What’s Cookin?’ in Chaplaincy at Augustana?

On Sunday, March 3rd, at our annual What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper, we shared the work of Chaplaincy on the Augustana Campus. The ingredients for this big pot of celebration are simple:

• a delicious meal (reminiscent of our weekly soup supper)
• creative decor and wheat-filled centerpieces
• a unique silent auction
• stories told and pictures shown
• Student Chaplains describing their ministry
• gifts given and thanks expressed

Mix these ingredients together with a crowd of long-time supporters, new inquirers and students. Fold in conversation, laughter, tears, music and reflection. Bake over candlelight and Holden Evening Prayer. For some, this evening is an annual dinner date not to be missed. Others comment, “I had no idea…” about this ministry, how vital this work is; that it is still happening at Augustana. For us, we are delighted to reconnect to those who faithfully support ministry at Augustana and share with those who are new, what this ministry is all about. We give thanks for your generous support. Donations to the

Augustana hosts ecumenical Easter Vigil

The Vigil of Easter is an ecumenical celebration at Augustana Campus. Together with Messiah and Bethel Lutheran Churches, St. Andrew’s Anglican Church, Camrose United Church and, joining us this year, the Church of God, we celebrate Christ is risen! Alleluia! I received the following email from Lisa Rude who has attended the Vigil with her family for the past 14 years. The Rude family often tells one of the Biblical stories in the Service of Readings. Lisa’s descriptive words capture the sights and smells and sounds of the Vigil.

She writes: “From the crackling, smoky fire… bringing the light inside… to the living storied waters… to the playful waters of baptism… to dressing the altar in glory… to the celebration of the Eucharist – all strung together with uplifting music dancing through the sanctuary! Another memorable Easter Vigil at Augustana that has touched us deeply.”

Archdeacon Jacques Vallincourt, CD, Rector, St. Andrew’s Anglican Church presides at the service of Holy Communion.

Your gifts can truly make a difference

There are many ways to support Chaplaincy at Augustana, one of which is making a gift of financial support. Augustana Chaplaincy has two funds:

• The Chaplaincy Annual Fund pays for 1/3 of the Chaplain’s and the Assistant to the Chaplain’s, annual wages and also supports the day-to-day expenses of campus ministry.

• The Augustana Chaplaincy Endowment Fund (~ $250,000) generates interest to support the activities of the annual fund reducing our reliance on annual fund-raising.

If you would like to give a gift to either of these funds please make your cheque payable to the University of Alberta, noting Augustana Chaplaincy in the memo line. If you would like to donate on-line, please go to the Augustana home page www.augustana.uaaberta.ca/giving/ and click on “Make a Gift.” Choose either Augustana Chaplaincy Annual Fund or Augustana Chaplaincy Endowment Fund from the menu in the “Fund” drop down box.

If you would like to give a significant gift to Augustana Chaplaincy but are not able to do so at the present time, please consider leaving Augustana Chaplaincy a bequest or planned gift in your Estate. For more information please contact: Augustana Campus Development Office 780-679-1558

What’s Cookin’? banquet: Plugged into Life.

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Harvest Season!
By Pastor Craig Wentland, Campus Chaplain

Nothing fills my heart with joy quite like witnessing the accomplishments of our students at the end of the academic year. The students by the beginning of April are often tired, stressed, and behind on their laundry, housekeeping, and personal grooming. They are attempting to husband their remaining energy through to the final exam period. With a few full nights of sleep, the fatigue will pass but their accomplishments will remain. Currently I am strategizing about how to optimize my time at the Student Academic Conference. The Student Academic Conference this spring features around one hundred lectures, research posters, art displays, and podcasts. It is impossible to take in everything that is offered so I reluctantly make choices knowing that I will miss some good presentations! My calendar for the remaining days of the term is also filled with student recitals, short dramatic performances and year end concerts. If you live in or near Camrose, you should definitely take advantage of all the fruits available at this harvest time in the academic year.

