

Alumni profiles

What's in a name?

At some point in the early life of Ruth Kumata '49, her birth name might have seemed a hollow prophecy. Her parents were both born in Japan prior to immigrating and marrying here, and the name they gave their only daughter—Kikue, or “long, happy life”—embraced the promise of the new country in which they'd chosen to make their lives together. In Seattle, where her father, Hachiro, ran his own cleaning business, Kumata and her two brothers attended school and went about the business of growing up as American kids in the New Deal Era. But then came December 7, 1941.

Not long after the Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, Kumata was told she was no longer welcome at Seattle's Garfield High School. Next she learned she and her family would have to leave their home and most of their possessions behind and board buses for the Puyallup Assembly Center southeast of Seattle. Under the War Relocation Authority (WRA), established in March of 1942, internment camps—known euphemistically as Relocation Centers—were established to provide more permanent facilities for the concentration of Japanese Americans.

Later that year, the Kumatas were sent to Minidoka, a camp in south central Idaho situated in the midst of a 33,000-acre reserve of high plains scrub. Sagebrush was among the few plants hardy enough to grow between

the tendrils of basaltic lava flow that latticed the landscape.

There the family lived out the war; all except her older brother, who like many of the Nisei—second-generation Japanese Americans—joined the Army in order to serve the nation which had taken away their freedom. Several factors combined to make life in Minidoka slightly less awful than the other camps. With more than two-thirds of its 9,000 inmates coming from Seattle, there was greater homogeneity; and a relatively benign administration was made possible by geography—being located outside the Western Defense Command region, security was lighter (although it still included armed troops and guard towers).

But even the best of the camps reflected the worst of America, and the WRA's director, Dillon Myer, knew it. In 1943 he wrote that life in a relocation



Misao and Hachiro Kumata

center was unnatural and un-American. “Keep in mind that the evacuees were charged with nothing except having Japanese ancestors. It has added weight to the contention of the enemy that we are fighting a race war; that this nation preaches democracy and practices racial discrimination....It is not the American way to have children growing up behind barbed wire and under the scrutiny of armed guards.”

Minidoka was made up of 35 residential blocks of a dozen barracks, with each block sharing a mess hall and a central building with bathrooms, showers and a laundry. Somehow, Kumata managed to finish her high school education in the camp. Her hard work was rewarded in 1945, when a letter arrived out of the blue from a place called Augustana.

The College and its parent church

body, the Augustana Synod, had walked a fine line between patriotism and piety during World War II. While the synod was among the first (and few) mainstream denominations to afford conscientious objector status to those of its members who sought it, its colleges and their alumni served the war effort with great distinction; for example, Augustana filled its mostly vacant men's dorms by hosting officer training programs. But as the war waned, the injustice of the internment camps became harder to ignore. So, like several other church-related colleges, Augustana sought to provide an education for bright young people who'd been caught up in the web of xenophobia.

When the letter arrived, Kumata recalls her excitement was tempered with apprehension. “What would I do with my parents? My father did not want to go back to Seattle. I couldn't

leave them, so I didn't know what to do,” she says.

By now, however, enthusiasm was growing on campus to bring this talented young woman to Rock Island. Officials with the Seminary agreed to hire Kumata's parents to be in charge of cleaning services, and gave them an apartment in Seminary Hall where Ruth—as she was known at Augustana—would live during her four years of college. She and her younger brother, Shuso—who went to Rock Island High School—suddenly found themselves with dozens of ‘big brothers’ in the form of the seminarians who lived in the dorm. “The seminary students at the time were very nice...and fun, too,” Kumata says. “My mother [Misao] was too quiet sometimes, but students were able to make her smile more frequently.”

The wisdom of the move was

Minidoka Relocation Center, December 1942



quickly apparent. During her freshman year, Kumata won first place for prose in the annual *Saga* competition with a story called “Conflict.” In exploring the incongruity of being both Japanese and American, she wrote: “Mixing the oriental and the occidental was like emulsifying oil in an egg; it had to be done slowly and carefully.” Kumata says she was encouraged to write for *Saga* by Dr. Henriette C.K. Naeseth, who introduced her to Augustana's Writers Club and gave her a part-time job in the English department.

