



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

September 13, 2010

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**Good morning.** After a whirlwind opening week, classes are settling into their fall term pace. I'm proud of the more than 400 AugSem students and student leaders, faculty, and President's Cabinet members who carried out more than 1,500 hours of cleaning, painting, gardening, and more at 23 schools and community organizations last Tuesday. Augsburg was one of three schools featured in a *Star Tribune* article last Wednesday.

I'm very pleased to tell you that Augsburg College has received the President's Leadership Award from Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) for our "outstanding contribution to the Brian Coyle Center and the entire community." The award especially recognizes and thanks Bruce Batten, associate director of the MBA program; Mary Laurel True, director of service-learning and community engagement; Steve Peacock, director of community relations; and the Social Work Department. Bruce, Mary Laurel, Steve, and Toby Bibus, Social Work Department, will accept the award on behalf of the College at PUC's annual Celebration of Leadership on Thursday.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Augsburg Corporation annual meeting**

On Friday we host the annual meeting of the Augsburg Corporation Governing Board. This board represents the ELCA's constitutional support to the College from Augsburg's four designated synods—Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Southeastern Minnesota, and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. The Governing Board includes representatives from the congregations in these synods, and Augsburg's Board of Regents, faculty, college administrators, and students. An important responsibility of the Governing Board at their annual meeting is to elect new members to Augsburg's Board of Regents.

The Governing Board will join us for chapel on Friday, as Marty Stortz, the new Bernhard Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation, presents the homily. I hope you'll have an opportunity to join us in chapel and greet the Governing Board.

### **Vocatio Chapel on Wednesday**

The first Vocatio Chapel will be on Wednesday, 10:20–10:40 a.m., with Augsburg StepUP alum Melissa Toavs, career probation officer for Hennepin County. She graduated in 2004 with a major in sociology and a concentration in crime and community, and her story speaks about restorative justice, alternative sentencing, and hope for a healthy future. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to a lunch conversation with Melissa Toavs from 11 a.m. to noon. The deadline for reservations is noon tomorrow. To reserve, contact Lonna Field at 612-330-1467 or [fieldl@augsborg.edu](mailto:fieldl@augsborg.edu).

The 2010–11 Vocatio Chapel series focuses on "Healthy Vocations: Mind, Body, and Spirit" and will consider how faith influences health and how health influences faith. Campus Ministry and the Center for Faith and Learning (ACFL) present local leaders who will share how they promote healthy minds, bodies, and/or spirits and their personal faith journeys. Over the course of the year, leaders in the community will discuss their call to work as doctors, coaches, advocates, researchers, teachers, and other forms of health promoters.

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## Scholastic Connections

The Scholastic Connections program celebrates its 10th anniversary at its annual dinner on Friday evening. I'm always pleased to be part of this special evening as we celebrate the students and alumni who participate in this scholarship and mentoring program. We'll introduce the new scholarship students for the 2010-11 year at the dinner.

## September is Recovery Month

This September, together with StepUP, we observe the 21st annual Recovery Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). Recovery Month serves to educate the public on how alcohol and drug addiction is a national health issue, a treatable illness, and that recovery is possible. StepUP will host a Spirituality Breakfast on Thursday morning as part of the commemoration.

## KUDOS

My congratulations and thanks to **all of you who contributed to the remarkable week of events launching this new academic year.**

- To everyone involved in Auggie Days who helped to welcome first-year day students, including **Campus Activities and Orientation, Residence Life, Academic Advising, the Enrollment Center, student Orientation Leaders, coaches and student-athletes, and many others**
- To Professor **Bob Cowgill** (English) for his engaging and thoughtful Opening Convocation address, and to **Laura Schmidt, Sam Harvey-Carlson, Joe Finstrom, and Andrew Myers** for their music
- To our **AugSem groups, Cabinet, faculty, and staff** who spent an afternoon in the neighborhoods learning about and providing service to the communities around us—with special thanks to the Sabo Center and the AugSem leaders for organizing this effort.
- To **Lori Peterson, Jessica Fox-Wilson**, and others in **Augsburg for Adults**, plus the **faculty, staff, and student leaders** who volunteered during the weekend to greet new and returning undergraduate and graduate adult students and to help them find their classes.
- And, finally, to all of you who extended hospitality—to **Event and Conference Planning**, to **Aviands**, to **grounds and maintenance crews**, to **Public Safety**, and to **many others**.

Kudos to senior **Adil Kabir**, international relations and peace and global studies, who was selected by the Australian Embassy as a student ambassador for Australia. He studied in Namibia through CGE in fall 2009 and at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, in spring 2010.

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Kudos to **staff in Academic Advising, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid** who have worked diligently to meet the needs of current and incoming students in all programs, striving to insure that families have adequate financial resources to attend Augsburg and great schedules that meet their needs and desires.

Kudos to **Shana Watters**, Computer Science, who defended her PhD thesis in April and has completed her degree.

Kudos to **Roberta Kagin**, Music Therapy, who has completed her PhD in music therapy at Temple University.

Kudos to **Mary Lowe**, Religion, for her two recent publications: "Accompaniment: An Anthropology for Lutheran Missions," in the summer/fall issue of *Trinity Seminary Review*, and "Sin from a Queer, Lutheran Perspective," in *Transformative Lutheran Theologies: Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Perspectives*, edited by Mary J. Streufert (Fortress Press, 2010).

Kudos to **David Langemo**, Institutional Advancement, who raised over \$1,500 and was one of the top individual fundraisers this year for the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota's Lupus Walk for Hope and 5K Trail Run. Together with teammates in the **Riverside Ramblers**, they raised \$2500 and received the Top Friends and Family Team Award at the event.

Kudos to **Michelle McAteer**, women's hockey head coach, who is at the White House in Washington today as part of a recognition ceremony for the national championship won by the University of Minnesota-Duluth, her alma mater and where she served the last two seasons as an assistant coach.

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 14**

**Community Opportunity Fair**

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center

**Wednesday, Sept. 15**

**Vocatio Chapel, Melissa Toavs '04, probation officer, Hennepin County**

10:20–10:40 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Wednesday, Sept. 15**

**Study and Internship Abroad Fair**

Noon–4 p.m., Christensen Center

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**Thursday, Sept. 16**

**Spirituality Breakfast, Craig Nakken, speaker**

7:30 a.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

**Friday, Sept. 17**

**Constitution Day, symposium to consider constitutional issues of the "Tea Party"**

3 p.m., Oren Gateway Center 113

**Friday, Sept. 17**

**Scholastic Connections 10th-anniversary dinner**

6:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

## **DAILY CHAPEL**

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, Sept. 14**—Favorite Song Day

**Wednesday, Sept. 15**—Vocatio Chapel, Melissa Toavs '04, Hennepin County Career Probation Officer

**Thursday, Sept. 16**—Phil Quanbeck II, Religion Department

**Friday, Sept. 17**—Marty Stortz, Bernhard Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation

**Monday, Sept. 20**—Mark Tranvik, Chair, Religion Department

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

Have a great week!