2019 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.
I’m pleased to share this 2019 Report to the Community. As most of you are aware, this is my last one. Starting July 1, I will begin an 18-month administrative leave and will refocus most of my time on various writing projects. I’m also looking forward to more time for family and leisure pursuits. Retirement will officially begin January 1, 2021.

In recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting my successor, Dr. Demetres Tryphonopoulos. Demetres, who is coming to Augustana from Brandon University, is an accomplished scholar and post-secondary administrator. He and I are already working together on transition details. As a result, I am confident that under Demetres’ leadership Augustana will continue to move ahead on our strategic vision to become “a leading liberal arts college” and “a living laboratory for teaching and learning innovation, to the benefit of the entire university” (For the Public Good). In addition, I know that Demetres will continue to make the cultivation of strong town-gown relationships a high priority.

It will be of no surprise that in thinking about the past year, I’ve also been thinking about the story arc for the last eight years. Eight years ago, the Augustana I arrived at was still in what I would term a post-merger phase. Locally, we were still growing into our identity as a University of Alberta faculty. On North Campus, many colleagues wondered whether we belonged and how we fit in. Among our alumni and supporters, some still questioned the wisdom of the merger. Finally, only a few prospective students and parents knew that the U of A had a campus in Camrose.

Today, Augustana is known across the U of A for innovation and excellence in undergraduate education, lauded for the out-of-class experiential opportunities that students have, recognized for the teaching awards and research grants that our faculty members receive and appreciated for the quality of our graduates who go on to study medicine, neurobiology, physical therapy, law, education, etc.

In addition, Augustana is regarded as a leader in the international Council of Public Arts Colleges, where we have helped advance important course-sharing initiatives, assisted in major grants, advised on study abroad, contributed to strategic planning and established a reputation for the number of faculty and students recognized with prestigious academic awards.

In various e-mails to faculty and staff over the years, I’ve suggested that Augustana “fights above its weight class;” we succeed as “the little engine that could.” Recent evidence included the disproportionate number of Augustana students who participated in the University of Alberta’s 2019 Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (FURCA). Consistent with that achievement, we’ve chosen to highlight in this Report to the Community several examples of faculty-student research collaborations.

Undergraduate research is just one example of what Indiana University researcher and Chancellor’s Professor of Higher Education George Kuh calls “high impact practices.” In addition, he cites first-year seminars, learning communities, writing-intensive courses, collaborative assignments and projects, global experiences, capstone courses and community service learning as examples of powerful teaching and learning strategies with lasting benefits. At Augustana, we have institutionalized all of these high impact practices, and we have adjusted our calendar, our curriculum and our pedagogies to ensure that each year we are reaching higher and higher percentages of our students.

I might with some legitimacy be accused of being an Augustana partisan, a biased booster. I’m even willing to plead guilty. But I also believe the evidence is there. The evidence suggests that we’ve built something very special here in Camrose. I do not personally deserve the credit for that, as leadership in post-secondary education is not a top-down affair. Instead, I’ve been fortunate to have incredible partners—faculty who take pride in the quality of their teaching (not just their research) and who match their high expectations for students with high levels of support; staff members who see themselves as full partners in students’ education and who commit every day to helping build a strong sense of community on campus; and scores of community members and alumni who regularly participate in campus events, host CSL interns and generously contribute their time and their resources.

I have been blessed to serve at Augustana and fortunate to have had your support. Thank you.

Allen Berger, Dean and Executive Officer
Augustana offers ongoing assessment of innovative academic calendar

Since the Fall of 2017, Augustana has operated on an innovative schedule—a new academic calendar (colloquially referred to as 3-11) wherein students take a three-week block course followed by a more traditional eleven-week session each term.

These changes set out to address disadvantages associated with a traditional academic calendar, which made it difficult for many students to access experiential learning opportunities. The calendar was also implemented to address a call to action from the greater U of A community to strengthen Augustana as a “living laboratory for teaching and learning innovation, to the benefit of the entire university” (For the Public Good).

With such significant steps towards innovation, Augustana has made it a priority to not only implement the changes, but to assess the implications of the new calendar for students and faculty members, as well as what these changes mean for Augustana more broadly.

Professor Lars Hallström, director of the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (housed at the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus), has gathered an extensive mix of data under a Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund to determine some of the patterns that have emerged from the new calendar thus far.

“This is the first real step that Augustana has taken towards institutional analysis,” Hallström explained, “although it will likely be another two or three years before we have a meaningful sense of how the calendar ultimately works.”

“From what I’ve seen so far, it works really well for some, but creates complications for others,” he said, “But a large part of that is communication and getting everyone on the same page, something that we are getting better at as we go along.”

In terms of general feedback, the study saw a difference in response from the first year 3-11 was implemented to the second. “There was a lot of negativity, particularly from students in their third-and-fourth years, in 2017.” Much of that negativity was attributed to frustration about workload, inadequate communication before the changes were made and a general reluctance to change.

Orientation activities—like this dreamcatcher building workshop—are built into our First Year Seminar courses so that students can adjust to university life while forming peer groups and learning outside of the classroom.

Students in James Kariuki’s First Year Seminar titled “Food for Thought” visited the Maplewood Acres Market Garden and Greenhouse in Armenia, to learn about organic farming.

Augustana Campus expresses its sincere appreciation to the thoughtful and generous individuals who have invested in our students and community in 2018.
In the second year, “dissatisfaction from students declined significantly,” said Hallström, who also mentioned that some of the “growing pains” faculty had also been through seemed to be easing. “From a curricular standpoint, [the new calendar] is a positive intervention,” he said, as structural changes have made professors re-think the content they are delivering, which has led to fresh ideas and more engagement.