Her parents stayed in Rock Island while Kumata earned a master's degree in library sciences at Illinois, after which they went to live with Shuso when their daughter took a job as a librarian in Brooklyn. “It was a scary thing to do, moving to such a large city. But I made

a lot of good connections—it was a wonderful time. It was such an international city... people didn't look at me funny. That was nice,” she says.

But she had to leave that job after only four years so that she could return to Illinois to be with her parents. “My brother got married and was starting a family of his own, so he and my older brother thought I should be with our parents,” says Kumata, who joined the Chicago Public Library in 1955 and



Kumata candid from the Seminary's 1949 yearbook.



Al Bowman '75 on the slopes of California's Mt. Shasta

ten miles on the pavement to prepare himself for the day ahead. Bowman began his interim duties on July 1, and while he told an ISU audience, “My focus is to advance the university’s agenda rather than run for the permanent presidency,” he is interested in dropping the “interim” from his title.

Bowman has taught speech pathology and audiology at ISU for 24 years, and recently completed a term as interim provost for the institution. His love for the outdoors began as a child growing up in Colorado Springs, and his interest in mountaineering has him working toward a planned attempt at Washington’s Mt. Rainier. The ability to find a path through tricky footing should come in handy as Bowman helps ISU sur-

stayed until her retirement in 1985. Today she works two days a week at Chicago’s renowned Newberry Library. Considering that her mother passed away at the age of 96 (and that Ruth recently went to Honolulu to visit an uncle who’s in his 90s) it now appears likely—certainly more so than 60 years ago—that Kikue Kumata will fulfill the hopes with which her parents christened her.

Another summit to climb

In his spare time, Dr. Al Bowman '75 likes to climb mountains. And go running. He usually runs five miles every morning, but on February 21—the day he was to be named interim president at Illinois State University—it took

mount a difficult state budget situation which has led to frozen faculty salaries and cuts in programming.

But according to Bowman, his background at Augustana has prepared him for every challenge he’s faced so far. “One of the best decisions I ever made was to attend Augustana College, and through my mentoring relationship with Dr. Don Davis I learned anything is possible. At Augustana, I not only mastered content, but also developed the ability to reason, solve problems, weigh evidence, think originally, and engage in active, life-long learning.” Bowman says.

Finest Under Forty

Both recipients of the Augustana Alumni Association’s 2003 Finest Under Forty Outstanding Achievement Awards are—in their own ways—teachers with extraordinary classrooms.

Susan Bolek '92 is both a classroom teacher and instructional reading specialist in Carol Stream, Ill., who also serves as a literacy coordinator for early-primary grades in her district. In the latter capacity, she travels between six elementary schools training parents for literacy intervention programs, and supporting teachers with classroom literacy programs. Bolek is also co-owner of the Pyramid Educational Center, a private tutoring service based in Wheaton. The past school year was highlighted by Bolek’s selection to receive a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

James “Ike” Brannon '87 hasn’t stopped studying economics since he graduated with a major in that field from Augustana. Currently, he is senior economist for the Senate Majority Leader of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress and, as such, serves the legislative branch of the U.S. government as a major source of insight and advice on economic principles. He’d previously worked in the executive branch as an economist in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Having published more than 40 articles, Brannon’s work is frequently cited and has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*, among other publications.

Class Notes

(received as of May 30, 2003)

1949

Philip V. Anderson, retired pastor, is listed in the 2002-2003 edition of *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare* and the 2004 edition of *Who's Who in America*.

1950

Ralph Brodd gave the keynote lecture, *Comments on Rechargeable Lithium Battery Technology*, at the 11th international meeting on lithium batteries in Monterey, Calif.

1954

Robert L. Anderson has been appointed to the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority.

Ron Bennett recently completed an interim ministry at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Christchurch, New Zealand.

1955

Nancy Engstrom Hinkley has been included in the 2002-2003 edition of *Who's Who in American Women*.

1957

Arvid Adell has retired as professor of philosophy from Millikin University, Decatur, Ill. He was inducted into the Millikin Centennial Medallion Society, one of the first three faculty so honored.

1958

Marilynn Gilchrist Bergmark received a citizenship award from the Lemont (Ill.) Law Enforcement Association for service to her community.

