



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

December 8, 2008

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**Good morning.** As you read this, Abigail and I are in Norway to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, visit several universities, and meet with Augsburg alumni there. I also look forward to visiting the Royal Palace at the end of the week where I will have an audience with His Majesty King Harald V, who visited Augsburg in 1995.

## **I am pleased to report to you on the first meeting of the Financial Futures**

**Commission.** As you recall, this is one of the three commissions I've established to study various strategic issues facing the College, this one especially important as we continue to closely monitor the effects on the College of the nation's economic crisis.

The Financial Futures Commission is made up of members of the College community, including faculty, staff, students, and regents. **Its charge is to optimize Augsburg College's financial portfolio so that we can realize our intended teaching and learning outcomes.** The commission will continue to meet monthly through the rest of the academic year and make recommendations about financial plans to the Board of Regents at its May 2009 meeting.

At their initial meeting, the commission reviewed a primer on the basics of the College's finances, and looked at the five strategic drivers for a viable financial future—moving to long-term financial planning in addition to annual budget planning; strategically managing current and future debt; continuing to diversify the revenue sources of the College; increasing fundraising and investment returns; and monitoring College costs, while linking them to the strategy and vision of the College.

At the same time we are studying our financial practices and policies, we continue to expand our offerings to make education more accessible, especially to non-traditional students. **In January the MBA program will launch a cohort at a new location, St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington.** Preparation is underway, as technology is being installed to provide connections to curriculum, services, and information on campus. We are excited to launch Augsburg in Bloomington and to partner with our friends at St. Stephen.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Tradition of Las Posadas**

On Friday, our last chapel service before the holiday break celebrates the Spanish-speaking tradition of Las Posadas, the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem as they seek lodging, are turned away, and finally are received with joy. It's a wonderful reminder of the opportunities we continually find around us to extend hospitality to those in need. Please join the celebration with the procession, mariachi band, piñata, and treats.

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## Late Night Breakfast

Next Monday night, Dec. 15, students studying for their finals can take a break from their books from 10 to 11:30 p.m. for an Auggie tradition—Late Night Breakfast served to them by President's Cabinet members and faculty.

## KUDOS

**My deep thanks and congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's 29th annual Advent Vespers**, especially to Pastor Dave Wold, Peter Hendrickson, and Cathy Knutson for their leadership and work. Once again, our four services, all filled, show the community's great appreciation for this Augsburg tradition. Many thanks also to **Event and Conference Planning, A'viands, and the Institutional Advancement staff** for helping us host a memorable dinner Friday evening on campus for our most generous alumni and donors.

Many thanks also to the **Augsburg Associates and to all who took part in Velkommen Jul**, our annual Scandinavian Christmas tradition. What a treat!

Kudos to the **winners of the Star Engagement Awards** for the first quarter. These awards recognize superior and creative programming implemented by the residence hall staff. Awards are made to nominated programs, bulletin boards, and door decorations that demonstrate innovation, advertising, time invested, use of resources, resident consideration, and resident involvement.

Awards for formal engagement efforts:

**Michael Buller, Meghan Asleson, Dave Afdahl**—Capture the Flag  
**Ruthann Dohner, Britnie Bartelma**—Cake and Condoms

Honorable mention:

**Becky Shaheen**—Tour of Seward Coop  
**Noelle McComb**—Farmers Market  
**Avery Winter**—Why Thugs are Delicate

Awards for passive engagement efforts:

Bulletin Boards:

**Anderson staff**—Election Information  
**Jenni Pickford**—Women in Treatment and Recovery  
**Becky Shaheen**—Seward  
**Noelle McComb**—Election Information  
**Erica Salkas**—Homecoming

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Door Decorations:

**Bethany George**—Cartoon Characters

**Eric Tankel**—Cassette Tapes

**Dave Afdahl**—Trees

**Kendra Christianson**—Scoreboards

**Jaydin Clouse**—Colored Guitars

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

**Monday, Dec. 8**

**2009 Legislative Session Preview, Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Senator Lawrence Pogemiller, and Martin Sabo '59**

4–5:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Monday, Dec. 15**

**Late Night Breakfast for students**

10–11:30 p.m., Christensen Center Commons

**Monday–Thursday, Dec. 15–18**

**Fall day semester final examinations**

## 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., Dec. 9**—Katie Kaiser, senior speaker

**Wed., Dec. 10**—Vocatio Chapel, Mark Sedio '76, Director of Music, Central Lutheran Church

**Wed. eve**—Communion, with Pastor Kelly Chatman

**Thurs., Dec. 11**—Heather Pedersen, senior speaker

**Fri., Dec. 12**—Las Posadas celebration

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

Have a great week.