



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

March 1, 2010

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Good morning. It seems a long time ago when Abigail and I met briefly in Oslo with Martti Ahtisaari, who had just received the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize, to invite him to the Peace Prize Forum more than a year away. And now, this week, we welcome him to Augsburg and the forum, which opens Friday evening and runs through Saturday.

This remarkable annual event, supported by the Norwegian Nobel Institute and sponsored in collaboration with four other Lutheran colleges of Norwegian heritage—Augustana (Sioux Falls), Concordia, Luther, and St. Olaf—gives students, faculty, and staff of these colleges and the general public rich opportunities to listen to inspiring speakers, reflect, and engage in dialogue about peacemaking.

This year's Peace Prize Forum plenary speakers include two former heads of state—Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland, and Kjell Magne Bondevik, former prime minister of Norway—and Leymah Gbowee, who created and led a woman's movement in Liberia that forced the government to peace negotiations. A number of other panelists and seminar presenters fill the two-day program, along with the local premiere of an acclaimed short film, *Ana's Playground*, about children in war environments that was filmed here in Cedar-Riverside with the help of Augsburg students.

I hope you'll plan to attend the forum; there is no cost for Augsburg students, faculty, and staff. The program and schedule are available at <http://peaceprizeforum.org>. Online registration closes at 5 p.m. today, but you can also register at the forum.

On Friday evening, we celebrated with the StepUP program as they held their annual gala dinner. About 300 people gathered and shared stories of success, resilience, determination, and support. Preliminary figures show that more than \$67,000 was raised for StepUP before and during the gala from the silent and live auctions and Fund A Need.

Of special note, the annual Toby LaBelle Award was presented to Tracy Beckman, Augsburg's former director of government relations, for his continuing work in support of young people in recovery.

What an exciting week for Augsburg sports with extremely close games for both the men's basketball and men's hockey teams, both, unfortunately, ending in losses to Gustavus. The Saturday night conference playoff semifinal hockey game, which went into four overtimes, set an NCAA Division III record for longest game, lasting five-and-a-half hours and ending after midnight.

Good luck to Auggie wrestlers as they compete this weekend in the Division III National Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Join the Foodless Food Drive

As part of Minnesota Food Share's March campaign, a "Foodless" Food Drive will be held this month in support of the food shelf at the Brian Coyle Community Center. The foodless aspect of the drive recognizes that monetary donations are often more valued by the food shelf since they are able to purchase more food of the types most needed by community residents.

Matching funds for the drive have been committed from the Central Minneapolis Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Every \$2 raised during the drive will be matched by \$1 from Thrivent. I encourage you to make a contribution and help our neighbors in need. Watch A-mail for further information. Thanks to Mary Laurel True, Brian Noy, Sandy Tilton, Steve Peacock, and student Devon Dodge for their work on this project, and thanks to Thrivent for the commitment of matching funds.

Faculty and staff will receive information with an envelope in campus mail. Checks may also be made out to "Brian Coyle Food Shelf" and mailed to Sandy Tilton at CB 310.

Augsburg is on the President's Honor Roll

Augsburg is the only college in Minnesota and only one of four ELCA colleges named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. More than 700 colleges are listed on the honor roll, but only 115 are honored "with distinction." The honor roll is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. Institutions were chosen based on a number of factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, the percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Islam Awareness Week

The Muslim Student Association, in collaboration with Residence Life, International Student Organization, Pan-Afrikan Student Union, and Women's Resource Center, is hosting the first Islam Awareness Week on campus this week, through Friday. Watch the digital signs for activities each day.

KUDOS

Many thanks to everyone who made the StepUP program such a successful event—the **StepUP staff and students, Leslie Larson and the Event and Conference Planning Office, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communication**, and others.

Kudos to **Amanda Storm**, Alumni and Constituent Relations, for her work in organizing the alumni event at the Guthrie Theater on Saturday. More than 120 alumni enjoyed a backstage tour, presentations by Augsburg alumni connected with the Guthrie, and a viewing of *Macbeth*.

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Kudos to **Ruth Enestvedt and the Convocation Series planning committee**, for their work in arranging the visit of Gustavo Esteva for this year's Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics.

Kudos to the **dance team** that won fourth place in the collegiate jazz division at the UPA AmeriCup Championship Nationals in Minneapolis. Dancers Sherry and Jill Dean competed in a duet, while **Michelle Anderson, Denielle Johnson**, and **Shannon Twiford** competed in a trio and were advanced to finals on Saturday evening where they finished in second place against eight teams.

Kudos also to two new elected Day Student Government senators: **Samantha Johns** is a new Senior Class senator and **Mark Langdon** is a Junior Class senator.

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

Monday–Friday, March 1–5

Islam Awareness Week

Tuesday, March 2

Speaking of Scholarship, Pavel Belik, Mathematics Dept., “Using Mathematics in Understanding and Predicting Physical Phenomena”

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

Wednesday, March 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

Friday, March 5

15th Annual Peace Prize Festival

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Melby Hall

Friday–Saturday, March 5–6

22nd Annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum

For info and schedule, go to <http://peaceprizeforum.org>

Monday, March 8

Staff Appreciation

2:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

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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, March 2—Brad Holt, Religion Dept., speaking on reconciliation

Wednesday, March 3—David Tiede, Christensen Professor on Religion and Vocation, speaking on reconciliation

Wednesday evening, 9:09 p.m.—Songs and communion, with Pastor Kelly Chatman

Thursday, March 4—Phil Quanbeck, Religion Dept. chair, speaking on reconciliation

Friday, March 5—Rev. Mitri Raheb, Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Peace Prize Forum, with Riverside Singers

Monday, March 8—Hans Wiersma, Religion Dept., speaking on reconciliation

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

Have a great week!