



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

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Good morning. Abigail and I spent the weekend in Florida for the 100th-anniversary celebration of the Lutheran Educational Conference of America (LECNA), an organization that includes the presidents of all the colleges and universities in both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. It is an organization that has done great work on behalf of Lutheran higher education, helping to recruit students and position Lutheran colleges and universities for their distinctive missions and values. It was especially meaningful that many retired presidents joined us for the weekend to help celebrate 100 years of LECNA. The keynote speaker for the weekend was Martin Marty, the renowned historian of American religion (and my teacher), who became an Augsburg alum in 2007 when he received an honorary degree and gave the commencement address. Marty described the ways in which Lutheran colleges and universities have a tradition that offers a transformative education for the world. I also was proud to present a session on Augsburg's work on infusing vocation into our community—work that is respected by many of our sister institutions in LECNA.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Speaking of Scholarship

A new weekly forum, sponsored by URGO and the Center for Teaching and Learning, offers opportunities to learn about research and creative activity carried out by Augsburg faculty and students. One faculty or two students present each week about their own research or about the process of doing research and creative activity at a liberal arts college. Conversation and questions follow. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome; no RSVP is necessary. The next session is tomorrow (Tuesday) in Oren Gateway Center 100, from 12:15–1:15 p.m., with Professor Phil Adamo, history and medieval studies, presenting “The Foundation Legends of the Caulite Monastic Order: 1193-1300.”

Convocation presents folk medicine and healing

The 2010 Counseling and Health Promotion Convocation presents Elena Avila, a psychiatric nurse who is also a *curandera*, or healer, and practices traditional folk medicine of Mexico learned from her parents. On Friday afternoon, she'll discuss her book, *Woman Who Glows in the Dark*. On Saturday at noon, her topic is “A *Curandera's* Concept of Medicine.” See the calendar for times and locations.

DFL candidates discuss issues at Augsburg

The Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning and Augsburg's Political Science Department will host a forum on Tuesday, Feb. 16, featuring candidates vying to be the pick of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party in the 2010 Minnesota governor election. The event will be moderated by Jay Benanav, Augsburg's director of government relations, and will feature a number of prepared questions focused on education issues and policy. During the final 30 minutes, members of the audience can ask questions of the candidates.

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Among the candidates expected to be in attendance are: Tom Bakk, Mark Dayton, Matt Entenza, Susan Gaertner, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, John Marty, Tom Rukavina, R.T. Rybak, and Paul Thissen. The Feb. 16 forum starts at 7 p.m. in Sateren Auditorium.

Plans are underway to host a similar event featuring Republican candidates.

Rescue Haiti—a challenge to faculty and staff

Last week at the Rescue Haiti event, students raised more than \$1,200 for Haiti relief through their performances, sales, and donations. I'm proud of their remarkable efforts to help our neighbors in Haiti, and I now challenge our faculty and staff to match their commitment.

If you can help, checks can be made out to Augsburg College, with Rescue Haiti marked on the memo line. Once the drive has ended the total amount will be sent to the Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development Fund. Send checks and donations to the Campus Ministry office, CB 120, marked for Rescue Haiti. For more information, contact student coordinators Angela Bonfiglio, bonfigli@augsborg.edu or Lucky Dirie, dirie@augsborg.edu.

Another option to benefit Rescue Haiti is to purchase artwork and items donated by our colleagues and being sold by the students for this benefit. The items will be on display in Christensen Center, Wednesday and Thursday, from 2 to 6 p.m.

AQIP Strategy Forum in Chicago

From Wednesday through Friday, Dean Farley and I will lead a team to the College's third Strategy Forum in Chicago as part of our work with the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), a mission-based approach to reaffirmation of accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. In 2008 the College began its second seven-year cycle in AQIP by submitting an updated Systems Portfolio to an external review panel. The purpose of the Strategy Forum is to identify possible Action Projects for improving institutional effectiveness based on feedback the College received from the reviewers (see 2009 Systems Appraisal Feedback Report under AQIP Documents: <http://www.augsburg.edu/aqip/>).

The Strategy Forum provides an opportunity to engage colleagues from other AQIP institutions on strategies for improving institutional effectiveness. Augsburg's team, which also includes Amy Gort, Mary Lowe, Julie Edstrom, Lori Peterson, Nate Hallanger, and Sheila Anderson, will focus its attention during the forum on reviewer feedback related to Category 8: Planning Continuous Improvement, specifically, how Augsburg might create better linkages for collecting, analyzing, and using data more systematically in making decisions. Campus-wide discussions on these quality improvement efforts will follow the Strategy Forum.

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KUDOS

Many thanks to the **students and others who organized the Rescue Haiti event** on Wednesday evening, offering their performing talents and art to raise money for Red Cross relief efforts. We're very proud of your efforts and look forward to adding to your good work with contributions from others on campus.

Thanks also to the **men's and women's golf teams** who packed 10,584 meals, which will feed 29 kids for an entire year through Feed My Starving Children.

Congratulations to the **physician assistant Class of 2009** who placed in the 85th percentile of all PA programs on their national certifying exam. The national mean for first-time takers was 535; the mean for Augsburg's class of 2009 was 596, with 95% passing.

Kudos to the **men's and women's soccer teams**, both of which earned National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Awards for 2008-09. The women's team GPA was 3.32, while the men's GPA was 3.42. Augsburg was one of 102 schools nationwide—and one of five Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schools—to have both its men's and women's programs earn the honor. It's the first time that the women's soccer program, coached by Mike Navarre, has earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Dallas Brass Concert, sponsored by the Music Department

10:20 a.m.–noon, Hoversten Chapel

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Carl H. Chrislock Memorial History Lecture—"Building a Norwegian American Community," Odd Lovoll, professor emeritus of history and former King Olav V Chair in Scandinavian-American Studies at St. Olaf College

7 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center

Feb. 11–14

Taming of the Shrew, by William Shakespeare; directed by Darcey Engen

Feb. 11, 12, 13 at 7 p.m.

Feb. 14 at 3 p.m.

Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

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Thursday, Feb. 11

Youth and Family Ministry Conference

David W. Anderson and Paul Hill, Vibrant Faith Ministries, speakers

9 a.m.–3 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

Feb. 12–13

2009-10 Counseling and Health Promotion Convocation, with Elena Avila, *curandera* (healer) and author

Fri., Feb. 12—3:30 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center

Conversation about *Woman Who Glows in the Dark*

Sat., Feb. 13—noon, Hoversten Chapel

“A *Curandera's* Concept of Medicine”

Feb. 12–14

WEC, MAE, MAN, and MSW classes meet

Sunday, Feb. 14

Gospel Praise Jazz Ensemble church service and music

11 a.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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, Feb. 9—Grant Stevensen, Black History Month

Wednesday, Feb. 10—Dallas Brass music ensemble

Thursday, Feb. 11—Hans Wiersma, Religion Dept., and Emily Wiles

Friday, Feb. 12—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Lutheran Church, with Lisa Olson, Gospel music anthology

Saturday, Feb. 13—First Word Gathering, Michelle Cerame, President, WEC Student Senate, “Parable of the Light of the World,” Matthew 5:4-16

Monday, Feb. 15—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life, Black History Month

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

Have a great week!