



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

June 25, 2007

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Good morning. With yesterday's Commencement celebration we have now completed Augsburg's 138th academic year—and my first year—here at Augsburg. In this ceremony that focused on our adult student populations, we graduated 219 baccalaureate students in Weekend College, Rochester, and the United/Mercy/Unity hospitals programs, plus 286 master's students in leadership, education, nursing, business administration, and social work.

The inaugural **Richard J. Thoni award**, created upon his retirement to recognize longtime service to Augsburg and students, was given to social work major **Angela Brand** for exemplifying a passion and commitment to public service. Among her many accolades, she received recognition for completing 240 hours of public service at Chisago County Social Services, working with programs to help youth transition to adults.

We also welcomed Dr. Martin Marty to the Augsburg alumni community as we awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*. In his Commencement address, "Learning How to Live—Realistically, Life Long," he encouraged students to learn to ask questions so that they can experience life as a process, not a product, and begin to understand their own irreplaceable "thing that has their own special stamp," that is their vocation, as differing from career or profession.

This is the last Weekly Update for the summer; the next one will come out on Aug. 27. During the summer, see the Web calendar for event information, <http://augnet.augsburg.edu/>

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Celebrate 25 years with CGE

On July 21, as part of its year-long 25th anniversary celebration, the Center for Global Education will host a **conference and celebration dinner**. Former staff and participants will lead conversations around the theme of keynote speaker, Dr. Pandu Hailonga Van Dijk, former site director in Namibia, as she speaks about "Education for Decolonization."

The dinner is from 7-10 p.m. in Arnold Atrium, Foss Center, with sample foods and appetizers from around the world. Music, dance, and a silent auction will take place, and milestones in CGE's history will be celebrated. For information and registration, go to www.augsburg.edu/global/25thannivconf.html.

Incoming students at SOAR in July

Over 300 first-year students and their families will visit campus in July for two days of orientation to college, the first-year program, and the Augsburg campus. Separate tracks are held for students and parents, with co-curricular activities planned. Three sessions will take place, **July 18-19, 19-20, and 20-21**. Please welcome our new students and families as you see them on campus!

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President's Climate Commitment

I have joined, on behalf of Augsburg, the American College and University President's Climate Commitment. This initiative, modeled after the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, is sponsored by Second Nature, ecoAmerica, and the Association of the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). [To date, more than 300 colleges and universities have signed on and agreed to reduce and ultimately neutralize greenhouse gas emissions on campus.](#) The commitment includes developing a plan to achieve climate neutrality, initiating actions to reduce greenhouse gases, and measuring and reporting periodic progress. For more information, see www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org

More events this summer

The June 18 Weekly Update listed a number of events, conferences, and camps occurring on campus this summer. These can be added to that list:

- June 24-July 14—Minnesota Urban Debate League summer camp for about 50 high school students and teachers from across the upper Midwest
- July 24—Summer Research Institute with Nobel laureate Peter Agre '70
- July 8-Aug. 9—Summer Bridge residential program for 25 admitted TRiO/SSS students.

KUDOS

[Many thanks to everyone who helped with and participated in yesterday's Commencement](#), especially the dean's office staff, Sodexho, public safety department, all who helped with events services and who volunteered, and the grounds crew for making the campus look so beautiful for our graduates, their families, and guests.

Congratulations to [Augsburg faculty and staff members who earned their degrees](#) and were recognized in yesterday's ceremony:

MA, Leadership—Mike Bilden, Kevin Cheatham, Meghan Flores, Emily Nugent, and Matt Rumpza
MA, Nursing—Martha Laskar-Aleman, April Morehouse
MBA—Anthony Cox

My congratulations also to AmeriCorps volunteers [Carolyn Herman and Tessa Flynn, both 2005 graduates](#), for being named AmeriCorps Members of the Year at Admission Possible, selected by their peers. In addition, June 22 was designated Carolyn Herman Day in the City of Minneapolis, and June 24 was Tessa Flynn Day, as proclaimed by Mayor R.T. Rybak. Carolyn works at Patrick Henry High School and has helped all 34 of her seniors gain admission to college and raise nearly \$175,000 in scholarships. Tessa is at North High School and has also helped her 34 seniors gain admission, with nearly \$250,000 awarded in scholarships.

[Nou Chang '10](#) is part of Minnesota's Future Doctors, a new program sponsored by the University of Minnesota Medical School and the Mayo Clinic Medical School, to encourage students from ethnic and underprivileged groups and from rural communities to enter medical school. For three consecutive summers, the 23 students learn about the medical profession, shadow physicians, and prepare for medical school exams and interviews.

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Kudos to [Mary Laurel True](#), Center for Service, Work, and Learning, who is featured in the July issue of *Mpls St Paul magazine*, in "People Who Do Cool Things."

NOTABLE EVENTS

[June 25-29](#)

[Minnesota Private College Week](#)

Informational sessions for high school students are at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day
Christensen Center

[July 9-Aug. 9](#)

[Summer Session II](#)

[July 13-Sept. 7](#)

["Bridges and Canoes,"](#) photography by [Stephen Geffre](#)
Christensen Center Art Gallery

[July 18-21](#)

[SOAR—Summer Orientation](#) for first-year day students

[July 18-Sept. 5](#)

[Sculpture and video installation](#) by [Mayumi Amada](#)
New Gage Family Art Gallery

[July 21](#)

[CGE 25th Anniversary Dinner](#)
7-11 p.m., Foss Center

[July 27](#)

[Summer Group Visit Day](#) for prospective day students
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Christensen Center

[Aug. 3-14](#)

[Men's soccer trip](#) to Argentina

[Aug. 19](#)

[Move-In Day](#) for International Partners students

[Aug. 29-30](#)

[Move-In Day](#) for transfer students

Have a great summer!