



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

March 9, 2009

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Good morning. I especially want to thank all of our students, faculty, and staff who participated in the **21st Nobel Peace Prize Forum at St. Olaf College on Friday and Saturday**. We were inspired and challenged by scientists, activists, politicians, and students to take action to address the crisis climate change is posing for our planet. What a remarkable opportunity the Nobel Forum is for our community to engage in conversation with peacemakers from all walks of life.

Congratulations to Katia Iverson and Jessica Spanswick, who were selected as the 2009 Peace Scholars from Augsburg. Read about them below.

The next Peace Prize Forum will be held at Augsburg, March 5-6, 2010, studying the process of international peace negotiation, under the theme, "Striving for Peace: A Question of Will." It will honor the work of the 2008 Nobel laureate, Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland.

Congratulations to the Auggie wrestlers, who finished in the top four nationally for the 21st straight season! The Auggies finished second as a team, while junior Jared Massey won a national title at 197 pounds. All-American honors were earned by Massey, Jason Adams, Seth Flodeen, Willy Holst, Travis Lang, Andy Witzel, and Zach Molitor.

Tomorrow, I'll host an All-Hands Meeting during chapel time for faculty and staff, as well as students who are interested. This will be an opportunity to hear an overview of various initiatives currently underway and to ask questions of me and Cabinet members about what may be of special interest. We'll begin at 11:20 in Hoversten Chapel with a presentation, and then entertain questions and discussion for those who choose to stay until noon or after.

With many day students and faculty on midterm break next week, the Weekly Update will also take a break. **The next Weekly Update will be on March 23.**

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

2009 Peace Scholars announced

Congratulations to **Katia Iverson '12** and **Jessica Spanswick '11**, who were introduced on Saturday at the Peace Prize Forum as the 2009 Peace Scholars from Augsburg. Katia is considering a major in cultural anthropology and a minor in Spanish. She is a Bonner Community Leader and works at an alternative high school as a teaching assistant in algebra and African American literature. Jessica is an international relations major with a minor in peace and global studies who tutors East African adults and children in Cedar Riverside, and helps with fourth- and fifth-grade classes at Seward Montessori School. She spent last fall studying in Namibia and South Africa.

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Two students from each of the five colleges sponsoring the Peace Prize Forum are named as Peace Scholars each year. Together, this year's group will travel this summer to Chiapas, Mexico, for a one-week seminar, led by American Indian studies professor Elise Marubbio. On their own campuses, they will serve as leaders during the year, promoting peace activities and discussions.

Vocation in Undergraduate Education conference

Later this week, Dean Barbara Farley; Lori Brandt Hale, religion professor and director of general education; Tom Morgan, executive director of the Center for Faith and Learning; and Mark Tranvik, religion professor and director of the Lilly grant, will travel to Indianapolis to attend the first conference on Vocation in Undergraduate Education, sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges. More than 400 participants from nearly 100 colleges and universities will gather to establish a network to support and sustain the programs established for theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. Our team has been invited to make a presentation at the conference titled, "Embedding Vocation in the Core Curriculum: AugCore Matters."

This is an important initiative among private colleges that continues the work begun across the county in schools that received Lilly Endowment grants to explore vocation. Augsburg's Center for Faith and Learning will collaborate with our Lilly program, Exploring Our Gifts, to sustain Augsburg's programs and the work begun under the grant, as Lilly funding ends next year.

Support the Foodless Food Drive

I encourage you to participate in the March Foodless Food Drive in support of the food shelf at the Brian Coyle Community Center. These difficult economic times are bringing increased demand for community services, and the Brian Coyle Food Shelf is certainly experiencing this. The number of families from our neighborhood who are coming to the food shelf is rising rapidly.

Because of their access to commodity programs and bulk buying power, the food shelf is able to turn each \$1 contributed into \$4 of food purchased. Thus, "foodless" (monetary) contributions are particularly helpful. Checks can be made payable to the Brian Coyle Food Shelf and should be sent to Campus Box 310. Thank you for your generosity and thanks to the Center for Service Work, and Learning, the Office of Community Relations, and Augsburg Dining Service for undertaking this important endeavor.

Midterm break travel

Our thoughts and prayers will be with everyone traveling during midterm break. Groups from Augsburg who will be away include:

- Athletic teams
- Men's and women's track and field team to Terre Haute, Ind., to compete in the NCAA Division III national championships at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, March 13-14. Good luck, Auggies!

