



Chairperson's Report

By Joannie Zimmer, Chair of Augustana Chaplaincy Council

Fall 2013 found me stepping into some mighty big boots – those vacated by our long standing Chaplaincy Chair, Barry Vall. These boots aren't fitting well yet – I'm still in my flip flops when it comes to my Chaplaincy Council experience. Thank you Barry for your years of dedication and for leaving our Council strong, efficient and vibrant, for that I am very fortunate and grateful.

I am surrounded by a caring, and faithful community of Student Chaplains, Augustana Staff, and friends who continue to make up the Chaplaincy Council and generously give of their time and gifts with passion and commitment to creating a fantastic *Augustana Experience* for students.

What is the *Augustana Experience*? My own experience began in 1972 when I arrived at Camrose

Lutheran College not knowing anyone at the College or even in Camrose. I left CLC a year later rich with friends and community that had made space for my faith and its questions, encouraged respect and tolerance of differences and provided opportunities for dialogue amongst it all. Defining my spirituality continues to be virtually impossible, often like trying to measure a cloud, but I know it's real on a daily basis.

I am very excited and privileged to grow in this continuing work of the Chaplaincy Council - supporting the work of the Student Chaplains, building relationship with community and local parishes, and growing our donor base within our community.

(continued from page 1)

The newly formed small group, Vikings Friends, with a focus on servant leadership took up the opportunity and over a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning they blanketed the fields with almost 20 potato pickers. Cars on Highway 21 slowed noticeably at the sight. Approximately 5 tons of potatoes were gathered, a pot of chilli was shared on Friday evening and the Lysengs order in pizza on Saturday to celebrate the harvest. The question about students helping with field work was posed by a rather puzzled high school student and neighbour of the Lyseng family who was also helping with the harvest that weekend. The answer to that question was not a straightforward yes or no. It was straight forward that this was a life-giving event for all.

Pay It Forward

Earlier this fall, while students were setting out chairs and preparing the bread and cheese for the approximately 120 students and community members who gather for our weekly soup supper, I was in the midst of wiping down the tables when a recent alumnus, Thomas Mauthe, approached me wearing a grin that stretched from ear to ear. Thomas currently works as a sales representative for Cargill in Camrose and he also sits on the Camrose Cargill Cares Committee. Thomas handed me a letter which stated that the Camrose Cargill Cares Committee wished to make a \$2000 contribution to support Augustana Chaplaincy's Soup Supper program.

Thomas, in his years as a student, had enjoyed the food and fellowship around soup supper. Camrose Cargill has a commitment to supporting food accessibility in the Camrose community and educating youth on sustaining healthy environments. Thomas made a point of bringing soup supper to the attention of his committee.

We are thankful for this gift but we are particularly pleased whenever we hear stories of our alumni who have been shaped by their experience of Chaplaincy and are seeking ways to pay it forward to the next generation.



In This Issue:

Chaplain's Message

Student Chaplains

Chairperson's Report

Chaplain's Message

By Pastor Craig Wentland, Campus Chaplain

Odd Dance Partners?

Have you noticed that the dance between religion/faith and public life in our society often tends to be a little awkward? When ownership of Augustana was conveyed from the Church to the U of A almost nine years ago now, some initially assumed that Augustana would become a secular institution. The word *secular* in our contemporary understanding (historically it had meant something very different) has connotations of the absence of God or that the discussion and practice of faith, religion and spirituality is unwelcome. At the time of merger, there were some wise voices who noted that Augustana would not become a secular institution but part of a public institution, the U of A. The word *public* implies a place where everyone comes on equal footing and they are encouraged to bring all of who they are.

At merger there was an opportunity for Augustana to model how the dance between religion/faith and a public institution might become a little more graceful. Augustana has long promised students a whole person education. Augustana's focus on knowledge, skills and engagement are key parts of being a whole person but a critical component of being a whole person is deciding **who** you are going to be in the world. Not **what** you are going to be in terms of what kind of career or job, because jobs and careers often come and go, but **who** you are going to be. What path are you going to follow in life? In what will you ground your life?

This is where Chaplaincy comes in. I think of Augustana Chaplaincy having two parts. First we welcome and walk with all students at Augustana regardless of their faith or non-faith background as they seek to determine who they are going to be in the world. Second, we provide a place of Christian worship, community, service and learning – a place of exploration around how the cross of Jesus Christ shapes the path of life.

Nine years later, there are still occasional missteps but the commitment by the Church and University to keep on dancing remains because the dance has been energizing and often fun. As you read this newsletter, I hope you catch a glimpse of some of the programs and activities that help students determine their path and identity.

"Do college students normally help out with field work?"

Earlier this fall, Doug and Marg Lyseng, long-time friends of Augustana Chaplaincy and owners of Maplewood Acres, a market garden in Armena, contacted Chaplaincy and asked if we could find a group of students to help with the potato harvest. Almost all of their summer work force had returned to high school or university and could only offer a few hours per week through the fall. There were not enough labourers to bring in the vegetables.