On the student engagement and interaction side, major improvements have been made, especially within the First Year Seminars which had a positive response from year one. Student feedback has shown that the First Year Seminars, which include orientation activities and act as a way to introduce students to not only high-impact learning but to a peer group in order to forge connections over the three-week block, has been a great way for students to adapt to their first year of university.

“Having one class during the three-week block makes a lot of sense,” said Hallström. “We’ve heard anecdotally from students that being able to immerse yourself in one thing and not having to spread your brain across four or five courses while meeting new friends right at the beginning of the year is very positive. Yes, it’s intense, but intensity can be good.”

From a mental health standpoint, there have been mixed results. “We had generally assumed that splitting a full course load into 20%, followed by 80%, would decrease stress, but some students said that by day two of the block course, they were at a very high-stress level, and stayed that way for the whole semester,” Hallström explained. He also offered that change in itself causes stress, and that ongoing adjustments are being made in terms of days off and breaks to alleviate some of that initial pressure.

Although more time will be needed to examine other factors, like student performance, Hallström sees the change as a positive endeavour. He has also received encouraging feedback from parents who see 3-11 as a way to give students a different set of pathways to get to the end of their degree, to gain experiences that will differentiate them once they graduate.

“Ultimately, change is good, for both students and faculty,” Hallström said. He is continuing this research for another year or two, at minimum, and hopes that the campus will continue to address the ongoing question of how do we organize the undergraduate experience to best equip our graduates for whatever comes next.
Undergraduate Research

One of the benefits of living and learning in a small campus environment is the relationships that our students are able to form with their professors, which can often lead to exciting academic opportunities. At Augustana, many of our students participate in undergraduate research—an avenue that is often only afforded to graduate students on larger campuses. Here are just a few examples of projects that some of our undergraduate students embarked on this year.

Low-Cost 3D Printed Electrodes

Benjamin Schmidt, Professor James Kariuki and Lab Technician David King

Professor James Kariuki was working on an electrochemistry project with third-year chemistry major Benjamin Schmidt when brilliance struck. Or rather, when the glass electrode that he was using struck the countertop and shattered, causing him to lament to his colleague David King—a lab technician—that he would need to buy a new one. Instead, David, who had had his mind on Augustana’s newly acquired 3D printer, said: “why don’t I try making you one of those?”

And thus began an entirely new project that resulted in a published paper in the Journal of Chemical Education—which listed Ben as first author—an entire electrochemistry kit that can perform all facets of electrochemical analysis for a fraction of the cost of commercial equipment and a pending patent, that Ben, James and David are all very excited about.

You can think of electroanalytical chemistry as a chemical detective. It is used to test water and food samples, for example, for pollutants, heavy metals or pesticides. This testing uses electrodes, a potential start machine, analytical software and a device to read the different measurements, all of which Ben, James and David are working to include in their low-cost electrochemistry kit. The kit began with a simple electrode.

“I simply print a plastic case for seven to ten dollars, and then the metal that’s in the electrodes can be recycled and used again,” David explained, comparing his innovation to the glass commercial electrodes which are often over $100 each. The 3D printed electrodes work just as well as the commercial electrodes, and furthermore, can be printed in different shapes to accommodate different types of experiments.

The kits will offer a similar significant cost saving alternative. David is currently looking at programming and creating his own potential start machine, while James is collaborating with a former Augustana computing science professor who is creating software to analyze raw data at a fraction of the cost of current commercial products. The result would be a kit that you could take out into the field and connect to your mobile device to measure samples, for a mere $300. Once developed, James plans on giving the kits to high school chemistry classes, as well as selling the product to universities in Africa, where there is a need for equipment at a more reasonable price.

Ben, James and David are thankful to have the opportunity to all work together as equals, on a project that could have such deep impact. “It’s very unique to have a project that includes a student, a professor and a technician,” James said. “If any one of us weren’t involved, it wouldn’t work.”
Ben, especially, has benefited greatly from this research. It was Ben who did all of the testing and worked with David to design the shapes of the electrodes. “This research project was very valuable to my development as a scientist and researcher,” he said, “and gave me a lot of practical abilities in regards to experimental methods and troubleshooting in a research-oriented environment.”

Ben and another undergraduate student will continue working on the project this summer.

Creating a Community Choir: SingAble

Danielle Lee, April Heinrich, Gracie Yelland and Professor Ardelle Ries

In July of 2017, Augustana opened registration for SingAble—a multigenerational inclusive choir open to all ages and abilities—spearheaded by professor Ardelle Ries.

The impetus behind the project came from Ardelle’s many years of studying music as a healing practice—a practice that everyone should be able to take part in. “We live in this world where certain people have been pegged as singers, and others have not, while in other places and cultures, there’s no sense of who should and shouldn’t sing,” Ardelle explained. “Not only do we want to enable those who are traditionally marginalized from music making—like those with a disability—but we want to enable anyone who just wants to come out and sing to do so.”

With a registration number that began as a modest 20, but jumped to 95 the day before the first rehearsal, Ardelle knew she would need help. It was lucky, then, that there were so many students willing to get involved in both SingAble and Ardelle’s research surrounding the project. Over the last year, Ardelle has had three research assistants, four Community Service-Learning students and a handful of other students who have simply volunteered their time to SingAble.

Her three research assistants, Danielle, April and Gracie, have focused on projects that look at administration, presentation and program delivery within the context of a multigenerational inclusion choir.

“Research for SingAble is done unconventionally, as we don’t have data to review or any reports to write,” said April of the work she’s done with Ardelle thus far. “We are there to build relationships and practices between all members of the choir, as well as to informally observe improvements in, not only individuals, but the choir as a whole.”

In building relationships, Ardelle and her students make it a point to go around to say hello and chat with each and every member at the beginning of all rehearsals, which run weekly throughout the school year.

