The Augustana Advantage: the best of both worlds!

2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
The Augustana Advantage: the best of both worlds!

We celebrate our unique position in Canadian post-secondary education. Not only do our students earn a world-class degree from one of the top 5 universities in Canada – top 100 in the world – but they study among a welcoming, close-knit campus community. At the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus in Camrose, students can have the best of both worlds!

Statement of Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples. The territory on which the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta is located provided a travelling route and home to the Cree, Blackfoot, and Metis, as it did for the Nakoda, Tsuu T’ina, Chipewyan, and other Indigenous peoples. Their spiritual and practical relationships to the land create a rich heritage for our learning and our life as a community.

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I’m pleased to share this 2016 Report to the Community.

For me personally this report comes at an exciting time, as I am completing my first term as Dean and Executive Officer at Augustana and will soon be embarking on a second five-year term. My sincere thanks to those of you who contributed last fall to the reappointment review process. Whether you’re a neighbour, friend of Augustana, or alumnus/a, thanks too for the many other ways you continue to assist Augustana—e.g., by investing in student awards, donating to important initiatives and projects, helping to educate students through community service learning programs, volunteering at the Jeanne and Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre, advocating for Augustana and the U of A in your home communities and with your legislators, etc.

As I look back at the past year, my reflections are bittersweet. The year was marked by the premature passing of Mark Chytracek, a mentor to generations of students and a beloved colleague. How fitting that since his death Mark has been honored with two posthumous awards—Inclusion Alberta’s Community Living Award for his unwavering commitment to adults with developmental disabilities and the Kay Rich Lifetime Achievement Award from the Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers.

On a more joyful note, 2015-16 was also marked by the opening or re-opening of four important facilities—the Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station, Founders’ Hall, the Augustana tipi, and Wahkohtowin Lodge. These now-completed projects are already supporting important priorities related to undergraduate research, holistic academic advising, co-curricular programming, diversity and inclusion, and student recruitment.

We were also able in 2015-16 to make important investments in faculty renewal. This is an important priority, as the professoriate needs ongoing additions of younger faculty if we are to remain vibrant and innovative. During the year we successfully hired in chemistry, physical education, art history, and history (a new Chair of Social Sciences to replace Jeremy Mouat, who is retiring).

Looking ahead, we still need to secure funding for the campus’s most important infrastructure project—the renovation and expansion of the Science/Classroom facilities. In addition, in the coming year I hope to begin to expand our on-campus residential capacity by developing new housing options for students.
But in many ways the most exciting upcoming initiatives relate to programming improvements. Some of these are highlighted in this Report to the Community. For example, during the coming year we will complete the planning for the implementation of a new term structure in 2017-18. The new rhythms, which include both 3-week blocks (in September, January, and May) and longer 11-week sessions in the fall and spring, will guarantee many new experiential and enriched learning opportunities for students (e.g., field trips, research projects, intense workshops, mini-internships, travel courses, etc.).

In addition, Augustana will be launching a new first-year seminar requirement. These courses, which compose the first block for new students, are being designed to generate excitement about the learning journey that lies ahead. Enrolments will be limited to 25 students per section, and the courses will be discussion-based. There is substantial research that shows that such seminars are a “high impact” practice at North American universities, so I am particularly excited that Augustana is initiating its own version.

I would like to share with you three other aspirations for my second term as Dean:

1) I would like to see Augustana develop a twofold “Pathways Program” that will: a) assist enrolled students from rural and Aboriginal communities in finding placements for summer internships and research placements in their home towns or similar communities, and b) build bridges for graduating students to Master’s and professional programs in other U of A faculties.

2) I believe Augustana needs to develop new approaches and tools for academic advising that help students discover their intellectual passions, think creatively about out-of-class learning opportunities, and develop a personalized learning plan (that includes but is not limited to the course requirements for their program).

3) I would like to build Augustana into a 12-month, year-round campus, with numerous activities across the summer that engage current students, K-12 students from the surrounding community, and others.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Most importantly, I want to thank you for generous and ongoing support of Augustana.

Allen Berger, Dean

A New Five-Year Vision for Augustana

In December, the University of Alberta’s Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Steven Dew announced the reappointment of Dean Allen Berger to a second five-year term.

“It gives me great pleasure to announce the reappointment of Dr. Allen Berger,” he said. “Dr. Berger has demonstrated a high level of integrity and commitment to the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, and the surrounding community. He is deeply invested in Augustana and its programs, people and future. Dr. Berger has been a strong advocate of research and its necessary relationship to teaching and learning in an undergraduate liberal arts and sciences context.”

The Provost mentioned Dr. Berger’s leadership on a number of fronts during his first term at Augustana.

“As an experienced and respected Dean, he has also led innovative initiatives related to experiential learning, student advising, new revenue generating initiatives, and internal and external communications,” he continued. “Dr. Berger is a strong promoter of and contributor to improved teaching and learning opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. The University of Alberta is fortunate to have a Dean of such high calibre. We wish Dean Berger continued success in his next five years.”

“I’m pleased and humbled by the support of my colleagues at Augustana and by the vote of confidence from the U of A’s senior administration,” said Dean Berger in response. “Here on campus, we’re already working on a vision that will create exciting opportunities for students, enhance overall academic quality, and contribute to Augustana’s deserved reputation for leadership in undergraduate education. I’m excited and energized by what lies ahead.”

Augustana Campus expresses its sincere appreciation to the thoughtful and generous individuals who have invested in our students and community in 2015.
Dr. Berger’s vision for his new term includes initiatives in the following areas.

