



FROM  
Minnesota  
TO  
New Zealand

Meet St. James, Minn., native Kaleb Sturm, class of 2012. In his four years on campus, he's participated in three summer research projects and has studied in Nicaragua, Guatemala and New Zealand.

**M**et Kaleb Sturm, a member of the class of 2012 and a native of Saint James, Minn. A mathematics and economics major, Sturm has already participated in three summer research projects and has traveled to Nicaragua, Guatemala and New Zealand.

**Q. Where do you live on campus?**

**A.** I live in East Hall.

**Q. What's the best part about living on campus?**

**A.** It's definitely being able to be so close to friends and activities. The Augustana community is, without a doubt, the best thing about living on campus.

**Q. What are you involved in on campus?**

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— Kaleb Sturm, Class of 2012

**A.** I am currently an Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) Ambassador, a tutor for the Economics department, President of the Augustana Economics Club and Economics Honor Society (ODE), and a member of the History and the Math Club. I'm also a member of the Augie Quiz Bowl.

**Q. What are you involved in off campus?**

**A.** Off campus I serve as a tutor/teacher assistant at Lincoln High School for English Language Learners (ELL) students as well as an independent tutor.

**Q. Why did you choose Augustana?**

**A.** One of the key elements in my decision to choose Augie was the connection with professors. Before I was even accepted at Augie, I was in contact with faculty from the Economics Department where I could discuss my interests and ideas. It was very important to me that I could be in contact with professors.

**Q. What's your favorite place on campus?**

**A.** I enjoy lots of places on campus for very different reasons, but the dining hall sticks out the most. The Commons can be a great place to meet new people and converse with others about life and take a break from your work.

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

**A.** The academic buildings themselves offer a place that I can concentrate well on the work at hand. I tend to be either in the computer labs of the Madsen Center or in the basement of the Gilbert Science Center.

**Q. Where is your favorite off-campus spot?**

**A.** There are a few places I like to visit around Sioux Falls, but going to the parks around the city is my favorite. They offer a peaceful serene environment to escape from the college life for at least a time.

**Q. What's your favorite Commons meal?**

**A.** Undoubtedly, my favorite meal at the Commons is breakfast where I am, nearly every morning, blessed with outstanding omelets from the culinary genius, Peg. Beyond Peg's brilliant work, the Commons is my favorite place to sit down and visit for great lengths of time with old and new friends. Where people share a meal seems to be a very natural place to share conversation.

**Q. What's a typical weekday like?**

**A.** During the week, I typically get caught up with classes, tutoring (at Augie and elsewhere), clubs, and exercise. Exercising provides important stress relief and time to reflect, which is why I try to do it three to five times a week.

**Q. What's a typical weekend like?**

**A.** I always try to get most of my work done before the weekend so that I can maybe sleep in, hang out with friends and relax. However, for me, weekends provide a large allotment of time for larger projects.

**Q. Can you talk about your internship(s) and/or research experience(s)?**

**A.** The past three summers, I have participated in a variety of research opportunities. The summer after my freshman year, I was involved in Physics research under Dr. Drew Alton. The following summer, I worked as a research assistant for the National Bureau of Economics under Dr. Robert Wright. And last summer, I worked as a research assistant under Dr. Reynold Nesiba researching home foreclosures in Sioux Falls neighborhoods.

**Q. What have your study abroad experiences been like?**

**A.** My first two study abroad experiences were in Nicaragua and Guatemala during my freshman and sophomore years, respectively. These were spring break courses that studied Free Trade, Fair Trade, and Poverty for about eight days. Last spring, I studied for a semester in New Zealand with The Education Abroad Network, a venture I recommend everyone to experience.

**Q. What college search tips would you offer someone searching for schools?**

**A.** Be sure that you are not just satisfied with the faculty at your prospective schools, be impressed. That goes for any of the qualities that you find important in a school.

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

**A.** At Augustana you will know many of your professors and they will know you. That relationship is incredible because it removes potential “intellectual barriers” between professors and students and allows for students to delve deeper into subjects by actually conversing with their teachers.

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

**A.** I took a math course entitled “Abstract Algebra” and it flat out changed the way I thought. The course was intensely rigorous, but it did more than keep me awake until the wee hours of the morning. This course challenges your notion of what you think mathematics is and how it is conducted. I found it to be mathematically challenging as well as intensely philosophical.

**Q. Who has been your favorite professor and why?**

**A.** This is a very difficult question and I hesitate to answer because there are many inspiring professors on campus. However, Dr. Cory Conover of the History department is my favorite professor for a host of reasons. Professor Conover is a very approachable professor who is always eager and willing to discuss. What's more is that with him, you can also simply converse about life instead of academic topics. Professor Conover's sociability and upstanding character are the things that make him my favorite professor.

**Q. What's been your best Augustana memory or moment so far?**

**A.** It's impossible to say that one particular memory is more significant than all others. However, the most important moments of Augustana have been meeting some of the outstanding students and faculty here. Coming to an institution that brings such great people in close proximity to one another is the best thing of all.