“Our participants find a sense of belonging and community at
### Mental Illness in Young Adult Fantasy Literature

**Kelly Keus and Professor Roxanne Harde**

Kelly Keus decided to attend Augustana based on the convenience of moving in with her sister, who already resided in Camrose. A mature student who was taking one class at a time on North Campus, Kelly simply wanted to earn a degree, without any real idea about the opportunities that could come from academic research, especially for undergraduate students. “I didn’t know what the academic world looked like,” said Kelly.

After taking a Children’s Literature course with professor Roxanne Harde, which was taught concurrently with a Developmental Psychology course with professor Paula Marentette, Kelly simply asked her professors what students did around Camrose during the summer, which led her into research projects with both Roxanne and Paula, as well as biology professor Neil Haave, over the next several years of her degree.

Kelly began using her interest in sociology to work with Neil on his research on teaching and learning. This research afforded her the chance to present at a conference in Bergen, Norway in October of 2018.

And Kelly didn’t stop there. She began developing her own project around representations of mental illness in young adult fantasy fiction, which is what she worked on in the summer of 2018 under Roxanne.

"Music brings people together and creates a safe environment for us to express ourselves," said Danielle. "I’ll cherish this experience forever.”
Kelly began looking at the ways in which children and young adults learn from reading novels, as well as how characters—especially those with a disability or mental illness—are represented. It was important for Kelly to ask these questions of the material that young people are ingesting on a daily basis: Does reading novels teach empathy? Are novels providing realistic representations of mental illness? Diversity? Inclusivity? She spent the summer not only finding answers to these questions, but also writing research papers that would eventually turn into published material, as well as the basis for a project that she used to apply to graduate school.

Although Kelly’s work integrated a lot of social science knowledge, she had to perform close readings of literature, which is where Roxanne’s mentorship came in. “It was my job to push Kelly into doing really close, critical readings and she did very good work,” Roxanne said. Roxanne also pushed Kelly to apply to the Master’s of Library and Information Science at Western University—Kelly has already been accepted and is waiting to find out about potential funding.

It wasn’t only the chance to do research—of all different varieties—or publishing papers and attending conferences as an undergraduate student that Kelly was grateful to Augustana for (although she very much is). More than that, Kelly appreciated that her professors were willing to take the time to have conversations with her about future plans, act as references and help her create a CV. “So many great things happened at Augustana,” Kelly shared. “I’m so glad this is where I ended up. I have a solid education, I understand what I know how to do, I understand what I could possibly do and I don’t think I could’ve accomplished all of that alone.”

Representations of Women in Sport Video Games

Emily MacMillan and Professor Judy Liao

Emily MacMillan spent a lot of time playing Xbox last summer. However, Emily was doing much more than just playing NBA Live 18, a basketball game that involves a mode where you can play as members of the Women’s National Basketball Association. She was playing, pausing and screenshotting, recording details on facial features, hairstyles and tattoos, movement, voice and even gesture, as a research assistant for Augustana professor Judy Liao who is interested in representations of women in sport video games.

Although Emily’s research interests lie outside of this arena, she jumped at the chance to get involved with Judy (and not just because she could tell her brothers she was now a pro at the game they used to beat her in).

Emily had a job with Diabetes Canada where she did Indigenous Health Promotion last summer. She would often spend time in Augustana’s Aboriginal Students’ Office (ASO), where Judy would also often chat with students. It wasn’t long before they decided to begin working together. “Judy helped me develop a directed study with one of her colleagues on North Campus,” Emily explained. “Having conversations with her in the ASO led to more of an approachable relationship.”
After her directed reading, Emily began working directly with Judy on indigenizing some of her course content, and then eventually heard about Judy’s research on sport video games. She was intrigued.

“Before I came to Augustana, I thought I hated research,” said Emily. “I didn’t want to write essays, so it was a huge learning curve, but I’m so glad I did it.”

Emily did end up writing a conference paper, and presented it at the College Art Association of America’s annual conference in New York City in February of 2019, as the only undergraduate student in attendance.

Their research discovered that the female athletes in NBA Live 18 were “represented in more equitable ways than those in other media platforms, defying the conventional wisdom that women are often sexualized and trivialized in sport media” (Becoming (of) female sporting bodies in a digital reality, Liao & MacMillan). However, they recognized that the WNBA mode of the game didn’t have the capacity to excite gamers and demand their emotional investment—as sport video games of this nature set out to do—as well as in the NBA version of the game. They also noted that attempting to provoke reactions or fight out of the female characters often did not work, which meant that in regular gameplay, these women represented the “conventional white-middle-class imagination of good, modest women in sport” (Becoming (of) female sporting bodies in a digital reality, Liao & MacMillan).

Judy was very impressed with Emily’s work, although she admits that “I started working with her when she had already grown into a confident critical thinker. Emily is a great example of how Augustana is able to expose students to different disciplines and perspectives. [She] came in as an aspiring physiotherapist, and is going out as a person who wants to address issues in the Western biomedical model of health and physical activities and its impacts on Indigenous communities.”

Emily has accepted a job offer for Youth Programming with the Métis Nation of Alberta, which begins after graduation. Although the work is different from the research she did with Judy, she believes that doing that research taught her invaluable skills.

“It gave me a lot of confidence, and showed me that I actually do have research abilities,” said Emily, “I just needed someone to help me find them.”
Community Impact Through Our Research Centres

Augustana boasts three unique research centres that work to connect academics with the surrounding community to advance the public good. Here are a few highlights on some of the projects the research centres have been working on over the last year.

Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Religion and Law Conference and Guest Speaker Chris Hedges

On April 12 and 13, the Chester Ronning Centre hosted 14 scholars for their Conference on Religion and Law in Canada and the US, organized by post-doctoral fellow Katharine Batlan. The conference featured a range of scholars who looked at religious liberty issues, including ideas of religious accommodation and considerations related to marriage, among other topics.

