato State University, and in the fall of 1997 he began teaching fourth grade at Luverne Elementary School and coaching ninth grade baseball and basketball. In 2004 Tim earned a master’s degree in education technology from Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., and he also received an educational administration and leadership certificate from St. Cloud State University. He was hired as principal at Russell-Tyler-Ruthhton (Minn.) Schools in 2005 and became principal and athletic director at Adrian (Minn.) High School in 2007. In his spare time, Tim enjoyed working with family members in road construction, trucking, and hauling cattle. A member of Grace Lutheran Church, he served as head usher and on the finance committee. Tim loved coaching his children’s softball, baseball, and hockey teams and attending their games. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, running, golfing, and watching the Minnesota Vikings. Tim was part of the Minnesota First Five, Teacher Mentor program and was awarded the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001. He was an umpire and referee for Luverne Community Education, a member of the Luverne Baseball Association, and he served on multiple school and district-wide committees. Among his many honors, Tim was recognized as the Sub-Section 10, Region 3A AD of the year in 2012-13. He is survived by his wife, Pam (Eidahl) Christensen ’87; three children: Stephanie (Tim Connell) Christensen, Matthew Christensen ’13; and Cody Christensen; mother, Becky Christensen; brother, Todd (Mary) Christensen; two sisters, Amy (Barry) Cowell and Sue (Chad) VerSteeg; father-in-law, Konrad Eidahl ’56 (Javonne); two brothers-in-law, Kyle Eidahl ’84 (Carol) and David Eidahl ’88 (Lynn [Gaudette] Eidahl ’90); and many nieces and nephews. Tim was preceded in death by his father, Dwayne; two infant brothers, Mike and Pat; mother-in-law, Barbara Eidahl; brother-in-law, Mark Eidahl; cousin, Nathan Skattum; paternal grandparents, Lester and Jo Christensen; and maternal grandparents, Orlando and Edith Skattum.

**Carmen (Havnen) Sunde** of Decorah died Jan. 10, 2017, at age 87. After graduating from Rake High School in 1948, she attended Waldorf College in Forest City for a year before transferring to Luther. Carmen received a certificate in education from Luther in 1950. She married her childhood friend, Carroll Sunde ’53, Aug. 5, 1950, at Liberty Lutheran Church in Rake. The couple moved to Story City, and Carmen taught school there and in Zering, and Carroll attended Iowa State College in Ames. The Sundes farmed the Havnen home place in rural Rake for the next eight years, before moving to Decorah. Carmen was an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and she volunteered at Aase Haugen Home and its auxiliary. An advocate for people with disabilities and special needs, she and Carroll helped with Opportunity Homes and Carmen became very involved in the lives of her nieces and nephew after her sister died. She enjoyed reading, quilting, needlework, flowers, gardening, and cooking, and her family especially looked forward to her Norwegian pastry, Kringla, during the holidays. After her sons graduated from high school, Carmen resumed her studies at Luther, majoring in elementary education and receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1987. In May 2016 she became a resident of the Memory Care Unit at Traditions of West Union. Carmen is survived by her three sons: Donavon Sunde ’77, Paul (Cindy) Sunde, and Craig Sunde; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Carroll Sunde ’53 on Nov. 11, 2007; son, David, on May 27, 1997; and sister, Betty (Havnen) Osnes ’50.
**Lisa (Manzey) Adelmann** of Bloomington, Minn., is a partner with McCracken Manzey Consulting.

**Shari Exo** is a youth librarian for the City of Hillsboro, Ore.

**Deb Hanson-Gerber** of Dunkirk, Md., has been a member of “The President’s Own” since September 1991, and recently took part in the 58th Inauguration of the President of the United States. The band provided music for the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, led the second division of the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, and performed at the Salute to the Armed Forces Inaugural ball.

**Carla (Meyer) and Mark Hillman ’86** live in São Paulo, Brazil, and teach at the Graded American School of São Paulo. Carla is the middle school learning support teacher; Mark teaches middle school humanities and coaches girls’ basketball.

**Sandee (Neitzel) Joppa** is executive director of RealTime Talent, a public-private collaborative formed out of the work of the business-advisory group Itasca Project in Minneapolis, with the goal of using data to build the world’s best workforce in Minnesota. Sandee also serves on the Luther College board of regents.

**John Niemi** is an academic advisor at Johns Hopkins University, Carey School of Business in Baltimore.

**Tim Pinnow** is assistant vice president of academic affairs and director of graduate studies at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colo.

### 1988

**CLASS NOTES**

**Jill Blockhus** is director of international partnerships at The Nature Conservancy in Washington, D.C. She lives in Bergen, Norway, working on crafting a new partnership on climate change, greening, infrastructure and conservation finance, as well as overseeing TNC’s current cooperation with the World Bank. She developed and manages TNC’s relationship with the Government of Norway that funds REDD science, policy and large scale field sites in Indonesia and Brazil. Within TNC, she works with the Forests and Climate Policy teams, crafting community engagement; ensuring social and environmental standards; and publishing papers on conservation and development.

**Peter Eigenfeld** is production color solutions executive for Xerox Corporation in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

**Callista (Bisek) Gingrich** recently released a film with her husband, Newt Gingrich, entitled *Divine Mercy: The Canonization of John Paul II*.

**Susan (Waldo) Miller** earned a master’s degree in nursing with a concentration in education from Framingham State University in Framingham, Mass. She is on the nursing faculty at Middlesex Community College.

**Tim Olson** is founder and managing partner at ETHOS Design Group, Inc. in Ankeny, Iowa.

**Alessandro Raniolo** is president of retail and vertical e-commerce EMEA at Ralph
Lauren in London.

MARRIAGES

Michelle Beyer and TODD SANDS May 22, 2016

1989

CLASS NOTES

**Bonnie Black** is program manager, global sales support for Delta Air Lines in Atlanta.

**Chris Hubbs** is senior director, demand planning at Gander Mountain in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Tim Jacobsen of Los Angeles, received the David L. Wolper Award for Outstanding Producer of Long-Form Television at the Producers Guild Awards for assisting in the production of *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story*.

**Daniel Peterson** is owner of Arrasmith Capital LLC and The Lodge at Steinthal in Kiel, Wis.

**Tom Pietz** is lead pastor at the St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Rubicon, Wis. (PHOTO)

**Leisa (Mechling) Wyman** is risk management and quality specialist with Adventists Health Central Valley Network in Hanford, Calif.

1990

CLASS NOTES

**Bergetta (Berkland) Beardsley** is director of donor relations at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Michelle (Snitker) Bolhuis** is the financial and budget analyst for dining services at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo.

**Danette** and **Shawn Bristle** work at Mohave Community College in Bullhead City, Ariz. She is an accreditation liaison/compliance officer and he is campus dean.

**Julie (Lyng) Jass** is strategic alliance manager at Plantronics in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

**Sarah Tobiason** is the district director of special education and elementary principal for the Decorah (Iowa) Community School District.

1991

CLASS NOTES

**Barb (Hughes) Anderson** of Kohler, Wis., is a self-employed owner/licensed marital and family therapist.
Julie (Graham) Askelson is principal of Waterville (Iowa) Elementary School.

Jennifer (Spickerman) and Kyle Christiason ‘92 live in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Jennifer is a clinical RN staff member at Allen Women's Health; Kyle is a family physician for UnityPoint Clinic.

John Hatle of Jacksonville, Fla., is professor of biology at the University of North Florida. He was awarded the Terry Presidential Professorship by the University in recognition of his achievements as an outstanding professor.

Shannon (Fullerton) Leffler is vice president of human resources a GEODIS in Brentwood, Tenn.

Katie Nelsen is director of development at Children’s Theater Company in Minneapolis.

Mark Workman is a chiropractor for The Joint Chiropractic in Cary, N.C.

MARRIAGES

SHANNON BETH FULLERTON and David Leffler, March 2, 2013

1992

OBITUARIES

Andrew Gray of Northfield, Minn., died July 28, 2017, at age 47. Born in La Crosse, Wis., he grew up in Spring Grove and Mabel, graduating in 1988 from Spring Grove High School, where he participated in choir and band. During his time at Luther, where he majored in elementary education, Andrew sang with Norsemen as a first-year student and Nordic Choir for the next three years, and he was honored to serve as Weston Noble’s personal valet during Nordic’s Russia tour. He was a member of the WIMI fraternity service organization, serving as its president, and, because of his passion for the college’s philosophy and mission, he had a goal of becoming Luther’s president someday, and shaping young people spiritually, educationally, and for service to others.

During his senior year at Luther, Andrew was recruited for a position with Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) in La Jolla, Calif. After five years and being homesick for the Midwest, he secured a job at the LB home office in Minneapolis, followed by a management position in Davenport, Iowa, recruiting and training LB representatives. Andrew decided to try a new career path and, after studying the human nervous system, ventured into pharmaceutical sales. He met Carrie Willett in 2004, while living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the couple were married May 28, 2006, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Spring Grove. Andrew and Carrie spent their early years building a home together, socializing with family and friends, hiking, traveling, and running. In 2011 their son was born and in 2013, their daughter. Andrew returned to the field of financial management in 2011, working for Thrivent Financial as a wealth advisor in Northfield. He loved being a husband and father and sharing his love of music, friends, faith, and learning with his young children, and taking them to his parents’ cabin in Canada. In March 2016 Andrew was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), and his friends began working together to find a donor who would be a perfect match for his eventual stem cell transplant. With the help of his parents, who were at his side as caregivers; Carrie; work colleagues; and many dear friends and relatives, Andrew navigated the 16-month journey of chemo, radiation and transplant. He died July 28, 2017, at Methodist Hospital in Rochester. Andrew is survived by his wife, Carrie; children, Kyle and Karna; his parents, Jim and Karen.
Gray; a brother, Paul (Heather) and their two children; Carrie’s parents, Gene and Lorraine Willett; brother-in-law, Kelly Willett, and his son and daughter; sister-in-law, Mandy (Dustin) Westerdale and their three sons; numerous aunts, uncles, and their families; and many dear friends.

**Krista Sandstrom** of St. Paul, Minn., died June 1, 2017, at age 47, as the result of a traffic accident in downtown Minneapolis. Born in Northfield, she graduated from Northfield High School before enrolling at Luther, where she majored in history and anthropology. Krista continued her education at the University of Minnesota, receiving master’s and doctoral degrees in human resource management, and was employed as director of organization development and learning for Hennepin County Medical Center. She married **K. Christian McGuire** on Oct. 2, 1993. Music played a great role in Krista’s life: She was a contracted singer with the Minnesota Chorale and sang regularly with her husband as a member of the New Prescriptions; played oboe and bassoon, and was learning violin so she could play along with her children at their June 8th recital; and had recently purchased a mandolin. Krista also loved to dance and choreograph dances; she had set up mirrors and a ballet bar in her living room and recently begun taking ballet classes. She practiced environmental conservation and responsible living, decorating her front yard with native Minnesota wild flowers and grasses and creating a haven for birds, butterflies, and bees in the back yard, and being an active supporter of rescue animals, Heifer International, and other humane organizations. Krista is survived by her husband, **K. Christian McGuire**; son, Soren; daughter, Birgitta; father and stepmother; brother, Scott Sandstrom; stepsiblings: Kathy Kelly, Amy Kelly, Anne Kelly Berg, and Bill Kelly; and many friends and relatives. She was preceded in death by her mother.

**CLASS NOTES**

**Stephanie Agresta** of Little Silver, N.J., help found The Scale Collective and joined the board of SheWorx to take an equity stake in the company. The Scale Collective gathers 300 investors, female founders of technology companies and industry experts to help accelerate growth for women entrepreneurs. She is an award-winning, digital first advisor who helps technology companies, startups, marketing teams and individuals to accelerate growth through relationship management, partnership development, evangelism, and counsel on marketing, communications, and advertising.

