



AN OUTREACH OF CHURCH RELATIONS

THE SPIRE

Strengthening the presence of the Church in the College and the presence of the College in the Church.

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Rebecca M. Bergman Begins Tenure as 17th President of Gustavus



On Tuesday, July 1, Rebecca M. Bergman officially began her duties as the 17th president of Gustavus Adolphus College. The College’s Board of Trustees announced in late February that Bergman would replace Jack Ohle, who retired after serving as president since July 2008. Bergman is the first woman in the 152-year history of the College to be named president.

Bergman, who served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2014, spent the past 26 years at Medtronic, Inc., including the last 14 years as a senior executive. Her most recent position was Vice President of Research, Technology, and Therapy Delivery Systems for the company’s Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management (CRDM) business, where she led a research and development team of scientists and engineers. She previously served as Vice President, CRDM New Therapies & Diagnostics as well as Vice President, Corporate Science and Technology, where she directed biomaterials and biosciences R&D, new therapy development, and information management initiatives.

“Becky is a proven leader as demonstrated not only by her successful 26 years at Medtronic, but also by her seven years of service on the College’s Board of Trustees,” said Warren Beck,

trustee and chair of the Presidential Search Committee. “Her leadership skills, ability to collaborate and effectively communicate, and knowledge of the College’s strengths and challenges make her uniquely qualified to lead Gustavus at this pivotal time in the College’s history. I couldn’t be more pleased that she will be our next president.”

“Gustavus Adolphus College is a special place. It has been an extraordinary experience for me to have the privilege to be a member of the Gustavus Board of Trustees and to get to know the campus, the people, and the culture of the institution,” Bergman said. “Because I have been on the Board, I know firsthand the important role the Association of Congregations plays in the life of the college. I look forward to strengthening the partnerships with our congregations and continuing to bring the College to the Church and the Church to the College.”

Bergman is married to Dr. Thomas A. Bergman, chief of neurosurgery at Hennepin County Medical Center, a senior partner with Neurosurgical Associates, and clinical associate professor at the University of Minnesota Department of Neurosurgery. The couple has four children including Matthew '07, Andrew, Laura, and John. They belong to Incarnation Lutheran Church, Shoreview, Minn.

Gustavus Adolphus College will inaugurate Rebecca M. Bergman as its 17th president in an investiture ceremony to be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2014, in Christ Chapel. For more information, go to www.gustavus.edu/inauguration.

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Leadership, Gustavus
Adolphus College
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From the Director

PASTOR GRADY ST. DENNIS, Director for Church Relations



*"Blessed are you, O God,
maker of all things.
Through your goodness
you have blessed us with
these gifts: ourselves, our
time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have
gathered, in feeding the
world with your love,
through the one who gave*

*himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen."(ELW)*

The rhythm of gathering and sending and giving thanks is one the Church and College understand well and I believe live from with a deep sense of calling and stewardship. At Gustavus it is our purpose to gather in the young people entrusted to our care, to equip them and help them attain their full potential as persons, and to send them out into the world prepared for fulfilling lives of leadership and service.

This year, in addition to gathering in new students, we welcome in a new leader. We give thanks for our incoming President Rebecca M. Bergman and the good leadership she is already offering Gustavus. It is worth noting that prior to her new role, President Bergman had served Gustavus on the Board of Trustees since 2007 as a lay Association of Congregations representative from Incarnation Lutheran Church, Shoreview, Minn.

We believe the College and Church can and should be strong missional partners. We can do more together than we ever could alone. You are receiving this issue of *The Spire* because your congregation is a part of the Gustavus Association of Congregations. We all make many choices with respect to how we invest our time and energy. Thank you for the ways you and your congregation have been connected to Gustavus and Lutheran higher education.

Near the end of last year you likely held a special baccalaureate service for your young people graduating from high school. You took the time to hear their plans for the next few years, you surrounded them with prayers, and together you rejoiced in the blessing and sending. Many of the young people on our campus have come to us from faith communities like yours, and we know that in four short years when we bless and send them from Gustavus they will seek ways to develop meaningful roots in their new community. They will look to their faith communities in particular for continued growth in faith and as a place to share their gifts of leadership and service. At Gustavus we see the Gustavus Association of Congregations as a true gift and vital structure for inspiring and supporting our missional partnership efforts. May we grow ever closer this year in our good work together!

