



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

September 6, 2010

Page 1

**Good morning.** Welcome to everyone as we begin the fall term in Augsburg's 142nd academic year. On Saturday, we welcomed first-year day students (and their families) as they moved into the residence halls, and today we welcome back our returning students.

Tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m., we officially recognize our first-year day students in Auggie tradition, as they process into Hoversten Chapel to the applause of faculty lined up to greet them, for the Opening Convocation. This practice is repeated at Commencement, when graduating students march through lines of faculty applauding their achievements and wishing them well, as they make their way to the Commencement ceremony.

English professor Bob Cowgill, recipient of the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award, will speak to the new class in a talk titled "Your Book in My Hands: Prospero's Library in the Digital Age."

Following the convocation, all faculty, staff, and students are invited to lunch on the Quad with first-year students and orientation leaders who will then disperse around the neighborhoods and into St. Paul to carry out City Service Day projects—watch for our grey and light green T-shirts! The President's Cabinet members will join several AugSem groups; I will be doing gardening work with AugSem I and Professor Phil Adamo at Dowling Urban Environmental School in Minneapolis.

Fall trimester classes begin on Friday evening. On both Friday evening and Saturday morning, Augsburg faculty, staff, and student leaders will welcome new and returning students as they arrive on campus. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome at the Augsburg for Adults Opening Picnic on the Quad, 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. (East Commons in Christensen Center, in case of rain).

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 7.
- Bloomington (St. Stephen Lutheran Church)—Undergraduate AA to BA classes begin Thursday evening, September 9; MAL and MBA classes begin Monday, September 13.
- Thrivent Financial (downtown Minneapolis)—MBA classes begin tomorrow evening, September 7.
- United Hospital (St. Paul)—Classes for fall trimester undergraduate nursing students begin Monday evening, September 13.

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

September 6, 2010

Page 2

Congratulations to our student-athletes on a great start to the fall sports season. Over the weekend, the Auggie football team won its home opener over Concordia University-Wisconsin, and the Auggie volleyball team finished with a 3-1 record at Sugar Loaf Classic hosted by St. Mary's University. Our men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, and men's soccer teams also competed this weekend. For details, go to [www.augsburg.edu/athletics](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics).

### **Welcome, international students!**

Augsburg welcomes 35 new international students this fall—8 first-year students from 8 countries, a graduate student from Poland in the Master of Nursing program, and 27 students from Augsburg's partner institutions in China, Germany, and Norway who will study at Augsburg for one or two semesters. Last week, Wednesday through Friday, the students participated in international student orientation.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Community forums and gatherings**

**I am pleased to remind the Augsburg community of various ways by which we build community, learn what is happening on campus, and honor the mission of Augsburg.**

Daily chapel time—I especially want to draw your attention to the importance of daily chapel in Augsburg's life and mission. This is a time for us as a community—Sabbath time—in which we step back from our normal duties to gather for worship or to reflect in another way. **I remind staff and faculty that all offices are 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 sacred time for us to spend together each day.

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. 28, 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 enjoy a meal and get to know one another better. Invite your colleagues and plan to join us for First Wednesday Lunch Gathering from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., in East

September 6, 2010

Page 3

Commons, Christensen Center. There will also be a Wednesday Evening Gathering at 8 p.m. in the Augsburg Room for evening custodial staff. The next First Wednesday Gathering will be on October 6. (Open to faculty and staff)

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 fall All-Hands Meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 11:15 a.m. in Hoversten Chapel. (Open to all members of the community)

#### **First Year @ Augsburg Online Workshop**

The Augsburg for Adults office (in collaboration with Academic Advising, the Academic Skills Office, Lindell Library, Information Technology, and the Strommen Career and Internship Center) is launching a three-week “First Year @ Augsburg Online Workshop” for new Weekend College students. This optional workshop will provide students with resources and information about becoming a successful student, while building a community of support.

#### **Planning events on campus**

Thanks to the good work over the past few months by a task force led by Jodi Collen, Event and Conference Planning, and John Pack, Public Safety, we have now guidelines for better managing and applying resources to events held on campus that are planned by external organizations. Information and forms for anyone planning either College-sponsored events for external organizations or departmental events are now found at [www.augsburg.edu/events](http://www.augsburg.edu/events).

#### **Task force on privacy**

Last year, I appointed an ad hoc task force on privacy and charged it with conducting a review of privacy policies applicable to our faculty, staff, and students in the context of alignment with the College's values, adherence to legal and policy standards, and consistency across the College, and to make recommendations to me concerning the need for possible revisions. I want to express my appreciation to Professor Bob Groven, who chaired this group, and to the other task force members: Professor Phil Adamo; staff members Brad Christ, David Draus, and Bill Wittenbreer; and student senate representatives Juve Meza-Rodriguez and Lily Morris. I received the final report of the task force in June and have asked various members of my leadership team to follow up on several key recommendations. Later this fall, I will report back to you about the implementation of these recommendations.

