



Opera star coming to PLU pg. 4



Swimming takes Northwest Conference pg. 6-7



Children's Voices: The holocaust and beyond pg. 3



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Get your shots, or get the dots

PLU Health Center responds to measles outbreak

SAMANTHA LUND
News Editor

Measles is making its way across the country and the Pacific Lutheran University Health Center is getting ready for the possibility of it coming into Lute territory.

The students who stand to lose the most in a measles outbreak are those not vaccinated. Even if they do not catch the virus, unvaccinated students could be asked to leave campus and put their education on pause for undetermined amount of time.

PLU is a small community that contains a handful of unvaccinated people, director of the Health Center, Sudana Doll said.

Measles is one of the fastest spreading viruses. Since Jan. 1, 141 new cases of measles have been reported in the US. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) measles was eradicated in 2000. Since then, there have been a couple small outbreaks each year, most of which did not have more than 100 cases.

In 2014, that number skyrocketed and the U.S. experienced 23 measles outbreaks including one large outbreak of 383 cases.

This year, the measles are a very real threat to people's health. With two outbreaks already occurring, the U.S. government is urging people to get vaccinated.

The majority of people who contract measles are not vaccinated and catch the

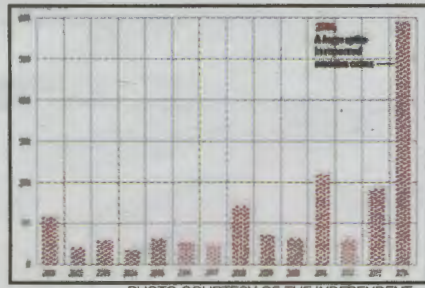


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDEPENDENT

Before 2001, the measles had been completely wiped out of the U.S.

virus easily. Vaccination is the only way to be protected, and even then, vaccines sometimes do not work.

"The vaccination is very effective, there are very few people who have gotten the infection who have been vaccinated," Doll said. "But it always lowers the severity of the symptoms. When young people get the vaccination, it is very effective."

Since January, there have been cases of measles at Eastern Washington University. College students are contracting the virus because they are not vaccinated and the virus spreads quickly.

When an outbreak of measles occurs and someone contracts the virus, they can infect rooms they are in. Those rooms will stay infected for up to two hours and other people can catch measles by going into the room.

Though the measles virus does not show signs or symptoms for the first several days the carrier is still contagious. If a carrier of

measles walks through a room, they could leave the room contagious hours after they leave.

"If someone came into an exam room here with measles, that room would be infected for at least an hour," Doll said. "It would have to be sectioned off because if anyone goes in there they could get it."

Measles infect the body in the form of a fever, skin rash and a cough. Other symptoms include red eyes, sore throat and a running nose.

Most children in the U.S. get their first vaccination at one year old and their second when they are four years old.

There are some people who choose not to be vaccinated in the U.S. because of religious or medical preferences.

Some countries do not vaccinate as regularly, leaving children and adults susceptible to the measles.

PLU has a small population of students on campus who are not vaccinated. Now that the measles is spreading, Doll is

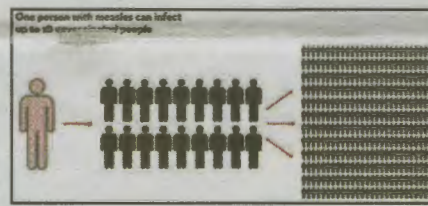


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDEPENDENT

Measles is one of the most contagious infections in the world, and it is making a comeback.

concerned for those students.

When a student is accepted to PLU and chooses to attend, the Health Center gets their records, including vaccinations.

Students who do not have their Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine have to sign a waiver before coming to campus. When they sign the waiver, students agree to leave campus if or when an outbreak occurs.

In the event of a measles outbreak on or near campus, those select students will be asked to leave campus and not return until the Health Center says there is no more risk for measles.

Students asked to leave campus because of the virus could be gone for many weeks and essentially miss an entire semester, putting their education on hold.

If students on campus are not vaccinated with the MMR shot and would like to be, the Health Center has the vaccine.

"Many times international students come here without immunizations and the first thing they do is get their MMR," Doll said. "We've got a list of the students who have decided not to and we can call them up whenever."

The measles outbreak touched PLU students recently. In December, two students were aboard a flight from California with someone who was infected.

PLU was contacted by the airline and informed that the students may have been in contact with a family infected. The students had been vaccinated and were not quarantined.

Quotable



"I've had them since 2003, it's like wearing gloves on my feet."
Junior Jimmy Ilbrink about his Birkenstocks, "Birks on campus" pg. 5



"We still have a shot at the playoffs. A lot would have to go right, but we need a great effort on both nights..."
Steve Dickerson, Head Coach of Men's Basketball on this weekends games, "Men's basketball splits v-day weekend" pg. 11



"It's my job to teach him that when he's in the vest, he's at work."
Senior Morgan Woods on training a guide dog, "Please do not pet the guide dogs" pg. 8



"Two weeks ago I passed someone who had their iPad propped on the steering wheel and streaming a video."
Senator Ann Rivers on why Senate Bill 5656 is necessary, "Put your phone down and drive" pg. 2

Leaving students with a message

Tunnel of Oppression gives students one day to experience social justice

SAMANTHA LUND
News Editor

This year, the Tunnel of Oppression aims to bring back tough messages and lessons. Hopefully, students will walk away thinking about what each person can do to fight social injustice.

The tunnel is an annual event Pacific Lutheran University holds to raise awareness of issues of privilege and oppression by presenting scenes grounded in real-world, lived experiences.

Senior David Nguyen has been a docent for the tunnel the last three years. When he started, Nguyen remembered the tunnel being much more shocking and remembered a fake rape scene taking place.

"Over the years that has kind of lessened a little, I think," Nguyen said. "I think that's because a few people have problems with the scenes because it feels too real to them."

Nguyen thinks the realistic scenes are the only way to make students change their minds and open their eyes. He thinks the tunnel will be more

shocking and inspiring this year.

Nellie Moran, another senior involved in the tunnel, is helping to create two scenes. Moran is involved in the Diversity Center's scene which depicts the differences in how black victims and suspects are treated in the media compared to white victims.

Moran is also involved in the Queer Ally Student Union's scene. QASU is hoping to inform students on

transgender health care with its scene.

"[The Tunnel] ties into our mission statement. [It] really embodies that," Moran said. "And it has people reflect critically on their actions and everyday lives and some of the choices that they are making everyday that are affecting other people."

Groups go into the tunnel led by a docent. Each scene is separated by curtains and holds a different theme. After going

through each scene, students are taken into a debriefing room where they can talk about what they saw and how it affected them.

"It is dark and heavy," Moran said. "But it is important."

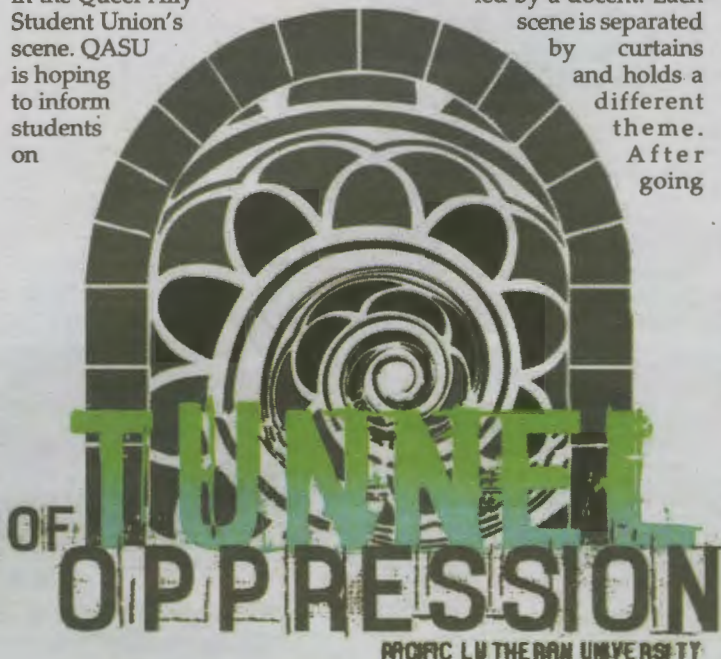
For the second year, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is getting involved with the tunnel. SAAC aims to show social injustice in the athletics community and bring a different style to the tunnel than people would expect.

