



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

May 17, 2010

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Good morning. I am just back from a wonderful two-week visit to China and Singapore. I was with the Augsburg Choir for its international tour in China. Please see the well-done travel blog (<http://www.travelpod.com/members/augsburgchoir>) for a great overview of the trip. The choir sang beautifully and served as fabulous ambassadors for Augsburg in their visits and performances throughout China. It was a privilege to be with them. While in China I had opportunities to greet university heads in Beijing and to spend time with our colleagues at the United International College in Zhuhai, our partner college in China. I also had a fine visit to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. After the choir tour, I traveled to Singapore where our Augsburg faculty colleague, professor Tiong Tan, is on leave at the SIM-University, helping to establish a new school in human development and social work. Singapore is an exciting city with a deep commitment to higher education. I lectured at SIM-University and also visited the National University of Singapore and the PSB Academy, a private higher education institution.

This week, **summer research activities begin on campus**, as students launch into individual research projects or collaborative projects with faculty members or other mentors. Among programs offering research opportunities are:

- **URGO (Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity Office)**—Thirty-one students will spend 10 weeks in either part-time or full-time research. In addition, URGO students have weekly roundtables to check in on their progress and to practice skills, such as presenting to non-technical audiences and applying for fellowships, or to focus on topics such as research and ethics. Student research topics cross all disciplines; URGO researchers also include students who have received endowed scholarships for research, such as the Sundquist Scholars in the sciences. To read more about URGO students, go to http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2010/05_10_10/urgosummer10.html.
- **Nine McNair Scholars** are also beginning a 10-week summer research program, which is the major component of the McNair Scholars program. Working with faculty mentors, students will research varied topics that include media bias, rainfall and vegetation, Facebook relationships, ADHD and nicotine use, and religious coping. Students have opportunities to present their work and learn research tools needed for graduate school. Watch Inside Augsburg for more about the McNair Scholars.
- **Six first-year North Star STEM scholars** are doing research with four faculty members this summer from the physics, mathematics, and computer sciences departments. These students are funded by the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a National Science Foundation (NSF) program that supports underrepresented minorities achieving bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Augsburg is one of 16 Minnesota higher education institutions, along with the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), and the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) in this program. Watch Inside Augsburg for a story on the North Star STEM scholars.

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Next week, May 25-26, at the **second annual Diversity and Global Learning Conference, more than 20 faculty and staff will present a series of workshops and sessions** that will help improve the College's intercultural awareness and competence. Andrea Turner, chief diversity officer and assistant vice-president for human resources, and I will open the conference by talking about Augsburg's vision and commitment to intentional diversity. Contact conference co-chairs Bev Stratton, Augsburg Seminar director, or Lori Brandt Hale, director of general education, for more information.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Congratulations to Auggies in the post-season

Congratulations to the **Auggie men's track and field team that took fifth place** at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference outdoor championships last weekend. Junior Nick Ward claimed his second career outdoor conference title, and sophomore Rick Wolke recorded two top three finishes to lead the team to its highest finish at the outdoor conference championships under head coach Dennis Barker and its best outdoor championship team score in school history.

Sprinters Whitney Holman, Shanek Telphia, Ashley Carney, and Katie Vrieze won the 4x100 meter relay—setting a new school record—and took four of the top nine places in the 100-meter dash to lead the **women's track and field team to eighth place**, which marks the highest Augsburg has finished in the conference championship meet since 2005.

The Auggie baseball team defeated defending national champion St. Thomas on Friday in the first round of the MIAC baseball playoffs and then won over Concordia College in the second round. In the playoff championship round yesterday afternoon, however, Augsburg's season ended as the No. 5-ranked Tommies won over Augsburg for the automatic bid to the NCAA Division III national tournament—an exciting end to a great season.

Read more about the Auggie post-season competitions at <http://athletics.augsburg.edu>.

Welcome back!

The Augsburg men's soccer team has returned from its trip to Spain. Assistant coach Evan Fuhs blogged for the team during the trip; read his reports at <http://athletics.augsburg.edu/news/2010/5/3/gen050310.aspx?path=msoc>.

The women's soccer team left last week for Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany and will return on Wednesday. Follow them at <http://athletics.augsburg.edu/news/2010/5/3/gen050310.aspx?path=msoc> as well.

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Scheduled electrical maintenance

Facilities Management will be completing required maintenance activities on the electrical service(s) for Christensen Center, Old Main, Mortensen Hall, and Urness Hall this week, starting today. Electrical power will be interrupted to these facilities between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.; the buildings cannot be occupied during these times.

