The Augustana Advantage: the best of both worlds!

2017 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 2017 Report to the Community.

2016-17 has marked the first year of my second term as Dean at Augustana. As a result, I have tended to view the past year as a new beginning. This outlook is hardly surprising, as the review process that led to my reappointment focused as much on opportunities for the future as it did on accomplishments from the previous five years. But I confess that in some ways a second term also brings with it a sense of impatience, a desire to get things done and to leave a legacy.

This perspective is largely the lens through which I wish to report on the previous year. Most importantly, I believe it has been a year for setting foundations and confirming future directions.

The most important foundation we have set relates to the new Augustana Calendar and First-Year Seminar program. I reported on the former at last year’s Spring Soiree, and it was clear that the examples of block courses provided by faculty members Craig Wentland and Roxanne Harde caused many in the audience to wish that they could return to university. With leadership from Associate Dean Karsten Mündel and lots of work from faculty on new courses and course revisions, we are now ready to embark upon implementation this coming fall. At this year’s Spring Soiree, faculty colleagues will share some of their plans for First-Year Seminars. Research across North America suggests that these courses are a high-impact practice in that they effectively promote student success (as measured by engagement, GPA, retention, and graduation). Augustana’s seminars will have important social as well as academic benefits for students. Vice Dean Kim Misfeldt and the full team of seminar instructors have put in long hours preparing for launch in September, and I am grateful.

Another foundation that we laid during the past year relates to plans for a new Learning Commons on the second floor of the Augustana library. This idea, which emerged from a consultancy last fall with Celeste Branham, VP Student and Community Services at the University of Maine Farmington, is also an investment in student success. The Learning Commons will bring together in a highly visible and aesthetically pleasing space all our learner support services. It will also be directly tied via the new Person Pedway to our academic advising and career planning services. As with the new calendar and FYS, launch date is fall 2017.

Two other important changes that we have planned for the coming year involve residence life. First, we are opening our first Living and Learning Community, a free-standing residence space for five to seven students who will not only live together but also embark on a collaborative year-long project under the guidance of a faculty or staff member. Second, we are launching an option for gender inclusive housing for senior students in the Ravine complex. This initiative is a response to student interest but also has been guided by research that shows that gender inclusive housing enhances community, reduces disciplinary incidents, provides more options for students who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming, and helps develop a residential climate that is positive, respectful, and inclusive for all residents.

Over the course of 2016-17, Augustana also began discussions to update our Long-Range Development Plan. The LRDP is where land-use planning, facility planning, and enrolment planning all intersect. Our committee’s work has been guided by requirements in the Post-Secondary Learning Act, which include the expectation of meaningful consultation with our local community. I look forward to engaging many of you in these upcoming conversations, probably next fall.

Finally, the quality of any university campus is determined, more than anything, by the quality of the faculty complement. I am therefore pleased to report that during 2016-17 Augustana undertook a major effort related to faculty renewal. With four new positions funded by the Office of the Provost, including two for Aboriginal scholars, we launched seven faculty searches. And, hooray for this, we batted seven for seven, getting our first choices in every search—in Computing Science, Cultural Studies, English, Environmental Science, Management (2), and Religious Studies (Director of the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life).

I am excited about the future. I also know that our success is dependent upon the support of many generous alumni and community members. Thank you for your continuing engagement.

Allen Berger, Dean
In June, the University of Alberta’s Board of Governors unanimously approved For the Public Good, the University of Alberta’s new institutional strategic plan. This document includes the pledge that the university “will pay attention to the development of the whole person and will excel in providing learning environments that transform us, nurture our talents, expand our knowledge and skills, and enable our success.” To achieve these ends, the plan calls for “strengthening Augustana as a leading liberal arts college, and as a living laboratory for teaching and learning innovation to the benefit of the entire university.” With the new Augustana Calendar and First-Year Seminar, infrastructure improvements to support student learning, and a continuing commitment to enhance practical, experiential learning opportunities for students, we are already making progress toward these goals.

The New Learning Commons

Now that Randal Nickel, Augustana’s new Executive Director of Student Life, is completing his first year, Augustana students can look forward to a number of innovations in student services. One of these initiatives involves the development of a Learning Commons, a redesigned space on the second floor of the Augustana Library, which until now has accommodated work stations for research assistants and sessional faculty. This space will be repurposed as a collaborative learning centre for students. The Learning Commons will provide students intentionally designed spaces to support group work where participants can advance the learning that takes place in the classroom, work through difficulties they may be facing, and perhaps take their learning in exciting new directions.

“The Learning Commons has been placed in the Augustana Library for a reason,” says Dean Allen Berger. “University libraries today can no longer simply be warehouses for books and periodicals; instead they need to provide full support to students for accessing information from both digital and print sources, for assessing and applying information, for creating new content, etc. The spaces we design need to support diverse kinds of workshops, diverse kinds of learners, and both individual and collaborative group work.”

The faculty’s intention is to design a space that, in terms of usage, noise, activity level and purpose, is unlike both the Forum and the lower two floors of the Library. The Commons will include comfortable and flexible furniture that can be reorganized in various configurations for group work along with advanced technology that students can use to support their learning activities. It will also bring together a variety of student service departments, ranging from the Writing Centre to Counselling Services, thereby providing students ready access to needed supports.

With the completion of the new Alver and Arlene Person Pedway, which links the second floor of the Library to...
Nickel also emphasizes the connections between health and wellness and academic success, which is the reason for including counselling services in the Learning Commons. He hopes that by taking this department out of a remote hallway and placing it in the Commons Augustana can begin to lessen some of the stigma associated with the use of mental health services.

