

Dear fellow Vikings,

I hope this letter finds you well and warm, as we've had quite the winter season in Sioux Falls. My name is Hosea Kost '20, and I am the director of alumni engagement & event services in the Office of Alumni Engagement. It's great being back on campus working alongside professors I respect and hearing a joke from Bill whenever I see him in the Morrison Commons.

I am writing to remind you of Viking Days Weekend and inform you of the changes on campus.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 22-23, 2023, for Viking Days! This year is special because it marks the 100th year of homecoming at Augustana. If you haven't made it back to campus in a while, we invite you to witness for yourself the many additions and renovations that have taken place at Augustana.

Campus renovations are in full swing as we continue our journey in meeting the goals set forth in Viking Bold, our strategic plan. In February, President Stephanie Herseth Sandlin presented her annual Mid-Year Update to the Augustana community. Below are some of the key highlights from her presentation as AU continues to move boldly in Phase II.

Augustana University made large strides in Phase I of the Viking Bold strategic plan and the results are proof of the hard work of everyone on campus. Augustana held a 91.7% undergraduate retention rate and had 68% of last year's graduated seniors stay in South Dakota to begin their careers. With 99% of graduating students achieving a post-career outcome, there's no doubt that Augustana is moving forward boldly in the midst of uncertainty in the realm of higher education. To date, Augustana has raised more than \$130 million of the \$175 million goal for the Viking Bold Campaign.

As Augustana University continues its voyage of Viking Bold, continued commitments toward students, academics and athletics are taking place. Navigate, a retention software used by faculty and staff, is being integrated more into the university and students are utilizing their access to ePortfolios that assist in their internship and job searches. Academically, Augustana is launching the Augustana University Fintech Program by Pathward, the first major of its kind in the region. Additionally, a new minor in bioinformatics will be available to students. Lastly, the first cohort in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program will commence in June 2023. In athletics, our acrobatics & tumbling team has taken off and competed strongly against the University of Oregon and won its first event against Concordia University–Wisconsin. The men's hockey team is coming together under Coach (Garrett) Raboin and is set to take the ice next year with Midco Arena opening in January 2024.

Make sure to keep in touch with Augustana and your classmates at augielink.com by creating a class note to share special moments with the Augustana community. Please reach out to the Office of Alumni Engagement at alumni@augie.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Hosea Kost '20
Director of Alumni Engagement & Event Services
Office of Alumni Engagement