



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

April 14, 2008

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**Good morning.** We've entered our last two weeks of classes in spring semester, and the calendar is already filled with celebrations and festivities. I look forward to being with many of you as we find occasion to celebrate your achievements during the busy days leading up to Commencement.

**Our third Zyzzogeton (The Last Word) festival kicks off on Wednesday** and celebrates the creativity and scholarship of students. Student poster presentations on research and an all-student art show are complemented by readings, performances, and special events.

Theatre students present the spring play, *Top Girls*, and the Riverside Singers sing in concert on Friday night at Mayflower United Church of Christ and on Sunday in Hoversten Chapel. Music therapy students will spend Friday working with children in special education programs in the annual VSA Day. On Friday afternoon, at Honors Convocation, the outstanding academic achievement of this year's graduates will be recognized.

In a Zyzzogeton rematch of last week's Agre Challenge, **the Agre Shootout** will again test the teams that built mechanical inventions to hurl a three-pound weight 60 yards toward a target.

And, the **Second Great Lutefisk vs. Lefse Debate** will position Professor Doug Green and myself, advocating the more valuable role of lutefisk over lefse, which will be defended by Professor Tracy Bibelnieks and Hispanic-Latino ethnic services director Emiliano Chagil. For the full schedule of Zyzzogeton activities, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/zyzzogeton>

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lectures

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow morning at 11 a.m., **we welcome Steve Squyres from Cornell University, this year's General Leif J. Sverdrup Visiting Scientist**, who will lecture about Mars and solar system exploration. While he is here he also will meet with high school science students in Minneapolis. The Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lecture is one of the components of Augsburg's NASA Space Grant that enables the College to carry out educational outreach, teaching, and research in science.

### Meet Norway's new ambassador to the U.S.

**Norwegian Ambassador Wegger Chr. Strommen, on a five-day visit to educational and cultural institutions in the Midwest that have Norwegian connections, will present a talk on campus at 2 p.m. in the Student Art Gallery.** In Minneapolis, the ambassador will

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meet with Governor Pawlenty and former vice president Walter Mondale, who will soon become Minnesota's Honorary Consul General for Norway. We look forward to sharing with him our Norwegian heritage and traditions and exploring avenues for further collaboration with the Norwegian government.

## KUDOS

Congratulations to [Annette Gerten](#), Social Work Department, whose paper, "Inside the Ivory Tower: Gender Issues for Future Faculty," was selected for the Alumnae Research Award from the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women at the College of St. Catherine. On Thursday she will speak at the award celebration and receive a certificate and cash stipend.

Congratulations also to Auggie football team seniors [Alan Mueller](#), [Jason Weber](#), and [John Welty](#), who were chosen for the 2008 National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society, comprised of college football players from all divisions who each maintained a 3.2 GPA or better. They are among 439 players from 226 schools who qualified for membership this year. Augsburg is the only college in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) to have more than one team player honored this year.

Kudos to violinist and senior [Annika Spargo](#), whose composition "Mörka Vals" was played Sunday evening by the Augsburg Symphony Orchestra in their spring concert.

## NOTABLE EVENTS

**April 14–15****2007-08 Convocation Series, Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lecture, Steve Squyres, Cornell University**

April 14—"Roving Mars: Spirit, Opportunity, and the Exploration of the Red Planet," 7:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

April 15—"Exploration of the Solar System: Past, Present, and Future," 11 a.m., Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

**April 15****Social Work Honor Society Induction Ceremony**

Inaugural induction ceremony of the Omicron Delta Chapter of Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society

5–8 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

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**April 16**

**Theatre Connections Day**

Prospective theatre students visit for a workshop and theatre production  
9 a.m.–3 p.m., Tjornhom-Nelson Theatre, Foss Center

**April 16**

**Talk by Norwegian ambassador Wegger Chr. Strommen, “Norway and the U.S. in the 21st Century”**

2 p.m., Student Art Gallery, Christensen Center

**April 16-18**

**Zyzzogeton, an annual celebration of student creativity and scholarship**

For a complete schedule, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/zyzzogeton>

**April 17-20**

***Top Girls*, by Caryl Churchill, directed by Darcey Engen**

April 17, 18, 19 at 7 p.m.; April 20 at 2 p.m.  
Tjornhom-Nelson Theater

**April 18**

**Vision Strength Access Day; middle school special education students visit Augsburg for music and art therapy.**

8 a.m.–3 p.m., workshops and demonstrations, Music Hall

**April 18**

**Honors Convocation**

4:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

**April 21**

**The Auggie Awards, celebration of Augsburg athletics**

6 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

**April 21**

**“Kidney Kabaret,” benefit for alum Janet Paone ’83 to help defray costs of her kidney transplant.**

6:30 p.m., Silent Auction; 7:30 p.m., Program, Hoversten Chapel

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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., April 15**—11 a.m., Convocation, Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Lecture, Steve Squyres, “Exploration of the Solar System: Past, Present, and Future”

**Wed., April 16**—Justin Dittrich, Luther Seminary intern pastor

**Wed. eve**—Justin Dittrich

**Thurs., April 17**—Wally O'Connor, senior speaker

**Fri., April 18**—Athletic mini-convo

**Mon., April 21**—Charlie Ruud, Luther Seminary intern pastor

**Athletics news/schedules**— <http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics>

Have a great week!