Batlan, who came to Augustana last year to organize the conference as well as to complete her own research on the similarities and differences between the US and Canadian legal systems, developed the conference topic based on her own experiences studying in Canada.

“I found it very useful to think through alternatives in a country that’s very similar [to the US] in a lot of ways, but has a different order,” she explained. “I thought this conference would be a good place for other people to have that kind of exposure as well.”

In addition to the conference, the Chester Ronning Centre also brought the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Chris Hedges to campus in March of 2019.

“Mr. Hedges does not shy away from revealing challenging and sometimes ugly truths about today’s global world,” said Centre Director, Ian Wilson. “Regardless of your personal convictions,
political positions or religious inclinations, he will push you to think deeply about the real challenges that our society faces today, which makes him an ideal guest for the Chester Ronning Centre.”

Hedges spoke boldly against climate-change denial, global capitalism and mass incarceration, and urged audience members to “live to honour and protect life” by joining alternative communities and partaking in non-violent acts of civil disobedience.

“In sharing his thoughts about religion and public life in today’s world, Mr. Hedges has challenged us and sparked both thought and action to better that world,” said Wilson.

The Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station (AMLRS) offers the surrounding community an opportunity to work, study and learn inside a nearby provincial park. Many of our students have taken advantage of this opportunity through our Miquelon Lake Field Studies Course, but the space is open to other groups as well.

The AMLRS is located in a Dark Sky Preserve, one of 13 in Canada and only one of four in Alberta. As it is an ideal setting for observing the nighttime sky, a number of groups have taken advantage of the facilities at the research station, including astronomy groups from the University of Alberta’s North Campus and Augustana Campus, as well as the Royal Astronomy Society of Canada. This year, a new astronomical observatory and classroom will be added to the station. See page 23 for more on the observatory and the generous gift that made it possible.

The research station offers more than just astronomical programming. Over the last year, the Elk Island and Battle River School Division schools have taken advantage of programming offered to grade seven and grade nine students on ecology and outdoor education, including lake issues, soil analysis, telemetry, tracking and water testing, among others.

Lastly, Miquelon Lake acts as a case study site for Augustana professor Glen Hvenegaard’s research on the outcomes of park interpretation, which will help serve provincial parks around the province. His project looks at the factors that contribute to success in park programming—guided tours, performances, etc.—in order to analyze and potentially improve the effectiveness of these initiatives. The research will feed back to managers and training programs in parks in order to improve future programming for people throughout the province.

Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities

Building Mental Health Resiliency for a Sustainable Campus Community

In 2017, the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) began a pilot project entitled “Building Mental Health Resiliency for a Sustainable Campus Community,” to address an issue growing in scope and scale across post-secondary institutions throughout North America: mental health and well-being in university students.

Lars Hallström, director of the ACSRC, explained that empirical data suggest that rural students have higher rates of stress, anxiety and depression coming into post-secondary, though the reasons as to why are unclear. The study hopes to discover...
those reasons, as well as provide pathways to mental health and resilience for undergraduate students in general.

Over the last two years, the ACSRC has been collecting data in the form of art therapy sessions with current Augustana students, as well as younger students from the Elk Island and Battle River School Divisions.

“We’ve discovered that a lot of the time, questions of mental health come down to agency,” said Hallström. "Students do, in fact, have the skills and the capacity to deal with stress, anxiety and depression, but they often forget that they have that capacity.”

Hallström hopes to take this information and from it, develop high-impact practices and strategies that can be used at Augustana to remind students of their own agency when it comes to mental health, as well as to complement the supports the campus already offers.

Hallström will continue the study until the end of the calendar year in the hopes that eventually, “we will have a better sense of context as well as the causal pathways that determine mental health for our students.”

What legacy do you want to leave?

Through thoughtful planning, Everett Thykeson is providing more opportunities for Augustana students to work together towards reconciliation.

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.
For more information on leaving your mark, contact: 780-679-1558 | augdev@ualberta.ca
LARRY JOHNSON (CLC '70), BA '71, LLB '75
2018 LOIS ASPENES AWARD

As an alumnus, Larry Johnson is a role model! He has consistently dedicated his time and energy to ensure Augustana Campus thrives. For this reason, he very quickly came to mind as the deserving recipient of Alumni’s 2018 Lois Aspenes Award.

Larry’s support has been given freely to many organizations across Camrose and Augustana Campus. As a student at Augustana (then Camrose Lutheran College), Larry was a member of many different clubs and an active member of the Augustana Students’ Association. This dedication to participating in campus activities while also working to help better the campus is still prevalent today. A past Director of the Augustana Alumni Association, a committee member on the University of Alberta Senate for two terms, a member on the 2010 Dean Selection Committee, a generous donor and a consistent supporter of all campus events, Larry is a reliable and trusted advocate who has made a noticeable impact at Augustana.

“Not only has Larry been a loyal supporter of Augustana, but his involvement with the Alumni Association, the University of Alberta Senate and the 2010 Dean’s Search have helped strengthen our campus, built relationships and connected us to important community priorities,” said Dean Allen Berger.

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

BRIAN WILDCAT (CLC ’79), BPE ’87, M.Ed. ’95
2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Over the course of his career spanning 30 years, Brian Wildcat has proven himself a champion of Indigenous education.

Brian is a member of the Ermineskin Cree Nation and has lived in Maskwacís, AB his entire life. He attended Augustana (then Camrose Lutheran College) from 1976-79 and is now married with three children. Recently, Brian has been instrumental in the creation of the Maskwacís Education Schools Commission (MESC), the amalgamation of four individual education authorities, by setting up a community dialogue between the Four Nations of Maskwacís: Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation and Samson Cree Nation.

