



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

December 15, 2008

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Good morning. Abigail and I are just back from our trip to Norway, where we enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Norwegian people even as we marveled at the long hours of darkness that mark the winter days there. The fire torches in front of most shops and businesses were a welcome sign of light in the darkness—certainly a reminder of the Advent theme of the light breaking into our world. **Among the highlights of our week-long visit were our personal time meeting the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Finnish diplomat Martti Ahtisaari,** and inviting him to come to Augsburg in March 2010 for the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. **I also enjoyed a personal audience with King Harald, who remembered fondly his visit to Augsburg in 1995.** Abigail and I spent the first two days of our visit in Tromsø, where we met with university officials and also experienced the culture of the indigenous Sami people, including a dog-sledding excursion! We concluded the week meeting Augsburg alumni in the Oslo area and being reminded that wherever Augsburg folks are found, our mission is being lived out.

Abigail and I hope that all faculty and staff will join us on Thursday, at 3 p.m. in Christensen Center, for our annual holiday gathering. This year as we enjoy fellowship with each other, we will also have an opportunity to provide some holiday treats to those around us who may be struggling. A'viands has generously donated 1,000 sugar cookies for us to decorate and distribute to our neighbors and organizations through Campus Kitchen. Please join us for food, beverages, and some creative cookie artwork.

This year I know many of us find ourselves entering the holiday season with the sadness of loss and with deep concerns for those around us in our own campus community, in our nation, and throughout the world. With the tragic loss of three of our students this fall—Ahmednur Ali, Katie Wiltgen, and Matthew Ackerman—I hope you will continue to keep their families and friends in your hearts and prayers. This afternoon, at 5:30 p.m., a memorial service for Matthew Ackerman will take place in Hoversten Chapel, with Pastor Sonja Hagander presiding.

This is the final President's Weekly Update for 2008. The Update will resume again on Monday, January 5. Augsburg College is officially closed on December 24 and 25, and January 1. On Friday, Dec. 26, the College will close at 3 p.m.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Community giving remains strong

Sally Daniels, Parent and Family Relations, reports that the fall 2008 community giving campaign continued to be strong, with a total of \$14,254 raised—\$7,640 to United Way and \$6,614 to Community Solutions. Many thanks to Sally for her leadership in the community giving campaign and for the support you give to our community.

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Inside Augsburg—the latest news and info online

To find the latest on what's happening on campus, the best place to go is online to inside.augsburg.edu. Inside Augsburg covers the latest news stories, the Web calendar, events and happenings, and stories about Auggie events, people, and programs. From the main Inside Augsburg page, which features news of general public interest, Augsburg faculty, staff, and students log in to access more campus-focused news, as well as a host of campus services. These include accounts and directory access, registration, Moodle, and links to submit items to the Web calendar and A-mail.

Two current stories on Inside Augsburg are:

- **Calculating our carbon footprint**—The lead story tells about the work of Augsburg's chapter of the student-organized Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG). MPIRG and the Environmental Stewardship Committee are currently focusing on renewable energy, helping with Augsburg's response to the Presidents Climate Commitment, an agreement signed by more than 600 American college and university presidents to address global warming. **Augsburg faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to complete a short survey concerning how they commute to campus**, from which MPIRG can calculate the impact on Augsburg's carbon footprint.
- **Saving dough on eBay**—When a cooling tower in Lindell Library broke down, leading to flooding and electrical damage, the College was faced with an \$82,000 replacement cost. By discovering that the needed equipment was available on eBay, and by carefully researching and inspecting the suitability and condition of the item before purchasing it, our Facilities Management staff saved the College more than \$60,000. Read how the IT staff also benefits from shopping on eBay.

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Mark Engebretson** and **David Murr**, Physics Department, whose research and work on "space weather" were featured in last Monday's *Star Tribune*.

Further kudos to **Mark Engebretson**, who learned that a 3,241-meter peak in Antarctica is named Engebretson Peak by the U.S. Geological Survey, honoring his research in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Kudos to **several students in MIS professor Kathy Schwalbe's MIS376 class** who practiced their project management skills and raised money for charitable organizations. The Auggies Fight Breast Cancer project team (**Kelsey Lungstrom, Kurt Hogard, Andrew Kent, and Brett Way**) worked with the Augsburg College hockey team to raise over \$5,000 for the Susan G. Komen foundation; the Red Cross project team (**Katie Hanson and Kelsey Watsabaugh**) raised over \$1,000 for the Red Cross; and the

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Operation October project team (**Jackie Munson, Lindsay Baldwin, and Adam Hultberg**) raised over \$800 and helped clean yards for senior citizens working with the DARTS organization. What a great way to learn, help the community, and earn the Augsburg Experience!

Congratulations to the **Environmental Connections class**, who planned and prepared a lunch meal last Wednesday as part of their final exam (sorry I missed it!) After studying food production and consumption and their effects all semester, the class planned a menu that supported local growers and suppliers. With lots of help and support from A'viands, they prepared and served items such as radish soup, walleye chowder, shepherd's pie with winter vegetables, and apple pie.

Kudos to **Bruce Rowe**, Augsburg's groundskeeper, who was selected and profiled by a student in the business administration keystone class as someone he considered a "success"—for the ways in which Bruce not only cares for his family, but always ensures that his student workers know how much their work is appreciated.

Kudos to **Dale Taylor**, visiting professor of music therapy and interim program director, who was the opening speaker at the Mozart & Science 2008 conference in Vienna in November, where he described his biomedical theory of music therapy. Following that he presented a seminar on applying biomedical music therapy in practice. His chapter on this subject has been published in the second edition of *Introduction to Approaches in Music Therapy*. In July he spoke at two symposia in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was recently elected chair of the Wisconsin Board of Aging and Long Term Care.

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. 15

Late Night Breakfast for students

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

Monday–Thursday, Dec. 15–18

Fall day semester final examinations

Thursday, Dec. 18

Augsburg Faculty/Staff holiday gathering

3 p.m., Christensen Center

Friday, Jan. 2–Sunday, Jan. 4

MSW classes begin for winter trimester

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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—9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering at 7:30-7:50 and 8-8:20 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16—Communion, 9:30 p.m.

Daily chapel services will resume on January 12.

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

Enjoy a peaceful, healthful, and relaxing holiday!