**New Learning and Living Spaces**

Augustana’s Classroom Building was built nearly fifty years ago. The Science Extension was added in 1981. While both of these facilities have seen modest improvements over the decades, the buildings are no longer adequate to support a growing enrolment, increased emphases on undergraduate research and active learning, along with faculty research programs.

With preliminary plans (but not yet funding) for renovations and new construction in place, the goal is not only to create state-of-the-art laboratory, classroom and research environments, but also to promote year-round use and to provide programs and access for school children, business and industry, Aboriginal neighbours and the general public from Camrose and the surrounding region.

“One major goal is to create an interactive learning hub that will serve and inspire both our own students and the external community,” explains Dr. Berger. “Augustana is already increasing its scientific engagement and outreach. This year a Grade 7 Science Fair – adjudicated by Augustana faculty and community members – brought over 200 junior high students to campus. We now intend to make this an annual event. We are seeking donor support and are also committed to providing undergraduate science students for community service-learning placements in science classrooms around the Battle River School Division.”

Dean Berger believes that the current “town-gown” partnership between Camrose and Augustana to provide a rich array of programs through the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre can serve as an exemplar, guiding aspirations for similarly robust programming in the sciences.

“The success we have had attracting audiences from across east central Alberta has created a vibrant new energy on campus,” he says. “We need to mirror that with educational and experiential opportunities that focus on technology, the environment, health and wellness and, more broadly, expose the public to the exciting research of Augustana faculty members and students.”

Another planned building project involves Augustana’s land bank east of the campus’s soccer field: a number of older structures between 48 Street and 47 Street have already been removed. While no final decisions have been made about the future use of the area (in-depth community consultation needs to come first), the campus hopes to use at least some of the land to provide new types of housing options for senior students.
Individualized Learning Plans & Student Pathways

The “Augustana Advantage” is a unique combination: it is first an opportunity to earn a degree from a top Canadian and world-class research university, and second, an opportunity to be mentored by a dedicated and caring faculty and staff in a “human-scale” community. As Dean Berger tells prospective students: “The good news and the bad news at Augustana are the same: your professor will know your name.”

Looking ahead, Dean Berger hopes that a key feature of the Augustana Advantage will become more opportunities for students to develop their own personalized learning plans. Required courses can be combined with a rich array of electives, out-of-class experiences (e.g., overseas or outdoor educational trips, research collaborations, community-based practica and internships, etc.), and extracurricular activities. “Guiding students through the development and ongoing revision of these plans is the new horizon for academic advising,” he says.

Each student’s learning plan maps out a pathway. In fact, Dean Berger has suggested adoption of the acronym MAP (My Academic Plan). But in addition to helping students craft pathways through university, it’s also critical that we design pathways into university and beyond university. “How can we do a better job helping students with these transitions?” Dean Berger asks. “The university experience is one of access to phenomenal possibilities. At Augustana, we will focus on building pathways to these opportunities for each individual student. First, how can we help every student adapt to the demands of university? Second, what can we do to maximize opportunities for students beyond university?”

The answer to the first question will involve updated and improved orientation programs that extend across each student’s first term. Currently when new students arrive on campus, they are welcomed boisterously by O-Team members who help ferry their belongings to their rooms in a matter of minutes. Over their first few days, they are oriented to the tools that are available to help ensure their academic success – as well as community supports and resources – through the Student Academic Information Launch (SAIL) program. In the future SAIL will be extended and linked to a required First Year Seminar course. These thematic, discussion-based, interdisciplinary courses are being designed to both challenge students and to excite them about the learning journey that lies ahead (see page 7 for more information).

The answer to the second question will involve new agreements with graduate and professional faculties within the University of Alberta to enhance opportunities for talented Augustana graduates. We will focus on a unique aspect of our campus mission, which is to prepare future generations of leaders for rural and Aboriginal communities. To do this well, Augustana needs to organize and seek financial support for student placements, especially summer internships and research assignments, in municipalities, community-based organizations, local not-for-profits, etc.

O-Team members welcome new students and ferry their stuff into their rooms in minutes!
Augustana’s Leadership and Reputation

With so many planned initiatives, Dean Berger is aware of Augustana’s need to carefully navigate upcoming transitions in leadership. Not only will the Faculty be bringing aboard new Chairs for the Social Sciences and Fine Arts & Humanities departments in 2016-17, but we will be welcoming a new Executive Director of Student Life to fill the role and the large shoes of Mark Chytracek, a beloved servant leader who, over a thirty-five year career, helped guide and shape the experience of Augustana students. In addition, we will be appointing a new Vice-Dean, as Associate Professor of Art History Anne-Marie Link transitions into retirement.

The Dean and others will need to guide and plan for an additional major leadership transition. David Goa, the Director of the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life, will retire at the end of June 2017. Dean Berger has already appointed a “listening committee” to gather input from both internal and external stakeholders. This process will inform the eventual development of an Opportunity Profile, which will be circulated across Canada and internationally.

Finally, the Dean hopes that Augustana will have opportunities during the coming year to increase the diversity of the faculty complement by creating as many as two new positions for Aboriginal scholars.

Although the number of openings and searches for critical positions this past year and next year is high, some turnover in personnel is a constant. In addition, ongoing faculty renewal is vital if Augustana is to stay abreast of new developments and trends in scholarship and teaching. In this context, perhaps the most important question is: How can Augustana continue to identify and successfully attract the right people?

