



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

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Good morning. We began this past week as a deeply saddened community, with news of the death of our student and friend **Ahmednur Ali**, who was fatally shot Monday evening as he left his volunteer work at the Brian Coyle Community Center. We gathered together as a campus community and as a neighborhood community to grieve his death and seek to understand how we can stay safe even as we are engaged in the city.

On Thursday, we co-hosted a community meeting at the Brian Coyle Center, along with Pillsbury United Communities, the Confederation of Somali Organizations, and the Oromo Community, to address specific community concerns in the Currie Park/Brian Coyle Center area. We will continue to participate actively in these conversations.

We also will continue to offer opportunities for our college community to gather and grieve this loss of a colleague and this wound to our work as a college in the city.

I hope you were able to take part in the activities of Homecoming—from the kick-off fireworks pep rally on Monday evening to the block party on Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to the Auggie football team for their formidable 49-21 win over St. Olaf, to a standing-room-only crowd. It was a great game!

We also held the inaugural public event for the new Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning—which offered all of us a vision for bipartisan political work. Thanks to Martin Sabo '59 and Sabo professor Garry Hesser for leading this effort.

I especially enjoyed participating in the PBJ sandwich contest on Friday afternoon! For this service project, organized by the Event and Conference Planning office along with Campus Kitchen, we prepared approximately 830 sandwiches (330 above the goal!) for the Secure Waiting Homeless Shelter in downtown Minneapolis. Thanks to all who participated—Cabinet, Marketing and Communication, Event and Conference Planning, StepUP, Psychology Department, Admissions/Welcome Desk, Campus Ministry, and the football team.

On Thursday and Friday of this week, we welcome the Board of Regents to campus for their fall meeting. The theme for this board meeting is “Learning to Learn,” a topic that will explore Augsburg’s core and general education curriculum. This is the first of four themes for this year’s board meetings that provide an overview of Augsburg’s distinctive academic programs.

On Thursday evening, we honor and celebrate the contributions of seven regents who have concluded their board service this year at a dinner at the Science Museum in St. Paul. Our deepest appreciation goes to Rev. Gary Benson, Ted Grindal, and Ron Nelson, who completed 12 years (two terms) on the board; Mike Freeman and Bev Oren

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for their years of service; and Bishop Peter Rogness and Bishop Harold Usgaard, both of whom completed a three-year appointment.

Please greet our regents as you see them on campus this week.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Christensen Symposium launches Convocation Series

Augsburg's Convocation Series, "Many Voices, Bold Visions," presents opportunities throughout the year to hear from leaders and visionaries and join in conversation around the power of vision.

The Christensen Symposium is the first event in the series and was established by an endowment in 1990 honoring former Augsburg president Bernhard M. Christensen. The symposium reflects and reinforces his commitment to academic integrity, the Christian Gospel, and a mutually supportive relationship with the church community.

The five lessons we learn from Bernhard M. Christensen include:

- Christian faith liberates minds and lives
- Diversity strengthens vital communities
- Interfaith friendships enrich learning
- The love of Christ draws us to God
- We are called to service in the world

Next Monday and Tuesday, Martha E. Stortz, professor of historical theology and ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary/Graduate Theological Union, will present the Christensen Symposium lectures on Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. Monday's topic is "Costly Discipleship: Forgiveness as a Practice," and on Tuesday, she speaks on "Costly Citizenship: Regarding the Other in a Culture of Fear."

Student success and retention

John Braxton, of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, will join our campus community on Thursday, Oct. 2, for a series of focused conversations concerning student success and retention. He is a leading voice in research of the college student experience and college student departure. He will also meet with the Board of Regents.

The schedule of conversations for Thursday, Oct. 2, is:

- Noon–1 p.m., Oren Gateway Center 100—Augsburg for Adults brown bag conversation
- 1:30–2:30 p.m., Oren Gateway Center 100—Past, Current, and Up-and-Coming Trends in Retention Theory
- 3:30–5 p.m., Lindell Library 301—The Pedagogy of Active Learning as a Reliable Influencer of Student Success and Retention

These conversations are sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Enrollment Management division. Please join as you are able.

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KUDOS

Congratulations to the Augsburg alumni honored during Homecoming Week—watch for a story about them on Inside Augsburg:

Distinguished Alumni:

- **LaRhae (Grindal) Knatterud '70**, specialist on aging, Minnesota Department of Human Resources
- **Dennis Kalpin '61**, retired mathematics teacher and coach, Alexandria, Minn.

First Decade Awards:

- **Zach Curtis '98**, actor, artistic director, and theatre manager
- **Jeffery Cameron '96**, intellectual property attorney, E.J. Brooks and Associates, PLLC

Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame

- **Mike Colehour '78**, men's hockey
- **Greg Chmelik '87**, wrestling, football
- **Julie Hanson '93**, women's basketball, softball
- **Mary Klinefelter Resch '73**, women's basketball, softball
- **John Mayer '89**, football, baseball
- **Chuck Priess '87**, men's basketball
- **Stephanie Simones '98**, cross country, track and field
- **Karl Sneider '71**, football, track and field
- **Joe Wabner '83**, football

Distinguished Athletic Service Award

- **Darrell Wiese '59**, retired Augsburg Athletics assistant coach and recruiter

Many congratulations and thanks **to everyone who helped make our Auggie Adventure Homecoming** so successful this year, especially the **Alumni, Parent, and Family Relations staff; Event and Conference Planning; A'viands; Marketing and Communication; Public Safety; and student organizations**. Thanks also to the **musicians** whose performances enriched the events all week.

Kudos to **Coach Frank Haege and the football team** for providing five teams (25 people) to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Friday afternoon. Their participation for two hours helped surpass the goal of 500 set for the event.

Thanks also to **Frankie Shackelford** for organizing all arrangements for the successful forum yesterday afternoon, "With Respect to Iran and the West: An Interface of Politics and Religion," featuring Kjell Magne Bondevik, former prime minister of Norway.

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NOTABLE EVENTS DURING THE WEEK

Sept. 30

Community Time

3:45 p.m., East Commons

Oct. 1

Wednesday Gathering

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons

Oct. 3–5

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW classes meet

Oct. 3–4

Board of Regents meeting

Oct. 6–7

2008 Christensen Symposium

Martha E. Stortz, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

“Costly Discipleship: Forgiveness as a Practice”

Oct. 7, 11 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

“Costly Citizenship: Regarding the Other in a Culture of Fear”

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F–10:20–10:40 a.m., Community Time following; T–Th–11:20–11:40 a.m.; Wed–9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering at 7:30–7:50 and 8–8:20 a.m.

Tues., Sept. 30—Ross Murray, “Exploring Our Gifts”

Wed., Oct. 1—David Tiede, Bernhard Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation

Wed. eve.—Communion, with Sarah Ruch, intern pastor

Thurs., Oct. 2—Pastor Sonja Hagander

Fri., Oct. 3—Blessing of the Animals

Sat., Oct. 4—First Word Community Gathering, Lori Peterson, Augsburg for Adults, “Genuine Love”

Mon., Oct. 6—Christensen Symposium, Martha E. Stortz, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

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

Have a great week.