**Todd Baxter** is chief nursing officer at Texas Health Hospital in Carrollton, Texas.

**Kurt Clopton** of Marshfield, Wis., recently published a comic novel entitled **SuperGuy**.

**Wendy (Jaycox) Davidson** of Wheaton, Ill is president, U.S. Specialty Channels for Kellogg Company in Elmhurst, Ill. She received a “Top 20 Business Women in Illinois Award” from the National Diversity Council. Wendy wrote a column for “I’m a Lutheran,” which was featured in Voices of Faith on livinglutheran.org. She is a member of Luther’s board of regents.

**Jill Esterly-Jayne** is a licensed clinical social worker and therapist with Susan La Freniere & Associates in Marquette, Mich.

**Mike Gerdin** is chairman and CEO of Heartland Express in North Liberty, Iowa.

**Craig Helmstetter** is managing partner of American Public Media Research Lab & Analyst Group in St. Paul, Minn.

**Alesia Hruska-Hageman** is associate professor of biology and chair of the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Andrew Mangion is chairman of EC English Language Centers that recently funded the construction of a village well and partnered with education charity, United World Schools, to build a school for children in Ban Huoy, Cambodia.

Todd Pyka is clinic director for West Central Wisconsin Behavioral Health Clinic in Independence, Wis.

Diane (Johnson) Smith earned a professional certificate in case management from the Commission for Case Manager Certification and is a clinical review RN for the Radiology Department at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora, Colo.

Troy Terry is a sales consultant and sales manager for St. Joseph Paper and Packaging in South Bend, Ind.

**BIRTHS**

†ANDREW GRAY and Carrie Willett welcomed a daughter, Karna Raine, in October 2013

**1993**

**OBITUARIES**

Kari Bostrom of St. Paul, Minn., died Jan. 31, 2017, at age 46. After graduating from Menomonie (Wis.) High School in 1989, she enrolled at Luther, where she majored in anthropology and minored in art. Kari worked for the Wilson Place Museum and the Rassbach Museum in Menomonie; St. Louis County Museum at the Depot in Duluth, Minn.; and United Health Care in Eau Claire, Wis. In 2005 she enrolled at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where she was able to put her love of historical research to work as a student worker in the Luther Seminary Arts and Archives Program. In 2008 Kari received a master of arts degree in church history, and, in 2015, a master of theology degree in history from Luther Seminary. She worked full-time for Luther Seminary and the upper Midwest area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the nine synods of ELCA Region 3). She was a dedicated friend to many, an active member of St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, a proud alumna of Luther College and Luther Seminary, and a telling witness to God’s love of all people. Kari is survived by her parents, Shirley and John Bostrom ’61; sister, Kristin (Bostrom) Ellenson ’89; brother-in-law, Jim Ellenson; and two nephews.

**CLASS NOTES**

Andrea (Goehner) Barth is vice president of hotel accounting for Schulte Hospitality in Louisville, Ky.

Daina (Hollnagel) Bond is donor records coordinator at Luther College in Decorah, IA.

Christopher Engelhardt is head of digital and integrated payments at Discover Financial Services in Grayslake, Ill.

Steven Olson is senior systems engineer at Ideal Systems Solution, Inc. in Minnetonka, Minn.

Mitchell Thompson is senior project manager at Charmichael Lynch in Minneapolis, MN.

Laurie Ryan Whalen is the accountant at Dawson County in Dawsonville, Ga.
1994

CLASS NOTES

Rachel Bents is director of healthy living at the YMCA of the greater Twin Cities. She also serves as a wellness coach for ENJOY.

Carrie (Hamby) Faust of St. Paul, Minn., is a sales director for Collective, which is based in New York.

Tim Knutson of Wauwatosa, Wis., is author of *Wistopia: An American Dairy Tale*.

Laurie Lower is an accessibility services associate at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Mass.

Matt Rebro is vice president of business development for HKS, Inc. in Chicago, and for Russell in Davenport, Iowa. (PHOTO)

John Vaaler is finance director, forestry with John Deere in Moline, Ill.

1995

CLASS NOTES

Brita (Granlund) Carbonell of Decorah volunteered as a nurse in medic tents at Standing Rock where she helped people resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Leslie (Karr) Maunsbach is head of internal communications for Autoliv in Stockholm, Sweden. She recently hosted a class of J-Term students at the company’s headquarters and invited a few other members of the leadership team to speak with them. She is also a freelance writer and owner of Leslie Maunsbach Communications.

Eric Melear is assistant conductor for the Vienna State Opera in Vienna, Austria.

Jill Ness is director of community ministry at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Madison, Wis.

Derek Pendergast is vice president for the University of Iowa Foundation in Iowa City, Iowa.

Clint Schnekloth is pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, Ark., and is the founder and chairman of the board for Canopy NWA, which re-introduced direct refugee resettlement to the state of Arkansas. He is also an adjunct faculty member at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Steve Smith is shared information technology director for Winneshiek County and the City of Decorah.

Kimberly (Anderson) Thole is an instructional coach for the Sparta (Wis.) Area School District.

Amy Vollendorf is a program support specialist and M.A, education specialist for the Wayzata Public Schools in Plymouth, Minn.
1996
CLASS NOTES

Nikki (Flitter) Foster of Brooklyn Park, Minn., presented to the Minnesota Legislature at the State Capitol about her struggles with multiple sclerosis (MS) and insurance coverage. She has recently been diagnosed with MS and is advocating for protections for those who have these pre-existing conditions.

Elvia (Castillo) Pace is a management analyst-family and community at Head Start in San Antonio, Texas.

Kate (Glenney) Watts earned a master’s degree in nursing from Texas Christian University and is a clinical nurse leader on the oncology unit at Texas Health Resources in Fort Worth, Texas.

1997
CLASS NOTES

Matthew Bersagel Braley earned a Ph.D. in religion (Ethics and Society Program) and a graduate certificate in human rights from Emory University. He is associate professor for the College of Business and Leadership and Title III academic integration coordinator for high impact practices at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis.

Rachelle Evenson is quality control supervisor at Be The Match National Marrow Donor Program in Minneapolis.

Nori (Greenlee) Hadley is activity director at Arlin Falck Assisted Living in Decorah.

Heather (Crowell) Langan is youth and family director at Mount Olive Church in Hickory, N.C.

Luke Olson is professor of computer science, Willet Faculty Scholar, director of Computational Science and Engineering Program and head of the Parallel Computing Institute at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Ill. He was selected as the co-chair of the 2019 Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Conference on Computational Science and Engineering and is associate editor of the SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing.

Becky (Goggins) Sam is a science faculty member at Culver Academies in Culver, Ind., as well as an independent business owner and team builder.

Kimberly Sweet is a teacher and multi-classroom leader for the Indianapolis Public Schools.

Todd Velnosky is COO - PACE funding, for Rockwood Management, and founder of Big Sky Renewables in St. Louis.

Bobbie (Torgerson) Vickerman of Mabel, Minn., is the county coordinator for Fillmore County.
Laura (Wangsness) Willemsen of St. Paul Minn., is lecturer in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota. She received the 2016-17 Gail P. Kelly Award for her dissertation, *Embodying Empowerment: Gender, Schooling, Relationships and Life History in Tanzania* from the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). The award is conferred on an outstanding Ph.D. or Ed.D. dissertation that manifests academic excellence; originality; methodological, theoretical, and empirical rigor; and that deals with issues of social justice and equity in international settings.

**MARRIAGES**

KIMBERLY SWEET and Meghan Sievers, July 14, 2016

**BIRTHS**

MATTHEW BERSAGEL BRALEY and KARI BERSAGEL BRALEY ’98 welcomed a daughter, Matea, in Dec. 2010.

LORI (STASTNY) and Chris Hagstrom welcomed a son, Beau David, in March 2017.

**1998**

**CLASS NOTES**

Nikki Aden is director real estate counsel for Target Corporation in Minneapolis.

Jon Anderson is associate professor of music composition at Wayne State University in Detroit. His musical composition “Scatter,” an interactive computer music composition for saxophone and Kinect motion camera, was selected for performance at the 2017 National Conference for the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS).

Joe Grimstad of Decorah is executive vice president of Decorah Bank and Trust.

Arika (Anderson) Hage of Lakeville, Minn., is manager at Beautycounter.

Sheri (Osborne) Hansen is the director of communications, advocacy and public outreach at AIA Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Carl Refsal is senior benefits manager at Ferguson Enterprises in Newport News, Va. (PHOTO)

Gabriel Scheer is partnership director at Tech Inclusion and director of strategic development at LimeBike in Seattle. He is also a freelance advisor on urban mobility, sustainability, business, and impact innovation.

**MARRIAGES**

NIKKI ADEN and Rob Mikkelsen, June 11, 2016

Amy Stetzel and JOEL ZYLSTRA Oct. 2, 2016

**BIRTHS**
KARI BERSAGEL BRALEY and MATTHEW BERSAGEL BRALEY ‘97 welcomed daughter, Matea, in Dec. 2010.

ARIKA (ANDERSON) and Erik Hage welcomed a son, Murphy Lee, in June 2016.

SHERI (OSBORNE) and Bill Hansen welcomed a son, Joseph Robert, in April 2017.

AMY (ERICKSON) and Chad Klopp welcomed a son, Toren, in Feb. 2012, and a son, Anders, in Nov. 2014.

NIKKI (ADEN) and Rob Mikkelson welcomed a son, Elliot, in July 2016.

1999

CLASS NOTES

Sarah Hahn Campbell earned an MFA degree from Naropa University in creative writing and recently published a memoir entitled *Grief Map* with Brainmill Press. She teaches English for the Denver Public Schools.

Hans Davidson earned a supply chain professional certification from the Apics Twin Cities Chapter. He is manager of account management and business analytics at C.H. Robinson in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

James Deeds IV is a managing principal and senior electrical engineer with KCL Engineering in Des Moines, Iowa.

Angela Goepferd earned a medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School and is a pediatrician at Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. She was recognized by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine* as a “rising star” amongst top doctors.

Dan Kobler is a partner at Campfire Digital in Denver.

Jill (Schnettler) and Scott McGregor ‘98 live in Yorkville, Ill. She is an associate at Bennett, Groeber, Mullen & Feltner Certified Public Accountants and he is regional operations manager at Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers.

Jody Slavick is a research assistant and Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

MARRIAGES

SARAH HAHN and Meredith Campbell, June 12, 2016

BIRTHS

SARAH HAHN CAMPBELL and Meredith Campbell welcomed daughter Clara, in March 2012 and daughter, Anna, in Nov. 2014.

NIKKI (SCHIMKE) and Ryan Flynn welcomed a daughter, Raegan McKenna, in March 2017.

MEGAN (MOLNAU) and Micah Helling welcomed a son, Harrison Scott, in Sept. 2016.

BECKY (HAYWARD) ’00 and CLAY PETERSON welcomed a daughter, Marit Corah, in April 2017.
Tonya (Wegner) Adams is flute authority repair manager at West Music in Coralville, Iowa.

Katie (Aarestad) Fergus is the owner and president of Medical Billing Services Iowa in Des Moines, Iowa. She’s also a board member for Lutheran Services in Iowa, partnering with children, youth and families, people with disabilities, the elderly and people of refugee status to aid in times of need.

Katie Green is senior director of advancement operations at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Melissa (Ahlstrom) Gregg is a self-employed realtor in Rochester, Minn.

Mark Haddinger is senior admissions counselor at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lukas Hoffland is program director for WISM-FM (Greatest Hits 98.1) and music director for WEAQ-AM/FM (95.9 jamz) with Mid-West Family Broadcasting in Altoona, Wis. He was co-emcee for the inaugural “Light Up Eau Claire” New Year’s Eve celebration throughout downtown Eau Claire, Wis., and serves on its organizing committee.

