



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

April 21, 2008

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Good morning. I'm looking forward to walking the "maroon carpet" tonight at The Auggie Awards, the College's first formal awards gala for Augsburg student-athletes. With the flavor of the Oscars, Tonys, and Grammys, we'll celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students in athletics as well as in academics.

Four nominees have been selected for each of two team awards and each of three individual awards for both men and women. One team will also be honored for outstanding team academic achievement. Modeled after the University of Minnesota's Golden Gophers awards, The Auggie Awards is co-sponsored by the Athletics Department and the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). It's an exciting night for Auggie athletics, deserving of the special recognition it received on the NCAA website.

Even as second semester classes end this week and exams begin next week, Commencement events are already underway. Last Friday afternoon, Dean Farley presided at the annual Honors Convocation as we recognized students earning honors and participating in honor societies. On Wednesday evening, I look forward to joining with our graduates as Augsburg holds its first Lavender Graduation celebration, joining other colleges and universities across the country that recognize the achievements of their LGBTQIA students. On Thursday evening, Abigail and I will enjoy welcoming graduates in the Class of 2008 to Augsburg House for the Senior Reception.

As we celebrate Earth Day tomorrow, I want to lift up several initiatives over the past year that mark important pieces of our commitment to environmental responsibility and action. Last year I joined many of my colleagues in the higher education community in signing the Presidents Climate Commitment, which requires our practicing good stewardship of the environment in various aspects of our college life. I am most pleased with the development of the environmental studies major, which focuses on sustainability through both education and action.

Also, in working with the Green Vehicle Initiative student group, I am pleased that we are moving forward to replace one or more of our security vehicles with hybrid-fuel vehicles. We also will work to convert another vehicle to run on cleaner and more efficient biodiesel fuel—a result of the research carried out by senior Brian Krohn, Professor Arlin Gyberg, and SarTec Corporation—that will be produced from our cafeteria cooking oil.

I hope you will attend chapel tomorrow as Professor Mary Lowe speaks about Earth Day.

Tomorrow evening at the Leadership Recognition Banquet, we will recognize distinguished student leadership. I'd like to extend congratulations to those students being honored, and also thank all of our student government leaders this past year.

This week is designated as Administrative Professionals Week, and I join with colleagues across the country in recognizing the good work our staff carries out.

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CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Jazz and Gospel Praise at the Dakota

Augsburg's Jazz and Gospel Praise Ensemble will play Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Dakota Jazz Club in downtown Minneapolis, the area's top venue for jazz. Opening for them is Bigbody Applehead, a band led by senior music business major and Jazz Ensemble member Sara Horishnyk, who interned at the Dakota and now works there part time.

MBA program initiates conversation with Russian educators

A memorandum of intent was signed last week between Augsburg and the Sinerghia Economic and Finance Institute in Moscow, following a week-long visit of Rector Mikhail Ioffe and Deputy Rector Larissa Kartashova. Business Administration Department chair Magda Paleczny-Zapp and MBA director Steven Zitnick are seeking collaboration that will lead to an Augsburg MBA cohort in Moscow, among other initiatives.

KUDOS

Congratulations to all those who helped plan last week's third annual Zyzzogeton, including **Randall Davidson, Diane Pike, Dixie Shafer, and Bob Groven**. Wednesday's session on student research brought together more than 40 students, who displayed posters and spoke about their research. The All-Student Art Exhibit showcased visual arts, while readings, recitals, and the theatre production featured performance. Many thanks also to **Event and Conference Services staff and Sodexo staff**.

Congratulations to the cast of *Top Girls* and its director, Professor **Darcey Engen**, for bringing to a close another great year of Augsburg theatre! It also is very meaningful to see the new sign announcing the Ailene Cole Green Room in the Foss Center. A longtime Augsburg communications and theatre professor, Ailene Cole made a big mark on her students and the College, and it is great that we are able to honor her legacy.

NOTABLE EVENTS

April 21**The Auggie Awards, celebration of Augsburg athletics**

6 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

April 21

"Kidney Kabaret," benefit for alumna 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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April 23

Chamber Music Recital and High Tea

4 p.m., Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

April 23

Lavender Graduation Celebration

7 p.m., Johnson Conference Center, Oren Gateway Center

April 24

Class of 2008 Senior Reception

5 p.m., Augsburg House

April 25

Last day of classes, spring semester

April 26

Asian Awareness Dinner for Asian community

6 p.m., East Commons, CC

April 27

Augsburg's Jazz and Gospel Praise Ensemble performance

4 p.m., Dakota Jazz Club, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

April 28

Finals begin for day spring semester

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 22—Earth Day; Mary Lowe, Religion Dept.

Wed., April 23—Pastor Sonja Hagander

Wed. eve—Paul Lutter, Religion Dept.

Thurs., April 24—Pastor Dave Wold

Fri., April 25—Last day extravaganza

Sat., April 26—Weekend Chapel, Ray Makeever

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

Have a great week!