

February 13, 2012

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Last week I had the chance to live out part of Augsburg's vocation when I attended the annual meeting of the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA), in New Orleans. Presidents of Lutheran colleges and universities from throughout the United States and Canada gathered to celebrate 102 years of collaboration and service, and to talk about the manners in which we prepare students for lives of meaning through service. The fellowship and idea sharing are rewarding outcomes from this meeting.

As rewarding, however, was the time we spent with shovels and hammers in hand rebuilding a home still in disrepair from Hurricane Katrina, which during 2005 devastated so much of this historic city.

The reward came from two distinct points. First, in being able to live out the calling of Augsburg while in New Orleans. Through LECNA's day of service, I was able to actively engage in the community – to become, for a brief time, a member of the community. At the start of the day, I only was helping a family in need. By the end of the day, I had come to know Keith, the homeowner. We worked shoulder to shoulder to sheetrock his home. In doing so, there was a transformation in our relationship. We came to know one another. I now have a connection to New Orleans that I wouldn't have otherwise. I have an understanding of the place – and my neighbor, Keith – that I wouldn't have otherwise.

This service learning, in which different people from different communities can become equals and partners in a shared task, is one of the hallmarks of an Augsburg education. This is what service learning truly means to our institution, and our individual lives, and is what we must model for our students. In such a small way, LECNA gave me a chance to reflect on Augsburg's calling. Today, more than ever, our call to serve our neighbor is critical if we are to ready students for lives of meaningful work in an increasingly diverse world.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Discounted prices for students to attend Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Faculty and staff are asked to encourage students to participate in the Nobel Peace Prize Forum (NPPF) that runs from **March 1 to 3**.

The Augsburg Community – students, faculty, and staff – can attend for half price (**\$10 for students, \$20 for faculty and staff**) by registering via their official Augsburg e-mail addresses. The three-day program includes a range of local, national, and international leaders, including:

- **Nobel Peace Prize Laureate F.W. de Klerk**, former president of South Africa. (9:15-10:15 a.m., March 3)
- **Alf Bjorseth**, chairman of SCATEC AS, will address the role of sustainable energy technologies to renew peace and foster stability. (9:30-10:30 a.m., March 1)

- **Adam Hochschild**, journalist, teacher, and author, will speak about moral issues of World War I and those who tried to prevent the carnage that occurred. (1-2:10 p.m., March 1)
- **Saki Macozoma**, business leader, former member of South Africa's parliament, and a prisoner on Robben Island during apartheid, will talk about business and the price of peace in post-apartheid South Africa. (4-5 p.m., March 1)
- **Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem***, Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota. (7:30-10 p.m., March 1)
- **Joe Cavanaugh**, Youth Frontiers founder, talks of building respectful school communities. (1:45-2:45 p.m., March 2)
- **Andrew Slack**, founder of the Harry Potter Alliance, will address how to use the morals and lessons of Harry Potter to fight the dark arts in the real world. (4:30-5:30 p.m., March 2)
- **Dessa**, nationally known hip-hop artist, will talk about ethics, hip-hop, and present a mini-set. (8-10:30 p.m., March 2)
- **Auggie and Nobel Laureate Peter Agre**, 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Augsburg College alumnus, will address the role of science in behind-the-scenes efforts to foster humanitarian objectives that are not possible for politicians and government leaders. (12:30-1:45 p.m., March 3)
- **Geir Lundestad**, Norwegian Nobel Institute, will talk about controversial Nobel Peace Prizes, and whether awards were successes or failures. (12:30-1:45 p.m., March 3)
- **Abdul Aziz Said**, American University, will discuss the value on peace of ecological balance, dignity, political pluralism, and cultural diversity. (12:30-1:45 p.m., March 3)
- **"Reunion: 10 Years After the War,"** special showing of this Amanda Award-winning documentary that shows the meeting between Albanian and Serb students 10 years after the bombings of Kosovo. (Multiple showings March 3)
- **Jonathan Mann**, CNN international correspondent, will discuss the character and qualities of Laureates, a perspective gathered during 16 years of interviewing Laureates as they received their awards in Oslo. Mann also will moderate question and answer sessions following keynote presentations. (Speaks 4-4:30 p.m., March 3)
- **Naomi Tutu**, international human rights advocate and daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will present a closing call to action. (4:30-5 p.m., March 3)

Register online at http://nppftickets.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event_listings.asp. A full program, with session descriptions, is at <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/2012-program/>. Session room locations will be available soon.

The NPPF offers students, staff, and faculty many opportunities to hear from international, national, and state leaders on topics related to peace and peacemaking. This is the first year the Forum will be held in its new Twin Cities-based format. Augsburg is hosting the Forum in conjunction with the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and the support of our sister Norwegian Lutheran colleges, and our community partners.

Sign up now for Augsburg Alerts. All current students, staff and faculty are encouraged to register for **Augsburg Alerts**, an electronic communications system used to communicate

with the community about timely emergency information or weather closures via text message, voice mail, and/or e-mail to registered personal cell phones, landlines, or personal e-mail addresses. To register, download <http://web.augsburg.edu/dps/ACAlerts.pdf>. Faculty and staff are asked to encourage students and direct reports to register for *Augsburg Alerts*. *Augsburg Alerts* is only one of a range of communication tools that can be used by the College in emergency or weather situations.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Health Challenge kicks off today. Get in gear, Auggies! The 3rd Annual Health Challenge kicks off today, and Auggies are taking on the St. Thomas Tommies. Last year, nearly 150 Auggies participated and helped bring home the gold for the second year running. This year, Auggies will strive to do the same. The challenge kicks off runs through May 4. Details http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2012/01_30_12/HealthChallenge.html.

