



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

February 2, 2009

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**Good morning.** I am pleased to report that the Board of Regents meeting on the weekend was characterized by important and substantive conversations about a variety of topics, including evolving plans for the Center for Science, Business, and Religion; the College's current and future financial plans; enrollment goals and results; faculty tenure and promotion decisions; and approval of the College's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). I remain impressed by and grateful for the strong leadership that our regents provide for the College's strategic priorities—we truly are blessed by their engagement and commitment to Augsburg's mission and vision.

On Thursday, we celebrate the success of the StepUP program at its annual gala fundraising dinner. Since 1997, this program has transformed the lives of hundreds of students in recovery through the support and encouragement of the Augsburg community. With a focused campaign of \$5 million, we hope to sustain the program through endowment and allow it to grow to its capacity to serve more than 100 residential students per year.

The StepUP Gala on Thursday is an evening of inspiration and fellowship, with guest speaker Jane Nakken, EdD, and master of ceremonies Max Marcy '03. Tickets for faculty and staff are \$50; for the general public, beginning at \$100—for information call 612-330-1104.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Bring only a food donation to see *Eleuthéria***

I encourage you to attend the Theatre Arts Department's winter production of *Eleuthéria*, written by Samuel Beckett and guest directed by Barbra Berlovitz, co-founder member of Theatre de La June. All production proceeds will go to charity. Tickets are free with a donation of a non-perishable food item or small cash donation. Food donations will be sent to the Brian Coyle Food Shelf and monetary donations will be used for Augsburg's Campus Kitchen. Reservations are still necessary. See Notable Events below for performance times. For information call 612-330-1547 or go to [www.augsburg.edu/theatre/index.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/theatre/index.html)

*Eleuthéria* ("freedom" in Greek) is Beckett's first completed work and was written just prior to his best-known piece, *Waiting for Godot*. The play is filled with irony, humor, and allows us to laugh at ourselves while examining the inescapable problems of our human existence.

### **Register for the 21st Nobel Peace Prize Forum**

The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, "Striving for Peace: A Climate for Change," takes place at St. Olaf College on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. The forum will honor the work of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winners, former vice president Al Gore and the

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Bus transportation will be available from the Minneapolis and Rochester campuses. This is an important opportunity to focus on issues of the environment and sustainability, and I encourage you to attend. Next year, in 2010, Augsburg will host the forum.

Online registration, program information, and the schedule are available at [www.stolaf.edu/nppf/2009/registration.htm](http://www.stolaf.edu/nppf/2009/registration.htm). The general registration deadline is February 25, but Augsburg students who would like on-campus housing must register by February 20. Watch A-mail for further information about arrangements.

#### **Focused Conversations resume**

This week we begin the spring series of Focused Conversations, opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in discussion around specific topics of interest in the Augsburg community. On Thursday, Julie Edstrom will lead discussion on "Tuition and Financial Aid Strategy," at noon in the Johnson Conference Center, OGC 100.

#### **New scholarships to help students**

During this time when our students face difficulties continuing to afford their college education, I am pleased to learn of two new scholarships received and am grateful to the following organizations for their generosity.

The Augsburg Associates have added eight new scholarships of \$2,000 from their annual fundraising efforts, in addition to their endowed scholarship, to provide immediate help for students in need.

We have also received a memorial scholarship to be given to an education student, funded by the Lutheran Community Foundation and set up by Ron Engebretsen in memory of his wife, Sherry Lou Engebretsen, who died in the I-35W bridge collapse. She was an employee of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and they are parents of Jessica, a current Augsburg student.

#### **KUDOS**

Many thanks to the **Institutional Advancement staff, Event and Conference Planning, Viands, Athletics Dept., and others** who organized and planned the Friday dedication of the Jeff Swenson Wrestling Wall of Fame. Congratulations to the first-place **Auggie wrestlers**, who defeated second-ranked Wartburg College, 21-16, in the match that followed.

Kudos to Professors **Lars Christiansen** and **Nancy Fischer**, Sociology and Metro-Urban Studies, who have received an \$11,000 (CDN) Faculty Enrichment Program Canadian Studies Grant from the Government of Canada to support continued development and student travel for their course Sustainable Cities in North America, that travels to Vancouver and Victoria, BC, and Portland, Oregon.

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Kudos to **Scott Krajewski**, director of IT services, who was selected for a fellowship with the Frye Leadership Institute, a national initiative of Educause and the Mellon Foundation to develop information technology leaders in higher education. He begins the fellowship in June with an intensive institute at Emory University.

Kudos to Professor **Tara Sweeney**, Art, who has received a 2009 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative grant to complete "Forbidden Fruit," her mixed-media series on cancer recovery, and to advocate for better survivorship care through presentation of the art to a national continuing education conference for cancer care professionals. Her work is currently on display at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wis.

Kudos and thanks to the **faculty who made presentations to the Board of Regents** on Saturday, describing the excellent work that goes on both within and across our academic departments and programs, and exemplifying the ways in which our faculty enrich the lives of our students—in the classroom, in the city, and around the world. They were: **Doug Green**, English; **Darcey Engen**, Theatre Arts; **Cheryl Leuning**, Nursing; **Magdeline Aagard**, Nursing; **Tracy Bibelnieks**, Mathematics; and **Ben Stottrup**, Physics.

Kudos to Professor **Andy Aoki**, Political Science, for the publication of his textbook, *Asian American Politics*, which he co-authored with Okiyoshi Takeda. The book, coming out in April from Polity, is a comprehensive introduction to the study of Asian American participation in U.S. politics.

Kudos to **Cass Dalglish**, English, whose book-length persona poem, "Humming the Blues," is one of 12 books selected by *Ms.* magazine as "Great Reads for Winter 2009." The 12 selected books are listed in "bookmarks," in the *Ms.* special inaugural issue, Winter 2009. The poem is the earliest author's signature yet found, on cuneiform tablets from 2350 BC, and is the work of poet-princess-priestess Enheduanna, which *Ms.* describes as "immediate" in Cass' translation, despite its antiquity.

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**

**Wednesday Gathering**, Lunch for faculty and staff  
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 5**

**StepUP Gala**  
5:30 p.m., Christensen Center

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**Thursday, Feb. 5**

**Center for Leadership Studies workshop, “Developing Wholeness in Organizations and Communities,” presentation by Pablo Gaito.**

5:30 p.m., social hour; 6 p.m., presentation, Oren Gateway Center 100

For information, call 612-330-1150.

**February 5–8**

***Eleuthéria*, by Samuel Beckett; guest directed by Barbra Berlovitz**

Feb. 5, 6, 7 at 7 p.m.

Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.

**February 9–13**

**“Warrior to Citizen: Stories of Minnesota’s Most Recent Veterans,” multimedia exhibit on display**

Fishbowl, Christensen Center

**Monday, February 9**

**Reception for veteran and military students, faculty, and staff**

4–6 p.m., Fishbowl/Student Art Gallery, Christensen Center

## **DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS**

M,W,F–10:20-10:40 a.m., Community Time following; T-Th–11:20-11:40 a.m.; Wed–9:09 p.m. Songs, 9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word  
Community Gathering at 7:30–7:50

**Tuesday, Feb. 3—**Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

**Wednesday, Feb. 4—**Cheryl Chatman, Vice President for Diversity, Concordia University

**Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—**Communion

**Thursday, Feb. 5—**Caleb Jeffers, senior speaker

**Friday, Feb. 6—**Babette Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

**Monday, Feb. 9—**David Scherer, AGAPE (hip-hop)

**Sports results and schedule—**[www.augsburg.edu/athletics](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics)

Have a great week!