



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

April 30, 2007

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Good morning. Last October we focused on the inauguration theme “AGES of Imagination,” celebrating Augsburg’s calling as a college and imagining its future around the themes of AGES—abundance, generosity, engagement, and service. These four themes informed our conversations as we worked during the year on our first-year initiatives: One College, The Augsburg Promise, Common Work, and Sciences at Augsburg. You can find all the work done by departments and programs on these initiatives at <http://www.augsburg.edu/president>

Our work together during this year has also continued and created many illustrations of AGES. Here are the four themes and a few examples that come to mind.

Abundance, which is not just what we have, but who we are. We can provide support and trust to help people become willing to share so that together we can face and change a world of scarcity. Examples of how we practice abundance are:

- The work of all our support programs—in our ethnic support programs, StepUP, CLASS, and in our residence life halls.
- Our focus on intentional diversity, bringing together many voices to reflect on what is needed for everyone.
- The work of our students in the community—through Campus Kitchen, service-learning courses, after-school programs, and so forth—connecting learning with service.
- Interdisciplinary academic programs—environmental studies, medieval studies, music and business, Honors Program, and on and on—that help us cross traditional boundaries to address important topics and challenges in the world.

Generosity, which is not just what we give, but also where we are and what we do. This is about our Augsburg community, our heritage, our history, and about giving because we are connected to what we do. I have seen us practice generosity in different places and ways, for example:

- Planning for our community garden (at 20th Avenue and 6th Street), aiming to bring our neighbors to campus, to provide food for them, and to teach good practice of sustainable gardening.
- Filling the food pantry shelves at the Brian Coyle Community Center several times over during the academic year (that’s a lot of food!).
- Planning for our new science center, returning to important conversations with generosity of intellect, spirit, and imagination, seeking to be good stewards of the community and to give science a centering role in our teaching and learning.

Engagement, which is not just what we offer to others, but also what we receive from them. In all the ways we seek to connect with others and to hear their stories, we are practicing engagement, whether it is in class, in the city, and all the places around the world where we study and learn. Good examples are:

- During the short time I was in Cuernavaca, Mexico, last summer on a CGE trip, learning much from the people we met and hearing amazing stories of their lives.

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CGE is doing the same thing for our students and indigenous people around the world every day! Graduate students are also taking advantage of opportunities such as the nursing practica experiences in Namibia, and the PA and MAL program travel to Central America.

- On campus, our fine arts programs that engage us in creativity, whether we are looking at paintings and listening to the artist describe his or her creative process, or teaching developmentally-disabled children how to play a musical instrument to express their own creative expression.
- New initiatives, including Weekend College Student Senate, that engage WEC students more directly in Augsburg's campus life and activities. WEC chapel services are held monthly during the academic year.

Service, which is our work to love, care for, and sustain God's creation in our community and world. We are among the best in our service in the city, as shown in these examples:

- All the work done by the Center for Service, Work, and Learning through its extraordinary partnerships, connections, and caring that help us engage with others in the community with whom we share much in our lives.
- The work of our student-athletes in linking service to their lives on campus. I'm especially proud of the student-athletes (and many other students) who participated in the Day at the Capitol programs, advocating for more need-based student aid.
- The planning for the Oren Gateway Center, which extends hospitality and serves our neighbors as well as our own campus community.

Thank you, everyone, for the fine work we have shared during this year. I look forward to our continued work together as we begin planning for next year.

We have a busy week ahead as we head toward our May Commencement:

- Thursday, Faculty Recognition Luncheon
- Friday, Board of Regents Meeting, Kennedy Center dedication, and the Augsburg Concert Band performance
- Saturday, Baccalaureate, Commencement Ceremony, and receptions

See the calendar for details about times and locations. I am looking forward to this grand event in Augsburg's 138th year!

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Social Work accreditation site visit

I am happy to report that the accreditation site team from the [Council on Social Work Education \(CSWE\)](#) gave a [very positive report](#) from their visit last week detailing 10 areas of strength and only two areas that need attention for improvement. We will receive final word on reaffirmation of accreditation in October. Congratulations to the Social Work Department, and many thanks for your thorough preparation for the visit, including the creation of a three-volume self-study report.

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Nursing Department receives reaccreditation

I have more good news about accreditation to report from the Nursing Department. Notification came last week that the [Master of Arts in Nursing program has been granted accreditation for the maximum period of 10 years](#), until 2017. The site team was satisfied with all the discussion during their visit and have no items requiring follow up. Congratulations to everyone in the Nursing Department! It is wonderful news to hear, just as we are welcoming department chair Cheryl Leuning and the nursing practicum group back from Namibia.

KUDOS

Congratulations to the Honors Program and to contributors [Donovan Lessard](#), [Jessica Moses](#), [Binh Nguyen](#), and [Megan Schiller and Thalia Koch](#) for publishing the 16th edition of *Augsburg Honors Review*, an interdisciplinary, undergraduate journal exhibiting outstanding academic work by Augsburg students. The goal of AHR is to give undergraduates the opportunity to participate in scholarly conversations within their disciplines and to expose them to the dialogue that occurs between journals and contributors.

NOTABLE EVENTS

[April 30-May 3](#)

Final exams for spring semester

[May 3](#)

[Faculty Recognition Lunch](#)

Noon–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center, East Commons

[May 4](#)

[Board of Regents meeting](#)

8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Kennedy Center

[Kennedy Center Dedication](#)

5:30–7 p.m., Kennedy Center

[Augsburg Concert Band performance](#)

8 p.m., Hoversten Chapel

[May 5](#)

[May Commencement 2007](#)

8 a.m., Eucharist, Hoversten Chapel

9 a.m., Baccalaureate Service, Hoversten Chapel

11 a.m., Commencement Ceremony, Melby Hall

Have a great week!