

Adages from Augsburg

Augsburg Academy: Excellence in Education—Learning for Life

Volume 1, Issue 5

Special points of interest:

- Augsburg Academy was founded in 2005
- The Academy is named after the city of Augsburg, Germany, where Philip Melanchthon presented the Confession (defense) of the Reformer's theology to the Imperial Diet (June 25, 1530)
- The Academy has grown from one class of 3 students to five classes of students in from age 4 through 8th grade in 2008-09

Scholarship Drawing Announces Winner—And a Surprise!

The 2008-2009 Scholarship Contest winner is Mary Zwolak of Odenton, Maryland. Mary's granddaughter, Maryse, will be a member of this year's seventh grade class. Her big sister, Mia, is a high school freshman this fall.



One full-tuition scholarship was awarded on July 27th to the Zwolak family of Odenton, Maryland. But, they weren't the only winners that day!

Selection of a winner is no surprise, but the selection of five additional scholarships worth \$1,000 each, ten scholarships worth \$750 each, and twenty \$500 scholarships rounded out a Sunday morning drawing. In the decision made earlier in the month by the Board of Di-

rectors, but kept under wraps until the Sunday drawing, the Board expressed its desire to extend these additional

scholarships with the intent that it would spur additional applications from families that might otherwise not have applied for the fall term.

So far, there have been several additional applications, and the forecast is that the Academy will open 2008-2009 with its largest enrollment to date.

These are exciting times for us, and we thank you for being a part of our success.

Inside this issue:

- Mike Helling 2
"Comes Home"
- "By the Numbers" 3
- Stacy Finkelstein— 3
"In Her Own Words"

Pastor Art Hebbeler, STS
Head of Schools

This has been an extremely busy summer. In fact, I have yet to take a vacation, which is not sitting very well with my wife, Debbie. You see, she worries about me—a lot, it seems. She likes having me around, and she doesn't want something bad to happen to me, especially health-wise. I must admit, I have to agree with her on that one.

But I've put a lot of time in this summer because I have a vested interest in the success of Augsburg Academy. After

all, this has been a part of my vision for ministry, and I can sense that we are on the verge of something very exciting happening. Augsburg is a great school, and every year we get better.

Along with a few others, I have also made a financial commitment to Augsburg, choosing to invest in her future with not only time and talents, but treasures as well. It should be no surprise that Debbie and I have contributed several times my salary to Augsburg over the past three years in order to see to the school's success.

One could say that we have put our money where our mouths are. Having placed our faith firmly in God, we have made our commitment to see that Augsburg becomes the success story that she has the potential to be.

To date, we have done well. Yes, we can do better, and I have no doubt that we will. I invite you to take a step forward with us, and join in the effort to make Augsburg Academy the school we know she can be, and to provide the education she can provide to as many students as possible.

Help us help others!

Your student referrals are very important to our continued growth and success.

Please tell others about Augsburg, and when you do, send a note to REF@augzburgacademy.net or call (240) 786-0283.

Adages from Augsburg

Michael Helling Comes “Home” to Teach



Stacy Finkelstein and Michael Helling are two of our new staff members.

This fall, Michael Helling will be joining the staff at Augsburg Academy. A Lutheran from birth, this is the first Lutheran school at which he has taught.

Mr. Helling brings a wealth of experience to Augsburg, with over 15 years of helping students of all ages and abili-

ties to realize their fullest potential in all major subject areas. Born and raised in the area, Mr. Helling has always maintained close ties to the National Capital region, both scholastically and athletically. He was educated at Cornell University and The American University.

With additional background as a former US Senatorial Legislative Assistant, US Peace Corps Volunteer, and editor at the Smithsonian Institution, Michael is excited to use all of his talents to get the most out of each of his students.

News Alert — Update on Buildings

We are in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to place a modular classroom building at The Gardens Ice House to provide additional space for the Academy this school year. Once we receive the permits, we expect to begin promptly with siting the building behind the Logsdon Pavilion rink. This first unit will house grades 3-8 as well as the music, art and science programs. This is an important step for us in the process of establishing our permanent home here at The Gardens and the groundbreaking for our first permanent unit this fall. We appreciate your prayers and support as we move forward with this important step in our growth.

“We are called by the Holy Spirit to be the best teachers we can be...and students are called to be the best students they can be...”

A Model for Augsburg Academy (First in a series)

In the 1890s, a man named Henry Harrison Culver had a dream of creating a school on the shores of a large lake in north central Indiana. Much of the land was swampy, but the wealthy St. Louis businessman never let a little thing like that stop him. In 1894, after a few years of a summer Chautauqua program, Culver Military Academy opened with forty cadets and a couple of teachers.

The Academy was a dream of one man—Henry Harrison Culver. From a humble start, the Academy is now over 100 years old and a coeducational institution known around the world for academic excellence. Among its graduates are names like Holbrook, Steinbrenner, Vlasic, Logan, Fleet, Hillis, Bayh,

and many more leaders in countless industries and fields of endeavor.

But one of the things which has made Culver a leader in secondary school education is its ability to provide a world-class education, and from its rolls build young men and women into leaders around the world.

While there are many differences between the Culver Academies and Augsburg Academy, there are some common themes. First, like its older companion, Augsburg seeks to prepare young men and women to be leaders in their communities. Second, Augsburg endeavors to provide the highest quality educational experience for her students, while building their physical, emotional, spiritual, and moral charac-

ter at the same time. Third, Augsburg is built upon the same entrepreneurial spirit which built Culver from its humble beginnings to its place as a leading academic institution.