Constructive debate to be modeled at Sabo Symposium. The Sabo Symposium slated for **February 22** will model constructive debate while exploring issues related to alternative funding for K-12 education. Reps. Pat Garofalo and Steve Simon, who represent different perspectives on the topic, will debate one another, followed by a moderated discussion. More details are at <http://www.augsburg.edu/sabo/events.html>. The Sabo Center is accepting applications for scholarships for 2012-13. More in A-Mail at <http://augnet.augsburg.edu/amaill/?issuedate=20120203#32908>.

HASHTAG

The Twitter hashtag for the Sabo Symposium is **#SaboSymp**.

Scholars at the Capitol, and Private College Job and Internship Fair, on February 22. Students have the chance to connect with potential employers for interviews, jobs, and internships at the Minnesota Private College Council. About 1,800 students from MPCC schools participate, and 70 Auggies currently are signed up to attend. The job and internship fair is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Auggie faculty and staff are asked to help encourage students to participate in this important event. Details on the career fair are here - http://www.mnpcfair.org/students/student_information.aspx, and Auggies also can touch base with the Strommen Career and Internship Center (extension 1148) <http://cswl.pbworks.com/w/page/6687514/FrontPage>.

In addition to the career fair, Auggies on **February 22** also will participate in the annual Scholars at the Capitol event to spotlight undergraduate research. Students will present posters on their research, which ranges from musicology to mathematics, Hispanic studies to health sciences. Two Auggies will be among the 39 students at the Capitol. Learn more at <http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/events-news/upcoming-events/scholars-capitol-0>.

February convocations explored forgiveness and civic engagement. Auggies had the chance to learn from a top thinker on the topic of forgiveness at the Center for Counseling and Health Promotion Convocation that featured Frederic Luskin, the director of Stanford University's Forgiveness Projects. Luskin is a researcher on the training and measurement of forgiveness therapy, and author of a range of books. Learn more about his work at www.learningtoforgive.com.

Auggies also had the chance earlier today to learn about the first-hand experiences of three youth from Egypt about their boots-on-the-ground involvement with the Arab Spring, youth empowerment, and civic engagement. The Batalden Seminar on Applied Ethics featured the work of Alaa Abd El-Rahman, Nada Yehia, and Noor Hafez, all of the EYouth project. Learn more at http://inside.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2012/02_06_12/batalden_convo.html.

The next presentation in the convocation series will be by Brian J. Anderson '82, who is deputy project scientist for the NASA MESSENGER mission. Anderson will present **April 17-17** for the Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lecture. Learn more about the MESSENGER project, Anderson, and another Auggie on the project from Inside Augsburg at http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2011/03_21_11/messenger.html.

EVENTS

February 17-18: Scholarship Weekend.

February 18: StepUp Program Silent Auction and Dinner Gala, 5 to 8 p.m., Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Ticket required. <http://www.augsburg.edu/stepup/gala.html>

February 20: Closing day for nominations for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching/Learning. Details in A-Mail at <http://inside.augsburg.edu/amaill/?issuedate=20120125#32739>.

February 21

- Mardi Gras Madrigals, 6:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel.
- Drag Show, 7 to 10 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center.

February 22

- Minnesota Private College Council Scholars at the Capitol, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda.
- Minnesota Private College Council Career and Internship Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center.

For a listing of Augsburg athletic events, visit the Athletic Department Calendar at <http://bit.ly/mUsyCB>.

DAILY CHAPEL

The community gathers from 10:20 to 10:40 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and from 11:20 to 11:40 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Informal communion is held at 9:09 p.m., Wednesday.

- Tuesday, February 14: Black History Celebration, Pastor Wilson, Adventist Church
- Wednesday, February 15: Vocatio Chapel with Deanna Thompson
- Thursday, February 16: Katelyn Danelski, senior speaker
- Friday, February 17: The Buckner Family, gospel musicians
- Monday, February 20: Barbara Farley, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

Augsburg for Adults and members of Campus Ministry gather from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. on days of Saturday class for Eat, Greet & Bless: WEC/Grad Gathering (formerly known as First Word Gathering). These meetings are a chance for people of all faiths and backgrounds to meet for an informal worship and to enjoy breakfast together.

OTHER INFORMATION

Auggies tell story of college – Members of the Augsburg community can help tell the story of the College in many ways, every day. Be sure to submit your events, news, and kudos to A-Mail, and consider sharing the Augsburg story by posting to your personal Facebook page some of the news from our community. Take a moment to check out some of these neat Auggie stories:

- If you weren't able to attend the Strommen Executive Speakers Series presentation by CUB Foods CEO Keith Wyche, you still can get a flavor for what went on by checking out the Augsburg College Storify story on the February 9 presentation. Storify is a social media tool that allows users to capture multi-media social content to tell a story. You'll find Twitter conversation from Wyche's presentation, as well as "extras" such as radio, video, and print interviews with Wyche. "Moving from success to significance" is at <http://storify.com/AugsburgCollege/moving-beyond-success-to-significance>.
- Auggies share reflections on spending two weeks in Cambodia as part of Global Connections Project. The group did work at an orphanage, and taught conversational English in a village 20 miles outside Battambang. Read more in Inside Augsburg at http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2012/02_06_12/gcp_cambodia.html.
- Medieval studies major Molly Miller created Commedia Dell'Arte masks as part of her URGO summer research. Learn more on YouTube at http://youtu.be/_1X7uLa09s4. See more videos related to research by URGO and McNair scholars on the College's YouTube station at http://youtu.be/_1X7uLa09s4.