

# Class of 1996 - Summer 2012 Letter

Class Agent: [Cari \(Skogberg\) Eastman](#)

[The Scoop from the Alumni Office - Summer 2012](#)

Greetings, Class of '96!

Goodness, it's already June! We just arrived back in South Dakota where we will spend much of the summer. What a beautiful sight to be back in "green" country! J The Arizona desert is truly splendid, but it's hard to beat the fresh air and green fields of the Midwest. I hope your summer is off to a great start, wherever you are.

In just a few months, we will be tuned in to another Olympics. I can't help but be taken in by the many stories of courage, dedication and perseverance shown by so many tremendous athletes. Their performances inspire me to look beyond the "expected" and face with confidence what may otherwise seem impossible... especially when I hear stories of those who have overcome tragic injuries or circumstances to make the Olympic team. I recently read a quote sent in to Guideposts by reader Sharon Craig that said, "When you're down to nothing, God is up to something." For some reason, that quote really hit home, and I wanted to share it with you as well. I hope that no matter what is happening in your lives, you will feel the confidence that comes from knowing God's got you covered – especially when it seems like things are at their worst. I also hope you will remember that you are loved and connected as part of the Augie family. You have made Augustana part of the great place it is today, and you will always be "home" when you come back to campus or connect with Augie alumni.

Speaking of Olympics, the theme for this year's Viking Days (October 5-7) is "Going for the Blue and Gold!" Proceeds from Augustana student registration will benefit the Special Olympics of South Dakota, and proceeds from Augustana alumni and community registration will benefit the [Augustana Fund](#) (scholarships, etc.). In true Olympic fashion, you can participate in the first ever ["Langskip" \(Viking Ship\) 5K run](#) around campus the morning of October 6 before enjoying the parade and football game. You can find out more about Viking Days festivities at [www.augie.edu/vikingdays](http://www.augie.edu/vikingdays).

There is a lot more great information about what is going on at Augie in the latest SCOOP. Rather than repeat it here, I will just ask you to check it out! I do want to extend a big thanks, however, to those of you who have [given a gift](#) to the Augustana Fund. Your support really is critical for the health and growth of the college, and future students depend on your generosity. This past year, only 6.8% of our class contributed. Let's triple that number this year. Every bit counts!

Have a great summer, classmates, and I hope you will be able to make it back to Sioux Falls this October for lots of

Viking Days fun! Let me know how (and where) you are these days if you have not already done so. You can also contact the alumni office at [alumni@augie.edu](mailto:alumni@augie.edu).

Blessings, dear friends!

Cari

CLASS NEWS:

**Wendy (Strehlow) Gustafson** celebrated the birth of a baby boy - Calvin James Gustafson June 14th, 2011.

**Catherine Lerseth** married Ted Marks on September 30, 2011. The happy couple makes their home in Minneapolis where Catherine is an HR Business Partner Manager with Best Buy.

**Kristi (Kruger) Peterson** currently is serving on two national working groups for the following large tradeshows in the United States: National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) and United States Green Building Council (USGBC).



*1996 Class Reunion - Viking Days 2011*