



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

February 4, 2008

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**Good morning.** It's amazing how things on our campus can change in 24 hours! In the time between midday Saturday and midday Sunday, **Augsburg readied itself for the visit and campaign rally for Senator Hillary Clinton on her path to the Super Tuesday primaries.** It was a most remarkable opportunity for the Augsburg community to become part of the national appearances by the candidates in the hours before the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses, and to participate in the important work of civic engagement. Many, many thanks to Jodi Collen and the Events Services crew, David Warch and Marketing and Communication, John Pack and the Department of Public Safety, Athletic Facilities staff, Custodial staff, the music from Gospel Praise instrumentalists, senior Beth Florence (who introduced Vice President Walter Mondale), and the many other volunteers who helped stage the rally that brought 4,000 people to campus and attention in the national media. Thanks also to alumna Kari Logan, whose public relations firm helped us work with the media. It was a proud day for our college.

This event followed on the heels of another national conversation that Augsburg took part in on Thursday—the **Focus the Nation national teach-in**, with day-long workshops in various disciplines focusing on finding solutions to climate change, a chapel talk by St. Thomas professor and U.S. Senate Democratic candidate Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, a lunchtime alumni panel, and an action forum featuring elected officials and environmental activists. Thanks to the Coalition for Student Activism and students in all the organizations involved in planning Augsburg's activities for Focus the Nation.

Listening to the Focus the Nation conversations affirmed how proud I am of the commitments we've made as an institution toward modeling responsible global citizenship and stewardship of our resources. **I want to lift up the Environmental Stewardship Committee webpages (<http://www.augsburg.edu/green>) that highlight our commitments and practices toward a more sustainable campus and city.** This work engages us with our neighbors in programs such as Campus Kitchen, feeding the community while supporting local food resources; the HOURCAR parked on campus making available a hybrid-fuel car for short-term travel needs; the subsidized MetroPass program, encouraging the use of public transportation; and the many service projects that engage our students, beginning with City Service Projects Day in September. There is much to be done—as the Focus the Nation sessions so clearly detailed—and I'm very proud of our entire community for its commitment to getting to work on these critical environmental issues.

The new **environmental studies major and minor** is another response to our commitment toward educating for sustainability. This interdisciplinary course of study aims to prepare students to understand and respond from various perspectives to the environmental challenges increasingly facing urban areas.

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On Tuesday, **I hope you are planning to attend your neighborhood political caucus.** If you don't know where your precinct meets, you can search at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us> and choose "Precinct caucus finder." All Augsburg students who live on campus are in Ward 2, Precinct 7; see the calendar below for locations and times for this precinct. The Democratic (DFL) caucus will be held here on campus in Christensen Center. **Tonight there will be a workshop to learn about the caucus process, from 7–8 p.m., in Oren Gateway Center 103.** Many thanks to Sherilyn Young, Development, for organizing the workshops and making information available about the caucuses.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Returning combat veterans

Tomorrow afternoon, I hope faculty will come to hear **Chaplain John Morris from the Minnesota National Guard talk about the program he helped create that provides comprehensive reintegration for soldiers returning from combat.** The program, that provides both resources and programs to help soldiers cope with complex issues after they return to family and community, has been chosen as a model program to be implemented in all 50 states. Some of our faculty may encounter issues of reintegration with our students who have served in the armed forces.

### Mardi Gras Madrigals

Tomorrow evening, faculty and students from our Medieval Studies program (and the Goliard Society) will lead us in celebration of the annual **Mardi Gras Madrigals**, which showcases Mardi Gras festivities in medieval form, with food, jugglers, storytellers, and music at 6:30 p.m., in Hoversten Chapel. For information on tickets, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/mardigras>.

### Lunar New Year

On Thursday, the **Lunar New Year** will be marked by Dragon dancers at 4:30 p.m. in Christensen Center lobby, a panel discussion at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

### AQIP Reaffirmation of accreditation

I am most happy to report that The Higher Learning Commission has voted to continue the accreditation of Augsburg as part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) through 2014–2015. This mission-based approach to reaffirmation of accreditation casts an important light on what we are doing each day as a college community to keep the Augsburg promise and to plan for the future of this great institution. You can learn more about AQIP at the webpage that was developed to provide information about our action projects and reports at <http://www.augsburg.edu/aqip>.

Augsburg was a pioneer in the Academic Quality Improvement Program and is recognized as a leading institution within it. We have learned a great deal about the College's work through the analysis done for the Systems Portfolio and through focused attention on action projects

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like the development of the Augsburg Core Curriculum and the improvement of teaching and learning spaces. These successful action projects serve as examples of how we lift up the College's mission in our core work. Dean Farley has been invited to speak about the first seven years of our involvement in AQIP at The Higher Learning Commission's annual meeting in April. I was recently certified as an AQIP reviewer and look forward to participating in the further development of a program that is playing a significant role in the national conversation about accreditation.

I want to express my gratitude to the entire community for all you do to make our continuing accreditation possible. This is a significant moment for the College, one that makes a very positive statement about the path we are following to realize the College's vocation.

## KUDOS

Kudos to the **Rochester campus community**, that provided 428 pounds of food to families in 2007 through the Community Food Response (CFR) program last year. Augsburg's Rochester office received a letter from CFR extending their appreciation. The program donates the surplus food from the meals served to Rochester students before classes.

Congratulations to sophomore **mathematics and physics double-major Michael Janas** whose solution to "Problem 1772" that he and **math professor Su Dorée** submitted to Mathematics Magazine was selected as the featured solution, to appear in the June 2007 issue. Look for the problem, a fact about Taylor polynomials, in full detail on the Mathematics Dept. webpage, <http://www.augsburg.edu/home/math>.

## NOTABLE EVENTS

### February 1-10

***The Visit*, by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, guest-directed by Luverne Seifert '83.**

Feb. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 7 p.m., and 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.

Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

### February 5

**Challenges of Combat Veterans Returning to College**

Chaplain John Morris, Minnesota National Guard

3:15 p.m., Sateren Auditorium

### February 5

**Mardi Gras Madrigals**

6:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

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## February 5

### Minnesota Caucus night

Minnesota Democratic (DFL) Party Caucus—6:30 p.m., registration; 7 p.m., caucus begins; Commons, Christensen Center, Augsburg College

Minnesota Republican Party Caucus—7 p.m., Luxton Recreation Center, 112 Williams Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Minnesota Independence Party Caucus—7 p.m., Blegen Hall, lower level, University of Minnesota (West Bank), 269 19th Ave., South, Minneapolis.

## February 6

**Wednesday Gathering for faculty and staff** (soup, salad, and dessert for faculty and staff at no cost—dinner offered for those working later shifts).

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

## February 7

### Lunar New Year celebration

4:30 p.m., Dragon Dance, Christensen Center Lobby

5 p.m., Discussion

6 p.m., Dinner, Marshall Room, Christensen Center

## February 9

### WEC Winter Wonderland + Skate with an Auggie

1 p.m., Christensen Center

## 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., Feb. 5**—Rev. Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life, black history chapel talk

**Wed., Feb. 6**—President Paul Pribbenow, Ash Wednesday Communion, imposition of ashes.

**Wed., Feb. 6**—9:09 p.m. (songs), 9:30 p.m., Ash Wednesday Communion and imposition of ashes with Pastor Dave Wold.

**Thurs., Feb. 7**—Kristen Hoyles, senior speaker

**Fri., Feb. 8**—Rev. Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life, black history chapel talk

**Mon., Feb. 11**—Jan Wiersma, ARC Retreat Center

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

Have a great week!