Much of the activity in the Commons will involve student workshops (e.g., focused on writing skills, study skills, exam taking skills), group tutoring sessions, and supplemental instruction. In addition to programs planned by staff, students will have opportunities to self-design collaborative learning activities.

In summing up the initiative, Dean Berger states: “We are investing in student success by bringing together, in two highly visible, aesthetically pleasing, and connected spaces, all our learner support services.”

**New Student Orientation**

With the introduction of the new calendar, which will change the structure of the school year from two fourteen-week terms to a three-week block followed by an eleven-week
session in both the fall and winter terms, Augustana has an opportunity to examine the effectiveness of other student services (with the possibility of redesigning them). Although the calendar was mainly designed to enhance experiential learning opportunities, it also is leading to new ideas about how to help first-year students adapt to the challenges they will face at university.

“The best predictor of student success in university is a successful first term,” explains Dean Allen Berger, “and the best predictor of a successful first term is a successful adjustment to university life in the first several weeks of the fall term.”

Although there are already a number of programs in place to ensure a successful adjustment, including the Early Feedback System, and soon the introduction of interdisciplinary First-Year Seminar courses which are limited to 25 students per section, there is still room to improve how students are first introduced to campus.

“Right now, our sense is that orientation can be disorienting” says Mündel. Nickel adds that the process of absorbing the sheer volume of knowledge dispersed through our traditional orientation program has been like “drinking from a firehose.”

“By the end of the three days, everyone has these dazed looks; that includes both staff and new students,” Nickel laughs. “So we asked ourselves: Is there a more effective way of welcoming, orienting, and integrating our first year students?”

The answers that evolved from conversations involving both staff and students were to extend orientation to a pre-arrival phase and to focus on what information needs to be delivered when. After months of planning and consultation with the First-Year Seminar Committee, among others, Orientation morphed into “Getting Ready for U,” a new approach that is integrated with eClass, the online platform where students are automatically registered once they accept their offer of admission to Augustana.

Starting in May, new students will begin to receive information based on when delivery makes the most sense. For example, students will be able to electronically access resources, including video and webinars (both live and recorded) on modules devoted to how to ensure a successful start to university. These modules will include subjects such as inspiration, health and wellbeing, relationships and consent, student success and accountability, and academic integrity. Other webinars will introduce students to some of the faces on campus—key faculty and staff. Additional resources will be designed for parents, and all of the modules will remain...

First-year students will continue to receive help moving into their dorms from current students on the O-Team.
available on the eClass portal throughout the summer, in order to accommodate students who are admitted or register late. One or two weeks before classes begin, students will also be assigned to First-Year Seminar cohorts. These cohorts will begin as online groups, thereby allowing for interaction and relationship building before the semester even begins.

“Getting Ready for U” will continue as students physically arrive on campus, with an emphasis on retaining the benefits of a face-to-face orientation program. But starting next September orientation programming will be linked to First-Year Seminar courses. As part of the seminars, for example, students will be required to attend a variety of orientation events, which will be stretched across the first three weeks of the fall term. Within their seminar sections, students will also be asked to answer questions such as “what has been the most challenging part of your first week on campus?” Their responses not only will reveal needs that they have, but will also help staff members refine the orientation process for 2018 and beyond.

Changing new-student orientation also involves adjustments to the social options available to new students. The consistent goal is to help students make connections, whether that be at large events, residence hall floor meetings, or within their seminars. Augustana students will also have a short break between the end of the three-week block and the beginning of the eleven-week session which offers new opportunities to create fun social activities, like day trips to the West Edmonton Mall and Miquelon Lake, or to ramp up campus recreation, for both new and returning students.

“In many ways we will be doing orientation until students graduate,” notes Mundel. “You’re still learning stuff all the way through. University is about all kinds of transitions.”

**Living and Learning Community**

The third student-centered initiative that will begin in September involves a renovated house on 47 Street that will become a student residence option with an interesting twist. Envisioned as a Living and Learning Community, the five-bedroom home will accommodate a group of five to seven students who have jointly committed to a common learning objective, which could include learning a new language, living sustainably, working on an extended research or community service learning project, or any other purpose defined by the students themselves. They will be responsible not only for selecting their learning focus, but also for designing their house rules (which they must present to Student Life staff for approval).

“We’re giving students the opportunity to learn independently and collaboratively outside the classroom in a focused environment,” says Nickel.

The students will also be connected to a faculty or staff member who will act as an advisor and assist with their project and learning objectives. “There are a couple of reasons I think the Living and Learning Community is going to be effective,” explains Sarah McCrae, Student Engagement Coordinator.
Student Engagement Coordinator Sarah McCrae. “One is that it’s a really good stepping stone to becoming independent. Another is that students get to have support from a project advisor.” McCrae adds that “they can use [the experience] to enhance their resumes and set them apart from other people entering the workforce.”

The results of a survey sent to current students early in the 2016-17 year demonstrated there was interest in a Living and Learning Community and shaped the final outcome. Over half of the respondents said they would be interested in applying. Sarah and other residence staff have been accepting proposals and will decide which group will get the house.

“It’s an opportunity to enrich the university experience,” Sarah adds. “When we’re able to hone in on students’ creativity, that’s where the magic happens.”

The new Living and Learning Community is part of a larger renovation of residence services, which will involve structural changes in the future, but, for now, focuses on policy.

