

September 5, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good afternoon. Welcome to everyone as we begin the fall term in Augsburg's 143rd 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 returning students. A special welcome, as well, to all our new faculty and staff members. It is a splendid time of the year as we renew our commitment to Augsburg's mission and values as a college of the church in the city. I look forward to our official recognition of first-year day students in Auggie tradition tomorrow morning at the Opening Convocation. It will be our privilege to hear from Associate Professor of Sociology Timothy Pippert, recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award, who will speak to the new class on the theme, "Information is Not Knowledge."

Following Opening Convocation, all faculty, staff, and students are invited to lunch on the Quad with first-year students and orientation leaders. After lunch, students will spill into the Twin Cities to carry out City Service Day projects – watch for Auggie t-shirts all over town! I look forward to joining one of the AugSem groups in a project at Bethany Lutheran Church on Franklin Avenue.

Fall trimester classes begin Friday evening. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, Augsburg faculty, staff, and student leaders will welcome new and returning weekend and graduate students as they arrive on campus. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome at the Augsburg Weekend College Opening Picnic on the Quad from about 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday (East Commons in the case of rain).

It has been a great summer on campus. We've welcomed countless groups to campus for summer activities and camps, including lots of young people who brought great energy and enthusiasm to the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

We also have seen fine progress on a number of important capital projects, including the relocation of books in Lindell Library to new shelving in the lower level; the initial work on the Gage Center for Student Success on the library's link level (which will be completed by the end of October); lots of improvements in locker rooms and public spaces in Melby Hall; and good work on the creation of the new Undergraduate/Graduate Admissions offices on the lower level of the Christensen Center (also to be completed before the end of October).

I also want to commend the many faculty members who worked this summer with students on research projects. Our commitment to excellence in our academic programs was evident in the work of these faculty-student research teams this summer.

Finally I want say how proud I am about Augsburg receiving the 2010 President's Award for Community Service! The new banners around campus proclaim our pride, but above all I hope you all recognize what a special community we have here at Augsburg – a community that is hospitable, compassionate, and committed to making a difference in the world. It is a good thing to be recognized by President Obama for our educational efforts; it is an even better thing that we have created a community here that lives out our mission each and every day. It is my special honor to be your partner in this good and important work. Have a great year!

- Read about the 2010 Presidential Award in Inside Augsburg – http://augnet.augsburg.edu/news-archives/2011/05_09_11/honor_roll.html
- See the Flickr photo stream from move-in – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/augsburgcollege/6110453149/in/set-72157627587182016>
- Visit Augsburg's YouTube channel to see videos of students talking about summer research projects - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yg0nligRBg>

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Campus Community Building – Augsburg seeks to build community in a range of manners, to share what is happening on campus, and to honor the mission of the College. These include:

- **Daily Chapel Time** – Daily chapel is a time for the Augsburg community – Sabbath time – to step away from normal duties to worship or reflect in a different manner. As a reminder to faculty and staff, all offices are to remain closed during chapel time as a sign of our common purpose.

The community gathers from 10:20 to 10:40 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; from 11:20 to 11:40 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday; and at 7:30 a.m. on Saturdays of weekend classes for First Word Gathering.

Informal communion is held at 9:09 p.m., Wednesday. Chapel speakers for the opening weeks of the Academic year are:

- September 7 – Opening Chapel Celebration!
 - 9:09 p.m. – Songs
 - 9:30 p.m. – Communion with Pastor Dave Wold
- September 8 – Pastor Sonja Hagander
- September 9 – Pastor Dave Wold
- September 12 – President Paul Pribbenow and Observance of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11
- September 13 – Favorite Song Day
- September 14 – Phil Quanbeck II, Religion Professor

- September 15 – Jeanette Clark '07, Seminarian, Recipient of the Marina Christensen Justice Award
- September 16 – Marty Stortz, Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation
- **Community Time** – These faculty and staff gatherings are held in the late afternoon of the last Tuesday of the month, and support the College's commitment to building community and practicing common work. This year, Community Time will debut a new format. The intent is to provide more regular and consistent updates about important projects and work happening on campus. Community Time also is a chance to meet new people, share ideas, and seek new collaborative opportunities. The first Community Time for the fall semester will be 3:45 p.m., September 27, in the East Commons, Christensen Center.
- **First Wednesday Gathering** – These faculty and staff gatherings are a chance on the first Wednesday of each month to share a meal and to better get to know one another. As with Community Time, these gatherings are debuting a new format this fall. Speakers occasionally will share information about important College projects. In addition, fliers will be placed on each table that highlight interesting Augsburg projects and efforts. Human Resources is hosting these lunches, and welcomes input and ideas from the community. Be sure to invite your colleagues and join the community for the First Wednesday Gathering from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., September 7, in the East Commons, Christensen Center.
- **Focused Conversations** – Throughout the year, the College will hold Focused Conversations on a variety of important topics. These meetings are open to the entire campus community, and announced in A-Mail. The next Focused Conversation is September 14. Details are at <http://augnet.augsburg.edu/amaill/?issuedate=20110902#30659>.
- **All-Hands Meeting** – Scheduled once a semester, this meeting is an opportunity to hear an overview of various initiatives and projects, and to ask questions of President Paul Pribbenow and Cabinet members. The fall All-Hands Meeting is at 11:15 a.m., October 25, in Hoversten Chapel. These meetings are open to the campus community.