This year, SAAC aims to focus on different issues athletes face.

"Athletics isn't always completely accessible to everyone," SAAC president, Amy Wooten said.

Wooten gave the example of a Muslim track runner who had to buy special clothing to participate. Then the runner got disqualified for her outfit.

"We're supposed to be inclusive," Wooten said. "But there are a lot of issues we encounter along the way at different levels."



Put your phone down and drive

New Senate bill aims to cut down distracted driving

SAMANTHA LUND
News Editor

Texting or making a phone call while driving is illegal in Washington State. When pulled over for texting, a person could claim to be checking directions and get off without any ticket.

New legislation is being promoted in the Washington Senate to outlaw cell phone use completely while operating a vehicle. The new bill will not only make it illegal to use a cell phone, but would also put such infractions on a driver's record for insurance companies and employers to see.

In a study done for U.S. News, 80 percent of college students text while driving, and according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nine people are killed each day texting and driving while more than 1,000 people are injured.

The current Washington law treats these infractions like parking tickets and simply paying the fine will make the ticket go away.

Senate Bill 5656 will also increase the penalty amount for offenders.

Currently, a texting and driving violation costs the offender \$124 for each offense. With the new law, the cost would increase second offense costs to \$209.

Senate Bill 5656 was first proposed Jan. 28 in a Senate hearing and was then referred to the Senate Transportation Committee on Feb. 9.

Heading the bill is Republican Sen. Ann Rivers of La Center, Wash. When Sen. Rivers

proposed the bill initially, there was no testimony against it.

"I drive a minimum of 400 miles a week on I-5," Rivers said. "The number of folks that I see participating in risky behavior is astounding."

Rivers is sponsoring this bill

because she wants to see safer roads for everyone.

"Two weeks ago, I passed someone who had their iPad propped on the steering wheel and streaming a video," Rivers said.

The Washington State Transportation Commission is supporting the bill along with the Washington State Patrol and

many private citizens, Rivers said. The bill is not meant to be a stepping-stone to more bills and it is meant to benefit everyone.

"It is

my hope that by passing stiffer penalties and raising the stakes for those who choose to disobey common sense, we will appeal to personal economics to drive good decision making," Rivers said.

"In a perfect world, we wouldn't need legislation to attempt to force

"Two weeks ago I passed someone who had their iPad propped on the steering wheel and streaming a video."

Ann Rivers
Washington State Senator

people to be responsible," Rivers said. "We do not, however, live in that world."

Rivers sees challenges coming up in passing the bill, such as getting the public to support it. Keeping the challenges in mind, Rivers said the bill will be tough but worth passing for everyone's safety.

Rivers says the bill will affect both adults and teens equally, however, teens make up the majority of distracted drivers.

According to Edgar Snyder Law Firm's accident study, teens between 15 and 19 make up the largest portion of distracted drivers. Teen drivers are also four times more likely to get into an accident while talking or texting than adult drivers.

More information on Senate Bill 5656 can be found at: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2015&bill=5656>

5 seconds is the minimal amount of time attention is taken away from the road while texting

10% of teens say they have texted while driving.

Teens who text while driving spend approximately

10% of their driving time outside of their lane.

Statistics found at www.textinganddrivingsafety.com

Cancer survivor, philanthropist, student

PLU student beats cancer and dedicates life to helping

GENNY BOOTS
News Writer

Gailon Wixson Pursley is a senior social work major at Pacific Lutheran University. On paper, Pursley looks pretty "normal" until you hear about her life off-campus. Pursley is a philanthropist and cancer survivor.

June 6 of last year, Pursley had just finished her junior year and was recovering from a stressful finals week when she was diagnosed with cancer.

Walking became hard for Pursley and after an MRI and a biopsy, Pursley was diagnosed with Stage Three Undifferentiated Sarcoma in her left pelvic area.

"I had started noticing things in March of last year and it just steadily got worse," said Pursley.

Now, nine months later, she is in remission and showing no signs of cancer.

According to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital website, "Sarcomas are cancers that begin in the body's connective tissues." Sarcomas can affect bone, soft tissue or both. Pursley suffered from soft tissue cancer, which the American Cancer Society says, "accounts for 7 percent of all childhood tumors"

The most common method of treatment is radiation and chemotherapy.

"My chemo drip would be 20 hours and then they would unhook me and for

four hours I would do radiation and then I would do another 20 hours of chemo, and this would go on for 3 days," Pursley said. "Then they would release me, and I would feel like crap for two days, and then I would repeat the cycle three weeks later."

Near the end of her treatment, Pursley was featured in an interview for Seattle's KOMO news. Pursley had started a campaign to replace the overhead lights in the Ronald McDonald House.

"It has given me such a greater appreciation for being back here and a greater appreciation for being healthy."

Gailon Wixson Pursley
Senior

Pursley spent half of her time in treatment at the Ronald McDonald house and noticed the lights made a distinct buzz, one of the last things someone going through chemotherapy and radiation needs when they come home. Pursley and her mother decided to fundraise to get newer, quieter lights for patient rooms.

Little did she know that on-camera interview was all it took. After seeing Pursley on television, the owner of North Coast Electric decided to donate all the

lights to the Ronald McDonald House, and took what Pursley fundraised to pay the labor costs.

"The day I left Ronald McDonald was the day after that [interview] aired", Pursley said.

She is hoping to see the lights installed by her first checkup post-cancer in March. Until then, she is living her life back on-campus and enjoying the routine of college life.

"When you are up there [Seattle Children's Hospital], it is all about treating your illness, but when you're here [Pacific Lutheran University] it's not as much of a problem. I don't feel like I am just being treated for my illness- now I am a normal student again," Pursley said.

But really, she is anything but normal. While she might not describe herself as "brave" or "a fighter," Pursley has a new outlook and focus for her life. She now hopes to become an oncology social worker and to continue her education at University of Washington for her graduate degree.

Throughout this process, Pursley says "it has given me a such greater appreciation for being back here [PLU] and a greater appreciation for being healthy...It is just fantastic to spend time with people my age and spend time with my friends again."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAILON WIXSON PURSLEY

During her treatment Pursley split her time between the Ronald McDonald House, where she shared a room with her mother, and the Seattle Children's Hospital. It was at Children's where she met the world famous musician Macklemore. "He was the nicest guy, and so down to earth," said Pursley

the commons
@ Anderson University Center

How do they choose what goes on your plate?

NATALIE DEFORD
News Writer

The process behind deciding the weekly Commons menu is complicated. Yet, the staff in charge of feeding the many people at Pacific Lutheran University are still able to be accommodating and creative.

Erin McGinnis, director of Dining and Retail Service at PLU, said the decision process starts in the summer when she and the three sous chefs have the most time to plan.

They work together to come

up with a four-week rotation cycle that attempts to include the most variety and value for a student's meal plan.

"We have to think about what stretches our staff as far as sort of cultural cuisine as well as what's trending out there," McGinnis said. "It's a lot of brainstorming, it's a lot of printing off articles, seeing what the top ten restaurants are, and I do a lot of research and we try to find the information out there about what's hot and what works."

