

Reports of Colleges, Seminaries, and Campus Ministry

Augustana College —*Rock Island, Illinois*

What's in a name? is a question that might be asked of individuals or institutions. In the case of Augustana College the answer is that a good deal of our identity is revealed in the name *Augustana*, which is a Latinized title for the German city of Augsburg. In Lutheran history the term refers to the Augsburg Confession (in Latin, *Confessio Augustana*), written in 1530 by Philip Melancthon as a definitive statement of Lutheran doctrine at a time when schism plagued the church. The Augsburg Confession invited reconciliation among divergent views rather than emphasizing exclusivity. When Swedish immigrants to the United States formed their own national Lutheran church body, they named it the Augustana Synod after the Augsburg Confession. The document's conciliatory approach shaped the strong ecumenical spirit found in the Augustana Synod, which gave its name to the College. "While it is a denominational institution, it is not sectarian in any narrow sense of the term," the College catalogue of the early 1900s read. That spirit of openness remains central to Augustana College's vision and mission today.

Why are we writing this to you today, in the month of June, in the year 2006? Simply to emphasize that we are continually thinking about what it means that we are a College of the Church, rooted particularly in a part of the Lutheran Christian tradition called the Augustana Synod, which was born out of theological and human values which we continue to celebrate. During the past academic year, the College undertook a wide-ranging conversation about what it means that we are a church-related college. Faculty, Board members, administrators, staff, and students talked together about our heritage, about our values, and about our future aspirations. What they identified were "Five Faith Commitments" of Augustana College that line up exactly with five core values which we discerned in the life of the Augustana Synod which gave birth to the College nearly 150 years ago. Here are those five commitments which all of us at Augustana feel confident in making to our students today:

1. Augustana College offers every student the opportunity to develop a life-shaping spirituality.
2. Augustana College encourages our campus community to wrestle with ways in which faith and reason challenge and enrich each other.
3. Augustana College affirms that work and career—indeed, all human effort—are aspects of an understanding of vocation, which the Lutheran tradition in higher education helps illuminate.
4. Augustana College celebrates God's regard for the worth of all persons.
5. Augustana College encourages the development of a campus community which seeks justice, loves kindness and acts with love and humility.

We invite you to pick up a copy of the full document, *The Five Faith Commitments of Augustana College*, at our table in the display center, or download it from our website, www.augustana.edu. And we invite you to continue to send young people from your families and your parishes to learn and grow at Augustana College into persons of faith and commitment.

Carthage College —Kenosha, Wisconsin

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are delighted to celebrate our ongoing partnership with you in the name of Jesus Christ. This relationship continues to demonstrate our interdependence and our mutual service and love for God's people. As we seek excellence as a liberal arts college, we also humbly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we can effectively meet the spiritual needs of our academic community. As our students search for vocational clarity, we support them with a wide variety of religious programs that provide opportunities for prayer and worship as well as opportunities to engage the difficult questions of faith, science, public policy, and social justice. We want our students to be shaped by our Lutheran heritage and become critical thinkers and lifelong learners who will serve in the church and in the world with wisdom and character, fulfilling both a conserving and a reforming role in today's society.

After last year's devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia, we sponsored a special program, *Aftershocks: Restoring the Foundations of a Fragile World*. This all-day event (March 30) examined the far-reaching impact of natural disasters and explored how relief agencies respond. We emphasized the particular work of Lutheran Disaster Response, but we also discussed the importance of interagency cooperation and strong partnership with local people. Because of our interdisciplinary approach, Carthage students were able to look at the tsunami tragedy from many angles, and they have been challenged to recognize the interdependence of religion, culture, science, and economics as people work together to alleviate human suffering. After Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. gulf coast last August, we continued to pray, educate and support disaster relief. Our students have raised \$2,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross. During our spring break this March, twenty students and several members of the faculty will travel to Louisiana as part of a multi-campus relief effort in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Other special programs have included:

- "Wrestling With the Future," a two day event (April 12-14) examining the expanding debate concerning stem cell research;
- "Transformation Starts With You," a three day Diversity Conference (November 4-6) featuring the internationally acclaimed poet, scholar, diplomat, and Jungian psychoanalyst, Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés;
- "How Can I Keep From Singing?" an enormously successful Christmas Festival (December 2-4) that brought several thousand people to campus to celebrate the nativity of Jesus with a traditional service of readings and carols.

As we look back on these and other events, we are grateful for the strong cooperation among students who represent the campus religious organizations. Their leadership is an essential component of campus life. Many of them are your sons and daughters, and you should be proud of them as well. With an enrollment of more than 2,100 full-time students, we delight in the opportunities we have to nurture both faith and intellect. Please continue to pray for Carthage as we seek to fulfill our own vocation as a community shaped by the pursuit of truth, the power of compassion, and the promise of transformation.

Your brother in Christ, The Rev. Dr. Harvard Stephens, Jr. + Dean of Siebert Chapel
Carthage College • Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140-1994 • www.carthage.edu

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Wartburg Theological Seminary –Dubuque, Iowa

Thank you for your partnership in preparing pastors and leaders for the church!

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

We first want to say **thank you** to all of our supporting synods for continuing to partner with us in our mission of preparing women and men for ministry. The unrestricted support that we receive is essential to our daily operations. Approximately 20% of our operating budgets is dependent on the vital support of the synods and the ELCA as we seek to support our students, faculty, staff and facilities.