The development of MESC was inspired by three beliefs: focusing on what’s best for the children of Maskwacís, guidance by the Cree philosophy of wahkohtowin and renewing their treaty relationship with Canada by implementing their treaty right to education. These ideas are captured in the MESC credo: Four Nations, Eleven Schools, One Vision. By creating a Cree education system based on community priorities and beliefs, MESC hopes to improve education outcomes and results, including increased graduation rates and developing a Nehiyawatisowin curriculum based on Cree language and culture.

Officially launched on September 4, 2018, MESC is seen by many as leaders in the continuing evolution of a Cree education system.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to an alumnus/a in recognition of outstanding achievement in one’s vocation.
CAMROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY
2018 ALUMNI CITATION AWARD

For the first time, we are honouring an organization with the Augustana Alumni Citation Award—the Camrose Public Library. Over their seven years of involvement with Augustana’s Community Service-Learning (CSL) program, they have proven themselves both a valuable community partner and a deserving recipient of this award.

From their very first year as a CSL partner in 2012, the Camrose Public Library has stood out as they took on 33 students when the average per community partner is 6-8. Since that time, the library has hosted 215 CSL placements, with Augustana students participating in youth programming, technology tutoring, planning a sustainable Christmas party, joining the Library Board as interns and much more. In fact, the library’s flexibility as a community partner has resulted in their hosting placements from almost every discipline at Augustana.

Above all, the library and their staff’s overwhelming love and support of hosting Augustana’s CSL students is of most note. In addition to providing placements within their set programming, the library is always enthusiastic to collaborate on new placement ideas. Often when these unique ideas arise, it is the library that comes to mind with the notion that if anyone can handle it, the library can.

*The Alumni Citation Award recognizes the contributions of a non-alumnus/a to the life of Augustana.*
Nordic sports club offers new developmental options at Augustana

At the end of last year’s season, the cross country skiing and biathlon teams were up against more than just the competition. After their funding was cut as a team sport, the group had to reevaluate and decide what the sport really meant to them. One year later, they have shown that the sport means not only competing, but developing new athletes, volunteering in the community, fundraising, creating policy and unlike many other Albertans, unbridled enthusiasm for the falling snow.

“When anything goes through this kind of a big change it really forces you to go back to what you’re built on,” said Nils Asfeldt, member of the new Nordic Sports Club at Augustana, and coach for the Camrose Ski Club’s Jr. Racers program. As it turns out, that foundation is and always has been a love for the sport and a lot of hard work.

Following the dissolution of Nordic sports as team sports, a Nordic Sports Advisory Committee made up of students, alumni, community members, the Camrose ski club president and a handful of staff members from Augustana was formed, leading to the creation of a Nordic Sports Club. Instead of simply focusing on competition as student athletes, they have developed a three-tiered system that involves a developmental team, competitive team and campus recreational Nordic programming.

“The developmental team is completely new, and one of the things we’re most proud of,” said Mackenzie Grove, who sits on the advisory committee as well as the campus recreation council and skis competitively. “We’re facilitating learn-to-ski beginner technique with an opportunity to transition into the competitive sport later as opposed to race-focused high intensity and high volume training.”

Although some of the athletes still focus on the high intensity competitive side, the number of participants has grown from ten last year to 20 this year because of the added room for development.

“We’re a bit more relaxed as a whole now, because we have a bigger scope,” said Nils. “The funding cut allowed for a shift in perspective as well as a need for us to rebuild. Now, we’re making time and making room for community spirit and volunteerism.”

Nils is very aware of the volunteer aspect as the volunteer coach for Camrose Ski Club’s Jr. Racers team. Along with other members of the club, Nils coached the Jr. Racers, a group of about 12 junior and senior high school students, in cross country skiing three times a week. They traveled to competitions together as he was often competing at the same place himself, along with other members of the club. It’s that camaraderie that he likes best about the sport.

“When I look back at my childhood skiing, the best memories aren’t from crossing the finish line but from the community: staying with friends in hotels or basements or churches or whatever. It’s perhaps a freedom we have now as a sports club rather than as a Vikings team.”
The transition has not been without its challenges. Aside from the timing of the announcement which was summed up by the team as “frustrating”, the lack of money and a full-time coach raises questions about the sustainability of the sport at Augustana. Although the club is currently working to form a club council to deal with day-to-day operations and details surrounding the sport, including race, travel and accommodation fees for competitions, many of its participants will complete their degrees this year and will be leaving Augustana.

“Right now, we’re able to shoulder the work because we are many,” explained Ben Osario, who is participating in Nordic Sports for the second year at Augustana, and has acted as a student coach over the year, organizing and running daily practices and strength sessions. Ben worries that over time, students might not be as willing to shoulder the workloads that the group has this year.

However, the students were not alone in their work. Alongside a strong reciprocal relationship with the Nordic Ski Club that remained intact even when funding did not, the students have also been helped by a great number of Augustana alumni who are still involved with the sport throughout North America today. Figures that have always been involved in Nordic Sports at Augustana, like Augustana professor and Camrose Ski Club President Gerhard Lotz, and former coaches Lowell Niven and Les Parsons, continue to offer their knowledge, experience and time. The outpouring of support from community members also bolstered the athlete’s spirits and have provided another avenue of support.

The club is also trailblazing in their own way, as the first operating club sport of its kind, and Augustana is working to support the transition. “Augustana still treats us like a sports team,” Ben said, “We’re still being included in colour night, and we’ve gotten support from Student Life and from Augustana on the fundraising side, and are also hoping for some transitional funding from the Dean’s office.”

For Mackenzie, the importance of that trailblazing comes in creating a program that really reflects their sport-for-life values. “You may have varsity athletes that go on to compete at higher level, but realistically, the bulk of your athletes will go on to simply be involved in the sport as a hobby for the rest of their lifetime and once they have kids, will get them involved too.”

