



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATE

June 16, 2008

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Good morning. This week marks the final week of our spring trimester with final exams scheduled next weekend. Only MSW and Rochester classes continue next week. I look forward to Commencement on June 29, when we honor 239 undergraduate students from the Weekend College, Rochester, and United/Mercy/Unity Hospital Program, as well as 239 master's degree students in education, leadership, nursing, business, and social work.

The Commencement speaker will be one of our own, ELCA presiding bishop Mark Hanson '68. Honorary degrees will be presented to Ambassador Koryne Horbal and Bishop Medardo E. Gomez.

I hope many of you—faculty, staff, and students—will join us to hear Bishop Hanson and to celebrate the success of our graduating students.

The Richard J. Thoni Award will be presented to a graduating weekend student who has demonstrated a dedication to the kind of community involvement characterized by Richard J. Thoni, founder of Weekend College, who served as a tireless advocate for higher education at Augsburg until his retirement last year.

The schedule for Commencement Sunday is:

- 8-8:30 a.m. Eucharist, Hoversten Chapel
- 9-10 a.m. Baccalaureate, Hoversten Chapel (Line-up at 8:40--students line up in Arnold Atrium-Music Hall corridor; faculty line up in the hallway to the Foss Green Room)
- 10:15 a.m. Commencement Ceremony line-up (Students in Christensen Center lobby; faculty in Arnold Atrium-Music Hall corridor)
- 11 a.m. Commencement Ceremony
- 12:30 p.m. Departmental and program receptions. For locations, go to www.augsburg.edu/commencement/june.html

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Augsburg Fund reaches million dollar goal

I am pleased to share some great news about our fundraising in 2007-08. The Augsburg Fund reached its fiscal year goal of \$1,000,000. More than 2,700 donors made gifts to the Augsburg Fund totaling \$1,000,978.91, including 100% participation by members of the Board of Regents and the Alumni Board of Directors.

Annual gifts to the Augsburg Fund allow the College to improve facilities and purchase needed equipment, recruit faculty, maintain essential extracurricular and athletic programs, and enhance teaching and learning across the campus. Most importantly, gifts to this fund provide the scholarships that make an Augsburg education affordable for students in need.

Donors to the Augsburg Fund include the Board of Regents, alumni, faculty, parents, friends, staff, the senior class, as well as corporations through outright and matching gifts.

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Special appreciation goes to all donors, with kudos to Joe Lindell, director of annual giving, and Martha Truax, assistant director of annual giving, as well as the entire Development staff.

German students visit Augsburg

From May 28–June 6, the Business-MIS Department hosted 14 undergraduate business students and two faculty members from Karlsruhe Berufsakademie, University of Cooperative Education, in Karlsruhe, Germany. Lori Peterson, Augsburg for Adults, and Steven Zitnick, MBA program, led the students in an intensive classroom experience focused on international management. Subsequently, Karlsruhe Berufsakademie professors Bernd Dannenmayer and Thomas Freytag taught a computer-based business simulation. The group also visited Twin Cities' businesses and corporations.

On June 4, Ruediger Schaefer, dean of Karlsruhe Berufsakademie, met with Magda Paleczny-Zapp, chair of the Business-MIS Department; Orval Gingerich, director of the Center for Global Education; and Dean Barbara Farley to extend the relationship beyond student exchanges. A letter of intent outlining these efforts is under review and development.

In 2006, professors Stuart Stoller and Kathy Schwalbe accompanied a group of Augsburg students to Karlsruhe and hosted a group of German students at Augsburg.

Weekly Update schedule

The last Weekly Update for this academic year will be published on June 30, following Commencement. After that the Update will be in hiatus throughout the summer.

KUDOS

Kudos and many thanks to Cherie Christ, the Staff Senate, and the planning committee for organizing the first Campus Beautification Day last Wednesday. Several projects brought together numbers of faculty, staff, and students for river cleanup, community garden planting, and painting in the tunnel and various offices. Planning committee members are **David Draus**, **Lisa Roe**, **Cherie Christ**, **Tim Dougherty**, and **Tom Morgan**. See the story on Inside Augsburg.

National Science Foundation has awarded Augsburg \$1.04 million for continued study of Earth's space environment during the next five years using the Magnetometer Array for Cusp and Cleft Studies (MACCS) in Arctic Canada. The new NSF grant will support research work by three Augsburg physics faculty: **Mark Engebretson**, frequent visiting scientist **Slava Pilipenko** (also at Moscow's Space Research Institute and Institute of the Physics of the Earth), and **David Murr '92**, who will join Augsburg's faculty in September. Funds will also support assistant scientist **Jennifer Posch '94**, Computer Science faculty **Erik Steinmetz '86**, and several **undergraduate students**.

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Kudos to **Mark Tranvik**, Religion, whose book *The Freedom of a Christian* was published by Fortress Press.

Congratulations to MSW student **Veronica Peña**, who was named the Legacy Scholarship 2008 recipient by the National Association of Social Workers, Minnesota Chapter. The award is given to build a profession that is responsive to the needs of a diverse society. She received the award at the state conference on June 5 from Laura Boisen, Social Work, and NASW chapter president; Anne Gearity, chapter president-elect; and Susan Mewborn, chapter past-president.

Congratulations also to second-year PA student **Lynn Nicholaisen**, who was selected by the Global Health Education Consortium Student Advisory Committee as their PA representative. GHEC is a consortium of faculty and healthcare educators dedicated to global health education in North American health professions schools and residency programs.

NOTABLE EVENTS

June 15-20

Youth Theology Institute, high school students visit campus to explore the question "Why Christian?" in the context of Augsburg's surrounding inter-religious neighborhood.

June 20-22

Final exams for spring trimester—WEC, MA Education, MA Leadership, MA Nursing

June 23-27

Minnesota Private College Week—the Office of Undergraduate Admissions welcomes high school students and their parents to campus.

June 27

Last day of Summer Session I

June 27-28

Final exams for Master of Social Work trimester students

June 29

Commencement 2008—for Weekend College, Rochester, United/Mercy/Unity Hospitals Program, MAE, MAL, MAN, MBA, MSW

For a complete schedule, go to www.augsburg.edu/commencement.

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DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Chapel services Monday through Friday will resume in September; WEC chapel on Saturday (when weekend classes meet) is at 7:40 a.m.

Saturday, June 21—WEC Chapel

For Augsburg athletic news, scores, and schedules: www.augsburg.edu/athletics/

Have a great two weeks!