The four or five (or six) years of an undergraduate degree is an intense time of development in the life of a young adult. I consider it a privilege in my work to be able to witness that development. I also consider it a privilege to work at an institution that has a long history of fostering whole person education. Students at Augustana are being shaped not just for careers but for a fulfilling life in community.

From the perspective of faith, whole person education is important because God calls us to love and serve and give thanks through all aspects of our life. One of the things that we do in Chaplaincy is to help students understand and discern the breadth of their vocations and the many opportunities they have to respond to the callings of the life in faith and love. I hope that in this newsletter you catch a glimpse of some of the accomplishments of our students and the many ways that students are responding to God’s call to love and service.

Warm Greetings
from Barry Vall, Chair of Augustana Chaplaincy Council

I write this with a heavy heart as I feel it is time to step down from the Augustana Chaplaincy Council. I have been on Council since 1997. At times it has been challenging, but ever rewarding. The joy of being around so many wonderful and enthusiastic students is truly a gift. To have been a part of their growth and development as they have taken on their challenge of integrating faith and learning has been a rich experience indeed.

Of course I have been nourished and inspired by many Council members with whom I have served over the years. They have been faithful in their service and generous in sharing their wisdom.

I am especially thankful for the staff of Student Services who have been so supportive of Chaplaincy. It is a great team, resonant with kindness and cooperation.

Finally, Augustana is fortunate to have so many talented, thoughtful and dedicated staff and faculty. Chaplaincy stands out in this regard. Robyn has been and remains a tireless servant of the ministry at Augustana. I remember her holding the Chaplaincy together for three full years while we suffered out-backs and searched for a new Chaplain. She continues to give with an unfailing spirit and so many gifts.

Pastor Craig graciously takes the call of Augustana with his humor, caring, wisdom and humanity. He has a gift for getting at deeper truth in a down-to-earth manner, a gift that inspires and uplifts the faith walk of fellow travelers on the journey of integrating faith and learning.

It has been a great privilege to have served on the Chaplaincy Council. Many thanks for all the support, encouragement and good counsel given to me over the years.

Grace and Peace, Barry

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Student Chaplains in Ministry

Katrina Lexvold
I invite people to participate in service opportunities such as making homemade cards and presenting them while singing at the hospital. We also lead worship at the seniors’ care facilities. I am a regular pianist for chapel services. I also helped with the Chaplains’ Café, preparing free Luther’s Lattes and Papal Pop for students. I was one of the student leaders at a confirmation retreat held at Augustana. Katrina says: “It’s all about the community. Chaplaincy is a great place to meet people, get involved, and live in community together.”

Taylor Bulger
My primary role was worship planning. We would meet once a week to plan the services, choose texts and hymns. I led one of the worship bands and planned the schedule for the other three bands who took turns playing each Monday. I also helped with their sound checks. I planned IAB (Jesus and Music), where students gathered in the Chapel with their instruments and voices to sing praise and worship songs. Augustana hosted the annual winter retreat, January 18–20 at Camp Kuriakos on Sylvan Lake. We were joined by UofA North Campus, UofC, and university students from Victoria, Regina and Saskatoon. The guest presenter, Aiden Enns, talked about re-imagine happiness. Taylor says: “I see chaplaincy as a way for students to grow in faith as a community.”

Dan Shepherd
This year in Chaplaincy I have been involved in public relations: taking photos and promoting our events on Facebook. I am also one of the Student Chaplain representatives on Augustana Chaplaincy Council. I established the Prayer Jar. People put their prayer petitions in the jar and each Monday during Chapel we will pray for them. In the winter semester I led a drama team who retold the text in a contemporary way. I organized games for a confirmation retreat held at Augustana. Dan says: “Chaplaincy, and Augustana in general, provides an environment where God can be part of the conversation.”