Meet Heidi Vanderpan '15, Church Relations Intern



Heidi Vanderpan, Buffalo, Minn., a senior this fall at Gustavus, joins the church relations staff as an intern for the whole year. She will be helping develop a church leadership track for the Gusties in Ongoing Leadership Development program (G.O.L.D.) and supporting youth resource development.

More than 60 percent of Gustavus students participate in internships while they are enrolled at the College. Internships are intended to give upperclassmen new perspectives on possibilities for the professional world following their undergraduate experience. Interns contribute in meaningful ways in hands-on experiences that cannot be learned in the classroom.

Heidi is working toward her bachelor's in communication studies with a minor in religious studies. She has been involved in various organizations on campus including the Servant Leadership Program and the leadership team of Proclaim. In the spring of 2013, Heidi was one of the student representatives on the Call Committee for the Gustavus chaplain position, which resulted in calling both Chaplain Siri Erickson and Chaplain Brian Konkol.

During her freshmen year Heidi traveled to Maryville, Tennessee, with Gustavus Habitat for Humanity for a spring-break work trip. She also studied abroad in London, England, for the spring semester of her junior year. For the past three summers Heidi has worked at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, serving in both counselor and servant staff positions.

Through each of these opportunities and experiences Heidi has grown in her passions for service, leadership, and fostering strong Christian community.

Meditation, Mindfulness, and Contemplative Practices: Perspectives from Christianity, Buddhism, and the Medical Sciences

Exploring Religious Questions Series—Fall 2014

Mondays 7–9 p.m., October 13, 20, 27, and November 3

Contemplative practices have been important in Christianity and Buddhism for centuries, and mindfulness and meditation are also emerging hot topics in the field of medicine and even in public schools and on college campuses. In this series, religious scholars will introduce various forms of meditation and contemplation in the history of Christianity and Buddhism and within these faith communities today. They will also address Christian and Buddhist understandings of the spiritual significance and power of silence and meditation. A representative from the medical community will talk about new research on the potential benefits of meditation and mindfulness for physical, emotional, and mental well-being. A panel of practitioners will reflect on their own experience with meditation use and how mindfulness is being used in workplaces, classrooms, and congregations around the country. All of the speakers are experts in their field and have practiced forms of meditation for years.

Sessions

October 13: “Cultivating Christian Mindfulness and Meditation Practices: Diverse Practices in the History of Christianity and Today”

Mari Thorkelson, pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church, Willmar

This session introduces participants to diverse forms of meditation and mindfulness that are grounded in the Bible, found within the history of Christianity, and practiced by Christian communities today. The session then focuses on East-West traditions of Christian contemplation and Zen practice that are enriching the spiritual lives of Christians worldwide. During the session, participants will also learn about and be given a sampling of spiritual practices related to silence, shift in consciousness, and inner transformation.

October 20: “Traditional Buddhist Meditation Practices: The Historical and Religious Dimensions of Mental Cultivation”

John Cha, professor in religion and Japanese studies, Gustavus Adolphus College

We will explore the origins of Buddhist practice in India, as well as the various meditation systems developed in South Asia. Our emphasis will be on the religious dimensions of meditation, specifically the purification of the mind and emancipation from rebirth. We will conclude with a brief comparison and contrast between contemporary forms of mindfulness for well-being, and traditional forms of meditation practice. The audience will also have an opportunity to participate in a short, guided meditation.

October 27: “Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction: Bringing the Wisdom of the East into Western Medicine”

Elizabeth Power Hawkinson, MSW, ACSW, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Behavioral Health Department, Mayo Clinic

The presentation will address the definition and attitudinal framework of mindfulness, provide a brief history of its integration into Western medicine and clinical practice, review the burgeoning research findings about the health benefits of mindfulness, and explore ways that mindfulness can be practiced in everyday life.

November 3: Panel

A panel of practitioners will reflect briefly on their own experience with meditation and how and why mindfulness is being used in workplaces, classrooms, and congregations around the country. Panelist include William Friert, professor emeritus, Gustavus Adolphus College; Brian Konkol, chaplain of the College, Gustavus Adolphus College; and Meghan Krause, director of Wellbeing, Gustavus Adolphus College.

Anyone who wants to explore this topic can sign up by downloading the registration form at gustavus.edu/churchrelations; or contact Sara Masters at 507-933-7001, smasters@gustavus.edu.