While some are interested in sport as a hobby, and others for the thrill of competition, the Nordic Sports Club at Augustana is accomplishing both. Over the year, these athletes have been involved in over 15 competitions, including the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, and the Fisu World University Games in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. They also offered a number of Learn-to-Ski sessions to Augustana students, staff and faculty, and helped facilitate the opening of the Dr. Garry and Dorothy Gibson Nordic Ski Library.

If you’d like to support the Augustana Nordic Sports Club, head to the Adopt-A-Viking-Team page (aug.ualberta.ca/adoptavikingteam), where you can give a gift that will benefit the entire team.
The Kim Misfeldt Prize for Intercultural Awareness and Competence in Study Abroad

In early March, the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German created the Kim Misfeldt Prize for Intercultural Awareness and Competence in Study Abroad. The prize, in partnership with the Canadian Summer School in Germany (CSSG), recognizes an undergraduate student for “superior achievement in developing intercultural awareness and intercultural communicative competence,” in the CSSG (Canadian Association of University Teachers of German).

The prize was named after professor Misfeldt for her outstanding contributions as director of the CSSG for 14 years and as an instructor there for 15 years, as well as “her unparalleled service to the CAUTG and especially to over 700 students from universities across Canada who studied with her in Germany,” (Canadian Association of University Teachers of German).

The prize consists of a $500 award, and the first recipient will be chosen at the end of the 2019 summer school.

Congratulations Kim, for this amazing honour!

Promotions and Hires

Augustana Campus is proud to announce that Alexander Carpenter (music) will be promoted to the rank of full professor for the quality of his teaching, research and service, effective July 2019. Watch our website, www.ualberta.ca/augustana for announcements on his upcoming Distinguished Professorial Lecture.

Augustana Awards

Last year’s medal winners for highest academic achievement in their respective departments included Samuel Lowe in Fine Arts, Danielle VanDusen in Humanities, Cody Wales in Science and Andrea Weber in Social Sciences. Andrea was also the winner of the Augustana medal for highest overall Graduating Grade Point Average in our faculty. Congratulations to all!

The Student Award for Library Research was awarded to Jamie Grunwald, based on library research conducted for her paper “A Gut Reaction to Putting on Weight: The Influence of Intestinal Inflammation and Confounding Factors in the Development of Obesity,” written for a directed reading course with Augustana biology professor Neil Haave.

Ben Schmidt won the Fall Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award for his paper “Somatostatin Receptor Analogues: Synthesis, Application, and Considerations for Cancer Imaging and Treatment.” To read more about Ben’s impressive work on another project, turn to page five.

Drew Fitzgerald, future librarian in archiving and research, received the Right Honourable Don Mazankowski Entrance Citation Scholarship this year and is pursuing both mathematics and physics, with a minor in chemistry. Emmarie Brown, an English major from St. Albert, received the Gunvor and Erik Mygind Entrance Citation Scholarship. Congratulations!
Day Bulger won the Winter Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award for her paper “Saints and Animals: Challenging Anthropocentric Hierarchies in Medieval Hagiography.” Honourable mention went to Sara Jobson for her paper “Phyllostomidae Species Richness Across Habitat Types at the Piro and Greg Gund Biological Stations, Osa Conservation, Costa Rica.”

Accomplishments

The 20th Augustana human library (held in October 2018) was the recipient of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award presented at the EDI Week launch in March! Congratulations to all of the staff whose contributions will be acknowledged, including Kara Blizzard, Tanya Pattullo, Cody Torkelson, Mark Fulton, Melanie Kuntz, Carla Lewis, Laurel Warkentin, Shelly Simpson, Paul Neff and Nancy Goebel.

Over 245 Augustana students in 26 classes across 11 disciplines participated in 324 Community Service-Learning (CSL) opportunities in over 57 groups, including 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.

The Augustana Environment, Health and Safety Committee won the annual EHS Committee award for excellence in fostering an environmentally-responsible, healthy and safety workplace. Congratulations to Augustana’s committee, made up of James Smith, Chris Blades, Tony Thomsen/Lawrence Fraser, Tom Terzin, Randal Nickel, Troy Burnett, Rob Ford, Nathan Skretting, David King, Linda Hui, Sarah Ross and Jayla Lindberg for winning the award out of three other nominations.

Augustana Extended Education

Augustana Extended Education (AEE) is the professional development provider of the University of Alberta’s Augustana Campus. Since its launch in 2015, AEE has provided advanced education and training to more than 360 elected officials, municipal administrators, NGO staff, economic development officers, rural planners and community leaders from 181 rural Alberta organizations, including the City of Camrose, Camrose County, Battle River Watershed Alliance and other local organizations.

- AEE’s newest program, the Certificate in Rural Municipal Leadership, was offered for the first time and saw nine graduates in its first run through. Developed and delivered by Doug Griffiths, best selling author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, this series of six one-day courses will soon be seeing a seventh course on Priority Based Budgeting added to the Certificate lineup.

- AEE continues to partner with the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, led by director and Augustana faculty member Lars Hallström, who also teaches AEE’s most popular workshop on Grant Writing.

Additional programs are always in development. To learn more about AEE, or to register for courses, visit aug.ualberta.ca/AEE.
Partnering once again with the UofA Faculty of Engineering’s DiscoverE summer camp program, Augustana offered three engaging science and technology camps to Camrose and area youth in grades one to six. 35 youth attended, powering our young leaders with hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) experiences.

In the 2018 Winter Student Academic Conference, we had over 150 presentations, including 68 poster presentations, 66 oral presentations, 18 art presentations and two dramatic performances!

In other Undergraduate Research news, Augustana had four students participate in the Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (FURCA) on North Campus! One student, Julie Ostrem, worked with professor Greg King on “Valuing Augustana’s Urban Forest” and received FURCA’s Outstanding Sustainability Research Award!

