



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

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**Good morning.** Last Friday, we began the first of our three SOAR sessions, the summer orientation for incoming first-year day students and their parents. In the two days students are here, they meet their classmates and current students, get their fall course schedules and ID cards, explore Augsburg and the neighborhood, and learn about campus resources and services. Separate SOAR sessions for parents provide resources to help their students make a successful transition to college. The second SOAR session meets today and tomorrow, with the last session on Wednesday and Thursday. Many thanks to Campus Activities and Orientation staff Joanne Reeck-Irby and Michael Grewe, to student orientation leaders Shannon O'Brien and Thomas Rixen, and to other faculty and staff for work and planning to create a successful campus orientation. I hope you'll take time to welcome these new Auggies and their parents to campus.

**I look forward to Augsburg's first Urban Scrubs Camp** that begins on Sunday here on campus. Scrubs Camps are weeklong opportunities for 70–80 high school students to explore career opportunities in various healthcare fields and to experience college life. Our Scrubs Camp grew out of a project with the Cedar-Riverside Partnership to create workforce development potential in the healthcare field as well as to provide a positive opportunity for our neighborhood youth. With help from scholarships funds pledged by partner members, we'll have 15–20 young people from Cedar-Riverside participating in our camp.

The Scrubs Camp planning committee has included Steve Peacock, Community Relations, and Sara Schlipp-Riedel, Event and Conference Planning. A number of our faculty, staff, and students will lead sessions and provide support. In addition to the Cedar-Riverside Partnership and Augsburg, the camp is sponsored by HealthForce Minnesota, Fairview Health Systems, and the University of Minnesota.

**I want to update you on the Great Colleges to Work For survey** completed in April and to thank all the faculty and staff who completed the survey. Through your participation, we achieved a 68% response rate, which is very important in establishing a sound baseline of data about working at Augsburg. The top rankings of Great Colleges to Work For will be published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on July 30, and we expect to receive the summary report of Augsburg's aggregate data this week. Our plan is to use the data both to highlight topics that were seen as strengths and to identify two key areas where improvements are needed and include them in our planning over the next several years. With the solid response rate achieved in our first year of the survey, we now have a benchmark against which to gauge our progress as we move toward a vision of becoming an employer of choice.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Vocation conference at Augsburg**

This week, Augsburg hosts the 16th annual Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference, July 29–31. The title of this year's conference is "A Calling to Embrace the Neighbor:

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Lutheran Higher Education in the Midst of Religious Diversity,” and will explore one of the most critical issues facing Lutheran higher education today: how Lutheran colleges can embrace, celebrate, and reflect the religious diversity of their communities.

The conference begins with dinner on Thursday evening, followed by the opening presentation on religious diversity. Other session topics include civil discourse and diversity, Jewish-Christian encounters, Muslim-Christian encounters, and reflections on our calling to embrace the ‘other’. The conference runs from late afternoon on Thursday, July 29, through early afternoon on Saturday, July 31. Faculty and staff who are interested in attending can register until Wednesday, July 28, by contacting Diane Glorvigen, at [glorvige@augsburg.edu](mailto:glorvige@augsburg.edu), or x1334, with name, title, and the number of meals they plan to attend at the conference.

#### **Hoversten Peace Seminar group to Mexico**

On Saturday, a group of Augsburg students, faculty, and staff leave for the Center for Global Education’s site in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for the 2010 Hoversten Peace Seminar, where they will focus on globalization and migration. Supported by the Hoversten Peace Endowment, this biennial travel seminar for Augsburg faculty, staff, and students aims to develop a strong learning community among participants, which is continued upon their return as they share their experiences with the larger Augsburg community. I was fortunate to be part of the 2006 Hoversten Peace Seminar in Cuernavaca; our group met with remarkable people who shared their deeply moving stories with us. We wish this year’s group a safe journey and look forward to hearing about their seminar.

