



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

February 1, 2010

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**Good morning.** This weekend our Board of Regents met on campus for its winter meeting. It was a good weekend of conversation about the College's current and future work. The board especially enjoyed time together with faculty members discussing what it means to be a teacher and scholar at Augsburg, and they also met with alumni leaders for a special reception. The board's deliberations on the weekend were primarily focused on:

- Reviewing assumptions and drivers for 2010-11 budget planning, including faculty and staff salary increase pools, increases in healthcare costs, and our continuing investments in faculty sabbaticals, deferred maintenance projects, and lowering our short-term debt as a college.
- Approving increases in tuition rates for the 2010-11 academic year of 4.5% for the day program, and between 3 and 4.5% for other undergraduate and graduate programs. These increases are among the lowest approved by the board in the past 20 years—certainly an indication the board believes that we must be mindful of the impact of the wider economic context on how much we charge for tuition. At the same time, however, the board also approved a \$2 million increase in the amount of student financial aid that we will offer students for next year—an additional indication of the board's sensitivity to making an Augsburg education accessible to our students and their families.
- Exploring a five-year financial model for the College that allows us to set a new horizon for financial planning.
- Receiving a positive report from the Capital Campaign Cabinet about donor responses to the plans for the Center for Science, Business, and Religion.

The board also approved the tenure and promotions of the following faculty members, to take effect September 1, 2010, and I offer my congratulations to them.

Tenure and promotion from assistant to associate professor:

Christina Erickson	Social Work
Nancy Fischer	Sociology
Annette Gerten	Social Work

Granting of tenure:

Russell Kleckley	Religion
Susana Sandmann	Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies

Promotion to the rank of professor:

Cass Dalglish	English
Suzanne Doree	Mathematics
John Schmit	English
Mark Tranvik	Religion

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The board left campus on Saturday impressed with the good work being done by the entire Augsburg community—work that has led to record enrollments and increasing retention rates, to budget results better than projected, to new donor relationships with individuals and corporations, and to the visibility of the College in the Twin Cities and beyond for its commitments to access and excellence.

On Thursday at 4 p.m., we gather as a community for the memorial service in Hoversten Chapel for our colleague Don Steinmetz, a world-renowned scholar in linguistics, who is remembered with great admiration and fondness by colleagues and former students. Our prayers continue for our colleague Erik and his family; I hope you'll join me at the service, as we gather to celebrate Don's life.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Look up—for Augsburg in lights

The College has a bright new sign atop Mortensen Hall that will catch the eye of many more motorists who drive by on I-94, especially at night. The 30-foot, LED Augsburg name along the freeway will serve as the College's own billboard, highlighting our location close to downtown. Read the Inside Augsburg story about the sign at <http://inside.augsburg.edu> and watch the slide show of the sign's installation, 13+ stories above ground.

### Nobel Peace Prize Forum is coming soon

We're just over a month away from the 22nd Annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum, "Striving for Peace: A Question of Will," to be held on campus March 5–6. Registration is now available online at [www.peaceprizeforum.org](http://www.peaceprizeforum.org). There is no charge for Augsburg faculty, staff, and students to attend.

Honored at the forum and speaking at the opening plenary session will be 2008 Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari, noted international peace negotiator and former president of Finland. Of special interest to us is his connection to Namibia. For more than 15 years Mr. Ahtisaari represented the UN in Namibia and was leader of the UN team that negotiated Namibia's independence in 1990. President Ahtisaari will also share a plenary session with Kjell Magne Bondevik, former prime minister of Norway and founder of the Oslo Institute for Peace and Human Rights, in dialogue about the role of small states in peacebuilding.

Four concurrent sessions will feature a number of distinguished leaders discussing issues of peace and human rights, focusing on Namibia as a case study in nationbuilding, interfaith dialogue in peacemaking, the role of women in peacebuilding, and building and sustaining democratic institutions in Kosovo and Somalia.

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The final plenary session presents Leymah Gbowee, who led the women's movement in Liberia that sought an end to fighting. She is featured in the film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, which will be shown earlier in the afternoon.

Other highlights of the forum include:

- Opening ceremony with aerial dance choreographed by Professor David DeBlieck and students, plus a commissioned choral piece by Finnish composer Kari Tikka sung by the Augsburg Choir;
- Friday evening music by Dustin Thomas and the Marimba Africa (that played at the MLK Convo last month);
- A variety of Saturday seminar presentations, including two sessions led by the Peace Scholars, talking about their experience in Chiapas, Mexico, last summer;
- Twin Cities public premiere of *Ana's Playground*, a film made in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood with technical design help from Augsburg students. This film just won Best International Short film at the Foyle Film Festival in Northern Ireland and qualifies for 2011 Oscar consideration.
- Three art exhibits, including two exhibits with photography of the Karen people of Burma;
- International Peace Fair to learn about local and regional organizations involved in peace-related work.

Also on Friday, March 5, the Peace Prize Festival will bring area school children to Melby Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the achievements of Nobel peace laureates and to present their projects about individual laureates.

### ***The Taming of the Shrew opens on Friday***

A contemporary re-envisioning of William Shakespeare's play, which tackles gender inequality and the true meaning of "taming" and "shrew," opens this weekend on Augsburg's main stage, directed by Darcey Engen. Tickets can be reserved at 612-330-1257. See the calendar for dates and times.

### **KUDOS**

Congratulations to **David Hanson**, Chemistry Department, who was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to study particle formation in the atmosphere, with climate applications. The total award is around \$300,000, spread over four years. Dave is internationally recognized for his work in atmospheric science and involves undergraduate chemistry and physics students in his research.

Kudos to **John Pack**, director of public safety, who presented on "Missing Student Protocols and the Higher Education Reauthorization Legislation" at the International Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Conference, in January at the College of St. Benedict.

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Kudos to **Andrea Dvorak**, Office of International Programs, who presented “Serving Graduate and Nontraditional Students in Study Abroad” at MSAP-Minnesota Education Abroad Professionals.

Kudos to **Kim Stone** and the **Alumni and Constituent Relations staff**, for a very successful alumni event last weekend. The wine tour and presentation by alum Chris Ascher '81 were filled to capacity, with a waiting list.

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**

**First Wednesday Gathering for faculty and staff**

11 a.m.-1 p.m., lunch, East Commons

8 p.m., supper for custodial staff, East Commons

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

**Memorial service for Professor Don Steinmetz**

4 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

**Executive Leader Speaker Series—“Lessons of a Young Entrepreneur,” Nicolas Thomley '06 MBA, CEO, Pinnacle Services**

5 p.m., Johnson Conference Center, Oren Gateway Center

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

**Alumni and Student Networking Event**

5:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

**Feb. 5-14**

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

Feb. 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 7 p.m.

Feb. 7 and 14 at 3 p.m.

Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

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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.

**Tuesday, Feb. 2**—Babette Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**—Christine Belfrey, singer and educator

**Thursday, Feb. 4**—Barbara Farley, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

**Friday, Feb. 5**—Gospel musicians Thelma Buckner, Tom West, Patricia Aiken, and Aretha Johnson

**Monday, Feb. 8**—"The Pull"

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

Have a great week!