



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

January 18, 2010

Page 1

**Good morning.** Classes at Augsburg do not meet today, as we pause to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. This year's convocation features the distinguished civil rights leader and professor Charles McDew, along with special music and tributes to Dr. King. I hope you'll join me and many of our neighbors as we gather for this 22nd annual event that is a call to action for reconciliation and social justice in the world.

The Augsburg community joins with our fellow citizens around the world as we pray for and reach out to help those who are suffering in the aftermath of the horrific earthquake in Haiti. We especially remember the family and friends of Ben Larson, a Luther College graduate and Wartburg Seminary student, who died as a result of the earthquake. Ben and his wife, Renee (a Concordia College graduate), are connected to many of us, and Ben's death is a jarring reminder of how a tragedy far away can hit so close to home. We will hold all of the victims of the Haiti earthquake in our prayers and lift up ways that we might be of assistance.

I participated last week, along with athletic director Jeff Swenson and assistant athletic director Kelly Anderson Diercks, in the annual convention of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in Atlanta. During the convention, the NCAA Division III, of which Augsburg is a proud member, launched a new identity initiative that will become public in the months ahead. This initiative, which will focus on the distinctive principles and values that characterize Division III colleges and universities—our commitments to student-athletes, to comprehensive educational experiences, to sportsmanship and citizenship, and to offering financial aid without reference to athletic accomplishments—will have a national debut in television spots and print ads, as well as in institutional and conference efforts. It is an important moment for Division III, and I look forward to Augsburg's role in telling the stories of our student-athletes who pursue all they do with passion and purpose.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Lunar New Year celebration

The Augsburg Asian Students Association invites you to join them in celebrating the Lunar New Year on Friday evening, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., in the Christensen Center, East Commons, for a show that includes cultural performances, traditional clothing, food, and activities. Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays for many Asian cultures, with family gatherings, gifts, symbolic foods, and festive decorations; this year the celebrations seek to bring good luck in the new year of the tiger.

### H1N1 flu shot clinics

**Faculty and staff** must make an appointment to receive the H1N1 flu vaccination on Thursday, Jan. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Minneapolis Room, Christensen Center. Augsburg will pay for the vaccine, which will be administered by Homeland Health Specialists. No claims will be submitted to insurance. Schedule an appointment by calling Human Resources at x1058.

January 18, 2010

Page 2

**Students** can get the H1N1 vaccine at a walk-in clinic on Friday, Jan. 22., from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Marshall Room, Christensen Center, sponsored by the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Association. Cost for the vaccine is \$20.40 for the shot and \$13.31 for the nasal vaccine; students can either bring their health insurance information with them or pay for the vaccine with cash or a check. There is no need to sign up. Note: faculty and staff may also visit this clinic if they bring their insurance information or pay for the vaccine.

## KUDOS

I want to offer a special word of thanks and congratulations to **Kevin Myren**, who has served with distinction as Augsburg's vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, and who is leaving us to take a similar role with CommonBond, a Twin Cities housing agency. Kevin has been a valued colleague and we will miss his expertise and good spirit.

Congratulations to the **Augsburg Chapter of the Society of Physics Students**, that was named an Outstanding SPS Chapter for the 2008-09 academic year.

Kudos to **Fidel Xinico**, CGE director in Guatemala, who was the featured speaker along with Rony Lec, a consultant with CGE in Guatemala, at the Bissell Symposium, Part II, at Hiram College in October. Fidel spoke about "Human Rights in Guatemala from a Mayan Experience." He was also quoted extensively in an article, "The Right to Life for Mayan People," in *The Epoch Times* on January 7.

Kudos to **Jody Sorensen**, Mathematics, who co-authored the article "Waiting to Turn Left?" that appeared in the *College Mathematics Journal* this month. The article discusses the mathematical rule for determining when an intersection requires a separate left turn lane, which became the subject for an interesting calculus class project.

Kudos to Auggies who were in the media recently:

- Senior men's hockey team captain **Chris Johnson** was featured in the *Star Tribune* and on WCCO-TV in stories about his family's hockey legacy, including his grandfather, Bob, who attended Augsburg briefly, and his father, Mark, who is the women's hockey coach for the 2010 Olympic team and at the University of Wisconsin.
- **Jeanne Boeh**, Economics Department, was quoted in an MPR story on Tuesday about Twin Cities' home prices.

January 18, 2010

Page 3

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

**Wednesday, Jan. 20**

**Welcome reception for Professor Tugen Hao, Anqing Teachers College**  
3 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center

**Friday, Jan. 22**

**Asian Student Lunar New Year Celebration**  
5–8:30 p.m., East Commons

**Friday, Jan. 22**

**Augsburg Symphony Orchestra concert**  
7 p.m., Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

**January 22–24**

**WEC, MAE, MAN, and 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—9:09 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering, 7:30-7:50 a.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19**—Lonna Field, Exploring Our Gifts associate

**Wednesday, Jan. 20**—Mark Engebretson, Physics Dept.

**Thursday, Jan. 21**—Peter Miller, commissioner and senior speaker

**Friday, Jan. 22**—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Lutheran Center for Life

**Saturday, Jan. 23**—First Word Gathering, Amy Gort, assistant vice president of academic affairs and dean of arts and sciences, “The Parable of the Light of the World”

**Monday, Jan. 25**—President Paul Pribbenow

**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!