



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

January 19, 2009

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Good morning. What a momentous week this is, as today we celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and tomorrow inaugurate our nation's first African-American president.

For those who wish to watch television coverage of the swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the U.S., the Augsburg College Democrats Club (AC/DC) has reserved the student lounge in Christensen Center from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. The actual swearing in will take place about 11 a.m.

This historic event culminates our Get Political! series of events that began with the two-week internship program at the Republican National Convention hosted in partnership with The Washington Center. I am especially grateful to our student political clubs and the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning (with the leadership of Sabo Professor Garry Hesser) for all of their efforts this fall to encourage political engagement on campus.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

This afternoon is the 21st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, with guest speaker Hollis Watkins, civil rights leader and co-founder of Southern Echo, Inc. I hope you will plan to join me for this very special event in the life of the Augsburg community.

Monitoring retention

I want to follow up on the conversations we held during the fall concerning the impact of the economic crisis on our students and our financial resources.

I want to commend all of you, and especially the staff in the Enrollment Center, who have worked closely with students who may be encountering difficulties linked to the current economic situation. Your efforts to pay attention to our students have made a real difference as our retention rates for students in all academic programs are above our targets for the winter trimester and spring semester. Thank you all.

At the same time, I want to urge your continuing vigilance for students who may need academic, personal, and/or economic assistance to stay in school. Last June Michele Kidwell began in a new position as director of retention in the Enrollment Management Division. She has been implementing and managing a student outreach program aimed at early identification of students across all academic programs who are at risk for withdrawing for whatever reasons. Her efforts are coordinated with staff and faculty, particularly keeping in touch with student support services and advising. If you have any concerns about a particular student, please call Michele at 612-330-1318 to enlist her help in making sure our resources are being deployed to help in any way we are able.

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We remain vigilant in monitoring student enrollments and financial resources across the College, and this will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Board of Regents meeting later this month.

Rochester Business Survival Workshop

Next week, on Tuesday, Jan. 27, Augsburg Rochester MBA faculty members and local business leaders will talk about surviving and prospering in challenging times. Kelly McDonough, CEO and president, First Alliance Credit Union, and Leigh Johnson, CEO, Custom Alarm Company, will offer suggestions on reacting to economic challenges. MBA faculty members will present interactive workshops on strategic thinking and marketing and advertising effectiveness.

This presentation will take place at Augsburg's Rochester center, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Avenue SE, Rochester, and is free and open to the public; no registration is necessary. It's part of the MBA program's Connecting with the Community series, and is co-sponsored by the Rochester *Post-Bulletin* and Chamber of Commerce. For information, contact assistant MBA director Dave Conrad at conradd@augsborg.edu.

KUDOS

Kudos to Jim West, application developer in IT, who added powerful new functionality to the Inside Augsburg calendar. (Now, when you are logged in to Inside Augsburg, you can click on a calendar item to receive an e-mail reminder or add it directly to your Groupwise calendar.)

Kudos to Dal Liddle, English, who has just published *The Dynamics of Genre: Journalism and the Practice of Literature in Mid-Victorian Britain* with the University of Virginia Press. The University of Virginia has brought this book out as part of its Victorian Literature and Culture series, edited by Herbert Tucker and Jerome McGann.

Kudos also to Christina Erickson, Social Work, for her article, "A Community Prevention Approach to Peaceful Schools: Application of *Wakanheza*," which will be published in *School Social Work*. *Wakanheza* is the Dakota word for child; its closest English translation is "sacred being."

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NOTABLE EVENTS DURING THE WEEK—for a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Calendar on Inside Augsburg at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

Monday, Jan. 19

21st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, Hollis Watkins, speaker
1 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Inauguration of Barack Obama, Television viewing of the ceremonies; the swearing-in will take place around 11 a.m.
10 a.m.–1 p.m., Student Lounge, Christensen Center

Friday, Jan. 23

Lunar New Year celebration, Augsburg Asian Student Association
5:30–8:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 23-25

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW, and some MBA classes meet

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

M,W,F–10:20-10:40 a.m., Community Time following; T-Th–11:20-11:40 a.m.; Wed–9:09 p.m. Songs, 9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering at 7:30–7:50

Tuesday, Jan. 20—Joe Midthun, Luther Seminary intern pastor

Wednesday, Jan. 21—Vocatio Chapel, He Qi, painter

Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—Communion

Thursday, Jan. 22—Abby Ferjak, senior speaker

Friday, Jan. 23—Pastor Sonja Hagander

Saturday, Jan. 24—First Word Gathering, Michelle Cerame, WEC Student Senate Vice President, “Rejoice in Hope”

Monday, Jan. 26—Phil Adamo, History Dept.

Sports results and schedule—www.augsburg.edu/athletics

Have a great week!