



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

October 20, 2008

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Good morning. I want to update you on progress in the development of our Center for Science, Business, and Religion (CSBR). Designs for the center have undergone significant refinement in recent weeks, informed by important feedback from the campus community and our neighbors, and drawing on the creativity of a team of architects working together on the building and the accompanying expanded campus quadrangle. Many thanks to those faculty and staff who joined Dean Farley's project team on summer visits to other science building projects in the region. They brought back important lessons that have made the building more focused, efficient, and flexible.

In this new round of designs, we challenged the architects to respond more specifically to the building's site on the edge of our urban campus, and to reflect creatively on the compelling and unique promise of a building that brings together Augsburg's signature strengths in science, business, and religion. Recent progress includes significant refinements relating the building to the new quadrangle and making a welcoming connection to the neighborhood on the west side near Luther Hall. Images of the project and updates are available at the project website:

http://www.augsburg.edu/president/csbr_project

During the next few weeks, faculty representing each discipline housed in the center will take up an intensive focus on the interior layouts, working with the architects to locate the many teaching and research labs, offices, classrooms, and study areas that make up the project. In the next phase of the project, the architects will specify engineering for the building's complex structural and mechanical systems, and will refine the building's design to the level of materials and finishes. In January, we will present to the Board of Regents a completed design and detailed cost estimate for the project.

The center will be the subject of the next Focused Conversation, tomorrow (Tuesday) at 3:45 p.m. in OGC 100. Please join Dean Farley and the project management to review the latest drawings and to discuss this bold vision for our campus.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

2010 Nobel Peace Prize Forum

Last week's announcement of the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner—Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland and peace negotiator—begins the planning for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, to be held at Augsburg on March 5-6, 2010. A committee led by Orv Gingerich, Office of International Programs, is already working on this program.

Abigail and I will travel to Norway between December 6 and 13. We will be present at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo on December 10 and extend an invitation to Mr. Ahtisaari to be honored at Augsburg at the 2010 Peace Prize Forum.

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Ongoing collaboration with Norway

Over our 140 years, Augsburg has enjoyed continued connections and collaboration with Norway, including the Peace Prize Forum.

On Wednesday, I'll travel to Washington, D.C., for the 2008 U.S. Norway Forum, where we'll discuss a range of issues of common interest and heritage. On Thursday evening, I'll participate in a reception at the residence of Norway's ambassador, Wegger Christian Strommen. Last April, Ambassador Strommen visited Augsburg and spoke about Norwegian-American interests and relations.

KUDOS

Thanks to **Lynn Ellingson**, Adult and Graduate Admissions, for arranging the visit of Somali writer Nuruddin Farah to Augsburg, and for the work of the event's sponsors, **Work Culture@Augsburg; International Student Organization; Pan-Afrikan Center; English Department; Office of International Programs; Center for Service, Work and Learning; and World Visions Book Group.**

Kudos to **Joyce Pfaff**, Health and Physical Education, who is spending the fall semester with her husband, Doug, in China at United International College, a liberal arts college with classes taught in English. During fall semester, they are teaching two fitness classes. She has also organized a faculty/staff fitness challenge between UIC and Augsburg. Read her blog at <http://joycempfaff.blogspot.com/>.

Kudos to **Richard Webb and Justin Nash**, Undergraduate Admissions; **Aly Olson**, TRiO/SSS; and **Eric Addington**, Enrollment Center for their work and participation at the Augsburg College Access Program (ACAP) dinner last week. The annual event brought representatives from community and educational organizations together to learn about Augsburg's college-readiness programs and financial aid.

Kudos to **Michele Kidwell**, Enrollment Management; student **Juventino Meza Rodriquez**; **Mohamed Sallam**, Pan-Afrikan Center; **Michael Perry**, Residence Life; **Ann Garvey**, Student Affairs; and **Michael Grewe**, Campus Activities and Orientation who presented at the Minnesota College Personnel Association (MCPA) 2008 fall conference at William Mitchell College of Law last week.

Kudos to **Dianne Detloff**, Counseling and Health Promotion, and the **Augsburg community** for its most successful blood drive to date. The goal was 48 units of whole blood, and 57 were donated. This can be used to save 171 lives, since the blood is broken down into components of plasma, platelets, and red blood cells. Thanks, also, to the Memorial Blood Center for coming to Augsburg's campus.

Congratulations to the 2008 Milken Foundation awards of \$25,000 to Minnesota teachers, both of whom are Augsburg alumnae. **Kelly Woods '99** teaches third grade at Nellie Stone Johnson School in North Minneapolis and mentors other teachers. **Tracey (Burns) Cross '02** is a fifth grade teacher at the Galtier Science, Mathematics, and Technology Magnet Elementary School in St. Paul.

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Kudos to sophomore **Shannon Backes**, junior **Kyle Midland**, and MAE student **Eric Franzen** who spoke about election issues at the invitation of Covenant Village, a senior complex in Golden Valley. They responded to several questions about issues of importance to the senior community.

NOTABLE EVENTS DURING THE WEEK

Oct. 21

Focused Conversation, Barbara Farley and Leif Anderson, speaking about the **Center for Science, Business, and Religion**

3:45–4:45 p.m., Johnson Conference Center, OGC

Oct. 22

Fall Staff/Faculty Gathering

3:30 p.m., East Commons

Oct. 24

Fall semester midterm break

Oct. 24–26

WEC, MAE, MAN, MAL, MSW classes meet

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., Oct. 21—Joe Midthun, intern pastor

Wed., Oct. 22—Phil Quanbeck II, Religion Dept., with the Riverside Singers

Wed. eve.—Communion, with Pastor Sonja

Thurs., Oct. 23—Sandra Olmsted '69, Chemistry Dept.

Fri., Oct. 24—Fall semester midterm break

Sat., Oct. 25—"Hold Fast to What Is Good," Michele Roulet, WEC Student Senate president

Mon., Oct. 27—Reformation Series week begins

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

Have a great week.