



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 24, 2007

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Good morning. Next Sunday I have the privilege of serving as the honorary co-chair for the **Twin Cities CROP Walk** (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty), sponsored by Church World Service, a global humanitarian agency. This annual event raises money for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and self-help programs both in the U.S. and around the world. One quarter of the money raised is used to support local organizations—here in Minneapolis, they are the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, the Brian Coyle Center food shelf, the Youth Farm and Market Project, and the Groveland Emergency Food Shelf Youth Program.

At 1:30 p.m. this Sunday, Sept. 30, walkers will register at Father Hennepin Park, Main St. and 6th St, SE, in Minneapolis for the 1.8 mile walk at 2 p.m. along the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail. Walkers will collect donations to turn in that day, or collect online at the Church World Service website, www.churchworldservice.org.

I hope you'll join me for this good cause and a good time on a fall afternoon in Minneapolis' historic district. In the 60 years that CROP Walks have taken place, more than five million walkers have raised money to fight hunger. Tim Dougherty, Center for Service, Work, and Learning, has collection envelopes. For further information, contact Tim at x1208 or Mary Laurel True at x1775. I hope to see you on Sunday!

I also want to report to you that New Hall now has a new name. On Saturday the **Board of Regents approved the renaming of New Residence Hall to Martin Luther Residence Hall (Luther Hall)**, effective immediately. This recommendation strengthens our connections to the Lutheran tradition and makes a fundamental statement of our legacy and continuing mission-based commitment to the Lutheran and Christian faith.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

The Christensen Symposium

Today and tomorrow we host the Christensen Symposium, this year featuring Professor Rolf Jacobson, formerly of Augsburg's Religion Department and now at Luther Seminary, speaking on "Everyday Life in the Light of the Gospel." Tonight's presentation at 7:30 p.m. is "Why Do You Weep? Sadness, Grief, and the Gospel." Tomorrow at 11 a.m. he speaks on "How Can I Keep from Singing? Laughter, Joy, and the Gospel."

This annual symposium is funded by the Christensen Endowment, formed to honor the life and service of Bernhard M. Christensen, president of Augsburg College from 1938 to 1962. It honors his commitment to academic integrity and freedom of inquiry, and focuses on issues of Christian faith in all aspects of life in a diverse, global society.

The Christensen Endowment also supports the Bernhard M. Christensen Endowed Professor in Religion and Vocation, the College's first endowed chair. It was inaugurated in 2005 and currently is held by David Tiede.

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Augsburg Associates fall luncheon

The Augsburg Associates host their fall luncheon at the Town and Country Club on Wednesday this week. Their speaker is Janet Letnes Martin '68, one of the two "Lutheran Ladies," whose books inspired the blockbuster play, *Church Basement Ladies*.

The Associates are a group of Augsburg alumni, retired faculty and staff, faculty, spouses, and friends—mostly women, but not entirely!—who for more than 25 years have raised money and provided service to the College. Their work has remained largely behind the scenes, but the results have been very visible in the life of Augsburg. Among projects they funded are the purchase of the College's organ in Hoversten Chapel, the renovation of the Marshall and Augsburg Rooms, the Special Collections Room in Lindell Library, and creation of the welcome desk in Christensen Center. For the past few years they have raised funds through the administration of estate and moving sales. Every year they also serve as hosts of Velkommen Jul, in their colorful folk costumes. For more information on the Augsburg Associates, contact Kathryn Croyle, croyle@augsborg.edu.

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Dixie Shafer, Carol Forbes, Dal Liddle, Bob Cowgill, and others whose work has brought the McNair program back to Augsburg**. Named for astronaut Ronald McNair, who was killed in the Challenger explosion, the U.S. Department of Education McNair grants provide support to first-generation college students, students in underrepresented populations, and economically disadvantaged students, to encourage them to pursue graduate education. Augsburg's first McNair Program helped 45 Augsburg students find success in college and then move on to graduate programs around the country. In 2003, when Augsburg's first McNair grant was not renewed, the College continued funding for students through the Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity Office (URGO). It is exciting and meaningful that the McNair program has returned to Augsburg.

On Friday evening, **Augsburg will mark 35 years of women's varsity athletics**, and 25 years of participation in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Athletic letters will be awarded to alumnae who competed in Augsburg athletics prior to this time. Congratulations to all Augsburg women athletes!

NOTABLE EVENTS THIS WEEK

September 24-25

2007 Christensen Symposium

Rev. Rolf Jacobson, "Everyday Life in Light of the Gospel"

Sept. 24—"Why Do You Weep? Sadness, Grief, and the Gospel"

7:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

Sept. 25—"How Can I Keep from Singing? Laughter, Joy, and the Gospel"

11 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel

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September 26

Augsburg Associates Fall Luncheon

Featuring humorist Janet Letnes Martin '68

10:30 a.m.—Silent Auction Opens

11:30 a.m.—Brief Business Meeting

Noon—Lunch

Town and Country Club

September 28

Women's Athletic Celebration

5 p.m.—Reception and dinner, Kennedy Center, 3rd floor

7 p.m.—Awards Ceremony, Hoversten Chapel

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)—8 a.m.

Tues., Sept. 25, 11 a.m.—Christensen Symposium: “How Can I Keep from Singing?,” Rolf Jacobson, Luther Seminary, “Laughter, Joy, and the Gospel”

Wed., Sept. 26—Campus Ministry Leaders

Thurs., Sept. 27—Babette Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

Fri., Sept. 28—Lloyd Garrelts, singer and musician

Sports schedule—<http://www.Augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0708.html>

Have a great week!