



A learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service

Greetings from Finlandia University!

It is a pleasure to greet our companions in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. It is my hope that this year's assembly will, once again, equip and embolden our synodical companions to embody God's grace and forgiveness freely offered in Jesus Christ.

Finlandia's learning community continues to enhance its educational opportunities as we prepare students for life and career. A few days ago a student commented, "It is here at Finlandia that, for the first time, I started to truly feel successful as a student and in life." Finlandia matters for so many reasons. This is just one. Below are some of the highlights of Finlandia's 2007-08 academic year.

Philip Johnson
President

RELIGIOUS LIFE

- 1) **The Lay School for Mission** met for twelve weeks this academic year in the university's Chapel of St. Matthew Campus Ministry Center.
- 2) **The Second Annual Alternative Spring Break - Katrina Relief**, took place February 22-March 1. Ten students and four adults worked with Lutheran Disaster Response in Ocean Springs, Miss.
- 3) **An Annual Theological Lecture Series** was hosted by Finlandia and the Siebert Lutheran Foundation April 5-6, 2008, in which two sessions were led by author Rev. Dr. Jim Nestingen. Nestingen also visited area confirmation classes and lectured in selected Finlandia classes.
- 4) **Finlandia's Servant Leadership Program** has three course offerings: (1) Servant Leadership, (2) Servant Leadership for the Local Community, and (3) Service & Learning in Tanzania. To date, 29 students have represented Finlandia and the Northern Great Lakes Synod through the Service & Learning in Tanzania course.

STUDENT LIFE

- 1) **A new Student Senate structure** has been implemented giving students the opportunity for meaningful participation in programming decisions, and providing a stronger student voice in institutional decision making.
- 2) **Student study and recreation space** is being developed and designed by students.
- 3) **Additional staffing, space development and campus-wide computer wireless access** are slated for the coming fall.

