



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

March 31, 2008

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Good morning.

The Cabinet and I have returned from our week in Nicaragua with an even clearer sense that the work of the Center for Global Education is at the core of our college's mission. Special thanks to Mark Lester and Kathy McBride, the co-directors of our Central America programs, for their personal leadership of our week-long immersion into the politics, economics, and culture of Nicaragua. Many thanks as well to José Solórzano, María Elena Rodríguez, and Ana María Canales, the indispensable staff at the Jaime Meyer House in Managua, who showed us kind and generous hospitality.

There is much for all of us to learn from our work in Nicaragua (as well as in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Namibia). The relationships our CGE staff have developed with citizens from all walks of life throughout the country create opportunities for mutual teaching and learning that are truly exceptional. As we return to Minneapolis, the Cabinet and I are dedicated to ongoing exploration of ways we can make the CGE experience an even more integrated aspect of our life here on campus. We also believe that there are many ways in which we can share our core Augsburg values with our partners in Nicaragua. For example, we visited a women's sewing cooperative that might be a source for some of our bookstore gear. We also enjoyed a constructive and inspiring visit with the president and vice president of the University of Central America (UCA), a Jesuit institution, which shares our commitment to experiential education and community engagement, and which might be a strategic partner for some joint programming in Managua.

I look forward to our continuing conversations with the wider Augsburg community about how we might further include our CGE experience in shaping the mission-based work of our college.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

StepUP receives national recognition

Over the past few days, Augsburg's StepUP program has both been featured on national radio and StepUP staff and students have received awards at a national conference.

On Saturday, Sam, a StepUP student, was featured on Weekend America, an American Public Media program on Minnesota Public Radio. He told his story of connecting with StepUP at Augsburg and the transformation it has brought to his life. Go to http://weekendamerica.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/03/27/sober_college

On Thursday, at the Joint Meeting of Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE) in Washington, D.C., Augsburg received two of the Practice Recognition Awards. StepUP

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assistant director **Dave Hadden** received the **Youth, Family, and Community Evidence-Based Practice Award** given to a person who has helped make practice more accountable and effective through community efforts or leadership in working with programs, researchers, or policy makers.

StepUP students Peter Hubbard, Candice Leitner, Chris Scribner, Britta Skordahl, Anne Thompson, and Johanna Warr were honored for the **Best Poster**, that best reflects efforts to move the field towards evidence-based practice related to adolescent substance abuse treatment.

KUDOS

Many thanks to **everyone who has contributed to the development of the new student lounge in Christensen Center**, including past student government leaders and campus activities staff:

- Student Government—several years of student government advocacy for space that would better support students: Day students Bobby Brown, Paul Cumings, Maria Mitchell, Ricky Oudekerk, and Weekend College, including Mia Bothun and Michelle Roulet
- Campus Activities staff—beginning before Ann Garvey's leadership and continuing with Jeff Stafford, Mark Skjervem, and Ramon Knox
- President Paul Pribbenow—his decision to support Christensen Center as a student center and finding money to begin to make the changes
- Facilities Management—for their work in creating the space and ordering furniture
- Christensen Center Task Force, which has included Wendi Wheeler, Ramon Knox, Adam Assefa, Kevin Myren, John Pack, David Draus, Ann Garvey, Ricky Oudekerk, Michelle Roulet, and Cassandra Roschen

Kudos to **Douglas Green**, English Department, who participated in a Shakespeare Association seminar investigating the question: What Can Scholars Learn from Play Directors and Vice-versa? He presented "Performing Twelfth Night, Teaching Shakespeare: What You Will or What You Can?"

Kudos also to **Kathryn Swanson**, English, who presented a paper and chaired a session at the 38th Popular Culture Association Conference and the 30th Annual American Culture Association Conference. Her focus area was mystery and detective fiction and her paper examined the use of the sidekick stock character, both male and female, as a complication to the female sleuth.

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NOTABLE EVENTS

Wednesday, April 2

Wednesday Gathering for Faculty and Staff

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons

Thursday, April 3

Staff Recognition Reception

3 p.m., Oren Gateway Center Lobby

Friday, April 4

Agre Challenge

6–10 p.m., Edor Nelson Field

Sunday, April 6

Organ Dedication with Augsburg Choir

3 p.m., Central Lutheran Church

Monday, April 7

Torstenson Lecture, Kathleen Hull, speaker, University of Minnesota

5 p.m., Oren Gateway Center 113

Spring classes begin on Rochester Campus

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)–7:40 a.m.

Tues., April 1—Luther's Small Catechism, Karl Jacobson, Religion Dept.

Wed., April 2—Luther's Small Catechism, Mark Tranvik, Religion Dept.

Wed. eve—Communion

Thurs., April 3—Krista Costin, senior speaker

Fri., April 4—President Paul Pribbenow

Mon., April 7—Lee Clarke, Business Administration Dept.

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

Have a great week!