McGinnis, a former Lute, went on to culinary school in New York for two years.

"Food is my passion," McGinnis said. "Being creative with how we can do food for a large volume of people and get the best product out there is the puzzle that keeps me here over 20 years."

In addition to the creative side of things, McGinnis said these planners must also consider their customer service satisfaction survey.

The Commons just received last fall's survey results, which marked categories of value, health and variety. Additionally, there were more than 400 open-ended comments.

"We take what we want to do and figure out how that relates to our students and what they want to see," McGinnis said.

McGinnis says that every year the Commons works to provide students with more options for healthy, vegetarian and gluten-free meals. But still the surveys indicate that the students want more.

"We're always trying to get to that bar and the bar is always rising," McGinnis said.

McGinnis says the Commons staff also takes into account the comments they receive via social media, in their comment box and

in person. The staff meets weekly to discuss these comments as well as how they can have fun in the middle of the four-week rotation cycles.

"We try to find a balance between what'll work and what'll sell, while trying to have a broad enough appeal," McGinnis said. "It's never boring, it's always new."

Check the Commons menu weekly to see what is for breakfast, lunch or dinner using the online commons menu at <http://www.plu.edu/dining/menus/> or on the Lute Guide app.

Children's voices: The Holocaust and beyond

NATALIE DEFORD
News Writer

Children of the past, present and future will be the focus of this year's Powell-Heller Holocaust Education Conference with more than 200 local junior and senior high school students scheduled to take part.

This year's conference is focusing on the stories of children who fall victim to dehumanization, March 4-6. Both past and present are taken into context with questions of the future.

Beth Kraig, faculty planning co-coordinator, said the conference's faculty planning group quickly decided to focus this year's efforts on the stories of children because almost all of the remaining survivors of Nazi camps were imprisoned in their youth.

"The stories of child survivors stand out as especially vital testimonies to hear today," Kraig said.

Kraig also said the faculty group was interested in addressing the issue of child refugees today, since a 2014 United Nations report stated that half of the 51 million refugees living outside their home nations are children.

"The conference should remind and inform audiences of the past destruction and abuse of children in the Holocaust, while provoking us all to realize that children are still heavily targeted and harmed throughout the world as a result of war, human trafficking, unaddressed poverty and other injustices," Kraig said.

The conference, which takes place at Pacific Lutheran University, begins Wednesday March 4 with a 7 p.m. screening of the documentary "50 Children" in the Karen Hille Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

The film is about an American couple that decides to go to Nazi Germany in

order to sponsor and rescue 50 Jewish children and bring them back to the United States. There will be a discussion afterward with director Steven Pressman.

Thursday will be a day-full of discussion and presentation, including talks with Pressman and others who contributed to "50 Children." There will also be stories of other child rescues in history, as well as a talk about child refugees in modern events.

A fully listed schedule of events and information can be found at <http://www.powellhellerconference.com>.

On Friday, March 6, more than 200 local students in grades 8-12 from Keithley Middle School, Washington High School, Mt. Rainier Lutheran and others will attend a series of learning activities focusing on children and the Holocaust.

The program includes interactive sessions and discussions as the students read and learn the stories of five children who lived during the Holocaust. The stories are told primarily through the writings of these children. Unfortunately, only one of the five survived.

"I think that this is an easier way for the children to learn about the Holocaust because the stories are through children's writing, which I hope will be a palpable way to learn about something traumatic," said Lexi Jason, PLU sophomore and student host for the event.

The younger students will be placed at tables with 32 PLU student hosts, arranged so each table will have nearly all grades and schools represented. Together with the hosts, students will talk about the stories they read and work through their resulting feelings and questions.

"I'm most excited to host the kids and find out what they know and what they want to learn about the Holocaust," Jason said. "It [the Holocaust] is an incredibly important event in history and I think the more we talk about things that are traumatic the better we are able to understand them



PHOTO BY NATALIE DEFORD

The gates at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp which read, "Arbeit Macht Frei," or "work makes you free."

and heal from them."

Friday's line up is open to the public and Kraig said she expects a presence from most age groups.

"This should be an extremely memorable event," Kraig said. "Any PLU student who could come to any part would see the gym full of all the age ranges, in the space together, talking about the same things."

It will be a present-day gathering to remember the past, think of the now and be mindful of the future.

The 8th Annual Powell-Heller Holocaust Education Conference will be held March 4-6 at Pacific Lutheran University.

How to Sound *Smart*: About medical errors in America

1 The American health care system kills tens of thousands of patients each year. Medical errors tend to fall on two sides: either they are mistakes that happen when doctors set a wrong plan, or they happen when they prescribe the wrong medication. Sometimes the wrong medication comes from a doctor's messy handwriting.

Bed sores are a major source of harm. Bed sores are pressure ulcers that patients develop when they have not been moved for a long period of time. In a 2006 government survey, more than half a million Americans were hospitalized for bed sores and of them, 58,000 die in the hospital.

One estimate says medical errors kill 210,000 Americans yearly.

4 Sometimes doctors do not know an error has occurred. Spotting medical errors is particularly hard for doctors sometimes. Medical errors can go unfixated because patients live and die all the time and it is hard to know if it was an error, or disease.

Doctors with medical errors are shamed, so they choose not to tell patients sometimes. Only one-third of patients are told about a medical error when it happens, multiple surveys find. The lack of communication between a doctor and patient are chalked up to American malpractice suits and fear of them.

6 The financial side of health care does not necessarily help this system of errors and mistakes. When a patient is harmed, typically they need more care, and the health care provider will profit. Therefore, there is no real incentive for health care providers to improve the system.



How to Sound Smart about medical errors in America is compiled from an article at vox.com: "Medical errors in America kill more people than AIDS or drug overdoses. Here's why."

OPERA STAR COMING TO CAMPUS



Stephanie Blythe performing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 2013.

ERIN FLOM Guest Writer

Lutes with affinities for Opera have a special opportunity awaiting them Monday.

Opera star Stephanie Blythe will be at Pacific Lutheran University to teach a master class Feb. 23.

Vocal Studies professor James L. Brown helped to organize the event.

"[Blythe] is an advocate for opera and a champion of the whole gambit of vocal music," Brown said.

Therefore, she is passionate about offering her skills in master classes.

When planning master classes, Brown said "we try to catch people when they're in the area, rather than fly them in."

Blythe is in the area rehearsing for Seattle Opera's performance of the Handel opera "Semele."

During the class, five PLU students will perform for Blythe. Each student will have a half hour to perform and be critiqued by Blythe. After all the students have performed, Blythe will then take questions from the audience.

Sophomore Miya Higashiyama is one of the five students performing for

"They really help you to grow in your musicianship," Higashiyama said.

The four other students performing are seniors Annie Herzog, Lauren Searls, Sarah Bennet and Eric Olson.

Brown believes that having this class with Blythe will give his students not only a fresh perspective on opera, but also a "perspective informed by an international performing career."

He also expects his students will gain performing insight from her.

"[Blythe] is known as an engaging and gripping performer," Brown said.

For example, Blythe requested that most of the five performers sing their pieces in English.

"It will help [the students] to focus on the words they're singing," said Brown, making their performance, and not just their voice, stronger.

Stephanie Blythe
7 p.m. Feb. 23
Lagerquist Concert Hall
free, open to public

Blythe. When asked if she was nervous, Higashiyama said, "I'm terrified."

More than fifty students applied to perform for Blythe, Higashiyama said.

Higashiyama has previously taken other master classes, including a summer workshop with PLU faculty.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

ALBUM REVIEW

"Smoke + Mirrors" by Imagine Dragons

BROOKE THAMES A&E Writer

Imagine Dragons' new sophomore album "Smoke + Mirrors" is both the same and different from their debut record.

