



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 11, 2006

Page 1

FIVE YEARS LATER

Today we mark the five-year anniversary of one of the most frightening and tragic events in the history of our country. I'm sure that all of us remember where we were five years ago as the first images of planes crashing into the World Trade Center came across our television screens. I trust we'll never forget.

I wonder how the world has changed for you since 9-11-01? As a college community, it seems to me most appropriate that we take the time to reflect upon – *and to learn from* – the experiences of 9-11 and the aftermath for each of us personally, for our college, for our country, and for the world we share.

Allow me to offer a simple framework for our lives together on this momentous day.

As individuals and as a community, we must **remember** – remember those whose lives were sacrificed in Manhattan, in Washington, D.C., and in that Pennsylvania field. We must never forget the images, the names, the acts of heroism that define that awful day, that define us still, and that must define us for the future. As we gather to meditate and pray and keep vigil – as we get together with friends and family to talk about the events and aftermath of 9-11 – as we sit in classes and consider the impact of 9-11 on our lives, we are remembering. We are doing the important work of history.

As members of a college community, dedicated to teaching and learning in the liberal arts, we must recommit ourselves to **lifelong learning**. Perhaps one of the most disturbing aspects of the aftermath of 9-11 was the poverty of our public discourse about the world in which we live. It was clear that we didn't know much about Islam or about Afghanistan. We were unaware of the history that described an age-old conflict into which we had been drawn. We didn't know ourselves very well. There is difference all around us – differences of beliefs and ethnic backgrounds and worldviews – and the wonder of being part of a college community is that we are called to learn about that difference ... and to help others to learn.

As citizens of a democracy, we must learn to practice **chastened patriotism**, a wonderful phrase coined by political ethicist Jean Bethke Elshtain. I love my country, but that doesn't mean that I am uncritical about her leaders or policies. I love my country, but that doesn't mean that I rub our flag in the faces of those for whom that flag is a sign of division and pain. I love my country, and I want her to be a force for light in the world, not for darkness. I love my country.

To remember, to learn for a lifetime, and to love our country with a chastened heart – these are the challenges we embrace on this anniversary of a day that will define our national character for generations to come. I invite you to join with me in taking up these challenges and marking this day with the spirit and resolve it deserves – and demands.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 1, 2006
Page 2

Perhaps one of the most important ways to mark this day is to exercise the basic and most fundamental duty of a citizen – to vote. Tomorrow is the primary election in Minnesota. If you are registered here, I trust you will do your duty and get out and vote. If you are not registered yet, please pay attention to the election, register before the general election in November, and participate in the electoral process. This is our democracy – it is both a privilege and an obligation.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

I have two items to highlight in this first edition of my weekly updates to the campus community.

Closing for chapel time

Once more I want to draw your attention to the importance of chapel in Augsburg's life and mission. This is a time for us as a community— Sabbath time—in which we can choose to attend the chapel service or to worship or reflect in another way. I ask all offices to remain closed during chapel time as a sign of our common purpose.

We meet in chapel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:20 to 10:40 a.m., followed by 20 minutes of community time; and on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:20 to 11:40 a.m. An informal communion is held Wednesday evening at 9:30 p.m. I draw your attention to the list of chapel speakers and programs in the calendar below. It is a great week of time together.

Auggie spirit

I am a great fan of NCAA Division III athletics – our institutional commitment to students who also are fine athletes. I urge all of us to support our student-athletes as the football, soccer, volleyball, cross country, and golf teams compete this fall. Our intercollegiate athletics teams are fine examples of teaching and learning across campus; they are one of the most visible ways Augsburg College is represented to the wider community; and they bring a wonderful spirit to campus. Our support and enthusiasm carries them as they represent Augsburg in competition. I hope you'll join me throughout the year at athletics contests. You'll find the complete fall athletic schedule at www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0607.html. I'll feature other student activities that I believe deserve our attention in future issues of my update.

KUDOS

My congratulations and thanks to all of you who contributed to the remarkable week of events launching this new academic year.

- To everyone involved in Auggie Days who helped to welcome a record class of first-year students, including Student Activities, Residence Life, Academic Advising, the

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 1, 2006
Page 3

Enrollment Center, student Orientation Leaders, coaches and student-athletes, and many others.

- To Professor Phil Adamo (History) for a memorable convocation address, and to the faculty, alumni, and student musicians for the creative and inspired improvisation that sent us out with great spirit on Tuesday morning at the Opening Convocation to officially welcome our new students.
- To our AugSem groups, vice presidents, faculty and staff who spent an afternoon in the neighborhoods learning about and providing service to the communities around us – with a special thank you to the Center for Service, Work, and Learning and the AugSem leaders for organizing this effort.
- To Tracy Beckman (Government Relations), his colleagues in Institutional Advancement, Event Services, and many others for a very successful celebration of the groundbreaking for the Oren Gateway Center. Despite the early fall chill, we welcomed an impressive gathering of donors, alumni, and friends on Friday to mark the progress on our Gateway Center, and we hosted a festive community block party that brought almost all the children from the Cedar-Riverside School, as well as representatives from a number of local businesses, to our campus.
- And, finally, to all of you who extended gracious hospitality to our families and visitors—to our Event Services team for the myriad arrangements, to Sodexo for all the meals that were served, to the grounds and maintenance crews for keeping our campus looking so beautiful, to our campus safety team, and many others.

I am grateful to all of you as we launched our academic year in a spirit of engagement and hospitality, marking a strong commitment to common work on and off campus.

NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE NEXT WEEK

Sept. 14

“Theatre History and Criticism as a Resource for the Dramaturgical Casebook,” Carla Steen '91, Dramaturg, Guthrie Theater
9:40-11:10 a.m.—Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

Sept. 15–Oct. 7

“Art of the Storm,” fine art by 15 Gulf Coast artists, plus exhibit and video. Made possible by MinnesotaHelpers, with creative direction from Lisa Marek '92.
Student Art Gallery, Christensen Center
Reception, presentation, and silent auction on Oct. 7.

Sept. 15–Oct. 27

“Reliquiae,” sculpture by Sam Spiczka
Gage Family Art Gallery, Lindell Library
Artist reception, Oct. 7; artist gallery talk, Oct. 25.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 1, 2006

Page 4

"Egg Basket Full of Hollyhock Dolls," paintings by Amy Rice '93
Christensen Center Art Gallery
Artist reception, Oct. 7; Artist slide presentation, Sept. 29.

Sept. 18—Constitution Day

11:45 a.m.—Gathering on the Quad to hear articles of the *U.S. Constitution* read by students
Noon—Christensen Center, Brown-bag lunch hosted by Michael Lansing (History).
Presentation by Robert Bill (Information Technology) about his international work with NGOs regarding human rights in Iran and Myanmar. Also, conversation about the *U.S. Constitution* and Bill of Rights and their impact throughout the world.

Daily Chapel speakers this week:

Mon., Sept. 11—Pastor Sonja Hagander (Campus Ministry)
Tues., Sept. 12—Jim Trelstad-Porter (International Students)
Wed., Sept. 13—Pastor Rick Nelson (Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis)
Thurs., Sept. 14—Favorite Song Day
Fri., Sept. 15—Thelma Buckner and family (Gospel music at its best!)

Sports schedule— www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0607.html.

Have a great week!