



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

September 10, 2007

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**Good morning.** What a whirlwind first week of school we have all enjoyed, as **we welcomed new first-year and transfer students, new faculty and staff, and welcomed back returning students.** I was especially struck during the past week of the various ways in which we live out three closely related parts of our mission: we are a teaching and learning community, which was illustrated in our opening convocations and in the beginning of classes; we are centered in faith and worship, which was obvious in our return to the gift of daily chapel gatherings; and we are sent out to serve our neighbors, which was powerfully visible in our City Service projects, during which we served 22 agencies in the city. Thanks to all of you for living our mission each and every day.

In this first update of the fall, **I want to focus on three broad, strategic goals for the 2007-08 year** that I have set as a framework for our work together this year. Each of these goals helps to set a context for various projects and initiatives that continue to shape our institutional work and culture.

**Goal 1: To govern together,** the various ways in which governance of the College is understood, supported, and practiced as shared. What does it mean to share power, to participate in decision-making, and to be accountable for how our work advances the Augsburg mission?

**Goal 2: To plan intentionally,** the various ways in which strategic, tactical, and operational plans are grounded in mission and vision. How do we create a “planning culture,” a community in which all plans help us live out our highest aspirations?

**Goal 3: To transform our philanthropic culture,** the various ways in which focusing on the College’s sesquicentennial in 2019 creates a constructive horizon for philanthropic activity. How do we build relationships, tell the Augsburg story, and raise the funds needed to sustain Augsburg’s mission—now and into the future?

There will be opportunities to talk more about these goals and to be involved in the important work that will help us to achieve them. I look forward to our work together this year.

## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### AQIP Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Six years ago, we joined AQIP—the **Academic Quality Improvement Program**—and we began a process through the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (our accrediting body) that led to the **submission of our application for Reaffirmation of Accreditation on August 31.** This is the final component of the seven-year AQIP cycle, and the most important, because it is a summative review that will affirm our continuing status as a regionally accredited institution. Our application follows a highly successful Quality Checkup Site Visit that was held last February.

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One of the best things about the AQIP model is that institutions use their own improvement initiatives to accomplish levels of performance that meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation. **I encourage you to read the updated Systems Portfolio** and other documents that were submitted to the AQIP Reaffirmation Panel at <http://www.augsburg.edu/aqip/>. These reports tell a compelling story about the important work that is happening across this College to keep the Augsburg promise of providing great educational experiences to all students.

**My special thanks to Dean Farley for leading us in the AQIP process, and to Bridget Robinson-Riegler, and the AQIP Steering Committee** for their work in preparing our application for Reaffirmation of Accreditation. We look forward to receiving positive news about our continuing accreditation later this fall

### Closing for chapel time

Once more I want to draw your attention to the importance of chapel in Augsburg's life and mission. This is a time for us as a community—Sabbath time—in which we can choose to attend the chapel service or to worship or reflect in another way. **I ask all offices to remain closed during chapel time** as a sign of our common purpose.

We meet in chapel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:20 to 10:40 a.m., followed by 20 minutes of community time; on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:20 to 11:40 a.m.; and on Saturdays of weekend classes at 8 a.m. An informal communion is held Wednesday evening at 9:09 p.m. I draw your attention to the list of chapel speakers and programs in the calendar below. It is a great week of time together.

### KUDOS

**My congratulations and thanks to all of you who contributed to the remarkable week of events** launching this new academic year.

- To **everyone involved in Auggie Days** who helped to welcome a record class of first-year students, including Student Activities, Residence Life, Academic Advising, the Enrollment Center, student Orientation Leaders, coaches and student-athletes, and many others.
- To **Professor Doug Green** (English) for a memorable convocation address, and to the **faculty, alumni, and student musicians** for the creative and inspired improvisation that sent us out with great spirit on Tuesday morning and Saturday noon at the Opening Convocations to officially welcome our new students.
- To our **AugSem groups, Cabinet, faculty and staff who spent an afternoon in the neighborhoods** learning about and providing service to the communities around us—with a special thank you to the Center for Service, Work, and Learning and the AugSem leaders for organizing this effort.
- And, finally, to all of you who extended gracious hospitality to our families and visitors—to **Jodi Collen and our Event Services team** for the myriad arrangements, to **Sodexo for all the meals** that were served, to the grounds and maintenance crews for keeping our campus looking so beautiful, to our **Public Safety office**, and many others.

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I am grateful to all of you as we launched our academic year in a spirit of engagement and hospitality, marking a strong commitment to common work on and off campus. I'm especially pleased with the strong effort many of you made to ensure that our Augsburg for Adults students (Weekend College and graduate programs) were welcomed to campus on the weekend.

Many thanks, also, to the **45 volunteers—44 staff and one student—who filled the 36 time slots in our State Fair booth**. It's a great way to get Augsburg and Auggies more visible in the community.

## NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE NEXT WEEK

### September 10

#### Seventh Annual Scholastic Connections Gala and Dinner

6:30 p.m., East Commons

### September 11

#### Rochester fall trimester classes begin

### September 12

#### Fall Study Abroad Fair

10:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center lobby

### September 15

#### 10th Anniversary Celebration, Physician Assistant Class of 1997

4 p.m.—Reception, Oren Gateway Center

5:30 p.m.—Dinner and program, Christensen Center

### September 17

#### Elaine Penn, "Be the Change: Help Create a Better World"

10:20 a.m., Mini-convocation, Hoversten Chapel

Noon, Lunch and conversation, East Commons

3 p.m., for faculty/staff, Marshall Room

7:15 p.m., for student-athletes, Foss Center

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F–10:20 a.m.; T-Th–11:20 a.m.; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—8 a.m.

**Tues., Sept. 11**—Charlie Ruud, Luther Seminary intern pastor

**Wed., Sept. 12**—Favorite Song Day

**Thurs., Sept. 13**—Justin Dittrich, Luther Seminary intern pastor

**Fri., Sept. 14**—Thelma Buckner and family—Gospel music and word

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**Mon., Sept. 17**—Mini-convocation, Elaine Penn

Congratulations to all of our fall sports teams for a strong start to the season! For an up-to-date sports schedule, visit <http://www.Augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0708.html>

Go Auggies! Have a great week!