(continued on page 4)

You are invited . . .

What's Cookin'?
Soup Supper

Sunday, March 2, 2014
5:00 p.m.

Located in the Augustana Chapel. All are welcome to a simple meal of delicious soup, fresh bread and dessert. An evening of entertainment, pictures and music to celebrate chaplaincy on the Augustana Campus.

Contact Us

Augustana Chaplaincy

Augustana Campus
University of Alberta
4901—46 Avenue
Camrose, AB
T4V 2R3

Rev. Craig Wentland

Campus Chaplain
780.679.1535
craigw@ualberta.ca

Robyn Simpson Mohr

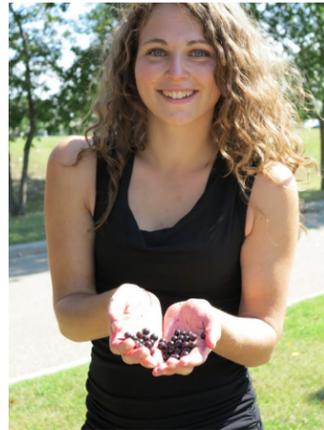
Assistant for Chaplaincy
780.679.1536
rs3@augustana.ca

[www.augustana.ualberta.ca/
services/chaplaincy/](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/services/chaplaincy/)

Facebook page:
U of A Augustana Chaplaincy



Student Chaplains



I'm baaack! Hello everyone. I'm **Erin Specht**, a third year enviro student coming back for my sequel to Augustana Chaplaincy. I'm so excited for the opportunity to serve my fellow students, and help build a community where everyone is welcome to live out their faith, learn about one another, and ask important questions. Similar to last year, I'm involved with chaplaincy fundraising events like SCORE! and our fair trade local made sales, and I also represent students on chaplaincy council. It's been a great start to the year, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year's planned events and spontaneous happenings. God bless!



Hello, my name is **Joelle Skinner**. I am a fourth year philosophy and religion student at Augustana. This is my first year as a Student Chaplain and I am hoping to make it an eventful year. Community is very important to me and some of the best ways to create community is by having fun with others. I will be organizing events throughout the year including things like bocce tournaments, board game nights, and many more.

Hello, my name is **Chris Audet**. I am a third year student majoring in History with a minor in Physical Education. I chose to join Chaplaincy because I saw the potential to have a positive Christian influence on the Augustana community. My roles in chaplaincy include set up and clean up for Soup Supper, a free supper every Tuesday evening that typically feeds over 100 people. I also serve as one of the Student Chaplain representatives on the Augustana Chaplaincy Council. As well I am part of the worship planning group. I am excited to be a part of Chaplaincy!



Ryan Lindsay Craig Wentland, Robyn Simpson Mohr, Erin Specht, Chris Audet, Taylor Bulger, Joelle Skinner, Casper Seely

My name is **Taylor Bulger** and I am a 4th year student with a double major in Physical Education and Drama. I am involved in the Fall production this year and will be auditioning for the Winter production as well. This is my 2nd year as a Student Chaplain and my main responsibility is worship planning. I assist in planning the three weekly worship services by picking hymns, scripture readings and scheduling worship bands for Mondays. I also lead one of the worship bands. The reason I am involved in Chaplaincy is because I work at a Catholic Summer camp where we are taught that in order to keep our faith strong, fellowship is important. In Chaplaincy I was able to find that fellowship and grow in my faith when I'm not at camp in the summer.



Howdy! My name is **Ryan Lindsay**. This year has been an exciting one thus far! I love Augustana and feel blessed to be part of this great community. Last year I applied to be a Student Chaplain because I really felt that it would help me live out my role as a servant leader. I have found in my studies of leadership theory as an Outdoor Education major, that I most admire those leaders who have a heart for service. I felt that those involved with Chaplaincy really embodied servant leadership. My hope as a Student Chaplain is to allow my faith to play a bigger

role in my life as a student and in the community, and use that to serve others. I am organizing opportunities for students to serve. I've put together a really fun gospel bluegrass band that plays at Augustana Sundays and other services. In addition, I am part of worship planning for weekly Augustana worship. I am also organizing a group called "Vikings Friends" I had one student tell me "it's not as lame as it sounds." It truly has been very valuable for many students this year, including myself. Vikings Friends is a Christian fellowship group aimed at creating a greater synergy between Chaplaincy and the rest of the student body. It has been most valuable for people who perhaps cannot attend worship or other spiritual based groups due to their athletic schedules. The group provides a great fellowship of friends as you grow in your faith, opportunities for service in the community, and potlucks!

Hello. My name is **Casper Seely**. I am a second year Vocal Performance major. This is my first year as a Student Chaplain. I have taken on the roles of sacristan and photographer. I applied for Chaplaincy because I have always been involved in local ministry wherever I am. I enjoy giving my time to serve others. At the beginning of my first year at Augustana I was asking how I could become a Student Chaplain or be more involved with Chaplaincy. My hope is to be able to continue helping others and serving the Augustana Campus and surrounding community.