The key lies in Augustana’s reputation and in its distinctiveness; it lies in a commitment to maintaining focus. The vision that was first established at the time of merger with the U of A in 2004 remains important and relevant.

Significantly, new U of A President David Turpin wishes to build on that vision in the updated strategic plan that is being developed for the university. According to Dean Berger, “Augustana will continue to be a hub of innovation for advancing quality undergraduate education. It will continue to be a unique option for students attracted by the features we have designated as the Augustana Advantage. And it will continue to honour both its past and its geographical location through student placements in surrounding communities and through the essential work of the Chester Ronning Centre and the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities.”

Dean Berger concludes: “If we know who we are and we continue to describe who we are in a compelling manner, I have no doubt we will find new colleagues who share our values and are inspired by our history and by our vision.”
Augustana Students will Benefit from Two Big Changes in 2017

In 2017, Augustana will introduce two changes representing a unique approach to post-secondary education in Alberta. Not only will the rhythm of the university year change to enhance student opportunities for experiential learning, but we will transform the way new students are introduced to their undergraduate journey.

“Research has shown, time and time again, that the most powerful predictor of academic success in university is a successful first term,” explains Dean Allen Berger. “It is demonstrably more important than a student’s high school grades, financial status, or parents’ education level. And the best predictor of first term success is a smooth transition – both academically and socially – into university.”

The first two weeks at Augustana are already full of social events and programs designed to introduce new students to campus groups and organizations as well as academic and residence life services. Augustana’s Early Feedback System ensures that first-year students receive graded feedback from each of their instructors. Where professors have concerns about a student’s performance or class attendance, there are opportunities to intervene and address challenges the student may be facing. Augustana has also revived the Opening Convocation for all new students. And last year, Augustana redesigned the Student Academic Information Launch (SAIL), a two-day orientation program to help new students learn about Augustana, make friends, and develop the skills needed to meet the challenges of university.

As of September 2017, Augustana will introduce an additional program that has been designated by higher education researchers to be a “high impact practice.” The First Year Seminar (FYS) is a three-credit, discussion-based, interdisciplinary class that will engage students in the exploration of a specific topic from multiple perspectives.

What is the First Year Seminar?

The goal of every FYS is to encourage the development of the intellectual and work habits necessary for academic success. Each course will be taught by an experienced faculty member who will utilize varied pedagogies that promote student engagement and that encourage students to begin to understand the interrelatedness of knowledge.

Students will begin to recognize in the first weeks of their university career that they need to be full partners in their own education rather than empty vessels whose brains are filled with knowledge by wise professors. Further, they need to recognize that deep learning occurs most often not through solitary effort but through teamwork and engagement with diverse groups of peers.
Every FYS will target the same learning outcomes. These include: an ability to analyze, evaluate, and appropriately use information and ideas; recognition of the need to examine issues from multiple perspectives; an ability to discuss, debate and defend ideas, including the student’s own views, with clarity and reason; and an ability to produce clear academic writing. No single course can ensure these outcomes at a high level. But the FYS program will be designed to raise awareness of these goals as a critical part of liberal education, and provide students a solid foundation that they can build upon in subsequent courses.

Importantly, each FYS will be an intense three-week experience. It will be the first course that new students take and it will be their only course during this time. The intensity is important, as we want students to engage in depth with a faculty member and with their peers without other academic obligations or distractions. We also want them to bond with other new students who are going through the same experience with them.

Augustana’s faculty have been discussing a number of potential First Year Seminar topics. One seminar might use modern biological analysis and psychological profiling to solve a simulated murder. Another might focus on relationships to the land among indigenous and settler peoples in the Battle River Watershed. A third might teach students medieval skills such as blacksmithing and falconry, using the instruction as a way to show how these industries contributed to the social and economic survival of a village. The elements common to each seminar will be a passionate instructor, an interdisciplinary approach to the course topic, and experiences designed to promote inquisitiveness and set students up for academic success.

This intense, immersive nature of the FYS is only possible because of the second significant change that Augustana will be making to the rhythms of the academic year.

A New Augustana Calendar

Most universities organize the annual academic calendar into two 14- or 15-week terms, and students typically enrol in five three-credit courses each term. Other universities break the year into three terms or four quarters. Finally, a few institutions have opted for a “block system” of compressed terms where students never take more than one course at a time.

The new Augustana Calendar will be a hybrid, combining blocks with longer sessions roughly equivalent to quarters. The fall term will include a three-week September block followed by an 11-week session. Similarly, the winter term will include a January block followed by a second eleven-week session. And we will gradually develop a robust May block.

As described above, the first three-week block of a new student’s university experience will be taken up with the First Year Seminar. However, after this first shared experience, every new term will present a new opportunity for another intensive course.

Without the distraction of any other classes, an Augustana student could:

- take a short and intensive art class featuring day trips to museums and galleries in Edmonton and Calgary;
- spend three weeks at the new Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station collecting environmental, botanical or zoological data as part of an individual or group project;
- travel with a faculty member for an immersive outdoor or international experience;
- enrol in an intense theatre workshop that will culminate in the performance of a play;
- undertake a research project or mini-internship with a local or regional business, municipality, or not-for-profit organization.
In the more traditional 11-week sessions, students will typically take only three to four courses at a time, some of which could be tied to interpreting experiences explored during a prior three-week block or preparing for research in a subsequent block. By reducing the typical course load from five classes to three or four, we hope to reduce the extent to which students are spread thin and experience significant mental health issues. We hope the shifting rhythms will lead to lower levels of burnout and stress. Ultimately, students will still have opportunities to take the same number of courses each year and will still be able to graduate in four years.