Winter Retreat Provides Opportunity for Fellowship and Discussion
Submitted by Erin Specht, Student Chaplain

If you had stopped in at Camp Kuriakos on Sylvan Lake between January 18th and 20th you would have been greeted by the sounds of drumming, singing, and the chatter of around 60 young Christian adults. This year Augustana Campus Chaplaincy hosted the annual young adult winter retreat, a time apart for recreation, worship, fellowship and discussion. This year, due to a grant from the Lutheran Triune Foundation, we were able to invite a keynote speaker and provide travel subsidies for students from other provinces. We were joined by students from the Universities of Alberta (Edmonton Campus), Saskatchewan, Regina, Lethbridge, Calgary, and Victoria. The speaker was Aiden Enns, Editor of GEEZ magazine, a contemporary periodical based out of Winnipeg that discusses “Holy Mischief in an Age of Fast Faith.” The title of the retreat was The Life Experiment: Re-imagining Happiness. Enns challenged the group to think critically about society’s definition of happiness and success, and to contest the norms of consumerism and greed that are built into our modern economy. There were many spirited debates and discussions that occurred throughout the retreat, encompassing topics ranging from feminism to sex and marriage to social justice. These discussions allowed everyone to become exposed to varying Christian perspectives, and provided the opportunity for everyone to express their own opinion.

In addition to the discussion, attendees were able to kick back and enjoy camp life. There was skating, hiking, basketball, and an authentic sauna to relax and sweat in. Drumming circles sprang up randomly throughout the retreat, and a variety of worship services breathed life and music into the still winter air. On Saturday evening we prepared a delicious feast of local food. The evening ended in laughter as we all participated in a talent show of music and juggling, a demonstration of a refurbished phonograph, an annotated piano performance and a skit. All in all, it was a very stimulating and life-giving experience.

Liberation Celebrated and Relived
Submitted by Miranda Holmes, 1st year Augustana student

As a member of a mixed household, I have been given the opportunity to learn more than just one religion and the importance of tradition within a home. For me, Passover has not only been one of the high holy days in the year, but a time when people of all cultures can learn something new about one another. I wanted to lead a Seder at Augustana so that others could share with me the experience of Passover. It isn’t common for someone my age to lead a large Seder meal and traditionally my mother would have that role. Therefore, this was also an opportunity for me to step into my mother’s footsteps to teach others about our tradition. Overall the experience was better than I could have imagined. Not only did I feel the people around me had learned something new that night, but I also gained a new perspective of my family’s traditions; leading the meal is so different from being a participant. I was happily surprised by the knowledge I could share with others and hope to continue to do so in years to come.

On Sunday, March 3, at our annual What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper, we celebrated Augustana Chaplaincy. One of the many highlights of the evening was the Student Chaplains’ presentation. They showed pictures, talked about what they’ve done this year, and closed by reflecting on why Chaplaincy has been important to them. Here is a summary of what they said.

Erin Specht
I’ve participated in the planning and promotion of fund-raisers: two fair trade and local made sales, the Valentine Cookie Sale where we raised funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and SCOREL, a free-cycling marketplace that raised awareness and funds for Sahakarini. I also organized fun-raising events which included the annual rake ‘n run, a trip to the corn maze, a movie night and skating. I was the Student Chaplain representative for Augustana Chaplaincy Council and the What’s Cookin’? Soup Supper committee. Erin says: “Chaplaincy is about empowering and encouraging students in their faith journey. It's a great program, and I am constantly inspired by the friends I have made in this group.”

Monique Gagon
I prepare the people and the place for Chapel services three times a week. On Tuesday mornings I put the soup in the crock pots and stir it throughout the day in preparation for our Soup Supper. Each week we host about 100 or more students for this free meal of delicious soup, fresh bread and cheese.

On Sunday evenings I meet with the band that will be playing at Monday’s Chapel, prepare the presentation slides, and set up the mics. If time permits I prepare fresh, warm communion bread for Wednesday’s Holy Communion service. Monique says: “It is a place where I can be myself without judgement.”

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