Songs such as "Shots," "Dream," and "The Fall" are reminiscent of the sounds found on "Night Visions." Tracks such as "Friction," however, present a sharp rock-esque style that is uncharacteristic of the band, but amazing nonetheless.

While most of the songs on the album are enjoyable,



Smoke + Mirrors
Imagine Dragons
\$11.99 iTunes
free Spotify

the record does have some setbacks.

Several songs like "Gold" and "I Bet My Life" contain sporadic bursts of screaming that are supposed to serve some purpose. In reality, they're weird and unnecessary, and distract from the music itself.

The album also has its share of uninteresting tracks, including the title track, "Smoke and Mirrors," and "Hopeless Opus."

Despite being less than perfect, Imagine Dragons' "Smoke + Mirrors" is a good album worth lending an ear to.

PLU alumna returns to share her music

BROOKE THAMES A&E Writer

Pacific Lutheran University is known for producing a variety of successful alumni. One such prosperous Lute returned Feb. 12 to share her triumph with her Alma Mater. Gospel singer, Crystal Aikin, '97, appeared at Garfield Book Co. for a signing of her highly-anticipated album, "All I Need."

"It is wonderful to be back home," Aikin said.

Aikin is a native of Tacoma and was first exposed to and began singing gospel music in the church.

"I was raised in the church," Aikin said. "[Gospel] is just what we do."

Aikin carried her love of singing with her to PLU. Although she was not a music major, Aikin sang in the University Chorale and the Choral Union under the direction of Dr. Richard Nance.

She graduated from PLU with double degrees in biology and psychology in 1997, and went on to pursue a career in nursing.

After spending many years working as a nurse in Tacoma, Aikin took a leap and auditioned for BET's reality television contest "Sunday Best" in 2007. She was named the inaugural winner, gaining a recording contract with Zomba Gospel.

Since her win on national television,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FROSCHAUER

Crystal Aikin performing at a holiday luncheon in December 2013.

Aikin has released two successful albums – including her 2015 record, "All I Need."

Aikin said she was pleased to come back and share her success with the people she credits the most.

"I feel like PLU contributed to the success that I have, so I think it's best to come back to where it started," Aikin said.

As for gospel, Aikin is committed to creating music in the years to come.

"[Gospel] is something very familiar to who I am as a Christian," Aikin said. "Gospel music is home for me."

A&E

Tunnel of Oppression
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 20 in CK

Blythe Masterclass
7 p.m. Feb. 23 in Lagerquist

"Vikings" Film Screening
7 p.m. Feb. 25 in Scan Center

Saxifrage Writing Competition
7 p.m. Feb. 26 in The CAVE

**Adrienne Harun:
Visiting Writer Series**
7 p.m. Feb. 26 in Regency Room

BLOGS: Music: Taylor, Drake, and Beck

BROOKE THAMES
A&E Writer

I danced along with Taylor in "Shake It Off" and awed over the genius of "Blank Space," but with the newly released video for "Style," I was just sort of disappointed...

Full story online:
<http://mastmedia.plu.edu/>



**TERRAN'S
take**

Terran's Take:
Terran explains the newest Kardashian twitter fight.

NEWS@NINE

Every Thursday night at 9 p.m.!

ON THE aGENda
with Genny Boots

**MAST
TV**

This week, Boots brought on guest host Matthew Salzano to get the inside scoop on Jehane Noujaim's campus visit. Also: all things "50 Shades."

Watch Thursday's show online:
<http://mastmedia.plu.edu/>

BIRKENS on campus

MATTHEW SALZANO
A&E Editor

Birkenstocks are back, and the Pacific Lutheran University campus has not been spared of the resurgence of the classic sandal.

Fashion bloggers for *The New York Times*, *Daily Mail* and the *Wall Street Journal* have been talking about the Birkenstock revival since Spring 2014.

Some fashionistas, like New York boutique owner Jennifer Mankin, declared it the shoe of the summer.

It's not summer any more, some Lutes are still rocking their sandals — with or without socks — around campus.

After sending out a huge Facebook invite on *The Mast's* page, seven birk-wearing fans came out to get photographed and share their sandal stories. They can be seen below.

History of Birks

Birkenstocks are currently a worldwide brand: selling more than 800 styles of shoes in 80 countries and employing 2,000 people.

Birkenstocks range in price from \$70 to \$130 and are available in most shoe stores.

The sandals began and are still produced in Germany. The family-owned company began in 1774 when Johann Adam Birkenstock was first mentioned as a shoemaker in Langenbergheim church archives.

The first Birkenstock storefront opened in 1896 when Konrad Birkenstock manufactured and sold insoles.

The brand unveiled their first line of sandals, the "Madrid" model, in 1963. The brand came to U.S. stores in 1966.

crunching the numbers

1774

The year Johann Adam Birkenstock was first mentioned as a shoemaker.

Total number of Birkenstock styles available today.

800

2,000

Number of Birkenstock employees worldwide.

Total number of countries where Birkenstocks are sold.

80

contributing reporting by
DAVID MAIR
Staff Writer

BROOKE THAMES
A&E Writer

GENNY BOOTS
Staff Writer

photos by
MATTHEW SALZANO
A&E Editor



First-year Sophia Mahr (left) and sophomore Lexi Jason (right) both purchased their Birkenstocks while in Germany this January Term.

"There's kind of a little community at PLU that you feel a part of if you're wearing Birkenstocks."
Sophia Mahr

"With Birkenstocks, you can flawlessly transition from your teens, to your twenties, thirties, forties — all through your life."
Lexi Jason



"I've had them since 2003. It's like wearing gloves on my feet."
junior Jimmy Ilbrink



"My feet made them who they are."
junior Sarah Henderson



"I have three pairs. I've taken one pair everywhere since I was 14. England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, France, Holland and Canada."
junior Haley Ehlers





The PLU Women's Swim Team stands atop the podium with a first place finish.

AS EXP LUT CRU COMPE



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE VALDEZ

ABOVE: Four women placed with a top five or better performance in the 100 meter breaststroke. From left to right: senior Rachel Althaus (fifth), first-year Chloe Carr (third), junior Shanell Sullenberger (first) and junior Kiana Sullenberger (second).



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUI GUTIERREZ

RIGHT: Sophomore Erica Muller races to the finish line in the 500 meter freestyle.

AUSTIN HILLIKER
Sports Editor

They came, they saw and they conquered. In just three short days, both the men and women swim teams of Pacific Lutheran University made quite the statement as they set 21 new school records on the weekend.

Records were set by both the men and women during the three day conference championship at the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis, Ore.

The women took the crown, finishing first in the Northwest conference. They finished with 779 total points, the most points accumulated by a team in the last four years since Whitworth grabbed 817 points in 2011.

The women took first place in seven of 18 events, further supporting the Lutes were the undisputed back-to-back champions.

One standout performance took place during the women's 1650 meter freestyle. Sophomore Erica Muller put up a time of 17:34.67, breaking a 24-year-old PLU record.

Junior Melissa Dean broke her own school record during the finals heat in the 100 meter freestyle, with a time of 52.36, placing her second overall in the event.

Junior Hanna Armstrong and senior Michelle Hogan competed in the same race, as Armstrong placed fifth with a time of 53.12 and Hogan finished sixth with a time of 53.95.

One of the last races was the most impressive performance for the women's swim team.

The Lutes set a new school record and a NCAA 'B' qualifying mark in the 400 meter freestyle relay, as Armstrong, Dean, Hogan and first-year Shanell Sullenberger capped off the day and brought in a time of 3:30.86.

The men's team finished third, ending the weekend with a total of 521.5 total points, placing them second to the second-place team, the Pirates who finished with 521.5 total points and the first-place team, the Missionaries, with 697.5 points.

