

augustana at its heart
2005 | report to
the community

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Welcome to the first Report to the Community on behalf of the University of Alberta at Augustana. We are excited to be the U of A's newest faculty, and the only one based outside of Edmonton.

Augustana has now embarked on a period of tremendous opportunity, renewal and growth. We have worked hard this year to take a respected place inside one of Canada's leading universities. We achieved the adoption of our degree programs in arts, science, music and management, in time for the first U of A graduates to walk across our stage in May. We have begun design work on a major building project, including a library, and on long-range plans to accommodate 2000 students. We will introduce eight new professors to students this September. And, as part of the University, we will welcome our new president, Dr. Indra Samarasekera.

The University of Alberta at Augustana. Augustana Faculty. Augustana Campus. We're still not sure what to call ourselves. It all sounds different - and it is. But Augustana, at its heart, remains a place where students matter, where teaching is a vocation, where community is an everyday experience, where big questions get asked. Our new mission statement, which you'll find in this report, sets

standards as high as that. It commits us to offer students the opportunity of a 'memorable, life-changing education' - one that instills in them intellectual confidence, imaginative insight, and a capacity for leadership and service in the world. From what we know of our graduates, though, this is not just advertising talk. It happens. It is the measure of our work. And it makes Augustana a distinct and wonderful choice.

We are rooted in Camrose and east-central Alberta; it is important for us to serve the region in which we are located. At the same time - this may surprise you - our reach really has become national and global.

The following pages offer a glimpse into the life of Augustana, its students and its professors. I am pleased to present them to you.

Roger Epp - Acting Dean



“I just wanted to be part of the ENTHUSIASM. This is such a hands-on place.”

dr. dave larson

FROM 1971 TO 2005: WITH PASSION

Dr. Dave Larson originally came to Camrose for two years. That was in 1971. Larson is Augustana's longest serving professor and is no stranger to taking students into unknown territory. His research specialization, or rather his passion, is entomology.

Through Larson, Augustana Faculty has developed a strong core of entomology courses – not common at the undergraduate level in any university. Many of Larson's students got their 'bug for bugs' by taking a course that includes a two-week field research trip to a Costa Rican biological reserve. Larson and colleague Doris Audet have been conducting field research at the facility every second year for the past eight years. The course focuses on biodiversity and on conservation issues in the tropics. Eight of Larson's former students are pursuing or have completed graduate study in entomology. Larson reflects that small classes result in close relationships and what he calls 'active academic mentoring.' He is hopeful that when he retires one of his own students will fill his shoes.

Larson cut his teeth with expedition courses early in his career alongside longtime colleague and retired professor

Dr. Garry Gibson. Together he and Gibson developed Augustana's outdoor education program.

In a small city such as Camrose, professors are an integral part of the community. Larson is no exception. He is a familiar face at the Camrose ski club – the oldest ski club in Western Canada. He built the Camrose Luge track that for many years was the only ice natural luge track in Western Canada, and developed curriculum to go along with it. Augustana Faculty students are the only university students in Canada 'doing the natural luge' for credits. Top students have used their times to qualify for the Provincial team tryouts which then led to the Canadian Natural Luge Team for at least three of them.

The community experience at Augustana and the ability to follow his passion has kept Larson here thirty two years longer than he originally anticipated. "I just wanted to be part of the enthusiasm. This is such a hands-on place. Anything was possible here, as long as you could do it without spending a lot of money."

graham hafso

THE ESSENCE OF LIFE

Graham Hafso is a true Camrosian, born and raised. He will be entering his third year of university as an Augustana Faculty Arts student with a double major in Modern Languages, but he will be attending classes at the Philipps-Marburg Universität in Germany. Graham was granted the U of A Tuition Award to enable his participation in the exchange program. The award is a tuition waiver for one academic year of study.


Graham, whose grandparents are German and whose uncle lives and works in Germany, has always had an interest in language. "To speak another language is to live the culture in truth," says Graham, who has a religious studies minor and a sprinkling of history courses to his credit. Last summer Graham participated in the Canadian Summer Study in Germany program. To him language is a stepping stone to incalculable opportunity. "Who knows what will happen? I could teach, I could work in Germany - the possibilities are endless. It really depends on the people I meet and the interests that I find."

In his two years at Augustana Graham has helped to form the Augustana Against Aids society and been president of

the German Club. The scholarship for tuition in Germany is huge for Graham, who admits that it's a challenge to pay the bills sometimes. "I've accepted that my passions are my successes." Graham gets by in the academic year on student loans and scholarships. He landed a summer job at a steel plant which will go a long ways to help Graham pay room and board when he gets to Germany.