“There’s an openness right now to take a look at things in new ways,” says Nickel. “We’re trying to find a balance between change and not losing the character that has made the residential experience at Augustana so great. We’re asking ourselves how we, as a university, can continue to provide safe places for students while giving them more opportunity to grow as individuals and learn what it means to be an adult in our society.”

Student input has been integral to this process, which is why surveys have been administered, and residence life staff have organized dinner dialogues and evening activities centered on informal conversation about current guidelines, especially concerning alcohol and gender inclusive housing options.

Paying attention to both student input and research on best practice, including what has worked well on other university campuses and what has stopped working so well here, has led to a decision to move ahead next year with a gender inclusive housing option in the Ravine Complex, which houses returning students.

“We want to move towards inclusivity,” Nickel notes. “There is research that points to a reduction in sexual violence and noise and disturbance complaints when residences are gender inclusive. We also want to be sure to make the university a comfortable place for all students, including LGBTQ students, international students, Aboriginal students, in fact, all minorities.”

McCrae adds: “As a university, we have to be about more than just academics; we have to help students value diversity, engage with community, and develop life skills.”
**Dr. Ronald Lett (’74)**  
2016 Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Ronald Lett has dedicated his life to helping people. Co-Founder and Director of the Canadian Network for International Surgery—which provides medical and surgical assistance in countries where they are a luxury that many cannot access—Dr. Lett also co-chairs the African Canadian Committee for Essential Surgical Skills, is Scientific Associate of two African Injury Control Centres, and Adjunct Professor of Surgery at McGill University and the University of British Columbia.

Dr. Lett attended Camrose Composite High School before studying at Camrose Lutheran College, and then attending the University of Alberta for medical training, followed by a Masters at McGill. As an inspiring figure to Augustana’s current undergraduate students, he has proven that humble beginnings can lead to great things.

“Dr. Lett’s story exemplifies many of the most important values of this campus,” says Dean Allen Berger. “This fact, along with the many other recognitions he has received, including induction to the Camrose Composite High School Wall of Fame in 2004 and the University of Alberta Alumni Honour Award in 2008, reveal that this award is long overdue.”

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

**Tyler Bellamy (’97)**  
2016 Lois Aspenes Award

Tyler Bellamy is the very definition of “once a Viking, always a Viking.” Born in Revelstoke, BC, Tyler came to Augustana to study physical education and play hockey. Tyler became team captain of the Vikings in 2008, and volunteered as an assistant coach, even after graduation, for the next six years. His commitment to the team didn’t stop there; in 2015, Tyler founded the Vikings Hockey Alumni Association and now serves as President.

“Tyler has spent countless hours working, promoting, and assisting with many ventures for the continued development of our Vikings Hockey Program,” says current head coach Blaine Gusdal. “He has always shown a tremendous level of loyalty and passion towards the team, former teammates, and to the future of our Vikings Hockey Program in Camrose.”

Tyler has been involved in a number of fundraising and alumni ventures that prove his unwavering determination to see the Vikings Hockey program thrive. Annually raising funds by way of sweater sponsorship and the Adopt A Viking program, Tyler has also chaired and organized the last four Alumni Hockey Weekends. Alongside his Viking duties, Tyler is raising a family and working as a detective with the Camrose City Police.

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

**Brandi Chytracek**  
2016 Alumni Citation Award

To Brandi Chytracek, Augustana (or Camrose Lutheran College, as it was when she first arrived) is home — both figuratively and quite literally. Brandi lived on campus from 1982 to 1999 with her husband Mark, beloved Director of Student and Residence Services, and continued as his pillar of support until his passing in 2015.

Brandi’s support went beyond her husband, towards the students she lived amongst and to the very core of the Augustana community, as she helped with RA training and hall coordinating, delivered workshops for effective communication, and offered talents from her profession as a teacher to counsel and support anyone in need. The students in Moi Hall, the dorm where Mark and Brandi lived, also got early lessons in childcare as they watched (and helped!) the Chytraceks raise their children.

“No one will ever know of the personal sacrifices Brandi and Mark made during their lives, to serve the needs of students at Augustana,” relates former Alumni Citation Award recipient Les Parsons. “But, everyone who was blessed to share their lives with the Chytraceks, knows what a difference Brandi and Mark made in their lives.”

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

When one pictures a student athlete, late night study sessions fueled by coffee and pizza are replaced with early morning practice featuring Gatorade and protein bars, weekends in the library with weekends busing to and from games, and sweat pants with suit pants on game day. University, which is already a flurry of new friends, commitments, and far more activities than any one person could conceivably attend, is made all the busier when you’ve also dedicated your time spent here to a sports team.

All the busier, yes, but also all the more rewarding, especially when you’re able to boast a fulfilling athletics career alongside continued academic success, as many of our Vikings are.

Each year, our Vikings scholar athletes are celebrated with a modest ceremony just outside of the gymnasium. To recognize our Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) National Scholar Athletes and the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) Academic Athletic Awards, Augustana invites each of the award recipients to a short ceremony during which they are presented their certificates by the chair of their department, followed by a dessert and coffee reception.

Although an individual pursuit, as National Scholar status recognizes that the student-athlete has achieved honours standing at his or her institution in the current academic year, the sheer number of National Scholars at Augustana, year after year, speaks to the institution-wide pattern of success—as an athlete, academic, and liberal arts student more generally.

Among the 94 schools that are members of the CCAA, the average number of student-athletes who received the organization’s National Scholar Award last year was 9. This year, Augustana tied with NAIT in our conference, as 41 Vikings received this recognition.