2

Despite the conference title, a lot to be proud of.

Sophomore Erica Muller took home a new school record in the 1650 meter freestyle, which came with a time of 17:34.67, breaking a 24-year-old PLU record. The time was a qualifying time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLUTES.COM

SELECTED, TESTS JSH PETITION

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Junior Joseph Bowley also recorded an NCAA 'B' qualifying mark, as he tied Trevor Case of the Whitworth Pirates, with a time 2:05.05 in the 200 meter breaststroke. While sophomore Matthew Wehr also set an NCAA 'B' qualifying time in the 200 meter butterfly with 1:51.3, placing him

year. The day was finally wrapped up as Bowley, Wehr, senior Basil Whaley and junior Brian Ruggles set another NCAA 'B' qualifying record in the 400 meter freestyle relay. They finished third with a time of 3:08.48.

It wasn't just the players who brought home outstanding performances on the day. PLU coach Matt Sellman was named the NWC Women's Swimming Coach of the Year. This award has been given to Sellman the last three years, making him the first coach in NWC history to do so.

The NCAA Division III Championships will be held in Shenandoah, Texas March 20.

1 BROKEN RECORDS

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third overall in the event. Sophomore Cody Hartman added himself to the list of outstanding performances as he also set a NCAA 'B' qualifying time of 1:52.58 in the 200 meter backstroke. Not only did he make the NCAA qualifying mark, he even broke the PLU record in the event, previously set by him last



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUI GUTIERREZ

LEFT: Junior Joseph Bowley went 4-for-4 on the day, winning the 100 meter breaststroke, 200 meter breaststroke, 200 meter individual medley and the 200 meter team medley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUI GUTIERREZ

BELOW: First-year Paul Jett participated in the men's 200 medley relay and helped his team finish first with a time of 1:41.35.

Bring attention to Black History Month

MICHAEL DIAMBRI
Columnist



February is Black History Month, and although the Black Student Union and the Diversity Center have made efforts to promote inquiry about black history during February, little is being done by Pacific Lutheran University to celebrate it.

"Out of the whole year we have a short month to have African-American history recognized" said first-year Quenessa Long. "This is a time to promote a positive understanding of African-Americans."

Unfortunately, the history most people think is adequate enough to understand is the history of the ruling class. The history of oppressed groups often remains in the shadows of the historical landscape. But without understanding their history, we can't claim to have an accurate understanding of the past.

Since there is a month dedicated to black history, as Lutes who encourage thoughtful inquiry and community acceptance, we need to advocate the importance of studying the histories of various cultures and people groups.

The Black Student Union will have

panels this month and various other activities.

"If it wasn't for BSU [Black Student Union], the Diversity Center, or Black History Month, this university would have almost no recognition of African-American culture, and for other people of color," Long said. "There is a three percent African-American population at this school... and dropping."

If PLU believes in the importance of diversity, there needs to be a promotion of understanding other cultures that goes beyond having a Diversity Center and constantly saying that we are "all-inclusive."

Black History Month is the best time of the year to do this.

The university supports the understanding of other cultures, but PLU isn't bringing in a diverse population of students, or doing more than stating that diversity is important.

PLU uses its identity as a liberal arts school to say students develop a well-rounded understanding of the importance of diversity in perspective, practice and place. But taking a class or watching "Selma" does not mean you are supporting and understanding the importance of black history.

Additionally, if we limit our knowledge of black history to the perpetuated idea that black history is restricted to slavery, civil rights and entertainment, we limit the

importance of African-Americans in our communities. History is a way of understanding importance.

There is so much more the university could do. If PLU wants to retain and develop its identity as a diverse and engaging university, there needs to be a breakthrough of thoughtful inquiry about black history.

For instance, the drama department could put on a production of plays written by African-Americans. The history department could bring in lecturers or start a conference about African-American history. The art department could highlight Black History Month with a display of African art.

The business department could try to get successful African American business men and women to come and discuss what it is like to be a minority in the world of business today.

Many people are making efforts to appreciate black

history, but they can't do it alone.

Yes, finances are tight, but this university needs to abide by and promote its mission statement to "educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership, and care - for other persons, for their communities and for the earth."

Black History Month is important, and there needs to be more done to foster it across-the-board at PLU.

"Taking a class or watching 'Selma' does not mean you are supporting, and understanding, the importance of black history"

Letter From the Editor: Please do not pet the guide dogs

RELAND TUOMI
Editor-in-Chief



While most of us can agree that it is nearly impossible to not pet a dog whenever we see one, it is not always what the owner wants you to do. That is the feeling senior Morgan Woods has every time someone tries to pet Indio, her guide dog in training.

"People will just reach out and start petting him," Woods said. "The proper etiquette is to ask before you do."

Students may have seen Woods and Indio, a yellow lab wearing a green vest, walking around campus. The vest reads "Puppy In Training," meaning the dog wearing the vest is being trained as a service animal.

Animals being trained for services, such as guide dogs for the blind or bomb sniffing for police, begin their training at eight weeks old and are returned to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN WOODS

Indio is a 10-month-old yellow lab being trained by senior Morgan Woods. To learn more about seeing eye dogs, visit <http://welcome.guidedogs.com/>.

training school between 13 and 18 months old.

During this training, the trainer must ensure the dog is properly exercised, fed a healthy diet and able to follow commands and understand when it is working and when it is O.K. to play.

Woods said people petting Indio is bad for his training because he doesn't know the difference between work and play.

"It's my job to teach him that when he's in the vest, he is at work," Woods said.

Woods also said people come up and pet him three

to four times per day, usually between classes and passing in the halls.

"People in my class are fine because I tell them he's in training," Woods said.

"But sometimes people will have their hands out, and then ask to pet him."

There are currently three puppies on campus and potentially a fourth one coming soon.

Even though it is hard work training a puppy to be a guide dog, Woods said she's having a lot of fun.

"You get two days to play with them and treat them like a puppy, and then training begins," Woods said.

"We get to keep [Indio] for about a year, which is basically the best part of a dog's life."

To learn more about proper guide dog etiquette or how to join a training program, go to <http://welcome.guidedogs.com/>.



THE MOORING MAST

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Embrace neighborhood clean up efforts

TAHLIA TERHUNE
Guest Writer

Lakewood, and much of Tacoma, is not always recognized for being a well-kept neighborhood.

While there are undoubtedly beautiful views to be seen from the city we call home, some neighborhoods do not embrace the cleanliness.

City officials in Lakewood have begun to tear down buildings and clear lots, according to Q13 Fox News. Community members are tired of the indecency provided by some community members.

"There's debris, there's glass, there's

hypodermic needles, there's actually been a lot of drug activity on the property" said Jeff Gumm from the Lakewood department of Community Development.

As part of the neighborhood abatement program, the City of Lakewood is taking steps to clean up neighborhoods by creating a process to deal with properties specifically. According to the City of Lakewood and *The News Tribune*:

1) If there is a complaint about a property, the owner is notified and a hearing is held.

2) If the owner doesn't clean up, an abatement order is signed, the city does the cleanup. The property owner is then billed at 12 percent interest.

"When houses are a mess, it seems like nobody has pride in our city," said David Tamayo, a Lakewood resident of two years. "I think this program is a good way to motivate community members, but it is a little extreme to invade someone's personal property."

While it might be necessary steps to take, it does seem quite enforced. You'll find our own community of Parkland modernizing the community in a round-about way.

PLU recently constructed Garfield Station which includes apartments and attractive housing for students. This new construction increases the attractiveness of the immediate area surrounding PLU, whether that was the original intent or not.

