



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

May 19, 2008

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Good morning. Finally, spring seems to have taken hold, and our urban campus is sprouting, as **gardeners begin setting transplants and planting seeds in the community garden along 20th Ave.** Forty 10-foot-square plots are available for planting, and many are already in use. Tim Dougherty, community and civic engagement student coordinator, and junior Ruth Senum, garden intern, are working with neighborhood groups, the Brian Coyle Center, and the Confederation of Somali Community to plant the garden and involve children in summer programming.

Two kids' groups, kindergarten through second grade, and grades three through five, from the Brian Coyle Center and the Somali Confederation at the People's Center, are spending time at the garden learning about planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. At the same time they learn about the different vegetables, fruits, and flowers being grown, they are also participating in Campus Kitchen activities to prepare and cook their harvest.

Plots are still open in the community garden—contact Tim Dougherty at x1208 or doughert@augsborg.edu if you are interested. Current gardeners include neighborhood residents, including some who live along 20th Ave. across from the garden, school children, and Augsburg faculty and staff.

The garden area will also host a labyrinth to be designed and built by Professor Phil Adamo's summer session class.

Also this summer, **Augsburg has become a drop-off point for two local organic farms in the Community-supported agriculture (CSA) program.** Last year, the Campus Kitchen at Augsburg purchased shares in nearby organic farms for weekly shipments of 15-25 lbs. of fresh produce, whatever is currently in season, to prepare the meals they serve in the community. CSA is a great program to connect farmers to markets and an opportunity to support the production of sustainably-grown food.

This year, more than 40 Augsburg faculty and staff are joining the program, purchasing 23 shares in two local farms—Ploughshare Farm, near Alexandria, and Big River Farm, near Stillwater—for weekly shipments of produce. Campus Kitchen benefits further by both receiving a full share donated by Ploughshare Farm for recruiting 10 new shares and by welcoming surplus produce from faculty and staff who have shares and can't use all they receive in any given week.

Both the community garden and the CSA share program are wonderful additional examples of how Augsburg as a community is making commitments to sustainability in our environment.

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CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

WEC elections are underway

Voting took place this weekend through Monday noon to elect new student government leaders in Weekend College for next year and to decide several referendum issues. I look forward to announcing the winners in the next Weekly Update.

Weekly Update schedule

From now through the end of spring trimester and our June Commencement, watch for Weekly Updates every two weeks, on June 2, June 16, and June 30. After that the Update will be in hiatus throughout the summer.

KUDOS

Congratulations to softball head coach **Tim Gormley**, named the MIAC Softball Coach of the Year, and to first-year third-baseman **Jennifer Castillo**, named the MIAC Rookie of the Year. For information, go to www.augsburg.edu/athletics/sportsnews/051208softball.html.

Kudos to the **Social Work Department students and faculty**, who participated via satellite in a forum, "Social Work—Making a World of Difference," on World Social Work Day, April 15. Guest speaker was Mr. David Jones, president of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), with members in 84 countries. **Professor Barbara Lehmann** and **Professor Tiong Tan**, who is co-chair of the Commonwealth Organization for Social Work and past regional president (Asia Pacific) of IFSW, were also forum speakers.

Congratulations to Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent **Bill Green**, on leave from the History Department faculty, who served as Commencement speaker at St. John's University on May 11, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

NOTABLE EVENTS

May 20

2007-08 Convocation Series

John M. Perkins, Foundation for Reconciliation and Development

7 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester

May 22

Hot Topics, sponsored by Faculty Senate, "The Horizon in Institutional Advancement," by Jeremy Wells, vice president of institutional advancement

3:30 p.m., Minneapolis Room

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May 26

Memorial Day observed—the College is closed

May 27

Summer Session I begins

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Chapel services Monday through Friday will resume in September; WEC chapel (when weekend classes meet) is at 7:40 a.m.

Sat., May 31—WEC Chapel

For Augsburg athletic news, scores, and schedules: www.augsburg.edu/athletics/

Have a great two weeks!

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Sat., May 10—WEC Chapel, Ray Makeever

Sat., May 17—WEC Chapel, Ray Makeever

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Have a great two weeks!