Corey Kline is vice president of IT for Noodles & Company in Broomfield, Colo.

Becki (Mensing) LeGrant teaches high school science and is department chair at Wonderful College Prep Academy in Delano, Calif.

Nicole (Ryerson) Lemke is the first-time homebuyer program manager for Investor Community Bank in Appleton, Wis.

Chingwell Mutombu is an independent philanthropic consultant for High Impact Services in San Francisco.

Heidi Nelson is a business information security officer at Thomson Reuters, Inc. in Eagan, Minn.

Abigail Shuppy-Baboor is a music teacher at Stephen Gaynor School in New York City.

Jason Soland is an associate financial advisor with Echelon Wealth Partners, a Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Decorah, Iowa.

Karrie (Hines) Theoharis is prenatal genetic counselor at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis, and clinical coordinator for the Kate Cares Stillbirth Assessment.

Lindsey (Anderson) and Ryan Thompson live in Woodbury, Minn. Lindsey is owner and CEO of Woodbury Kids; Ryan is manufacturing technology engineer at 3M.

Heidi Torgerson-Martinez is director for global service with ELCA Global Mission in Chicago.
MARRIAGES

ABBY SHUPPY and Chet Baboor, March 25, 2017


BIRTHS

Stacy and STEVE HESTON welcomed a son, Daxon Michael, in June 2016.

HEIDI TORGERSON and Marcelo Martinez welcomed son, Sebastian, in Nov. 2014.

BECKY (HAYWARD) and CLAY PETERSON ’99 welcomed a daughter, Marit Corah, in April 2017.

KARRIE (HINES) and Nathaniel Theoharis welcomed a daughter, Clara, in July 2015.

2001

CLASS NOTES

Derek Altorfer was elected president of Altorfer, Inc., in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, succeeding his father Bruce Altorfer ’68, who served as president since 1998 and is now chairman of the board.

Amanda (Jack) Alwy of St. Louis Park, Minn., is vice president of technology and engineering for SmarteCarte, Inc.

Brett Bever is senior pastor at New Vision Bretheren Christ Church in Pewaukee, Wis. Theresa (Wencl) Castaneda teaches special education for the Tahoma School District in Maple Valley, Wash.

Alison (Blumer) Kaster is vice president and director of the project management office of United Fire Group in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Sara Leisso earned a master’s degree in translation studies from the University of Portsmouth in England, and is a freelance translator in Milwaukee.

Britt (Winter) Moore of St. Paul, Minn., is a behavior analyst and family support coordinator at Behavioral Dimension, Inc.

Katie Marske is assistant professor of biology at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

Heather (Svoboda) Morris is senior manager of global communications and social media at Entrust Datacard in Shakopee, Minn.

Laura (Naslund) Ready of Sioux Falls, S.D., received the Sanford Women's Health Employee of the Year Award. The award recognizes Sanford USD Medical Center OB/GYN department employees who display exceptional work performance and have excellent relationships with patients, their families, and physicians.

Angie (Johnson) Richards is director of sales and catering for Downtown Rochester Hilton Hotels (Hilton, Doubletree, Hilton Garden Inn) in Rochester, Minn. She and her team were named the 2016 Sales Team of the Year for the Doubletree by Hilton brand. She also serves as
Leadership Greater Rochester program chair for the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors for the Rochester Downtown Alliance.

Matt Titus is portfolio manager for Invesco, Ltd. in Houston.

**MARRIAGES**

SOMMER ANDERSON and Barry McInerney, Oct. 28, 2016

HEATHER MILLS and Timothy Palermo, Aug. 7, 2013

**BIRTHS**

MICHELLE (HARRIED) and BRENT BARNESS ’05 welcomed a son, Emmett, in Aug. 2013, and a daughter, Norah, in April 2015.

THERESA (WENCL) and David Castaneda welcomed a son, Matthew Oliver, in Aug. 2015.

SUE (BUCKHEISTER) and Karl Hanson welcomed a daughter, Robyn, in Dec. 2016.

ALISON (BLUMER) and Leony Kaster welcomed daughter, Peyton Elise, in June 2013 and daughter, Harper Grace, in July 2015.

Emily and MATT MILLS welcomed a daughter, Eleanor Marta, in April 2017.

BRITT (WINTER) and Tim Moore welcomed a son, Patrick James, in Aug. 2016.

HEATHER (MILLS) and Timothy Palermo welcomed a daughter, Gabriella Jane, in Jan. 2014.

JULIE (SATRE) and Rik Trytten (deceased) welcomed a daughter, Anawren Kiramarie, in March 2017.

REBEKAH (RUSCH) and Brandon Vogelsberg welcomed a daughter, Molly Marie, in Feb. 2017.

**2002**

**CLASS NOTES**

**Sarah (KeKlveen) Beerends** is a medical technologist in microbiology at the Iowa City (Iowa) VA Medical Center.

**Jessica (Nievinksi) Berent** is the senior business training specialist at CBRE in Minneapolis.

**Dawn Borcherding** is internal control auditor at Modern Woodmen of America in Rock Island, Ill.

**Libby Caulum** is director of communications and media relations for the Minnesota Department of Revenue in St. Paul, Minn.

**Dan Christenson** is senior director of government affairs for PepsiCo in Washington, D.C.

**Molly Goodwin** of Davenport, Iowa, is the production stage manager for SISTER ACT International Tour (Asia).
Allan Huls is regional purchase clearing specialist for Wells Fargo Mortgage in Minneapolis.

Kyle Hustedt recently opened and owns a cabaret and craft cocktail lounge in St. Louis, known as the Monocle. He lives in Chicago, and continues to operate The Chicago Cabaret Project and produces shows and tours. He produced his first international tour to Mexico last March.

Breanne (Johnson) Kinnunen is pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Sault Sainte Marie, Mich.

Erica Lamm is assistant professor of communications at Concordia University in Seward, Neb.

Tristan Lubinski of Wellesley, Mass., is a bioinformatics scientist with AstraZeneca.

Jennifer Putzier is director of Batavia Depot Museum in Batavia, Ill. (PHOTO)

Jen (Strum) Schuller is a broker associate for Iowa Realty in Ankeny, Iowa.

Andy Wagner is vice president, compliance consultant, corporate human resources risk and compliance, for Wells Fargo Bank NA in Minneapolis.

Devon Whitehead is a psychologist and DBT therapist at Associated Clinic of Psychology in Minneapolis.

Eli Williamson of Chicago, was named to “The Mighty 25: Veterans to Watch in 2017” by We Are The Mighty. Eli is the co-founder and president of Leave No Veteran Behind, and was previously the director of the Veterans Program for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. He was also recently named a member of the Obama Foundation’s Inclusion Council.

Sarah (Belz) Zumbahlen is an associate legal counsel for Illinois Casualty Company in Rock Island, Ill., and was a presenter at the 2016 Property and Liability Resource Bureau (PLRB) regional and national conferences as well as the 2017 PLRB National Claims Conference.

MARRIAGES

RACHEL HORSTMANN and Eric Henning, Aug. 5, 2016

BREANNE JOHNSON and Thomas Kinnunen, July 9, 2016

Nikki Walker and ALLAN HULS, June 5, 2016

BIRTHS

SARAH (MCKLVEEN) and Mark Beerends welcomed a daughter, Natalie, in Oct. 2014, and a son, Austin, in Jan. 2017.

KELLY (GYEKIS) and JEFFREY BRIGHAM welcomed son, Elliot Joseph, in June 2014.

NATALIE (HELGESON) and Jeffrey Bruchhauser welcomed a daughter, Sophia Grace, in March 2016.

MATTHEW CZECHOWICZ and EMMA (OTIS) welcomed son, Samuel, in July 2012 and daughter, Cora, in Oct. 2014.

MANDY (BOCK) and Dietrich Flesch welcomed a daughter, Samantha Ruth, in Jan. 2017.

ANNA (HEINEMAN) and Gary Heil welcomed a son, Leo Joseph born April 4, 2016, adopted April 6, 2016.
KELLY (SCHERGER) and Adam Holtz welcomed a son, Luke, in June 2014.

*CAT (KOMORNICK) ’05 and TRISTAN LUBINSKI welcomed a son, Calvin Joseph, in June 2016.

JAIMIE (RASMUSSEN) and Ben Rudolph welcomed a son, Ethan James, in May 2016.

*TERYL (PRICE) ’04 and JAMES RUSSELL welcomed a son, Kai Anders, in March 2016.

SARA LEISSO and Rob Turner welcomed a daughter, Nina Marian, in Feb. 2013, and a daughter, Julia Monica, in Oct. 2015.

AUDRA (BURK) and JEREMY VANN welcomed twin daughters, Hannah Allison and Ruby Lynn, in Oct. 2016.

DEVON WHITEHEAD and Chad Vincent welcomed daughter, Elizabeth Rose, in Sept. 2014.

### 2003

#### CLASS NOTES

**Bjorn Berg** is National Sales Trainer at TASC in Madison, Wis.

**Matt Birkenholz** of Chanhassen, Minn., is senior vice president of sales-carrier markets at AddOn.

**Josh Cinnamo** of Lakeville, Minn., competed in the Chula Vista High Performance Meet for para athletes at the Olympic Training Center in California last spring where he set the shot put World Record by 18 centimeters with a toss of 15.98. Cinnamo was one of 50 Americans invited to compete for team USA in the World Para Athletics Championships in London in July. He finished in fourth place in the shot put with a toss of 15.09, and was 10th in the discus with a throw of 39.33. (PHOTO)

**Andrej Kostresecvic** of Miami, is CEO of Nomads and Expack, an engineering company specializing in rapid development of custom, direct-to-consumer, internet delivery products for mobile, web and connected devices. Expack delivers custom food packages from an individual’s home country.

**Amber Wilson** is advanced care planning social worker for the VA Central Iowa Health System in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jodie (Jansen) Campbell** is owner and principal consultant for JansenCampbell Limited in Khandallah, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Krisanne (Linde) Forsman** is ECSE evaluator and IFSP facilitator at Sherburne N. Wright Special Ed. Co-op in Monticello, Minn. She and her husband, Josh, launched a new business last August called Ultimate Home Outlet, a discount home improvement store.

**Riley (McNurlin) Huebsch** is owner and doula of The Doulas, LLC in Monona, Wis.

**Kelsey Knutti** is regional director of clinical operations for Presence Health in Aurora and Elgin, Ill.
Erin Kube of La Crosse, Wis., is a senior real estate specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Amber (Kobler) Lynch is senior city planner with the Neighborhood Development Division for the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

Janelle (Kime) Olson of St. Paul, Minn., is senior immunogenetic specialist for National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match.

Leah Schumann is loan documentation team lead at Bell Bank in Minneapolis.

MARRIAGES

Jessica Bothun and BJORN BERG, March 23, 2017

KRISTIN HALTINNER and Garrett Clevenger, Aug. 1, 2015

Kelsey Holmes and TOM KRAMBEER, June 20, 2015

JILL JOHNSON and Rob Stanway, June 4, 2016

BIRTHS

MOLLY (VANDERSTOEP) and MATT BEATTY welcomed twin sons, Arie Walter and Patrick Lee, in March 2017.

BECKY (JOHNSTON) and Richard Bole welcomed son, Porter, in May 2013, and a daughter, Lennon, in March 2017.

JODIE (JANSEN) and Mitchell Campbell welcomed a son, Hunter Campbell, in Aug. 2014.


KRISTA MAHLER and LT Grant welcomed a daughter, Caroline Ellen, in Feb. 2017.

AMBER (RISLOW) and Zac Harder welcomed a daughter, Feven, in May 2011, and a son, Kairus, in March 2015, and a daughter, Freya in Jan. 2017.

RILEY (MCNURLIN) and Bill Huebsch welcomed a daughter, Sylvia Patsy, in March 2015.