Augustana is already a leader within the University of Alberta and across the province in undergraduate research, outdoor education, community service learning, and international study experiences. The new calendar has been expressly designed to provide even more of these opportunities for students.

“Essentially FYS and the hybrid calendar bring us back to our roots,” says Dean Berger. “Augustana throughout its history has been an extraordinary student-focused community dedicated to providing an exciting and life-changing education. With these new approaches, Augustana will simply be better able to deliver on the promises we already make.

“But we can’t take these outcomes for granted,” he continues. “Faculty and staff will need to commit to ongoing assessment, and we will need to close the loop, taking what we learn and making needed course corrections along the way.”

Incorporating Indigenous Culture and Outreach

“Augustana’s diversity is an important campus strength and essential to our mission of providing a quality liberal arts and science education,” declares Dean Allen Berger. “We believe Augustana also has special obligations.

“The first is a by-product of our geography,” he continues. “As the only U of A campus outside Edmonton, we have pledged to help ensure access and to prepare the next generation of leaders for both Aboriginal and rural communities across Alberta. The second grows from our sense of place in history. We believe it is our responsibility to foster understanding across lines that tend to divide peoples in this province, to create safe spaces for the discussion of difficult issues and topics, and to support the success of historically marginalized groups, perhaps most importantly Indigenous peoples. Our goal is to help Aboriginal students feel at home at Augustana.”

Over the past several years, we have celebrated the programs and supports put in place to reach out to Aboriginal students and communities across Canada. This year is no exception, as it included raising a tipi in front of the Faith & Life Building, establishing international partnerships in delivering Indigenous-themed courses, and opening the stunning Wahkohtowin Lodge.

Wahkohtowin Lodge

Wahkohtowin Lodge offers a space where Indigenous students are supported and their cultures celebrated. It provides a welcoming space for Augustana’s Métis, Inuit and First Nations students where they can connect with one another, draw support from visiting Elders and Indigenous community members, and share their diverse cultures with our campus and the larger community.
Located in the Forum Building at the heart of Augustana Campus, the lodge was created in the spirit of wahkohtowin, a Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) concept meaning “kinship.” The term refers to the ties of mutuality and reciprocity that create responsibilities to other human beings, animals and the land. With its tree trunk wall, reproductions of work by Indigenous artists, tipi-shaped ceiling feature and fibre optic stars, Wahkohtowin Lodge is designed to reflect the cultures of Indigenous students, simultaneously providing a basis for reconciliation by making it possible for non-Indigenous students, faculty and staff to learn about Indigenous cultures first-hand.

Wahkohtowin Lodge is decorated with paintings from Inuit and local Indigenous artists as well as those from neighbouring Treaty 6, 7 and 8 territories. It houses the Aboriginal Student Services Office as well as a private room where students and Elders can visit, programming space for campus and community events, a small meeting room, and study space. The space will host future workshops advancing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and leading to a certificate in Reconciliation and Decolonization.

“Wahkohtowin Lodge is especially exciting for Augustana Campus because it furthers our commitment to serving Indigenous students and to honouring the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” says Dr. Berger. “It symbolizes a way to move forward in greater understanding of Indigenous cultures.”

At the same time, the space provides opportunities for all students, staff and faculty - as well as alumni, Camrose community members and visitors - to interact with our Aboriginal students. In its prominent location and fluid design, Wahkohtowin Lodge is meant to draw people in so that they may meet and connect.

“Students succeed best when they feel a deep and abiding bond with their peers, their professors, and ultimately, their campus. As a community, it is our responsibility to create the opportunities that will form and nurture these connections—the university must be a place that fosters a sense of belonging,” says David Turpin, president of the University of Alberta. “Wahkohtowin Lodge is just one example of how our response to the TRC’s calls to action will demonstrate our commitment to meeting these needs for our First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.”

The creation of Wahkohtowin Lodge included working closely with Aboriginal students, Elders from the nearby community...
For alumna Brittany Johnson (BA English ’15), Wahkohtowin Lodge is an important addition to the welcome Augustana has to offer to students from small communities. “Many Métis students come to the campus from across Alberta, and the Indigenous campus community has students not only from the province but also from northern British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and beyond,” she explains. “Augustana’s small community setting provides a welcoming place for students who are coming from small reserves and settlements.

Johnson, who is now working toward her MA in native studies after completing her BA in English at Augustana last spring, explains that this small community makes a big difference. “I didn’t grow up on a reserve or settlement; I grew up in Camrose. But even for me, going to North Campus, my first couple of weeks were like culture shock. Augustana is more accessible and more welcoming because it’s a small community. Everyone gets to know each other here, so you feel supported by other students, staff and faculty.”

Johnson is excited about the role the Wahkohtowin Lodge will play in welcoming a new generation of students to campus and feels the new centre reflects a campus that truly values the participation of Indigenous people. “I’m really proud to have gone to Augustana. They really, really care about their Indigenous students.”

of Maskwacis and other Indigenous communities, and architects and space planners from the University of Alberta. The process took on a new shape and momentum thanks to funding from the University of Alberta’s Provost’s Office during Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell’s tenure as Acting Provost. The consultative and collaborative process, drawing from relationships established by Petra Cegielny at the Augustana Aboriginal Students’ Office as well as by former Augustana Dean Dr. Roger Epp, has involved many other members of the campus and communities we serve. The incorporation of Nehiyaw language in the lodge’s name acknowledges the location of Augustana Campus on the traditional territory of the Nehiyaw and our proximity to the Ermineskin, Samson, Montana and Louis Bull First Nations in Maskwacis.

