



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

May 7, 2007
Page 1

Good morning. What a grand weekend we've just enjoyed! Our Friday night celebration of abundance and generosity as we dedicated the new Kennedy Center and honored the individuals and families who made it possible was a great beginning.

On Saturday, we graduated 31 students in the Physician Assistant master's program and 409 students in the day program, and we began a new tradition as academic departments hosted receptions for their graduates and families.

Our commencement speaker, Dr. Eboo Patel, received a standing ovation following an impassioned speech in which he called on our better natures to find common ground in our religious pluralism and recounted stories of people, who in face of greatest adversity, can focus on acts of goodness, not evil.

On Saturday night, we closed the weekend with a spirited celebration of 25-year wrestling coach Jeff Swenson's remarkable career, as more than 300 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate community, excellence, and pride.

This will be the last weekly update of this academic year. From now until the end of spring trimester and Commencement on June 24, the President's Update will be issued on a more occasional basis. After that, the Update will be in hiatus over the summer until the beginning of September. Watch for updates on May 21, June 4, June 18, and June 25.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Augsburg Concert Band to the Northwest

Today we send the Augsburg Concert Band off on their tour to the Pacific Northwest. Over the next 10 days, they will be performing in Auburn and Lynnwood, Washington; at three concerts in Vancouver, B.C.; and in Portland, Hillsboro, and Eugene, Ore. We wish the Band safe travels and a great time sharing their music and spirit!

WEC elections coming

From May 10-14, Weekend College will hold elections for their Student Senate and elected positions. This is a great opportunity for WEC students to become more engaged in campus life and represent the interests of WEC students in decision-making and activities of the College.

KUDOS

Many thanks to everyone on campus who helped make the May Commencement a memorable event for our graduates and their families, especially to the Sodexo Food Service employees, to everyone who helped with event services, to the grounds crew for making the campus beautiful, and to all the faculty and staff who participated in this festive weekend.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

May 7, 2007
Page 2

Congratulations to [Jeanette Clark](#), winner of the Marina Christensen Justice award. During her four years at Augsburg, she has lived the Augsburg mission and exemplifies everything we hope for our students. We're very proud of you, Jeanette!

I also want to recognize our two presidents emeriti upon whom we conferred honorary degrees on Saturday—[Charles Anderson](#) and [William Frame](#). Each has left a rich legacy at Augsburg, and I am proud to succeed them as president. I look forward to their continued connections with the Augsburg community.

Congratulations to [Mary Laurel True](#), Center for Service, Work, and Learning, who was honored by the Anne Pederson Women's Resource Center as its first "Woman of the Year."

And finally, my sincere thanks to [Lars Christiansen](#), sociology, for the great amount of work in developing and analyzing the food survey to help Sodexo plan the new eatery in the Oren Gateway Center. Nearly 500 surveys were received, with over two-thirds of them from students. The survey results will be distributed in the next few weeks, along with a review of next steps.

NOTABLE EVENTS (next two weeks)

[May 7-16](#)

[Augsburg Concert Band Tour to the Pacific Northwest](#)

Concerts in Washington, Oregon, and Vancouver, BC

[May 10-14](#)

[WEC Student Senate elections](#)

[May 17](#)

[Augsburg Annual Staff and Faculty Spring Picnic](#)

Hosted by Staff Senate

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Murphy Park

[WEC 25th Anniversary Celebration](#)

5–7 p.m., Christensen Center

Have a great week!