



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

March 24, 2008

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**Good morning.** Welcome back to day students returning from spring break, and to everyone returning from the long Easter weekend. Although the weather outside may be deceptive, we are entering the last six weeks of spring semester. Spring trimester classes begin in two weeks for weekend and graduate students.

**Today I, members of the Cabinet, and regent Steve Sheppard travel to Nicaragua, along with international programs director Orv Gingerich, for a five-day visit to our Center for Global Education site.** This trip is a sign of my (and the Cabinet's) commitment to CGE's work around the world as a mission-based focus of Augsburg. As we conclude CGE's 25th anniversary year, we affirm how important their work is, both for our community and for all the students and participants from other colleges and universities who have learned so much about global citizenship from their involvement in CGE programs. We continue to celebrate CGE's anniversary during both May and June commencements with special speakers and honorary degree recipients.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### **Project update: The Center for Science, Business, and Religion**

**On Thursday, members of our Board of Regents gathered for a mid-term project update on the Center for Science, Business, and Religion.** Dean Barbara Farley outlined key developments in the project: how the idea of "intersections" is emerging in the design, how this building can shape our campus experience through new links and by opening up an expanded central quadrangle, and how the design might articulate our special commitment to the neighborhood and the city.

A written mid-term project report to the board describes progress on the design of the building, coordinated with an updated campus master plan. It also contains preliminary findings from the feasibility study for a new capital campaign. The report is available at [http://www.augsburg.edu/president/csbr\\_project](http://www.augsburg.edu/president/csbr_project).

As we work toward a comprehensive proposal (to be presented at the May 2 Board of Regents meeting), I want to thank the 50 faculty, staff, and students who are participating in focused working groups on this important project and the many who have offered their thoughtful feedback in open sessions. The architects have been listening carefully and will return to campus on April 7 to share an updated design. Please watch for an invitation to this open session and join us in discussion of the project.

### **Grand opening of the Lounge in Christensen Center—March 28-29**

**On Friday, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., stop by Christensen Center for the grand opening of the Lounge,** located in the former bookstore space. A blessing of the new space will take place at 3 p.m. on Friday. Pool and ping pong tables, game equipment, and cable TV will be available in the Lounge, as well as comfortable furniture for relaxing.

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This project is an indication of the College's continuing commitment to invest the resources needed to renovate Christensen Center as a student space that supports student, faculty, and staff interaction; provides a sense of welcome; and serves as "home" for commuter students (day, weekend, graduate).

For information on the Christensen Center Task Force and the project, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/cctf>. Task Force members are Michele Roulet, Ann Garvey, David Draus, Ricky Oudekerk, Cassandra Roschen, Kevin Myren, Will O'Berry, and John Pack.

## KUDOS

**I want to express my appreciation and thanks to all the students and others who participated in service projects during spring break**—the New Orleans hurricane recovery team, the southeastern Minnesota flood recovery team, and the Pedalers for Peace—and to recognize those who took advantage of learning and activities here in Minneapolis in our own neighborhoods.

The New Orleans group has blogged about their experience working at a house featured on the Extreme Makeover TV show. Go to <http://whatareliefaugsborg.blogspot.com>.

## NOTABLE EVENTS

### March 25

**Classes resume, Day program**

### March 25

**Community Time**

3:45 p.m., East Commons

### March 28-29

**Grand Opening of the Lounge, Christensen Center**

Friday, March 28—2–6 p.m.; Blessing of the Lounge at 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 29—11 a.m.–1 p.m.

### March 28-30

**Finals for winter trimester students**

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## 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)—7:40 a.m.

**Tues., March 25**—Easter celebration in word and song

**Wed., March 26**—Vocatio Chapel, Science as Vocation, Dr. Anne Foerst, visiting professor for theology and computer science, St. Bonaventure University

**Wed. eve**—Communion with Pastor Sonja

**Thurs., March 27**—Trudy Pommerening, senior speaker

**Fri., March 28**—Service honoring Archbishop Oscar Romero—Ann Butwell, Jon Wright, Rachel Trelstad-Porter

**Sat., March 29**—Ray Makeever, music and worship assistant

**Mon., March 31**—Justin Dittrich, intern pastor

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

Have a great week!