“I am especially grateful to our own Aboriginal students and to the many Elders who participated in planning Wahkohtowin Lodge,” Dean Berger says. “Their visions for needed programming and student services, plus their advice on design and the incorporation of appropriate cultural elements guided us every step of the way.”

It is the first dedicated space of its kind for Augustana’s growing population of Indigenous students. However, “Wahkohtowin Lodge also serves a student body of all nationalities,” says Jérôme Melançon, Chair of Augustana’s Aboriginal Engagement Committee and lecturer in political studies and philosophy.

“The space encourages reflection and contemplation about the Treaty 6 territory where Augustana Campus is located and about the relationships we create here with Indigenous peoples and all other groups. We have built Wahkohtowin Lodge in the spirit of honouring the relationships that bind all of us together as a campus,” Melançon adds. “And this space is only the beginning.”
Hybrid Indigenous Studies Courses

Augustana is at the forefront of a new method of teaching. In contrast with the popular drive towards massive open online courses (MOOCs), our professors have been experimenting with smaller hybrid (i.e., online and face-to-face) courses shared by members of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). COPLAC includes campuses from across North America, with Augustana the sole Canadian member.

Augustana’s Associate Dean Research, Dr. Roxanne Harde, is one of the principal investigators of the hybrid program trial. “The courses are taught online,” she explains, “but every campus has an on-site mentor.” Students discuss weekly readings online and submit assignments electronically. They meet weekly with the faculty mentor, who assists with technical issues and reading comprehension.

In addition to the benefits of online learning and on-campus mentorship, students have access to internationally renowned experts. Several of the courses also offer the opportunity to travel and earn credit for hands-on, field-based research. The goal is to see if by sharing faculty resources, COPLAC universities can start to offer Native Studies Minors and eventually Native Studies Majors as well.

Courses available in Fall 2015 included an examination of native survival strategies between 1880 and 1920, taught by Dr. Bert Ahern at the University of Minnesota Morris, and a survey course on Aboriginal history in North America since the American Revolutionary War to the present, taught by Dr. Chip Beal of University of Wisconsin Superior. The third course focused on Indigenous children’s literature and was taught by our own Dr. Roxanne Harde. Next year’s offerings will include Augustana’s Dr. Joseph Wiebe teaching about Métis identity and history in Canada.

Augustana Raises Tipi to Raise Awareness

Tipis (sometimes known as teepees and tepees) were dwellings used by First Nations groups primarily on the plains of North America. The portable shelters were also used for important ceremonies and gatherings.

This year, thanks to generous support from anonymous donors, a tipi was raised outside the Faith & Life Centre on the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus.

The tipi was purchased from the Pê Sâkâstêw Centre in Maskwacis, Alberta. It was raised by Gary Waskahat and Leanne Louis, Aboriginal Liaison Officer from Pê Sâkâstêw Centre, with assistance from Elder Roy Louis and four men from the Centre. Students, staff and community members gathered to celebrate and assisted with the raising.

The tipi will serve many uses on campus. Not only does it add a venue for courses and events, but it will serve as a facility for ceremonies that can’t take place indoors. It can also serve as a starting point for cultural awareness on campus, act as a teaching tool, and provide a meeting place for Aboriginal students and Elders. “It offers Aboriginal students a sense that this is also their campus, and that this campus is open to them,” explains Jérôme Melançon.

The location at the top of the ravine was chosen for its visibility both on campus and beyond. The tipi will be one of the first sights to greet visitors to campus.
“The idea is that, at the end of the grant, we will all have sustainable models in place so that we can continue to deliver the programs as hybrid courses,” Harde says. “The investment is not huge, though we want to ensure we can continue to find funding for students to attend spring courses. We are aiming for an array of multidisciplinary credits so Augustana can comfortably offer a minor.”

Aboriginal Outreach for the Future

“Augustana Campus is committed - through our own budget and fundraising - to develop vibrant Indigenous program options in the Wahkohtowin Lodge and through our COPLAC partnership,” declares Dean Berger.

“In the future, we plan to house events and workshops tied to reconciliation and decolonization. Augustana will serve as a home base for programs to support Aboriginal students interested in post-secondary education and will welcome guest speakers to address a range of topics important to fostering multicultural understanding and relationships among diverse peoples.”

Vikings Athletics

This has been another outstanding year for Vikings Athletics. Each year, athletes are recognized by the league for their outstanding performances by being named to their respective All Conference Teams. We have 15 All-Conference Athletes, plus two CCAA All-Canadian Athletes, selected by their conference based on performance and contribution to the sport and their team. Furthermore, we are just as proud of our student-athletes’ academic achievements as we are of their athletics.

“We have much to celebrate,” said Dean Allen Berger. “Among the 94 schools that are members of the CCAA, the average number of athletes who receive the organization’s National Scholar Award is nine. At Augustana, we have 35 athletes receiving this recognition!” If we add our non-CCAA sports like hockey, biathlon, and cross-country skiing, there are 10 additional students who earned recognition as scholar-athletes from the ACAC.

Community Outreach: Little Rockers

Roger Galenza has been heading up the non-competitive Little Rockers Curling Program for youth in the community for several years now.

“You’ve got little six-year-olds coming out for the first time wanting to try curling. It’s just amazing when you give them a chance and for a certain period of time they don’t get it, but then all of a sudden they get it and it’s like turning on a light switch and it’s just, boom! It hits them in the head. Then they realize that they’re doing something and they’re doing it right and the smiles on their faces just tell the stories,” he said.

