

Parent and Family Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 27, 2011

Members present: Tim and Elaine Matyi, Nancy Thorson, Wanda and David Radford, Sally Daniels

1. Sally called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed attendees. We also welcomed Orv Gingerich, Director of the Center for Global Education (CGE), and two students: Amatalahi Abdulla and Ted Conover, both of whom studied abroad in the fall of 2010.
2. Orv spoke with us about the important emphasis at Augsburg on STUDYING abroad; studying comes first and the professionals in CGE do all they can to make sure that when Auggies study off-site that they are moving toward graduation. In other words, the program is more important than place! Augsburg is somewhat unique in that a student's financial aid goes with them when they study abroad, which makes going a bit more possible for students. Students may study for short term or longer term; many options! Orv recommends that students who wish to study abroad begin to plan at least one semester out and work with the staff in Augsburg Abroad to make it happen. An excellent website for parents and students to use is:  
<http://www.augsburg.edu/augsburgabroad/>
3. Amatalahi (she goes by Tutu) talked with us about her experience in Namibia, one of CGE's three sites (we also have a site in Mexico and Central America). She studied full time, had marvelous homestays and volunteered/did an internship in a women's center. This was her second study abroad experience; she had also done a short term experience in Egypt.
4. Ted did a non-Augsburg experience in Nepal. He lived with a Tibetan family for three of his weeks of study, then did a month of independent study in India (all on his own!). He went back to Nepal before coming back to the States to present his work to fellow students.
5. We thanked Orv, Tutu and Ted and they left.
6. Old Business: Tim and Elaine expressed appreciation to folks who had volunteered at Advent Vespers; another marvelous beginning to the Advent season!
7. New Business: Sally asked for volunteers to come for breakfast on **Saturday, February 19** at 9:10 a.m. in the Oren Gateway building as a part of "Scholarship Weekend". If you can come for this brief, but tasty time (about 45 minutes!), please let her know at [daniels@aughsburg.edu](mailto:daniels@aughsburg.edu) or (612)330-1525.
8. Election of Officers: Tim and Elaine will stay on as co-presidents, but we are in need of a vice-president(s) and a secretary-elect. We do a single slate election, so if you're interested in serving, let Sally know!
9. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in Oren 100**. Possible topic will be How to prepare for retirement and how to help our children budget/prepare financially for the "real world"!
10. We dismissed after more tasty chocolate treats at about 8:45 p.m.