Timothy Johnson, ABC News medical editor, received the Amicus Certus Award from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

1962

Sharon Peterson Brostrom is pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond, Calif.

Romayne Hertweck has resigned as president and CEO of Nutri-Cal, Inc., retired from MiraCosta College after 37 years, but continues as president of El Camino Preschools, Oceanside, Calif.

1963

Maris Kirsons has been elected president of the Latvian Lutheran Church in America.

Donovan Weston married Kathleen Christensen on August 3, 2002.

1964

Carole Waterman Heider serves as secretary for the Iowa Music Educators Association. She teaches elementary vocal music in Sioux City, Iowa.

Arthur Smith received the president’s award for outstanding service from The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (Mo.).

1966

William Moorcroft has retired from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and has opened a private practice for the treatment of insomnia and nightmares in Fort Collins, Colo. He also teaches part time at Colorado State University, and collaborates on sleep research. The latest edition of his book, *Understanding Sleep and Dreaming*, was recently released. He also co-authored a chapter for *International Review of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, called *Sleepiness in the Workplace*.

1967

For the 25th anniversary of the Rev. **Lynn Bergren**’s ordination, his sons held a surprise celebration at his church, Augustana Lutheran in Andover, Ill. The Rev. **Arthur Bergren** '90 and the Rev. **Ben Bergren** '91 officiated at a special worship service which followed.

1968

After 14 years, **Janice Budd Gerkel** has stepped down as executive director of the Music Center of the Northwest, Seattle, Wash. She continues to serve as director of music and program.

Don McCrary has adopted a son, Jared, born February 17, 2003 (*Blase*; Isaac, 6).

Gordon Nelson received the J.D. degree from the University of Dayton (Ohio) School of Law.

1969

Craig Kuriger received the Ph.D. degree in applied management and decision sciences from Walden University, Minneapolis, Minn. Since retirement he has been an adjunct assistant professor in the business and information technology department at Black Hawk College, Moline.

Jeffrey Maurus received the master of public health degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dick Mosher has been appointed chairman of the American Corporate Counsel’s international affairs committee. He is director and legal counsel for Absolute Business, Inc., Seattle, Wash.

1970

Barbara Morris Lawson married Kent Stannard on May 30, 2002.

Jane Wallin McChesney received the master of divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. She serves as pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, New Windsor, Ill.

1971

Ken Anderson is the quarterbacks coach for the NFL’s Jacksonville Jaguars.

Charles Kluth has been appointed distinguished scientist at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden.

Jeanette Miller married Richard Green on April 5, 2003.

1972

Bonnie Oehlert Hartmann is the recipient of a distinguished service award from the Wisconsin Art Education Association for outstanding service and leadership. She is director of the Miller Art Museum, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

1973

Tim Sanders had twins, Felicia and Ian, on May 9, 2003 (*Stacy*).

1974

Lawrence Barker has been named president and CEO of Visual Networks, Rockville, Md.

Sandra Berge Kessinger has been called as assistant to the bishop in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod.

Janet Norquist González has been accepted into the 2003 New York City Teaching Fellows Program. She is minister of music at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Bronx, N.Y.

Dewaine Nelson is owner of Alternative Energy, Inc., Cherry Valley, Ill.

Jan “Jay” Schaaf is facilities planner at Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Milan, Ill.

1975

Susan Senft Clark is senior account representative at Optum, Waterloo, Iowa.

1976

Susan Holgersson is a pharmaceutical representative with Pharmacia Corp.

1977

Donald Berg has been appointed senior vice president, director of sales and marketing, at Brown-Forman Corp., Louisville, Ky.

Claire Felbinger is senior program officer for transportation management and policy at the National Academy of Sciences’ Transportation Research Board.

Alumni to-do list

For more information on these items, visit <http://alumni.augustana.edu>, or call 309-794-7477.

In memoriam

Dr. Harold Bell “He was a big man—a big Southern gentleman with a big personality.” That’s how Dr. Claire Felbinger ’77 remembers Harold Bell, who, she says, “launched my career and my life.” Bell, who died May 6 at the age of 70, grew



up on a farm in Tennessee before serving in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and going to school on the G.I. Bill. He taught in West Virginia before coming to Augustana in 1965.

