



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

February 23, 2009

Page 1

**Good morning.** It was a great weekend at Augsburg as we welcomed prospective scholarship students to campus for the annual **President's and Fine Arts Scholarships Weekend**.

It is always gratifying to meet these very talented high school students (and their families) and to learn of their aspirations for their lives and why they believe Augsburg is the right place for them. My thanks especially to our day admissions staff who led the planning and to all those who helped make this weekend successful.

At the end of this week we **host the annual Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics**, this year considering issues of Christianity and ecology. Professor Larry Rasmussen returns to Augsburg and, through his lens as a social ethicist, will lead us in conversations around consumption, ecology, and faith. He will speak three times—Thursday evening, Friday morning, and Saturday noon—I hope you will join these conversations. See the calendar for details on Professor Rasmussen's talks and titles.

This convocation is planned as part of the work of nursing professor **Ruth Enestvedt**, who serves as Augsburg's **Batalden Scholar in Applied Ethics**. Much of her work has involved engaging the community in discussions of applied ethics. During the fall, she initiated conversations in the Augsburg and wider communities around ethics and hunger. The graduate course she developed and is currently teaching, *Making Room at the Table: Applying Ethics to Ending Hunger and Sharing Food*, approaches these issues from interdisciplinary perspectives.

I am most happy to report that we **have received the The Higher Learning Commission's Systems Appraisal Feedback Report, which is an important component of the seven-year accreditation cycle** within the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). We celebrated the College's Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2007 after successfully completing our first cycle of review. This mission-based approach to accreditation casts an important light on what we are doing each day as a college community to keep the Augsburg promise and plan for the future of this great institution.

The systems appraisal review process, which is conducted every four years by a team of trained evaluators, is designed to provide the College with feedback on strengths and opportunities for improvement that we can use as a framework for campus conversations about the way we do our work and engage each other in planning for our future. The Systems Appraisal Feedback Report and the November 2008 Systems Portfolio and Index on which the report is based, are available for your review on Augsburg's AQIP webpage: [www.augsburg.edu/aqip/](http://www.augsburg.edu/aqip/). It is important to note that the review team concluded that Augsburg presented evidence that we are complying with the Five Criteria for Accreditation—very good news indeed!

February 23, 2009

Page 2

Next fall a team led by Dean Farley will attend a strategy forum in Chicago that will build on campus conversations about the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report. An on-campus AQIP Quality Check-Up conducted by a two-person team will follow in 2010. The Higher Learning Commission's seven-year Reaffirmation of Accreditation decision is based on the body of evidence over that period of time of the College's overall pattern of improvement. I want to express my gratitude to the campus community for all you do to make our continuing accreditation possible.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Peace Prize Forum deadline—Wednesday

The 21st annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 6–7, at St. Olaf College. This year's forum, "Striving for Peace: A Climate for Change," honors the work of former vice president Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, winners of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Plenary speakers present and lead conversations around seminar presentations and counteracting the climate changes brought on by human actions.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, is the deadline to register for the forum. Bus transportation will be available both days from Augsburg for those attending. For information, go to [www.stolaf.edu](http://www.stolaf.edu). Next year, Augsburg is host of the annual Peace Prize Forum.

### Mardi Gras Madrigals on Tuesday

Tuesday evening, Hoversten Chapel becomes medieval as Augsburg's Goliard Society of Medievalists celebrates its annual Mardi Gras Madrigals with jugglers and musicians, storytellers and poets, and a full medieval feast — eaten without utensils, of course. Madrigal choirs from Minnehaha Academy, Armstrong, and Robbinsdale-Cooper high schools will perform, as well as Riverside and Cedar Singers.

Tickets are \$20; Augsburg students with valid ID can attend free, but reservations must be made. For information, go to: [www.augsburg.edu/mardigras](http://www.augsburg.edu/mardigras).

### Support the Auggies in the postseason

Congratulations to three Auggie teams that qualified for postseason playoffs and tournaments. Let's turn out and cheer Auggie teams on to victories!

