

CIRCLE SPRING 2017



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
AUGUSTANA CAMPUS
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Augustana's student chaplains were excited to celebrate Oktoberfest during Alumni Weekend 2016. It was such a success that we're bringing it back again, join us on September 23, 2017!

Photo: Saif Hossain

BEN RIX

BA Environmental Studies '11

Profile by Pam Chamberlain



Ben Rix has always been adventurous and passionate, and now he's brought that spirit to an upstart business: a craft beer brewery.

As a student at Augustana, Ben admired his professors, many of whom became role models: "Augustana's professors taught me to realize how big the world is off the beaten path. I took part in unique programs like dog-sledding, luge, and the Cuba program, and when I witnessed the enthusiasm the professors had for the programs they'd developed, it raised the bar for what I thought I could achieve if I'm passionate about something."

While at Augustana, Ben began brewing beer at home because it allowed him to both save money and be creative. "After brewing some terrible garbage," he remembers, "I researched how to do better, and brewing became an extremely rewarding hobby."

That hobby has now turned into a passion and a business. After graduation, Ben worked for Edmonton's Alley Kat Brewing, and then in 2014, he and three coworkers founded Bent Stick Brewery (<http://www.bentstickbrewing.com>).

According to Ben, Alberta is a terrific place to brew beer because Alberta farmers grow the best malt barley in the world. "At breweries in California and Oregon, you can see sacks of barley stamped 'Alix, Alberta.' Craft maltsters are sprouting up on farms across the province, and it's exciting to see what sorts of malts they're coming up with and how we can incorporate these new flavours in our recipes."

Ben and his partners are continually tasting, testing, and tweaking recipes, and Ben enjoys the challenge of matching the right beer to the right customer. "We try to convert people from the yellow fizzy beers they've been drinking their whole lives," he explains. "Some beer drinkers are surprisingly nervous about trying the other 80 styles of beer in the world. They don't realize how diverse beer can be."

"Our Belgian Witbier is a good gateway beer for someone who wants to try craft beer. A wheat beer with familiar citrus flavours is different enough to be interesting, but still really accessible, whereas IPAs and Imperial Stouts are so far from the norm that people often need to work their way up to them."

Ben particularly enjoys encountering potential customers who tell him they don't like beer at all: "They take a sip, and surprise creeps over their face. That's the best compliment. I like watching people realize that they don't dislike beer, they just dislike crappy beer."

"At Bent Stick, we've really hit our stride," Ben says. "I'm proud of the Belgian beers we're releasing this summer. I think we nailed them. The White IPA has a bold hop character combined with unique Belgian esters. It's a fun and an interesting twist on a traditional IPA."

"Brewers are lucky," Ben reflects. "There is so much room for creativity in the brewing process, and sharing the end product with friends and customers—and seeing the smiles on their faces—is very rewarding."

**Brewery Tour and Tasting - July 25,
2017**

**Space is limited, contact
augalum@ualberta.ca for details.**

Check out last year's Alumni Weekend celebrations!

Photos by Saif Hossain



ALUMNI WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 22-25

Every fall, we host an Alumni Weekend to welcome our over 9,000 alumni back to Augustana. Whether you graduated from Camrose Lutheran College, Augustana University College, or the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, you will find something for you!

Host a class get-together to reconnect with old friends or reach out to a favourite professor! We already have several groups arranging get-togethers on the weekend, such as the Classes of 1959 and 1987, as well as the Classes of 1947 and 1957 (more details to come soon!).

Call the Alumni Office at 780-679-1626 or email augalum@ualberta.ca to connect with one of these groups or to talk about what you have planned.

You can follow events, register, and purchase tickets at:

aug.ualberta.ca/2017alumniweekend.

Saturday September 23

Alumni Donor Reception

4:00pm, Founders' Hall

Oktoberfest: Wittenberg comes to Augustana

6:00pm, Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and as a definitive answer to the long pondered question Where is Luther (the statue) going in such a hurry?, Augustana Chaplaincy is hosting an Oktoberfest on Alumni Weekend. On offer will be a German meal featuring local sausage, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and cakes. Our guests will have the opportunity to accompany the meal with a sampling of local craft beers, mead (for those who are gluten sensitive), and other non-alcoholic beverages. To top off the evening, there will be an opportunity to polka.

Tickets: \$50 per person (includes dinner, craft beer sampling, and entertainment). Each ticket is eligible for a tax receipt.

Class of '59 Gathering

TBD, Norsemen Inn

Sunday September 24

Founders' Hall Open House

9:00am, Founders' Hall

Enjoy early morning refreshments, the beauty of campus and tours of the newly-renovated Founders' Hall.

Alumni Worship Service

10:30am, Faith & Life Chapel

Each year on the Sunday of Alumni Weekend, Augustana Chaplaincy hosts an Alumni Worship Service on campus. This is a time to join together with faculty, staff, your alma mater and current students in a service led by campus Chaplain, Craig Wentland.

Dean's Alumni Brunch

11:30am, Mayer Family Hall, Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre

Join Augustana's Dean Allen Berger for a delicious brunch.

Class of '57 Gathering

1:00pm, Founders' Hall



RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO

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