



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

October 12, 2009

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Good morning. I am on my way home from Germany today where Abigail and I spent the last week in Leipzig participating in the celebrations of the “Peaceful Revolution,” the movement 20 years ago that led to the reunification of Germany and the freedom of the East German people from the tyranny of communist rule. It was a remarkably emotional week, as we were reminded of how the Lutheran Church in East Germany played a leading role in encouraging the people to stand peacefully and courageously in the face of fear and bondage. We look forward to future opportunities to develop even stronger relationships with our fellow faithful in the former East Germany.

Coincidentally, it was a privilege to host the Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics at Augsburg and in the Twin Cities last week. This year marked the first time the Bonhoeffer lectures were held outside of New York or Germany, and we were very fortunate to serve as a host. On Friday the presenters at Augsburg included Mark Hanis, whose lecture about genocide in Darfur was part of our Convocation Series.

This week our fine Convocation series continues with our annual humanities and fine arts convocation tomorrow, featuring jazz pianist Jason Moran, at 11 a.m. in Hoversten Chapel. He has become recognized and respected for his work in stretching the boundaries of jazz, inspired by contemporary art and music. I hope you are able to hear him talk about his work and perform for us.

We welcome the Board of Regents to campus on Friday and Saturday of this week and extend a special welcome to our newest regents, Lisa Novotny '80, vice president for human resources at General Mills; and Ann Ashton-Piper, a church and community leader and educator. Over the course of this year's board meetings, we will consider how our roles as regents of Augsburg are grounded in and shaped by scriptural and theological themes from our Lutheran traditions. On Saturday, David Tiede, Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation, will lead a session that focuses on the theme of “welcoming,” during which we will consider the roles of regents in creating an institution that is hospitable, that values access to education, and that welcomes the stranger into our work as a college. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to welcome our regents at Chapel on Friday.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Reception for the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning

On Monday next week, October 19, a number of us will be in Washington, D.C., for a reception to benefit the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning. It will be hosted by Jim Johnson and Maxine Isaacs from 6-8 p.m. at their home. This is an opportunity for us to honor the career of retired U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo and to present the work of the Sabo Center as it enhances our students' learning. For information and to RSVP, if you are able to attend, contact Kim Stone at 612-330-1173.

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Sign up for blood drive

The annual fall Memorial Center blood drive will take place on campus next week, on Tuesday, Oct. 20. If you are interested in giving blood, tomorrow (Oct. 13) you can sign up for your time slot for next week. The sign-up will take place tomorrow in Christensen Center from 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

All-Hands meeting

Mark your calendars for the fall All-Hands meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 11:15–11:45 a.m. in Hoversten Chapel. I look forward at that time to sharing information with you about progress on our strategic initiatives and our financial progress during the first part of this fiscal year.

KUDOS

Many thanks to **Lori Brandt Hale**, Religion Department, the planning committee, the Marketing and Communication Office, and others for their work to plan and coordinate the Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics. Kudos also to **those who organized the Camp Darfur exhibit** on Friday.

Congratulations to **Carol Barnett**, Music Department, who was chosen by ASCAP as a 2009-2010 recipient of an award in the Concert Music Division.

Congratulations to the new 2010 Student Orientation Leaders, **Thomas Rixen** and **Shannon O'Brien**.

Kudos to Augsburg faculty who have appeared in the media recently:

- **Kristin Anderson**, Art Department, who was interviewed and quoted by MinnPost.com in an article about the architecture of the Metrodome
- **Jeanne Boeh**, Economics Department, who appeared on KARE-11 News to comment on the state of the economy and unemployment
- **Lori Brandt Hale**, Religion Department, who was interviewed and quoted by MinnPost.com in an article about the Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics

Kudos to Professor **Phil Quanbeck**, Religion Department, who co-presented the Fourth Annual Larry Ebert and Patrick Twumasi Memorial Lecture on Spirituality and Ethics in Medicine at the Partnering for Life Continuing Medical Education Conference in Kumasi City, Ghana, in September. Augsburg alumna and regent **Dr. Ruth Johnson** prepared and moderated the evening program, which included a panel discussion and personal case studies by West African physicians and clergy. The conference was sponsored by Africa Partners Medical and the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and drew physician participants from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Togo, Nigeria, and South Africa.

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Kudos to **Tom Ruffaner**, chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee, for his work to offer incentives and bring the MetroPass program to Augsburg, and for his continued promotion of mass transit to faculty and staff. An e-mail from an Augsburg staff member praised Tom's work and mentioned what a financial savings the MetroPass provides for her, even over just the cost of gas. Kudos to Tom, the Environmental Stewardship Committee, and commuters at Augsburg who use mass transit.

Kudos to Professors **Laura Boisen** and **Lois Bosch**, Social Work Department, who conducted the workshop "Ethical Decision Making in Supervision" for Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health. It was presented for supervisors from county social services and funded by an Augsburg grant and a Hennepin County contract.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 13

2009-10 Convocation Series—Fine Arts Convocation

Jason Moran, jazz pianist, speaking/performing
11 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Ethnic Student Services Leadership Dinner—celebrates the recipients of the Leadership Awards from the Pan-Afrikan Center, and the American Indian, Pan-Asian, and Hispanic/Latino Student Services programs
5 p.m., East Commons

October 16-17

Fall meeting, Augsburg Board of Regents

Sunday, Oct. 18

Augsburg Choir at morning worship
9:30 a.m., Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave., St. Paul

Monday, Oct. 19

Reception for Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning
6-8 p.m., Washington, D.C.

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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, Oct. 13—11 a.m., Convocation Series, Jason Moran, jazz pianist

Wednesday, Oct. 14—Karl Jacobson, Religion Dept.

Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—Songs and communion, with Babette Chatman

Thursday, Oct. 15—Lynne Lorenzen, Religion Dept.

Friday, Oct. 16—President Paul Pribbenow

Monday, Oct. 19—St. Luke the Physician Healing Day

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

Just a reminder about Augsburg's planning for an H1N1 flu outbreak ... go to www.augsburg.edu/h1n1 for information, updates, monitoring, and communications during the flu season.

Have a great week!