

Hello and warm greetings, Class of 1996!

It's nearly springtime in the desert and flowers are beginning to pop up in the most unusual places. We recently moved to Fountain Hills, AZ to a home that my husband remodeled. Our last project, which we have not yet completed, is to landscape the front and back yards. The existing landscaping consists of dark, volcanic rock from the front door down to the long, sloping driveway. It's not exactly my favorite feature; I have often commented that I can't wait until it is gone. Last week, however, I noticed a bit of color peeking out from the rocky landscape, and within a few days wild desert poppies had sprung up all along our "volcano drive." I had to laugh at myself for wishing the rock away. It actually made a beautiful background for our wild flower garden. We are eagerly watching and waiting to see what pops up next. I hope that your spring will also be filled with beauty in unexpected places!

It was awesome to see so many of you for our class reunion during [Viking Days](#) last October! Thanks to those who were able to make it – what a great gathering! We hope to see even more of you at the next reunion in five years. If you know of someone who isn't receiving the class notes or letters, please ask them to contact the alumni office (alumni@augie.edu) with updated contact information. We want everyone to be connected; unfortunately, as addresses change, etc. it is sometimes hard to keep up with where all our classmates are.

Don't forget to take a minute to drop a note to the alumni office (or to me) and let us know how you are doing. You do not have to have earth-shaking news to send an update; your classmates will be thrilled to just hear what you are up to! Also remember that you can post class notes on the AugieLink site. Check it out if you have not yet done so. Go to www.augielink.com and click on Class Notes on the left hand side of the page. I included some of those notes in this letter, even if they dated back a bit, because I didn't want anyone to miss out on your important news. Thanks to those who have posted!

Finally, I want to extend a huge thanks to the staff at the alumni office. This great bunch works hard year-round to plan successful reunions, mail class letters, and ensure correspondence and connections. They do a fantastic job!

Be sure to check out [The Scoop](#). You will be prouder than ever of your alma mater, and your title as an Augie Viking!

Happy spring, classmates, wherever you are! May God's love be especially abundant in your lives during this season of newness, life and growth!

Love,

Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman
cari.skogberg@colorado.edu

Class Notes for 1996

Sara (Anderson) Kraft and husband Dave welcomed Levi Keith Kraft into the world on January 19, 2010. He joins big sister Eryn (5 years), big brothers Joshua (3 ½ years) and Tyler (16 months). The Krafts live in Marshall, MN, where Sara is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and her husband, Dave, works for the state of MN in the mental health field.

Matthew Arveson and wife Stephanie were thrilled at the birth of Levi Sven on June 16. Levi joins sister Claire (4 ½) and brother Samuel (2 ½). The family lives in Boulder, CO.

Erin (Bergdale) Fratis and husband Kevin are proud parents of four beautiful children: Josh, Maddy, Kayleigh and Chloe. The family lives in Sinking Spring, PA.

Dayna Groskreutz and husband David Basel have two beautiful daughters, big sister Hannah and Elsa Bryn who was born September 8, 2009. The family lives in Iowa City where Dayna is an assistant professor at the University of Iowa, doing pulmonary and critical care medicine research as well as clinical work and teaching.

Corey Halstenson and his wife Marcy welcomed baby Dylan to the family on June 22, 2009. Dylan joins big sisters Berkley and Taylor. Corey is currently on the Augustana Alumni Council and is serving as the President this year.

Ellen (Hicks) Tenrod is Associate Executive Director of the Colorado Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Ellen and husband Greg welcomed baby Jacqueline Rose in January 2012. The family lives in Brighton, CO. Jacqueline joins siblings Chloe (9) and Donovan (6).

Angie (Krogstad) Keith and her family are doing well in Pierre, SD. Angie teaches math classes for SDSU at the Capital University Center. Angie and husband Dave have three children: Abby, 12; Emma, 9; and Beau 5 1/2.

Sara (Springhetti) Long and husband Nathan are enjoying life with sons Nolan and Grant. The Longs recently moved into their new home just outside of Rapid City. Sara is a surgeon at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center in Sturgis.

Kristi (Kruger) Peterson works at Xerxes Corporation in Bloomington, MN as the Marketing Manager for the U.S. Petroleum and North American Water and Wastewater markets. Kristi, her husband Sean, and son Noah (6 1/2) live in Shakopee, MN.

Danyell (Martinson) Skillman, husband Kyle and daughter Sophie were thrilled at the arrival of Jett Blaine on May 25, 2010. Best to all of you!

Heidi (Mayer) Sato and husband Brendon welcomed Ethan Ken into the world on August 20, 2010. Congratulations!

Ann (Miller) Schaeffbauer andn her husband Keith have five children: Kiah (18), Connor (17), Chandler (13), and twins Maryn and Broc (9). The family lives in Sioux Falls where Ann volunteers as a school nurse at Holy Spirit and manages the "crazy busy" schedules of five kids.

Brent Munce and wife Dawn welcomed daughter Carly Renee into the world May 1, 2009. Carly joins older sister Alexa. The family lives in Andover, MN.

Tereasa Payne continues to wow audiences with her musical talents. She played the post-Broadway premiere of "The Little Mermaid" and "Grease" at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivins, Utah from June-October, 2011, and also performed and presented at the National Flute Association's Annual Convention in August.

Jason Pentico and his wife Anne (Weiland, class of '97) are the proud parents of a baby boy, Kellen Farrel, who was born on February 10, 2010. Congratulations!

Cari Lee Skogberg Eastman and Scott Eastman have welcomed Mataya Lee to their family on May 23, 2011. Abby (almost 3) is loving being a big sister.

Kristen (Sonnichsen) Andrix, husband Todd, and children Annika (9), Addison (7 ½) and Brynn (4) are enjoying life in Owatonna, MN. The family enjoyed numerous camping trips this past year, including a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone, and Whitewater State Park. Kristen also made a special trip to Ethiopia! Wow!

Wendy (Strehlow) Gustafson and her husband celebrated the birth of baby Calvin James Gustafson on June 14th, 2011. Congratulations!

Amy (Their) Meyers and husband Mitch welcomed Jacey Therese into the world on October 27, 2009. Congratulations, Meyers family!

Julie Voelker-Morris, husband Robert, and children Isaac and Elise are doing well in Eugene, OR. The family enjoyed a cross-country vacation this past year that included stops at the Grand Tetons, a major highlight for all!