



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

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Good morning. Though I might expect things to be a bit quieter on campus after our May commencement exercises a couple of weekends ago, I have been struck how campus life keeps a good pace as we head into the summer. In addition to our still very busy Weekend College and graduate programs students, and to many special visitors who have made Augsburg home for their events, we also continue to celebrate milestones for the College, including our festive event last Thursday honoring the [25th anniversary of Weekend College](#), as well as the work of Rick Thoni, who has served Augsburg for 35 years and retires in June.

I was inspired to hear the comments from Wendi Wheeler, associate director of enrollment services and WEC graduate, and from Mia Bothun, a current WEC student, about the transformations in their lives during their WEC experiences. On behalf of faculty, Don Gustafson, History Department, spoke from his heart about the joys and rewards of teaching WEC students, especially the commitment and appreciation they bring to their learning.

To honor Rick Thoni's work in an abiding way, I was very pleased and proud to announce the [establishment of the Richard J. Thoni Award, to be given to a graduating WEC student](#) whose actions, commitments, and future aspirations most profoundly demonstrate a commitment to Augsburg's motto, "Education for Service." The award will be given annually at the Weekend College and Graduate Program Commencement, beginning this year on June 24.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Welcome back, Augsburg Concert Band!

[Augsburg Concert Band members and staff](#) returned this week from their 10-day tour of Washington, Oregon, and Vancouver. I enjoyed spending some time with them on their tour and meeting a number of our alumni and friends in the Pacific Northwest. We all enjoyed and were honored by their fine hospitality on the occasion of the tour.

The band sounded great, the tour went well, and our student-musicians enjoyed a wonderful opportunity to visit a beautiful part of the country while also focusing on playing and sharing their music with new friends.

Visitors from United International College, China

I am happy to welcome [Professor Edmund Kwok, executive vice-president of United International College \(UIC\) in Zhuhai, China, and his wife, Christine](#), to Augsburg on Wed., May 23. His visit to six Minnesota colleges, as a guest of the Minnesota Private College Council, is in follow-up to an MPCC group visit to China in 2005. MPCC has agreed to affiliate with UIC for the purpose of student and faculty exchange.

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While Dr. Kwok is on campus, there will be an opportunity for interested faculty and staff members to attend a UIC presentation. We invite you to attend his presentation in the Kennedy Center 305, from 2–3:30 p.m., on Wednesday. He will explain the mission of UIC with supporting visuals and describe opportunities for both faculty and students from the MPCC institutions.

KUDOS

Congratulations to [Vicki Olson](#), Education Department, who has been elected the new Faculty Senate president.

NOTABLE EVENTS (next two weeks)

May 27-June 1

NAFSA—Association of International Educators annual conference, in Minneapolis

- [May 28—Program on Norway-U.S. Cooperation in Higher Education](#)
Includes International Partners schools and Norwegian American Foundation; attending will be Ambassadors Knut Vollebæk (Norwegian ambassador to U.S.) and Benson Whitney (U.S. ambassador to Norway)
1–4:30 p.m., Christensen Center
- [May 31—Augsburg College sponsors the plenary address](#) by Macalester professor Jack Weatherford and the annual meeting, in celebration of the Center for Global Education's 25th anniversary

May 28

Memorial Day holiday

June 4–7

Conference, “In Conversation with Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastors Gathering in Life Together”

Augsburg College campus

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Have a great week!