Student athletes from Augustana are also instructors, many having taken the club coaching certificate, and Galenza reports they have had a terrific time with the Little Rockers.
**Verlyn Olson, QC ('74)
2015 Distinguished Alumni Award**

Verlyn graduated from Camrose Lutheran College High School in 1972, following his diploma with two years of undergraduate study. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Alberta. Verlyn returned to Camrose to article with Andreassen Ziebart, becoming an Associate in 1979 and then a Partner in 1983. Verlyn was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2000.

The successful lawyer left his practice in 2007 to run as the Progressive Conservative MLA for Wetaskiwin-Camrose. He won in 2008, served on various committees, and was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General in 2011. After serving as Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development since 2012, Verlyn returned to private life in 2015.

“Verlyn Olson is a sterling example of servant leadership,” says former Premier, Hon. David Hancock. “He has never, in my experience, put himself or his position first – always leading toward collaborative approaches and understanding. Verlyn has served Augustana, Camrose and Alberta well and is an exceptional representative of Augustana’s graduates.”

*The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus/a in recognition of outstanding achievement in one’s vocation.*

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**Bruce Cutknife ('97)
2015 Lois Aspenes Award**

A member of the Samson Cree First Nation from Maskwacis, Bruce has been invaluable to the Cultural College there through his work with Elders and in archiving the Cree language. After a course of study including history and native studies, he received his Bachelor of Arts from Augustana in 1997. He then worked in local radio and television while teaching at the Maskwacis Cultural College and dedicating himself to improving education in his communities.

In recent years, Bruce has made himself available to us at Augustana. He has contributed a great deal to our Aboriginal initiatives: he helped draft our Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory (see page 1), and played an enormous role in the development of Wahkohtowin Lodge - including suggesting its name and providing the syllabics for its signage.

Bruce has been frequently generous with his time and wisdom over the years. He has guest lectured in several disciplines, set up his tipi on campus and discussed cultural awareness, and offers mentorship for directed study projects whenever he is asked.

*The Lois Aspenes Award recognizes the contributions of an alumnus/a to the life of Augustana.*

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**Les Parsons
2015 Alumni Citation Award**

Les Parsons was hired as cross-country ski coach for the Camrose Ski Club and Augustana Vikings in the fall of 2013. He worked in this position for one year and has continued as a volunteer coach in the years since. We had no idea he would have such an impact on campus in such a short time!

“Les has had a transformational impact on the Camrose Ski Club and the community of Camrose that goes far beyond his duties as a coach,” says Morten Asfeldt, associate professor of physical education. “He coaches “people first” and “skiers second”. It is first about empowering the people and only then about helping them to increase their athletic performance. Les uses athletics as a means to empower people to live healthy lifestyles, to see beyond their own self-imposed limitations, and to inspire people to serve others in order to create a more humane and caring world.”

In 2014, the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by establishing a Hall of Fame for thousands of athletes, coaches and builders. Fifty people were selected to be honoured at the inaugural event, and Les Parsons was among those inducted.

*The Alumni Citation Award recognizes the contributions of a non-alumnus/a to the life of Augustana.*
Promotions

Augustana Campus is proud to announce that the following faculty members are promoted to the rank of full professor for the quality of their teaching, research, and service:

Bill Foster, Management
Glynnis Hood, Environmental Science
Kevin Sutley, Drama

Augustana Awards

Erin Specht was awarded the 2015 Augustana Sciences medal for highest academic achievement by a science major. Spencer Kryzanowski received the Fine Arts medal, and Emily Merklinger received the medal for Humanities. Stacey Haugen received both the 2015 Augustana Medal for highest overall academic achievement and the Social Sciences medal.

1st-year English major Rebecca Pospolita of Wainwright received the Dean’s Citation Entrance Award this year.

The Student Award for Library Research was presented to Alexandra Malley for work on her paper, "A Comparison of the Histological Structure of the Blood Brain Barrier in Healthy Individuals to that of Multiple Sclerosis Patients Indicates that the Breakdown of this Barrier is a Major Contributor to the Development of This Disease," which she wrote for Dr. Neil Haave.

Based on their presentations at Student Academic Conferences, Augustana presented Outstanding Undergraduate Research Awards to 4th-year Biology student Alexandra Malley of Airdrie and graduated Environmental Science student Erin Specht of Pigeon Lake. Honourable mentions went to 4th-year English students Jessica Stambaugh of Tofield and Brittany Johnson of Camrose.

The Augustana Teaching Leadership Award went to Geraint Osborne (Sociology). To the right, you can see him pictured with Dean Allen Berger and Dr. Janet Wesselius.

Accomplishments

Over 460 Augustana students in 35 classes across 10 disciplines participated in 508 community-service learning (CSL) opportunities with a range of on-campus departments, local organizations, and the regional business community. CSL encourages students to get out of the traditional university classroom and engage with the world in order to make connections between theory and practice.

For the seventh summer, Augustana was home to Reading University, an intensive four-week program aimed at developing the reading skills of area students in the early elementary grades.

In partnership with the Battle River School Division, Augustana hosted more than 800 students for Augustana Conservatory’s Classics for Kids musical performances.

Augustana held the annual Information Literacy Workshop, encouraging creativity and student engagement in teaching. This year’s workshop featured Sharon Mader, the Association of College & Research Libraries’ Visiting Program Officer for Information Literacy.
The following are selected achievements of faculty and staff in the 2015-16 academic year.

