



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

September 1, 2008

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Good morning. A very warm welcome to everyone in this new academic year, Augsburg College's 140th year. I especially welcome our first-year and transfer students, our new faculty and staff, plus all returning students and members of the Augsburg community.

Even as we enjoy glorious weather for our Auggie Days activities, however, we keep the people on the Gulf Coast in our thoughts and prayers as they face the force and destruction of Hurricane Gustav.

The academic year kicks off tomorrow morning, Tuesday, with the **Opening Convocation for day students at 10:30 a.m. in Hoversten Chapel**. In our Auggie tradition, first-year students will process into the chapel to the applause of welcoming faculty (which is followed by a similar tradition as graduating students march to Melby Hall through lines of cheering faculty). Sociology professor Lars Christiansen, 2008 recipient of the Center for Teaching and Learning's Distinguished Contributions Award for Excellence in Teaching, will speak at the Convocation.

Another truly Augsburg tradition takes place Tuesday afternoon as **more than 500 of us—first-years, Orientation Leaders, faculty, and the President's Cabinet—visit 23 sites (18 of them in walking distance of campus), for City Service Projects Day**. I look forward to accompanying an AugSem group to Waite House, a human services and community center in the Phillips neighborhood. Other projects include painting a mural with Trinity Congregation in Cedar-Riverside, working at the Bedlam Theatre, and caring for Augsburg's community garden.

Next weekend begins our Augsburg for Adults fall trimester, with adult undergraduate and graduate students beginning their classes. Once again, we will host Welcome Weekend, with faculty, staff, and students volunteering to welcome new and continuing students and help them find their classes. **The weekend Opening Convocation will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6, at noon, in Hoversten Chapel**, following the same program as Tuesday's convocation.

Our participation in **The Washington Center's internship seminar for the Republican National Convention** has added to the activity of opening week this year. Augsburg was chosen to host this seminar—with 120 students from around the country attending, including 20 Augsburg students. Each morning, Monday through Thursday this week, from 9 a.m. to noon, speakers who are connected to the convention will make presentations on campus, which are open to the public at no cost. For The Washington Center's Speaker Series presenters and schedule, go to www.augsburg.edu/getpolitical.

Finally, as our chapel services begin again, **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

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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. An informal communion is held each Wednesday evening at 9:30 p.m. I draw your attention to the list of chapel speakers and programs in the calendar each week.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Tracking our work at Augsburg

The 2008–2009 academic year promises to be an exciting time at Augsburg as we continue the progress of last year and engage in a number of projects and initiatives in support of the College's overall strategic goals. We hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities to stay informed about what we, as a College community, are doing; where we are going; and how we are getting there. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend a variety of forums scheduled throughout the year and to read about the work of the College on the website. (Look for a link to a listing of the following forums/gatherings and written updates on the *Inside Augsburg* webpage soon.)

Forums and gatherings

All-Hands Meeting—Scheduled once each semester, this meeting provides an opportunity to hear an overview of various initiatives and projects currently underway and to ask questions of President Pribbenow and Cabinet members about matters of interest. The first All-Hands meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 6. (Open to all members of the community)

Community Time—These gatherings, held in the late afternoon of the last Tuesday of the month, support our commitment to building community and practicing common work. This is also an opportunity to get to know one another, exchange ideas, and collaborate in new ways. The first Community Time for fall semester will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 30, in the East Commons, Christensen Center. (Open to all members of the community)

Focused Conversations—These bi-monthly forums provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to engage in discussions about specific topics of interest to the Augsburg community. The first forum will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 3:45–4:45 p.m., in OGC 100. Information about future Focused Conversations will be posted on the calendar. (Open to all members of the community)

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First Wednesday Lunches—These monthly lunch-time gatherings are an opportunities to get to know one another, exchange ideas, and collaborate in new ways. Invite your colleagues and plan to join us for a free lunch. The first, First Wednesday Lunch of the semester is on Sept. 3, from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., in the East Commons, Christensen Center, and 7-9 p.m. in the Minneapolis Room for custodial and security staff. (Open to faculty and staff)

Updates on what's happening at Augsburg

Watch for information about new links on the Inside Augsburg page to periodic reports from the divisions and to updates regarding various projects and initiatives, including:

- President's Weekly Update
- Division reports (e.g., Enrollment, Budget/Financial, Institutional Advancement)
- Action projects
- Commissions
 - Augsburg as a College and University
 - Strategic Alliances and Partnerships
 - Financial Future
- CSBR (Center for Science, Business, and Religion)
- Other projects

KUDOS

Many thanks to the 53 volunteers 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.

Kudos and thanks to **David Warch, Jodi Collen, and the Events and Conference Planning staff** for all their work to organize Augsburg's participation in the The Washington Center seminar and the Republican National Convention.

Thanks, also, to those of you who extended gracious hospitality to our families and visitors on move-in day—to **Jodi Collen and our Events and Conference Planning team** for the myriad arrangements, to our **Orientation Leaders and team** for Auggie Days programming, to **Aviands for meals** 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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NOTABLE EVENTS

August 30–September 7

Auggie Days—Welcome to students

For information and schedule, www.augsburg.edu/auggiedays

SEPTEMBER 1–4

Get Political: Listen. Learn. Engage—Speaker Series

9 a.m.–noon daily, Hoversten Chapel

For information, www.augsburg.edu/getpolitical

SEPTEMBER 2

Opening Convocation for day students

10:30 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

City Service Day

12:30 p.m., various locations

SEPTEMBER 3

Classes begin for fall Day, PA, and MBA classes

Wednesday Gathering for faculty and staff

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

SEPTEMBER 5–7

Classes begin for fall WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW classes

Welcome Weekend, Augsburg for Adults

Sept. 5, 5–6:30 p.m., various locations

Sept. 6, 7:30–9 a.m. and 11 a.m.–noon, various locations

SEPTEMBER 6

Opening Convocation for adult undergraduate and graduate students

Noon, Hoversten Chapel

SEPTEMBER 8

Classes begin on Rochester Campus

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Daily Chapel Speaker

M,W,F—10:20 a.m.; T-Th—11:20 a.m.; Wed—9:30 p.m., Communion; Sat (when weekend classes meet)—time to be decided.

Wed., Sept. 3—Opening Chapel Extravaganza (To be held outside, at Foss Center; if bad weather, in Sateren Auditorium)

Thurs., Sept. 4—Jonathan Rundman and band, singer and songwriter (To be held outside, at Foss Center; if bad weather, in Sateren Auditorium)

Fri., Sept. 5—President Paul C. Pribbenow

Sports schedule

<http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics>

Have a great week!