CHRISTMAS IN CHRIST CHAPEL 2014

December 5, 6, & 7 at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m. Christ Chapel

“Tender Rose, Starry Night”

The 42nd annual Christmas in Christ Chapel worship celebration at Gustavus Adolphus College evokes wonder through music, poetry, prayer, and dance as it explores the cosmic dimensions and significance of Jesus’ humble birth over 2,000 years ago.

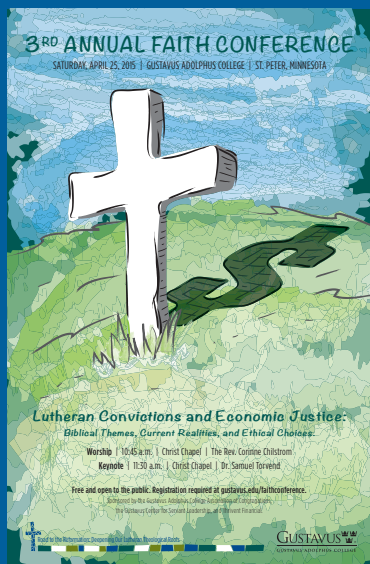
Tickets for the Christmas in Christ Chapel service (\$30.00 each) and for the traditional Christmas buffet (\$25.00 each) will be available online at gustavustickets.com. Tickets go on sale at noon on Monday, October 13, 2014.

When you place your order online, you will be able to choose the service and Christmas buffet you wish to attend based on availability. Seating for the buffets prior to each service is limited, so early reservations are strongly suggested. Tickets are non-refundable.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you may reserve tickets by phone (570-933-7520) beginning at noon on Monday, October 13. Credit card payment is required for phone orders.



2015 GACAC BUSINESS MEETING AND FAITH CONFERENCE



The 28th Annual Association of Congregations Business Meeting will be held Saturday, April 25.

The keynote speaker this year will be

Dr. Samuel Torvend, Professor of the History of Christianity, University Professor of Lutheran Studies, Director of Vocational Reflection, Center for Vocation; and Director of the Center for Religion and Culture in the Pacific Northwest; Pacific Lutheran University. He will talk about “Lutheran Convictions and Economic Justice: Biblical Themes, Current Realities, and Ethical Choices.”

Please mark your calendar. More details to come.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE NOBEL CONFERENCE

Looking Ahead to the 50th Nobel Conference

For fifty years, the Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College has hosted preeminent scientists, theologians, and ethicists to discuss deep questions at the intersection of science and society. This October, Gustavus will celebrate a half century of bringing breakthrough science to lay audiences in the Upper Midwest, across the country, and more recently around the world. The 50th annual Nobel Conference: *Where Does Science Go From Here?*, scheduled for October 7-8, 2014, will assemble previous Nobel Conference participants to look at recent advances and future directions in the physical sciences, evolutionary biology and ecology, medicine and physiology, and the intersection of science and public policy.

Tickets for the 50th Nobel Conference are currently on sale and may be purchased online at gustavustickets.com or by phone at 507-933-7520. Reserved tickets are \$115 per person, while general admission tickets are available for \$70 per person. High schools and college delegations can purchase a group of 10 tickets for \$50.

Invited speakers include:

- **Sean B. Carroll**, professor of molecular biology, genetics, and medical genetics, University of Wisconsin at Madison
- **Steven Chu**, 1997 Nobel laureate in physics; former U.S. Secretary of Energy under President Obama; William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Humanities & Sciences and Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at Stanford University
- **Patricia Smith Churchland**, UC President's Professor of Philosophy Emerita, University of California, San Diego

- **António Damásio**, University Professor and David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- **Freeman Dyson**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.
- **W. Gary Ernst**, Benjamin M. Page Professor Emeritus, Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences, Stanford University
- **Harry B. Gray**, Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena
- **Sir Harry W. Kroto**, 1996 Nobel laureate in chemistry; Francis Eppes Professor of Chemistry, Florida State University
- **Svante Pääbo**, director, Department of Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany
- **Steven Weinberg**, 1979 Nobel laureate in physics; Jack S. Josey-Welch Foundation Regents Chair in Science, University of Texas at Austin
- **Jennifer L. West**, Fitzpatrick Family University Professor of Engineering, Duke University

The Nobel Conference, the first ongoing educational conference of its kind in the United States to receive the official authorization of the Nobel Foundation, is made possible through the generous support of Drell and Adeline Bernhardson, major legacy gifts, and annual contributors.