#### **GEMS and GISE finishing up this week**

Once again, boys and girls in grades 3–8 from Minneapolis Public Schools have been on campus for GEMS and GISE—Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science, and Guys In Science and Engineering. This year they’ve explored robotics through an amusement park physics project by studying the movements of roller coasters at Valleyfair and then constructing their own roller coaster models. They’ve also made iMovies documenting their summer work and participated in other elective activities. Twenty Augsburg students have worked as mentors to GEMS/GISE, and Augsburg alum Dayle VanderLeest ’04 is the Augsburg coordinator. This week on Thursday, July 29, everyone is invited to participate in the GEMS/GISE closing day festivities with an exhibition of their projects from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the closing program at 4 p.m.

#### **Great test scores from our charter schools**

Augsburg received good news about scores on the Minnesota state reading and math tests reported by two of the charter schools sponsored by the College. Both Hiawatha Leadership Academy and Cedar Riverside Community School scored much better than schools with similar poverty levels and demographics, and Cedar-Riverside’s math scores were better than any comparable school. The teachers at both schools are extremely dedicated to helping students achieve; Cedar-Riverside also benefits from a number of Augsburg students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alums who have been involved in service-learning at the school.

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## **Augsburg hosts students from China**

Augsburg is currently hosting the month-long visit of a group of students from United International College in Zhuhai, China, a partner school to Augsburg. The students are studying Minnesota history and culture, as well as participating in other summer classes of their interest. Outside of class, they're visiting cultural and historical venues and enjoying riverboat rides, canoeing, and social activities. It seems just a short time ago that the Augsburg Choir and I were welcomed so warmly on UIC's campus in Zhuhai, and I'm pleased to have these students with us until their return on August 13.

## **KUDOS**

Kudos to Augsburg's coaching staff who volunteered their time to prime the walls at the new women's shelter space for Simpson Housing Services. The group included volleyball head coach **Jane Gibbs** and assistant coach **Laura Hegerle**, women's hockey head coach **Michelle McAteer**, wrestling assistant coach **Jared Evans**, softball assistant coach **Mel Lee**, and non-Auggie **Jon Becker**.

Kudos to **Brian Noy**, the **Campus Kitchen student interns**, and the **Brian Coyle Community Center** who recently worked together on Cedar-Riverside Youth Week. This summer they have provided neighborhood youth with opportunities to grow their own vegetables in the Augsburg Community Garden and to learn to cook meals from scratch with their garden produce.

Kudos to URGO staff **Dixie Shafer** and **Caryn Quist**, and the **students in the URGO Summer Research program** who presented their projects during past week.

**NOTABLE EVENTS through August 23**—For a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Inside Augsburg Calendar at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

### **Through July 30**

**GEMS/GISE**—girls and boys, grades 3–8 from Minneapolis Public Schools, focusing on science and math projects

### **Through August 12**

**Summer Session II classes**

### **Through August 12**

**Summer Bridge**—a five-week residential program for admitted first-year Augsburg students who are TRiO/SSS eligible.

### **Through August 13**

**Visit of 13 students from United International College in Zhuhai, China**

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Through August 20  
Summer Online Session II

July 26–27, and 28–29

SOAR II, and III—Orientation for first-year day students and their parents

Monday, July 26–Thursday, July 29 Youth Football Clinic

Augsburg Youth Football Clinic, commuter camp for ages 8–14.

Saturday, July 31–Sunday, Aug. 8

Hoversten Peace Seminar 2010: Globalization and Migration

Cuernavaca, Mexico

Sunday, Aug. 1–Thursday, Aug. 5

Urban Scrubs Camp at Augsburg

Monday, Aug. 2

Augsburg Men's Basketball Golf Outing

Gopher Hills Golf Course, Cannon Falls, Minn.

10:30 a.m., registration; Noon, shotgun start

Contact [griess@augsborg.edu](mailto:griess@augsborg.edu)

Wednesday, Aug. 4

Wednesday Gathering

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center

Wednesday Evening Gathering—for evening custodial crew

8 p.m., Augsburg Room

August 16–19 and 23–26

Augsburg men's hockey team hosts a hockey camp for boys in grades 9–12

## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Daily chapel services Monday through Friday and the WEC First Word Gatherings on Saturday mornings will resume in September.

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

Have a great summer—the President's Update resumes its weekly schedule on August 23.