Graham is a soft-spoken, but intense young man with a passion for the world and his place in it. He loves his home province and has explored many of its nooks and crannies. "I have to get to the mountains this summer before I go," he says. He has a love of nature, and is a self taught herbalist. Graham grows over a dozen herbs in his kitchen windowsill from which he makes natural teas. "I'm a bit of a health nut," he confesses as he stuffs an errant carrot back in his knapsack. Graham believes in living simply, close to his passions. He is a 'Small Planetarian' who walks what he talks.

"Isn't that the essence of life?"



“To speak another language is to live the culture in TRUTH.”



“In the liberal arts it’s important to explore what it means to be a HUMAN BEING.”

dr. paula marentette

2005: RESEARCH AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

Professor Paula Marentette has been to Rome, Berlin, Leipzig and Barcelona to present papers and continue her research in gesture and the development of language. This March Marentette and a colleague received continuing funding for their research from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Their study is entitled: “Do conventionality and mimesis precede iconicity in gesture?” It sounds esoteric, but it’s interesting stuff. Really. It’s a study that examines the development of gestures and how they function in relation to the development of language. The realm of the non-verbal is Marentette’s specialization and passion.

Marentette developed an interest in sign language at Queen’s University. This led her to further study with a colleague at the Faculty of Science in Edmonton, Elena Nicoladis. Nicoladis teaches in Science and Psychology and studies the development of language in children raised in bilingual families. Together they unlock some of the mysteries about how people learn language. Do Deaf people gesture? Are gestures dependant on language for meaning? What does the mind learn first, gesture or the spoken word? How are they connected in language development? Marentette and Nicoladis have studied Deaf subjects and compared their non-verbal gestures, with those of hearing people and made several interesting discoveries. “This kind of study helps us to know how the mind works, how we learn and what language is,” says Marentette.

Marentette has been at Augustana Faculty for twelve years. “When I left McGill, I chose to go to a school that empha-

sized teaching. This forces me to have a wider breadth of knowledge.” When Marentette arrived it was a balancing act at first with a ten-month old baby. Now her children are eight and twelve years old – and it’s still a balancing act, but a rewarding one.

“In the liberal arts it’s important to explore what it means to be a human being. The hands provide us a new way to look at language and thought. By examining sign language and gesture, by looking at Deaf culture, we can question some of our speech-based assumptions about how the human mind works. That’s important because it gives us a more complete picture of what it means to be human.”

“My research is an excellent gateway to connect with students. They love to watch videos of children. I have several videos of my own children solving Piagetian tasks which are now “famous” among my students. My girls are known, for example, at the swimming pool, by swim instructors whom I have taught in developmental psychology. I also show clips from my research data and encourage students to analyse the information, look for gestures, and search for clues about how to interpret this information. I believe that it helps them to see research in a more complex light. Textbooks necessarily present ‘the big picture’ and often the resolution of years of research. When we look at my own data, students can see that each individual project asks a small question, and grapples with difficult methodological issues such as distinguishing signs from gestures.”

catherine rubanga

EXPECT YOUR EXPECTATIONS TO CHANGE

“ This is part of your life that you will NEVER FORGET if you take the right approach and are open to new experiences.”

Second year sociology major and science minor, Catherine Rubanga has many interests and her future holds many possibilities. “When I was a little girl I used to want to be a lawyer, then a doctor, now I want to be a nurse.” Catherine will keep her options open for law however, but decided to pursue her ambitions by completing her undergraduate work at Augustana Faculty. Catherine, an active volunteer and Residence Assistant on campus, came here from Uganda and has embraced life at Augustana.

To come so far from home for university is not easy, says Catherine. “It takes a lot of inner strength and a belief that everything will be fine at the end of the day. And, my family raised me to know that I always have them with me.”

Over the last two years at Augustana Catherine has matured, expanded her horizons and choices beyond the dreams of the little girl she used to be. “What I would tell new students is this. Expect that your expectations will change. Expect something you’re not able to expect yet. This is part of your life that you will never forget if you take the right approach and are open to new experiences.”

Catherine’s teachers have made a profound impact on her. “In terms of personal growth, academics, physical and mental enlightenment my capabilities have really increased. I’m not the same person.”

Catherine will return to London this summer to see her family, but she longs for her real home, Uganda. “It is two years since I have been there. I miss ‘proper’ heat and ‘proper’ sun,” she says with the way of someone who knows ‘proper’ when it comes to heat and sun.

Catherine is Lutheran. One of the attractions for her family to Augustana Faculty was its Lutheran roots. Also, a relative attended Augustana before Catherine. The Augustana student body is very multi-denominational. “At university you meet people from many cultures, many faiths and experiences. They show you all different sides of the world and they can bring so much to your life. It makes you a better person.”



