



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

February 9, 2009

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Good morning. As we begin this week, **both Jeremy Wells, vice president for institutional advancement, and I are attending the annual presidents' meeting of the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA).** LECNA comprises all of the ELCA and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. The annual meeting offers the presidents an opportunity to hear about the latest trends in our similar institutions, and also to meet with the church-wide staff members responsible for higher education. Jeremy is attending as a participant in this year's Thrivent Leaders Program, which helps prepare future leaders for Lutheran higher education.

On Thursday evening, **we celebrated with the StepUP program as they held their annual gala dinner.** About 275 people gathered and shared stories of success, resilience, determination, and support. More than \$13,000 was raised for StepUP during the gala, with an additional \$5,000 sent in advance. In addition, a \$50,000 commitment to the endowment was received from a donor on that day. An endowment goal of \$5 million will sustain the program and allow for its growth.

Of special note, the annual Toby LaBelle Award was given to Dave Hadden, assistant director of StepUP, in recognition of his 35-year career in the recovery community. Dave will retire next fall.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

College Goal Sunday

The annual College Goal Sunday (CGS) program will take place this week on Wednesday evening, Feb. 11, at Brian Coyle Center. The program helps first-generation, low-income high school students and their parents learn about the financial aid process and how to complete the FAFSA forms to determine financial aid. Michele Kidwell, director of retention, chairs the state steering committee and reports a record-number 52 sites across the state where programs will take place.

Over four years, Augsburg has consistently supported CGS, with only the University of Minnesota providing more volunteer staff. Many thanks to financial aid counselor Jenny Yang, who is coordinating Wednesday's program, and Augsburg staff Jennifer Simon, Steve Fenster, Julio Vargas, Carly Eichhorst, Justin Nash, Jennifer Oliver, Liz Bassani, Andrew Haug, Penh Lo, and Michele Kidwell.

McNair Scholars to the State Capitol

Three Augsburg McNair Scholars were selected to present their research posters at the Sixth Annual Minnesota Private Colleges Scholars at the Capitol on February 19. This event is important as it gives members of the Minnesota Legislature and Governor's Office the opportunity to meet outstanding students from Minnesota's private colleges

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and understand the importance of research and scholarship in their education. Tina Tavera directs Augsburg's McNair Scholars program, and Dixie Shafer, director of URGO, is the chair of this year's Scholars at the Capitol day.

The McNair students who will present are:

- Zachary L. Sommer, "Interaction Rituals in Second Life" (James Vela-McConnell, faculty adviser)
- Jenna Mead, "Framing Fault: Media Portrayal of the Responsibility for Abu Ghraib Prison Scandal" (Diane Pike, faculty adviser)
- Jessica Love, "Understanding Silence as a Communication Tool within the Framework of Domestic Abuse" (David Lapakko, faculty adviser)

Study Abroad

On Friday, in Christensen Center, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Augsburg Abroad, Center for Global Education, International Partners, and 10 partner study abroad organizations will have information on study and internships abroad in more than 60 countries. Augsburg Abroad will also announce the 2009-10 faculty-led trips at this time. This semester, 31 Augsburg students are studying abroad in more than 20 countries around the world.

KUDOS

Many thanks to everyone who made the StepUP program such a successful event—the **StepUP staff and students, Leslie Larson and the Event and Conference Planning Office, Institutional Advancement, A'viands, and Marketing and Communication**, and others.

Congratulations to the **Physician Assistant program and the Class of 2008**, who achieved a mean score of 613 on their national board exam. The national mean score was 528, and the passing score necessary is 350. Augsburg's score places the Class of 2008 above the 94th percentile, or as one of the top six programs in the country.

Kudos to the new peer education group, EPIC—Educating Peers on Issues and Choices. The seven students are **Rimi Bhowmik, Jeff Cruttenden, Lucreshia Grant, Julia Olson, Rebecca Reilly, Tom Rixen, and Daniel Thewis**. The staff advisers are Juneal Colburn-Lay, Amanda Temple, and Dianne Detloff.

Kudos to **Nate Hallanger**, special assistant to the vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, who has been invited by Darrell Jodock, the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College, to be

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part of team of scientists and theologians working on the administration of a \$150,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation's Science for Ministry Initiative. This grant was awarded to the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research.

This team will develop written materials for clergy designed to help them integrate the findings of science with faith's reasoning about "the way the world is," for use in congregational settings, sermons, adult education programs, as well as articles and essays written for external audiences.

Kudos to **ASAC**, and president **Charles Sletten**, who raised \$160 in monetary donations from non-students at the ASAC All-Nighter, which they will donate to The Augsburg Fund.

Kudos to **Mark Tranvik**, Religion Department, for his article, "Luther, Gerhard Forde, and the Gnostic Threat to the Gospel," which was recently published in the winter issue of *Lutheran Quarterly*.

Kudos to **Chad Schneider**, web assistant in Marketing and Communication, whose photo of Joe Ades, a street salesman in New York, was published in *The New York Times* on February 2. Go to http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/03/nyregion/03ades.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion

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

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

Wednesday, February 11

Carl H. Chrislock Memorial History Lecture

Paul Maccabee, "Gun Molls, Gangsters, and G-Men: Probing the Secret Criminal History of Minnesota's Public Enemies"
7 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center

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Thursday, February 12

Alumni networking event

5:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

February 13-15

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

February 13-14

2008 Convocation Series

Lori Arviso Alvord, MD, Associate Dean of Student and Multicultural Affairs,
Dartmouth College

Friday, Feb. 13, 3:30 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center —“Walking in Beauty:
The Navajo Way”

Saturday, Feb. 14, Noon, Hoversten Chapel —“The Scalpel and the Silver Bear”

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. 10—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Lutheran Center for Life

Wednesday, Feb. 11—Vocatio Chapel, Kari Logan '82, arts promoter,
C.E.L. Public Relations

Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—Communion

Thursday, Feb. 12—Anthony Fair, intern, Redeemer Lutheran

Friday, Feb. 13—Chelsea Forbrook and Jeni Hill, JUMP

Saturday, Feb. 14—First Word Gathering, “Persevere in Prayer,” Rosemarie Marrancini,
MSW student and lay minister, United Methodist Church

Monday, Feb. 16—Bruce Nicholson, CEO, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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

Have a great week!