KELSEY (RESS) and PHILLIP PAPPANO '04 welcomed a son, Owen, in Oct. 2015.

LAURA (AMUNDSON) and ALEX SMITH welcomed a daughter, Signy Elizabeth, in April 2017.

2004

CLASS NOTES

Sara Bradley teaches seventh through twelfth grade health and physical education for the Campbellsport (Wis.) School District.

Jon Butler is broker of record and managing director at Teles Properties in Pasadena, Calif.
Leah Campbell of South Bend, Ind., is senior research scientist at University of Notre Dame.

Ryan Goessl of Seoul, South Korea, is executive and artistic director of Camarata Music, which features four choirs, one orchestra, and one jazz band and has 75 countries represented. He was given an award from the *Itaewon News* for Dedication to Choral Music, and was also recognized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for his Commitment to the Choral Arts.

Berit Griffin is senior public relations specialist at Travel Leaders Group in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Sabrina (Johnson) Hemmerling is a pharmacy technician instructor at Saint Paul College in St. Paul, Minn.

Josh Larson is a general surgeon at St. Luke’s Surgical Associates in Duluth, Minn.

Andy Meyer teaches humanities at The Northwest School in Seattle.

Krissy (Kelly) Moore is community program director at the YMCA in Prior Lake, Minn.

Mary Neff is a licensed clinical psychologist and clinic director at North Shore Psychotherapy Associates and an associate faculty member at the Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology in Milwaukee.

Chris Nelson is director of development and operations at Traust Consulting, Inc. in Bloomington, Minn.

Emily (Knuth) Stork is vice president, general counsel, at Bankers Trust Company in Des Moines, Iowa.

Emily (Lukasek) Strong is the supervisor for the Business Relationships Team for the State of Minnesota in St. Paul, Minn.

Thomas Velishek is the human resources manager for Certified Restoration, Ltd., in Huron, Ohio.

Trenton Williams earned a Specialist in Education degree from Drake University; he is the released dean of students at Jackson Elementary School for the Des Moines (Iowa) Public Schools.

**MARRIAGES**

KRISSY KELLY and Matt Moore, April 23, 2016

LEAH KNOEPFEL and Christopher Clark, April 23, 2016

KJERSTIN WEPKING and Brian Kibaalya Mukolwe, April 30, 2016

**BIRTHS**

ERIN (STOKES) ’05 and BOB BOERSCHEL welcomed a son, Caleb, in May 2011, and a son, Derek, in Dec. 2013.
Miranda and JON BUTLER welcomed a daughter, Marigold, in April 2016.

JOLENE (HERMES) and MATHIAS DAGUE ’05 welcomed a daughter, Evelyn, in Aug. 2015, and a son, Elliott, in March 2017.

Mandi and JOEL HOLLENBECK welcomed a son, Max Ryan, in Oct. 2016.

KJERSTIN (WEPKING) and Brian Kibaalya welcomed a son, Christopher Joseph, in Feb. 2017.

ELISA (FALK) and JUSTIN KNOEPFEL welcomed a daughter, Lauryn Elise, in Oct. 2016.

KATIE (BUTLER) ’05 and LEVI LIVINGGOOD welcomed a son, Owen Patrick, in Feb. 2017.

KARI (PETERSON) and EVAN NELSON welcomed a daughter, Anna Caroline, in May 2016.

JESSICA (JANSEN) and Mike Nicoletti welcomed a son, Monroe, in July 2016.

KELSEY (RESS) ’03 and PHILLIP PAPPANO welcomed a son, Owen, in Oct. 2015.


ERICA (WANLESS) and Scott Rheinschmidt welcomed a son, Jackson, in Feb. 2015.

BECCA (BELLIN) and MATT RICHARDSON welcomed a son, Jonah Gerald, in Feb. 2017.

JILL (BURKE) ’06 and DAN RING welcomed a daughter, Macy Erica, in Oct. 2016.

MANDY HENDERSON and DAVE ROWLEY ’05 welcomed a daughter, Mary Sigrid, in Feb. 2017.

TERYL (PRICE) and JAMES RUSSELL ’02 welcomed a son, Kai Anders, in March 2016.

BECCA (HOEL) and Stuart Sedlak welcomed twin sons, Milo Joseph and Oscar Stuart, in May 2017.

KATHERINE (ITES) and Ben Wacker welcomed a daughter, Nora, in June 2015.

Rachel and THOMAS VELISHEK welcomed a son, Pierce Neil, in March 2014.

2005

CLASS NOTES

2005

Justin Albers is principal of the Decorah (Iowa) Middle School.

Aric Asplund is president of International Enviroguard in Mesquite, Texas.

Brent Barness opened the Wellness Center in Decorah, where he practices advanced internal medicine, herbal pharmacy, acupuncture and medical pulse diagnosis.

Lindsay Bernhagen is director of the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
Terry Blessing III of Lamoni, Iowa, is director revenue cycle operations for nThrive.

Kristen (Snyder) Bockenstedt is information governance program manager at MidAmerican Energy Company in Urbandale, Iowa.

Erin (Stokes) Boerschel is a special needs trust advisory specialist at Wells Fargo Bank N.A. in Minneapolis.

Ashley (Reiman) Doddridge was awarded two Champions for Learning grants for Collier County School District in Naples, Fla.

Lindsay (Neal) Dudley teaches kindergarten at Aspirations School of Learning in Carlsbad, Calif.

Ana (Meyer) Eliason of Minneapolis, is a career and internship professional at the University of Minnesota (College of Liberal Arts), assisting college students with their transition from student to chosen career.

Thomas Getchius is publications manager of clinical documents for the Heart Rhythm Society in Washington, D.C., and serves as chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Group of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

Susanne Graf is a registered nurse and fertility care practitioner at St. Gianna Clinic in Green Bay, Wis.

Aaron Grey is manager of accreditation and quality and performance improvement for Allina Health Group in Minneapolis.

Maren (Hadley) Kioga is a master coach for Minnesota Reading Corps in St. Paul, Minn.

Andrew Haugen is an attorney for Haugen Law Group, PLLC in Chaska, Minn.

Ragnhild Hjeltnes is a consular officer with the Royal Norwegian Consulate General office in Minneapolis. (PHOTO)

Karl Hoeschen teaches English at Prairie Seeds Academy in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Lindsey Hoodjer earned a master’s degree in public health from the University of Northern Iowa; She is a social worker for the Des Moines (Iowa) Public Schools.

Elliot Jordan is an IT client engineer for Snap in Venice, Calif.

Nick Leslein is a physician and a fellow in abdominal imaging within the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging at the University of California, San Francisco. His presentation titled, “Overnight Subspecialty Teleradiology Support in a Radiology Resident Program,” received a Gold Merit Abstract award in the “Informatics and Innovations” category at the American College of Radiology annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

Stacey Marlow Fisher was named a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and is an emergency medicine physician at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa.
Megan (Hillesland) and Paul Mackie ’06 live in Chicago. She is a licensed massage therapist at Community Chiropractic. He is a business consultant for John Galt Solutions.

Alison Meier is a senior UX researcher at YouTube in San Francisco.

Meghan Myron-Karels is director of GALS Futures at Girls Athletic Leadership School in Denver.

Ryan Nilsestuen is chief legal counsel for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in Madison, Wis.

Anna Osterbur Peterson is a teacher at Chase elementary School in Cincinnati.

Salma Alibhai earned the medical doctorate and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Arizona Medical School. She is completing a sleep medicine fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Bret Powell is medical director of hospice and palliative medicine at VA Central Iowa Health Care Systems in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jarrod Quinlivan is manager of patient care services, behavioral health, at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, N.C.

Hillary (Foster) Ramaker was named the first executive director of TRAIL of Johnson County, a new nonprofit organization in Iowa City, Iowa, devoted to helping older residents remain in their own homes as they age.

Andy Rump earned the M.B.A. degree with emphasis in finance from Washington State University; he is a naval flight officer on the aircraft carrier CVN-71 USS Theodore Roosevelt in San Diego.

Angie Stille is a reference librarian at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Ill.

Cara Stone is coordinator of information literacy instruction and user experience librarian at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa.

David Zelinskas of Virginia Beach, Va., is a family physician with the U.S. Navy. He was recently promoted to Lieutenant Commander and department head at Branch Health Clinic Naval Station Norfolk, the largest branch clinic within the Navy providing medical care to more than 20,000 beneficiaries.

MARRIAGES

LINDSAY BERNHAGEN and Peter Niswander, Jan. 31, 2017

AARON (GRAESER) Grey and Jacob (DeBower) Grey, Sept. 4, 2016

Katherine Minor and KARL HOESCHEN July 3, 2010

KRISTEN SNYDER and Tony Bockenstedt, Sept. 3, 2016
Jennifer and ARIC ASPLUND welcomed a son, Brooks, in June 2017.

JESSICA (SCHWAB) ’07 and DEREK BALSLEY welcomed a daughter, Cosette, in March 2016.

ERIN (STOKES) and BOB BOERSHEL ’04 welcomed a son, Caleb, in May 2011, and a son, Derek, in Dec. 2013.

BRENT BARNNESS and MICHELLE (HARRIED) ’01 welcomed son, Emmett, in Aug. 2013, and daughter, Norah, in April 2015.

LARA (GILBERTSON) and Jeremiah Bauer welcomed a daughter, Sadie Alice, in January 2014, and a son, Henry Samuel, in Feb. 2016.

REBEKAH GILBERTSON and Calvin Crissinger welcomed a son, Ethan, in April 2012.

JOLENE (HERMES) ’04 and MATHIAS DAGUE welcomed a daughter, Evelyn, in Aug. 2015, and a son, Elliot, in March 2017.

LINDSAY (NEAL) and Kyle Dudley welcomed a daughter, Emerson Mae, in Aug. 2016.

ASHLEY (REIMAN) and Chris Doddridge welcomed a son, Owen, in May 2016.

BRIT (JOHNSON) and MICHAEL EISELE welcomed a son, Anders Martin, in July 2013, and a son, Soren Paul, in Dec. 2016.

STACEY (MARLOW) and Jed Fisher welcomed a daughter, Laila Marie, in April 2017.

AMANDA (OELRICH) ’06 and NEIL HELLER welcomed a daughter, Emily, in Feb. 2016.

ANNA (TIMMERMAN) and Braham Ketcham welcomed a son, Elliot Oliver, in April 2016.

KATIE (BUTLER) and LEVI LIVINGOOD ’04 welcomed a son, Owen Patrick, in Feb. 2017.

CAT (KOMORNICK) and TRISTAN LUBINSKI ’02 welcomed a son, Calvin Joseph, in June 2016.

Taylor and SCOTT MEYER welcomed a daughter, Ingrid Juel, in Aug. 2015.

KIM (WILLIAMS) and Matthew Michlin welcomed a daughter, Annika Esther, in Sept. 2016.

MELISSA (GARBRECHT) and JUSTIN PIEPER ’04 welcomed a son, Isaac Luke, in April 2016.

Jen and JARROD QUINLVIAN welcomed a son, Rowan Chet, in April 2017.

BETHANY SEEDORFF and Sarah Roepke welcomed a son, Griffin, in June 2016.

MANDY HENDERSON ’04 and DAVE ROWLEY welcomed a daughter, Mary Sigrid, in Feb. 2017.
CLASS NOTES

Chris Bellinder is a sales professional with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Southern Coast Real Estate in Charleston, S.C. (PHOTO)

Jonathan Curry is managing director at Geosynthetic Materials Association in Roseville, Minn.

Tyler Forsythe of St. Paul, Minn., teaches choir at Robbinsdale Cooper High School.