**Major Publications**

**Marina Endicott**
*Close to Hugh*

**Lars Hallström, Glen Hvenegaard, Karsten Mündel**
*Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability, Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada*

**Refereed Articles in Prestigious Journals and Performances or Exhibitions at Prestigious Venues**

**Roger Admiral**
Performed seven Brazilian concerts as part of *Curto-Circuito de Música Contemporânea Brazil*

**Julian Forrest**
*Peter Robinson Gallery*

**Nancy Goebel & Jérôme Melançon**
*College & Research Libraries*

**Neil Haave**
*National Teaching and Learning Forum; Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching; The Teaching Professor*

**Paul Harland**
*Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*

Augustana Campus announced the promotion of Dr. Lars Hallström to the rank of full professor last year. This marked the start of a banner year for the lecturer, researcher and director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities.

Besides hosting both a national and a provincial conference, Lars co-authored two books: *Taking the Next Steps: Sustainability, Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada* (with two other members of the Augustana faculty) and *Ecosystems, Society, and Health: Pathways through Diversity, Convergence, and Integration*. He participated in securing three major grants for research and contributed to the 2015 State of Rural Canada Report.

Finally, the provincial association of academic staff associations in Alberta recognized Lars with the 2015 CAFA Distinguished Academic Award.

In February 2016, Doris Audet and Anne McIntosh led a two week trip to Costa Rica with nine students as part of their Field Studies in Tropical Ecology and Conservation course. Accompanying the class were Jody Rintoul (biology lab coordinator and Augustana alumna) and former instructor, David Larson!
Congratulations, Julian!

Augustana Associate Professor of Fine Arts Julian Forrest won the 4th annual Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize for *Perceptual Disorders (after Keret)*, a diptych painting commenting on contemporary society’s need for diversion or escape and identities challenged by masculine/feminine roles found in pop culture such as media, comic books, TV, film, art and literature.

Forrest’s recent work focuses on disquieting moments in otherwise utopian settings. Place, the west, nostalgia, and masculine archetypes are key players in these narrative works.

The Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize celebrates the brilliance of Visual Artists in Edmonton. Submissions are judged by an independent jury selected by Visual Arts Alberta Association.
Students excel at community projects

Augustana arguably leads the post-secondary sector in the area of community service learning. By the time they graduate, over 75% of our students have completed a placement and many have completed more than one.

As a result, Augustana students have made contributions to the community in a variety of ways, such as:

- Developed environmental education programs for schools & youth programs;
- Mentored grade 7 science students;
- Coordinated a Community Kitchen program at the Camrose Public Library;
- Delivered activity programs for senior and youth;
- Participated in health & wellness programs with healthcare providers;
- Created marketing plans for local businesses.

"CSL is particularly effective because it links professors and community members as partners in advancing students’ learning,” says Dean Berger, “and it allows students to make real-world contributions that have the potential to shape their future aspirations and contribute to the development of their leadership skills.”

Our CSL programs are even starting to attract recognition across the province. This year, we are a finalist for an Emerald Award!

The Alberta Emerald Foundation recognizes and celebrates environmental excellence achieved across Alberta. Since 1992, Emerald Awards have recognized over 475 finalists and 280 recipients who have demonstrated creative thinking and innovation in environmental management systems, technologies and education programs.
Augustana at a Glance

There were 162 Augustana graduates in 2015.

320 students received $446,725 in scholarships, bursaries and awards for the 2015-16 academic year!

Mean incoming high school average for Fall 2015 admission: 80.2%

Self-identified First Nations and Métis students: 72

There were 1029 enrolments for 2015-16. Out of these, 430 were men and 599 were women.

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Students by province:

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Students by year of program:

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<td>4th year</td>
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Selected Distinguished Visitors, 2014-15

A Joyful Noise Community Choirs
Grete Brochmann, University of Oslo
Dr. Jacques Depres, University of Alberta
Dr. Isabella Hodson, Alberta Parks
David Hoyt, Concordia Symphony Orchestra
Dr. Deen Larsen, Franz Schubert Institute in Vienna
Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Member of the Order of Canada
Marie-Josee Lord, Canadian classical singer
Sharon Mader, Assoc of College and Research Libraries
Paul Mealor, Chair of Composition at the University of Aberdeen
Dr. Dian Million, University of Washington (Seattle)
Mani Mitchell, International Intersex Advocate
National Youth Choir of Canada
Peter Norman, Macewan University Writer in Residence
Jonathan Potter, Solstice Canada
Robin Phillips, Mannheim Stadt Opera in Germany
Dr. Margo Pybus, Alberta Fish and Wildlife
Dr. Bill Samuel, University of Alberta
Fred Stenson, North Campus Writer in Residence
Slocan Ramblers, Edmonton Folk Festival Emerging Artist Award winners
Andrew Wan, McGill University

International students attended Augustana from the following countries: Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, People’s Democratic Republic of Laos, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Wales and Zimbabwe.

The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life introduced eleven distinguished visitors, with five highlighted here to reflect its work in the academy, the public square and in religious communities. A complete listing and their lectures may be found on the Centre’s website.

Norman Wirzba, Professor of Theology, Ecology and Agrarian Studies at Duke Divinity School: Augustana Distinguished Lectures, made possible by the Hendrickson Memorial Endowment Fund.

