



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

March 2, 2009

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Good morning. I'm just back from a few days in Washington, D.C., where I visited with alumni and spent time with our legislative delegation. I can tell you that concern for the well-being of Augsburg students is quite genuine—alumni and friends understand the challenges of these times for our students and their families, and they want to be supportive. We also are blessed with a congressional delegation that “gets it” when it comes to support for student aid—the Pell Grant increases in the stimulus bill are a strong sign of commitment to higher education. It is my privilege to share Augsburg stories with our alumni and friends across the country.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

MIAC postseason wrap-up

Congratulations to the Auggie men's basketball and hockey teams, who advanced to postseason play this year. The basketball team defeated Carleton in the opening postseason game, 65-64, and then suffered a loss at Bethel, 70-59, in the semifinals.

The men's hockey team qualified for the postseason on a remarkable game that went into overtime for a tie with St. Olaf. In the first round of postseason play, they were defeated by Hamline, 5-4. Congratulations to both teams and coaches!

Good luck to the Auggie wrestlers who travel to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the NCAA Division III national championship this weekend.

Augsburg welcomes Pi Mu Epsilon honor society

Congratulations to the **Mathematics Department and the mathematics students** who were inducted into Augsburg's new Minnesota Iota chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honor society. The chapter was installed and chartered by Paul Fishback, of Grand Valley State University, a visiting Pi Mu Epsilon counselor. The students attended the installation ceremony along with their parents (or even grandparents), signed the chapter log book, and received a certificate and honor cords. Congratulations to Mathematics Department chair Matthew Haines and professor and chapter adviser Jody Sorensen, who led the process to establish the chapter. The purpose of the society is to promote scholarship activity in mathematics among students in academic institutions.

The student charter members inducted are: Andrew Bergeson, Paul Bjorkstrand, Brian Bocklund, Kristi Castelic, Jesse Docken, Evan Fuhs, Alexander Garver, Ashley Gruhlke, William Helm, Benjamin Hoffman, Michael Janas, Erik Johnson, Brian Jungwirth, Melissa Robertson, Wilmina Siegfried, John Singleton, and Matthew Solberg. The mathematics faculty charter members are: Pavel Belík, Tracy Bibelnicks, Suzanne Dorée, Matthew Haines, Jody Sorensen, and John Zobitz.

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Sociology Department is honored

Congratulations to the **Department of Sociology** for the Departmental Award for Teaching Excellence awarded to them by the Midwest Sociological Society. The award “recognizes departments that have created innovative programs, curricula, and teaching and learning strategies for the effective education of students, either graduate or undergraduate, in the discipline of sociology.” The award carries a cash prize of \$500 and will be announced at the annual meeting of the MSS in Des Moines, Iowa, in early April.

KUDOS

Kudos to Batalden Scholar **Ruth Enestvedt and the Convocation Series planning committee**, for their work in arranging the visit of Professor Larry Rasmussen for this year’s Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics.

Kudos to **Bruce Rowe and the buildings and grounds crew** for a great job in clearing the snow on walkways, streets, and parking lots from Thursday’s storm.

Kudos to **Garry Hesser**, Sabo Professor of Citizenship and Learning, who gave the keynote address at the Sixth Annual Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Conference at East Carolina University on February 19. He also co-led a workshop, “General Education and Integrated Learning: A Praxis Approach” at the AAC&U conference in Baltimore last week.

Kudos to **Andrea Dvorak**, coordinator of faculty-led programs abroad in the Augsburg Abroad office, who facilitated a session, “Sustainability Standards of Good Practice in Education Abroad” at the Forum on Education Abroad’s 2009 national conference in Portland, Oregon, in February.

Kudos to **Michael Lansing**, History Department and Environmental Studies, for his publication, “Salvaging the Man Power of America: Conservation, Manhood, and Disabled Veterans During World War I,” in the January issue of *Environmental History*. In the article he brings together the history of environmentalism with post-World War I efforts to rehabilitate disabled soldiers.

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, March 4

Annual Spring Blood Drive

10 a.m.–4 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

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Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday Gathering, lunch for faculty and staff

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

Thursday, March 5

14th Annual Nobel Peace Prize Festival

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Melby Hall

Thursday, March 5

Focused Conversation, “Intentional Diversity in the Workplace,” Andrea Turner, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

Noon, Johnson Conference Center, OGC 100

March 6-7

Annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum

St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

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, March 3—Sarah Ruch, Luther Seminary intern pastor, and the Augsburg Choir

Wednesday, March 4—President Paul Pribbenow and the Riverside Singers

Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—Songs and communion

Thursday, March 5—Ashley Weston, Senior Speaker

Friday, March 6—Rev. Deb Hutterer, Executive Director, Faith in the City

Saturday, March 7—First Word Gathering, “Contribute to the Needs of Saints,” Sarah Ruch, Luther Seminary intern pastor

Monday, March 9—Bev Stratton, Religion Dept.

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

Have a great week—and remember to set your clocks ahead one hour by 2 a.m. next Sunday, March 8, when Daylight Saving Time begins. Spring is indeed on the way!