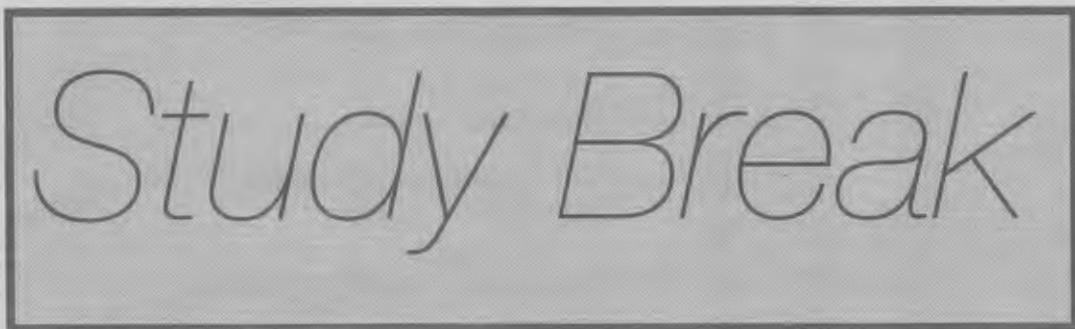
It provides a variety of additional housing to PLU students.

As Lutes, we take pride in our community, whether that be by character or appearance.

"It doesn't bother me how the homes look," junior Andrew Cheney said.

"I think it's a good way to clean up the community, but at the same time I also don't believe it's the city's responsibility and it shouldn't be the university's either."

If anything is to be taken from this, I suggest we take pride in our home whether we own or rent. Let's embrace the great character and uniqueness of our city and where we choose to call home.



JOB OPENING
The Mooring Mast is looking for Sports writers for Spring semester!
For more information or questions, email mast@plu.edu.

SUDOKU High Fives

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HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku High Fives consists of five regular Sudoku grids sharing one set of 3-by-3 boxes. Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition. The numbers in any shared set of 3-by-3 boxes apply to each of the individual Sudokus.

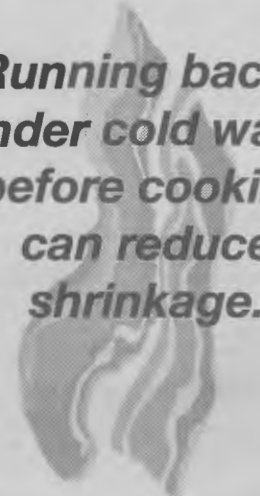
Little Carly Goes to College by Carly Stauffer

LABS: THE REAL DEAL



Life Hacks

Running bacon under cold water before cooking can reduce shrinkage.



SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Whitworth	20	3	13-1	Won 3
Whitman	18	5	12-2	Won 8
Lewis & Clark	13	10	8-6	Lost 1
Puget Sound	12	10	7-7	Won 2
Willamette	9	14	7-7	Won 1
Pacific	12	12	7-8	Won 1
Pacific Lutheran	8	15	6-8	Won 1
George Fox	5	19	3-12	Lost 6
Linfield	3	20	1-13	Lost 7

Women's Basketball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
George Fox	24	0	15-0	Won 24
Puget Sound	20	3	11-3	Won 5
Whitworth	20	3	11-3	Won 1
Whitman	15	8	10-4	Lost 1
Lewis & Clark	8	15	5-9	Lost 1
Pacific	9	15	5-10	Lost 3
Linfield	10	13	4-10	Won 1
Pacific Lutheran	5	18	2-12	Lost 1
Willamette	6	17	1-13	Lost 6

LUTE'S UPCOMING GAMES

Women's Basketball

Tonight @ 6 p.m. vs. Whitworth

Men's Basketball

Tonight @ 8 p.m. vs. Whitworth

Baseball

Feb. 21 vs. Linfield @ 12 p.m.

Baseball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Willamette	7	0	0-0	Won 7
Linfield	7	1	0-0	Won 3
Pacific Lutheran	6	2	0-0	Won 2
Pacific	1	2	0-0	Lost 2
George Fox	2	5	0-0	Lost 5
Puget Sound	2	5	0-0	Lost 3
Whitman	1	3	0-0	Lost 1
Whitworth	1	3	0-0	Won 2
Lewis & Clark	0	5	0-0	Lost 5

Hilliker's Highlights...

A very important off-season

AUSTIN HILLIKER
Sports Editor

Losing a game is never easy, but losing a game that more than 114 million people watched can be life-altering.

For some Seattle Seahawks players, the next step in their career won't be in a blue and white jersey in front of the 12th man. For others, it won't even be in the National Football League. It's the sad truth, but the NFL is a business, and athletes are constantly being cycled through it.

At the end of April, a class of fresh and eager talent will enter the NFL and their lives will be altered, but for the better.

April 30 through May 2, 256 young men will join the NFL and compete to play on the biggest stage that football has to offer. Some of these players will be future "Hall of Famers" and some won't make it past training camp.

If the Seahawks play their cards right, they might be able to pick up a few players that could bring them back to a third straight Super Bowl. In other words, this is a very important offseason.

For our hometown Hawks, there aren't too many glaring pieces that need to be added to the puzzle, but at the end of the day, every team is trying to get better.

For starters, a point of emphasis will be on offensive and defensive lineman this year. The Seahawks have had issues in the trenches in the past, especially in terms of injuries, and if this problem can be fixed, our favorite running back might be able to experience "beast-mode" more than just a few times throughout the season.

Looking at the draft board, a few players could help Seattle out.

Jordan Phillips, a 6-foot-6-inch, 334-pound nose tackle out of Oklahoma State could be a player still waiting to hear his name called by the time the Seahawks get their turn to pick somebody. This monster of a man could cause quite the disruption in the 2015-16 season. A disruption that could make the Seahawks defense even more frightening.

On the offensive side of the ball, a name to look out for is T.J. Clemmings, a 6-foot-6-inch, 315-pound offensive tackle from



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Russell Wilson, quarterback of the Seattle Seahawks, has brought the team to two straight Super Bowl appearances.

the University of Pittsburgh. With his long athletic frame, he could be an addition to the line where he could compete for a starting position. At worst, he would sit behind offensive tackle, James Carpenter, a veteran of four years to the NFL.

Next on the list would be to select a lengthy and physical wide receiver.

All draft boards point to Amari Cooper, the standout Alabama record setter. But in all reality, he won't be there when it's time for Seattle to pick.

More realistic options include wide receivers Dorial Green-Beckham from the University of Missouri, Devin Smith from Ohio State University or Jaelen Strong from Arizona State University. Picking up one of these game-changers could amount to something special in the long run.

When draft day arrives, it will be important for the Seattle Seahawks to fill at least the lineman and wide receiver positions, alongside picking up other utility players.

It's a very important offseason for the Hawks, an offseason that could continue a run for yet another Super Bowl.

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Men's basketball splits V-Day weekend

CHRISTIAN BOND

Guest Writer

Game 1

The Pacific Lutheran University Men's Basketball Team was not looking to become valentines with any Wildcat from Linfield Saturday night.

The Lutes showed their love for the basketball by holding on to it. Only turning the ball over three times was the key to success. PLU was able to take the victory 60-45.

The opening moments of the game belonged to PLU. Sophomores Brandon Lester and Kyle Sawtell combined for the first five points of the game.

The Wildcats weren't detoured as they fought back into the game. With 14 minutes remaining in the first half, Linfield led 11-10.

The action went back and fourth with each team trading buckets. With 4 minutes remaining, the Wildcats were still in charge 20-19.

Sawtell finished the half in style, hitting a pair of free throws and a shot from the three point line, giving the Lutes a 24-22 lead at half.

PLU would never look back from their halftime lead. Junior Seth Anderson came out of halftime on fire. A pair of free throws got Anderson going as he continued to convert shot after shot.