We also have another 10 students who would meet the National Scholar requirements, but who did not receive the award because they play non-CCAA sports. These students are recognized as ACAC Academic Athletic Award Recipients.

Augustana’s focus on well-rounded student success has become a pillar of our athletics department, so much so that director Greg Ryan has taken to casually referring to the culture surrounding our Vikings as “Ivy League Athletics”.

“We offer about the same number of scholarships as the other teams in our conference but our academic requirements are quite a bit higher than any of the schools we compete against,” Greg states. “The level of academic rigor you would likely assume is higher here than it is at other institutions in our association simply because of its nature as one of the top ranked universities in the world. Hence the “Ivy League” connotation—it’s harder to get in here, and it’s harder to stay eligible here.”

Outside of the athletics department, the implication still runs strong. Assistant Registrar Jonathan Hawkins applauded the versatility of student-athletes in a short speech at the Vikings Scholar event by referencing the “Vikings as Champions” poster hanging over his desk, which boldly proclaims “Classroom, Community, Competition”.

“Competition seems obvious,” Jonathan relates, “these are
highly skilled competitors after all. Community makes perfect sense on two levels—as an athlete who is part of a team, and as a student on a small campus—community is a Viking strength and an Augustana strength. And classroom—that our Viking athletes are able to take the drive, dedication, and awareness that serves so well in their chosen sport into their scholarly endeavors. It takes all three to make our Viking athletes champions.”

Balancing competition, community, and classroom develops practical skills that these student-athletes carry with them after convocation, as they enter into the workforce. Devon Hobbs ('15), a Vikings hockey player throughout his entire management and business economics degree, and two-time recipient of the ACAC Academic Athletic Award, is a veritable poster boy for this sentiment as someone who entered into the workforce directly after graduation and who has only excelled since then.

In 2015, Devon was hired into the management trainee program at Cintas, a corporate apparel company. Soon after, Greg Ryan got a call from Aileen Enriquez Palmer, Human Resources Manager at Cintas, in charge of the trainee program.

“Aileen called and basically said ‘We need more Devons’” Greg laughs. “They’re even going to come and do a job fair here to recruit more of our students in the near future. The unique combination of athletics and a liberal arts degree exposes students and student-athletes to a much wider experience, which makes them better for respective businesses.”

Aileen was happy to elaborate on what made Devon such a good fit for Cintas. “He has great people skills and is an extremely hard worker—he has one of the best work ethics that I’ve ever seen from one of our management trainees—actually,” she paused, “from one of our employees, ever. He always goes above and beyond, and I see the loyalty that he has towards the company. I see that same loyalty that he has when he talks about Augustana.”

Devon, soft-spoken and modest, takes the praise with palpable gratitude. He credits Augustana for providing him the chance to develop his social skills—which, unsurprisingly, was another part of Aileen’s commendation—due to the small campus size, and his role on the hockey team.

“It’s natural to become intimidated and sheltered in larger universities,” he explained. “Augustana is open and welcoming to everyone. And with hockey, it was even easier because I automatically had twenty-five best friends.”

Devon also was grateful for the support he received from faculty and staff while at Augustana.

“Being able to see the Dean, or see Greg, and stop and have a conversation with either of them gave me the opportunity to ask for help when I needed it, and excel. I’ll always be thankful to Augustana for that.”

Assistant Registrar Jonathan Hawkins congratulating student-athletes at the 2015-16 ceremony celebrating our Vikings scholar athletes.

Vikings hockey player Devon Hobbs ('15) receiving his bachelor of management in business economics.
Professor Keith Harder's "Ill Winds"

Visual arts professor Keith Harder has recently completed two in a series of four large-scale paintings titled “Ill Winds”. “Ill Winds: North” has been installed just outside of the Dean’s office in the forum building of the Augustana Campus, and visitors are welcome to have a look at the looming 92” x 116” painting. Created by a process called “glazing”, Harder used layers of red, green, and blue over one another to create darkness and shadow, without actually using any black paint. The effect is an incredible visualization of storm clouds that seem to transform and transmute in colour before your very eyes. Professor Harder is currently on sabbatical completing the last two paintings.

Curious to see how a masterpiece is created? Check out professor Harder’s film documenting the process of “Ill Winds: West”. Three months of work is recorded at 20 second intervals and edited into six minutes of film, accompanied by professor Milton Schlosser on piano.

Visit http://aug.ualberta.ca/illwinds to see the film.

Promotions and Hires

Augustana Campus is proud to announce that Neil Haave (Biology) has been promoted to the rank of full professor for the quality of his teaching, research, and service.

Augustana has hired new faculty in English, Management, Environmental Science, Computing Science, Cultural Studies and Religious Studies (Director of the Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life), including two new Aboriginal Scholars.

Augustana Awards

Alexandra Malley was awarded the 2016 Augustana Sciences medal for highest academic achievement by a science major and Katelyn Gael received the medal for Humanities. Natasha Hepp received both the 2016 Augustana Medal for highest overall academic achievement and the Social Sciences medal.

First-year Environmental studies major Carson Hvenegaard of Camrose received the Right Honourable Don Mazankowski Entrance Citation Scholarship this year, while Jessica Logan, a first-year double majoring in Biology and Chemistry from Spruce Grove, received the Gunvor and Erik Mygind Entrance Citation Scholarship.

