



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

February 15, 2010

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**Good morning.** Next weekend, Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, Augsburg hosts **Scholarship Weekend**, when prospective students come to campus to interview for honor scholarships and audition for fine arts scholarships. This year 100 students are competing for President's Scholarships and about 70 students for the Fine Arts Scholarships. I hope you will welcome these future Auggies and their parents and help them learn about our campus.

Last week, a team of Augsburg faculty and staff were in Chicago for an **Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Strategy Forum**, an important part of our accreditation process through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Led by vice president for academic affairs Barbara Farley, the team also included Professor Mary Lowe (Religion), Amy Gort and Nate Hallanger (Academic Affairs), Sheila Anderson (Academic Advising), Julie Edstrom (Enrollment Management) and Lori Peterson (Augsburg for Adults). I was privileged to join the team for part of the forum. The team's work focused primarily on planning a new initiative to be known as "Called to Excellence," a series of organizational activities that will further integrate our commitment to excellence in all we do at Augsburg. The team's work was inspired by its belief that Augsburg is at its best when our work together is "student-centered, mission-focused, and data-informed." Watch for opportunities for all of us to participate in "Called to Excellence" activities in the next several weeks and months.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **DollarSense—students learn about financial literacy**

Going to college is a major financial investment for all of our students. Students and their families make commitments of personal resources, as well as incurring student loan debt, to supplement financial aid from government, college, and other private sources. Especially when students have experienced financial problems during the recession, some of which have been caused by their families' experiences with the current economic context, it is very important that we pay attention to ensuring that all our students have opportunities to learn more about how to manage their financial lives.

In its fifth year, DollarSense, Augsburg's financial literacy program, aims this year to help students overcome their "money fears" by empowering them with money knowledge so they can forge their own financial path. Over the course of a week, five different speakers will each engage in a conversation that addresses money and values. All are welcome to attend—the sessions run tonight through Friday this week at 6:30 p.m. in the Christensen Center Student Lounge.

### **DFL candidates' forum—tomorrow evening**

Nine Democratic candidates for governor will be on campus tomorrow evening, at 7 p.m. in Sateren Auditorium, for a forum moderated by Jay Benanav, Augsburg's director of government relations. Some prepared questions on education issues and policy will be presented, followed by questions from the audience on any topic.

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Candidates expected to attend are: Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher, former U.S. senator Mark Dayton, Ramsey County attorney Susan Gaertner, Sen. John Marty, Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak, Sen. Tom Bakk, Matt Entenza, Rep. Tom Rukavina, and Rep. Paul Thissen.

### Webinar series on higher education and democracy

Harry Boyte, co-director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship, is moderating a national series of three webinars on the role of higher education as an agent and architect of democracy. The second webinar on February 24 will explore lessons from land-grant universities and historically black colleges and universities engaged in the freedom struggle and will include practical ideas for promoting student civic development and engagement. For information and registration, go to [www.augsburg.edu/democracy](http://www.augsburg.edu/democracy).

### Wrestling Division III Regional at Augsburg

On Saturday Augsburg hosts the 2010 NCAA Division III Great Lakes Wrestling Regional, starting at 9 a.m. in Melby Hall. Fifteen teams from the Midwest and West will vie to qualify for the Division III National Championships, to be held March 5-6 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Tickets will be sold at the door—\$8 for adults, \$4 for students, children under 2 are free. Go to <http://athletics.augsburg.edu>.

### KUDOS

Kudos to the Augsburg staff who served as volunteers at Minnesota College Goal Sunday on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Brian Coyle Community Center, helping students to fill out their FAFSAs. They included **Amanda Maleska, Steven Fenster, Justin Nash, Peter Schattauer, Jenny Yang**, and **True Xiong**. **Jenny Yang** served as the site coordinator and worked with staff from Brian Coyle Community Center.

Congratulations to theatre professor **Darcey Engen** and our talented theatre students in the cast and crew for their provocative and moving performance of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* over the past two weekends.

Kudos to Augsburg English professors **Cass Dalglish** and **Cary Waterman**, and creative writing students **Drew DeGennaro** and **Andrea Sanow**, who were readers at the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley on Friday evening. Augsburg was the first college creative writing program to be asked to read. Literary Reading Series directors **John Reimringer** and **Katrina Vandenberg** gave a tour to visiting Augsburg students and spoke about the importance of literary residency programs.

Congratulations to **Katrina Vandenberg**, English Department, who has been given a contract by Milkweed Editions for her second book of poems, currently titled *The Alphabet Not Unlike the World*; the book will be published in 2012 or 2013. Poems from the collection are forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *Orion*, and other journals.

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Kudos to **Jacqueline deVries**, History Department, whose essay, "Challenging Traditions: Denominational Feminism in Britain" was selected as a "key essay" in the history of feminism and republished in *Globalizing Feminisms, 1789-1945*, ed. Karen Offen (Routledge, 2010). Jacqui also delivered a paper last fall on "M.A.R. Tucker, Popular Theology and Women's Space," at the Women's History Network Conference (UK) at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University.

Kudos to **Phil Adamo**, History Department, whose essay, "Monks and Heretics: Using Eco's *Name of the Rose* as a Textbook in an Upper-Level, Undergraduate History Seminar," is the first chapter in a new book, *Postscript to the Middle Ages: Teaching Medieval Studies through The Name of the Rose*, ed. Alison Ganze.

Congratulations to coach **Aaron Griess** and the Augsburg men's basketball team, which has clinched a playoff berth in the MIAC conference championships later this month.

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 16**

**Mardi Gras Madrigals**

6:30 p.m., Hoversten chapel

**Tuesday, Feb. 16**

**Forum for DFL candidates for governor, hosted by Augsburg**

7 p.m.—Sateren Auditorium

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**

**Speaking of Scholarship, Emily Merhar, Art**, "Contemporary Ceramic Dishware with Terra Sigillata, Influenced by Cedar Avenue," and Jessica Fanaselle and Taylor Norman, English, "Digitizing Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*: Recreating an Undergraduate Research Experience"

12:15–1:15 p.m., Oren Gateway Center 100

**Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20**

**Scholarship Weekend**

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

**Wrestling Division III Regional**

9 a.m., Melby Hall

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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. 16**—Dwayne Lowman '00, Black History Month

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**—Ash Wednesday, President Paul Pribbenow

**Thursday, Feb. 18**—Natalie Sasseville, Senior speaker

**Friday, Feb. 19**—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Black History Month

**Monday, Feb. 22**—Bruce Reichenbach, Philosophy Department

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

Have a great week!