



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

January 14, 2008

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**Good morning.** This week, with day students now back on campus and classes beginning for spring semester, our campus life returns to normal pace—and I look forward to an active and enriching semester. **In the next six weeks we have three events in our Convocation Series**—the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, next Monday at 1 p.m. in Hoversten Chapel, with Ekwueme Michael Thelwell speaking; the visit of Dr. Ned Hallowell on February 15-16, speaking on “Worry,” and “CrazyBusy.” And, on February 28-29, the annual Batalden Seminar in Applied Ethics welcomes the Rev. Dr. Robin Lovin, an acclaimed interpreter of Reinhold Niebuhr’s thinking, who will talk about the relevance of Niebuhr in today’s world.

**A warm welcome to day students, who returned this weekend as the spring semester gets underway today.** I especially welcome new and transfer students to Augsburg, who are beginning classes after orientation this past week. In the day program, a total of 80 new students includes 13 new freshmen, 57 transfer students, 2 special students, and 8 students studying here on the International Partners program. Augsburg for Adults has 140 new students in the undergraduate weekend/evening program, 29 in Rochester, 2 at United Hospital, and nearly 120 new graduate students in five programs (31 in MA Education, 18 in MA Leadership, 13 in MA Nursing, 12 in MSW, and 40-45 in MBA).

I also welcome back Congressman Keith Ellison, Professor Frankie Shackelford, and Vice President Jeremy Wells who returned over the weekend from Norway. **This afternoon at 4 p.m., Congressman Ellison is speaking at a community presentation in Hoversten Chapel.** I hope you will attend to hear him speak about his experience in Norway.

**I spent the weekend in Nashville at the annual convention of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), where very significant conversations have begun about the future of NCAA Division III.** The growth of Division III during the past 20 years and an increasingly diverse philosophical perspective among the members have occasioned the first serious consideration of reorganization within the division in more than 30 years. These conversations will continue throughout the next year and many of us at Augsburg will have opportunities to participate.

Lastly, I wish to extend warm welcomes to two new members of the Augsburg campus community. **I welcome back Rev. Deb Hutterer** as the new executive director of Faith in the City, a consortium of Lutheran institutions in Minneapolis. She is an Augsburg alumna and former staff person at the College. **I also welcome Mary McLean-Olson**, who joins us as my executive assistant and comes to us from Medtronic.

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## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### The Learning Commons is here!

This week Lindell Library and Information Technology staffs are launching the Learning Commons, a learning laboratory where students, faculty, and library and IT staff can collaborate. **The Learning Commons initiative responds to real needs of Augsburg students related to the increasing interconnectedness of technology and academic research.** The launch this week is an exciting step in an evolving process which intends to enlist faculty and other student academic services and, over the next couple of years, transform the educational experiences of Augsburg students.

In a single location on the street level of Lindell Library, the Learning Commons provides space for working together as well as the research resources, technology, and expertise to support students' learning. The reference desk is gone, but the service remains—enhanced. In its place are tables where a librarian and a technology student assistant together create a “one-stop-shop” to support students completing projects. Nearby, a multimedia lab provides scanning and video editing workstations, and the new TechDesk addresses deeper student technology questions.

### 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. On Weekend/Evening College Saturdays, the chapel service is at 7:30 a.m. There is also an informal communion on Wednesday evenings 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.

### Wednesday Gathering

I also remind you about **Wednesday Gatherings, on the first Wednesday of each month, when soup, salad, and dessert are available to faculty and staff at no cost.** These informal lunches are times for our community to get to know each other and share a meal together. The lunch is available from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.; for those who work on the night shift, a free meal is available during that shift.

All during the year, the College subsidizes the cost of lunches and dinners for faculty and staff, so that the cost to them is only \$3 for lunch and \$6 for dinner. This practice encourages our community to come together informally in conversation and fellowship.

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**Tuesday Community Time**

On the last Tuesday of each month, we set aside time at 3:45 p.m. in East Commons to gather together for conversation, discussion, and to hear about items of interest and concern. I hope faculty, staff, and students will take this time to come together around our common work.

**Auggie spirit**

On behalf of our student-athletes, I want to encourage you to support the Auggie basketball, hockey, wrestling, and swimming and diving teams as they compete this winter. Our intercollegiate athletics teams are fine examples of teaching and learning across campus and in NCAA Division III athletics. Student-athletes are among the most visible ways Augsburg is represented to the wider community, and they bring a wonderful spirit to campus. Our support and enthusiasm carry them as they represent Augsburg in competition. I am a big fan of Division III athletics, and I hope you'll join me at athletic contests.

You'll find the complete winter athletic schedule at  
<http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0708.html>

**KUDOS**

I am pleased to offer special kudos to Augsburg parent Katherine Sanders, mother of junior Marette Hoffinan, for her volunteer service at Augsburg. Sanders works for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, which established the Dollars for Doers program to honor the community service their employees carry out at nonprofit organizations. At Augsburg, Sanders has served as vice president of the Parent and Family Council and a faithful volunteer at College events. The Dollars for Doers program awarded Augsburg \$250 in support of her volunteer service here..

A special thanks to everyone involved in the orientation for new Augsburg students last week. Many thanks to Ramon Knox, Michael Perry, Will O'Berry, Brenda Hemmingsen, and Shonna Fulford for planning Transformation for new day students; and to Lori Peterson, Jessica Fox-Wilson, Mike Bilden, Emily Nugent, Judy Johnson, and Wendy Delesha for weekend/evening undergraduates and graduate students; as well as to the many other program staff who participated in the two events.

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## NOTABLE EVENTS

**January 18 – February 22**

**“Contemporary Native American Art” (group show)**

New Gage Family Art Gallery, Oren Gateway Center

Reception: Friday, Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m.

**January 21**

**2007-08 Convocation Series—20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation**

“Visions of a Just Society: Dr. King’s Legacy,” Ekwueme Michael Thelwell, University of Massachusetts

1 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F—10:20 a.m.; T-Th—11:20 a.m.; Wed—9:09 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—7:30 a.m.

**Tues., Jan. 15**—President Paul Pribbenow

**Wed., Jan. 16**—Pastor Sonja Hagander

**Thurs., Jan. 17**—Pastor Dave Wold

**Fri., Jan. 18**—Charlie Ruud, Luther Seminary intern pastor

**Mon., Jan. 19**—Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, 1 p.m.

**Sports schedule**— <http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/winter0708.html>

Have a great week!