Linfield eventually closed the gap to five. After a timeout from PLU, the scoring was put back on track.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FROSCHAUER

Head coach Steve Dickerson looks to fire up his team during a time out.

Lester showed everyone in the gym that he had ice water in his veins. Lester nailed all eight of his free throws from under four minutes remaining, sealing the deal for the Lutes.

PLU gained huge advantages in both rebounding and turnovers against Linfield. The Lutes out rebounded the Wildcats by nine, and only turned the ball over three times.

"On Saturday against Linfield, we executed at both ends of the floor. Kyle Sawtell and Seth Anderson stepped up with good games as we performed consistently at both ends," said coach Steve Dickerson. "We still have a shot at the playoffs, a lot would have to go right but we need a great effort on both nights next weekend!"

Game 2

With post season hopes hanging in the balance, the Pacific Lutheran University Men's Basketball Team headed south to face Willamette. The team was confident that they could get the job done, having already beat Willamette when they played a visit to PLU.

Despite first-year Dylan Foreman scoring a career high 26 points, the Lutes fell short to the Bearcats 55-64.

The first half was a back-and-forth battle with both teams knowing their seasons could be at stake.

Willamette pulled out to a slight lead, but PLU stayed close. Foreman was perfect from three point land, going 6-6. With help from sophomore Kyle Sawtell, the two kept

the game extremely close. The half ended with the score at 26-28 Bearcats.

The second half started with the same intense action seen in the first half. Junior Bryce Miller was able to convert through contact on a layup. After making his free throw, the game was tied at 36 with 13 minutes left.

The Bearcats pulled away, hitting a couple jump shots to pull away from the Lutes. Foreman stayed hot from beyond the arc, nailing back-to-back threes to try and close the gap, but Willamette continued to score as well.

The gap was too big for the Lutes to close, as the Bearcats hit five of their last seven free throws, sealing the deal for Willamette, 64-55.

Coach Steve Dickerson reflected on Friday nights game.

"We came up a little short against Willamette," said Dickerson. "Dylan Foreman had a spectacular game as Willamette concentrated on shutting sophomore Brandon Lester down. We missed a couple of shots and made a couple of errors inside of the four minute mark, which hurt us."

Ultimately, the Lutes got beat up on the backboards. PLU was able to gobble up 29 rebounds, whereas Willamette snagged 46 boards. This led to an advantage for the Bearcats in points in the paint.

The Lutes are scheduled to play against Whitworth in Olson Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Feb. 20.

The Lutes will then wrap up the season at home, when they play against Whitman on Feb. 21, for Senior Night.

Baseball shows brilliance in Oregon

Tyler Scott

Director of
Athletic Communications

Day 1

The Pacific Lutheran University Baseball Team split a pair of nonconference games Saturday at the Concordia Tournament, defeating Oregon Tech 3-2 in the early game and closing out the day with a 0-3 loss to tournament host Concordia.

Senior Chris Bishop started the first game, allowing two earned runs on six hits with seven strikeouts against Oregon Tech before leaving after 83 pitches with the Lutes and Owls tied 2-2. Senior Jake Otness came in to throw the final three innings, striking out four while allowing only one hit to earn the win.

PLU scored its first run in the top of the second inning, as junior Lee Larson hit a one-out triple to left and came in to score on a groundout by senior Bo Pearson. Oregon Tech tied it up with a run in the bottom of the frame before PLU took advantage of an OIT error to reclaim the lead in the fifth.

The Lutes picked up the eventual game-winner in the top of the eighth. Sophomore Ben Welch opened the inning with a single, and junior Drew Oord reached on a fielder's choice. Sophomore Jacob Clements singled to right to put runners on the corners, and sophomore Landon Packard drove Oord in from third on a single to right center.

PLU totaled eight hits in the game, although no Lute picked up more than one in the contest. Welch and Packard each added a hit in the Lutes' second game to give the duo two hits apiece for the day.

The nightcap saw sophomore Kyle Rossman throw seven innings without allowing an earned run, but he took the loss as Concordia drove in three unearned runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Rossman struck out six while allowing only two hits and a walk on 99 pitches. Junior Ty Donahou threw the final frame for the Lutes, striking out two. Quinn Eldridge earned the win for Concordia, allowing only two hits in seven shutout innings. Austin Hadley threw the final two

innings to pick up the save.

Concordia scored all three of its runs in the fourth inning. Konner Reddick reached on a throwing error to open the inning and stole second. After a strikeout, a double to right brought Reddick home with the eventual game-winning run. Following another strikeout, the Lutes' second error of the inning allowed a second unearned run to score. A third error for PLU and a passed ball allowed the Cavaliers' third run of the inning to score.

Day 2

The Pacific Lutheran University Baseball Team scored three runs in the top of the fourth inning and sophomore Kort Skoda shut down the Corban offense as the Lutes picked up a 4-1 nonconference baseball win over the Warriors Sunday afternoon at the Concordia Tournament at Porter Park.

Pacific Lutheran improved to 5-2 this season with the win, while Corban fell to 6-2.

Skoda limited Corban to one run on four hits in 7.1 innings to earn his second win of the season.

Junior Cory Nelson came in to pick up the final five outs, retiring every batter he faced to notch his first save of the year.

Senior Collin Nilson led PLU with three hits in four at bats, while sophomore Jacob Clements tallied a pair of hits and junior Tyler Thompson drove in two runs for the Lutes.

PLU got on the board with three runs in the top of the fourth. Sophomore Kory VanderStaay opened the rally with a one-out walk and advanced to third on a single to right center by junior Drew Oord. Nilson singled to left to score the Lutes' first run and put runners at first and second, and Oord followed by stealing third. Thompson stepped to the plate and drove a double to right center to score both runners and put the Lutes up 3-0.

Corban got its lone run of the day in the bottom of the fifth. Landon Frost tripled to center and Ryan Rosas brought him home with a sacrifice fly. The Lutes added one more in the top of the ninth. Senior Curtis Wildung walked and stole second before



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE MAJOR

Senior Collin Nilson runs to home base against Corban University Feb. 15. Nilson went 3 for 4 on the day during his at-bats.

coming in to score on a single to left field by Brett Johnson.

Caleb Henry started for Corban and took the loss after allowing three runs in four innings pitched. Ryan Wood came in to pitch to start the fifth inning and went the rest of the way for the Warriors.

Day 3

Junior Tyler Thompson doubled in two runs with two outs as Pacific Lutheran University scored three in the top of the ninth inning to defeat Corban 4-2 in a nonconference baseball game Monday afternoon at Wilsonville High School.

Pacific Lutheran's second win in two days against Corban improved the Lutes' record to 6-2, while the Warriors fell to 6-3. The Lutes open Northwest Conference play this weekend against fourth-ranked Linfield with a three-game series in Linfield. The series begins with a doubleheader Saturday at 11 a.m.

Sophomore Ben Welch and junior Brett Johnson each tallied a pair of hits to lead the Lutes, with Johnson adding a walk and scoring a pair of runs in the win.

Thompson drove in the two runs in the ninth, including what proved to be the game-winner, with his double in the ninth.

Junior Garrett Brown started for the Lutes and pitched 5.2 innings while allowing only two runs. Junior Cory Nelson pitched the final 3.1 innings to earn the win one day after picking up a save in a PLU win over Corban.

Corban scored its two runs in the bottom of the third. The Warriors opened the inning with a pair of singles, and following a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners a single through the left side scored both to make it 2-0 Corban.

PLU got one back in the top of the fifth. Johnson opened the inning with a walk, stole second and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt. He came in to score on a passed ball to set the score at 2-1.