2005 was an exciting year at LSTC. **The Rev. David L. Miller** was elected to the position of Dean of the Chapel and also became the first **Floy L. and Paul F. Cornelsen Director of Spiritual Formation**. Offering courses and retreats in spiritual formation, coordinating the worship life of the seminary, and developing a Center for Spiritual Formation at LSTC are among Miller's responsibilities. 2005 also saw LSTC receive its largest gift ever. The gift provides for a new Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice and the new Harold S. Vogelaar Chair of Christian-Muslim Studies and Interfaith Relations.

As always we are blessed with a **growing student body** and a **distinguished faculty**. Professor Barbara Rossing received much attention for her book "The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation." Her message, in brief, is that God loves the world and will never leave the world behind. The Massachusetts Bible Society selected *The Rapture Exposed* as one of the ten best religious books of 2004. Other publications included "Time and Eternity: The Question of Time in Church, Science, and Theology," by Antje Jackelén and "When God Speaks Through Change: Preaching in Times of Congregational Transition," by Craig Satterlee.

The **Youth in Mission** program also continues to thrive. "**Serving Christ in the World**" offers the chance for youth to explore, discover and experience God in themselves, in others and in the world as they spend two weeks at LSTC and one week at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. "**Beyond Belief**" is an opportunity for youth groups to step outside of their comfort zones and connect with LSTC, with schools, congregations and other organizations in Chicago.

If you are ever in the Chicago area, please come visit us, or join us for **daily worship** in the **Augustana Chapel**. For more information on LSTC, our people and programs, please visit our website, www.lstc.edu.

Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

Thank you so much for your partnership these past years and your commitments toward a great future! Your support through your synod has enabled another class of graduates to take up service in congregations. As we pass the halfway mark in our capital campaign, the *Wartburg Mission Appeal*, of \$33 million, we are profoundly grateful for all who help us send proclaimers and servants of Christ into God's mission frontiers. Enrollment in our degree and specialized certification courses has grown significantly, and national crises—which Wartburg has directly addressed in our missional educative

work—remind us of the ongoing **need for trained leaders**, who have the theological knowledge and practical skills to comfort and minister to those in difficulty.

The **Center for Youth Ministries** and the **Center for Theology and Land** continue to be on the cutting edge of research and training, for those leading youth and for those in rural ministry. New Directors for these centers will have been named by the time you read this report. New Center commitments will address pressing needs for work with Young Adults and **TEEM** training for rural ministry contexts. The Center for Youth Ministries' renowned Youth Leadership Certification School program is further enhanced by our new alliance with The Youth and Family Institute. New online courses are going extremely well, with the highest participation so far.

Again, by synod assembly time, we will have announced other exciting **new faculty appointments**, including a professor of homiletics and several new affiliative faculty. Of the latter, we are honored to have welcomed the Rev. Susan Briehl onto the faculty as Distinguished Professor of the Art of Ministry.

This year we celebrate the publication of several **new books**. The first, *Forming an Evangelizing People*, was designed for use in congregational council meetings and evangelism meetings. It can be downloaded from the Wartburg web site, www.wartburgseminary.edu. Other publications this year include *Romans*, by Dr. David Lull and John B. Cobb Jr.; *Open the Doors and See All the People*, by Dr. Norma Cook-Everist; and a lecture by Dr. Winston Persaud on baptism in *The Lutheran Course* (available on DVD).

Wartburg is a place where people of God come to live, learn, and love with other people so as to go out and serve God's people throughout the world. You are invited to come and visit our campus and meet some of the future leaders you and your synod support. Thank you for your invaluable partnership.

Yours in Christ,

Duane H. Larson
President
Wartburg Theological Seminary

Yours in Christ,

James Kenneth Echols
President
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Illinois (LCMI)

Mission fact: *Renewing the Commitment* was the name of a mission strategy report that was presented to a recent The Presbyterian Church USA Assembly. Early in the report the observation was made that all the efforts by the campus ministries of the Presbyterians and their ecumenical partners in campus ministry, plus the number of students served by Campus Crusade for Christ and InterVarsity “still involve less than .009 of the nearly 12,500,000 undergraduate students in our nation’s colleges and universities.”

About the same time, a Presbyterian pastor in Ohio wrote about “Missionaries on Campus.” She noted, “We need to be as intentional with our mission on campus as we are on the other mission fields.”

Think back a second about our past understanding and enthusiasm connected to our mission fields overseas. We recognized that the missionaries needed to learn the special language of the turf and the life of that culture. We understood the effort needed to gain credibility and response in that cultural milieu. We accepted the need to strongly support this mission outreach financially and spiritually, and to trust the instincts of our missionaries. Yes, and we

eagerly waited to hear their stories, and we invited them to tell those stories, whenever available.

Spreading the Good News in the midst of the arena where leaders for society and church are shaped and developed is the calling and challenge of campus ministry today. Such thinking stimulates our mission imagination. It invites our faithful support.

- ♦ Our Missionaries on Illinois campuses are:

Pr. Robert O. Smith - University of Chicago

Pr. Lloyd Kittlaus - Northwestern University, Evanston

Ms. Sharon Rogers - Northern Illinois, DeKalb

Pr. John Setterlund - University of Illinois, Champaign

Pr. Lisa Goodwin - Illinois State University, Normal

- ♦ Along with representatives from the other two synods, serving you on the Lutheran Campus Ministry Illinois Board are:

Pr. Paul Darveau, Ms. Katrina Witwicki and Dr. David Zumdahl

Dr. Marcus D. Pera, ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry - Regions 3, 5 and 6