



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

April 2, 2007

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**Good morning.** I wish all of you God's blessings as we enter a sacred week for the Jewish and Christian faithful.

Today we welcome Kevin Myren to Augsburg as our new vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer. He brings to Augsburg a strong background in higher education and a commitment to students. As an adviser to student groups, he has helped them plan and develop their budget processes. We are pleased he has joined our community.

Tom Haglund, who has served as a consultant during the interim, will continue for the foreseeable future, assisting Kevin during the transition period.

I also extend my gratitude and thanks to Dan Sjoquist, who very ably stepped in during the interim as CFO, for his service over the past months in finance and administration. We wish him well as he begins his new position as CFO at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Rally day at the Capitol

Join Augsburg students, faculty, and staff on Thurs., April 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we rally at the State Capitol to advocate for increased funding to the Minnesota State Grant program. Training, transportation, and lunch will be provided. This program is extremely important to Augsburg, since one-fourth of our students receive state grants each year, which primarily support families with incomes under \$40,000 per year.

Register for the event at: <http://ga6.org/mnprivatecolleges/capitol.html>

### Christensen Center reimagined

On Thursday last week, the Christensen Center Task Force presented its first report to faculty, staff, and students. This task force was formed last fall with the goal to create a center that "supports student, faculty, and staff interaction, provides a sense of welcome, and serves as 'home' for commuter students (day, weekend, and graduate)."

The task force is seeking our input to imagine a more vibrant student-centered Christensen Center. I encourage you to take time to follow their progress as they listen to recommendations, meet with the architects, and present further plans to us. For information, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/cctf>. Photos from their recent road trips to urban colleges are posted, illustrating some great ideas to consider.

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## KUDOS

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2007 Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning Awards—Doug Green, professor of English, for teaching; Susan O'Connor, associate professor of education, for mentoring and advising, and Lois Olson, director of the Center for Service, Work, and Learning, for service to students.

These annual awards were established to lift up exemplary work and honor significant contributions to teaching and learning. We will recognize Doug, Susan, and Lois at the Honors Convocation on April 20 and at the Faculty Recognition Luncheon on May 3. Please join me in applauding the work of our talented colleagues.

Kudos also to the joint Augsburg and St. Thomas team representing India that received an honorable mention award at the Model UN conference in New York. This is Augsburg's first award in nine years of competition.

Thanks to the crew of students and coaches for their annual spring "take-down" of the dome over Edor Nelson Field last week.

## NOTABLE EVENTS

April 4

Wednesday Gathering

Soup/salad lunch for faculty and staff. East Commons

11 a.m.–1 p.m., Christensen Center

April 6

Easter Break—Good Friday

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS:

Tues., April 3—Maria Mitchell, senior speaker

Wed., April 4—Michael Lansing, History Dept.

Thurs., April 5—Maundy Thursday Communion; homily by President Pribbenow

Fri., April 6—Good Friday, Easter break

Mon., April 9—Hans Wiersma, Religion Dept.

Tues., April 10—Edward Arrindell, senior speaker

**Sports schedule**—<http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/spring0607.html>

Have a great week!