



# President's WEEKLY UPDATE

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**Good morning.** On Sunday, June 27, we celebrate the second of our two Commencements for 2010, both highlighting this year's theme of community and civic engagement. For this Commencement, a total of 277 undergraduates and 215 master's degree students are eligible to graduate. This includes 199 weekend and evening students, 66 Rochester students, and 12 students in the partner hospital program, plus graduate students in five programs—10 in the Master of Arts in Education program, 24 in Master of Arts in Leadership, 18 in Master of Arts in Nursing, 112 in Master of Business Administration, and 51 in Master of Social Work. This year's student representative who will speak on behalf of the Class of 2010 is MAL student Mary Brown.

The June Commencement speaker is Congressman Keith Ellison, whose district includes the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. The Commencement also will feature the conferral of an honorary degree on Twin Cities business leader, Peter Heegaard, the founder of Urban Adventure. Urban Adventure is a community organization that educates young business and professional leaders about the issues and challenges of building healthy communities.

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 Rick Thoni, founder of Weekend College, who retired in 2007 after a long and remarkable career at Augsburg.

I hope many of you—faculty, staff, and students—will join us for Commencement and the receptions that follow to celebrate with our graduating students and their families.

On June 1, as part of our continuing focus on community and civic engagement, more than 30 faculty and staff participated in a Sabo Summit, joined by internal and external partners who are directly engaged in the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning. Colleagues from our other three centers (Augsburg Center for Faith and Learning, Strommen Center for Meaningful Work, and the Center for Global Education), the Cabinet, and Dean's Council joined them in this conversation.

Garry Hesser, Sabo Professor of Citizenship and Learning, described the lessons learned from Congressman Sabo that have shaped the work of the Sabo Center. Participants used these lessons and their own citizenship work to develop a vision for an integrated future strategy for the center. Priorities for next year's work include the conducting of a deliberate, sustained exploration of Sabo identity, mission, and pedagogy and the commitment of all involved to foster intergroup learning, possibly through roundtables, for reflection and practice.

I want to say a special welcome to campus to the staff of the **Minnesota Campus Compact**, including executive director Julie Plaut, along with associate director John Hamerlinck, administrative manager Meghan Aanenson, Americorps Vista member Julie Quanrud, and Americorps Promise Fellow Maria Ortiz, who have moved their offices to Augsburg's campus, effective June 1. The Compact offices will be located in the former

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weekend and graduate admissions house on 21st Avenue, along with many staff members of the Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning. We are proud to host the Minnesota Campus Compact and look forward to our continuing partnership with them to enhance civic engagement and the public mission of Minnesota colleges and universities.

## **CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **Minnesota Private College Week**

Next week, June 21–25, we welcome several hundred high school students and their families to visit campus during Minnesota Private College Week. Augsburg's program is different than others in that students who visit us hear about our departments and programs from the faculty, staff, and students in those programs as they walk around campus. I'm grateful to the faculty and students who come back to campus to participate in this important recruiting event.

### **Community service days and summer picnic**

Today through Wednesday, staff are lending their hands to help in activities at several community organizations off campus as well as in the community gardens. The participating organizations are Feed My Starving Children, Books for Africa, Project Linus, and the Augsburg and Korean community gardens.

Following these activities, everyone is invited to join staff at the summer picnic on Wednesday at noon in Murphy Square.

### **MAL Colloquium presents project research**

The Master of Arts in Leadership 2010 Spring Colloquium was held on June 2 in the Oren Gateway Center. Fourteen MAL students presented overviews of their final project research to students, faculty, and guests. At or near the completion of coursework for the MAL program, students who select this completion option are required to develop and carry out an in-depth study of some aspect of leadership or a leadership-related topic, which affords them the opportunity to connect an issue or problem with what they have learned.

### **German business students visit Augsburg**

From June 2–11, MBA director Steve Zitnick hosted 16 students and two faculty from the Berufsakademie in Karlsruhe, Germany. In their intensive study, students learned about international business and American culture. Outside of class, students participated in corporate site visits, studied in the library, enjoyed a barbeque in Murphy Square, attended a Twins game, and took a weekend trip to the North Shore. This inter-campus relationship with Berufsakademie and the Augsburg business department is now more than five years old, and we look forward to further development of this relationship.

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## KUDOS

Kudos to **Jacquie deVries**, History Department, for positive reviews for the recent book she edited with Sue Morgan, *Women, Gender, and Religious Culture in Britain, 1800–1940*, published by Routledge. Comments one reviewer, “This is an important volume of essays that establishes new directions in women’s history by taking religion (largely Christianity) seriously.”

Congratulations to five students who have received Gilman Awards for study abroad: **Claire Bergren** (Namibia), **Kong Lee** (China), **Katherine Martinson** (Morocco), **Maizoua Vang** (South Korea), and **Mai Sia Yang** (Thailand). Also, many thanks to **Leah Spinosa de Vega**, director of Augsburg Abroad, for her mentoring and advising of these and others through the application process. The awards provide financial support to students who receive federal Pell grants and who want to study abroad.

Kudos to Social Work professors **Laura Boisen**, **Lois Bosch**, **Nancy Rodenberg**, and **Tony Bibus**, who presented a three-hour workshop on multi-cultural clinical supervision at the 20th annual state conference for the Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on June 3. **Barbara Lehmann** served as moderator.

**Tony Bibus** also twice presented a two-hour workshop on ethical decision-making in child welfare (boundary issues and dual relationships) via interactive television broadcast by the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Training System statewide on June 1 and June 8.

**NOTABLE EVENTS**—For a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Inside Augsburg Calendar at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

**Monday-Wednesday, June 14–16**

**Community Service Days, sponsored by Staff Senate**

**Wednesday, June 16**

**Summer Picnic**

**Noon, Murphy Square**

**Thursday, June 17**

**Rochester Baccalaureate**

7 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church

**Friday, June 18–Sunday, June 20**

**WEC, MAE, MAN, MSW classes meet**

**Monday, June 21–Friday, June 25**

**Minnesota Private College Week**

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COLLEGE

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**Friday, June 25–Sunday, June 27**  
WEC, MAE, MAN, MSW classes meet

**Sunday, June 27**

**June Commencement**

9 a.m., Baccalaureate Service, Hoversten Chapel

11 a.m., Commencement Ceremony, Melby Hall

12:30 p.m., Department Receptions, various locations

**Monday, June 28**

**47th Annual Clair Strommen A-Club Golf Tournament**

10:30 a.m., registration; noon, shotgun start, Gopher Hills Golf Course, Cannon Falls, Minn.

## **DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS**

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

**Saturday, June 19**—Jim Malzahn, President, WEC Student Senate, “Ask, Seek, Knock”

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

The next Update will come out on June 28. Have a great two weeks!