



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

March 5, 2007

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**Good morning.** What a remarkable ending to this past week! The major snowstorm of this winter could hardly have come at a busier time—with Scholarship Weekend and the Batalden Convocation scheduled on campus, and the national wrestling championships in Iowa. I want to thank again all of our “essential” staff members for their great efforts to clear the snow, to feed our students, and to keep us safe. I also want to thank the admissions staff for all their work in reconfiguring the President’s Scholarship events. Saturday was a great day for all of our prospective scholarship winners because of the efforts of many people to make them feel welcome and honored in the midst of difficult weather conditions. Also, my thanks to Garry Hesser and his colleagues who rearranged the Batalden lecture, given by Dr. Jorge Bustamante to a standing-room-only crowd on Friday afternoon. We are resourceful!

And finally, what can we say about the Auggie wrestling team except WOW! The team, led by National Coach of the Year Jeff Swenson and his good staff, captured its 10th NCAA Division III national title on Saturday evening. Three Auggies won individual national championships—Marcus LeVesseur, Quincy Osborn, and Jeremy Anderson—in their weight classes and nine Auggies earned All-American honors. LeVesseur finished his college career undefeated at 155-0, and is only the second college wrestler to accomplish this. We are proud and grateful for the way in which you represented Augsburg College. Congratulations and we’ll look forward to opportunities to celebrate in the days ahead.

## 19th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum

On Friday and Saturday this week, Augustana College in Sioux Falls will host the 19th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum, “Striving for Peace: The Impact of One.” This forum honors the work of 2005 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and will address issues of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Registration for the forum closed on Friday, and I hope many of you are planning to attend.

## 12th annual Peace Prize Festival

On Thursday, March 8, the 12th annual Peace Prize Festival will take place on campus. This event, hosted by Augsburg, brings together area school children who have been working on projects relating to Peace Prize laureates. This year it will honor the work of Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei and the IAEA, and will feature Kjell Magne Bondevik, the former prime minister of Norway, as its keynote speaker.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### StepUP celebrates 10 years

I was pleased to participate in the StepUP program’s 10th anniversary on Feb. 22. Over 200 people attended, and the program raised \$20,000 to help support the program. The Toby LaBelle Award was presented to the El-Hibri family, with Fuad, Nancy, and Karim

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(former Augsburg student) in attendance. Fuad El-Hibri has been instrumental in mobilizing the Gateway building planning team, and has contributed both his time and resources toward the project. It was a great evening for all of us who care about what StepUP means for our students and our college.

Thanks to alumni Max Marcy '03 and Susan Karber '02, and current student Joe Trenary '07, who took part in the program. Over 10 years, StepUP has been a wonderful extension of Augsburg's mission as it has served more than 350 students in recovery. [Throughout the years, StepUP's abstinence rate has remained at 82%, higher than most recovery programs.](#) Congratulations to director Patrice Salmeri, her staff, and StepUP students past and present.

## KUDOS

Kudos to MIS professor [Kathy Schwalbe](#), who presented "Managing Projects Using Microsoft Project 2007," at Thomsen/Course Development's annual conference last week. She was also invited to present "Research on Best Practices in IT Project Management" at the Center for Business Practices conferences in September. She is a two-year board member and director of communications on the Project Management Institute's Information Systems Specific Interest Group (PMI ISSIG). Currently, she is nearing completion of the fifth edition of her textbook, *Information Technology Project Management*.

Kathy Schwalbe extends her own kudos to [Heather Feehan](#) in IT for so quickly getting her a copy of Microsoft Project 2007, so she could finish the appendix of her book on time.

Kudos to American Indian Studies Department chair [Eric Buffalohead](#) and student [Rev Hillstrom](#) on the release of *A Little White Lie*, the second CD from Bluedog, their Native blues/rock band.

Kudos also to [PASU students](#) who attended the annual Pan-African Student Leadership Conference held at Minnesota State University-Mankato, Feb. 22-24, and especially to [Rodney Dixon and Tiffany Ramm](#), who won the titles of Mr. and Ms. Pan African, respectively.

Congratulations to head coach [Dennis Barker and the 2006 men's and women's cross country teams](#), who were named All-Academic by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The cumulative GPA for the women's team is 3.51, and for the men's team is 3.14.

Congratulations to former men's hockey coach and men's athletic director [Ed Saugestad '59](#), who was named the 2007 recipient of the Hobey Baker Legends of Hockey Award. Over 37 seasons (1958-1996), Saugestad's win record was 503-354-21, among the best records of Division III coaches. His teams won MIAC championships six years in a row, as well as three national championships. The award will be presented at a banquet on May 3 in St. Paul.

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## NOTABLE EVENTS

March 7

### Visit of Norwegian and U.S. ambassadors

Visit of Benson Whitney, U.S. ambassador to Norway, and Knut Vollebæk, Norwegian ambassador to the U.S., along with other officials, to discuss student exchanges with Norway. 10:45–11:45 a.m., Student panel discussion, Augsburg Room, Christensen Center

### Wednesday Gathering

Faculty and staff gather for free soup, salad, and dessert lunch (free meals also available for night employees during their shift). Special guests are the Norwegian and U.S. ambassadors.

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

March 8

### 12th annual Nobel Peace Prize Festival

The 12th annual Nobel Peace Prize Festival brings school children to Augsburg College to participate in programs honoring the work of Peace Prize laureates, this year especially Nobel laureate Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

10:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Melby Hall

### Metro Senior History Day Regional

High school seniors will be at Augsburg, involved in display exhibits, documentaries and performances.

4 p.m., Christensen Center

March 9–10

### 19th annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Forum will honor the work of Nobel Laureate Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS:

“Sexuality, Mortality, and Freedom”

From March 5–16, chapel services will focus on Paul’s letter to the Galatians. These services, co-sponsored by the Religion Department and Campus Ministry, are designed to generate discussion of the recent ELCA sexuality study, “Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality”

Mon., March 5—David Tiede, Christensen Chair, Religion Dept., “Introduction to Galatians

Tues., March 6—Mary Lowe, Religion Dept., Galatians 1:1–10

Wed., March 7—Lynne Lorenzen, Religion Dept., Galatians 1:11–2:10

Thurs., March 8—Phil Quanbeck II, Religion Dept., Galatians 2:11–3:14

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Fri., March 9—Bev Stratton, Religion Dept., Galatians 3:15-29  
Sat., March 10—Weekend College chapel (7:30 a.m.)

Mon., March 12—Lori Brandt Hale, Religion Dept., Galatians 4:1-20  
Tues., March 13—Mark Tranvik, Religion Dept., Galatians 4:21-5:1

**Sports schedule**—<http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/spring0607.html>

Have a great week!