

Hello Augie Class of '96!

As we write this letter in Sioux Falls, we can feel a sense of change.

- The weather is slowly changing. We can have a cold day of 13 degrees and then may have a day that is 45 or 50 degrees.
- We think about exchanging the winter snow gear for the rain gear.
- We finish winter sport seasons and look to spring sports.
- Epiphany is ending and lent beginning.

As we think back to where we were roughly 25 years ago (not a typo!) we have to admit we have gone through a few changes as well. A few signs of aging (ahem!), hopefully much more wisdom, lots of interesting life experiences that have shaped our thoughts and determined our pathways. Through all of the challenges and transformations that have brought us to this point, one thing will never change. We will always belong to a special group of people – the Augustana class of 1996 – and your contribution as a member of that group is something to celebrate!

Augustana has experienced some major changes this year as well. Here are a few highlights:

- For the second time in history, the Augustana softball team claimed the title of 2019 Division II National Softball Champions! Way to go, Augie women!
- Augustana University is now offering a new Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree.
- Augustana will soon be offering a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to its graduate education programs.
- Keynote speakers for the March 23, 2020 Boe Forum will be Drs. Robert C. Green and Jamie Metz. The two will examine the relationship between genetics and health, the ability to predict and thereby prevent disease, and the geopolitics of genetic engineering and genomics.
- This past year, Augie was named one of the top colleges nationally for post-graduation employment.
- It was announced in September that Augustana University has been awarded a three-year \$187,063 grant from the National Science Foundation to support Dr. Andrew Klose, assistant professor of physical chemistry, and student researchers to carry out experimental nuclear science research.
- In December, the Augustana Board of Trustees approved the Augustana University Strategic Plan. You can read more about the plan here: <http://augie.edu/about-augustana/mission-values-and-vision/strategic-plan-viking-bold>
- After 18 years of service as Augie's campus pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul Rohde retired in January. He will be dearly missed!

Sometimes change is hard, sometimes invigorating, but it always keeps life interesting. We want to share in all your important changes and life events, so please

send us your news for the class letter. You can contact Cari Skogberg Eastman (Cari.Skogberg@colorado.edu) or Dayna Groskreutz (daynagroskreutz@ymail.com) or the Augie alumni office (alumni@augie.edu). You can also update us on the Augie Class of '96 group on Facebook.

By the way, if you know of someone who is NOT receiving communications from Augie, please let them know they should send their current contact information to alumni@augie.edu. Now that class letters, etc. are sent electronically instead of through the mail, this is especially important! The alumni office does their best to keep up with everyone, but can't continue to reach those who have not sent in updated contact information.

And one more thing – mark your calendars for Viking Days weekend, October 9-11, 2020!

Wishing you all a great year filled with inspiration and faith, no matter what changes lie ahead!

Dayna and Cari

Here are the updates we have received:

Tereasa Payne:

I am the World Flutes Consultant for Stephen Schwartz (Composer of Wicked, Godspell and Pippin)'s new show, "Prince of Egypt" opening on the West End in London! <https://www.theprinceofegyptmusical.com/> www.teresapayne.com

Augielink Class Notes

02/08/2019-03/16/2020

Mattson, Julie "Julie" Posted 1/22/2020 12:07:39 PM - Careers

Julie Mattson is employed with Advarra, IRB in Seattle, Washington.