“Directing is like living in the eye of an incredible storm of CREATIVITY AND IDEAS.”

kevin sutley

THE NEXT ACT: IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

This spring professor Kevin Sutley directed Sam Shepard’s *Fool for Love* to rave reviews. His Sterling Award winning theatre company, Kill Your Television Theatre is ‘a force to be reckoned with,’ according to local media. His students consider him the same.

To venture into his classes unprepared is not wise. It’s no surprise that this spring his students swept the Battle River Region One Act Play Festival – receiving recognition for directing, acting, and playwriting. Sutley gives his students difficult material. His past two student productions have been *The Laramie Project* and *The Vagina Monologues*, not plays that leap to mind when one thinks of theatre outside of Alberta’s larger centres. Yet the *Vagina Monologues* played to sold out houses for the entire run.

Sutley is relatively new to Augustana Faculty. He’s been teaching here for only three years. His students love him, but they say he can be tough. When asked why, Sutley says, “I don’t like to see students work beneath their potential. Theatre is the kind of work where you get out what you put in and so to really see what you can accomplish you have to invest a lot of commitment and personal energy.”

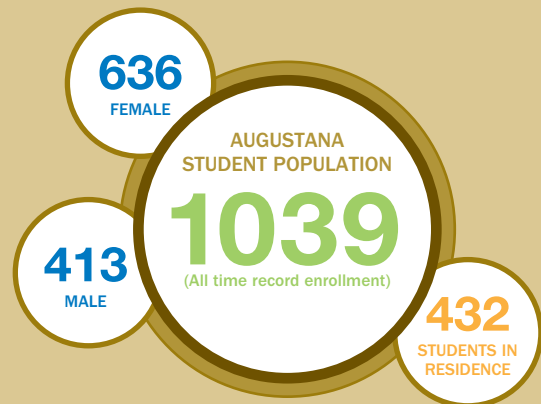
Sutley gets a sense of contributing from teaching, “to art and to people. I get a sense of connecting through time.

The challenge is finding a personal way to communicate my knowledge and helping people to discover their own truths and then helping them discover the best way to communicate those truths.” To Sutley directing “is like living in the eye of an incredible storm of creativity and ideas. It’s a rush.”

Sutley received his Masters of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Alberta. As a professional actor and director, he has worked for such companies as Theatre Network, Northern Light Theatre and Azimuth Theatre. He has directed several productions including: the Sterling Award winning *Dungeon Master’s Handbook* for Azimuth Theatre. Also for Azimuth Theatre, *3...2...1., Picking Up the Pieces*, a play written and performed by inmates of the Edmonton Institution. He directed, “*Dating, Mating, and Hating*” for Toronto’s Theatre 212 and the highly acclaimed, “*The Grapes of Wrath*” for Studio Theatre. For his own company, Kill Your Television Theatre, Kevin directed the Sterling Award-winning productions of *This Is Our Youth*, *Suburbia*, *Stop Kiss*, and *Shakespeare’s R&J*, for which he also received a Sterling nomination for Outstanding Director.

What does he do outside of directing? “I garden a bit. I cook. I play poker. I learn to be a good teacher. I try to get some sleep.”

augustana - at a glance



CANADIAN STUDENTS

796	Alberta
235	Camrose/Camrose County
62	Saskatchewan
58	Edmonton
57	British Columbia
44	Calgary
34	Northwest Territories
6	Manitoba
4	Nunavut
2	Newfoundland

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

63	International students
27	Countries
26	Africa
24	Asia
7	Europe
6	US and Latin America

Top 5 countries:
Uganda, South Korea,
Hong Kong, Kenya and Japan

INNOVATIVE. CONNECTED. AMBITIOUS.

- Augustana offers undergraduate four-year degrees in arts, science, music and management. For 2005-2006, majors in eight new subjects have been introduced.
- The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life was launched, and sponsored public conferences on issues such as family-farm agriculture, Muslims in the media, and faith and health care.
- Augustana is working with the Faculty of Nursing to facilitate the delivery of a B.Sc. (Nursing) to post-RN and after-degree students in Camrose.
- Augustana is a leader in experiential, for-credit, wilderness and international study opportunities. In the past year, our students could be found in Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica, India, France, Germany and Norway. Students also prepared for a summer Arctic river trip and pioneered a course combining the study of northern literature with a winter dog-sledding expedition out of Hoarfrost River NWT.
- For the second year, Augustana has offered new and returning students a one-of-a-kind BSE bursary to offset the financial hardships facing the cattle industry and rural communities.
- The Augustana Choir, directed by Ardelle Ries, made a centennial tour of Alberta communities. The Choir is scheduled to perform at Carnegie Hall in April, 2006.
- Augustana's men's cross-country running team earned a second consecutive national championship.
- Augustana student-athletes and coaches Joan Skinstad and Jacqueline Akerman, formed the core of the Canadian cross-country ski and biathlon teams at the World University Games in Austria. At the National Intercollegiate Championships, Augustana skiers earned two individual medals and a third team medal.

accomplishments

Doris Audet (Biology) received grant funding for her work on bats' dry forest tropical habitat in Costa Rica.

