



Finding Her Way

For junior Coral Hanson, deciding on a major and a career path wasn't an easy decision. But thanks to help from her professors, she's made a choice she's excited and happy about.

Meet Coral Hanson, class of 2013, a Communication Disorders major from Andover, Minn.

Q. What are you involved in on campus?

A. I'm a member of the American Chemical Society, National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), New Student Orientation, Faith Fest, the Augustana Band, the Augustana Brass Choir and the UBG Big Events Sub-Committee. I also volunteer at the Chapel, serve as a Student Ambassador and work as a Chemistry lab assistant and tutor.

Q. What are you involved in off campus?

A. I hold and rock babies at Sanford Health's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Q. Why did you choose Augustana?

A. I chose Augustana for a number of reasons, namely the community; the size of the

campus; the ability for me to get a "personalized" education (one-on-one interaction with professors); and because of the Trustees Scholarship, which gave me the opportunity to study in Greece.

Q. What's your favorite spot off campus?

A. The trails! I'm an avid biker and rollerblader and love challenging myself to make it around the whole trail, or at least a good part of it, and end up at Falls Park.

Q. What's a typical weekday like?

A. I have class from morning until early afternoon. Mixed in between is studying, Chapel and lunch. In the late afternoon, I have Band and Brass Choir practice, then I head to dinner, work out, study and sleep!

Q. What's a typical weekend like?

A. Weekends usually involve UBG activities, hanging out with friends, volunteering at the NICU, working out, exploring Sioux Falls and studying.

Q. What advice would you give to students searching for a college?

A. Ask questions! Don't worry about asking a "dumb" question. The only dumb question is the one you don't ask because you'll never get an answer. In the end, everything will turn out all right. If it doesn't work out all right, then it's not the end!

Q. What is the one thing you'd say to students considering Augustana?

A. Don't be afraid if you don't know what career you want to pursue before you come to Augustana and don't be afraid to switch your major... several times! I switched my major four times throughout my freshman and sophomore years before I finally settled on Communication Disorders. College is a time of change and getting to know yourself. At Augustana, the professors easily recognize your gifts and talents as a student and will consistently encourage you. Ultimately, you

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– Coral Hanson, Class of 2013

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Q. Where is your favorite place on campus?

A. The Elmen Center, without a doubt. Working out, swimming, fitness classes and intramurals are great stress relievers! Being there also gives me the chance to meet people outside of my classes.

Q. In your opinion, where's the best place to study?

A. It depends on the day! I work well in my room but can easily find a niche in the library or at the Huddle.

Q. How's the food here?

A. Wonderful! My favorite meal by far is the AFC bowl (like the KFC, but Augie style). The Commons is a great place to see friends outside of classes, get informed about what's going on around campus and meet members within the community. Thanksgiving, Christ-

Q. Have you participated in internship(s) and/or research opportunities?

A. Last summer I was involved in a project called "Investigation of ISNC Ring Opening Mechanism." Basically, I investigated how water was involved in the ring-opening mechanism of an antimicrobial monomer. (A mechanism describes how electrons move in a reaction to form new atomic bonds.) The monomer I studied is a precursor to an ionophore antibiotic. This summer, I'm working on a research project titled "Controlling Reacting Events Along a Pre-Defined Reaction Path."

Q. You studied in Greece. What was your favorite part of that experience?

A. I have two of my favorite memories from that trip: First, after dinner one night, the Greek waiters and waitresses taught our group a few of their traditional dances. Another favorite memory was nearly missing the subway that took us to our hotel in Greece but being pulled on at the last second by Dr. O' Hara, our philosophy professor. He pulled me on at the last second after an alarm sounded, warning passengers that the doors were closing.

are the only person that is going to live your life – you must do something that will make you happy! Augie will not only prepare you for a career and a lifestyle but also will help you "find yourself."

Q. What's been your favorite class so far?

A. Organic Chemistry with Dr. Mays – the class absolutely blew my mind! Learning how and why chemical reactions and processes in our bodies and the world work on the atomic level (how the electrons that form bonds move) fascinated me. Dr. Mays made lab and lecture come to life. During one lecture, Dr. Mays showed the class the atomic structure of TNT and explained why it's explosive!

Q. What's been your best memory so far?

A. The 2010 New Student Orientation Flash Mob at the Empire Mall. A choreographer prepared a dance to a song mix, including Lady Gaga, Eminem, Nirvana, and more. We taught it to the incoming freshman, group leaders and central committee in two hours, then performed the dance at the Mall's Food Court. KSFY-TV recorded our dance and showed it on the news that night!