#### **Center for Global Education updates**

- The Center for Global Education received its fourth **Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad** grant from the U.S. Department of Education, International Programs Service. Dee Vodicka, Education Department; Mary Dillon, student; and Desman Oakley '01, Augsburg alumnus, participated with nine other educators in a curriculum

September 6, 2010

Page 4

development group project under leadership from Urbanus Dax, CGE site director in Namibia and Shamani Shikwambi, assistant professor of education, Macon State University.

- Welcome back to the 5 faculty, 5 staff, and 10 students who participated in the **Hoversten Peace Seminar** with CGE. The 2010 travel seminar focused on "Migration and Globalization: Engaging Our Communities" in Cuernavaca, Mexico, July 31–Aug. 8.
- The **2010 Peace Prize Forum Peace Scholars**, Mai Yer Vang and Katie Edelen, enrolled in the Oslo University International Summer School with eight other peace scholars from the Nobel Peace Prize Forum college consortium. In addition to a regular summer school course, the students participated in a peace seminar focused on the unique and varied ways Norwegian individuals and organizations contribute to global peace-building efforts.

#### Recent grants to Augsburg

- The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$1.4 million over five years for the **Student Support Services/TRiO Program** with 160 students participating annually. This is the third SSS/TRiO grant Augsburg has received. Aly Olson is the project director.
- Augsburg is one of 14 colleges/universities collaborating with the International Center for Service-Learning in Teacher Education at Duke University and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education on a three-year project for **pre-service teacher education**. The project will provide \$80,000 for project activities; Joe Erickson, project director.
- The Minnesota Department of Education, with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Education, has awarded \$604,000 over three years for the 21st Century Learning Center located on the west side of St. Paul. Derek Johnson, Center for Democracy and Citizenship, project director.
- Augsburg has received several grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds). Grants include additional work-study funds for students, research funding in physics, and equipment in physics. The total awarded thus far is \$1,354,269. Mark Engebretson and David Murr, principal investigators.
- The National Science Foundation has awarded grants for research, instrumentation, and course design to Dave Hanson, Ben Stottrup, David Murr, and Mark Engebretson, through annual competitions. Total of recent awards is \$1,023,707.

#### Welcoming our President's Circle members

Last Thursday, I was pleased to join with the Institutional Advancement staff to welcome 65 members of our President's Circle to breakfast on campus and have the opportunity to update them on news about the College. The President's Circle, with a total of 363 members, supports Augsburg with gifts of \$1,000 or more each year. The leadership they provide in annual giving has enabled The Augsburg Fund to grow by 13% in the last three years.

September 6, 2010

Page 5

## KUDOS

Kudos and thanks to **Dixie Shafer** and **Caryn Quist**, URGO staff; **Tina Tavera**, **Dan Jackson**, and **Laura Crombie**, McNair Scholars staff; and **Rebecca Dupont**, LSAMP coordinator, for a highly successful student summer research program. Thirty-one students were supported by URGO, 10 by the McNair Scholars program, and 6 from LSAMP/North Star STEM program. Thanks also to the **faculty mentors** who worked with each student, and many **other faculty and staff members** who were involved in the programming.

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.

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 the **Residence Life staff**, to **A'viands** 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 the student summer Residence Life Staff, for their hard work—**Natassja Leach**, housing specialist assistant; **Brandy Hyatt** and **Josh Lyons**, summer facilities coordinators; **Ted Nielsen**, Step-UP residential adviser; **Erika Salkas** and **Fia Goldfine**, community advisers; and **James Mahowald**, student assistant to the director of residence life. During the summer they assisted with more than 300 housing placements; planned and implemented programs integrating the Step-UP community on campus; assisted in decorating and remodeling the Urn-Mort office suite and lobby; and planned large-scale programs, including roller skating.

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

Through September 11  
Auggie Days orientation

Tuesday, Sept. 7  
10:30 a.m., Opening Convocation  
12:30 p.m., City Service projects

Wednesday, Sept. 8  
Day semester classes begin

# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

AUGSBURG  
COLLEGE

September 6, 2010

Page 6

**Friday–Sunday, Sept. 10–12**

**Fall trimester classes begin—Welcome Weekend, Augsburg for Adults**

Saturday, Sept. 11, 11:45–1:15 p.m., Opening picnic

**Saturday, Sept. 11**

**Memorial service for Professor Emeritus Gordon Nelson**

4 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Congregation at Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center

## **DAILY CHAPEL**

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. 8**—Opening Celebration

**Thursday, Sept. 9**—President Paul Pribbenow

**Friday, Sept. 10**—Pastor Dave Wold

**Saturday, Sept. 11**, First Word Gathering, Jessica Fox-Wilson, Augsburg for Adults, “Faith as Mindfulness,” looking at Thich Nhat Hanh”

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

Have a great week!