Yvonne Becker (Physical Education) was inducted into Camrose Composite High School's alumni wall of fame.

Mark Chytracek (Director of Student and Residence Services) received the Residence Life Professional Association award for outstanding leadership service.

Kathleen Corcoran (Music) was part of an international panel of adjudicators for a music festival in Hong Kong.

Roger Epp (Political Studies) co-produced a two-hour documentary on rural communities, "The Canadian Clearances," for CBC Radio's *Ideas*.

Yasser Fahmy (Economics) presented a paper on Canadian monetary policy - since published in the *Journal of Current Research in Global Business* - at meetings in Mexico.

Kierstin Hatt (Sociology and Interdisciplinary Studies) Co-Author of *Consuming Sustainability: Critical Social Analyses of Ecological Change* (2005).

Jim Horley (Psychology) is completing a book on sexual offenders to be published by Brunner-Routledge UK in late 2005.

Glen Hvenegaard (Geography/Environmental Science) received funding from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for a research project using birds as indicators of biodiversity on Alberta farmland, and was reappointed as a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas.

Paul Johnson (Drama) participated in a session on improvisation at Wroclaw, Poland for the International School of Theatre Anthropology.

Varghese Manaloor (Economics) was selected to participate in the international Leadership for Environment and Development seminar based in Berkeley, California.

Anne-Marie Link (Art) presented her current work at a conference in London and in an article published in *Canadian Art Review*.

Andrea Martinson, a first-year student from New Norway, was one of 10 Alberta Rutherford Scholars chosen on the basis of superior high school academic achievement.

Philip Merklinger (Philosophy) is the 2005 recipient of both Augustana's Distinguished Teaching Award and the Betty Ostenrud Award for his contributions to student life beyond the classroom.

Melanie Methot (History) received grant funding for archival research on bigamy and presented a paper to a conference on Law, Humanities and Culture in Austin, TX.

Jonathan Mohr (Computing Science) presented papers at conferences in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Salzburg, Austria.

Pam Reinke, a graduating student from Hay Lakes, was selected to the CCAA all-Canadian team in women's basketball. Along with two other basketball players, Paige Goudreau and Bruce Carbert, she was also named an academic all-Canadian.

Milton Schlosser (Music), a pianist, was recorded live in concert for national broadcast by CBC Radio.

Judith Spencer (Modern Languages) presented her work on Baudelaire at a conference in Turkey and in the journal *Littera*.

AUGUSTANA'S MISSION

Established in 1910 by Norwegian settlers, under the name Camrose Lutheran College, Augustana is still inspired by convictions that are part of its pioneer legacy: that personal wholeness emerges from a liberal education, that the proper end of leadership is service to others, and that the spirit of cooperation so crucial to rural life invigorates human endeavour. As a Faculty of the University of Alberta, Augustana continues to build on its reputation for high-quality teaching in a friendly, caring, residence-based setting. In doing so, it provides a distinctive small-campus undergraduate experience within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana remains mindful of its heritage, open to a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds, and responsive to the rural region in which it is located.

Augustana Faculty is characterized by a lively, collegial academic culture of research, creativity, and public engagement in which students are invited to participate. It values interdisciplinary inquiry, teaching, and learning. Augustana offers the opportunity of a memorable, life-changing education through small classes, personal attention from professors, a challenging, innovative curriculum founded on the liberal arts and sciences, experiential learning in wilderness and international environments, and a range of campus-life programs. In this academic community, students are more than narrow specialists, spectators, or strangers.

Augustana aspires to educate the whole person in an intimate, small-campus setting so that students and mentors alike are capable of engaging life with intellectual confidence and imaginative insight, equipped for leadership and service, and committed to the betterment of their world.



AUGUSTANA
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Toll Free: 1 800 661 8714 (US & Canada only)
Telephone: 780 679 1100
Fax: 780 679 1129
E-mail: reception@augustana.ca
Website: www.augustana.ca

Postal Address:
Augustana Faculty - University of Alberta
4901 - 46th Avenue
Camrose, Alberta
Canada T4V 2R3