The Student Award for Library Research was also awarded to Katelyn Gael, based on library research conducted for her paper “Components of Successful Refugee Resettlement in
Workshops in Building Capacity for Reconciliation

This year, we launched the Workshops in Building Capacity for Reconciliation program. In its pilot year, this program brought together students, staff, and faculty at Augustana to learn about and discuss various topics stemming from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Final Report and Calls to Action in order to build a basis of knowledge and understanding for participants to employ in reconciliation work in the future. Over a series of six workshops, participants learned from Indigenous Elders and experts about reconciliation, residential schools and history, culture and ceremony, language and community, and Indigenous governance. Workshops included discussion, participation in a mini-Round Dance, the film The Pass System, and the Blanket Exercise, along with many other learning opportunities. As we move into the second year of this program next fall, we will invite community members to participate as well and hope that over the years many of you will be able to join us.

If interested in joining the workshops, please contact Megan Caldwell, Aboriginal Students’ Office Coordinator at augustana.reconciliation@ualberta.ca.

The New North Collective facilitated our workshop on language and community, where participants joined the musical group on stage to watch them perform and take part in discussion.

Accomplishments

Over 500 Augustana students in 45 classes across 15 disciplines participated in 564 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 to make connections between theory and practice. Check out page 17 to hear from students who have recently completed CSL placements!

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

Camrose” written for Dr. Sandra Rein.

Based on their presentations at our Student Academic Conferences, Augustana presented Outstanding Undergraduate Research Awards to Physical Education student Linda Ervin (BA ’16) and Environmental Science student Robyn Perkins (BSc ’16). Linda’s project focused on Middle Eastern belly dancing, while Robyn looked at a bird species’ movement through fragmented urban environments.

Linda Ervin

Robyn Perkins

If original image is not a figure, delete this block.
Since launching the Augustana Extended Education (AEE) program in June 2015, Augustana has provided professional development opportunities to 183 elected officials, municipal administrators, and business leaders in 55 rural Alberta communities.

Tuesday, November 29 was Augustana’s third annual celebration of the international movement “Giving Tuesday”, which occurs after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, the Augustana community raised over $4,300 to support campus initiatives, including the purchase of two change tables for the bathrooms on the main level of the forum, and the installation of an ice skating rink in the quad.

The following are selected achievements of faculty and staff in the 2016-17 academic year.

**MAJOR PUBLICATIONS**

**IAN WILSON**  
Kingship and Memory in Ancient Judah

**JOSEPH WIEBE**  
The Place of Imagination: Wendell Berry and the Poetics of Community, Affection, and Identity

**PETER BERG**  
Finite World, Infinite Money: Sustainability’s Real Dilemma (published in German)

**REFEREED ARTICLES IN PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALS AND PERFORMANCES OR EXHIBITIONS AT PRESTIGIOUS VENUES**

**ARDELLE RIES**  
Presented at International Kodály Symposium in Taiwan; presented at Music Conference Alberta (with students); edited Reflections of Canada, a collection of Canadian folk songs

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BRANDON ALAKAS
*Moreana; Continuity and Change;* awarded SSHRC Insight Development Grant

GERAINT OSBORNE
*Contemporary Drug Problems*

INGRID URBERG
Presented at Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Calgary; presented at The Supernatural in Literature and Film conference in Svalbard, Norway

JAMES KARIUKI
Presented at 99th Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition (co-authored with students)

JANE YARDLEY
*Applied Physiology Nutrition and Metabolism; Diabetes Care*

MÉLANIE MÉTHOT
*Prairie Forum; Canadian Journal of Law and Society; Journal of Canadian Studies*

MORTEN ASFELDT
*The Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education; Journal of Experiential Education*

STACY LORENZ
*The International Journal of the History of Sport; New York Times*

VARGHESE MANALOOR
Keynote Speaker at International Conference on Sustainability at the Indian Institution of Management

AWARDS, EDITORSHIPS AND OTHER HONOURS

CATHERINE CAUFEILD
*Teaching Religion and Theology; Editor of international journal Religious Studies and Theology*

GEOFFREY DIPPLE
Editorial board for book series *Studies in Anabaptist and Mennonite History*

GLEN HVENEGAARD
*Tourism and Hospitality Research; American Naturalist; Augustana Faculty Research Award*

JULIAN FORREST
“Perceptual Disorders (after Keret)” painting acquired by Alberta Foundation for the Arts

LINDSAY McINTYRE
Recipient of REVEAL Indigenous Arts Award from the Hnatyshyn Foundation

NEIL HAAVE
Managing editor of *CELT;* Advisory board member of Teaching Professor Conference; VP of Alberta Introductory Biology Association
There were 164 Augustana graduates in 2016.

369 students received $528,525 in scholarships, bursaries and awards for the 2016-17 academic year!

Mean incoming high school average for Fall 2016 admission: 81.6%

Self-identified First Nations and Métis students: 56

There were 1028 enrolments for 2016-17. Out of these, 411 were men and 617 were women.

Students by year of program:

- No year status = 15
- 1st year = 352
- 2nd year = 265
- 3rd year = 225
- 4th year = 171

Students by province:

- Alberta = 790
- BC = 46
- SK = 38
- NT = 25
- ON = 10
- MB = 3
- NL = 3
- QC = 2
- NS = 2
- YT = 2
- Int’l = 107

International students attended Augustana from the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life hosted a great slate of events over the 2016-17 year. Several are highlighted here to reflect the Centre’s work in the academy, the public square, and its religious communities. Augustana Distinguished Lectures are made possible thanks to the Hendrickson Memorial Endowment Fund. Spirit of the Land events are made possible thanks to generous support from local sources.

Visit ualberta.ca/augustana/ronning for more details.

