



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

October 2, 2006

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Good morning after a beautiful fall weekend.

Our Common Work

In my note to the community about the first-year project entitled Common Work and in our opening convocation I spoke about my understanding of how we work together at Augsburg. During the last few days, some of you have raised questions about how this philosophy aligns itself with decisions that may appear to go against a sense of community. I am happy to respond to your concerns.

Our work culture asks us to be good stewards of the gifts and resources we've been given. Our commitment to common work requires us to continually evaluate all our resources—financial, human, spiritual, moral, and technical resources. We must examine the ways in which we do our work and ensure that we are responsible and faithful in using these resources. This assessment is pursued from a broad perspective, looking at where we have the capacity to work together using our various resources as wisely and responsibly as possible. When we find—after careful deliberation—that a new framework allows us to do our work better, more economically, more responsibly, we need to consider it. And that consideration may lead to difficult decisions and staffing changes.

When a thorough assessment of a department or position suggests a restructuring change in staffing levels or personnel, I assure you that the needs of our employees are certainly considered. Sometimes it is possible to find an employee another position within the College. When that is not possible or appropriate, the employee is offered a severance agreement that provides continued salary, benefit coverage, and job-seeking support for a period of time based on his or her length of service.

I am grateful for the candid and honest communication you have shared with me about your concerns. I assure you that I take your concerns seriously, though we may not always agree on the situation. Our common work requires us to be a community of respect and engagement. We follow these principles when the decisions are easy and when they are difficult. That is, as I understand it, the way of integrity and leadership. I learn from your passion and loyalty even as I trust you learn from my efforts to be a wise and responsible steward of our common gifts.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Senate governance

As we become immersed in our work a month into the academic year, I want to remind you about the significant roles our senates play in the governance of the College:

- Faculty Senate—president, Tony Bibus (Social Work)
- Staff Senate—co-chairs, Dianne Detloff (Counseling and Health Promotion) and Liz Bassani (Enrollment Center)

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- Student Senate—president, Maria Mitchell '07
- Weekend Student Senate, co-chairs, Jennifer B. Anderson and Michele Roulet

I look to these groups for counsel, leadership, and accountability in representing their constituents, and I would hope that all of us recognize the important role these representative groups play for our community. I was especially heartened to hear from Maria Mitchell of the greater student interest exhibited this fall as more students ran for Student Senate than in past years.

The nature of our community

As we celebrate tomorrow the long and remarkable service to Augsburg College by [Jeroy Carlson](#), '48, it causes me to reflect upon the nature of communities that are able to nurture deep connections to places such as Augsburg.

Jeroy's 60+ years at Augsburg as student, athlete, volunteer, alumni director, and development officer are a testament to a life well led in service to a college well loved.

We'll all miss the institutional history, the stories, and commitment to Augsburg's mission that truly earned Jeroy the moniker, "Mr. Augsburg."

KUDOS

Many thanks to everyone in our community who contributed to the eventful week we've just completed as we soared through Homecoming. Heidi Breen and her alumni team and our student Homecoming coordinators, Rikki Starich '07 and Sari Gallagher '07, engaged us all in events that brought our alumni back to campus and involved more students than ever before. Thank you for the many opportunities we had to celebrate the spirit of Augsburg College.

I also want to draw your attention to the remarkable alumni we honored on Friday during Homecoming Chapel. Distinguished Alumnus [Glen Person](#), Class of 1947, a retired businessman with deep financial expertise, has been a spirited supporter of Augsburg athletics and a committed member of the Board of Regents. [Lois \(Peterson\) Bollman](#), Class of 1969, a Distinguished Alumna, has served the educational community through her vocation to increase access to higher education for diverse students. The Spirit of Augsburg Award honors [Herald Johnson](#), Class of 1968, for his 38 years of service at Augsburg awarding financial aid to students, and for his pioneering leadership statewide among financial aid officers. First Decade Award winner [Milana Gorshkova Pirogova](#), Class of 1996, has become a recognized leader through her work connected to the World Bank to foster economic development in central and eastern Europe, and in her home country of Russia.

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NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE NEXT WEEK

Oct. 2-3

2006 Christensen Symposium

Mon., Oct. 2

"Where in the World Are We? Being Christians after Christendom," Douglas John Hall, professor emeritus of Christian theology, McGill University, Montreal
7:30 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

Tues., Oct. 3

2006 Christensen Symposium

"What Are People For? Caring for Life in a Violent World," Douglas John Hall
11 a.m.—Hoversten Chapel

Retirement Celebration for Jeroy Carlson

1:30 p.m.—Minneapolis Room

Kick-off of workculture@augsborg

3:30 p.m.—East Commons

Wed., Oct. 4

Ethnic Leadership Scholarship Dinner

5 p.m.—East Commons

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS THIS WEEK:

Tues., Oct. 3—Christensen Symposium, Douglas John Hall

Wed., Oct. 4—Blessing of the Animals

Thurs., Oct. 5—Brad Holt, Religion Dept.

Fri., Oct. 6—Philip Quanbeck II, chair, Religion Dept.

Next week:

Mon., Oct. 9—Kay Evenson and Kyle Halvorson, Mercy Seat

Tues., Oct. 10—Hans Wiersma, Religion Dept.

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

Have a great week!