



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

September 7, 2009

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Good morning. Welcome to this grand week of opening activities for the 2009-10 academic year. Saturday we welcomed parents and first-year students moving into the residence halls, part of our largest first-year day class—more than 460 students. Today our returning students are moving back in, bringing the campus back to its full residential population.

This fall we filled our residence halls with 1,082 students on campus—of these 340 are first-year day students in Urness and Anderson Halls, and 35 are transfer students. First-year and transfer students in the StepUP program have moved into Oren Gateway Center. This is the largest number of students who have lived on campus; if openings occur for spring semester, we hope to move first-year students who are on a waiting list into the residence halls.

Tomorrow at 10:30 a.m., the Opening Convocation welcomes first-year students in a uniquely-Auggie tradition as they walk into Hoversten Chapel through lines of applauding faculty in full academic garb. Mathematics professor Tracy Bibelnicks, the 2009 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching award, will speak to the new class.

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to lunch on the Quad with first-year students and orientation leaders who will then fan out around the city to begin the afternoon City Service Day projects. Watch for our orange “Take Flight” t-shirts! I will join the AugSem group that goes to the Cedar Cultural Center for some clean-up work.

On Saturday, all are welcome to the Augsburg for Adults Opening Celebration picnic in the Quad from 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., with music and brief welcomes.

This fall, classes begin for Augsburg students in five locations:

- Main campus (Minneapolis)—Fall semester day classes begin on Wednesday; fall trimester weekend and graduate classes begin on Friday
- Rochester campus (Bethel Lutheran Church)—Fall trimester classes begin tomorrow evening, September 8
- Bloomington (St. Stephen Lutheran Church)—MBA classes begin Monday, September 14
- Thrivent Financial (downtown Minneapolis)—MBA classes begin tomorrow evening, September 8
- United Hospital (St. Paul)—Classes for fall trimester undergraduate nursing students begin Thursday evening, September 10.

Enjoy the opening week celebrations—I hope you will join me in chapel on Wednesday, as our daily chapel services begin once again.

We're pleased to introduce the A-Club Grille, now open on the lower level of Christensen Center, with hours from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5–9 p.m., Monday through Friday. Try it out, and watch for a grand opening to come later.

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Finally, congratulations to our student-athletes for a great start to the fall sports season. Over the weekend, the Auggie football team won its home opener over Crown College, 44-13; the volleyball team also won, and the men's and women's soccer teams scored ties. Both men's and women's cross country had strong finishes, and the men's and women's golf teams played well in tournaments. For details, go to <http://athletics.augsburg.edu>.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Sustainability Awareness Month

A month-long series of events during September, created by students and led by senior Kjerstin Hagen, will focus on raising awareness of sustainability issues and changing the habits of the Augsburg community. Each week, information tables in Christensen Center and other activities on campus will focus on a different issue:

- Week 1—Waste reduction and management
- Week 2—Alternative transportation
- Week 3—Alternative energy and consumption, including a talk on September 21 by environmentalist Bill McKibben
- Week 4—Connecting communities through food

For information about activities during these weeks, go to

https://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2009/08_31_09/SAM.html?month=9&year=2009&day=11

Forums and gatherings

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 the fall semester will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 3:45 p.m., in East Commons, Christensen Center. (Open to all members of the community)

First Wednesday Gathering—These gatherings are opportunities on the first Wednesday of each month to get to know one another, exchange ideas, and collaborate in new ways. Invite your colleagues and plan to join us for First Wednesday Lunch Gathering from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., in East Commons, Christensen Center. There will also be a Wednesday Evening Gathering at 8 p.m. in the Minneapolis Room for evening custodial and security staff. The next First Wednesday Gathering will be on October 7. (Open to faculty and staff)

Focused Conversations—These regular forums provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to engage in discussions about specific topics of interest to the Augsburg community. Watch for information on the Inside Augsburg calendar about these conversations. (Open to all members of the community)

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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. (Open to all members of the community)

Closing for chapel time

I want to draw your attention to the importance of chapel in Augsburg's life and mission. This is a time—Sabbath time—for us as a community 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 for First Word Gathering at 7:30 a.m. An informal communion is held Wednesday evenings at 9:09 p.m. I draw your attention to the list of chapel speakers and programs in the calendar below and on the Inside Augsburg calendar. It is meaningful time for us to spend together each day.

