



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 25, 2008

Page 1

Good morning. It was a great weekend at Augsburg as we welcomed prospective scholarship students to campus for the annual Presidential and Fine Arts Scholarship Weekend. It is always gratifying to meet these very talented high school students (and their families) and to learn of their aspirations for their lives and why they believe Augsburg is the right place for them. As one faculty member noted, "Let's make sure the whole lot of them come to Augsburg!" Here, here. My thanks especially to Carola Thorson and Marissa Machado, from our day admissions staff, and to Professor Bob Groven, head of the Honors Program, who organized all of us to ensure a successful and hospitable event!

At the end of this week, **our annual Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics will engage us in conversations around the work and philosophy of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr**, who has become a topic of conversation among our current presidential candidates. **Noted Niebuhr scholar Robin Lovin will present three talks on the theme, "Reinhold Niebuhr for the 21st Century: Christian Realism and the New Realities."**

On Thursday evening, Lovin's presentation will focus on Niebuhr's views applied to creating global order within current global realities. On Friday morning, Lovin specifically addresses global warming within a geopolitical context. Saturday's talk addresses faith and politics from Niebuhr's perspectives.

Robin Lovin, the Cary McGuire University Professor of Ethics at Southern Methodist University, is a pre-eminent scholar of Reinhold Niebuhr. He also was my teacher at the University of Chicago. I'm grateful that Professor Lovin will be with us to share his views on Niebuhr's continuing significance as applied to issues that we hear debated daily in our news and media. See the calendar listing for detailed information on the convocation presentations.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Augsburg faculty exhibition and scholarship

Last Friday evening, the opening reception was held for **"Full Faculty" a group exhibition by studio art faculty that will run through April 4 in the Gage Family Art Gallery. The eight faculty exhibiting represent a wide range of media and themes**—Susan Boecher (photography), Lynn Bollman (printmaking), Kim Bowden (graphic and web design), Dan Noyes (sculpture), Regula Russelle (handmade paper and artist books), Tara Sweeney (watercolor), Lex Thompson (photography), and Robert Tom (sculpture). See the Web calendar for artist talks in the coming weeks.

On Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m., **the Faculty Scholarship Forum will showcase the research and creative projects of 10-12 faculty members** in the Johnson Conference Center. This is a great opportunity for us to become more acquainted with our colleagues and professors, and hear about the varied work that engages them.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 25, 2008
Page 2

Ask head coach Tim Brewster on KAUG

Minnesota Gophers **football head coach Tim Brewster** will take part in an interview on **KAUG on the Dave Kelly Show**, Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 9–10 p.m. KAUG welcomes anyone to visit the KAUG studio to talk with the coach. If you have any questions, contact David Kelly at kelly1@augsborg.edu.

Funds raised for breast cancer research honor Lois Hallcock Johnson '68

Last weekend, **Augsburg honored the memory of alumna Lois Hallock Johnson '68** by donating all proceeds from ticket sales at its five home athletic events to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and a fund for Augsburg women's athletics. Johnson, wife of Augsburg men's hockey assistant coach Bruce Johnson '68, died on November 26 of breast cancer. Their three children—Leah, Thomas, and Aaron—all attended Augsburg. **A total of \$2340.79 was split between the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Augsburg Women's Athletics.**

KUDOS

Congratulations to **the 31 graduates in the physician assistant Class of 2007 for their exemplary performance on the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE)**. Augsburg's mean score of 638 compared to the national mean score of 517, placing the College at least in the top three programs in the country for the third time in the last seven years. The PA program looks forward to hosting an accreditation site team on campus on April 14–15.

Congratulations also to **Brian Krohn '08** for being chosen to present his research, "A Novel Method and Catalyst for Production of Biodiesel," in the Council on Undergraduate Research's Posters on the Hill session to be held April 30 in Washington, D.C. He is one of 70 students selected nationally for this program. Krohn received funding through URGO last summer and has worked with chemistry professor Arlin Gyberg and alumnus Clayton McNeff to develop a unique process to produce biodiesel. Krohn and Gyberg's day on Capitol Hill will also include visits to Minnesota legislators.

Congratulations also to **Caryn Quist '09** for her selection as one of approximately 10 students to be accepted into the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program through the University of Florida for research in France this summer and fall. She has worked on a research team with Arlin Gyberg in chemistry on research that involves discovering a way to grow algae in large scale and extract oil from it to convert into biodiesel fuel. Faculty members Mark Strefeler, Sandra Olmsted, and Joan Kunz wrote letters in her support.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 25, 2008
Page 3

Kudos to **Dal Liddle**, English, for his essay, "Bakhtinian 'Journalization' and the Mid-Victorian Literary Marketplace," which appears in *Literature Compass*, 4/5 (2007). Liddle, a founding member of the Scholarly Writing Group, had shared his work with the group and considers its publication "another SWG success."

Kudos also to **Doug Green**, English, for his article, "Branagh's Love's Labour's Lost and the Return of the Hollywood Musical: *Song of the Living Dead*," is appearing in *Shakespeare Bulletin* 26.1 (Winter 2008), published by Johns Hopkins University Press. On January 25, Green participated in a juried literary reading, "Winter Words," at the Northfield Arts Guild; he read his poems "Road Closed" and "A Visit to Theresienstadt."

Kudos to **Nancy Steblay**, psychology, who is serving on a five-scientist national team that has received \$586,000 from the JEHT Foundation of New York City, for eyewitness identification experimental field tests. This research is sponsored by a collaboration of two forensic science institutes, the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, and the Innocence Project at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She also has published two articles and presented at regional and national forums on eyewitness identification.

NOTABLE EVENTS

February 25-28

dollar/sense financial literacy series

6:30 p.m., M-Th, Cooper's Coffee Shop

February 26

Community Time

3:45 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

February 22-April 4

"Full Faculty" art exhibition

Group show of eight Augsburg studio art faculty

Gage Family Art Gallery

See Web calendar for schedule of artist talks.

February 28

Faculty Scholarship Forum

4 p.m., Johnson Conference Center, Oren Gateway Center

StepUP Gala

Silent auction, social, dinner, and program with keynote by Peter Bisanz.

5:30 p.m., Christensen Center

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 25, 2008
Page 4

February 28-March 1

2007-08 Convocation Series, Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics

"Global Order and Global Warming: Thinking with Niebuhr about Politics,"

Robin Lovin, Southern Methodist University

February 28, 7:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel—"Creating Global Order: A Niebuhrian View of New Realities"

February 29, 10 a.m., Hoversten Chapel—"Global Order and Global Warming: Thinking with Niebuhr about Politics"

March 1, noon, Minneapolis Room, Christensen Center—"Faith and Politics: A Niebuhrian Perspective"

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F-10:20 a.m.; T-Th-11:20 a.m.; Wed-9:09 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)-7:30 a.m.

"The Ins and Outs of the Bible: Inclusion and Exclusion in Holy Scripture," presented by Religion Department faculty

Mon., Feb. 25—Hans Wiersma, "Out with the In Crowd," Mark 2:13-17

Tues., Feb. 26—David Tiede, "The God Who Chooses!" Genesis 12:1-3

Wed., Feb. 27—Bev Stratton, "No Salvation Outside the Poor?" Luke 18:18-30

Thurs., Feb. 28—Phil Quanbeck II, "Wedding Crashers," Matthew 22:1-14

Fri., Feb. 29—10 a.m., Convocation Series, Robin Lovin, see above

Sat., March 1—Weekend Chapel, 7:30 a.m., continental breakfast; 7:40 a.m., chapel service

Sports schedule— <http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0708.html>

Have a great week!