



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

March 10, 2008

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**Good morning.** We begin this week on the heels of a very busy last week.

**I especially want to thank all of our students, faculty, and staff who participated in the 20th Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Concordia College on Friday and Saturday.** It was an energetic and meaningful event for all of us, as we heard from noted international activist Greg Mortenson, as well as Columbia University economist Jeffrey Sachs and New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof. Certainly the highlight of the weekend was the keynote address by 2006 Peace Prize laureate, Muhammad Yunus, whose work with the Grameen Bank on micro-lending and social business is inspiring. What a remarkable opportunity the Nobel Forum is for our community to learn from peacemakers.

I hope you saw news coverage from the press conference on Friday, in which **Augsburg, in collaboration with SarTec and regent Marie McNeff, announced the discovery of a new process to make biodiesel fuel** that can have major impact on our national fuel and energy policies. This discovery came about through the initial research of senior Brian Krohn and developed through the collaboration of chemistry professor Arlin Gyberg and Augsburg alum Clayton McNeff, with his team of scientists. Thanks to David Warch, Jodi Collen, and alum Kari Logan, with her public relations firm, who coordinated the press conference that attracted print and TV media, plus other industry publications. View the news coverage on the links posted in the Auggie Press Room on Inside Augsburg.

**Finally, I also want to thank all of you who participated in the Sustainability Conference,** held on campus on Saturday. Neighborhood volunteer teams and individuals attended to learn how to plan projects that reduce global warming and adapt to climate change. Speakers included Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak, St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman, and Hennepin County commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

This week, **I encourage students to participate in the Minnesota Private College Council's Day at the Capitol.** Each year, MPCC organizes opportunities for students to meet with our local legislators to talk about financial aid, specifically the Minnesota State Grant program, and share with them how critical the aid is to their educational resources. Students receive information on student aid issues and lobbying tips before they attend meetings with the legislators.

Augsburg students join students from Concordia and Hamline at the Capitol on Wednesday, from 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no cost, and transportation and lunch are provided. I encourage all students, plus faculty, staff, and parents who are interested, to participate in this important opportunity to advocate for access to our state's education. To register, go to [www.mnprivatecolleges.org/events/day.php](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/events/day.php).

**Congratulations to the Auggie wrestlers, who finished in the top four nationally for the 20th straight season!** The Auggies finished third as a team, while junior Seth Flodeen won a national title at 125 pounds. All-American honors were earned by Flodeen, sophomore Jason Adams, sophomore Willy Holst, junior Travis Lang, and senior Robbie Gotreau.

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## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### All-Hands meeting on Tuesday

**On Tuesday, I'll host an All-Hands Meeting during chapel time and invite faculty and staff to attend, as well as students who are interested.** This will be an opportunity to hear an overview of various initiatives currently underway (academic building, enrollment commissions, diversity planning, capital campaign planning, campus master planning, budgets, etc.) and to ask questions of me and Cabinet members about what may be of special interest. We'll begin at 11:20 with a presentation, and then entertain questions and discussion for those who choose to stay until noon or after.

### Nobel Peace Prize Forum Scholars named

**Congratulations to juniors Hannah Glusenkamp and Willie Pinckney, who were named among the first Nobel Peace Prize Forum Scholars.** This new PPF program selects two students from each of the five sponsoring colleges—Augsburg, Augustana (Sioux Falls), Concordia, Luther, and St. Olaf—who will travel together on a summer seminar, lead peace activities on their campuses, and present at the next spring's Peace Prize Forum. The goal of the program is to develop student leaders inspired to careers or lifelong interests in world peace issues.

Pinckney and Glusenkamp will travel to Guatemala in August on a 10-day intensive seminar sponsored by CGE to study Guatemala's post-conflict experience with the 1996 Peace Accords, and to highlight themes and issues to be discussed in next year's Peace Prize Forum.

### Kemper Foundation grant for student leadership development

Augsburg has received a grant of \$50,000 for 2008 from the Kemper Foundation to develop a summer undergraduate leadership seminar for 10 students with paid internships in community organizations, to help them connect liberal arts and leadership with careers and citizenship.

### Midterm break travel

Our thoughts and prayers will be with groups traveling during next week's midterm break:

- Athletic teams
  - Baseball team to Phoenix, Arizona
  - Softball team to Tucson, Arizona
  - Men's golf to Temple, Texas
  - Track and field team to Waco, Texas
- Campus Ministry spring break trips
  - to Southeastern Minnesota to assist Lutheran Disaster Relief with flood recovery
  - to Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts with clean-up or construction
  - Pedalers for Peace bike trip to Louisiana and Mississippi for hurricane recovery
  - Augsburg Concert Band tour in northern Minnesota

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The following week, March 24–28, a team of Augsburg senior administrators will travel to the Center for Global Education site in Nicaragua to learn more about CGE programs and study abroad experiences.

### KUDOS

Many thanks to **Orv Gingerich**, assistant vice president for international programs, who coordinated Augsburg's participation in this year's Peace Prize Forum.

Kudos to **Pastor Dave Wold** and Augsburg students for a busy and successful annual Congregational Youth Basketball League tournament at Augsburg yesterday, which brought 1,000 youth from area churches for the end-of-season tournament.

Kudos to social work professor **Tiong Tan**, who presented at the University of Minnesota Social Entrepreneurship in Asia lecture in February. His talk focused on how social entrepreneurs and change agents engage in innovations and respond to the new economic environment in Asia, specifically enterprises in Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

### NOTABLE EVENTS

#### March 11

##### All-Hands Meeting

11:20 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel

#### March 12

##### Day at the Capitol—students advocate for the Minnesota State Grant Program

10:20 a.m.–2 p.m., State Capitol

#### March 16–19

##### Augsburg Concert Band tour in northern Minnesot—concerts in Aitkin, Sebeka, Park Rapids, Blackduck, and Staples, MN.

For schedule, go to

[http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2008/03\\_02\\_08/march\\_trips.html](http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2008/03_02_08/march_trips.html)

#### March 17–24

##### Day College Midterm/Easter break

March 24—no Day College classes; Rochester classes meet

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## 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.

**Tues., March 11**—All-Hands meeting

**Wed., March 12**—Charlie Ruud, “Baptism,” Riverside Singers

**Thurs., March 13**—

**Fri., March 14**—Charlie Ruud, Lord’s Supper and mission trip send-off

**Sat., March 15—7:30 a.m.**, WEC Chapel, Ray Makeever

**Mon., March 17**—Midterm/Easter break

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

Have a great week!