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- Baseball team to Phoenix, Ariz., for the Greater Phoenix Invitational, March 15-20
- Softball team to Tucson, Ariz., for the Tucson Invitational, March 14-19
- Men's golf to Dallas, Texas, to compete against University of Texas-Dallas and University of Mary Hardin in Baylor, March 14-22
- Campus Ministry spring break trip
 - to New Orleans to work with Lutheran Disaster Response, March 15-21
- Augsburg Choir tour to Nebraska, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Illinois, March 13-22

KUDOS

Many thanks to **Orv Gingerich**, assistant vice president for international programs, sophomore senator **Juventino Meza Rodriguez**, and the **planning committee**, who coordinated Augsburg's participation in this year's Peace Prize Forum.

Kudos to **Pastor Dave Wold and Augsburg students** for a busy and successful annual Congregational Youth Basketball League tournament at Augsburg yesterday, which brought 1,000 youth and fans from area churches for the end-of-season tournament.

Congratulations to senior **Emma Sutton**, who has been awarded a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Indonesia next year. She is a senior biology major and student peer adviser in Augsburg Abroad.

Kudos to the Augsburg History Society, who hosted last Thursday more than 400 students in grades 6-12 from schools across the metro area, teachers, and parents for the National History Day in Minnesota's Metro Senior History Day regional event. More than 60 volunteer judges chose the best projects from among tabletop exhibits, performances, and documentaries to go on to the State History Day in early May. Augsburg has hosted this event—one of 12 regionals—every year since 2001.

Kudos to **Mohamed Sallam**, director of the Pan-Afrikan Center, and students who traveled to the Pan-African Student Leadership Conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato in February—**Adam Assefa, Raymond Kidd, Geoffrey Gill, Jessica King, Barb Simmons, Brandy Hyatt, Irene Abdullah, Hiba Yusuf, Ifrah Yasin, Kia Burton, Jake Quarstad, Lucreshia Grant, Emmanuel Marcellino, Anita Hutchinson, Adem Taddese, and Huhdefa Ali**. Congratulations to Brandy Hyatt, who was selected as Second Runner-Up in the Talent Celebration.

Congratulations to **John Reimringer**, English Dept., whose first novel, "Vestments," has been accepted for publication in fall 2010 by Minneapolis-based Milkweed Editions. Set in St. Paul, the novel is the story of a young Catholic priest facing a crisis in his vocation.

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Kudos to the following who have made presentations or published recently:

- **Beth Alexander**, Physician Assistant Studies Dept., who published with **Lynn Lindow**, Education Dept., and **Mike Schock**, Social Work Dept., “Measuring the Impact of Cooperative Learning Exercises on Student Perceptions of Peer-to-Peer Learning: A Case Study,” in the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*.
- Beth also presented “Preparing for the Age Wave: Optimizing a Physician Assistant Program Geriatrics Curriculum” at the invited poster presentation at the Physician Assistant Education Association Education Forum in Savannah, Ga.
- **Christina Erickson**, Social Work Dept., will co-present “Creating Healthy Organizational Culture,” at the Minnesota Social Service Association conference.
- **Jessica Nathanson**, director of the Women’s Resource Center, co-edited with Laura Tuley, *Mother Knows Best: Talking Back to the Experts*, recently published by Demeter Press. She also published “Bisexual Pedagogy: Bringing Bisexuality into the Classroom,” in the January issue of *Journal of Bisexuality*.
- **English Dept. students** who presented papers and creative work at the annual ACTC English Majors’ Conference at the College St. Catherine on February 27:
 - **Bethany Thompson**, British literature
 - **Jenae Opitz**, American literature
 - **Amanda Symes**, multicultural/world literature
 - **Jessica Fanaselle**, theory/media
 - **Kayla Skarbakka**, creative writing

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

Tuesday, March 10

All-Hands Meeting for faculty and staff

11:20 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

March 13-14

Augsburg Board of Regents retreat

March 16-22

Day spring semester midterm break

March 20-22

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

March 22

Augsburg Choir Home Concert

7 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

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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 10—No chapel service—All-Hands Meeting for faculty and staff

Wednesday, March 11—Vocatio Chapel, Nanci Olesen

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

Thursday, March 12—Tiffany Wirth, senior speaker

Friday, March 13—Lee Clarke, Business Administration Dept.

Monday, March 16–20—No chapel—Day spring semester midterm break

Saturday, March 21—First Word Gathering, “Bless Those Who Persecute You,” Ray Makeever, Campus Ministry Music Associate

Monday, March 23—Lori Brandt Hale, Religion Dept.

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

Have a great two weeks!