DIRECTOR FOR CHURCH RELATIONS ENDOWMENT

The staff in Church Relations and the Director of Church Relations serve as critical links in building and nurturing relationships between people and between congregations and the College. For this reason, the Association of Congregations has launched a new effort to endow the position of the Director for Church Relations. The endowment recognizes the value of this role, as a blessing to both the College and to congregations.

A donation to the Director for Church Relations Endowment Fund is a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime. Every gift counts—by putting our gifts together we can establish and grow the endowment, helping secure the future of church relations at Gustavus Adolphus College.

For those who contribute to this endowment, it's a chance to affirm a value, in this context, the value of the Church-College partnership and the value of engaging in conversations about faith, as part of the liberal arts experience.

For more information on the Director for Church Relations Endowment Fund and how to make a gift please contact Grady St. Dennis at stdennis@gustavus.edu, 507-933-7661; or Jim Rothschiller at jrothsch@gustavus.edu, 952-686-8255.

SleepOUT

November 14-15, 2014

7 p.m. – 4 p.m.

A Senior High Youth Event

High School youth and youth leaders are invited to join Gustavus' Pastor Grady St. Dennis and Political Science Professor Dr. Richard Leitch, in experiencing one night without a home. For more information and to register your group, visit gustavus.edu/sleepout.

Being a Part of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations

Listed below are many of the signature programs from Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership. Some congregations use multiple resources every year; others use fewer, or as needed.

Confirmation Retreats held on campus may be day or overnight retreats during the academic year. Hostel space is available for overnight reservations. Please book at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance; space is limited for groups over 40. Classrooms and space for recreation are available to meet your programming needs.

Adult Retreats are welcomed in the Retreat Center on campus. Church councils, staffs, men's and women's groups enjoy time to socialize and work together, build relationships, and enjoy the energy of a Lutheran campus.

Individual Clergy Sabbath Retreats are available to Association pastors, usually scheduled during the week.

Partners in Education—over 30 faculty and staff are available to make presentations on a variety of topics during Sunday morning forums in Association congregations. Church Relations pays for one honorarium per year (until funds are depleted). The congregation pays mileage, also honoraria for subsequent presentations.

Partners in Music—student vocal and instrumental musical ensembles may visit your congregation to assist in worship. Congregation pays honorarium and mileage.

Gustavus Youth Outreach—This student-led fellowship organization seeks to serve the needs of congregational youth programs, assisting in programming with your youth for day or evening, lock-in or retreat settings. Congregation must cover mileage expenses, meals if applicable, cost of supplies or special materials, and housing if needed. A love offering to GYO is appreciated.

Scholarships—the Lutheran Leadership Award is for students from Association congregations attending Gustavus; Matching Scholarships are available for any students receiving congregational funds to attend Gustavus.

Since the above is not an exhaustive list, please review the full list of resources at any time in our Association Member Handbook, which can be found online at gustavus.edu/churchrelations. To request a booking of any of these programs, contact Sara Masters in Church Relations, Center for Servant Leadership, at 507-933-7001.



Center for Servant Leadership, Church Relations

507-933-7001 | Toll-free 800-726-6194 | gustavus.edu/churchrelations

Office Hours 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. M-F (unavailable during Chapel 10-10:30 a.m.)

BECOME A MEMBER!

Is your ELCA congregation not a member of the Association of Congregations but interested in joining? Contact the Center for Servant Leadership-Church Relations.

The Rev. Grady St. Dennis '92

Director for Church Relations and
College Chaplain
507-933-7661 | stdennis@gustavus.edu

Sara Masters

Assistant Director for Church Relations
507-933-7001 | smasters@gustavus.edu

Heidi Vanderpan, Intern

507-933-7073
church-relations@gustavus.edu

Fax 507-933-6337

Confirmation Retreats Program

507-933-7023
confirmation-retreats@gustavus.edu

Gustavus Youth Outreach (GYO)

507-933-7585
youthoutreach@gustavus.edu

Adult Retreat Programs

507-933-7001
retreat-center@gustavus.edu

Partners Programs

507-933-7001
church-relations@gustavus.edu

Center for Servant Leadership
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