



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

September 14, 2009

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Good morning. On Thursday, we are pleased to welcome to campus a delegation from **SIM University in Singapore**, a privately-funded university focusing on the learning needs of working professionals and adult learners. The group, including the chancellor and chairman of the board, president, provost, registrar, and director of finance and planning, is in the U.S. visiting several colleges and universities to learn about adult learning and service-learning. We are honored that they have chosen to visit our campus.

During their visit at Augsburg they will meet with faculty and staff from Academic Affairs; Augsburg for Adults; graduate programs; Information Technology; Center for Service, Work, and Learning; and the Office of International Programs and CGE. Their discussions will focus on issues related to faculty recruitment and retention, including adjunct faculty; teaching and learning models for adult learners; service-learning; and preparing for global citizenship. I hope you will welcome them to Augsburg on Thursday.

During this academic year, **we continue the important work of the commissions** established to study various strategic issues facing the College. I am pleased to update you on their work as the 2009-10 year begins.

Commission on Aligning Enrollment Strategy with Organizational Culture (chaired by Julie Edstrom, Vice President for Enrollment Management)

The purpose of this commission is to explore the implications of Augsburg's current and planned student population—the results of its enrollment strategies—for all aspects of organizational culture: people, programs, and processes.

The goals for the commission are:

- increase awareness of the demographic and academic profile of Augsburg students
- recommend ways to develop intercultural competency of faculty, staff, and students
- support student success
- define and support a distinctive learning experience for adult students

Potential activities during the year include learning more about our student population, assessing and discussing the Intercultural Developmental Inventory, exploring new models for advising and mentoring, working to improve graduation rates, and defining and documenting adult student service models and addressing gaps.

Commission on Strategic Alliances and Partnerships (chaired by Leif Anderson, Vice President and Chief Information Officer)

The commission's charge is to explore signature external relationships in support of Augsburg's mission, including the refinement of existing and the development of new alliances and partnerships.

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The work of this commission (which was initially launched last year) draws on the findings of two of last year's commissions—Institutional Identity and Financial Future—to explore the signature partnerships that strengthen Augsburg's identity and the strategic relationships with potential impact on revenue and cost.

The commission will produce recommendations in the form of a framework to identify and evaluate opportunities. During the year it will hear from experts, consider case studies, and engage in conversations about current topics and innovation in technology, controlling costs, business practices, etc.

Commission on Institutional Identity (*aka* Augsburg as College and University)
(chaired by President Pribbenow and co-organized by the Student, Staff, and Faculty Senates)

The work of the Identity Commission is reaching its conclusion. We have gathered the findings from last year's many meetings with faculty, staff, and students and have explored the good work of the "Augsburg Vocation: Access and Excellence" vision process, as well as the mission statement conversations during my first year on campus. In the next week or so, I will issue a report on the Identity Commission's work and propose a new set of identity and mission statements for the College. There will be opportunities in the next month or so for all campus constituencies to discuss the Identity Commission's work.

The Commission on Our Financial Future, which was chaired by vice president and CFO Kevin Myren, pursued its work last academic year and has drafted a final report that will be presented to the Board of Regents Finance Committee later this week. Once the board has reviewed the report, there will be opportunities for campus conversations about the commission's report, which includes important recommendations concerning long-term financial plans for Augsburg. My thanks to all of the Augsburg community members who participated in the critical work of this commission.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Augsburg Corporation Governing Board meeting

On Friday we host the annual meeting of the Augsburg Corporation Governing Board. The Governing Board represents the ELCA's constitutional support to the College from Augsburg's four designated synods—Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Southeastern Minnesota, and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. The board includes representatives from the congregations in these synods, and Augsburg's Board of Regents, faculty, college administrators, and students. An important responsibility of the Governing Board at their annual meeting is to elect new members to Augsburg's Board of Regents.

The Governing Board will join us for chapel that day, and I hope you'll have an opportunity to greet and welcome them.

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Scholastic Connections

Scholastic Connections' annual dinner will take place on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the East Commons. I'm always pleased to be part of this special evening as we celebrate the students and alumni who participate in this scholarship and mentoring program. We'll introduce the new scholarship students for the 2009-10 year at the dinner.

KUDOS

My congratulations and thanks to **all of you who contributed to the remarkable week of events launching this new academic year.**

- To everyone involved in Auggie Days who helped to welcome a record class of first-year day students, including **Campus Activities and Orientation, Residence Life, Academic Advising, the Enrollment Center, student Orientation Leaders, coaches and student-athletes, and many others**
- To Professor **Tracy Bibelnicks** (Mathematics) for her engaging convocation address and singing, and to the Gospel Praise Jazz Ensemble for their uplifting music
- To our **AugSem groups, Cabinet, faculty and staff** who spent an afternoon in the neighborhoods learning about and providing service to the communities around us—with special thanks to the Center for Service, Work, and Learning and the AugSem leaders for organizing this effort.
- To **Lori Peterson, Jessica Fox-Wilson and others in Augsburg for Adults, plus the faculty, staff, and student leaders** who volunteered during the weekend to greet new and returning undergraduate and graduate adult students and to help them find their classes.
- And, finally, to all of you who extended hospitality—to **Event and Conference Planning, to A'viands, to grounds and maintenance crews, to Public Safety, and to many others.**

Kudos to mathematics major **Al Garver '10**, who presented his research "(0,2)-Graphs from Roots Systems Using Tableau" at the Young Mathematicians Conference at Ohio State last month. The work was a result of Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) performed this summer at the University of Georgia.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Ethnic Student Services Student Welcome Open House

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Murphy Place

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Study Abroad Fair

10:40 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center lobby

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Thursday, Sept. 17

Constitution Day as narrative

Noon, East Commons, Christensen Center

Friday, Sept. 18

Augsburg Corporation Governing Board annual meeting

9 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

Friday, Sept. 18

Scholastic Connections Gala and Dinner

5:45 p.m., Reception, Marshall Room;

6:30 p.m., Dinner, East Commons

Monday, Sept. 21

Bernhard M. Christensen Symposium

"The Most Important Number on Earth: Climate Change and Moral Challenge," Bill McKibben, environmentalist and author

7:30 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

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.

Tuesday, Sept. 15—Favorite Music Day

Wednesday, Sept. 16—Pastor Dave Wold

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

Thursday, Sept. 17—Phil Quanbeck II, Chair, Religion Dept.

Friday, Sept. 18—Pastor Kelly Chatman, Redeemer Center for Life

Monday, Sept. 21—Christensen Symposium Chapel, David Tiede, Bernhard Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation

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

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

Have a great week!