Claire (Brenton) Haedike is a psychologist on the behavioral health practice staff at Winneshiek Medical Center Decorah (Iowa) Clinic. (PHOTO)

Lauren Kraus Keller and David Keller ’09 live in Westminster, Colo. She is an admissions counselor at 2U in Denver. He earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Denver School of Nursing and is a cardiac ICU registered nurse at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Tyler Mattison is outsourcing manager for Eagle Technology Management in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Marte Pohlmann earned a master’s degree in public service (nonprofit sector) from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Laura (Schuurman) Rasmussen teaches fourth grade at Cap Cana Heritage School, a project-based school for ages 1-high school in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

MARRIAGES

ELIZABETH HARIG and Jason Alvarado, Oct. 8, 2016

ALLISON KIMBALL and Mark Uhlar, Nov. 7, 2016

BIRTHS

ERIN (GALLAGHER) and CHRIS BELLINDER welcomed a daughter, Ashlynn, in April 2016.

JILL (DINKLA) and Bryan Borrall welcomed a daughter, Lillian, in Oct. 2015.

JENNY (GRAUPMANN) and Jefferson Campbell welcomed a son, Benjamin Thomas, in Sept. 2016.

KRISTY (STROM) and Tom Carmody welcomed a son, Rhett Thomas Thornton, in Aug. 2016.

SARAH (OLSON) and Robbie Cutcliffe welcomed a daughter, Wells Rhea, in May 2016.

SARAH (SCHULTZ) and Brian Doyle welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth Emily, in Jan. 2017.

LEAH (SCHWARTZ) and Jason Ethen welcomed a son, Joel, in April 2016.

JILL (KNUTSON) and Joe Gierok welcomed a daughter, Jacqueline, in Jan. 2017.

AMANDA (OELRICH) and NEIL HELLER ’05 welcomed a daughter, Emily, in Feb. 2016.

KATIE (OSTREM) and Eric Holten welcomed a daughter, Anya, in Sept. 2016.

ANDREA (CRAVEN) and Scott Ingalsbe welcomed a son, Graham David, in Sept. 2016.


JILL (BURKE) and DAN RING ’04 welcomed a daughter, Macy Erica, in Oct. 2016.


SARAH (MURRELL) ’07 and KARL SWENSON welcomed a daughter, Sydney Grace, in March 2017.


LAURA (MONSON) ’08 and TONY VANDEN HEUVEL welcomed a daughter, Evelina Emmy, in Feb. 2017.

2007

CLASS NOTES

Christopher Angelica is the lead management consultant at Allstate Insurance Company in Northbrook, Ill.

Jessica (Schwab) and Derek Balsley ’05 live in Osage, Iowa. She is founder and president, while he is founder and CEO, of The Art of Education, an online school promoting professional development and lifelong learning for members in the field of art education.

Rachel (Morley) Barnes is a veterinarian in Burnsville, Minn.

Amanda (Valo) Berndt is a unit financial counselor at John Deere Des Moines Works in Ankeny, Iowa.

Scott Boyken of Seattle is a biochemist and researcher at the University of Washington. He is the first author of the science paper, “De Novo Design of Protein Homo-oligomers With Modular Hydrogen-Bond Network Mediated Specificity.”

Matthew Busche retired from the bicycle racing peloton, ending his professional cycling career. During his seven-year career, Busche was the US Pro Road Race Champion in 2011 and 2015 and rode for UCI Pro Tour teams Trek Factory Racing, Radioshack-Leopard-Trek, Radioshack-Nissan-Trek, and Team Radioshack; as well as Pro-Continental and Continental teams UnitedHealthcare and Kelly Benefits Strategies. He has joined the staff at Carmichael Training Systems (CTS) as a professional cycling coach in Brevard, N.C.

Hemie Collier is interim director of intercultural life at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Mike Eckberg was named head women’s soccer coach for the State University of New York at New Paltz.
Eric Fitzgerald of Sudbury, Mass., is account manager for 84 Lumber and CEO of i2Imagine, Inc.

Sarah Chwaszczewski of Green Bay, Wis., is a self-employed musician.

Corey Hlavacek of Richardson, Texas, is information security administrator at Texas Instruments, Inc.

Emily Holley of Des Moines, Iowa, was presented the C. Kenneth Meyer Rising Star Award at Drake University, recognizing a recent master of public administration degree recipient who has made a significant impact in his or her community or profession. Emily received the award as recognition for her work with the Iowa Environmental Council, the Alzheimer’s Association, and as an advocate for those living with chronic pain.

Katie (Merrifield) Jones is software development supervisor for EMC Insurance Companies in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jenna (Swan) Jones is an account manager at Novus Media, Inc. in Plymouth, Minn.

Tom Lindsley is senior interaction designer at Workiva in Ames, Iowa.

Carmen (Cline) Rangel is director of operations at Galliard Capital Management, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Brittany (Gregoire) Rosas is a cytotechnologist for Olmsted Medical Center in Rochester, Minn.

Kendra Swanson is scientist in residence for the Cedarburg School District at the Riveredge Nature Center in Saukville, Wis.

Susan Valo is a financial analyst, worldwide parts, for Deere & Company in Milan, Ill.

Leah (Kinnaird) Vejzovic is employed at Iowa State University’s Child Welfare Research and Training Project as the domestic violence response coordinator for the Iowa Department of Human Services in Des Moines, Iowa.

Katie Woodzick a graduate student in the MFA program in theatre at Naropa University in Boulder, Colo. Her graduate thesis focuses on depictions of gender non-conforming characters in modern plays as well as how to make the theatre industry more inclusive for gender non-conforming artists.

MARRIAGES

KELSEY COCHRANE and Matthew Martinez, March 21, 2015

KIM HESS ’09 and PAUL MEIRICK, Sept. 4, 2016

LEAH KINNAIRD and Adnan Vejzovic, July 7, 2016

STEPHANIE KIRSTEIN and Arjun Lakshmanan, Dec. 28, 2015

SARAH KNELLER and James Krantz, May 20, 2017
CAROLYN STARZ and NATHANIEL ANDERSON welcomed a daughter, Inga Margaret, in Feb. 2017.

JESSICA (SCHWAB) and DEREK BALSLEY '05 welcomed a daughter, Cosette, in March 2016.

RACHEL (MORLEY) and Sam Barnes welcomed a son, James Hubert, in Sept. 2016.

ERIN (SMOCK) and Juan del Cid welcomed a daughter, Avery Elizabeth, in May 2017.

GRETCHEN (GUSTAF) and Christopher Engledowl welcomed a daughter, Leela Ruth, in Feb. 2016.

PAM (BERG) and Brandon Hamann welcomed a son, Stanley Ray, in Nov. 2016.

KIM (REICHERT) and MATT HOEGH welcomed a son, Hudson Matthew, in June 2016.

AMANDA (HANNEMANN) and Benjamin Maxwell welcomed a son, Charles Benjamin, in Aug. 2016.

SARAH (QUICK) and Matt Olejniczak welcomed a son, Wilfred John, in April 2017.

BRITTANY (GREGOIRE) and Daniel Rosas welcomed a daughter, Eva Brielle, in March 2016.

HANNAH (BOWMAN) SHIBESHI and Abenet Shibeshi welcomed a son, Ezra, in 2012, and a daughter, Leah, in 2014.

SARAH (MURRELL) and KARL SWENSON '06 welcomed a daughter, Sydney Grace, in March 2017.

ANNA (WINTER) and ADAM TLOUGAN '06 welcomed a daughter, Reese Everly, in Jan. 2017.

SARAH (NESHEIM) and LUCAS WESTBY welcomed a son, Otto, in Aug. 2015.

2008

CLASS NOTES

Kadra Abd is a communications and program associate at Legal Rights Center in South Minneapolis, Minn.
Karl Amlie is owner/business developer for Express Employment Professionals in Forest Lake, Minn. He was named the 2015 New Business of the Year and 2016 Volunteer of the Year by the Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jordan Anderson is the personnel security team lead for U.S Customs and Border Protection in Phoenix, Ariz.

Maren Beard is the assistant director for the Center for Sustainable Communities at Luther College. She recently traveled to Northern California with her husband, Tom, where they took a four-hour cooking class at Mugnaini Imports. While there, they purchased an oven to bring to their rural pizzeria on Luna Valley Farm near Decorah.

Molly (Schumann) Bauman of St. Paul, Minn., is an academic advisor at the University of Minnesota.

Julia Blackmore of Houston earned a Ph.D. degree in molecular and cellular biology from Baylor College of Medicine.

Dawndra (Thompson) Broge teaches fourth and fifth grade literacy for the White Bear Lake (Minn.) School District.

Alexandra Burrows is a hospital social worker at Johnston Willis Hospital in Richmond, Va.

Tess (Putnam) Cody earned a master’s degree in community development and a certificate in public management from Iowa State University. She is violence prevention coordinator at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kathleen (Lunsford) Durbin earned a master’s degree in linguistics from Northeastern Illinois University and an Executive Coaching certificate from the University of St. Thomas. She is senior human resources consultant for Allstate Insurance Company in St. Paul, Minn.

Matt Field of Cordova, Tenn., is a surgery resident at Memphis Veterinary Specialists.

Kacie (Clement) Garver is nursing house supervisor at Boone County Hospital in Boone, Iowa.

Anne (Karlin) and Ryan Gibbs live in St. Louis. Anne is the school social worker at Webster Groves High School and an adjunct faculty member at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Ryan earned a master’s degree in teaching middle school education (mathematics), at Webster University and teaches eighth grade mathematics at Hancock Place Middle School.

Drew Haefner is senior staff accountant at Central Bancshares, Inc. in Muscatine, Iowa.

Katie (Curran) Hallman is executive director of Theatre Cedar Rapids in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Katy (Fiedler) Hammel earned a master’s degree in education from Concordia University. She teaches second grade at Countryside Elementary School in Edina, Minn.

Marcus Hendrickson of Blanchardville, Wis., was named director of player personnel for Minnesota Gophers Football at the University of Minnesota by head coach P.J. Fleck.
Tyler Hendrickson was awarded an Iowa Performance Assistantship with the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, and is a doctoral student in music at the university.

Mary Ites is administrative and operations manager at Ampersand Families in St. Paul, Minn.

Lindsay (Norland) Johnson teaches fifth and sixth grade for the Iowa City (Iowa) Community School District.

Amanda (Van Wechel) Long is music tour coordinator for Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Aaron Lurth of Decorah is director of visual media and staff instructor at Luther. He worked on the color in the documentary film “Ironhead,” by Luther assistant professor of communication studies Thomas C. Johnson and Neal Abbott ‘15. The film was one of 13 independent short films selected by Iowa Public Television and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs for “The Film Lounge.” The film has been an official selection of 15 film festivals worldwide and is currently on the film festival circuit.

Kjersten Mathsen is job developer and employment program manager at Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Refugee and Asylee Programs in Albuquerque, N.M.

Emily (Workman) and J.P. McGinnis ‘10 live in Overland Park, Kan. Emily earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in music education and teacher education/curriculum studies from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) and is adjunct professor of music education of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program at the UMKC. She also conducts her local band, New Horizons and supervises student teachers in the Kansas City metro area. J.P. completed a Ph.D. degree in molecular and integrative physiology and is currently in medical school at University of Kansas Medical Center.

Cale Nelson of St. Paul, Minn., was awarded the Fellow designation by the Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS).

Danielle (Chinander) Reitsma is professor of neuroscience at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif. Her research focuses on disease/disorders of the nervous system.

Godson Sowah is a senior manager in the Advisory Services practice of Ernst & Young LLP, in Minneapolis. He was appointed by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton to the Minnesota Board of Accountancy for his mentorship and support for the community in order to help build a culture of diversity and inclusivity. Recent awards include a 2016 St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professional of the Year award, and as a Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Titans of Technology honoree. (PHOTO)

Genevieve (Mussman) Van Osdel is project engineer for Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Neb.

Becky (Stiger) Williams of Fort Worth, Texas, is a consultant at EMIT Strategies & Solutions, LLC.
Benjamin Yates earned a doctor of musical arts degree in trombone performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa. He is assistant professor of music at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, La.