It was a great year for Augustana athletics! Men’s cross country running, men’s volleyball, women’s volleyball, women’s basketball, mixed curling and golf all earned fourth place in the Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC), while men’s basketball won the bronze medal. Women’s curling won both the ACAC silver medal as well as the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association bronze medal! And our women’s basketball coach, Robyn Fleckenstein, received the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference Coach of the Year Award. Congratulations to all!
MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

**Kim Misfeldt**
Second Language Study Abroad: Programming, Pedagogy, and Participant Engagement

**Ian Wilson**
History and the Hebrew Bible: Culture, Narrative, and Memory

**Morten Asfeldt**
The Journal of Experiential Education; The Eighth International Outdoor Education Research Conference

**Doris Audet**
Osa Conservation; North American Bat Research Symposium

**Peter Berg**

**Alexander Carpenter**
“From Jun-wien to la Jeune Beligique: Literature, Psychoanalysis and Music in Fin-de-siècle Vienna” public lecture, Sigmund Freud Museum

**Geoffrey Dipple**
Topographies of Tolerance and Intolerance: Responses to Religious Pluralism in Reformation Europe; Catholic Responses to Martin Luther; Sixteenth Century Studies Conference; Sister Reformation III Conference

**Julian Forest**
Biomythography: Recent Work by University of Alberta (Augustana Campus) Fine Arts Professors, Keith Harder & Julian Forrest exhibit, U of A Fine Art Building Gallery; The Daddies by Kimberly Dark, book jacket cover

**Neil Haave**
Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching; The National Teaching and Learning Forum; The Harvest Super Booster; The UAlberta Quad; International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning; University of Alberta Festival of Teaching and Learning

**Keith Harder**
Children of Icarus exhibit, Vernon Public Art Gallery; Biomythography: Recent Work by University of Alberta (Augustana Campus) Fine Arts Professors, Keith Harder & Julian Forrest exhibit, U of A Fine Art Building Gallery

**James Kariuki**
Journal of Chemical Education

**Paula Marentette**
Developmental Science

**Anne McIntosh**
Ecography; The Narwhal

**Geraint Osborne**
Deviant Behavior; Substances Use & Misuse; The Teaching Professor; “Up in Smoke: Cannabis Normalization and the End of Prohibition in Canada” Distinguished Professorial Lecture, Augustana Campus
**AWARDS, EDITORSHIPS AND OTHER HONOURS**

**JANE YARDLEY**  
The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism; Scientific Reports; Applied Physiology, Nutrition, and Metabolism; Frontiers in Endocrinology; Biosensors

**ANDREA KORDA**  
Augustana Early Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award; “Is Technology Good for Education?” exhibit, Camrose Centennial Museum; Paedagogica Historica; Childhood by Design: Toys and the Material Culture of Childhood

**LARS HALLSTRÖM**  
University of Alberta McCalla Professorship in Teaching and Research; Revue Governance; Journal of Rural and Community Development; Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration; Conservation Biology; The Canadian Geographer; Rural Education Symposium; Augustana Lunch & Learn; Camrose Regional Exhibition Conference

**ROXANNE HARDE**  
Appointed Series Editor for the Children’s Literature Association; University of Alberta Award for Outstanding Mentorship in Undergraduate Research

**MÉLANIE MÉTHOT**  
Editorial board of Enfances, Familles, Générations; British Association of Canadian Studies; Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education; Augustana Conference on Undergraduate Research and Innovative Teaching

**GLEN HVENEGAARD**  
Appointed Associate Editor of the Journal of Ecotourism; Tourism and Visitor Management in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Sustainability; Higher Education

**SANDRA REIN**  
Augustana Teaching Leadership Award

**DAVID KING**  
University of Alberta Support Staff Recognition Award (Technical); Journal of Chemical Education

**THOMAS SCHOEN**  
Royal Conservatory of Music Teacher of Distinction Award

**FEISAL KIRUMIRA**  
Appointed to the Anti-Racism Advisory Council, Government of Alberta; Second Language Study Abroad Programming, Pedagogy, and Participant Engagement

**JOE WIEBE**  
University of Alberta Award for Outstanding Mentorship in Undergraduate Research; Literature and Theology

**IAN WILSON**  
Appointed Associate General Editor of the Journal of Hebrew Structures; Canadian Society of Biblical Studies R.B.Y. Scott Award (for 2017 publication Kingship and Memory in Ancient Judah)
Student by location

172 Augustana Graduates 2018

Incoming High School Average for Fall 2018 Admission

82.3%

1038 Enrolments

Programs

Bachelor of Arts 387 students
Bachelor of Science 471 students
Bachelor of Management 131 students
Bachelor of Music 17 students
Bachelor of Science / Education 20 students
Other 12 students

Students by year of program

1st Year Students: 361
2nd Year Students: 246
3rd Year Students: 208
4th Year Students: 211
No year status: 12

International Students

Bangladesh - Brazil - China - Germany - Ghana - Hong Kong
India - Indonesia - Japan - Kenya - Republic of Korea
Nigeria - Pakistan - Panama - Peru - Philippines
Qatar - Senegal - Singapore - Switzerland - United Republic of Tanzania
United Arab Emirates - United States - Viet Nam - Zimbabwe

268 Students received scholarships, bursaries and awards that added up to $454,800
Alumnus and donor brings Augustana students to the stars
By Sydney Tancowny

When constructing an observatory, unlike a typical building, you start in the middle. The first step is to dig deep—in order to keep the telescope in place, it must be cemented securely in a hole almost half as deep as the telescope is tall. Only after this has been done can the project continue, with the outer walls of the building constructed around the telescope. With construction beginning as soon as the Alberta ground has thawed, the Hesje Observatory hopes to open before the start of the upcoming academic year. Once completed, Augustana students will gaze towards the stars and, perhaps, see sights they’ve never seen before.

