



Combining passions — Cambodia and teaching

**Dr. Kathy J. Jakielski**, professor emerita of communication sciences and disorders, has one-way tickets with her husband, Dave Yordy, to Cambodia. Dr. Jakielski will continue teaching by serving as co-supervisor of Augustana graduate students’ three-week clinical experiences in Cambodia.

→ [Why she took the leap](#)



Dr. Kathy Jakielski and her husband, Dave Yordy

Welcome our newest alumni



On May 27, Augustana recognized **624 candidates for graduation** at the 163rd commencement ceremony. Congratulations to our Class of 2023 graduates!

→ [Relive the action](#)

Record-high enrollment for incoming class

Augustana will welcomed its **largest applicant pool** and **largest first-year cohort** in the college's 163-year history, with 590 domestic (U.S.) students and 265 international students committed to attending this fall.

This record is driven in part by the great success of the [Augustana Possible](#) grant, which will go to 183 incoming first-year students who will enroll this fall.

→ [Why Augustana stands out](#)

Holiday giving establishes two endowed music scholarships

**Naomi and Dirk Durant** aren't Augustana alumni – but a love for Augustana runs in Naomi's family. It's these connections that inspired the Durants to travel from Minnesota to experience Christmas at Augustana.

The concert inspired them to endow **two new music scholarships** to support the experience of Augustana musicians.

→ [What their gift means for students](#)



Dirk and Naomi Durant

Class notes

Which 2016 grad defended his Ph.D. thesis and is now studying the chemical recycling of waste plastics and composites?

**Class letters will be mailed soon** so [send in your news and photos!](#)

Read the latest Class Notes

Share your news and photos

Save the date

- In-person events**
- **Aug. 3**, Washington, D.C.: [Welcome reception for President Andrea Talentino](#)
  - **Aug. 30**, Highland Park, Ill.: [Alumni and Friends Gathering at the Ravinia Festival](#)
  - **Oct. 6-8**, Rock Island, Ill.: [Homecoming and Family Weekend](#), [Latinx Unidos 30th anniversary reunion](#)
  - **Oct. 28**, Rock Island, Ill.: Geography Department's 75th Anniversary Celebration (*registration opens in August*)
- Virtual events**
- Augustana's partnership with the **Texas Medical Center** offers paid, full-time, 10-week research internships to Augustana juniors. Catch one of our upcoming webinars to learn about the program's success and how alumni can get involved.
- [July 18, 6:30 p.m.](#)
  - [July 23, 6:30 p.m.](#)

- [Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m.](#)
  - [Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m.](#)

Alumni and friends hike in Colorado



Alumni and friends (including one current student and one future Viking) joined President Andrea Talentino (*front left*) for a hike on the Red Rocks Trading Post Trail last month. **Bill Seyfarth '78** and **Ian Fletcher '08** provided information on the rock formations of the area.

The event welcomed alumni from the Class of 1964 through to the Class of 2021.

**Thanks to all who attended!**

NEW: After Augie podcast



Life as a Viking doesn't end after you cross the stage and receive a diploma. In the new [After Augie podcast](#), members of the GOLD Council (Graduates of the Last Decade) interview fellow alumni to reflect on their journey.

This month's interviewee is **Mark Hoffman '15**.

From founding his own tech startup to working as a data scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab to his current job as a software engineer at Meta, Hoffman has had quite the post-Augie journey. [Tune in](#) to hear his story.

**Feeling inspired by these stories?** Support Augustana by [giving to the Augustana Fund](#).