



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

January 5, 2009

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Good morning. Welcome back to most faculty and staff, returning this week after the holiday break. I hope you enjoyed peaceful and joyful holiday celebrations with your family and friends. Next weekend we welcome most Weekend College and graduate students who are beginning winter trimester and, next Monday, day students begin their spring semester classes.

I was saddened to learn that Br. Dietrich Reinhart, president emeritus of Saint John's University, passed away on December 29. He served as president from 1991 until October 21, 2008 when he announced his resignation due to health reasons. We will keep the communities of Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Dean Barbara Farley will represent the Augsburg community tomorrow at the Mass of Christian Burial.

I am very pleased to report that Augsburg is among 119 colleges nationally that have received the Community Engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation. Selected colleges with strong commitments to community engagement are invited by Carnegie Foundation to apply in one of three categories—Curricular Engagement; Outreach and Partnerships; or Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships (including both of the previous). Augsburg has received the latter combined classification.

According to the Carnegie Foundation, this classification "affirms that a university or college has institutionalized community engagement in its identity, culture, and commitments. It also affirms that the practices of community engagement are aligned with the institution's identity and form an integral component of the institutional culture. Those practices may be focused in curricular engagement, outreach, and partnerships, or both."

For 2008 in Minnesota, only Metropolitan State University and Augsburg have been classified as a "Carnegie school" for Community Engagement. This is extremely good news for Augsburg—confirmation of our core commitment to the intersection of citizenship and learning in all that we do as a college, educating our students for lives of meaning and service in democracy.

Congratulations to our entire community and many thanks to Lois Olson and Mary Laurel True in the Center for Service, Work, and Learning who prepared and submitted Augsburg's application.

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CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Students and faculty traveling in Latin America

Our thoughts are currently with three faculty-led seminars that are traveling this week to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

- **Vocation and Christian Faith—Professor Bev Stratton**, Religion, is with a group of students in El Salvador, studying and examining the relationship of the Catholic Church to poverty, political oppression, and social change.
- **Indigenous Issues of Central America—Professor Elise Marubbio**, American Indian Studies, Women's Studies, and English, is with students in Guatemala who are exploring the contemporary issues faced by the Mayan peoples.
- **International Perspectives on Leadership and Vocation—Cindy Peterson**, director of Scholastic Connections, is leading a group of five students and two alumni mentors in the Scholastic Connections program to Cuernavaca, Mexico, to help the students develop leadership skills and discern vocation. They will hear from and meet people in similar fields to their own and study indigenous cultures and programs.

Auggie student-athletes compete over break

Congratulations to the Auggie wrestling and men's hockey teams, who have been on the road and busy over the holiday break. The wrestlers dominated the Brute/Zac Jarzynka Sunshine Classic in Oviedo, Fla., on Dec. 28-29, winning 7 of 10 titles in their weight classes against three other schools in the top 25 of NCAA Division III wrestling.

Last Saturday, the Augsburg wrestlers also won the Dickinson State (N.D.) Blue Hawk Classic tournament, claiming six champions and co-champions and 18 placewinners. Augsburg is currently ranked No. 7 in the NCAA Division III national rankings.

The men's hockey team also enjoyed great success, competing in the championship game Saturday night in the Pathfinder Bank/Oswego Hockey Classic in Oswego, N.Y., where they finished in second place to the home team, host Oswego State University.

KUDOS

Kudos to **Lisa Jack**, Psychology, for her collection of photographs of President-elect Barack Obama that appeared in *Time* magazine in December as "Obama: The College Years." She met Obama in 1980 when they both were students at Occidental College. To see Lisa's photos, go to www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1866765,00.html.

Congratulations to senior **Jordan Berg**, who was one of four national finalists for the Gagliardi Trophy, honoring the outstanding student athlete in NCAA Division III football. Given by St. John's University and Jostens, Inc., the award honors excellence in athletics, academics, and community service.

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Kudos and thanks to **Event and Conference Planning** for their work in organizing the Holiday Gathering, and to **A'viands** for donating cookies to decorate. Many thanks also to the **Center for Service, Work, and Learning** and **The Campus Kitchen Project**, who distributed 82 dozen decorated cookies to community organizations and community partners in the Cedar-Riverside, Phillips, Powderhorn, and Seward neighborhoods.

NOTABLE EVENTS DURING THE WEEK—for a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Calendar on Inside Augsburg at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

January 6

Augsburg for Adults new student orientation

4-7 p.m., Oren Gateway Center lobby

January 7

Wednesday Gathering—lunch for faculty and staff

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

January 9

Spring orientation, new day students

11 a.m.-4 p.m., Christensen Center

January 9-11

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW, and some MBA classes meet.

January 12

Spring semester day classes and Rochester winter classes begin.

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F-10:20-10:40 a.m., Community Time following; T-Th-11:20-11:40 a.m.; Wed-9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering at 7:30-7:50 and 8-8:20 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10—First Word Community Gathering, Jessica Fox-Wilson, Augsburg for Adults, "Serve the Lord"

Weekday chapel services will resume on January 12.

Sports results and schedule—www.augsburg.edu/athletics

Have a great week!