



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

October 1, 2007

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Good morning. It is the first day of October (hard to believe!) and these next few weeks offer a busy schedule of campus activities, including Homecoming Week beginning next Monday and leading up to Friday, Oct. 12, when we celebrate the success of the Access to Excellence capital campaign and dedicate the new Oren Gateway Center. I look forward to celebrating Homecoming with all of you!

I want to expand more on my announcement last week that **Augsburg has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education TRIO McNair Scholars grant** for 2007-2011, totaling \$925,000. This is wonderful news for us and will provide additional funding to help more of our students prepare for and consider graduate education.

Augsburg joins 180 McNair programs around the country that are serving learners who are low-income, first-generation, or students of color who are interested in attending graduate school. Minnesota has six McNair programs, which is an important statement about our state's commitment to serving students who have been underrepresented in graduate and professional schools. Augsburg also has a TRIO/SSS grant that serves the same population of students as they enter the College and persist in their academic programs.

The McNair program will feature an introduction to research course and a discourse in the disciplines course that will be team taught by a faculty member in a STEM discipline (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and a humanities faculty. McNair alums from Augsburg's first scholars program will serve as mentors. Of the 45 students who participated in Augsburg's first McNair program, 27 have earned master's degrees, and five are currently enrolled. In addition, one student has completed a PhD, 11 are currently enrolled in PhD programs, and one student is attending medical school.

This program is important to Augsburg because it advances our mission of intentional diversity, increases the number of research opportunities for scholars and faculty mentors, and prepares students for graduate school. Engagement in the McNair program leads to high levels of student retention (all 45 of Augsburg's past scholars graduated from the College) and raises the profile of Augsburg's graduates who are applying to graduate school.

Congratulations, again, to Dixie Shafer, who led the proposal-writing team that included Carol Forbes, Dal Liddle, Bob Cowgill, and Aly Olson.

Dovetailing with the work of the McNair Scholars program, **Augsburg will participate in the National Science Foundation North Star STEM Alliance.** We join 17 other public and private colleges and universities, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the Minnesota High Tech Association in this initiative, which is led by the University of Minnesota and funded by the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). It is designed to broaden the participation of underrepresented minorities in Minnesota in

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baccalaureate education, and further strengthens our commitment to support students in the STEM disciplines.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Diversity planning update

Last February, I wrote to the campus community about a focused strategic planning process around our mission commitment to diversity. Trena Bolden Fields (who is assisting me as an adviser on diversity issues) and members of the Diversity Committee have worked together with President's Cabinet members to facilitate work within administrative divisions.

To date, the following divisions have completed initial plans: Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Management, Finance and Administration, Campus Ministry, Information Technology, Athletics, and Institutional Advancement. The question each division addressed was "What does your division need to do to continue to achieve the mission and an intentionally diverse campus community?"

Each division will review its initial plan and create action steps for the top one or two priorities (drivers). Three divisions have completed this step.

Initially done through administrative divisions, the effort must involve faculty and students in conversation and planning. During summer 2007, Trena worked with groups of day, weekend, and graduate students to develop a survey instrument to gather student input on important issues.

Our next step is to gather input from the faculty. During fall 2007, members of the Diversity Committee will orchestrate opportunities for faculty input.

This is an exciting initiative and I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

KUDOS

Congratulations to [Nancy Steblay](#), psychology, who has been awarded a National Institute of Justice grant over two-and-a-half years of \$236,500 to support her police lineup identification research, particularly as this eyewitness science is applied to public policy. It will include laboratory studies, a field experiment in collaboration with the Tucson Police Department, and a meta-analytic review of existing lab work on refined lineup procedure. Included in the grant is substantial support for student research, including conference travel costs, and laboratory hardware and software improvements.

Congratulations also to [Mark Engebretson](#), physics, who has been appointed to a three-year term on the Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar

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Programs. This committee provides guidance, recommendations, and oversight in such areas as how OPP can best serve science, promote education, increase workforce diversity, and set priorities for infrastructure investment in Antarctica and the Arctic.

He also received an additional **\$87,350 for a National Science Foundation grant**, "Collaborative Research: Studies of Solar Wind—Magnetosphere Interactions Using Ground-Based Induction Magnetometers at Manned Stations as Part of An Extensive Ground Array." The total NSF award for this project is \$257,500 through August 2009.

Garry Hesser, metro-urban studies, received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Phillips University in Enid, Okla., during its centennial celebration in August. The award is given for extraordinary achievements in the profession, important contributions to society, civic leadership, and/or service to Phillips University. Congratulations, Garry!

Kudos to **Bridget Robinson-Riegler**, psychology, on the publication of the second edition of *Cognitive Psychology: Applying the Science of the Mind* (co-author is Greg Robinson-Riegler, 2008).

And a special congratulations to the **79 new Augsburg athletic letterwinners**—women who participated in athletics at Augsburg before 1989 (when letters were first awarded to women)—who received their letters last Friday evening at a festive event in the Kennedy Center and Hoversten Chapel. My special thanks to our current women student-athletes, to Joyce Pfaff (HPE) and Carol Enke (HPE), and to several alumni student-athletes, especially Jane Helmke, '83, and Lisa Svac Hawks, '85, who spearheaded this amazing event. It is about time these remarkable women were recognized for their contributions to the life of Augsburg College.

NOTABLE EVENTS

October 5

Fall Art Tour

Free shuttles will take visitors to multiple college art galleries for art, music, and food. Shuttle pick up outside Lindell Library.

5–8 p.m.; contact Kerry Morgan, morgank@augsborg.edu

Terry Jones, "Medieval Lives"

Monty Python's Terry Jones will speak live on our misconceptions about the Middle Ages. Tickets: \$20, at www.augsburg.edu/terryjones

7 p.m.—Hoversten Chapel

October 8–13

Homecoming 2007—Auggie Adventure

For complete schedule:

<http://smaug.augsburg.edu/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?&pid=257&srcid=186>

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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)—8 a.m.

Tues., Oct. 2—Rev. Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

Wed., Oct. 3—David Tiede, Bernhard Christensen Professor for Religion and Vocation

Thurs., Oct. 4—Blessing of the Animals

Fri., Oct. 5—Peder Eide, singer and musician

Sports schedule—<http://www.Augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0708.html>

Have a great week!