Kieran Bonner, PhD, of St. Jerome’s University at Waterloo, Augustana Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

Selected Distinguished Visitors, 2016-17

- Aaron Barner, Senior Executive Officer of Métis Nation of Alberta
- Alex Williams, York University
- Alex Wilson, PhD, University of Saskatchewan
- Alissa York, Canadian Novelist
- Audrey Poitras, President of Métis Nation of Alberta
- Bruce Cutknife, Indigenous Education Coordinator for the Nipisihkopahk Education Authority
- Charlene Bearhead, University of Manitoba
- Darryl Berezuk, Director of Alberta Archaeology Survey
- David Dodge, Green Energy Futures Project
- Dominic Armstrong, New York Opera Tenor
- Dwayne Donald, PhD, University of Alberta
- Elder Bob Cardinal, Enoch Cree Nation
- Ermineskin Jr/Sr High School Drum Group
- Garth Prince, Award-Winning African Performer
- Joel Harder, SUNY Binghampton
- Karen Mahon, Canadian Director of STAND
- Koren Lightning-Earle, President of Indigenous Bar Association
- New North Collective
- Paulina Johnson, University of Western Ontario
- Rae Spoon, Canadian Musician and Writer
- Ronald Lett, MD, Founder of the Canadian Network for International Surgery
- Timothy Kurek, author of The Cross in the Closet

Fifth annual Spirit of the Land conference, featured speakers from across Canada and around the world

Peter Jones, PhD, of the University of Ottawa, Inaugural Chester Ronning Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy

Rabbi Lindsey bat Joseph, Director of the Sol Mark Centre for Jewish Excellence, Augustana Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

The Spirit of the Reconciliation, hosted by Spirit of the Land and the Augustana Aboriginal Students Office, which featured Canadian author Maria Campbell
The Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) links research, outreach, and the educational capacity of the University of Alberta with students, researchers, rural communities, and rural community organizations and policy makers at multiple levels across the province, as well as nationally and internationally, to support the improved sustainability of rural communities and populations.

The 2016/2017 year was a busy year for the ACSRC:

On December 2, the ACSRC launched Boom & Bust: A Citizen’s Guide to Managing Ups and Downs in Communities at the Augustana Campus, which was published by the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Extension in 2016. Four of Boom & Bust’s authors were in attendance: Lars Hallström, Kristoff Van Assche, Kevin E. Jones, and Monica Gruezmacher. Similarly, the ACSRC launched the book Sustainability Planning and Collaboration in Rural Canada: Taking the Next Steps in May of 2016. Editors Lars Hallström, Mary A. Beckie, Glen T. Hvenegaard, and Karsten Mündel were all in attendance. Both books are available online and in print.

Other publications from ACSRC faculty and staff in the past year include:


In addition to these publications, the ACSRC completed a number of projects in 2016-2017, including:

- The Alberta Parks’ Social Science Working Group and Framework (a follow-up to the Alberta Parks’ Research and Policy Questions project)

- Natural Resource Development and Governance: A Governance Approach to Tempering Boom/Bust Cycles in Resource Dependent Communities (in collaboration with Kristof van Assche et al)

- Rural Alberta Regional Collaboration Workshops: Priorities and Scenarios for Long-Term Sustainability (a project that examined different models and opportunities for municipalities and service providers to work together)

- The Rural Capacity Survey: Evaluating Canada’s Resilience to Change and to Self-Sustain

- The Beaver County Youth Retention and Collaboration Initiative (a two-year project to map and develop an asset-based strategy for youth-based programming and collaboration in Beaver County)

Looking forward, the ACSRC is a major partner of The ECHO Network—a two million dollar grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research. Led by Margot Parkes at the University of British Columbia, the ACSRC is the rural and Albertan hub for ECHO activities. In addition to this work, the ACSRC has also recently received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Government of Alberta to examine programming and policy change for high-speed internet services in rural communities, and is a partner on a recently announced Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) grant to further explore sustainability planning in Canada.

In the fall of 2017, the ACSRC will host the second Rural Alberta Innovation Learning Commons (RAIL-C) in Olds, Alberta.
Community Service Learning (CSL) is a big part of Augustana. With over 560 students in placements through 45 classes across 15 disciplines in the last year, it is no wonder that our students benefit from work outside of the classroom as much as inside of it. But what does community service learning entail, and how does it have an effect on the students who choose to take part in these placements? Below you’ll learn about the experiences of five different CSL students, including their favourite parts, what they learned, and how a hands-on experiential learning informed their future.

**Adam Sun, First Year Computing Science International Student from China**

Completed a CSL Placement with Chaplaincy’s Soup Supper on Augustana Campus in December 2016. Soup Supper is a weekly dinner provided by Chaplaincy to students, staff and faculty, and other community members.

What did you learn from your placement?

“I learned the importance of community and I improved to be more helpful. Now I plan to apply for [a volunteer position with] student Chaplaincy. I also made a lot of friends during my placement, which is why Augustana Chaplaincy puts a lot of effort into soup supper for local and international students.”

What was your favourite part of the placement?

“The best part of soup supper is that everyone is welcomed. I enjoyed that community members eat together, and I liked knowing that the person who made that happen was myself!”

**Bradley Schroeder, BA ’16 in Political Studies**

In his last year at Augustana, Bradley completed a placement at the Camrose Open Door Society in a Youth Court Support program which included attending court and providing social, emotional, and legal counsel for at-risk youth in the community.

What did you learn from your placement?

