



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

March 12, 2007

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Good morning. This week, before the College pauses for midterm break, I want to note various ways in which we recognize our staff and faculty—and the many gifts they share with our students and the College. [The Staff Recognition Reception on Thursday afternoon will honor the service of our staff.](#) In addition to the milestone years to be recognized, I'll have the privilege of naming and honoring the Staff Employees of the Year. I'll hope you'll join me on Thursday at 3 p.m. to celebrate the service of our staff.

I'm especially pleased with the new programs we've been able to implement to support our staff and faculty—among them, the new three-month staff sabbatical, days off for community service, collaborative projects through the *workculture@augsborg* program, and the innovative schedule of supervisor and leadership training workshops.

[On May 3 we'll honor our faculty at the Faculty Recognition Luncheon](#)—our retiring faculty, those reaching milestone years, faculty who have received tenure and promotion, and department chairs who are completing their terms. Faculty emeriti will be invited to join us for this occasion.

For many, next week's [spring break](#) means involvement in special projects and travel, as we send many representatives of the College in different directions around the country.

Among the groups traveling or involved in projects are:

- the baseball team and men's golf team to Arizona;
- the softball team, and track and field team to California;
- the Pedalers for Peace bike trip to Mississippi and Louisiana;
- a Campus Ministry group to New Orleans; and
- the Augsburg Choir to Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota;
- the Go Away Here project, in which students will study and do community service projects here in the Twin Cities.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you as we break from our daily work—we'll look forward to hearing your stories when we're back together on the 26th.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

"Best Workplace for Commuters"

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Ruffaner and the Environmental Stewardship Committee, [Augsburg was recently included among the "Best Workplaces for Commuters."](#)

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation, the program recognizes employers that offer outstanding benefits to commuters. Augsburg is one of three colleges and universities in Minneapolis to receive this recognition.

Some of the benefits available to the Augsburg community include discounted bus and light rail transit passes, close proximity to public transportation, telework options and the availability of Hour Car.

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KUDOS

Kudos to our faculty, staff, and students from Augsburg who traveled to Augustana for the Peace Prize Forum last week, and especially to those who presented a seminar—Joan Kunz, Chemistry Dept.; Mark Engebretson, Physics Dept., and alumna Cynthia Jones '81, who is senior technical adviser for national security at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She also participated on an alumni panel during the evening plenary session concerning careers for the common good and “the impact of one.” Thanks also to Orv Gingerich and those who helped coordinate Augsburg’s participation.

This year’s Peace Prize Festival at Augsburg on Thursday was also a great success, with approximately 600 children in grades 1-12 visiting our campus. Thanks to Augsburg planning committee members Joe Underhill-Cady, Judy Petree, and Amanda Storm.

A special thanks to Emily Cronk, administrative assistant in the Social Work Department, who coordinated department staff, faculty, and especially student workers Betsy Popelka and Jenna Forbrook, and to Vicki Keck and the crew in Central Services and Shipping and Receiving for their Herculean efforts to get the three-volume self-study report for reaffirmation of accreditation to the CSWE site visitors a full six weeks before their arrival at Augsburg, April 25-27.

NOTABLE EVENTS

March 15

Annual Staff Recognition/Employee of the Year

East Commons

3–4:30 p.m., Christensen Center

March 16-17

Life of the Mind Retreat

Annual faculty/staff retreat, centering on Cormac McCarthy’s novel *The Road*, to be held at Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska.

March 17

Augsburg Associates Spring Seminar

Continental breakfast with guest speaker Dr. Bill Green.

9 a.m., Arnold Atrium, Foss Center

Environmental Stewardship Committee

A community garden resource fair hosted by the Center for Service, Work, and Learning and the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

9 a.m.–2 p.m., Christensen Center

March 19-25

Midterm Break

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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”

Tues., March 13—Mark Tranvik, Religion Dept., Galatians 4:21-5:1

Wed., March 14—Vocatio Chapel, Gary Legwold, writer/humorist

Thurs., March 15—Russell Kleckley, Religion Dept., Galatians 5:1-26

Fri., March 16—Brad Holt, Religion Dept., Galatians 6:1-18

Mon., March 19—Midterm break

Tues., March 20—Midterm break

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

There will be no Update next week during our Spring Break. Have a great week!