Spirituality Breakfast marks Recovery Month

On Thursday morning, the StepUP program kicks off the 20th anniversary of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September with the Spirituality Breakfast, at 7:30 a.m. in East Commons.

Public transportation options

Augsburg has made a strong commitment toward sustainability by encouraging the use of public transportation and alternatives to commuting by car. The Transportation Board in Christensen Center, near the lobby, contains information about :

- Public transportation—bus and light rail schedules, and discounted fares for students and employees (one-year Metropass Go-To Card and cash value cards at 50%)
- ACTC buses—a free shuttle among the ACTC campuses (Augsburg, Hamline, Macalester, St. Kate's, St. Thomas) to get back and forth from classes or to commute
- Carpooling—with Metro Transit's help, carpools can be arranged. Augsburg faculty, staff, and students qualify by sharing vehicles for discounted Augsburg parking permits and a guaranteed parking space
- HOURCAR at Augsburg—An HOURCAR is located on campus and can be reserved by the hour or by the day

KUDOS

Many thanks to **Sally Daniels** for coordinating the many **State Fair volunteers** who filled the 36 time slots in the Augsburg booth. It's a great way to get Augsburg and Auggies more visible in the community.

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Thanks, also, to those of you who extended gracious hospitality to our families and visitors on move-in day—to **Jodi Collen and the Event and Conference Planning team** for the myriad arrangements, to **Orientation Leaders and their teams** for Auggie Days programming, to **Aviands** for meals served, to **Bruce Rowe and the grounds and maintenance crews** for keeping our campus looking so beautiful, to our **Public Safety office**, and to the countless others who greeted and assisted our students and families.

Kudos to **Lori York** and **Wayne Kallestad**, registrar's office, who reviewed and edited the content of the VA benefits pages on Augsburg's military support web pages, directing students to further information on the GI Bill website. Go to www.augsburg.edu/military.

Congratulations to **Garry Hesser**, Sociology, who was honored with an Outstanding Citizen Award from CHANCE (Cedar Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement), a student-led initiative that began at the Humphrey Institute and that seeks to expand the idea of community and sustainable, just partnerships through collaboration in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. Graduate students specifically sought out Garry to teach the "CHANCE" course, which engages students in community-based research in partnership with our neighborhood.

Congratulations to the **volleyball team**, led by coach **Jessica Rinehart**, who have received the 2008-09 AVCA Team Academic Award from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. This award honors teams who have matched their dedication to the sport of volleyball with excellence in the classroom.

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

September 5-13

Auggie Days

Monday, Sept. 7

Move-in for upperclass students

Tuesday, Sept. 8

Opening Convocation

10:30 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

Tuesday, Sept. 8

City Service Day

12:30 p.m., various locations

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Classes begin for fall semester

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Thursday, Sept. 10

Spirituality Breakfast, StepUP program

7:30–9 a.m., East Commons, Christensen Center

RSVP to Anne Grove, 612-330-1692; no cost

Sept. 11–13

Classes begin for fall trimester—Weekend College, MAE, MAL, MAN, and MSW

Saturday, Sept. 12

Augsburg for Adults Opening Celebration picnic

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., Quad (Christensen Center, East Commons, in case of rain).

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, 7:30–7:50 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9—Opening day celebration

Wednesday eve., 9:09 p.m.—Songs and communion

Thursday, Sept. 10—Pastor Sonja Hagander

Friday, Sept. 11—New Life Band, from Tanzania

Saturday, Sept. 12—First Word Gathering, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” Michelle Cerame, WEC Student Senate president

Monday, Sept. 14—President Pribbenow

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

Just a reminder about Augsburg’s planning for an H1N1 flu outbreak ... for information, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/h1n1> for updates, monitoring, and communications during the flu season.

Have a great week!