“I gained valuable knowledge on how to communicate effectively with special needs youth and just how prevalent the issues of homelessness and suicide are, as they plague our community’s youth daily.”

Did the placement inform your future goals?

“Of course! I never imagined myself as a person-first individual but after having this hands-on experience my whole perspective on the field of non-profit helping has been revolutionized. After my placement, I was employed at the Open Door for a period of seven months; I am now employed at a non-profit organization in Edmonton that is tailored towards integrating people with disabilities into the community, as well as finding them jobs and increasing their overall quality of life.”

**Jacob Rohloff, Fourth Year Kinesiology Student**

Jacob completed a CSL placement with the Camrose Primary Care Network in December 2016. Working with a physiotherapist and exercise specialist, he helped design and deliver the Supervised Exercise Program geared towards seniors and individuals with balance and mobility issues.

What was your favourite part of the placement?

“On the last few days, I was responsible for performing fitness tests
to determine whether or not the program had an impact on [the patients'] physical well-being. I was astounded by the significant progress of some individuals; many also reported an improved mental well-being, which really showed me the power of exercise as medicine.”

Did the placement inform your future goals?

“Working with the primary care network has cemented my desire to pursue a Master’s Degree in Public Health. I had originally planned to apply directly to medical school. However, I feel that Public Health is a place I can make a much larger impact.”

Sarah Monk, BA ’16 in Psychology

Sarah worked with Outreach Support Workers at the Camrose Women’s Shelter in September 2016.

What did you learn from your placement?

“I learned how many different avenues Support Staff are responsible for, how difficult it is to create support groups that really engage women in the shelter, and how each worker is truly affected by and devoted to the women who come through the shelter. Every individual who works at the shelter has a deeper underlying desire to make a difference, beyond just coming to work and doing what is expected.”

Did the placement inform your future goals?

“I was unaware of positions such as Crisis Intervention Worker, or Outreach Support Worker before this placement. I am now a counselor at a group home for teens struggling with mental health issues, a career I never knew existed and certainly would never have thought to apply for prior to volunteering with the Camrose Women’s Shelter.”

Jennifer Ha, Fourth Year Political Studies Student

Jennifer is currently completing a placement with the Camrose Public Library as program coordinator for the Camrose Newcomers Program (which actually was created out of a previous Augustana CSL placement) and as a trustee for the Camrose Public Library Board.

What are you learning from your placement?

“I am learning so much about all of the work that goes into running a non-profit and being in the public sector! The Camrose Public Library is a well-oiled machine with so many intricate parts and insightful people, and a lot of community support to help it run. With every hour of my placement, I realize the different roles a library serves for a community like Camrose—it is a place to socialize, learn, develop skills, and connect in meaningful ways with the world.”

Has the placement informed your future goals?

“Being an immigrant myself, I have always been passionate about immigration. As a student at Augustana, I was able to study the topic as a concept. Though my research was personally meaningful, it still felt distant and abstract. Working to build a program to support newcomers during their time of transition to Canada has offered valuable insight on the realities of immigration. As I pursue working with newcomers and in the field of immigration as a career path, my CSL placement has given me a valuable opportunity to learn about the realities of the topics I had only explored as concepts in the classroom.”

Interested in learning more or becoming a part of the Augustana Community Service Learning program?

Please contact the Learning~Advising~Beyond office at 780-679-1662 or auglab@ualberta.ca if you would like to discuss potential partnerships and placement options.
The construction of the Person Pedway launched in September 2016, although the spirit of the project goes back much further. Named in honour of Alver and Arlene Person, two individuals who were an active part of Augustana for many, many years, the Person Pedway will continue to connect the couple to a campus that they knew and loved.

Alver and Arlene began their association with Augustana together, as they met at what was then Camrose Lutheran College. The institution continued to be a part of who they were as a couple as they built their life together in Camrose.

After graduating, Alver became Director of the Burgar funeral home, a position that was described as a perfect fit for his compassionate nature. When age and reduced mobility limited his attendance at events, the couple, with Arlene as Alver’s caregiver, continued to make campus visits a priority. When Alver passed away in 2011, the whole community attended his funeral—a true measure of respect for a man who loved and was loved widely.

Alver and Arlene were very generous to Augustana and, over the years, supported a number of campus initiatives and programs, with Chaplaincy, the Ronning Centre, and the Music Department as frequent recipients of their philanthropy. Forty-five years ago, they were among the first to establish a student award in the Community Awards Program at
Augustana—a program designed to engage the local community in supporting student success. For Alver and Arlene, the growth and strength of a community come from within, and supporting your community is not something you simply think about, it is something you do.

Now, Alver and Arlene’s legacy lives on at Augustana in concrete and glass. Funds for the Alver and Arlene Person Pedway were given in the couple’s honour by their two children and their spouses: John (CLC ’84) and Carmen Person (CLC ’88) and Steve and Kathy Haugen. The donor family joined Dean Allen Berger, alongside University of Alberta representatives Hugh Warren, Associate VP Operations and Maintenance, and Kelly Hopkin, Manager of Campus Architecture, as well as other members of the Augustana community to cut the ribbon and officially open the Person Pedway the afternoon of March 23, 2017.

“Augustana meant a great deal to my parents and it means so much to us to pay tribute to them in this way,” said John Person, after the ribbon was cut and the group was given the opportunity to be the very first to walk across the pedway. “They would be both honoured and humbled to know that they continue to have a place on their campus.”

