



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

August 31, 2009

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**Good morning.** A very warm welcome to everyone as we begin this new academic year, Augsburg College's 141st year. With a very late Labor Day this year, our opening week celebrations aren't until next week, but already the campus is bustling.

Here is a preview of highlights for the opening week activities:

- Sept. 5–13—Auggie Days, orientation activities for incoming first-year day students to complement SOAR
- Saturday, Sept. 5—Move-in for first-year day students
- Monday, Sept. 7—Move-in for returning day students
- Tuesday, Sept. 8—10: 30 a.m., Opening Convocation. First-year day students march into the chapel to the applause of welcoming faculty (a tradition that's repeated at Commencement as graduating students march to Melby Hall through lines of cheering faculty). The Convocation speaker will be mathematics professor Tracy Bibelnieks, this year's recipient of the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning Award for Excellence in Teaching. I will also speak about lessons I learned this summer while traveling in China with a group of our students studying international social welfare.
- Tuesday, Sept. 8—afternoon, City Service Day. In this truly Augsburg tradition, 500 first-year day students, orientation leaders, faculty, and the President's Cabinet visit more than 20 sites in the surrounding neighborhoods to provide service in a variety of ways, from cleaning and painting, to gardening, clean-up, and other activities.
- Wednesday, Sept. 9—Classes begin for fall semester
- Friday, Sept. 11—Classes begin for fall trimester, with staff, student, and administration serving as welcomers around campus from 5–6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 12—Augsburg for Adults welcome activities—We'll welcome new weekend students at the Opening Celebration picnic in the Quad, 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. (Christensen Center, East Commons, in case of rain). Watch for campus welcomers from 7:30–9 a.m. and 11–noon.

On July 9, we welcomed Dr. Amy Gort, who joined the Office of Academic Affairs as assistant vice president and dean of arts and sciences. She comes to Augsburg from Concordia University in St. Paul where she served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Visit us at the State Fair—through Labor Day, we'll enjoy meeting many Augsburg alumni, friends, and others at the State Fair in our booth in the Education Building. When you're at the fair, please stop in to say hello.

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## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Highlights from the summer

While many were gone over the summer, a number of events, programs, and activities beyond our regular sports camps, seminars, institutes, and programs took place.

- The Agre Symposium for Augsburg and St. Olaf students, hosted by Peter Agre, focused on healthcare issues and initiatives;
- Twelve students from our partner college, United International College in Zhuhai, China, spent a month living and studying on campus;
- Augsburg hosted the North Star STEM steering committee meeting of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation;
- We also hosted faculty and staff from the ECLA colleges at the ELCA's annual vocation conference;
- The Minnesota Fringe Festival brought many people to campus to attend shows on our main and studio stages

### New faculty and staff orientation

Tomorrow and Wednesday the Center for Teaching and Learning hosts orientation for new faculty and staff—both groups attend tomorrow, with faculty continuing also on Wednesday. The purpose of the orientation is to help new employees become engaged in the Augsburg community, to learn expectations and where to get answers to questions, and to be ready to teach and work at Augsburg.

At our first Community Time, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 3:45 p.m., we'll have the opportunity to meet and welcome all of our new faculty and staff to Augsburg.

### New faculty:

Joan Brandt (Nursing)  
Sarah Combellick-Bidney (Political Science)  
Carrie Gray (Physician Assistant Studies)  
Anne Grugel (Education)  
Sarah Myers (Theatre Arts)  
Henry Yoon (Psychology)

### New staff (since June 1):

Erica Leanna, Dance Team  
Julie Plaut, Minnesota Campus Compact  
Barbara Gaiser, Office of the President  
Melody Martagon-Geiger, TRiO/SSS  
Kelly Crawford, Human Resources  
Kelsie Lungstrom, Athletics  
Samantha Weinman, Cheerleading  
Amy Cram Helwich, Urban Debate League

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Colleen Morgan-Moehrle, Swimming  
Evan Fuhs, Men's soccer  
Peter Schattauer, Day Admissions  
Jennifer Hess, Athletics

### **Welcome, Center for Democracy and Citizenship**

The [Center for Democracy and Citizenship](#), an organization with a reputation across the globe for innovative thinking about public engagement, became part of Augsburg College on July 1. The center, which had been part of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, grounds its work in the belief that a healthy democracy requires everyone's participation, and that each of us has something to contribute. Over the next year, conversations will take place to integrate the work of the center in the Augsburg community.

