

## College Sees Largest Full-Time Enrollment Since 1980

Despite a still-challenged economy and in the face of recent census data showing that a majority of college graduates choose to live in only select metropolitan cities, this fall Augustana officials reported the College's highest full-time undergraduate enrollment since 1980.

For Fall 2011, the College is serving 1,745 full-time undergraduate students – up 3 percent since Fall 2010.

Augustana's total student headcount – the sum of part-time, full-time and graduate students – for Fall 2011 is 1,870 – the highest since 1992.

"In today's economy, we're humbled to see that students and families continue to believe in the world-class liberal arts education Augustana's great professors provide," said Rob Oliver, president.

"In addition to choosing Augustana for their studies, we are pleased to report that the majority of our graduates choose to stay and work in South Dakota, adding to the talented reservoir of professionals that contribute to our state's economy, and to the future viability of cities and towns east and west of the River."

In 2010, the Augustana Career Center reported that 94 percent of May 2010 Augustana graduates seeking employment reported accepting a position related to their major or chosen field. Of those, 68 percent remained in South Dakota.

"At Augustana, we often use the phrase 'Go Viking.' It speaks to how our students consistently go beyond the expected in order to do something more, something significant. When students choose to *Go Viking*, they commit to explore, discover, and create, pursuing bold concepts and important endeavors today in order to make tomorrow even better," said Nancy Davidson, vice president for Enrollment at Augustana.

"As we welcome members of the class of 2015, along with our returning students, we're honored they chose us. And, as fellow citizens, we're grateful and excited they made the decision to *Go Viking*."

This fall, the College also welcomed its largest-ever incoming class of international students. More than 60 new students began their studies in September, joining 40 continuing students, for a total of more than 100 international students – up nearly 40 percent from last year and more than double the number of international students on campus during the 2009-2010 academic year. These students represent 34 countries and five continents.



Granskou's rooms now include new, modern modular furniture.

## Granskou Undergoes \$900,000 Renovation

In August, Augustana completed a \$900,000 project to renovate and refurbish Granskou Residence Hall.

Named for Rev. Dr. Clemens Granskou, Augustana's 14<sup>th</sup> president, the eight-story residence hall houses primarily sophomores and juniors and was originally dedicated in 1969. Its sister facility, Stavig Hall, named for Dr. Lawrence Stavig, the College's 15<sup>th</sup> president, is slated for renovation in 2012.

As students returned to Granskou in September, they found freshly painted

rooms with new carpet and drapes.

Each room also features new, modern modular furniture including two loft-style beds, two desks, double dressers, wardrobe closets and two upholstered chairs. The furniture design allows for more than 50 different configurations.

"We've been excited to welcome our students back into a renovated residence hall and we've enjoyed seeing their excitement at the improvements we've made," said Dr. Jim Bies, Augustana's vice president for student services and dean of students.

## Goldammer's Gift to Provide Turf, Other Improvements for Ronken Field

A major gift from South Dakota amateur baseball legend Lee "Goldy" Goldammer to the Viking baseball program will provide funds to turf the infield at Ronken Field and make further improvements to the on-campus facility.

The largest enhancement will be the addition of artificial turf from dugout to dugout on the infield of the playing surface. Currently, there are no turfed baseball facilities in South Dakota or the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

Installation of the turf will begin following the 2012 spring season. Turf surfaces in the upper Midwest greatly minimize weather-related postponements and cancellations.

Further improvements, which will also be made possible by Goldammer's lead gift, include new dugouts, a

brick backstop and a net system to be located behind home plate.

"We are grateful for Lee's generous investment in Augustana College and the Vikings' baseball program," said President Rob Oliver. "Lee is a member of the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame and it is a privilege to have his support on behalf of our aspiring student-athletes."

Goldammer's gift is the largest in Augustana baseball history.

"Over the years, Lee's bright smile and friendly, caring attitude have had a positive impact on the Augustana baseball program and Viking athletics," said Athletic Director Bill Gross. "Now Lee's inspiring generosity to provide improvements to Ronken Field will be an additional benefit for Viking baseball student-athletes for years to come."