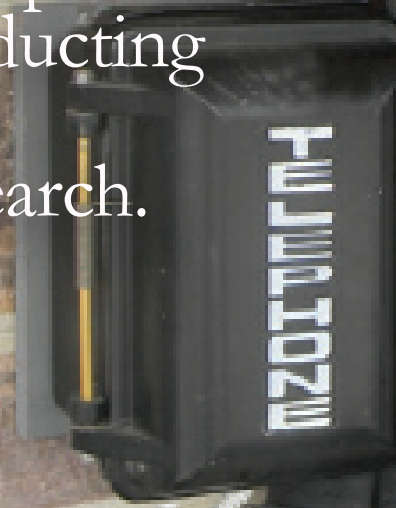


Going Places

At Augustana, sophomore Kelly Wong has been on the move, both physically and intellectually. She has traveled to Greece and London and spent a summer conducting cutting-edge scientific research.



Kelly Wong, class of 2013, is an ACS Biochemistry major from Custer, S.D.

Q: Where do you live?

A. I live in Granskou. For me, the best part about living on campus is being able to stay involved in the Augustana community. You're never more than 10 minutes away from the action.

Q: What are you involved in on campus?

A. I'm the secretary of Augieholics and a senator for the Augustana Student Association. This year I also had the opportunity to head the Royalty Committee for the Viking Days Homecoming Committee with my roommate and be a team leader in New Student Orientation. I'm also involved in Outreach Ministry, Civitas (Augustana's Honors Program) and the American Chemical Society. I also work as a lab assistant for the Chemistry Department.

Q: What are you involved in off campus?

A. I volunteer at Sanford Health and Avera McKennan hospitals twice a week. Augustana's location in Sioux Falls allows you to have a job or get involved in the community outside of the school.

Q: Why did you choose Augustana?

A. While Augustana's reputation initially introduced me to the school, it was the college life that really hooked me.

When I visited, my tour guide, Regan Diller, knew just about everyone when we crossed campus and that was something I was looking for.

I was also impressed by the lack of pretentiousness [among Augustana students and faculty].

Augustana is also great with financial aid, which makes the price of getting a private school education competitive with public school prices.

As a student in the sciences, another huge draw for me was the opportunity for undergraduate research. Augustana has the research caliber of a larger institution, but the smaller enrollment ensures that post-docs and graduate students do not fill the research positions. Augustana has also provided the chance to present my research at conferences and symposiums.

Q: Where is your favorite place on campus?

A. I actually really enjoy bumming around on my floor in the residence halls. All of the girls are really great and I can pretty much walk into most of their rooms.

Q: Best place to study?

A. The Chicago Room [in the Morrison Commons building].
Even though it's right on the beaten path,

not too many people know about it. (I'm not even sure I should be disclosing this!) Plus it's 30 seconds away from the dining hall when I want to meet my friends for a meal, and just upstairs of The Huddle if I'm craving a late night snack or social interaction.

Q: What's your favorite meal at the Commons?

A. The AFC (like KFC) bowl is delicious. People go nuts for it. When they're serving it in the Commons, you hear about it. Peg's omelets are also a great way to start the morning.

Q: Describe a typical weekday.

A. I'm done with class by 2 p.m. at the latest and then I head over to the Elmen for a workout. I eat dinner and then head over to the Mikkelsen Library to study.

There's usually always some sort of UBG event going on most nights that make for a good study break with friends.

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— Kelly Wong, sophomore
ACS Biochemistry major

Q: What's a typical weekend like?

A. First thing in the morning, I roll out of bed and my friends and I get our Bagel Boy fix.

If there's a home sporting event, consider me there with the Augieholics. Some weekends (like this one) there's a bus trip going to away games. Homework typically won't get done until Sunday night.

Q: Talk about your research experiences.

A. Last summer I received a grant through the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN) to perform research at South Dakota State University under Dr. Fathi Halaweish where I studied the ability of cucurbitacins to prevent complications in type 2 diabetes. I have continued to stay in touch with my lab group concerning my project and will hopefully be able to do research again this upcoming summer.

Q: Have you studied abroad?

A. I went on the Distinguished Scholars trip to Greece and London last spring break. It

was 10 days long, but I would not have been able to squeeze that amount of sightseeing, learning, or experiences into a month if I had tried to do it myself. Everything — from the professors and my fellow travelers to the food and the sights — was phenomenal. It definitely didn't feel like I was taking a class at all.

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

A. Shop around. I think you'll find that there are few schools that give you the education that Augustana does for the same price. A degree from Augustana actually means something around here. If you aren't convinced, go in and talk to a professor. Chances are, they'll remember meeting you if you decide to return.

Q: What has been your favorite class so far?

A. I absolutely loved my introductory religion class. Coming from a public high

school, I had certain assumptions about what a religion class at a Christian college would be. Needless to say, I actually looked forward to going to lecture.

Q: Favorite professor and why?

A. Dr. Richard Swanson [Religion] has a teaching style reminiscent of the most captivating storyteller. His class is laid-back but simultaneously interactive. He expects a lot but teaches in a way that makes you want to reach his lofty standards. Even though he's a religion professor, he has a thorough knowledge of all subjects and draws upon each of them to get his lecture across.

Q. Best Augustana moment so far?

A. Probably checking my email from a hotel in Athens, Greece, and finding out that I had been chosen to participate in summer research. That's when I realized that they (students and admission counselors) hadn't exaggerated about the college. Augustana was sending me places — physically and academically.