Alumni Profiles

Robin Cinq-Mars, BMgt ’09
Associate, Agricultural Services, TD Bank

Robin is an Associate, Agricultural Services at TD Bank, where he previously worked as an Account Manager, Small Business. Post graduation, Robin remained in Camrose to raise a family with his wife, alumna, and local nurse, Tara (Pandachuck) Cinq-Mars. Robin’s interests include anything related to finance, economics, and stock trading. Most of his time outside of work is spent with his children Celine (6 yrs) and Jace (4 yrs). Robin enjoys reading science fiction and he and Tara just finished the Friends series for the third time.

Cole Boyd, BMgt ’11
Co-Owner and Sales Wizard, Bent Stick Brewing Co.

Cole grew up in Carbon, Alberta and graduated from Augustana Campus with his Bachelor of Management in 2011. Fellow Augustana Alumni Ben Rix shared Cole’s first IPA with him (not in the dorms!) and opened his eyes to the world of craft brewing. After graduating, Cole worked for Cargill and, for a while, was the youngest Production Supervisor in Canada. While working for them, Cole was able to learn piles about malt barley, which only furthered his passion for craft beer. After following his wife to Medicine Hat, Cole was unable to continue with grain elevators and took a sales role in Alberta Produces Alcohol. This eventually lead him to join Ben Rix and two other UofA Alumni in the ownership of Bent Stick Brewing Co., Edmonton’s first nanobrewery. Continuing with the sense of community fostered at Augustana, they focus on making smaller amounts of exceptional beer and building relationships with their customers.

Anneka Bakker, BA ’13
MBA Candidate

Anneka is a third generation family business owner of an international import retail business. An MBA candidate graduating in 2019, Anneka is specializing in Innovation and Entrepreneurship and hopes to bring her learnings into the next generation of her family business.
Alumni Profiles

Steven Hansen, BA ’05, JD ’14
Lawyer, Farnham West Stolee Kambeitz LLP

Born and raised in Camrose, Steven graduated with distinction in 2005, and was a Presidential Scholar in the 2004/05 academic year. Upon completion of his degree, Steven pursued an advertising career with the Edmonton Journal from 2005 to 2010. In 2011, he worked for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as a government caucus researcher and speechwriter. In 2014, he obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Alberta.

Steven joined Farmham West Stolee Kambeitz LLP in 2014 as an articling student. He was called to the Bar in 2015, and has been an associate with the firm since. Steven practices primarily in the area of corporate law. In addition, he also practices in the areas of residential and agricultural real estate transactions, wills, and estate planning.

Outside of practicing law, Steven is a Founding Director of the Nordlys Film & Arts Society, and a Director of the Camrose Regional Exhibition and Agricultural Society (CRE).

Matthew “Gus” Gusul, BA ’04, MA ’09
Coordinator, Urban and Special Projects, Government of Alberta - Indigenous Relations

Currently working for the Government of Alberta in Indigenous Relations, Gus helps the ministry oversee infrastructure development in Indigenous communities, water projects aimed at having reliable drinking water in remote communities, supports for Sixties Scoop Survivors, and helping with the province’s Anti-Racism project. Before starting with the government, he worked with Frontier College, where he was the Indigenous Program Support Coordinator.

After receiving his BA from Augustana Campus and his MA from the University of Alberta’s North Campus, Gus obtained his PhD from the University of Victoria in the Theatre Department. As a theatre artist, he has mainly focused on helping marginalized communities create theatre based upon the community’s stories. As a development worker, he has been a fundraiser, executive board member, project coordinator, and founder of a non-profit organization. He is currently sitting as a board member with Change for Children Association.

Karyn Forst, BA ’95, MSLP ’98
Professional Practice Lead - Edmonton Zone, Alberta Health Services

Karyn Forst graduated from Augustana Campus (then Augustana University College) in 1995. She completed her masters in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology in 1998. Karyn has been an SLP in Education and Healthcare for 20 years. She has had opportunities for leadership roles as a Team Leader with AHS and her current role as Professional Practice Lead for Speech Language in the Edmonton Zone.
Matthew Hebert, BA ’05
Executive Director, Health Workforce Partnerships, Alberta Health, Government of Alberta

Matthew has worked in the Alberta public sector since January 2005. His career began in the Alberta Legislature working for elected officials, first with MLAs and later with three different cabinet ministers.

Matthew’s time in the health sector begin in 2011, when he joined the Health Minister’s office. An opportunity arose in June 2013 to support the newly appointed Official Administrator of Alberta Health Services. In September 2013, the Official Administrator was appointed by the Government of Alberta to serve as the Deputy Minister of Health, and Matthew joined the Ministry as Director, Deputy Minister’s Office. He continued to serve in Health’s DMO until February 2017, when he took up the role of Executive Director, Ministry Integration at Alberta Health until March 2018. Since then, Matthew now works as the Executive Director, Health Workforce Partnerships at Alberta Health.

Cathy MacKenzie, MA ’15
Head, Outreach Programs - Alberta
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Cathy’s communications career has led to some exciting opportunities and challenges over the years. Since graduating from Mount Royal University’s Public Relations program in 1990, she has applied her communications skills and talents to the education and post-education sector, agriculture, and most recently, environmental conservation. She is currently the provincial head of outreach programs for Ducks Unlimited Canada in Alberta. She is a proud alumna of the University of Alberta and holds a Master of Arts in Communications and Technology degree. She also serves as a member of the U of A Senate.

