



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

May 4, 2009

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Good morning. It was a grand commencement weekend as we honored more than 400 graduates in the day undergraduate program and the physician assistant master's program. Professor Kerry Emanuel's insightful commencement address discussed the relationship of science and religion from Galileo's time to the present and we honored him with an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Ashley Weston received the Marina Christensen Justice Award, recognizing the student who has demonstrated the caring and service to others in the community found at the core of Augsburg's mission. Ashley's leadership in campus ministry, as a Lilly Scholar, and at the East African Women's Center is remarkable. Congratulations, Ashley!

Caryn Quist, a chemistry major who spent several months in France on a research internship, spoke as the representative of the Class of 2009. She told of her journey in learning to become a world citizen, stretching beyond her own discipline to explore humanities and social sciences, and she challenged her fellow graduates to remain curious and never stop expanding the frontiers of their own learning.

On Friday, the Center for Learning and Adaptive Student Services (CLASS) Office held their graduation program for 20 graduates and their families. The disability specialists introduced and spoke about the students with whom they've worked over several years and celebrated their achievements with families and friends.

The StepUP program also held a graduation program on Friday and celebrated 17 students who graduated from Augsburg, and 23 who graduated from the StepUP program to live off campus or elsewhere. This includes four who graduated from both.

On Friday, the Augsburg Board of Regents held their spring meeting, at which they approved the 2009-10 College operating budget and affirmed the completed plans for the Center for Science, Business, and Religion.

On Thursday, we recognized the achievements of our faculty. Joyce Pfaff, associate professor of health and physical education, retires this year after 43 years on the faculty. She has been a pioneer in the growth of women's athletics and served as the first women's athletic director. At their meeting on Friday, the Board of Regents approved her for the rank of professor emerita.

The faculty who received awards for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Learning were introduced at the faculty luncheon. Tracy Bibelnicks (Mathematics) for teaching, and Susan Nash (Nursing) and Dale Pederson (Biology) for mentoring and advising.

Special recognition was given to Vicki Olson for her service as Faculty Senate president and to Diane Pike, as director of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

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Congratulations also to the faculty who have been granted tenure and promotions, effective on September 1:

Kristin Anderson, Professor of Art
Robert Cowgill, Associate Professor of English
Colin Irvine, Associate Professor English
M. Elise Marubbio, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies
Michael Schock, Associate Professor of Social Work
Jody Sorensen, Associate Professor of Mathematics

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

“Most Creative Food Drive”

I am so pleased to report that the Minnesota Food Share program has awarded Augsburg the Most Creative Food Drive award for its “Foodless Food Drive” in March that filled the food shelves of the Brian Coyle Center for one month. The citation lauds the team of **Sandy Tilton** and **Mary Laurel True**, Center for Service, Work, and Learning; **Steve Peacock**, Community Relations; and **Brian Noy**, Campus Kitchen, for the revolutionary idea to create a name for encouraging cash donations—the “foodless food drive”—and for educating the Augsburg community about its benefits. Congratulations to the four of you, and many thanks to everyone in the Augsburg community who contributed to it, and to Thrivent for their match.

International travel still planned

For more than a week, we’ve been closely monitoring the increasing incidence of H1N1 influenza cases around the world where Augsburg students, faculty, and staff are currently located or intend to travel. At this point we have not made any decisions to bring students home or cancel planned travel, but we will not hesitate to take action as needed to keep them safe while taking part in Augsburg programs abroad.

We wish safe travel to the following faculty and student groups leaving for travel and study during May and June:

- Romania—Augsburg Concert Band tour, May 4–14
- Italy—“Art and Spiritual Practice,” Tara Sweeney, Art, and Brad Holt, Religion, May 10–31
- New Zealand/Cook Islands—“Biodiversity and Environmental Politics,” Brian Corner, Biology, and Joe Underhill, Political Science, May 12–June 14
- Egypt—“Ancient and Modern Egyptian Identity,” Phil Adamo, History, and Mohamad Sallam, Sociology and Pan-African Center, May 18–June 6
- Mexico—“Spanish Language and Culture,” May 24–June 28
- Guatemala—“Spanish Language and Mayan Spirituality,” May 31–July 3
- Namibia—“Social Change and Development in Southern Africa,” May 31–August 9
- China—“Social Welfare and Culture,” Ngoh Tiong Tan, Social Work, June 29–July 13
- Nicaragua—“Education for Global Citizenship,” Kathy McBride, CGE, June 20–28

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Weekend student elections this week

Weekend students will elect a president and senators to represent them for the 2009-10 academic year. Elections begin on Thursday (May 7) and run through Monday (May 11). Voting will take place online.

Weekly Update schedule

This is the last weekly issue of the President's Weekly Update for the 2008-09 academic year. From now through the June Commencement, the Weekly Update will appear every two weeks, on May 18, June 1, June 15, and June 29. After that there will be an Update in mid-July and in mid-August.

KUDOS

Many thanks to **everyone who helped to make the May Commencement weekend memorable** for our graduates and their families, including Event and Conference Planning, Augsburg Dining Services, Public Safety, Campus Ministry, Augsburg Concert Band, Gospel Praise, and all the faculty and staff who participated in the festive weekend.

Congratulations to professors **Hans Wiersma** and **Karl Jacobson** in the Religion Department, and to **Rolf Jacobson**, former religion faculty member and now Augsburg regent, for the recent publication of their book, *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Biblical Terms*, published by Augsburg Fortress.

Kudos to those who were honored at the **Residence Life End-of-Year Celebration** yesterday:

Presentation of the "Of-the-Year Awards":

- Community Adviser—Melissa Moberg
- Resident Assistant—Amy Satnik
- Lead Staff (FC/SPC)—Emily Tischer
- Residence Life Professional Staff—Kelly Collins Strang
- Residence Hall—Luther Hall
- Spotlight Individual—John Gonzales (Custodial staff)
- Spotlight Group—Mortensen Hall Staff
- Responsible Program—"Capture the Flag," Meghan Asleson, Michael Buller, Erica Salkas, Dave Afdahl
- Respectful Program—"LGBTQIA Q&A," Dave Afdahl
- Resourceful Program—"Clean Green," Jaydin Clouse
- Weekend Program—"Environmental Impact: Eating Locally and Mill City Farmer's Market," Becky Shaheen

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NOTABLE EVENTS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS—for a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Calendar on Inside Augsburg at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

May 6

Wednesday Gathering, lunch for faculty and staff

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

May 7

All-Hands meeting for faculty, staff, and students

10:30–11:30 a.m., Hoversten Chapel

May 8–9

MIAC Championships for men's and women's track and field, at Carleton College

May 8–10

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW, and some MBA classes meet

May 11–12

New Faculty May Retreat, for first- and second-year faculty, “Leading Lives That Matter”

Off campus

May 15–17

WEC, MAE, MAL, MAN, MSW, and some MBA classes meet

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Daily chapel services Monday through Friday will resume in September; Saturday (when weekend classes meet), WEC First Word Community, 7:30–7:50 a.m.

Saturday, May 9—Rosemary Marrancini, MSW student and lay minister, United Methodist Church, “Take Thought for What is Noble”

Saturday, May 16—Jessica Fox-Wilson, Augsburg for Adults, “To Live Peaceably with All”

Sports results and schedule—<http://athletics.augsburg.edu>

Have a great two weeks—the next Weekly Update is on May 18.