We welcome the staff of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship to Augsburg—Harry Boyte, Dennis Donovan, Elaine Eschenbacher, Derek Johnson, Debra Klein, Maria McNamara, Danielle Peterson, Nancy Skelton, Erik Skold, and Ellen Tveit.

### **Planning for the pandemic flu epidemic**

A group has been formed on campus to proactively develop a plan, following the Center for Disease Control guidelines, to appropriately and effectively respond to an outbreak of the H1N1 flu. We will also provide materials to incoming students and encouragement across campus by way of signage and messaging about the precautions needed to stay healthy. Our new, comprehensive website at <http://www.augsburg.edu/h1n1> will update planning, monitor any outbreaks, and serve as the primary communicator during the flu season.

### **Fall sports preview—Go Auggies!**

The fall season is already underway for our student-athletes. I'm a big Auggie sports fan, and I hope you'll join me at home games to cheer on our teams. This week the fall teams have the following competitions:

- Men's and women's cross country—Sept. 5, Bethel University Dual Meet in Riverside Park
- Football—Sept. 5, Crown College at home
- Men's golf—Sept. 4 and 5, at Edgewood College Fall Classic
- Women's golf—Sept. 1, at University of Wisconsin-River Falls dual meet; Sept. 5 and 6, at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire invitational
- Men's soccer—Sept. 1, at University of Minnesota-Morris; Sept. 5, Wartburg College at home; and Sept. 7, Central College at home
- Women's soccer—Sept. 1, at University of Wisconsin-Stout; Sept. 4, at Loras College; and Sept. 6, at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- Volleyball—Sept. 4 and 5, at St. Olaf/Carleton Tournament

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## Update on maintenance projects

- Christensen Center restrooms—completed renovation of two restrooms on third level and two on main level
- EPA self audit—completed initial campus audit and turned in findings to Environmental Assurance for proper recording and report preparation
- 2011 6th Street house demolition—in process and will be completed by mid September.
- Ice Rink A—completed the refurbishment of the piping infrastructure alignment and re-surfaced the rink
- Music Hall condensing unit—completed replacement of the air conditioning condensing unit at ground level
- Mortensen/Urness exterior shell repair—completed the Urness side of the shell repair. Mortensen side will be completed in calendar year 2010
- Music and Sverdrup Hall roofs—completed replacement using a new white roof technology that resists heat gain during cooling season and improves the building's cooling efficiency
- Custodial day shift model—completed the day shift model conversion. Formerly all primary cleaning of the campus was done from 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.; now it is done from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., utilizing two shifts, with most crew not having to work weekend days
- Other annual projects completed—bio-retention campus element rehab, campus carpet replacement, campus exterior concrete replacement, Residence Life living unit summer rehab, and general extensive annual campus grounds re-work and care.

## KUDOS

Kudos to **Mallory Carstens** and **Kate Lewis**, Augsburg's Bonner students, who received a Serve 2.0 Star Community Partner Profile award, presented during the Bonner Summer Leadership Institute, for the video they prepared that introduced Augsburg to the Bonner program.

Kudos to the **Office of Marketing and Communication staff** for the "Going Green-production" award of excellence received from the University and College Designers Association (UCDA) for *Augsburg Now's* spring issue "Auggies Go Green."

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

## September 1 and 2

### New faculty and staff orientation

Johnson Conference Center, Oren Gateway Center

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**Wednesday, Sept. 2**

**First Wednesday Gathering for faculty and staff**

11 a.m.–1 p.m. lunch, East Commons; 8 p.m. supper for security and evening custodial crew

**Friday, Sept. 4**

**TRANSFER-mation**, fall orientation for incoming transfer students

**September 5–13**

**Auggie Days**

**Saturday, Sept. 5**

**Move-in for first-year day students**

**Monday, Sept. 7**

**Move-in for upperclass students**

## **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., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—First Word Community Gathering at 7:30–7:50 a.m.

Daily chapel services begin on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The First Word Gathering begins on Saturday, Sept. 12.

**Sports results and schedule**—<http://athletics.augsburg.edu>

Have a great week!