Trish Macklin, BSc ’03, MSc ’08
Remedial Massage Therapist, Camrose Physiotherapy and Sport Injury Clinic

Trish graduated with a BSc in Environmental Science from Augustana in 2003. She worked for the Alberta government’s Department of Agriculture in the Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture program, then for the County of Two Hills as their Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Fieldman. She completed a Masters in Rural Sociology from the U of A in 2008 and returned to the Department of Agriculture to work in the Rural Development Division. In the following 8 years, she worked in the department, farmed, and worked on contracts with the ACSRC at Augustana.

She moved to Edmonton in 2016 and completed a 2200 Remedial Massage Therapy program in 2018, and currently works at Camrose Physiotherapy and Sport Injury Clinic.
Alumni Profiles

Ellen Parker, BEd ’80
Senator, University of Alberta Senate

Ellen Parker, for her professional career, served as a public school teacher (now retired), a Continuing Education Coordinator, and a Global Educator. She volunteers as a global educator, activist, homemaker & politician. Currently, Ellen is serving on the U of A Senate. She is also in the Battle River Group LGAAA 2019, which is hosting the 2019 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Arts Awards.

Recently, Ellen became president of the Camrose NDP Constituency Association. She provides leadership within several community, environmental, health, peace and development, and political organizations, as well as national agencies such as KAIROS, Canada World Youth, NDP, Taoist Tai Chi Society, and Camrose Grateful Grannies (Stephen Lewis Foundation). Ellen also practices meditation & movements, enjoys swimming, biking, hiking, reading, photography, & creating fiber arts.

Tony Nguyen, BSc ’14
Co-Founder and Personal Trainer, F.R.E.E. Fitness
Co-Founder, MyCarpoolPal Incorporated

Tony was born and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon and moved to Alberta after high school to attend the University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty while playing varsity Basketball. Beginning his personal training career at World Health Club in 2015, Tony soon opened his own personal training company, F.R.E.E. Fitness Inc. located downtown Edmonton. F.R.E.E. Fitness is the only “Pay How You Feel” personal training company in Alberta. Tony has been nominated for Edmonton’s “Best Personal Trainer” of the year in 2017 and 2018 while F.R.E.E. Fitness has been nominated for “Best Single Gym Location” and “Best Community Supporter Award” for 2018.

In December 2018, Tony launched Edmonton’s first carpooling-based ride sharing service. MyCarpoolPal is an online web application designed to provide drivers undertaking long-distance journeys of 50 km or more with an easy and convenient option for recouping their travel costs. Drivers can register with MyCarpoolPal and post their trips to the platform, and passengers can browse the posted scheduled trips and book what works for them.

Jordan Nakonechny, BSc ’17
Environmental Scientist, Solstice Environmental Management

Jordan graduated from Augustana in 2017 with a major in Environmental Science. Following his last semester, he became a research assistant under Anne McIntosh, Glynnis Hood, and Glen Hvenegaard. Their research focused on multiple environmental aspects within Beaver County allowing Jordan to refine sampling and surveying methods.

While continuing as a research assistant identifying and providing counts of macro-invertebrates sampled for Glynnis Hood’s research component, Jordan was able to secure a position as a Junior Environmental Scientist within Solstice Environmental Management working alongside Dee Patriquin. Jordan has since gained experience and knowledge in report writing, wetland assessments, wildlife surveys, and environmental legislation.

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Christopher Saunders, BSc ’18
Software Developer, Frettable

Christopher graduated from the University of Alberta just last year with a double major in Computing Science and Psychology. Since then, he’s been working at Frettable, a small, Edmonton-located, music tech start-up that uses AI and machine learning.

Marsha Dawn Shack, BEd ’07
Program Manager, Change It Up

Guided by the belief that relationships are catalysts for change, Marsha has evolved her international teaching career to place personal leadership at the centre. As a big picture thinker, collaborator, and connection maker, Marsha’s international experience lends to her extensive knowledge and perspective on the intersection of education and regenerative community development. Marsha strives to inspire her students and colleagues to redefine their idea of a leader and nurture their ability to take ownership over their future.

Certified as a Permaculture Teacher, Marsha has participated in the creation of outdoor learning spaces, community gardens, and direct to market organic farming operations both abroad and in her own backyard.

Currently, Marsha manages Change It Up, a strengths-based personal development/employment program in partnership with First Nations communities in Alberta.

Sarah Skinner, BA ’10
Watershed Planning Coordinator,
Battle River Watershed Alliance

Sarah Skinner graduated from the Augustana Faculty of the University of Alberta in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies (and a minor in global & development studies).

Since then, she has worked as the Watershed Planning Coordinator with the Battle River Watershed Alliance. This work includes watershed education and outreach, sharing information about the health of the watershed, and collaborating with residents, stakeholders and decision-makers to develop and implement watershed management plans, programs, and practices that support improved watershed health and resilience.
Joelle Tripp, BMgt ’16
Owner, Hitched by Joelle

Joelle loves love, a lot—it’s what connects us, is what we act out of, and is what keeps us human. If you have a coffee consult with Joelle, then you’ll hear her say this again, but she’s been surrounded by pure and big love her whole life and feels fortunate to have a job that allows her to help perpetuate that same love. Becoming a wedding planner was quite the natural fit as she adores making true, authentic connections with her clients as they all come from such varying walks of life. These connections allow Joelle to master each couple’s vision and bring that vision to life.

Joelle doesn’t believe things have to be done the way they always have been done, which results in her pushing the boundaries of traditional design and decor. Her creativity is her product which evokes an emotion, creates a design, and sculpts a wedding into a work of art. The uniqueness in each couple’s day and the level of joy it creates is what she lives for. Joelle feels beyond fortunate to be continually inspired by love.

Other alumni attending:

Michelle Nanias, BA ’03
Vice-Principal, St. Patrick’s Elementary

Carlann Scott, BA ’15, BScN ’17
Nurse