Welcome new faculty and staff – The 143rd academic year gets underway on Wednesday, and we have many new full-time faculty to welcome, including:

- William Aleman, Physician Assistant Studies
- Audrey Appelsies, Education
- David Barrett, Health and Physical Education
- Janelle Bussert, Women's Studies and Women's Resource Center
- Mauricio Cifuentes, Social Work

- Stephan Clark, English
- Benjamin Denkinger, Psychology
- Evren Guler, Psychology
- Christopher Houltberg, Art
- Terrence Lewis, Social Work
- Virginia McCarthy, Nursing
- Barbara Short, Education
- Kaija Sivongsay, Nursing
- Christopher Smith, Education
- Joseph Towle, Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies
- Bernard Walley, Economics
- Mike Weimerskirch, Mathematics
- Michael Wentzel, Chemistry

As the week gets underway, here are some of the things in which students, faculty and staff will be engaged:

September 3–10: Auggie Days is the required on-campus orientation experience for incoming first-year students designed to complement SOAR.

- Tuesday, September 6, 10:30 a.m.: Opening Convocation. First-year day students are cheered and welcomed by faculty as they enter the chapel. The convocation speaker is Timothy Pippert, associate professor of sociology, who received the 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching. A community lunch will be served in the Quad immediately following the convocation.
- Tuesday, September 6, 12:30–5 p.m.: City Service Day projects
- Wednesday, September 7: Classes begin for fall semester
- Thursday, September 8: Bloomington Center AA to BA classes begin.
- Friday, September 9, and Saturday, September 10: WEC/Graduate Welcome Weekend
- Friday, September 9, 5–6:30 p.m.: Classes begin for fall trimester. Augsburg faculty, staff, and student leaders greet new and returning Weekend College and graduate students in various locations.
- Saturday, September 10
 - 7:30–9 a.m. and 11 a.m.–noon: Augsburg faculty, staff, and student leaders greet new and returning Weekend College and graduate students in various locations.
 - 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Opening Picnic, Christensen Center Quad (East Commons in case of rain)

Campus Space and Master Plan updates – Last May the Board of Regents approved a Campus Space and Master Plan to determine how best to manage the College's physical assets. Since then, a number of projects have been underway and some have been completed. Here's a snapshot of work done during the summer:

- Mortensen Hall had a series of renovations and upgrades including exterior concrete restoration. Inside, some rooms had renovations and upgrades to lighting, kitchenettes, bathrooms, carpeting, and painting.
- High-density shelving was installed in the lower level of Lindell Library, and part of the collection on the second level was relocated. Construction now is underway for the Gage Center for Student Success in the vacated space on the second level.
- The A-Club Grill was demolished to make way for the new Undergraduate/Graduate Admissions offices, and the work on that space continues.
- Standards were established for meeting room furniture and staff work stations.

To learn more about all the changes, please attend the Focused Conversation from 2 to 3 p.m., September 14, in the Marshall Room of Christensen Center. More info in A-Mail at <http://augnet.augsburg.edu/amaill/?issuedate=20110902#30659>.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Fun at the Minnesota State Fair – Thank you to the Augsburg staff, faculty and students who worked at the booth in the Education Building at the Minnesota State Fair. If you missed the Fair this year, you can take a tour of the grounds with Auggie Eagle. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGtDpCSTods>

EVENTS OF NOTE

September 6

Opening Convocation – 10:30 a.m., Hoversten Chapel, including:

- President Paul Pribbenow, "What is Required of You?"
- Associate Professor of Sociology Timothy Pippert, "Information is Not Knowledge."

September 7

- First Wednesday Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., East Commons, Christensen Center.
- Einstein Bros. Bagels – Grand Opening (<http://augsburg.aviands.com/einstein/>)

For a full listing of Augsburg events, go to the Inside Augsburg Calendar at <http://bit.ly/6U9Ueb>.

For a listing of Augsburg athletic events, visit the Athletic Department Calendar at <http://bit.ly/mUsyCB>.

OTHER NEWS

Augsburg College on Facebook – Please consider following Augsburg College on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/augsburgcollege>), where you can connect with more than 3,000 people who “like” the College. How long until we hit 3,500 followers?