In 1972, he was part of the College’s first foreign study term in Europe, and became director of the internship program the following year. In that position—which he held for 15 years—Bell used connections he’d made around the world to find placements for students. “The question from Harold was, ‘Where do you want to go and what do you want to do?’ And he could deliver by making a personal connection for the student,” says Felbinger,

who is senior program officer for transportation management and policy at the National Academy of Sciences’ Transportation Research Board.

In addition to internships and foreign study (the latter including spring break field trips which he led on four continents), Bell helped many students—including Felbinger—get into graduate school. And, she says, he remembered all of them. “I might not see him for years, but he could bring me up to date on all of the students who graduated around my time, and also all who went on to become political scientists. He was proud of all of his students.”

Upon his retirement in 2000, alumni and colleagues established the Harold Bell Scholarship Fund to assist students in pursuing full-time summer internships in state and federal government. Among survivors is his wife, Anne Brown Bell.

Ruth Holmén ’28 Taylor Given the many hundreds of people she’d taught to sing, it’s remarkable that Ruth Holmén—as she was known for the nearly 40 years she taught at Augustana —almost lost her voice while still a young woman. Her first jobs after graduation had her teaching English, Latin and physiology, while directing school choirs and orchestras in Randolph and Topeka, Kansas. When her voice began to falter in the early 1940s, she sought help from Henry Veld, founding director of the Augustana Choir; he suggested Bernard Taylor, chair of the voice department at Juilliard.



For the next three summers, she learned more about singing and how to teach it, eventually graduating with honors from Juilliard and earning a master’s degree from Columbia. She began teaching at Augustana in 1948, but maintained her connections in New York, traveling there several times each year and often bringing students, with whom she soaked up master classes and concerts.

Today these alumni can be found on the faculties of colleges and universities around the country.

Her many trips to New York nurtured a long friendship with Taylor and his wife. Five years after her former teacher was widowed, he proposed marriage. Their wedding was held on August 8, 1981—the day after her 75th birthday. Ruth Holmén Taylor died June 14 at the age of 96; her husband preceded her in death in 1987. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Regina Holmén ’22 Fryxell, a noted composer and organist. Survivors include a sister, Agnes Holmén ’25 Peterson, and brother, Dr. Reynold Holmén ’36.

Among those who remained in close contact with their former teacher is Janet Norquist ’74. “Ruth Holmén Taylor introduced thousands of people to the spiritual, mystical and healing aspects of singing,” says Norquist. “Although she was a Christian, Ruth’s philosophy was Zen-like. She was not attached to the results of her work. It was her conviction that each student must decide for him- or herself how to make use of the gift. Her love and support were unconditional.”

The Ruth Holmén Taylor Voice Scholarship at Augustana College was established in 1970.

Ruth Mahlo, wife of **Ray Mahlo** ’50, on May 4, 2003.

Richard L. Maynard ’50 on December 31, 2002.

Kenneth A. Nyberg ’50 on December 25, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Lois; sons, **Ronald** ’75 and **Robert** ’81; and daughter, **Nancy Nyberg** ’77 Ytterberg.

Arthur L. Sears ’50 in November 2002.

Patricia Curran ’51 **Anderson** on April 23, 2003. Her husband, A. Roy Anderson, survives her.

Oliver E. Briggs ’51 on May 7, 2003. He is survived by his wife, **Dolores Apple** ’50 **Briggs**.

Maxine Rohrbach ’51 **Nelson** on January 6, 2003. Among survivors is her husband, **George “Bud” Nelson** ’49.

E.O. Chaddock, husband of **Marian Erickson** ’52 **Chaddock**, on February 21, 2002.

John E. Gillstrom ’52 on October 24, 2002. His wife, Mary Lou, survives him.

Frances Vance ’52 **O’Neill** on January 24, 2003.

Roland E. Setnan ’52 on August 20, 2002. His wife, **Marilyn** ’52, survives him.

Helen Dougherty ’52 **Zettel** on March 24, 2003.

Kenneth J. Brundage, Jr. ’53 on November 21, 2002. Survivors include his wife, Blanche, and sister, **Joan Brundage** ’51.

Ralph Walberg ’53 on June 6, 2003. Survivors include his wife, **Barbara Swanson** ’52 **Walberg**.