- Monday, May 17—Christensen Center and Old Main will be without power
- Tuesday, May 18—Urness Hall and Mortensen Hall will be without power
- Wednesday, May 19—No power interruptions
- Thursday, May 20—Christensen Center, Old Main, Mortensen Hall, and Urness Hall will all be without power
- Friday, May 21—No power interruptions. All work should be complete.

Summer Sessions begins today

The 2010 Summer Sessions begin today with the first online session—today is the last day to register for this option. For other registration deadlines and information, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/summer/registration.html>.

- Summer Session I June 1–July 2
- Summer Session II July 12–August 12
- Summer Online I May 17–July 2
- Summer Online II July 6–August 20

KUDOS

Kudos to chemistry student **Randy Krug**, whose research poster, “A Novel Method for Stimulating Growth in Algal Systems,” was awarded first prize of the TriBeta John C. Johnson Award at the Minnesota Academy of Science Winchell Undergraduate Symposium, hosted by University of St. Thomas. He received a travel grant to the biennial national convention of Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society. Last summer he worked with Professor Arlin Gyberg, Chemistry Department, and received an URGO grant.

Kudos to the new, recently-elected **Weekend College leaders**—**Jim Malzahn**, president; **Tom Gouras**, vice-president; and **Aeillyne Yburan**, treasurer.

Kudos to the winners of the Residence Life End-of-the-Year awards:

Community Adviser—**Elisabeth Clemens**, Luther Hall
Resident Assistant—**Kate Lewis**, Anderson Hall
Lead Staff—**Jared Hartman**, Anderson Facilities Coordinator
Floor/Hall Leader—**Kalli Limmer**, Urness Hall FYRC President
Residence Life Professional Staff—**Mike Perry**, Urness Residence Hall Director
Spotlight Individual—**Becky Shaheen**, Urness Hall Student Programming Coordinator
Spotlight Group—EpiC, **Center for Counseling and Health Promotion**
Responsible Program—“Safety of Self,” **David Ishida, Gloria Morales Xinico, Sergio Romero Garcia**—Urness Hall

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Respectful Program—"Love in the Elevator," **Nimo Hire, Alix Young, Nate Althoff**—Anderson Hall

Resourceful Program—"Tattoos," **Alix Young, Avery Winter**—Anderson/Urness Hall

Weekend Program—"Party Hardy I," **Tim Bemrich, Tyler Puimbroeck**—Oren Gateway Center

Many thanks to the **Residence Life staff** graduating this year for their service: **Bekki Amey, Amber Asmus, Zach Sommer, Stephanie Korfe, Everett Brown, Schyler Tilson, Kassie Bloom, Leann Vice-Reshal, and Amber Mullenbach.**

Kudos to the **First Year Resident Council** for their final event, co-sponsored with Avians, that ended the first-year experience. KAUG played to 448 people on Urness Lawn.

NOTABLE EVENTS through June 1—For a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Inside Augsburg Calendar at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

May 17–July 2

Summer Session Online

Monday–Wednesday, May 17–19

Faculty Workshop

Scholarly Writing Conference

Dunrovin Retreat Center

Tuesday, May 18

2009–10 Convocation Series, "Professionalism, Ethics, and the Best Interests of Patients," Paul S. Mueller '84, Mayo Clinic physician, staff consultant, and associate professor

7 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave. SE, Rochester, MN

Friday–Sunday, May 21–23

WEC, MAE, MAN, MSW classes meet

Monday, May 24

Faculty Workshop

Women's Studies Retreat

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Monday, May 24

6th annual Augsburg Men's and Women's Golf Fundraiser

Noon, registration; shotgun start, 1:30 p.m., TPC Twin Cities Golf Course, Blaine, MN

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Tuesday–Wednesday, May 25–26
Diversity and Global Learning Conference

Tuesday, May 25
Community Time
3:45 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

Monday, May 31
Memorial Day—College is closed

June 1–July 2
Summer Session I

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Daily chapel services Monday through Friday will resume in September; WEC First Word Community Gathering, Saturday morning when classes meet, 7:30–7:50 a.m.

Saturday, May 22—First Word gathering, Michele Roulet, Campus Ministry Associate, “A Tree and its Fruit,” Matthew 7:15–20.

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

The next Update will come out on Tuesday, June 1. Have a great two weeks!