Nathanial Youngquist earned a master’s degree in special education – academic behavioral strategist from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

MARRIAGES

BRITTA ANDERSON and Drew Hughes, Oct. 22, 2016

ALEXANDRA BURROWS and Michael Watterson Dec. 12, 2012


Deanna Dvorak and NATHANIAL YOUNGQUIST, Dec. 10, 2016

Chelsea FitzSimons-Diaz and MATTHEW FIELD, May 15, 2015

SOPHIA JOHNSON and Tyler Jones, June 20, 2014

ANGIE PIDDE '11 and JACKSON FELDE, June 24, 2017

MEAGEN SCHUMACHER and Nathan Spreeman, June 4, 2016

DAWNDRA THOMPSON and Tim Broge, March 19, 2016

KYLIE TOOMER and Anthony Gougler, May 20, 2017

BRYNNE ZINNECKER '11 and TIM EISELE, Jan. 30, 2016

BIRTHS

KATHERINE (GRADO) and Zachary Booth welcomed a son, Harrison, in Oct. 2016.

MEGAN (STONER) and Seth Crosby welcomed a daughter, Sophia Noelle, in March 2017.

NICOLETTE (De HAAN) and Nathaniel Kelley welcomed a son, Luke, in April 2016.

AMANDA (VAN WECHEL) and Matthew Long welcomed a daughter, Emma Grace, in Jan. 2016.

MEGAN (CRAVEN) and Michael McCreesh welcomed a daughter, Emma Christine on Oct. 21, 2016.

EMILY (WORKMAN) and JP MCGINNIS '10 welcomed a daughter, Ella Jane, in Jan. 2017.

Paige and JOHN MEYER welcomed a daughter, Margot Lou, in Nov. 2015.

JUSTINE (ALLEN) and Chancy Nordick welcomed a daughter, Violet Elise, in April 2017.

ALLISON (BOUSLOG) and NIC SEELEY welcomed a daughter, Josephine Marie on Feb. 26, 2017.

CATHY (GILROY) and JACE SENSKE welcomed a son, Henry James, in April 2017.

ELISE (MOORHEAD) and Josh Shaw welcomed a daughter, Emersyn Ann, in Jan. 2017.
DANIELLE (KNEALING) and Raymond Swanson welcomed a son, Oliver John, in Sept. 2015.

GENA (MUSSMAN) and Aaron Van Osdel welcomed a daughter, Isabel Laura, in Sept. 2016.

LAURA (MONSON) and TONY VANDEN HEUVEL ’06 welcomed a daughter, Evelina Emmy on Feb. 10, 2017.

BRIANNA (HELLAND) and SAM WEYERS welcomed a daughter, Nora Aili, in June 2017.

MINDY (SEPSTRUP-SORENSEN) and Jonathan Wuebker welcomed a son, Tobias, in Dec. 2016.

2009

CLASS NOTES

**Allyson Czechowicz** is a landscape architect at West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture in New York City.

**Laura Delikowski** is academic advisor at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

**Dana Franzen-Klein** is a veterinary medicine resident and master’s student at the Gabbert Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in St. Paul, Minn.

**Emily (Walk) Harris** is retail credit supervisor for Hormel Foods Corporation in Austin, Minn.

**Lindsey Johnson** is associate registrar at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Ore.

**Kyle Lilly** earned certification as a professional soil scientist and is a product manager and soil scientist for Timac Agro, a French-based sustainable agriculture company in Minneapolis.

**Colton Long** is the managing associate attorney specializing in labor and employment advising and litigation at Seyfarth Shaw, LLP in Chicago, and is a board member for Chicago Volunteer Legal Services. He’s also a Baritone in the Chicago Chorale.

**Julia Mann** is senior promo signing producer for Target in Minneapolis.

**Kimberly (Hess) and Paul Meirick ’07** live in Nashville. Kim works in nursing informatics at the University of California, San Diego. Paul is primary care sports medicine fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**Aaron Peterson** is assistant professor of instruction at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

**David Seiffert** is a genetic counselor at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wis.

**Kristin Skaar** is development and communications director for Habitat for Humanity Minnesota. She also is a board member and programming committee volunteer for Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of the Twin Cities.

**Laura Thompson** is a juris doctor candidate at Pepperdine School of Law in Malibu, Calif.
Joy Waughtal earned a master’s degree in public health from the Colorado School of Public Health in Aurora, Colo.

MARRIAGES

Maura Frana and COLTON LONG, June 14, 2014

DANA FRANZEN and Ben Klein, July 9, 2016

KIM HESS and PAUL MEIRICK ‘07, Sept. 4, 2016

LYDIA HUINKER and Brian Black, Aug. 13, 2016

MANDY INHOFER and Brett Johnson, Sept. 3, 2016

ELLIE MEYER and Andre Smith, Aug. 7, 2015

NATALIE (SCHULTZ) and Dante Barria, July 19, 2014

KATE ROE and Benjamin Hatten, May 14, 2016

JULIA SCHUMACHER and Jamie Utt, Jan. 15, 2017

JOY WAUGHTAL and Joshua Wise, Sept. 10, 2016

BIRTHS

ALICIA (WOLBER) and Daniel Grindle welcomed a daughter, Josephine Elise, in Aug. 2016.

EMILY (WALK) and Brett Harris welcomed a son, Jacob Carrington, in Jan. 2016.

MEGAN (HELMERMAN) and BLAKE HUMPAL welcomed a daughter, Haddie Jane, in Dec. 2016.

STEPHANIE (BORGEN) and KEAGAN MEYER ‘11 welcomed a son, Louis, in Nov. 2015.

JULIA (JENKINS) and JOE OLYNYK ‘10 welcomed a son, Leo, in April 2016.

KATIE (SACKETT) and Tony Stadheim welcomed a daughter, Coralyn Rose, in Aug. 2015.


2010

CLASS NOTES

Megan (Hallberg) Bang of Forest City, Iowa, is a software engineer for Huron Consulting Group in Chicago.

Jacob Bohlken is a developer at CATS Software, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Anna Bullard teaches English as a second language at Universal Academy Charter School in St. Paul, Minn.
Abraham Campos completed the emergency medicine residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He is an emergency medical services fellow at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn.

Susannah Clark is digital marketing manager for VISION EASE in Ramsey, Minn.

Ana Cristina (Avelar-Cabrera) Diaz earned the MSW degree from California State University-San Bernardino. She is a medical social worker for Charter Hospice of the Desert in Palm Desert, Calif.

Stephanie (Sutton) Fromm is director of Winneshiek County Development in Decorah.

Lars-Erik Larson plays drums with the band, Dead Man Winter. On March 30, 2017, they performed on the TBS late-night show CONAN.

Jason Mott is the high school instrumental music director at the American School of Dubai in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Laurel (Whitis) Mueller earned the D.O. degree from Des Moines University. She is an internal medicine resident at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Nora Shaffer is a freelance clarinetist and private instructor in Chicago. Recent appearances include with the Illinois Philharmonic, South Bend Symphony, and Illinois Symphony Orchestra among others. She is a Vandoren artist and maintains an active concert and clinic schedule as Principal Clarinet/Eb Clarinet with the Lake Effect Clarinet Quartet (LECQ). The Quartet appeared as artists at the Chicago Clarinet Symposium in May and the International Clarinet Association’s “Clarinet fest” in August. LECQ was also awarded an August residency at the Avaloch Farm Music Institute with composer Jonathan Hannau. Nora maintains studios at Marian Catholic High School, Lake Central High School, and at Puzon’s Musical Instruments.

Diane (Balfany) Sitkowski is a crisis responder for Veterans Crisis Line-Department of Veteran Affairs in Atlanta.

Sarah (Palm) Spencer is a client service manager at Gruen Digital Marketing Agency in Minneapolis.

Sarah Sprecher is CNA at Humboldt County Memorial Hospital in Humboldt, Iowa.

Megan (Harding) Thorsen is a Title 1 reading teacher at Urbandale (Iowa) Community Schools.

Brittany (Buczek) and Nathan Todd ’09 purchased the Sugar Bowl Ice Cream Company in Decorah, Iowa, from Luther alumnus, Craig Running ’68. Brittany is also owner and photographer for Photography by Brittany in downtown Decorah.

Alicia (Hale) Zaccaro is a medical social worker for Hospice of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa.

Robert Zacek is a line cook for Hy-Vee in Ankeny, Iowa.

Aaron Zander is assistant director of development for The College of the University of Chicago in Chicago.
MARRIAGES

DIANE BALFANY and Matt Sitkowski, June 11, 2016

MEGAN HALLBERG and Dakota Bang, May 25, 2017

ANA CRISTINA (MOLINA) and Dorian Diaz, Oct. 20, 2014

Angela Staron and JASON MOTT, July 16, 2016

LAUREL WHITIS and Matthew Mueller, June 17, 2017

BIRTHS

SAM (REISER) and Ryan Collins welcomed a daughter, Rayna Ann, in Dec. 2016.

ANA (MOLINA) and Dorian Diaz welcomed a son, Damon, in Nov. 2015.

RACHEL (BARCEL) and ANDREW DYRDAL welcomed a daughter, Lucie Geneva, in Nov. 2016.


JULIA (JENKINS) ’09 and JOE OLYNYK welcomed a son, Leo, in April 2016.

KELSEY (VAALER) ’11 and JAKE VAITH welcomed a son, Anders, in Nov. 2016.

ALICIA (HALE) and DAN ZACCARO ’09 welcomed a daughter, Aria, in Feb. 2016.

2011

CLASS NOTES

Jeni Arbuckle of Denver is senior account executive for Under Armour Connected Fitness.

Samriddh Burman and Rewant Lokesh work for Aarbur Jute Products in Calcutta, India. Sam is director of marketing for Aarbur and founder of The Burlap People, an environmentally conscious brand that creates travel bags, purses, and backpacks that honor the tradition of jute making. Rewant is the Grey Wolf at The Burlap People, and takes care of the daily operations.

Dustin Balsley is a co-founder of Performance Livestock Analytics. The business helps livestock producers become more sustainable and profitable through a precision agricultural application. By combining cloud-based technology with on-farm information, the company’s software helps livestock producers efficiently measure and manage activities and inventories. The company has established itself in the Iowa State University Research Park as part of the Ag Startup Engine and ISU Startup Factory in Ames, Iowa. The business was named one of the semi-finalist teams in the American Farm Bureau’s 2017 Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge, and was awarded the top prize of $25,000 in the 2016 Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Venture Competition and the $25,000 Proof of Commercial Relevance grant from the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Natalie Baudler is an account supervisor for Carmichael Lynch Relate in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.
Alicia (Rangel) Brown is a patient safety specialist for the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Katie Deaver earned a Ph.D. in theological studies/feminist theology from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She is director of music ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Glenview, Ill.

Alicia (Woodhouse) DeFrance is a support services specialist for University of Iowa Health Care.

James Feinstein is an analyst with M Powered Strategies in Washington, D.C. He also serves as a board member for the Fulbright Association, National Capital Area Chapter.

Courtney (Gill) Geradin teaches fifth grade at Heritage Christian School in North Liberty, Iowa.

Nicole (Wilson) Goetzl is senior financial analyst for Ardent Mills in Denver.

Kelsey (Balk) Grimm earned the PA degree from the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and is a physician assistant at Physicians’ Clinic of Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Jocelyn Hare is chief business development officer at Restoration Tools in Rockford, Ill. She was a 2016 “40 Leaders Under 40” in Rockford honoree, is an active board and committee member for many non-profit organizations in the Rockford region, and is the site leader for Rockford’s annual Stroll on State.

Kelly (Roth) Haug is an independent birth doula in St. Paul, Minn.

Kirsten Jacobson earned a master’s degree in international public affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was awarded the Director’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. She is an associate-global public sector at Grant Thornton in Washington, D.C.

