



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

December 7, 2009

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**Good morning.** What a wonderful weekend of customs, traditions, and celebration with more than 10,000 of Augsburg's alumni and friends. On Friday we welcomed Advent in chapel with song and St. Nicholas, and enjoyed the wonderful Christmas treats from the Augsburg Associates at Velkommen Jul. On Saturday we thanked many of our donors at the annual holiday dinner, and shared in the mystery and majesty of our five Advent Vespers services. These meaningful Advent celebrations are wonderful gifts for both the Augsburg community and the wider world.

On Wednesday, the **Vocatio chapel presents Cheryl Chatman**, executive vice president and dean of diversity at Concordia University. She will speak on "Disparities in Higher Education" as part of the Vocatio chapel series, "Listen! God is Calling: Race, Place, and Class," a theme developed from a group study by the Itasca Project that examines socioeconomic disparities and recommended actions to overcome them. Speakers earlier this year included Rev. Nancy Maeker, who works to eradicate poverty in Minnesota; Rev. Luisa Cabello Hansel, who works with immigration issues; and Jenny Mason, who seeks to ameliorate housing challenges in the Twin Cities.

In the spring, Vocatio chapel speakers will include educator Kelly Woods '99, a recipient of the Milken Foundation Educator award, plus speakers addressing issues in health care and transportation.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Twin Cities Teaching Collaborative**

**Augsburg is one of six colleges that together have accepted the challenge from the Bush Foundation to improve teacher effectiveness** and, as a result, to reduce educational disparities between white students and students of color and to increase numbers of students in post-secondary education. The Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative (TC2), with a \$7 million grant from the Bush Foundation, will launch five new and interconnected teacher preparation initiatives: a recruitment process; an Institute for Professional Mentors; a residency program; an Induction Center; and an Assessment/ Accountability Center.

Nate Hallanger, special assistant to the vice president of academic affairs, has represented Augsburg on the Core Leadership Team and worked with an Augsburg group that includes faculty from the Education and Mathematics Departments, as well as staff at the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

TC2 is one of the projects funded under a \$40 million grant from the Bush Foundation to rethink the training of teachers to offset a loss in the next decade of up to one-half of all current teachers who may retire or leave teaching. It is the largest single investment the foundation has made. Other schools receiving Bush Foundation funding are Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University, Moorhead; St. Cloud State University; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; Winona State University; University of South Dakota; North Dakota State University; and Valley City State University.

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## **Tradition of Las Posadas**

On Friday, our last chapel service before the holiday break celebrates **the Spanish-speaking tradition of Las Posadas, the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem** as they seek lodging, are turned away, and finally are received with joy. It's a wonderful reminder of the opportunities we continually find around us to extend hospitality to those in need. Please join the celebration with the music procession, piñata, and treats.

## **Augsburg for Adults Holiday Lunch**

On Saturday, the last weekend of fall trimester, faculty, staff, and students are invited to the Augsburg for Adults holiday lunch, between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., in Oren Gateway Center lobby.

## **Late Night Breakfast**

Next Monday night, Dec. 14, day students studying for finals can take a break from their books between 10 and 11:30 p.m. for an Auggie tradition—Late Night Breakfast, served by the President's Cabinet members and faculty.

## **Thrivent seeks student social entrepreneurs**

In April 2010 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will offer a Social Entrepreneurial Case Competition** designed to explore sustainable, long-term solutions to pressing social needs. The competition challenges student teams to examine, analyze, and present recommendations for current societal issues requiring sustainable solutions. For more information contact Professor Marc McIntosh, Business Administration, at [mcintosh@augsborg.edu](mailto:mcintosh@augsborg.edu) or Sandy Tilton, Strommen Career and Internship Center at [tilton@augsborg.edu](mailto:tilton@augsborg.edu).

## **KUDOS**

**My deep thanks and congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's 30th annual Advent Vespers**, especially to our remarkable and talented students, Pastor Dave Wold, Peter Hendrickson, and Cathy Knutson for their leadership and work. Even as we added a fifth service, all were filled, showing the community's great appreciation for this Augsburg tradition. Many thanks also to **Event and Conference Planning, A'viands, the Institutional Advancement staff, and other volunteers** for helping us host a memorable dinner Friday evening on campus for our most generous alumni and donors.

Many thanks also to the **Augsburg Associates and to all who took part in Velkommen Jul**, our annual Scandinavian Christmas tradition. What a treat!

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Many thanks to **Nate Hallanger**, Academic Affairs, for representing Augsburg on the Twin Cities Teacher Collaborative Core Leadership Team that has worked together since last May on the development of this excellent proposal. Also thanks to **Lynn Lindow** and **Vicki Olson** in the Education Department; **Tracy Bibelnieks**, Mathematics; and **Nan Skelton**, **Dennis Donovan**, and other **members of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship** for their active participation in this work.

Kudos to **Cass Dalglish**, English, who participated in the forum, "New Media Poetics and Poetry Film Symposium," last week, as part of the series, "The Works: A Writer's Salon."

Congratulations to **Heather Johnson**, Center for Counseling and Health Promotion, who completed her doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of St. Thomas. Her dissertation is "Parent Loss during Emerging Adulthood."

Kudos to **Laura Lazar**, Business Administration/MIS, who begins a four-year term in January as treasurer for the DIAKONIA World Federation, an ecumenical network of diaconal organizations and communities.

Kudos to **Student Government** that held a Meet and Greet last week to meet with students and others around interests and issues of concern.

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 9**

**Vocatio Chapel, Cheryl Chatman**, executive vice president and dean of diversity, Concordia University, St. Paul, "Disparities in Higher Education"  
10:20 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Friday, Dec. 11**

**Las Posadas Celebration**  
10:20 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Friday, Dec. 11**

**Last day of classes, fall day semester**

**Dec. 11–13**

**WEC, MAE, MAN, and MSW—final weekend of fall trimester**

**Saturday, Dec. 12**

**Augsburg for Adults Holiday Lunch** for faculty, staff, and students  
11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Oren Gateway Center Lobby

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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. 8**—Students who traveled to the School of the Americas

**Wednesday, Dec. 9**—Vocatio Chapel, Cheryl Chatman, executive vice president and dean of diversity, Concordia University, St. Paul, “Disparities in Higher Education”

**Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.**—Songs and communion

**Thursday, Dec. 10**—Christmas carols with Pastor Dave and Brass Group

**Friday, Dec. 11**—Las Posadas—last daily chapel service for fall semester

**Saturday, Dec. 12**—First Word Gathering, with Joe Midthun, Luther Seminary

**Monday, Dec. 14**—No chapel—daily chapel services resume on Monday, Jan. 11

**Tuesday eve, Dec. 15, 9:09 p.m.**—Songs and communion; Christmas liturgy, with Pastor Sonja

**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!