Neither team could find a way to score again until the top of the ninth inning. Senior Collin Nilson doubled to right with one out, and senior Bo Pearson entered as a pinch runner at second. Johnson hit an infield single and sophomore Kory VanderStaay flied out to set the stage for Thompson's two-out two-RBI double to left center. Senior Kit Banko came through with a base hit to drive Thompson home and put PLU up 4-2.

The Lutes take on Linfield, Feb. 21 at 12 p.m. Article taken from golutes.com

Athlete Focus: A.J. Konopaski

DAVID MAIR
Staff Writer

Atop the mound, with family and friends keenly watching, a young boy was ready to take on another batter.

During the game, the boy accidentally hit another player with the ball and after that incident, he became scared to ever pitch again.

Now standing at 6-feet tall on the pitchers mound, winding up his arm while pitching a warm smile to the fans is senior A.J. Konopaski, the top pitcher for Pacific Lutheran University's Baseball Team.

The love of baseball began for Konopaski over the river and through the woods in the backyard of his grandma's house, where his dad taught him how to catch as a boy.

"It's a family thing," Konopaski said, "filled with lifelong memories."

It was not until high school when he realized what a strong arm he had. It was then at Port Angeles High School where he became a closer for the team.

"I was decent at baseball growing up," Konopaski said. "I just grew and grew as I kept playing."

During his senior year of high school, all of his hard worked accumulated together when he received All-American status.

"It was a crazy feeling," Konopaski said. "You see all the others who have earned this award before me, it's such an honor to now be among them."

Though far less glamorous, Konopaski also received a back injury at the end of his high school senior season. As much as he loved baseball, playing in college simply did not look realistic because of his injury. Division I schools were not going to recruit him.

That was the time when PLU became Konopaski's game changer.

"Nowhere else was going to take me," Konopaski said. "PLU's coaching staff believed in me."

In his first year, Konopaski was doing everything he could to not get cut off the team. Four years later, he is a closer.

"Being a closer is a high pressure position, which is exactly why I like it," Konopaski said.

As this season is his last as a Lute, Konopaski is looking to keep both his baseball and professional career open, in the hope to hit a grand slam in whatever field he ends up in.

Konopaski is majoring in business administration and hopes to work in corporate finance in Seattle one day.

The other option—being unsigned drafted upon graduation—is a "long shot,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE MAJOR

A.J. Konopaski was selected as a pre-season All-American for the 2015 baseball season.

Konopaski admits.

The team doing the most research and recruiting on Konopaski is the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays are seriously considering him as a member of the team next year, in hope that he can help their organization for the better.

"I've had a blessed baseball career," Konopaski puts it humbly.

Thinking about what will happen after

his last pitch crosses the plate is far from his main focus. Konopaski still has one last season to give it his everything because every time he steps up to the mound, his goal is to "be the best pitcher."

"I feel good about this season," Konopaski said. "The biggest asset of our team is our depth."

Women take out Bearcats, fall to Wildcats

TYLER SCOTT
Director of
Athletic Communications

Game 1

Junior Megan Abdo scored the final five points of the game, including the game-winning layup, as Pacific Lutheran University claimed a 65-64 buzzer-beating women's basketball victory over Willamette in Northwest Conference action Friday evening at Cone Field House.

The win gave the Lutes the 2014-15 season sweep of Willamette, with both wins coming in thrilling fashion for the Lutes after they defeated the Bearcats in double-overtime last month in Parkland.

PLU improves to 5-17 overall and 2-11 in conference play, while Willamette falls to 6-17 overall and 1-13 in the NWC.

PLU heads to McMinnville, Ore. on Saturday for the final road game of the

season, as the Lutes take on Linfield at 4 p.m.

A pair of Jojo DeLong free throws gave Willamette a 64-60 lead with 27 seconds to play and appeared to close out the game for the Bearcats. But Abdo had other plans, as she hit a three-pointer to pull PLU within one with 17 seconds remaining.

After sophomore Taylor Talen stole the ball from DeLong, Abdo missed a layup in the closing seconds only to collect her own rebound and put it back in as time expired to clinch the win for PLU.

The game featured eight lead changes and five tie scores, with Willamette taking its largest lead three minutes into the second half at 42-31.

PLU followed with eight straight points before Willamette countered by scoring six straight.

The Bearcats eventually matched their game-high, 11-point lead midway through the half following a three-pointer by Ashley Evans.

PLU held Willamette scoreless for the next four minutes, and a first-year Bailey Raines three-pointer sparked a six-point PLU run to make it a five-point game.

Kelsey Walker's jumper ended the Willamette drought before junior Tayler Flemming hit a three-pointer to pull PLU within four at the four-minute mark.

Willamette free throws and a DeLong layup helped the Bearcats maintain a cushion, but Abdo took over and scored the Lutes' final 10 points of the day. She finished the night with 14 points to go with seven rebounds and four assists, while Flemming added 12 points.

Junior Sarah Barnes scored 11 on 5-of-6 shooting, and sophomore Lacey Nicholson tallied 10 points.

DeLong led Willamette with 15 points, while Kylie Towry posted a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Julia Brand scored 13.

The Bearcats held a 36-29 halftime lead before PLU outscored Willamette 36-28 in the second period. Willamette finished the night with a .436 team shooting percentage (24-of-55), while PLU shot 38.2 percent from the field (26-of-68).

Game 2

Pacific Lutheran University shot 23.8 percent for the game as the Lutes fell to Linfield 79-53 in Northwest Conference women's basketball action Saturday evening at Ted Wilson Gymnasium.

One day after defeating Willamette on a buzzer-beater layup by junior Megan Abdo, the Lutes' junior point guard made four of her six three-point attempts to record a team-best 18 points.

Sophomore Taylor Talen added 10 for the Lutes, who recorded a season-low 23.8 percent overall shooting mark (15-of-63) after making only six of 37 shot attempts in the second half (16.2 percent).

Dani Krier posted a double-double with 21 points and 10 rebounds, while Jessica McMillan scored 18 and Genna Hughes added 10 for the Wildcats.

Linfield shot 58.1 percent in the second period to finish the day at 52.5 percent overall (31-of-59).

Linfield scored the first six points of the game before a three-pointer by sophomore Madison Green-Hayward got the Lutes on the board. A three-pointer by Abdo helped bring PLU even closer before a layup by sophomore Lacey Nicholson tied the score at 8-8.

PLU actually continued the run with six more points to use a 14-2 run that gave the Lutes the six-point lead.

Linfield tied it back up at 16-16, with the final tie of the night coming at 23-23 following a layup by Junior Jori Hall.

The Wildcats proceeded to score the next 10 points to take a 33-23 lead late in the period, while the Lutes scored the final four points of the period on free throws by junior Tayler Flemming and Green-Hayward to trail 33-27 at the break.

The Lutes scored the first four points of the second period to pull within two at 33-31 following another three by Abdo, but Linfield scored the next eight points to push its lead back to double-digits.

PLU hung close for the next eight minutes, drawing as close as five back at 52-47 midway through the period following a layup by junior Sarah Barnes.

But the Lutes made only one more basket the rest of the way, as Linfield closed the game on a 27-6 run to claim the win.

PLU falls to 5-18 overall and 2-12 in conference play, while Linfield improves to 10-13 overall and 4-10 in the NWC. The Lutes head home for their final games of the season next weekend, hosting Whitworth on Friday at 6 p.m. and Whitman on Saturday at 4 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FROSCHAUER

Junior Megan Abdo scored 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists as the Lutes beat the Willamette Bearcats 65-64 on Feb. 13.

Spring season sports starting up...

Men's Tennis

Tomorrow
at Linfield
1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

Tomorrow
vs. Linfield
1 p.m.

Softball

Tomorrow
vs. Saint Martins
12 p.m.