Erik Johnson teaches science for the River Valley School District in Spring Green, Wis.

Emily Kittleson is national fundraising manager for Minnesota Public Radio in St. Paul, Minn.

Ryan Kuhn is vice president of internet marketing for Scorpion in Valencia, Calif.

Kara (Schrapp) Linskey is category marketing lead - TVs at a Best Buy in Minneapolis.

Aidha Majdhy of Hulhumale, Maldives, is a sales specialist at the St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort.

Kate McDonald teaches fifth grade language arts at High Point Academy in Aurora, Colo.

Camille (Stenhaug) McVenes is senior accountant, corporate financial reporting, at Target Corporation in Minneapolis.

Anna Morris is director of student ministries for Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church in Sammamish, Wash.

William Morris is associate editor and reporter for Owatonna People’s Press in Owatonna, Minn.
Michael Olson is an MTSP for Power Home Remodeling in Denver.

Stephanie Picha is an accounting quality assurance specialist at Plus Relocation Services in Minneapolis.

Aliyah Richling of Stoddard, Wis., is a vocalist for the United States Air Force (USAF Heartland of America Band).

Jennifer Roberts is youth director at Faith Lutheran Church in O’Fallon, Ill.

Hannah (Brandvold) and Joe Rosholt live in Austin, Minn. She is director of communications at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin, Minn., and owner/graphic of Hannah Rosholt Photography. He is an assistant county attorney for Olmsted County in Rochester, Minn.

Melissa (Larson) and Benjamin Schori ’10 live in Hibbing, Minn. Melissa is a stay-at-home parent; Benjamin is pastor at First Lutheran Church.

Mari (Henderson) Sharpe is marketing manager at 1517 Media in Minneapolis.

Liz Smith earned a master’s degree in urban studies from the San Francisco Art Institute and is a communications and events associate at College Possible in Milwaukee.

Karl Streufert is a member of the finance and accounting staff at St. Francis Center in Denver.

Kelsey (Anderson) Wilson is account manager with Dartlet in Iowa City, Iowa.

MARRIAGES (2011)

NICOLE BECCHETTI and BRIAN PLAGGE, Sept. 17, 2016

ANASTASIA DUBBELS and Stephen Alongi, Aug. 16, 2015

LINDSEY GETCHELL ’12*ANDREW KRAABEL, Oct. 21, 2016

COURTNEY GILL and Geoffrey Gerardin, Aug. 5, 2016

ANGIE PIDDE and JACKSON FELDE ’08, June 24, 2017

ALICIA RANGEL and Ryan Brown, Aug. 20, 2016

KELLY JO ROTH and Dustin Haug, June 22,2013

KARA SCHRAPP and Peter Linskey, Aug. 29, 2017

Hannah Vogt and ERIK JOHNSON, July 16, 2016

BRYNNE ZINNECKER and TIM EISELE ’08, Jan. 30, 2016

BIRTHS

JULIA (SCHIEFELBEIN) and RYAN EGAN ’10 welcomed a son, Soren, in Aug. 2016.

CARAH (CLAFLIN) ’12 and MICHAEL HART welcomed a son, Charles Francis, in Dec. 2016.
KELLY JO (ROTH) and Dustin Haug welcomed a daughter, Anawyn Cecil, in April 2013.

BETHANY (WICHMAN) and Andrew Lehman welcomed a son, William, in March 2017.

CAMILLE (STENHAUG) and Sean McVenes welcomed a daughter, Claire Shirley, in March 2017.

STEPHANIE (BORGEN) '09 and KEAGAN MEYER welcomed a son, Louis, in Nov. 2015.

HANNAH (BRANDVOLD) and JOE ROSHOLT welcomed a daughter, Ruby Jean, in July 2016.

KELSEY (VAALER) and JAKE VAITH '10 welcomed a son, Anders, in Nov. 2016.

2012

CLASS NOTES

Bailey Aaland (formerly Cahlander) is marketing communications coordinator for the American Craft Council in Minneapolis.

Kelsey (Klimesh) Allendes teaches Pre-K to second grade music at Stewart Elementary School in Washington, Iowa.

Alex Anderson-Kahl is an account executive at Agency 212, in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Aaron Burk is the founder of Foldid and a senior consultant for Object Partners, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Jeff Emerson is supervisor/associate scientist at Eurofins Scientific in Des Moines, Iowa.

Stephanie (Adix) Engebretson is a social worker at Southwest Middle School in the Albert Lea (Minn.) School District.

Sam Felt is a staffer for Representative Jeff Holdings in Madison, Wis.

Andrew Finanger is solar energy professional project coordinator for Independent Power Systems in Boulder, Colo.

Caitlin (Durnin) Fjerstad is staffing manager for Robert Half in Burnsville, Minn.

Karl Gesch earned a master’s degree in soil science from Iowa State University and is watershed coordinator for the Iowa Soybean Association in Ankeny, Iowa.

Amanda (Dietel) and Nate Giannettino live in Royal Oak, Mich. She teaches third grade at Royal Oak Schools. He is a customer experience manager for General Motors Corporation.

Carah (Claflin) Hart is a vocal music specialist for Hopkins Public Schools in Minnetonka, Minn.

Josh Hoffman of Des Moines, Iowa, is area manager for U.S. Water Services.

Jeff Knutson is choir director at Iowa City (Iowa) West High School.
Danielle Koch is a tutor for Chegg, Inc. and communications and program coordinator for GIGS: Gaining Insight Growing Self in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Lindsey (Getchell) and Andrew Kraabel ’11 live in Champlin, Minn. Lindsey is a registered nurse on the postpartum unit at Maple Grove Hospital; Andrew is a technician at Network

Krista Canoy Kreuger is a family advocate for North Iowa Community Action Organization in Mason City, Iowa.

Annie Kuttler is an ER nurse at Children’s Hospital Colorado in Aurora, Colo. Medics, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Paige Lenoch is a business analyst associate for Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America in Minneapolis.

Erin Mykleby is assistant athletic director-marketing, promotions, and fundraising for Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Fla.

Brittinae (Dralle) Nelson earned a master’s degree in early childhood unified emphasis from Upper Iowa University. She teaches special education for the North Fayette Valley Community School District in Elgin, Iowa.

Mitchel Obey is an orthopedic surgery resident at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University/St. Louis Children’s Hospital Consortium in St. Louis.

Andrew Papke-Larson earned a master’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota and is a landscape architect with HKGi in Minneapolis.

Daniel Ridenour is assistant strength and conditioning coach for the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb.

Aaron Schmaltz is a specialty team member at Whole Foods Market in Minneapolis.

Mikki Sodergren was named artistic director of the American Traditions Competition in Savannah, Ga. She is “crafting and implementing a new education outreach program that focuses on exposing students to different styles of music.” Based in New York, Sodergren travels throughout the year, often performing with the Savannah Philharmonic, and the Savannah Voice Festival.

Emma Spoon teaches science, health, and physical education at Sawtooth Elementary School and Cook County Middle School in Grand Marais, Minn.

Shane Steele is a tours and rentals coordinator for Stone Harbor Wilderness Supply and a paraprofessional at Sawtooth Elementary School in Grand Marais, Minn.

Xiao Xie is a quantitative management associate for Bank of America in Charlotte, N.C.

MARRIAGES (2012)

AMANDA DIETEL and NATHAN GIANNETTINO, Sept. 6, 2015

BRITTINAE DRALLE and Aaron Nelson, June 3, 2017

LINDSEY GETCHELL and ANDREW KRAABEL ’11, Oct. 21, 2016
BIRTHS

KELSEY (KLIMESH) and Edward Allendes welcomed a daughter, Camila Alexandra, in Jan. 2017.

TRICIA (GUNDERSON) and Bradley Crary welcomed a daughter, Teagan Lynn, in July 13, 2017.

CARAH (CLAFLIN) and MICHAEL HART '11 welcomed a son, Charles Francis, in Dec. 2016.

PAIGE (OFSTEDAHL) and ANDREW KNIGHT welcomed twins, a daughter, Page Munya, a son, Andrew William, in March 2016.

BRITTINAE (DRALLE) and Aaron Nelson welcomed a daughter, Bria Mae, in March 2017.

PAIGE (COMENTINO) and JAKE SEIBERT welcomed a daughter, Landrie Beverly, on June 2016.

LORA (ARENS) and ISAAC SKELTON '14 welcomed a daughter, Lila Mae, in Sept. 2015.

2013

CLASS NOTES

Joel Barkel is a Peace Corps volunteer in Ruhango, Rwanda.

Clara Bergan is donor relations manager for Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jordan Burkhart earned a master’s degree in student affairs from Iowa State University; he is residence life coordinator for Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo.

Sam DePagter is senior research analyst at Ipsos in Chicago.

Anna DiCecco is the corporate social responsibility coordinator for the Miami Football Club in Miami.

Jessica Edblom is proposal coordinator for IMEG Corp. in Rock Island, Ill.

Abbie Gould teaches seventh grade English and ninth through twelfth grade psychology at Regina High School in Iowa City, Iowa.

Brittany Hansen earned a doctorate in physical therapy from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa; she is a traveling physical therapist for Delta Healthcare Providers in Golden Valley, Minn.

Emily Hansen earned the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Kansas City University. She is a resident physician at the Research Medical Center in Kansas City.

Laura Harney teaches high school biology at the Girls Athletic Leadership School in Denver.
Meredith Hoyland earned a master’s degree in psychology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She is a doctoral student at the university.

Hannah Kosgard is a travel advisor at Latin America For Less in Lima, Peru.

Cassandra (Chalhoub) Kotek is the marketing director at McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC in Des Moines, Iowa.

Micah Kust is a physical therapist at Force Physical Therapy in Miami.

Drew Mick is Knightcaller program manager for Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Annie (Klepper) Neubauer is a pharmacist for Hartig Drug in Dubuque, Iowa.

Tyler Reece earned a doctorate of music arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was named the 2015 Gwendolyn Roberts Young Artist of the Year by NATS-LA, and is a teaching assistant to the voice department and conductor of Women’s Chorus at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Anndi Russell is a regional admissions counselor in Denver for Luther College.

Jena Schwake is a technology productivity consultant at Northwestern Mutual in Minneapolis.

Annika (Ellison) Scott is a social worker for the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Anthony Smith is a sales representative for Midwest Mattress in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hannah Strack graduated from the University of Iowa’s CIMBA Italy program and is an admissions counselor for the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in San Francisco.

Ashley Wright is ticket office staff manager for Des Moines Performing Arts in Des Moines, Iowa.

MARRIAGES

KELSEY BROWN and Ben Legore, July 16, 2016

CASSANDRA CHALHOUB and Kevin Kotek, Oct. 8, 2016

SARAH CORFMAN and Paul Hibbing, May 30, 2016

Christina Espegren and JOEL BARKEL, Dec. 31, 2015

OLIVIA HAHN and Jonny Diercks, Sept. 19, 2015

April Hieb and DANNY ROBB, Oct. 7, 2017

RACHEL JUNGWIRTH and ALEX RIGDON, June 4, 2016

ANDREA KLEPPER and EVAN NEUBAUER, Aug. 1, 2015

LUCY VENS ‘14 and LOUIS MAZZETTA, Sept. 10, 2016
BIRTHS

LESLIE PALMER and Ryan Hackman welcomed a daughter, Sage Elizabeth, in March 2017.

SARAH (CORFMAN) and Paul Hibbing welcomed a son, Holden Bravery, in Feb. 2017.

ANNIKA (ELLISON) and ROBBY SCOTT welcomed a daughter, Lucy Lorraine, in Dec. 2016.

2014

CLASS NOTES

Jessa Anderson-Reitz is a programs and services intake coordinator at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity in Minneapolis. (PHOTO)

Caitlin Auer is a training coordinator/professional dog trainer for Stone Mountain Pet Lodge in Grimes, Iowa.

