



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

December 4, 2006

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Good morning! Greetings during this first week of December and the beginning of the Advent season. At Advent Vespers over the weekend, we sang Gustav Holst's hymn with the words "Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams, Our love in hand of neighbor." What a wonderful season we have entered to live out our theme of AGES—especially as we practice abundance and generosity.

Tomorrow is the deadline for our fall United Way and Community Solutions Fund campaign. I have pledged to match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 every gift to the United Way from our faculty, staff, and students, and I hope you'll join me in supporting these important community programs. Contact Sally Daniels at daniels@augsborg.edu or x1515 for the pledge forms.

I know other projects also are underway to share gifts during this season. One of these is a [toy drop in partnership with the American Indian OIC](#) for children of American Indian OIC students and staff, and for two adopted families. Watch A-mail for information about drop boxes in the Christensen Center lobby and the Urness/Mort lobby.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Learning about the environment and sustainability

Did you know that Campus Kitchens has kept more than 35,000 pounds of food out of the landfill and turned it into over 37,250 meals for the community? You can read about this and other Augsburg efforts towards waste reduction, reuse, and recycling on the new website about Urban Environmental Stewardship at www.augsburg.edu/green.

Other pages on the site list Augsburg courses across the disciplines that deal with the environment and sustainability, public transportation options, and how we are becoming a greener campus. This is a wonderful effort of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, chaired by Tom Ruffaner, and I commend them for this work and their leadership on campus.

Christensen Center renovation

If you have ideas for using the space in Christensen Center, please share them with the Christensen Center Task Force via their online survey at <http://academics.augsburg.edu/surveys/cctf2006.survey>. This is an opportunity for us all to think about and have a voice in the future of the Christensen Center (and other spaces on campus) as we seek to use these spaces to serve our students and nurture a more vibrant campus life.

Our holiday celebration

The annual Augsburg holiday party will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21, hosted by Abigail and myself, along with the staff in the President's Office. Please join us from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Christensen Center before we leave for our Christmas break to join families and friends.

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KUDOS

My deep thanks and congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's 27th annual Advent Vespers, especially to Pastor Dave Wold, Peter Hendrickson, and Cathy Anderson for their leadership and work. Four "sold-out" services attest to the community's appreciation for this Augsburg tradition linking the music and liturgy of the Advent season. Many thanks also to Events Services and Sodexo for helping us to host a memorable dinner Friday evening on campus for our most generous alumni and donors.

Kudos for faculty and staff scholarship:

- **Nancy Fischer**, Sociology Dept., co-edited a book, *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*, recently released in paperback from Taylor & Francis. She wrote a chapter in the volume, "Purity and Pollution: Sex as a Moral Discourse."
- **Andrea Wojtanowicz**, Augsburg Abroad programs, co-presented (with Kathy Tuma, St. Olaf College, and Janis Perkins, University of Iowa) a workshop at the NAFSA Region IV conference in St. Louis, Mo., on Nov. 12, titled "Developing and Administering Quality Short-Term Education Abroad Programs."
- **Orv Gingerich**, International Programs, co-presented a paper (with Ann Hershberger, Eastern Mennonite University, and Margaret Wiedenhoef, Kalamazoo College) at the annual Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in Seville, Spain, on Nov. 11, titled "Integrating Study Abroad into the General Education Curriculum."

NOTABLE EVENTS THIS WEEK

December 4

Student Chamber Music Recital

7 p.m.—Sateren Auditorium

December 6

2006 Sports Extravaganza

10 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Air Structure

This annual event hosted by our HPE students brings sports activities to approximately 200-250 students with disabilities.

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS THIS WEEK:

Tues., Dec. 5—Herald Johnson '68

Wed., Dec. 6—St. Nicholas

Thurs., Dec. 7—Andrew Estrum, senior speaker

Fri., Dec. 8—Pastor Sonja Hagander and the brass group

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Next week:

Mon., Dec. 11—Music Day with Riverside Singers

Tues., Dec. 12—David Solberg, senior speaker

Sports schedule—www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0607.html.

Have a great week!