This observatory has been made possible by alumnus Brian Hesje who has given $500,000 to fund the project. As Augustana’s gaze turns to the stars, Brian’s focus remains on the students.

Following his time as a student at Augustana (then Camrose Lutheran College) and at the U of A in Edmonton, Brian began his professional career as a teacher—a career lasting two years before he began his MBA and transitioned into business. This transition, at first, may seem like a large redirection, but if you speak with Brian for even a short amount of time, you will quickly learn that it was natural for him.

To Brian, education is the vehicle through which we can continue to improve both the world and ourselves. It crosses disciplines and has an important role in our lives even after we graduate: “If you’re not constantly looking to improve yourself and if you’re justifying your behaviour, that’s not good enough.” In his business career, Brian came to understand that it was what he knew that determined who he knew, and that his knowledge gained through experiences gave him opportunities he wouldn’t have had otherwise.

However, despite his love and appreciation of education, Brian mentions his frustrations with his primary education in his book Thoughts on Thinking: “The school curriculum was based on questions that had only one right answer...I pursued a life of searching for the right answers, often without questioning if I was asking the right questions.”

“It’s the wrong way of teaching,” said Brian.

Of course, this perception has done nothing to hold Brian back. Instead of accepting the way things are, Brian asks for ways he can change or improve them. “I’ve heard so often over my career that people aren’t ready for the challenge,” Brian said, “a lot of people get held back by that excuse.” In line with his interest in challenging the notion of only looking for the right answers, Brian’s support of the observatory will give students experiences where they can find and ask the right questions.

“I want to help motivate young people to realize their potential, and I’m trying to find ways to help them do that.”
And despite not having a personal interest in the field, Brian still sees opportunity among the stars—likely the same opportunity students will come to see once the observatory is completed. “Astronomy is a fascinating area that I never thought of the university, especially Augustana, having as part of their curriculum. Studying the stars has the potential to really broaden your thinking,” said Brian.

When asked what he hopes for the observatory five years to a decade down the line, Brian’s student focus remains secure: “I wouldn’t think about what it can be as much as what people who have gone there have been able to achieve. Because the observatory can’t do anything; it’s a building. It’s the opportunity it gives.”

With both the observatory and classroom space being added to the Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station, these opportunities will extend not only to Augustana students, but to all U of A students and learners of all ages. Building on Augustana’s 3-11 calendar, Augustana’s faculty will be able to offer new, in-depth three-week courses for students, increase experiential learning opportunities, encourage senior-level projects and support Directed Studies research initiatives, all across the U of A. Additionally, Augustana’s Department of Science, in partnership with Alberta Parks and the Battle River School Division, will be able to collaborate in the development of outreach programming for school groups, participants in adult education, tourists, parks enthusiasts and lifelong learners.

The Hesje Observatory will provide a place where students can ask questions they have not yet been able to ask. According to Brian, the right questions are out there, not just out beyond the stars, but within the students gazing up at them. But to find these questions, they first have to dig deep.
Augustana will welcome a new Dean, Demetres Tryphonopoulos, beginning July 2019. To read more about Dean Tryphonopoulos, visit aug.ualberta.ca/newdean.

Starting in Fall 2019, Augustana will pilot a new Substance Use Policy which will permit the consumption of cannabis and alcohol in select areas on campus. You can find more details about the interim policy by visiting aug.ualberta.ca/substanceuse.

Augustana celebrated the beginning of the year with beer gardens and a performance by the Faculty Band, *The Men Who Fell to Earth*.

This year, Augustana opened the Dr. Garry and Dorothy Gibson Nordic Ski Library in honour of Garry and Dorothy Gibson. The library lends cross country ski equipment out to Augustana students, staff and faculty.

Some of our staff got into the spooky Halloween spirit!

For the fourth 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. The day included the science fair as well as campus tours, lectures and explosive demonstrations!

Camrose hosted a Physiotherapy Curling Invitational in November. All of the teams were U of A physio students, from Edmonton, Calgary and Camrose. Augustana’s team won the costume contest!

For the second year, students warmed up with free hot chocolate that came out of wearable jet packs (courtesy of the Alumni Office) in January.

In memory of: John Anderson, Rashmi Bale, Banarsi & Saroj Chawla, Mark Chytracek, Harold Wallace Dawes, Wesley James Engen, Aurora Erickson, Barrie & Juline Hande, Inga Hansen, Malcolm Hayward, Jim & Ruth Herman, Reinhold Hohnsbein, Russell Holtby, Sylvia Lauber, Archie Marzolf, Philip Merklinger, Marie Myrehaug, Robert Nicks, Marie Olson, John Parsons, Deidrie Richardson, Margaret Rowe, Dorothy Sherwood, Luby Todoruk, Margaret Tyson, Bob Waite, Roy Wilson.
Throughout the year, Campus Recreation and our Vikings hockey team hosted Learn-to-Skate events which our students—particularly our international students—enjoyed! The Nordic Sports Club also helped host Learn-to-Skis!

The City of Camrose introduced the Camrose Connector Bus, which offers daily trips to and from Edmonton, with a pick up/drop off location at Augustana.

In June, Augustana welcomed 2400 schoolchildren to campus to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, a collaboration with the Camrose Arts Society and the Battle River School Division.

Augustana’s student Diversity Working Group organized various events to celebrate Black History Month, including a poetry slam, film showings and panel discussions. Visit aug.ualberta.ca/blackhistorymonth to read more.

Dean Allen Berger busted out some impressive dance moves at Augustana’s Faculty Follies—an evening where professors perform music and comedy sketches, much to the delight of their students.

Augustana participated in Onigiri Action, an event where participants make onigiri (rice balls) and each one donates meals to school children in Rwanda and Kenya. 42 onigiri were made, which means that 210 meals were donated!

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 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 Augustana Office of Advancement know at 1-800-661-8714 so we might correct our error.