Hannah Axt of Arlington, Va., earned a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois.

James Ayer is an assistant men’s and women’s tennis coach for Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H.

Hans Becklin is a seminarian at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He was named the winner of the 2016 A.R. Wentz Prize in American Lutheran History by the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. (PHOTO)

Tallie Berkvam teaches kindergarten in the Lakeville (Minn.) Public Schools.

Katie Berner is store manager at Birds & Words - a Home Boutique in Tyler, Texas.

Luke Dovre is a substitute warrior for the Des Moines (Iowa) Public Schools.

Dylan Essing is an engineer for Target Corporation in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Aaron Ford is customer account manager at Epicor Software in Minneapolis.

Hannah Glesne of Oshkosh, Wis., works for Lane Bryant.

Ashley (Urspringer) Guillou is a farmer and cheesemaker at the Ferme d’Enez Raden in Saint-Evarzec, France.

Kaitlin Heikkinen is a client technology specialist at Securian Financial Group, Inc. in St. Paul, Minn.

Sarah Christopherson and Matt Hoffman live in Rochester, Minn. Sarah is a full time student at the University of South Dakota School of Law (Juris Doctor) and Vermont School of Law (Master of Environmental Law and Policy). She is also a graduate assistant at USD School of Law. In May 2017 she begins work as law clerk for Chief Justice Mike McGrath of the Montana
Supreme Court. Matt is a staff nurse in the Medical/Surgical/Transplant ICU at the Mayo Clinic Hospital.

Carolyn Juergens is the communications coordinator at Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC) in Portland, Ore.

Alexander Kalal of South Saint Paul, Minn., is a reliability analyst for Compass Airlines.

Tobias Kohl of Minneapolis, is a financial services office-assurance senior at EY in Chicago.

Megan Kresse is account executive at Otto Design and Marketing in Norfolk, Va.

Nick Krasky is an analyst at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Hannah (Wilson) Loewen teaches third grade at TEAM Academy in Waseca, Minn.

Sarah Loberg teaches seventh grade math and coaches boys’ and girls’ basketball for Trail Ridge Middle School in Longmont, Colo.

Callie Mabry is communications director for Faith in Place in Chicago.

Samuel Matheson is the North American language and culture assistant for the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain in Logroño, Spain.

Aubrey McElmeel is a policy owner service representative for National Guardian Life Insurance in Madison, Wis.

Katherine (Tangen) Mumm of Burnsville, Minn., is account manager for Life Time Fitness.


Mitch Patrikus is a branch manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car at the Owatonna and Northfield, Minn., locations.

Andrew Peter of Decorah, Iowa, won the New Ulm Invitational Golf Tournament at the New Ulm Country Club last summer. He is a development officer at Luther College.

Blake Potthoff is executive director at the Fairmont Opera House in Fairmont, Minn.

Jaimie Rasmussen is account executive at Catapult Marketing in Minneapolis.

Sara (Pecinovsky) Richert is the grades 5-12 band director for the Cochrane-Fountain City (Wis.) School District.

Alexandra Robinson earned a master’s degree in music at the University of Oklahoma. She is orchestra manager at the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colo.

Erik Sand is youth director at UCC of Missoula in Missoula, Mont.

Alex Sievers is a tax senior at Deloitte Tax, LLP in Minneapolis.
Lora (Arens) and Isaac Skelton live in Austin, Minn. Lora is owner and photographer for Not Your Mama’s Photography; Isaac is a digital analyst for the Mayo Clinic.

Kelsey Smith earned an M.M. degree in cello performance from the University of North Texas. She teaches orchestra for the Lamar and Downing Middle Schools and Lewisville Independent School District in Flower Mound, Texas.

Michelle Strafelda earned a master’s degree in counseling psychology from the University of St. Thomas. She also completed a nine-month practicum working as a therapist at Park Avenue Center, a drug treatment center in South Minneapolis, Minn.

Melissa Tholen is a proxy analyst at Columbia Threadneedle Investments in Minneapolis.

Leah (Loesel) Toppen teaches instrumental music for the Eastern Carver School District in Chaska, Minn.

MARRIAGES

LORA ARENS and ISAAC SKELTON, July 4, 2015

SARAH CHRISTOPHERSON and MATT HOFFMAN, Aug. 6, 2016

CATHERINE GEHLSN and GARRETT HILLESTAD, Sept. 24, 2016

LEAH LOESEL and Marcus Toppen, Aug. 8, 2015

LUCY O’CONNOR ’15 and SIBUSISO DLAMINI, May 26, 2015

SARA PECINOVSKY and Nicholas Richert, June 20, 2015

JOCELYN PETERSEN and ALEX KALAL, June 17, 2017

REBEKAH SANDGREN ’17 and *WILLY LEAFBLAD, Dec. 30, 2016

KATHERINE TANGEN and John Mumm, April 29, 2017

LUCY VENS and LOUIS MAZZETTA ’13, Sept. 10, 2016

HANNAH WILSON and Steve Loewen, July 30, 2016

BIRTHS

ASHLEY (URSPRINGER) and Fanch Guillou welcomed a son, Lewis Jean-Yves, in March 2017.

MEGAN (NADING) and Mike Stewig welcomed a daughter, Brooklyn, in June 2017.

2015

CLASS NOTES

Neal Abbott is director of K-8 faith formation and youth ministry at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, Minn.

Alex Barker is account executive of membership sales for the Minnesota Timberwolves in Minneapolis.
Anna Dieter teaches seventh and ninth grade mathematics for the Hopkins (Minn.) Public School District.

Quinn Foley is customer account manager for Epicor Software in St. Louis Park, Minn.

Paige Harne is the framing manager at Michael’s in Rochester, Minn.

Emma Hartmann teaches music at Traylor Fundamental Academy in Denver.

Laura Hayes is a reporter and photographer for the Winona Post newspaper in Winona, Minn.

Marlon Henriquez teaches kindergarten at Pilsen Community Academy in Chicago.

Andrew Herder teaches math at Parkers Prairie (Minn.) High School.

Kayla Herman is an HR generalist for Evergreen Bank Group in Oak Brook, Ill.

Dietrich Jessen is admissions manager for the Lutheran Music Program in Minneapolis.

Ashley (Sweet) Kaiser is social work care coordinator for Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, Iowa.

Sarah King is an analyst at Rabbit LIVE Intelligence, LLC in Minneapolis.

Bailey Kampa is senior assistant at Securian Financial Group, Inc. in St. Paul, Minn.

Cody Kliethermes is senior financial analyst at Northern Trust Corporation in Chicago.

Alex Kokkinen of Bloomington, Minn., is account coordinator at CH Robinson.

Heather (Marking) Moechnig of Theilman, Minn., is an audit for CliftonLarsonAllen.

Maryanne McNutt is museum staff at Port Huron Museum in Port Huron, Mich.

Britta Nyberg is manager in training at Anthropologie in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

Nana Ama Odame is an individual master data management business analyst at Optum - UnitedHealth Group in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Meghan Owens is a teaching assistant at Scottsdale Children’s Institute in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Jennifer Schmidt is farm manager at Hale Akua Garden Farm in Haiku, Hawaii.

Nicole Schmidt is an administrative assistant at The Princeton Review in Minneapolis.

Aldon Severson is territory sales coordinator at Korn Ferry Hay Group in Minneapolis.
Robert Starr teaches eighth grade science for the Douglas County Schools in Castle Rock, Colo.

Emily Stumpf is volunteer and program coordinator for the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition in Minneapolis.

Nikki Thompson is assistant registrar at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Kolin Walker is a lab technician for Trecora Chemical in Pasadena, Texas.

Charles Weathers is an advertiser account representative at CJ Affiliate in San Francisco.

Anna (Burke) and Aaron Weckwerth are both graduate students at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

MARRIAGES (2015)

LINDSEY BJORGE and Barrett Winrick, Oct. 24, 2015

SYDNEY GEHRT '16 and ALEX HAIN, June 24, 2017

HEATHER MARKING and Josh Moechnig, Sept. 24, 2016

LUCY O'CONNOR and SIBUSISO DLAMINI '14, May 26, 2015

MAGGIE STEINBERG and Nikolaj Hagen, July 30, 2016

ASHLEY SWEET and MICHAEL KAISER, June 11, 2016

2016

CLASS NOTES

Krista Anderson is a cardiothoracic transplant/cardiovascular surgery progressive care nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Greta Anetsberger is a trauma and surgical nurse at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill.

Erika Balk is the senior business analyst at Optum - UnitedHealth Group in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Matt Boelter of Eau Claire, Wis., is planning a 3,000-mile bicycle tour across the country from May 1 to Aug. 31, 2017. With his tour, “Thought For Food,” Matt hopes to raise $10,000 for the international aid foundation, Save The Children.

Tom Breen is an internal wholesaler at Voya Financial in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lydia Eager is a business development representative for Groupon in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Sarah Eckhert is associate technical analyst at TriTech Software Systems in Decorah.

Ryan Eppen is a para professional at Chatfield (Minn.) High School.
Wesley Frye has been an actively performing tenor in the Young Artists Program at Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. His stage credits include having sung in the choruses for both Cavalleria rusticana and Pagliacci, as well as soloing in his most recent opera, Speed Dating. Wesley is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota this fall in the studio of internationally acclaimed tenor, John De Haan.

Shannon Gallagher of Lakewood, Colo., teaches English at Overland High School in the Cherry Creek School District.

Philip Hanson is activities coordinator for Foothills Gateway, Inc. in Fort Collins, Colo.

Maggie Helms is educational assistant at Seven Hills Preparatory Academy in Bloomington, Minn.

Anna Jeide is a caseworker with Lutheran Volunteer Corps at La Clinica del Pueblo in Washington, D.C.

Hailey Johnson is a substitute teacher for the Littleton (Colo.) Public Schools, and assistant varsity girls’ tennis coach for Heritage High School.

Moran Lonning is an assistant women’s basketball coach at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

Nicole Lussier is a development specialist at Minnesota Life College in Richfield, Minn.

Ian Macpherson is a certified athletic trainer at Savannah State University in Savannah, Ga.

Lindsey Pielage is a physical therapy patient services representative at Twin Cities Orthopedics in Minneapolis.

Lexie Polk is real estate services coordinator for CBRE in Chicago.

Julia Reimann is an intern with Resettlement Case Aide for Refugee Services as part of the Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Blaise Schaeffer is a health software and development engineer with IBM Watson in Durham, N.C.

Paul Schafer is an IT regulatory analyst at Pace Analytical Services in Minneapolis.

Clare Slagel of Dubuque, Iowa, was one of three finalists for the Johanna Olson IIAC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

Jacob Smith is studio coordinator at Judith B Salon & Academy in Elmhurst, Ill.

Megan (Sisson) Thiele of Hoyt Lakes, Minn., works for Natural Harvest Food Co-Op.

MARRIAGES

ANNA BALK ’18 and DYLAN SMALLWOOD, June 3, 2017

SYDNEY GEHRT and ALEX HAIN ’15, June 24, 2017
2017
CLASS NOTES

Cody Arndtson is a professional ballroom dancer, instructor, and marketing coordinator for Dancers Studios in Saint Paul, Minn.

Matthew Chlebek is an account executive with Midwest Insurance Group in Milwaukee.

Madeline Geier is a teaching assistant at the Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

Emily Holm is assistant product marketer at Fortress Press in Minneapolis.

Amelia Scarbrough was selected by the Austrian-American Educational Commission to serve as a U.S. teaching assistant for the 2017-18 academic year to teach English in secondary schools in Austria.

MARRIAGES

REBEKAH SANDGREN and WILLY LEAFBLAD '14, Dec. 30, 2016

2018
MARRIAGES

ANNA BALK and DYLAN SMALLWOOD '16, June 3, 2017