After being delighted by the official opening of the pedway, the campus community moved into the second floor of the library, a space that will soon become Augustana’s new Learning Commons. The Commons, which will be implemented next September, is intended to be a one-stop student service centre, offering a space for students to access programming that will foster learning beyond the classroom, and will also combine other services centered on collaboration and health and wellness.

The Person Pedway will allow the planning services in Learning~Advising~Beyond (LAB), housed on the second floor of Founders’ Hall, to be physically linked to the learning services in the Commons, providing students with a space that integrates both academic and non-academic support.

Students were also given the chance to provide their own input in the planning of the Learning Commons, submitting ideas on what they think would best serve the student body—a sentiment that echoed Alver and Arlene’s legacy of the power of community support. With a pedway in their name that will continue to enhance the Augustana student experience, once again, Alver and Arlene are at home on campus.
On March 7, University of Alberta President David Turpin and his wife, Suromitra, visited Augustana. His visit included a coffee break meet and greet with students, staff, and faculty, followed by a luncheon attended by representatives from a number of different departments on campus, including the Augustana Students’ Association and the Aboriginal Students Office.

Augustana students have the opportunity to present their undergraduate research twice yearly at our Student Academic Conferences. This year, the topics ranged from exercise in type 2 diabetes and HIV treatment to the perception of non-typical bodies in women’s sports and the presence of speech in Children’s gesture.

Dean Berger, along with faculty and staff, supported the “Pussyhat Global Virtual March” in celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8.

For the second year in a row, Augustana hosted over 200 grade seven students from Our Lady of Mount Pleasant School and École Charlie Killam in Camrose for a Science Fair on campus. Beginning in September 2016, ten senior CSL practicum students frequented the students’ classrooms, mentoring and supporting them in building their projects. Twenty community members and alumni acted as judges for the fair, which included projects on generating electricity with potatoes to produce light, an algorithm to solve a rubix cube, and roasting marshmallows with a solar oven!

In January, we celebrated Canada’s 150th birthday and International Week with our first ever International Food Fair! Over 160 guests attended the Food Fair, where they were able to sample food and beverages from eight student-represented countries (Bangladesh, Norway, Germany, various African countries, etc.), prepared in cooperation between international student volunteers and Augustana Dining Services. The evening was a huge success, uniting the campus community with the Camrose area in a very Canadian celebration of great food and the increasing diversity of our community.

Augustana had the great pleasure of hosting the New North Collective, a group of Northern Canadian performing artists, for a show at the Lougheed Performing Arts Centre where they premiered “Add Your Voice,” a song commissioned by the University of Alberta and UAlberta North. “Add Your Voice” was written in the spirit of reconciliation, and the Augustana choir had the opportunity to join the New North Collective on stage for the performance. Check out the video: http://aug.ualberta.ca/addyourvoice.

In October of 2016, Augustana offered the 16th augustana human library. To kickoff this event, we had one large read in the form of a presentation from the human book Timothy Kurek, the author of The Cross in the Closet: Overcoming prejudice through intentional empathy. As a human book, he shared this story:

“I was raised within the confines of a strict, conservative Christian denomination in the Bible Belt. When a friend came out as a lesbian and was excommunicated by her family, I began to doubt my religious upbringing. I decided that the only way to empathize and understand her pain was to walk in the shoes of the very people I had been taught to shun. For one year, I came out as a gay man to everyone I knew, to see for myself how the label of gay would impact my life.”

This year’s Rocky Road Ice Cream Fantasy celebrated Canada’s 150th Birthday. Visitors enjoyed games, face painting, crafts, rock climbing, and ice cream, of course, while raising funds for the National Centre for Truth and
Reconciliation, in order to support initiatives related to missing children and unmarked burials.

Augustana staff, faculty, and students also recognized “Orange Shirt Day” to commemorate children who never returned from Residential school, as well as the survivors.

Pride Week was a huge success, and once again Augustana students, staff, and faculty joined together to pose for the annual Rainbow Photo to show support for members of the LGBTQ community. We also hosted a Sexual Violence Awareness Week aiming at opening up the conversation regarding sexual violence, especially in the context of a University campus. Activities included intervention workshops, pledge campaigns, and a Take Back the Night march.

This year’s Alumni Weekend was packed full of great activities! It began with a Class of ’66 and Friends Meet and Greet at the Camrose Best Western Resort and Casino, followed by the Vikings Men’s Hockey Home Opener. Men and Women’s Soccer opened the next day, followed by a Class of ’66 and Friends Golf Game. That Saturday night, alumni and the Augustana community enjoyed a traditional German meal and the opportunity to sample local craft beers at Oktoberfest, which also boasted an Alumni Polka Band! The weekend ended with the Dean’s Alumni Brunch, followed by a performance by the Red Deer Orchestra at the Lougheed Performing Arts Centre. Watch for information about the next Alumni weekend on September 22-25!

The Augustana Library also held a number of exhibits over the year—here are just a few!

- Joseph Haydn: historical documents, musical scores, drawings, and paintings related to the life and work of this great Viennese composer
- Flying Colours: featured the stunning macro photography of artist Robert Chelmick
- Walk with Me: interactive audiovisual exhibit created to share stories about what it means to be Indigenous in Edmonton
- 5 Artists 1 Love: featured art from Black artists from Edmonton, in honour of Black History Month
- Alberta Heritage Art: featured work by the Battle River Writing Centre
- The Ties that Bind: featured artwork centered around connections: between people and the world around them, and between the past, the present, and future

Sign up for our eCircle newsletter to find out about what we have planned next! Visit http://aug.ualberta.ca/stayconnected. 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.