Virginia M. Benander ’54 on March 21, 2002.

Esther Liljegren, wife of **William Liljegren** ’54, on April 9, 2003.

Donald M. Blomgren ’56 on March 14, 2003.

Leonard N. Engnell ’56 on February 12, 2003.

Kenneth P. Smith ’56 on October 15, 2001.

Courtney E. “Corky” Swanson ’56 on March 19, 2003. Among survivors is his wife, Naomi.

Richard J. Alexander ’57 on December 31, 2002. His wife, Karen, survives him.

Frank F. Gadiant ’57 on October 22, 2002. His wife, Jackalyn, survives him.

June Hayes ’58 **Raymond** on January 18, 2002.

Janice Wolke ’64 **Sahr** on April 24, 2003. Among survivors is her husband, **Dennis** ’62.

Florence Wilkinson ’65 **Stratton** on April 22, 2003.

Pamela Dvorak ’66 **Miller** on March 8, 2003. Survivors include her husband, Gregg.

Catherine M. Nielsen ’66 on March 18, 2003.

J. David Calzia ’67 on March 21, 2003.

George R. Bailie ’69 on April 18, 2003.

Barbara Baugh ’69 **Waters** on December 26, 2002.

Carole J. Anderson ’70 on March 31, 2003. Among survivors is her husband, Daniel Prescott.

Leo R. Brunner ’70 on May 29, 2003. Survivors include his brother, **Kim Brunner** ’71.

Marilyn Strieter ’71 on October 28, 2002.

Thomas A. Caffery ’72 on December 4, 2002.

Geraldine Peters, wife of **Jerald Peters** ’74, on March 2, 2003.

Laurence E. Olson ’76 on March 9, 2003.

Karla Larson ’81 on April 30, 2002. Survivors include her brother, **Kurt Larson** ’79, and her uncle, **Glenn Larson** ’58.

Randy Spires, husband of **Cheryl Williams** ’83 **Spires**, on February 27, 2003.

Amy E. Helpenstell ’92 on February 2, 2003. She was a current member of the Augustana Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Erin J. Block ’98 on March 29, 2003.

Wendy Wilson ’99 on June 19, 2003. Survivors include her daughter, Jasmine.

Applaud Share

Augustana College Theatre presents *Rashomon* by Fay and Michael

Kanin **Oct. 24-26, 30, 31, Nov. 1** in Potter Hall

FALL CONCERTS:

Symphony Orchestra **Oct. 26** in Centennial Hall

Gospel Choir **Nov. 1** in Wallenberg Hall

Jazz Ensemble **Nov. 1** in Centennial Hall

Choir **Nov. 7** in Centennial Hall

Symphonic Band **Nov. 8** in Centennial Hall

Celebrate

Quad Cities Alumni Pre-Game Picnic

Sept. 6 at Ericson Field

Family Weekend: *Augie’s Where the Heart Is*

Oct. 4-5

Inauguration of Steven Bahls **Oct. 10**

Homecoming 2003: *Life is a Highway*

Oct. 17-19

LuciaFest: The Scandinavian department’s Sankta

Lucia observance **Dec. 15** in Wallenberg Hall

Consider

Augustana Art Museum schedule:

Tracing Line Through Time: A Whistler Centenary **Aug. 30 to Oct. 11**

Constructing the Figure **Oct. 18 to Nov. 15**

Northern European Printmaking of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth

Centuries **Dec. 2 to Feb. 21**

Be inspired

Messiah: The Handel Oratorio Society opens its 123rd season

Dec. 11, 12 & 13 in Centennial Hall

Joy of Christmas Past and Present: Campus Ministries’ annual celebration in Andover, Ill. **Dec. 10**

Service of Lessons and Carols **Dec. 18** in Ascension Chapel

Share

A Christmas Homecoming with the Augustana Choir, available in DVD, VHS and CD formats by calling the Runestone

Bookstore at 309.794.7541

Explore

Join Augustana faculty Peter

Kivisto, Sonja Knudsen and

Dan Lee for study tours of

London, Paris and Rome in

May and June of 2004. To find

out more, call 309.794.7477.

