



President's WEEKLY UPDATE

June 28, 2010

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Good morning. What a warm, summer day we enjoyed as **we celebrated Commencement with our weekend/evening, Rochester, and graduate students and their families and friends.** All of our speakers provided perspectives on this year's theme of civic engagement. Commencement speaker Congressman Keith Ellison focused on service, urging students both to serve individuals in need and to seek ways to reform the systems that perpetuate injustice.

Peter Heegaard, founder and director of Urban Adventure, received an honorary degree for his work in providing leadership in the nonprofit sector that encourages investment in public programs to address systemic injustices. He referred back to his participation in a Center for Global Education travel seminar to Guatemala focusing on human rights as one of the "most incredible learning experiences" of his life.

Mary Brown, MAL program graduate, spoke of behalf of graduating students. She talked about how her Augsburg experience has taught her to see the world differently, and how this kind of awareness leads to engagement and fosters caring and commitment.

The Richard J. Thoni award, given to a weekend student who exemplifies the spirit of community involvement demonstrated by Rick Thoni's career at Augsburg, was given to Michele Roulet, who graduates with a major in studio art and a minor in religion. In immersing herself in student life at Augsburg, Michele has provided leadership, community spirit, hospitality, and innovation within the adult programs. She served as Weekend College Student Senate vice president and president and as a student commissioner in Campus Ministry. Her leadership created the First Word gatherings, an on-campus faith community for adult students. In the wider community, she has worked with programs to combat hunger. Michele will travel to Italy, a place that captured her heart last year when she participated in the travel seminar to study art and culture.

I was sad last week to report the death of Professor Emeritus Robert Herforth, a dedicated and well-loved member of the Biology Department faculty for 42 years. Professor Herforth retired in 2007 and is remembered as an extraordinary zoologist who remained very much engaged in current research throughout his life. The service for him was held on Friday. Please join me in keeping Professor Herforth's family in our thoughts and prayers.

This past week I was happy to join Norway House in conferring its Going Viking Award this year to graduates from the five Norwegian-founded Midwest Lutheran colleges. **We were privileged to honor Peter Agre, '70,** representing Augsburg, for his Nobel prize-winning scientific research and for the ways in which he embodies Augsburg's commitment to education for service.

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This afternoon I look forward to joining Augsburg alumni, faculty, staff, and friends at the annual Clair Strommen Golf Tournament in Cannon Falls. This is the 47th year of this event, which celebrates the memory of this remarkable Auggie. Augsburg is grateful to the Strommen family for many generous gifts, especially for their support of the Clair and Gladys Strommen Center for Meaningful Work, which recognizes their commitment to creating meaning and purpose in work and life.

CAMPUS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Welcome, Summer Bridge class of 2010!

Twenty-five incoming first-year students who qualify for TRIO/SSS begin their journey at Augsburg with the TRIO/Student Support Services Summer Bridge program, which runs July 11–Aug. 12. Summer Bridge students take two courses, Religion 100: Christian Vocation and the Search for Meaning, taught by Mark Tranvik, and COM 111: Introduction to Public Speaking, taught by Bob Groven. In addition to these college courses, Summer Bridge students participate in supplemental instruction classes, mentor-led study groups, workshops to learn more about Augsburg College and college life, Campus Kitchen service, and social and cultural activities. TRIO/SSS and Summer Bridge are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and Augsburg. For more information, go to <http://www.augsburg.edu/triosss>.

President's holiday and Independence Day celebration

This Friday, July 2, Augsburg College will be lightly staffed as we allow our staff to take an extra holiday, providing a four-day weekend, with the official Independence Day observance on Monday, July 5.

Nice Ride on campus

Augsburg is host to one of the 65 bike kiosks for the new Nice Ride bicycle-sharing program, launched on June 10. This is the nation's largest bike-sharing program and makes it easy and convenient to use a bike for short or longer trips. Augsburg's kiosk is located on Riverside Ave. in front of the ice arena.

KUDOS

Many thanks and kudos to **Staff Senate** for organizing the community service days and summer picnic and thanks to the approximately **40 staff who participated** in community service, offering their time to Feed My Starving Children, Project Linus, Books for Africa, and Augsburg's Community Garden and the Korean Community Garden.

Many thanks to the **admissions staff and Student Ambassadors** for their attention and hospitality during Minnesota Private College Week. Thanks also to faculty and staff who met with visiting students and their parents.

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Kudos to **Amanda Erdman**, director of residence life, whose collaboration with the company that provides washers and driers in the residence halls resulted in getting more energy-efficient machines.

Kudos to **Bill Wittenbreer**, reference librarian, for contributing an article to the recently-published book on Minnesota history, *The State We're In*, edited by Annette Atkins and Debbie Miller. His essay deals with 19th-century predictions for Minnesota's future.

Congratulations to student **Christina Halling**, who received an IES Abroad Merit-Based Scholarship to study on the IES European Union program this fall. Of the 550 applicants in 20 categories who submitted applications, 12% received awards.

NOTABLE EVENTS through July 25—For a complete listing of Augsburg events, go to the Inside Augsburg Calendar at <http://inside.augsburg.edu>

Sunday, June 27–Tuesday, July 13

Minnesota Debate and Advocacy Workshop

Minnesota Urban Debate League

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.

Monday, July 5

College closed for observance of Independence Day weekend

Friday, July 2—President's holiday—light staffing on campus

Monday, July 5—Observance of Independence Day

Tuesday, July 6–Thursday, July 29

GEMS/GISE program (Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science) and GISE (Guys in Science and Engineering)—Middle- and high-school girls and boys from Minneapolis Public Schools are engaged in classes and activities on campus, helped by Augsburg student mentors.

Wednesday, July 7

Wednesday Gathering

11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Christensen Center

Wednesday Evening Gathering—for evening custodial crew

8 p.m., Augsburg Room

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Friday, July 9–Friday, Aug. 13

Visit of 13 students from United International College in Zhuhai, China

July 11–17 and 18–24

Summer Film Camp (ages 16–18)

Sunday, July 11–Thursday, Aug. 12

Summer Bridge—a five-week residential program for admitted first-year Augsburg students who are TRiO/SSS eligible.

July 23–24, 26–27, and 28–29

SOAR I, II, and III—Orientation for first-year day students and their parents

DAILY CHAPEL SPEAKERS

Daily chapel services Monday through Friday and the WEC First Word Gatherings on Saturday mornings will resume in September.

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

The next President's Update will appear on July 26 and resume its weekly schedule on August 23. Have a great summer!