Distinguished Visiting Fellows & Ronning Fellows, supported through the Friends of the Ronning Centre:

Moshe Amirav, Professor, Political Science, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Dian Million, Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Washington
Michael Higgins, Vice President and Professor, Religious Studies, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield Connecticut
Joe Mihevc, Councillor, City of Toronto

Augustana Campus celebrated the Grand Reopening of Founders’ Hall during Alumni Weekend in September 2015. (Please see the Fall 2015 Circle Magazine for photos of the event.) However, as you walk through our newly renovated Founders’ Hall, you might notice some of the distinctive spaces made possible by our dedicated alumni and friends!

The Luther & Florence Olson Welcome Centre

Luther and Florence were passionate about the education of future generations who would also serve and lead. Their welcoming home and “living room,” just steps from campus, was a hub of fellowship, a home-away-from-home for many young people attending Camrose Lutheran College (CLC).

In keeping with this wonderful couple’s well-remembered hospitality, a portion of the newly renovated main floor of Founders’ Hall has been transformed into the new campus hub, the “campus living room,” a welcoming space for students, staff and faculty, and visitors to campus. It is comfortably furnished and displays memorabilia from Augustana’s century of history.

With leadership gifts from their son Stanley (Gloria) and family, as well as the rest of of Luther and Florence’s children, friends, and alumni, $150,000 was raised for this naming project.

Jean Hachborn Common Room

The multi-purpose room on the lower level of Founders’ Hall was made possible by the children of Jean Hachborn and a gift from her estate. The term “Common Room” is an often used to describe rooms that facilitate comfortable and often flexible meeting spaces in heritage buildings.

As one member of the Hachborn family commented, “I like “common” because it’s true to who Mom was: a common, community-oriented person. It suggests a room that will be used in common by everyone at Augustana - students, staff, faculty - as well as people from the Camrose community. It is a room that is, in this sense, the common property of all.”

This room has received some finishing upgrades as a result of an additional gift to incorporate the historical finishes introduced in the Welcome Centre on the main floor.

If you would like to discuss how you can create or contribute to a legacy project at Augustana, please contact the Augustana Campus Development Office. You can reach Bonita Anderson, Director of Development, at bonita.anderson@ualberta.ca or Bree Urkow CFRE, Assistant Director of Development, at bree.urkow@ualberta.ca.
Congratulations to Ryan Lindsay and Dr. Kim Misfeldt.

Ten University of Alberta students and two Augustana Campus professors finished their course on Chinese economics and politics, capping it with a whirlwind three-week tour of China.

This year, Augustana student Alyssa Belanger won a university-wide Campus Sustainability Leadership Award for her work and advocacy towards integrating sustainability into the Augustana and Camrose communities.

Prompted by a serious lack of women in Head Coach positions, the CCAA introduced the Female Apprentice Coaching Program in 2005. Apprentice coaches are given opportunities to increase their coaching competency through professional development opportunities and through working with a mentor head coach. Augustana Campus welcomed Vikings women’s basketball alumna Rachel Warrack (BSc Phys Ed ’15) to men’s basketball coaching under Dave Drabiuk.

Pride Week is always huge at Augustana, and this year was no exception. Among the visiting speakers and hosted events, the safe harbour returned to the Forum, we wrapped the tipi in Pride colours, and hung a Pride flag in the Faith & Life Lounge!

Augustana Drama students brought Footloose: the Musical to the stage this Spring. Under the direction of Jeff Page, the play involved a live band, 19 musical numbers and a cast of over 20 students in 10 performances over 12 days - almost all of which were sold out to delighted crowds!
Can you imagine life as a transgender person? Or how about living with memories of childhood sexual abuse, alcoholism or physical and cognitive challenges? These were just a few of the topics available in recent Augustana Human Libraries, where readers who want to learn about a specific topic ‘check out’ people called human books for an hour of conversation. Visit library.ualberta.ca/augustana/infolit/humanlibrary/ for more information.

As part of Augustana's commitment to sustainability, Project Coordinator Mike Clermont, our campus Facilities team and Facilities & Operations have led the charge on several initiatives on campus. These include:

- The University of Alberta's first solar-powered street light, set at the street access to the senior residence parking lot.
- The University of Alberta's first solar-powered picnic table, allowing students to enjoy the quad in the sun or shade and charge their electronics at the same time!
- An electric car charging station built outside the First-Year Residence.
- In cooperation with Technology & Learning Services, the installation of a secure charging station for personal devices. Students can plug in, code-lock the door, and return after class when their device is fully charged!

At this year’s Alumni Weekend, not only did we celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of Founders’ Hall, but several groups hosted reunions to reconnect with old friends and reach out to favourite professors. The Classes of 1955 and 1959 got together on Saturday, while our Golden Alumni were recognized at the Sunday Brunch. Vikings Basketball alumni played against each other and then spent the evening at a fundraising pub night. Alumni of the Costa Rica biology program met with Doc Larson and Doris Audet to share memories, photos and the project’s progress. Finally, former students of Dr. Milton Schlosser and Dr. Tim Parker – both of whom celebrated 30 years of teaching at Augustana – gathered to reminisce. Please watch for information about the next Alumni Weekend on September 22-25!

Sign up for our eCircle newsletter to find out about what we have planned next! Visit augustana.ualberta.ca/alumni/connected/. You can subscribe to eCircle, and alumni of Camrose Lutheran College, Augustana University College, and the University of Alberta's Augustana Faculty can update contact information or sign our Guestbook.

We have endeavoured to make this list as accurate as possible. Please accept our apologies if your name has been omitted or misspelled, and please let the Development Office know at 1.800.590.9992 so we might correct our error.