Brag

Recently-redesigned Augustana

College license plates are available

from the Illinois Secretary of State’s

office, with proceeds helping to pro-

vide financial aid for Illinois college students. Find out more at the alumni website.

Cheer

2003 football (all games start at 1pm):

9/6 Wisconsin-Stevens Point

9/13 at Central of Iowa

9/27 Wisconsin-Platteville

10/4 North Central

10/11 at Illinois Wesleyan

10/18 North Park

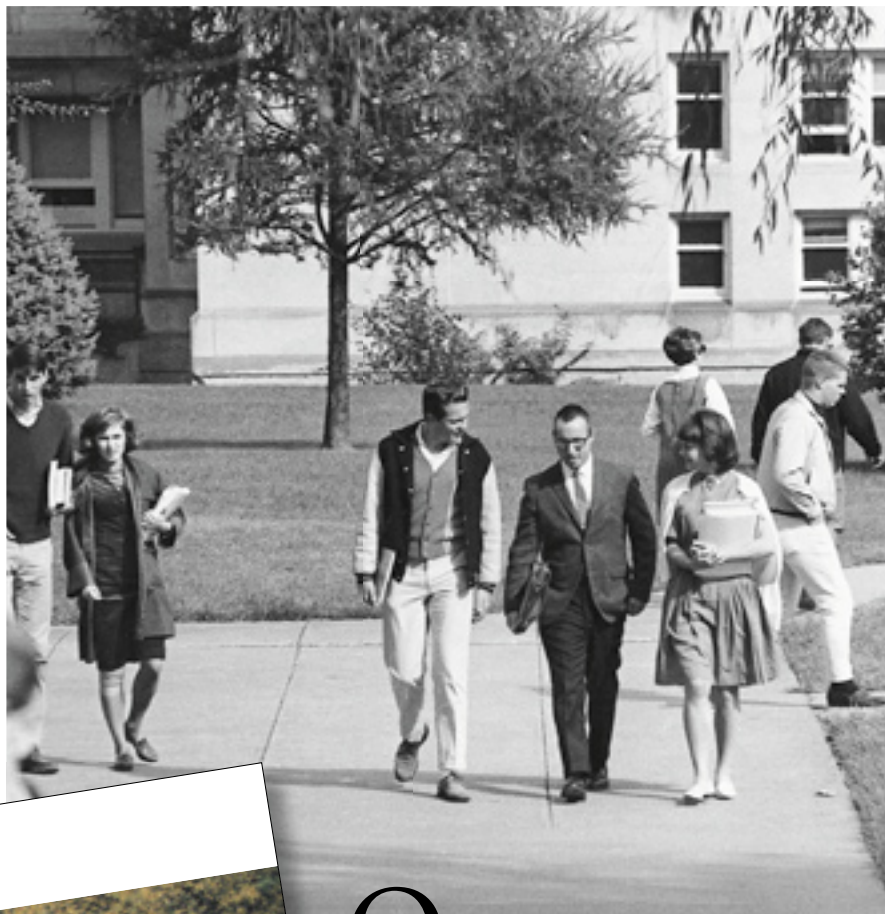
10/25 at Millikin

11/1 at Elmhurst

11/8 Carthage

11/15 Wheaton

Final shot



Oops.

On p. 26 of the last issue, we included this photo, which we believed was Dr. Thomas Tredway walking with students in 1965. Tredway thought so, too, until the actual subject—a friend and longtime colleague—stepped forward. The young professor in the photo was a member of the Augustana faculty from 1959 until his retirement in 1999. If you can name him or the students, send an e-mail to acmks@augustana.edu.

About last time...

Special coverage of Dr. Tredway's retirement disrupted our regular Final Shot schedule, so we weren't able to tell you that Karen Carney '87 Guenther had the most complete answer regarding the Homecoming gurney-race picture. She spotted Nancy Nelson '87 Schwarz leading the team with Michelle Aumann '88 Eisenrich on the first gurney; Guenther's on the second gurney, pushed by Sara Lepisto '87

Gmitro, Laura Rashke '89 Rife and Dawn Linnert '87 Goff. And, for those keeping score, our last issue-ending photo, of Dr. Tredway and Chaplain emeritus Richard Swanson, appeared in a 1975 *Augustana Bulletin*.

