



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

January 4, 2010

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Good morning. Welcome back to staff and faculty who return this week after the holiday break. I hope you were able to enjoy your planned holiday celebrations with family and friends despite the winter storms that swept across the country. **This weekend we welcome Weekend College and most graduate students back to classes** to begin winter trimester. Rochester classes and MBA classes for returning students begin this evening. Next Monday day students start spring semester classes.

Also beginning this evening are classes at our Bloomington Center, located at St. Stephen Lutheran Church on France Ave. near I-494. Last year at this time we began graduate classes in the MBA program there, and tonight we are adding the Master of Arts in Leadership program in a structure and schedule that is modified from the weekend format used on the Minneapolis campus.

On Thursday, a newly-developed AA to BA program begins in Bloomington that meets the needs of Normandale Community College graduates who desire a structured path to degree completion. Students can choose either a business administration major or an organizational communication major with a business administration minor. Cohorts will meet one night a week, and most students will be able to complete the program in nine trimesters.

I want to give special thanks to Bruce Rowe and his grounds crew for their hard work before Christmas and on Christmas Eve during the massive snowstorm, as they quickly cleared streets and sidewalks to make the campus safer and more accessible for everyone who was here.

It was with great sadness that I learned last Monday of the death of our colleague Donald Steinmetz, who has taught in our Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies Department for 41 years. His son, Erik, is a member of the Computer Science Department, and our prayers are with Erik and his family during this difficult time. Arrangements are being made for a memorial service to be held at Augsburg later this month; information will be posted in the Weekly Update.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Weather alerts and College closing

The storms over the holidays prompted a reminder about College communications concerning inclement weather during the winter months. All weather-related news about changes to class schedules and operations is posted on Augsburg's Web site, identified by the red snowflake symbol. Information is also available at the Weather Info line at 612-330-1501, as well as at KARE-11 and WCCO-TV. You can also get the news on Twitter (@augsbουργcollege) and on the Auggie Eagle Facebook page.

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Students and faculty traveling

Our thoughts are currently with three **faculty-led seminars** that are traveling this week in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and France.

- Vocation and Christian Faith—Professor Matthew Maruggi, Religion, January 3–10
- Art and Music in Paris—Professors Merilee Klemp and Tara Sweeney, Music and Art, Dec. 26–Jan. 8
- Globalization and Women's Movements in Nicaragua—Professor Michael Lansing, History, January 3–10.

The **Augsburg Symphony Orchestra** left early this morning for their tour in Florida. Tomorrow afternoon they'll perform at Ft. Myers Beach and join me and Augsburg alumni afterward at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Other concerts are scheduled in Ft. Myers, Cape Coral, and Melbourne before orchestra members return on Sunday.

Auggie athletes also traveled distances to compete in their sports. The **wrestling team** won six championship/co-championships in the Augsburg/Brute/Adidas Sunshine Classic in Palm Coast, Fla., on Dec. 28–29, against three other schools in the top 30 of NCAA Division III wrestling.

The **men's basketball team** won a victory against the University of the Sacred Heart on a winter break trip to Puerto Rico, 68–65, on December 19.

The **women's basketball team** played in the Wartburg Tournament on December 29–30, losing the final consolation game, 63–49, to University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

KUDOS

Kudos and thanks to **Event and Conference Planning** for their work in organizing the Holiday Gathering and to **Aviands** for donating cookies to decorate. Many thanks also to the **Sabo Center** and **Campus Kitchen**, who distributed the decorated cookies to community organizations and community partners in Augsburg's neighborhoods.

Congratulations to the **Campus Kitchen** partnership for its selection as one of 10 semi-finalists for Minnesota Campus Compact's 2010 Carter Partnership Award. Mary Laurel True submitted the application, and has now been invited to submit a full proposal by the end of March.

Congratulations to Professor **Andy Aoki**, Political Science, for the publication of the book he co-authored, *Newcomers, Outsiders, and Insiders: Immigrants and American Racial Politics in the Early 21st Century*, published by University of Michigan Press.

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Kudos to **Brian Emerick**, Anderson Residence Hall director, who joined the Social Justice Committee, and to **Michael Perry**, Urness Residence Hall director, who joined the Communications Committee for the Upper Midwest Region-Association of College and University Housing Officers (UMR-ACUHO).

Kudos to **Garry Hesser**, Sabo Professor for Citizenship and Learning, who led a seminar session, "The Sociological Imagination: A Necessary Perspective for Church Leaders" at Luther Seminary on December 7.

Congratulations and welcome to **Melissa Becker**, new Weekend College Student Senate member.

Kudos to Augsburg and Auggies appearing in the media recently:

- Women's hockey head coach **Jill Pohtilla** and student-athlete **Toni Menth**, who were quoted in a story on WCCO-TV News last night about the women's hockey team's clinic and fun game with members of the Woodbury Eagles, a Minnesota Special Hockey team.
- Augsburg was featured in a *Star Tribune* story on December 22 about the increasing number of students of color attending Minnesota colleges.
- Augsburg was included in the *New York Times* Education Life section yesterday as part of a chart of data from the National Survey of Student Engagement that includes colleges with high levels of student engagement.

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

Monday, Jan. 4

Rochester classes and Bloomington Center classes begin, winter trimester

Wednesday, Jan. 6

First Wednesday Gathering Lunch and Supper

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., lunch for staff and faculty, East Commons, Christensen Center
8 p.m., supper for evening custodial crew, East Commons

January 8–10

Classes begin, winter trimester--WEC, MAE, MAN, and MSW classes meet

Monday, Jan. 11

Classes begin, spring 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—9:09 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering, 7:30-7:50 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 9—First Word Community Gathering, Amy Gort, assistant vice president and dean of arts and sciences, speaking on “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.”

Monday, Jan. 11—Opening Celebration for spring semester

Sports results and schedule—<http://athletics.augsburg.edu>

Just a reminder about Augsburg's planning for an H1N1 flu outbreak ... follow the link from Inside Augsburg or go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/h1n1> for information, updates, monitoring, and communications during the flu season.

Have a great week!

President's

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