



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

December 6, 2010

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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 at Velkommen Jul and Advent Vespers. Thanks to the faithful thousands who braved the snow on Friday and into Saturday to join us for the 31st annual Advent Vespers, "My Song in the Night." These meaningful Advent celebrations are wonderful gifts for both the Augsburg community and the wider world.

This week I travel to Oslo, Norway, to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony and to share news with Norwegian educational and political leaders about a new vision for the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum.

Over the past 22 years, the five Norwegian-American colleges in the Upper Midwest (Augsburg, along with Augustana-Sioux Falls, Concordia-Moorhead, Luther, and St. Olaf) have had the privilege of continuing and close contact with the Norwegian government and with the Nobel Peace Institute in Oslo. Our five colleges share governance of an annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum, which has been held on one of our campuses each spring. Augsburg hosted the 2010 forum last March, honoring the work of Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland and the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

This annual celebration of the Nobel Peace Prize and the inspiration it provides for all of us who care about peacemaking will evolve into a new format beginning in spring 2012 (the 2011 forum will be held at Luther College on March 4 and 5, register at [www.luther.edu/nppf](http://www.luther.edu/nppf)). We are excited that the new Nobel Peace Prize Forum will be held each year in the Twin Cities, organized by Augsburg, in close partnership with the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, with the continuing support of our sister Norwegian Lutheran colleges, and with strong ties to other organizations in our area who share our commitment to education for peace. We are especially pleased with the forum's renewed focus on youth as peacemakers. Watch for more details about the newly-designed Peace Prize forum as our plans unfold in the next few months.

**Next Monday, Dec. 13, is the last President's Weekly Update before the holiday break.** The first Weekly Update in 2011 will come out on Monday, Jan. 10. Changes to the Update will be implemented with that issue—more on that in next Monday's Update.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Vocatio Chapel on Wednesday

On Wednesday, Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, ELCA malaria campaign and HIV/AIDS strategy coordinator, will speak in Vocatio Chapel at 10:20 a.m. about her work and host a display with resources about malaria work. Special music will be provided by Agape (Dave Scherer). This is part of the 2010-2011 Vocatio Chapel Series—Healthy Vocations: Mind, Body, and Spirit.

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## **Last week for training on transition to biweekly payroll**

Four training sessions are left to teach monthly staff employees how to use the website to enter time worked. You may attend any of the sessions; note that one is marked for supervisors.

Also, go to “Monthly to Biweekly Payroll Transition” information on the Human Resources Moodle site. To find this, go to AugNet and select AugNet Services, My Courses (moodle), Community Sites (top left), Your Community Sites—and then select Human Resources Department. For more information, contact Theresa Gade at x1052.

Training sessions for monthly staff employees:

- Tuesday, Dec. 7, 3–4 p.m., Sverdrup 201
- Wednesday, Dec. 8, 3–4 p.m., Sverdrup 201
- Thursday, Dec. 9, 3–4 p.m., Sverdrup 201— **this is an in-depth session for supervisors**
- Friday, Dec. 10, 3–4 p.m., Sverdrup 201

## **Deadline for vacation payout—Dec. 13**

Next Monday, Dec. 13, is the deadline for requesting a one-time vacation payout during the payroll transition to a biweekly schedule. Request forms are available at the Human Resources Moodle site (see directions above).

## **Celebrate *Las Posadas* on Friday**

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 a procession and mariachi band, and enjoy traditional food at the reception following.

## **Holiday Party for faculty/staff on Dec. 16**

The annual Holiday Party for faculty and staff will be on Thursday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Christensen Center Coffee Shop and Student Art Gallery. Celebrate holiday cheer at this social hour with faculty and staff colleagues.

## **KUDOS**

**My deep thanks and congratulations to everyone who participated in this year’s 31st annual Advent Vespers**, especially to our remarkable and talented students, Pastor Dave Wold, Peter Hendrickson, and Cathy Knutson for their leadership and work. Many thanks also to **Event and Conference Planning, A’viands, the Institutional Advancement staff, and other volunteers** for helping us host a memorable dinner on campus for our most generous alumni and donors.

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

Kudos to **Lars Christiansen** and **Nancy Fischer**, both in Sociology, for their recent article, "Teaching Urban Sociology and Urban Sustainability on Two Feet, Two Wheels, and in Three Cities," in the current issue of *Teaching Sociology*.

Kudos to **Marty Stortz**, Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation, for her cover story in the December issue of *The Lutheran*, "Directions, Map, Compass: Finding Our Way on the Journey of Discipleship."

Congratulations to the **Luther/OGC staff**, especially **Jake Smith, Ryan Bachman**, and **Tim Bemrich** and the **student staff members** for organizing "Party Hardy III," the successful dance party that was held in the Foss Film Studio on November 20.

Kudos to **Karl Jacobson** and **Phil Quanbeck II**, both in Religion, for their presentations at the recent Society for Biblical Literature conference. For the Bible and Film session, they presented "'And I Will Write It on Their Hearts,' the Word as Transformative in Popular Film." For the Bible and American Popular Culture, focusing on graphic novels and comic book characters, Karl presented "'But These Words are Drawn So That You May Come to Believe ...,' the Bible According to Siku"; and Phil presented "Nothing Left Out!: The Interaction of Text, Illustration, and Popular Culture in R. Crumb's 'Genesis.'"

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

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**

**Chamber Music Recital**

4 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

**Last day of classes in Rochester**

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**

**Annual QSU Drag Show**

7 p.m., East Commons

**Friday-Sunday, Dec. 10-12**

**WEC and some graduate classes—final classes/exams**

**Friday, Dec. 10**

**Last day of fall semester classes for day program**

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## 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, 7:30-7:55 a.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 7**—Music celebration

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**—Vocatio Chapel, Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, ELCA  
malaria campaign and HIV/AIDS strategy coordinator

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

**Thursday, Dec. 9**—Gabe's hymns of Advent

**Friday, Dec. 10**—*Las Posadas* celebration and reception; last day of Chapel for  
fall semester

**Saturday, Dec. 1**—First Word Gathering, Lori Peterson, Assistant Vice President  
and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies, "Faith as Hope," and Margaret  
Wheatley

Sports results and schedule— [www.augsburg.edu/athletics](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics)

Have a great week!