



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

November 30, 2009

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Good morning. I welcome you back from Thanksgiving break and hope you were able to enjoy time spent with families and friends in gratitude for the blessings we share.

This week marks the entrance into Advent and the December period of holiday celebrations. **On Friday we welcome our alumni, friends, and families to share in Velkommen Jul**, a uniquely Augsburg tradition honoring and enjoying the Scandinavian heritage of our founding. **Friday evening and Saturday we take part in the 30th annual Advent Vespers** service of music and liturgy, another great Augsburg tradition that has become a regular part of the holiday celebration for many people in our community. Even with the addition of a fifth service this year, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, all five services are either full or nearly full at this point. I hope to see many of you this weekend at both Velkommen Jul and Advent Vespers.

Once again, **Abigail and I hope that all faculty and staff will join us on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. in Christensen Center, for our annual holiday gathering.** Again this year as we enjoy fellowship with each other, we will also have an opportunity to provide some holiday treats to those around us who may be struggling. A'viands will generously provide sugar cookies for us to decorate and distribute in the community. Please join us for food, beverages, and some creative cookie artwork.

The last day of fall semester day classes is on Friday, Dec. 11, and final exams take place from Monday, Dec. 14 through Thursday, Dec. 17. For weekend undergraduate and graduate classes, **the last weekend of fall trimester classes and exams is December 11–13**, although some programs finish before that. The Augsburg for Adults Holiday Lunch is on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., in Oren Gateway Center lobby.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Strommen Executive Leader Speaker Series on Thursday

As part of the College's new Clair and Gladys Strommen Center for Meaningful Work, the Executive Leader Speaker Series seeks to strengthen affiliations between the College and the Twin Cities business community. On Thursday, Alex Cirillo, vice president of the 3M Foundation, will present "Creating a Culture of Innovation in the Workplace." He is nationally recognized for his expertise in the area of innovation and creativity in corporations. The presentation begins at 5:15 p.m. in Hoversten Chapel. RSVP to roller@augsborg.edu.

Velkommen Jul—Welcome Christmas

Velkommen Jul begins on Friday with a chapel service at 10:15, featuring the singing of Christmas songs from the Nordic countries and the traditional visit from St. Nicholas. At 11 a.m., the Augsburg Associates—an organization of alumni, friends, and retired faculty and staff—host a sumptuous spread of Scandinavian Christmas goodies and a boutique of Scandinavian gifts, baked goods, and decorations. The Christmas boutique will be on the main level in Christensen Center, with the food and sweets upstairs.

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All are welcome to join us for this distinctive celebration, marking our heritage as a college and also reminding us that our own immigrant roots give us important perspectives on the experiences of our neighbors in Cedar-Riverside. See you on Friday morning.

I'm an Auggie

Have you seen Augsburg's new video, "I'm an Auggie"? The four messages from different generations of Auggies talk about why they give back to the College. Watch "I'm an Auggie" at <http://www.augsburg.edu/auggie>.

KUDOS

Kudos and thanks to **Joe Fortier**, IT systems administrator, who spent Thanksgiving Day upgrading Augsburg's central e-mail server. This new high-performance hardware is designed to keep up with the 25,000 e-mails delivered to Augsburg accounts each day.

Kudos to first-year student **Libby Schultz** for the publication of her op-ed piece on health care in the *Hastings Star Gazette* on November 19. She originally wrote "Kline Missed the Big Picture" for Professor Josh Mabie's section of ENL 112: Advanced Effective Writing.

Kudos to the **students who received the fall Residence Life Star Awards.**

Respectful: The winners are **Sana Malik** (Eid Celebration) and **Tim Bemrich** (Party Hardy). Honorable mentions are **Noelle McComb** (Post Secret), **Elisabeth Clemans** (Cake 'n Condoms), and **Sergio Romero Garcia** (*City of God*).

Resourceful: The winners are **Bi Nguyen**, **Adam Spanier**, and **Sana Malik** (Global Foods) and **Nate Althoff** and **Hannah Soule** (Survival 2012). Honorable mention is **Rochelle Weidner** (What Can You Do with a Major in ...).

Responsible: The winners are **Alix Young** (Self Defense) and **David Ishida**, **Sergio Romero Garcia**, and **Gloria Morales** (Safety of Self—Play it Safe). Honorable mention is **Tony Lovaas** and **Kassie Benjamin-Ficken** (StepUP Testimonial—Values and Choices).

Weekend: The winners are **Tyler Piumbroeck** and **Andrea Boss** (Cultivating Experience into Knowledge—Paintball) and **Kate Lewis** (College Cooking).

Bulletin Boards: The winners are **Amber Mullenbach** (Get Active) and **Stephanie Korf** (Fun Fall Facts). Honorable mentions are **Mary Godi** (Welcome to Second Floor), **Tony Lovaas** (Haunted Place in Minneapolis), **Andrea Boss** (Success Bulletin Board), and **Elisabeth Clemans** (Sex Bulletin Board).

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Door Decorations: The winners are **Svetlana Bolshevikova** (Paper Butterflies) and **Brandy Hyatt** (Transformers). Honorable mentions are **Sergio Romero Garcia** (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Origami), **Bi Nguyen** (Castles), **Rochelle Weidner** (Costume Tricks for Costume Treats), and **Stephanie Korf** (Galaxy).

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

Wednesday, Dec. 2

First Wednesday Lunch Gathering, for faculty and staff

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons

First Wednesday Supper Gathering, for evening custodial crew

8 p.m., East Commons

Thursday, Dec. 3

Strommen Executive Leader Speaker Series—Alex Cirillo, Vice President, 3M Foundation

5 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

RSVP to roller@augsborg.edu or 612-330-1720.

Friday, Dec. 4

Velkommen Jul

10:15 a.m., Velkommen Jul chapel service, Hoversten Chapel

11 a.m., Velkommen Jul Scandinavian Treats and Crafts, Christensen Center

Dec. 4–5

30th Annual Advent Vespers

Friday, Dec. 4—5 and 8 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th St., Minneapolis

Saturday, Dec. 5—2, 5 and 8 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th St., Minneapolis

Dec. 4–6

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, and MSW classes meet

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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, Dec. 1—Father Joe Gillespie

Wednesday, Dec. 2—David Tiede, Bernhard Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation

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

Thursday, Dec. 3—Kevin Granzin, senior speaker

Friday, Dec. 4—Velkommen Jul chapel

Saturday, Dec. 5—First Word Gathering, Tom Gouras, WEC Senate, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God”

Monday, Dec. 7—Pastor Sonja Hagander

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

Just a reminder about Augsburg's planning for an H1N1 flu outbreak ... follow the link from Inside Augsburg or go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/h1n1> for information, updates, monitoring, and communications during the flu season.

Have a great week!