



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

October 9, 2006

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## Sad news from a regent

It is with sadness that I report the death, following a long illness, of [Jack Taylor](#), husband of alumna and regent [P. Dawn Taylor](#). A memorial service will be held for him tomorrow morning (Tues., Oct. 10 at 10:30 a.m.) in Des Moines, Iowa, at Plymouth Church, located at 42nd and Ingersoll. I am pleased that President Emeritus and Mrs. Frame will represent the College, and several regents may also attend. Please keep Dawn and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Condolences can be sent to her at 31 52nd Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

## Rick Thoni plans retirement

I want to share with you the news that Rick Thoni, director of our Rochester Program, will retire from full-time service to Augsburg on January 12, 2007, in order to pursue community service in the greater Rochester area. Rick will continue to serve Augsburg part time as an academic adviser for the Rochester Program through the end of the current academic year.

Over the past few months I've enjoyed the opportunity to get to know Rick and appreciate what he has contributed to Augsburg. I know that those of you who have worked with him during his 34 years here can speak more eloquently to his vision, commitment, and leadership in helping Augsburg shape its mission and institutional vocation. He is looking forward to sharing these same talents with community initiatives in the Rochester area.

In the early 1980s, it was Rick's understanding of the demographic trends forecasting a significant decline in the number of high school students that led him to propose and develop an undergraduate program for working adults. Weekend College began in 1982 with 69 students and three majors—and next year will celebrate its 25th anniversary, enrolling more than 1,000 students.

Likewise, when it became clear that there was a demand for undergraduate education in Rochester, Rick's vision for a program that partnered with the community in the fields of nursing and business has grown to a branch campus currently enrolling 374 students in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Rick was also instrumental in the creation of Augsburg's Master of Arts in Leadership program—soon to celebrate 20 years—designed to build leadership skills across disciplines.

Since 1972, Rick's great gift to the College has been a deep commitment to an education that makes a qualitative difference—a transforming difference—in the lives of students. I'm sure that many of our adult students would attribute much of their academic success to Rick's mentoring and friendship.

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## CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Workculture@augsborg

Last week we launched the [workculture@augsborg](mailto:workculture@augsborg) initiative amidst a gathering including great food and festivities. I am excited about the opportunities this program offers for us to imagine projects in which we can grow vocationally as well as become engaged as a community in the mission of the College.

For information about how to take advantage of this program, go to [www.augsburg.edu/workculture](http://www.augsburg.edu/workculture).

### Inauguration is approaching

We are now only little more than a week away from our four days of Inaugural events, [The AGES of Imagination](#). For the Inaugural Lunch on Friday, if you haven't already responded, please do so via e-mail to [events@augsborg.edu](mailto:events@augsborg.edu) or by calling 612-359-6487.

## KUDOS

This week I want to recognize someone many of us greet each day as we stop for a cup of coffee or treat in the Christensen Center coffee shop. Manager [Kathy Peterson](#), always with a friendly smile as she greets you by name, is a great example of the hospitality we extend in our community. Thank you, Kathy.

## NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE NEXT WEEK

### October 10

StepUP Discovery Day

5:30 p.m.–Christensen Center

Who are future Auggies?

5 p.m.–Reception in the Student Art Gallery

5:30 p.m.–Marshall Room

Tom Gillaspay, state demographer, and Tom Stinson, state economist, will speak about the demography and economics of Minnesota. RSVP to [chagil@augsborg.edu](mailto:chagil@augsborg.edu). Sponsored by the Diversity and Global Awareness Collaborative.

### October 11

Community Partnership Fair

10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.– Christensen Center

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## DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS THIS WEEK:

Tues., Oct. 10—Hans Wiersma, Religion Dept.

Wed., Oct. 11—Vocatio Chapel, Mike Sherer, *Metro Lutheran*

Thurs., Oct. 12—Herb Brokering, poet, pastor, peacemaker.

Fri., Oct. 13—Thelma Buckner, gospel singer, writer

## Next week:

Mon., Oct. 16—Music Day

Tues., Oct. 17—Pastor Antonio Machado

**Sports schedule**— [www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0607.html](http://www.augsburg.edu/athletics/schedules/fall0607.html).

Have a great week!