The **Augsburg wrestling team** won the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional on Saturday at Concordia University-Wisconsin and will advance nine wrestlers to the NCAA Division III national tournament next weekend in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Auggies have won the team title at the regionals for seven years in a row.

- Fri–Sat., March 6–7—NCAA Division III wrestling national tournament, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

February 23, 2009

Page 3

The **men's basketball team** advances as the No. 4 seed to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) postseason playoffs for the first time since the 2000-01 season. Their first playoff game is tonight at home against Carleton.

- Mon., Feb. 23—Augsburg vs. Carleton, Home at Melby Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The **men's hockey team** scored one of the most remarkable comeback wins in years Saturday night in the Augsburg ice arena against top-seeded St. Olaf, when the Auggies scored five goals in under five minutes to force an overtime, leading to a 7-7 tie. They ended up securing a berth in the postseason and, as No. 5 seed, will play the No. 4 seed Hamline Pipers in the "play-in" game on Thursday.

- Thurs., Feb. 26—Augsburg vs. Hamline, Drake Ice Arena in St. Paul, 7:15 p.m.

## KUDOS

Kudos to Augsburg's chapter of the **Society of Physics Students**, whose research proposal, "Development of 'Ground Truth' Data Sets for Live Cell Imaging Using Physarum Polycephalum" has been selected as a 2008-2009 Undergraduate Research Award winner. In a letter to the society's chapter adviser, Mark Engebretson, the director stated that "the awards committee was extremely impressed by your proposal."

Kudos to **Ngoh-Tiong Tan** (Social Work), who wrote "International Social Work and Social Welfare: Asia" for publication in the 20th edition of *Encyclopedia of Social Work* from Oxford University Press. He also has written a chapter, "Youth Empowerment in Singapore: Theory, Experience, and Practice," in *Youth Empowerment and Volunteerism: Principles, Policies and Practices*, from City University of Hong Kong Press.

Kudos as well to Social Work professors **Glenda Dewberry Rooney**, for her chapter, "Oppression and Involuntary Status," and **Tony Bibus**, for his chapters, "Involuntary Clients and Work in the Era of Welfare Reform" and "Applying the Involuntary Perspective to Supervision" (with co-author Carol Judd), that were recently published in the second edition of *Strategies for Work with Involuntary Clients*, written and edited by Ronald Rooney and published by Columbia University Press.

And finally, kudos to Social Work professors **Lois Bosch** and **Nancy Rodenborg**, who recently had an entry, "Intergroup dialogue: Introduction," published in the *Encyclopedia of Social Work with Groups*, from Routledge.

February 23, 2009

Page 4

**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 23-27**

**Dollar Sense, series of sessions for students about financial literacy**

Mon-Fri., 6:30–7:30 p.m., Student Lounge, Christensen Center

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**

**Community Time**

3:45 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**

**Mardi Gras Madrigals, medieval feast with entertainment**

6:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

**February 26-28**

**2008-09 Convocation Series, 2009 Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics, Hoversten Chapel**

Larry Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.—“Christianity’s Ecological Phase: Talking the Walk”

Friday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.—“Christianity’s Ecological Phase: Walking the Talk”

Saturday, Feb. 28, 12:15 p.m.—“Christianity’s Ecological Challenge: Walking the Talk”

**February 27-March 1**

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

**Sunday, March 1**

**Brass in the Chapel, student and faculty brass ensembles**

4 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

February 23, 2009

Page 5

## 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. 24**—Don Samuels, Minneapolis City Council, with music from Dwight Buckner

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**—Ash Wednesday Communion

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

**Thursday, Feb. 26**—Barbara Farley, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

**Friday, Feb. 27**—10 a.m., Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics—"Christianity's Ecological Phase: Walking the Talk," Larry L. Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics, Union Theological Seminary

**Saturday, Feb. 28**—First Word Gathering, "Contribute to the Needs of Saints," Sarah Ruch, Luther Seminary intern pastor

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

Have a great week!