We do not know what the future holds for any of us, nor can we make any guarantees of success in all endeavors. However, as we move forward in faith we move forward knowing that there is an opportunity before us to make a mark on our community and more importantly, to help form the leaders for decades to come.

With God’s help, someone 100 years from now will look to Augsburg for inspiration in education as well. May we provide a positive and faithful one.



Lisa Driscoll, assistant kindergarten teacher, and some of her new friends on Opening Day.

Augsburg Academy by the Numbers

Which is better: 25 to 1 or 8 to 1? Well, the answer really depends on what you are considering in these ratios. In horse racing, for example, 25 to 1 is a long-shot, but once in a while long shots win the race, and the payoff can be outstanding compared to an 8 to 1 winner.

Making 25 burgers from 1 pound of beef would make for some very small burgers. At 8 burgers to a pound, one gets a burger a little bigger than the standard hamburger at a fast food joint.

In education, most public school classrooms have about 25 students and one teacher. In a typical school day, that means a student gets less than 17 minutes of personal attention from the teacher—assuming there are no troublemakers in the classroom.

With eight students in a classroom, one teacher can give a lot more personal attention to the needs of the individual student. Students have an opportunity to ask more questions, explore topics in a deeper way, and build cooperative skills as well.

Education is no place to gamble. Averaging 25 students in a class doesn't provide for a truly quality learning experience. Countless studies since 1995 have stressed the relationship between small class size and superior student performance, yet public schools continue to talk about small classes, but they have not provided them for all students.

At Augsburg, a good education is first and foremost. Without an education that is rooted in the fundamentals of reading, writing, mathematics, history, and geography, students are at a disadvantage in the marketplace of ideas. Not only do we teach students the basics, we teach them how to think, analyze, and synthesize information, not simply parrot back what the teacher tells them.

Did you know that the Augsburg Academy school year is 191 days, making it one of the longest school years in the state of Maryland? Our kindergarten through second grade students have a seven hour day, and our third through eighth grade students are in class for seven

and one-half hours. Except for weather or other emergency, we do not have half-days or early dismissals, either.

In looking at the numbers behind Augsburg, we learned some interesting points. Based on the 191 day school year, it costs just \$5.74 per hour, or \$40.18 per day for a K-5th grade student, and \$6.42 per hour, or \$48.17 per day for a 6th-8th grade student to attend Augsburg.

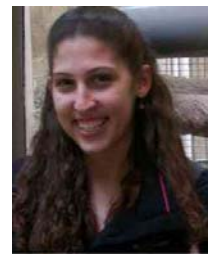
Simply put, Augsburg is one of the best values in education available in our region, where high tuition rates are seen by many as "badges of honor." We have worked very hard to make Augsburg affordable for as many students as possible, and as we grow, we look forward to continuing to offer the same personalized care and opportunity without becoming an overpriced institution where only the most fortunate can attend.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Augsburg, come and see what we have to offer our students and our community. You will be pleasantly surprised.



Janese Lewis-Blanc, kindergarten teacher, works with her students to set up classroom rules on Opening Day

"Augsburg Academy started as a way to fill a perceived community need. It grows as the need grows."



Stacy Finkelstein, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, joins us this first semester as a teacher for our first and second graders.

In Her Own Words — Stacy Finkelstein

I recently graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and I am very excited to start teaching at Augsburg Academy. When I discovered everything that Augsburg has to offer, I immediately knew it was the perfect fit for me.

I believe that reading and

mathematics are extremely important, but fine arts and physical education should not be overlooked. I also know that children learn best in a warm, nurturing environment. Therefore, I am especially pleased by the small class sizes and comprehensive curriculum that are offered at Augsburg.

I'm looking forward to teaching the first and second grade and helping my students learn all that they can.

Additionally, I'm especially excited to work with a group of such diverse and experienced teachers.



Augsburg Academy: Excellence in
Education—Learning for Life

13800 Old Gunpowder Rd
Laurel MD 20707

MAIL:

P.O. Box 140

Beltsville MD 20704-0140

Phone: 240-783-0283

Fax: 240-783-0283

E-mail: info@augzburgacademy.net

We're on the web!

AugsburgAcademy.net



Pastor Art Hebbeler leads parents, students, faculty, and friends in the 2008 Opening of the Academy worship service outside of The Gardens Ice House. Just over the small hill behind Pastor Hebbeler will soon be the home of the first Academy classroom building, Lutherhouse.

Theological Reflection on Education

A little lesson in Greek and Latin as we begin this issue...

μαθητής (*mathētēs*), οἷ (ou),
ὁ (*ho*): n.masc. **follower, disciple (male)**

μαθήτρια (*mathētria*), ας (*as*),
ἡ (*hē*): n.fem. **follower, disciple (female)**

As one looks at the English transliteration of the Greek, the name "Matthew" comes quickly to mind, and indeed, Matthew is the proper name derived from this noun. In the New Testament, it appears many times to describe those who are followers of Jesus, but it is also a common word in

Greek to describe any student.

Our students today are involved in the task of learning, and they are followers in that role. In due time, of course, these young men and women will be the leaders of first the student body and student organizations, but later leaders in business, industry, education, the church, and even our government.

Related words in Latin are **discipulus/a** (disciple m/f) and **disciplina** (discipline, instruction). To discipline is to teach, and disciples are those who are taught.

At Augsburg, we work to build up the ability of the students to be good followers so that they might be even better leaders. By teaching them not only the subject matter, but how to listen, think, and reflect, the students are better enabled to relate and work with others.

We invite you to become partners with us in the education of young people of all ages and backgrounds. Come and see what we are accomplishing, and explore with us the opportunity to be a part of building upon the tradition of excellence among our disciples and students.