



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 12, 2007

Page 1

**Good morning.** I am pleased and grateful to report that our [AQIP Quality Checkup reviewers told us on Friday that Augsburg “passed with flying colors.”](#) Congratulations to the entire Augsburg community for your good work!

After spending three days on campus, the two reviewers—Lynn Onken, from San Juan College in New Mexico, and Warren Roby, from John Brown University in Arkansas—were able to affirm and confirm the accuracy of our AQIP systems portfolio. In meetings with our faculty, staff, and students, they heard the evidence that supports how Augsburg is addressing the various criteria for accreditation. They were also very helpful in identifying areas that need more clarity and where we can do a better job of telling our story.

At the closing reception Friday afternoon, [the team shared several highlights from their report:](#)

- They were impressed with the “outstanding” growth they found in our systems portfolio from the initial March 2005 version to the recent January 2007 version.
- They appreciated the fact that the College does a great job of documenting its efforts, but at the same time acknowledging that there is still improvement to be made.
- They affirmed Augsburg’s broad commitment to institutional effectiveness.

My [special thanks to Dean Farley](#) for leading us in the AQIP process, [and to Bridget Robinson-Riegler and the AQIP steering committee](#) for their work in preparing for this site visit. I also thank all of you for extending great hospitality to Lynn and Warren over their three-day visit. These results are great and important news for Augsburg College.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Student Affairs Committee

Last summer, two new Board of Regents committees were formed—an Academic Affairs Committee and a Student Affairs Committee—to replace the former Academic and Student Affairs Committee. I am particularly pleased to note the efforts of the **Student Affairs Committee**, which will focus primarily on students and the people on campus who work with them.

[The Student Affairs Committee charter lists four initiatives](#) that define the committee’s work:

- Monitor, on behalf of the Board of Regents, the progress of Augsburg’s commitments made to students about being a student-centered campus and living out our mission in service to students
- Share findings about the “state of students” with the Board of Regents and advocate for students in all discussions at the Board of Regents

# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 12, 2007  
Page 2

- Support the president, vice president of student affairs, and staff who work directly with students by acting as a sounding board for potential student affairs initiatives, acting as a sounding board for difficult student concerns, and helping with anything else the staff chooses to bring to the committee
- Inform committee members on student issues on campus through listening to the vice president of student affairs and staff who work directly with students, students themselves, and through reading surveys and other compilations of student concerns.

The regents who are members of the Student Affairs Committee are: Jodi Harpstead (chair), Marie McNeff, Ron Nelson, André Lewis, and Tony Genia. The staff liaison is Ann Garvey; the faculty representative is Barbara Lehmann. Students from our day, WEC and graduate programs will work with the committee as it pursues its important work. The committee already has made strong efforts to listen to our students and help the board to consider how Augsburg can truly be student-centered.

## Centennial Singers on tour in Arizona

Later this week, I have the pleasure of traveling to Arizona to meet with alumni and friends, and to join Augsburg's [Centennial Singers on their concert tour](#). This male chorus made up of Augsburg alumni and friends was formed in 1993 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Augsburg gospel quartet's travel to Norway. Directed by Al Reesnes '59, the choir enjoys performing and preserving the gospel quartet tradition for which Augsburg has long been known. The Centennial Singers are great ambassadors for Augsburg College.

This year, from [Feb. 6-18](#), they returned to the Southwest for a series of concerts in Arizona, with several in Nevada and Utah. I will join them at their last concert on Thursday evening in Scottsdale. On Saturday and Sunday, I'll also have the privilege of preaching at services in Sun City at the American Lutheran Church, as well as meeting with many Augsburg alumni and friends who live in Arizona.

## KUDOS

Congratulations to [Linda Stevens in the Education Dept.](#), with [Matt Haines and Tracy Bibelnieks in the Mathematics Dept.](#), for a second three-year grant awarded by the Minnesota Department of Education to Augsburg in the Math Science Partnership program.

The grant provides funding for the development of a mathematics course for K-8 charter and magnet school teachers to improve their mathematics understanding, problem-solving skills, and mathematics instruction techniques. Augsburg is the only college in the metro area funded for mathematics instruction.

# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 12, 2007  
Page 3

## NOTABLE EVENTS

February 15

Carl H. Chrislock Memorial History Lecture

Brenda Child, associate professor of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota. Sponsored by the Augsburg Historical Society.

6:30–9:30 p.m., Marshall Room, Christensen Center

February 20

Mardi Gras Madrigals

Medieval-style Mardi Gras celebration with feasting and entertainment.

6:30–9 p.m., Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS:

Tues., Feb. 13—Rosemary Link, Social Work Dept., with Riverside Singers

Wed., Feb. 14—Julie Olson, Vice President of Enrollment Management

Thurs., Feb. 15—Nechia Agate, senior speaker

Fri., Feb. 16—Gospel Praise

Mon., Feb. 19—Babette Chatman, Augsburg alumna and community leader

Tues., Feb. 20—Camp Focus Day

**Sports schedule**—[www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0607.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0607.html).

Have a great week!