



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

January 29, 2007

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**Good morning.** I want to commend the members of the MLK Convocation Committee, not only for the fine convocation honoring Dr. King a couple of weeks ago, but also for having the campus community read Dr. King's "The World House" essay. The conversations about Dr. King's vision for the world house—focused on our responses to racism, poverty and militarism—have provided us with a helpful intellectual and moral framework for considering how our work as a college must focus on the links between education and pressing human and social needs. The entire convocation series for this year has given us a variety of perspectives on this link and challenged us to consider what we—individually and as a community—must understand and practice as members of the world house. This week's convocation with Cindy Sheehan, mother of a soldier slain in Iraq and peace activist, continues the conversation.

I like to think of these conversations about the link between education and democracy as "extraordinary conversations," a concept and practice I learned from my study of Jane Addams. They are extraordinary because they lift up big and complex issues and questions for ordinary citizens to discuss and address. In my comments at last week's final session on the World House essay, I offered three simple lessons that I have learned from the essay that might inform our extraordinary conversations here at Augsburg. My lessons learned are:

- We must practice our commitment to eradicating racism and its many subtle manifestations. We must each engage in a "diversity inventory" of our institutions and exercise our voices and votes where we find continuing discrimination.
- We must eschew xenophobia of other religions. Seek tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs and traditions, and be resources for communities that need assistance in viewing all faith traditions as manifestations of a good and generous God.
- We must demonstrate moral stewardship—especially those of us who are more affluent—so that our poor neighbors in our neighborhood and around the world might have opportunities to transition to self sufficiency. Condemn those who exploit the poor at the expense of the poorest.

May all of our conversations be extraordinary!

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### CFO search status

The [search committee for a new chief financial officer](#) is reviewing the profiles of a short list of candidates who were asked to provide written responses to questions regarding their experience in aligning their institution's mission with financial planning, and their thoughts on financial transparency and using financial modeling as a tool in long-range planning. Final candidates will be invited to interview with the search committee on February 15. Candidates will continue to be sourced and considered until an offer has been made and accepted.

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## Augsburg Cup victory

Human Resources and Health/Physical Education were the clear victors in the race for the Augsburg Cup. In Wednesday's game of Lindsay ball, HR/HPE kept Team CabOops (President's Cabinet and Office of the President) on the move, and secured a lopsided victory, most commonly reported as 36-15. Team HR/HPE now holds the Augsburg Cup and awaits a challenger.

## Join the Campus Energy Challenge/Wars

Beginning February 1, Augsburg students along with college students around Minnesota will pull the plug on excessive energy consumption, literally. In a [statewide competition called Campus Energy Challenge/Wars](#), 15 schools (listed below), will battle throughout the month of February to see which school can save the most energy—possibly the largest grassroots energy saving initiative in state history.

The effort was organized by students at MPIRG and offered to any school in Minnesota that wanted to join. A series of events will be planned on campus during February to encourage energy-saving techniques and get the word out about this great event. The goal is to show how easy it is to conserve energy year round by doing even the simplest things.

If you have any questions or any specific ideas, please feel free to contact Cassandra Roschen ([roschen@augsborg.edu](mailto:roschen@augsborg.edu)) or Brad Hammer ([bhammer@mpirg.org](mailto:bhammer@mpirg.org)). I encourage all of us to participate—this is a great example of common work as we all become more responsible stewards of our campus and neighborhood environments.

The schools participating are Augsburg, Carleton, Concordia–Moorhead, Gustavus, Hamline, Macalester, St. Ben's, St. John's, St. Kate's, St. Olaf, St. Thomas, St. Scholastica, and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Morris, and Duluth.

## KUDOS

Congratulations to Augsburg's Chapter of the Society for Physics Students for being selected as an [Outstanding SPS Chapter for the 2005-06 academic year](#). The selection is based on the "depth and breadth of SPS activities conducted by [the] chapter in such areas as physics research, public science outreach, physics tutoring programs, hosting and representation at physics meetings, and providing social interaction for chapter members." This is the fourth time in seven years that Augsburg's chapter has received this distinction. Last year the chapter was led by Emily Beauvais, now in graduate school at Iowa State University.

The award letter received by SPS chapter adviser Mark Engebretson also congratulates him, stating that the award is "a testament to your personal leadership skills as much as it is an acknowledgment of your chapter's superior performance."

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Congratulations, also, to [Cass Dalglish, English Dept.](#), who has been selected Poet of the [Week](#) in the "What Light" project sponsored by the McKnight Foundation through [mnartists.org](#). You can find her work at [www.mnartists.org/article.do?rid=132068](http://www.mnartists.org/article.do?rid=132068). Her poem, "Comfort," will be included in a forthcoming publication of works in the series.

Kudos to [Administrative Accounting](#) for developing our new electronic budgeting process. Special thanks to Steve Vacca and Sharon Rauenhorst for their extra efforts.

## NOTABLE EVENTS

January 30

[2006-07 Convocation Series](#)

Cindy Sheehan, "One Person Can Make a Difference"

11 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel

January 30

[Community Time](#)

3:30-4:30 p.m.—East Commons

February 2-11

*Twelfth Night*, by William Shakespeare

Guest directed by Barbra Berlovitz

7 p.m.—Feb. 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10

2 p.m.—Feb. 4 and 11

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS THIS WEEK:

[Tues., Jan. 30, 11 a.m.](#)—Convocation Series, Cindy Sheehan, "One Person Can Make a Difference"

[Wed., Jan. 31](#)—Agape: David Sherrer, Hip, Hop

[Thurs., Feb. 1](#)—Senior speaker

[Fri., Feb. 2](#)—Thelma Buckner and Family Gospel Singers

**Sports schedule**—[www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0607.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0607.html).

Have a great week!