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MAST MAGAZINE

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR!

ASPLU President Ellie Lapp talks changes in student government

The Choice is Yours:

A letter from the Editor



NOT Waiting on the World to Change



PLU's first openly queer Campus Pastor preaches a message of diversity, intersectionality and activism

PLUS: FULL FALL CALENDAR INSIDE

Cheers to a New Year!

A letter from ASPLU President Ellie Lapp



Greetings! I want to extend a warm welcome to campus and to the entire PLU community on behalf of myself, ASPLU Vice President Taylor Bozich, and the rest of your student government. In this brief welcome, I also want to introduce everyone – for the first time or the millionth – to ASPLU, what we do as an organization and our goals for this year.

ASPLU has gone through some major changes the last couple of years. Two years ago, ASPLU split off its programming branch to form the new Student Activities Board, or SAB, which is now the hub of student programming. We are now entirely focused on advocacy and fostering diversity, justice and sustainability.

Around the same time, we also restructured our senate to be more effective and a better representation of the student body. The senate now includes two Senators for each class, one off-campus senator, one on-campus senator and five at-large senators.

ASPLU also has five directors: Director of Diversity, Director of Sustainability, Director of Civic Engagement, Director of Finance, and Director of Public Relations. Add in the executives (Taylor and I) and you have all of our student members!

Right now we have a lot on our plate. In the next couple of weeks, we

will be organizing our senate elections to fill out our senate for the fall, finalizing student appointments on university and faculty committees and registering as many Lutes to vote as possible through LuteVote, our voter registration drive. We will also begin working on larger projects for the year, which include continuing conversations about Title IX policies and the university's response to sexual misconduct, improving the physical accessibility of campus and advocating for racial justice on campus and beyond. We are excited to collaborate with other clubs and organizations as well and you can expect lots of joint projects between ASPLU, RHA, SAAC and others.

We invite you to join us with your passions, your ideas and your projects. Our doors are always open in our NEW office (the former Clubhouse in the lower UC) and we hope you will stop by. You can always email me too, at aslupres@plu.edu.

Welcome home!



Letter from the Editor:

The Choice is Yours

2016 has been a year of choices.

Over the past eight months, the world has been agonizing over everything from who to vote into the U.S. presidency to whether to be on #TeamTaylor or #TeamKimye.

For us college students, the amount of choices we face can be dizzying. When presented with so many options, it's often hard to know when we've chosen the right one.

Attending college is one of the biggest decisions incoming Lutes made this year. It's a decision that will challenge, change and work to prepare them for their futures. However, the choices don't stop with simply selecting PLU.

New and returning Lutes alike still have a slew of decisions that await them. Which major to pick, which classes to take, what job to get, when to study, when to party – and whether they should just give up and watch Netflix instead.

Despite all of the flurry and doubt, I can honestly say the best choice I've made in my time at PLU was to get involved.

Joining clubs, attending events and engaging in campus culture are some of the best ways to get connected and make the most of the college experience. I cannot count the number of fascinating people I've met and the amount of enriching opportunities that have come my way because of my willingness to put myself out there. Participating in a residence hall event can open up the door to new friendships. Joining a club about an unfamiliar topic can unlock a new passion. Even attending an obscure play in the Karen Hille Phillips Center can change the way you

understand life and the world around you.

One of the major ways I chose to get involved was by taking a position at Mast Media, PLU's student-run media organization. As a first-year writer, I discovered an enthusiasm for journalism that dramatically impacted my academics as well as my goals and dreams for the future. In three short years I have served various functions in the newsroom – writer, section editor, and now editor of *Mast Magazine*.

I wouldn't have any of these invaluable experiences under my belt without actively choosing to get out there and make them happen – just like PLU's first LGBTQ campus pastor, Jen Rude, who chose to pursue her vocation in ministry despite previously oppressive church policies.

As Jen brilliantly expresses in the feature story, it's far more revolutionary to be a part of making change happen rather than waiting for change to come to you. So as we welcome a new school year, I encourage all Lutes – first-years and seniors alike – to make a change by choosing to get involved.

Join a club, play a sport, see a concert, or even pay a visit to the Mast Media offices down in the Anderson University Center, room 172.

It doesn't matter what you choose to do so long as you choose to do something. I have a feeling you'll be surprised and blessed by what you find.



Brooke Thames
Mast Magazine Editor



Jen Rude hails from a line of pastors. Her grandfather, father, and uncle each stood behind the pulpit as Lutheran preachers. Growing up, Rude thought she would follow them — until coming out as queer in her first year of college caused her to hesitate.

“At the time, there was not a lot of room in the Lutheran church for open LGBTQ folk, sisters, and pastors,” Rude said. “I came out and [said], ‘Okay, maybe this isn’t a path I can pursue.’”

However, coming out didn’t deter Rude from earning a religion degree at Augustana University. Determined to serve, she actively followed her vocation in ministry.

When she officially became campus pastor in July 2016, she made Pacific Lutheran University history as the first queer-identified pastor.

Rude steps into her first university pastoral position after spending years advocating for LGBTQ leadership and serving queer youth in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

She began in seminary. She found inspiration and gained experience from Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, a group of LGBTQ Lutheran pastors who sought to do the church’s work despite its exclusive policies.

Until 2009, non-celibate LGBTQ individuals were barred from holding leadership positions within the Lutheran church. Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries’ website notes that the group has endeavored to affirm and support partnered LGBTQ clergy and those seeking positions in Lutheran ministry since the early 1990s.

Working with ELM taught Rude she didn’t have to wait for the church to change in order to do its work. Instead, she could exercise her call to support, engage and serve community in the here and now.

“**T**he evolution of how I ended up in ministry [was through] finding other people who weren’t waiting around for the world to change, but were part of changing the world,” Rude said.

Rude relocated to Chicago after



Photo by McKenna Morin

not waiting on the world to change

by Brooke Thames

completing her education, equipped with degrees in religion and gender studies. There, she spent 11 years involved in a variety of church-related service and advocacy work. She advocated for LGBTQ pastors with a national nonprofit, aided homeless queer youth through a program called The Night Ministry and served as a pastor.

Rude’s minor degree in gender studies came in handy while working with LGBTQ youth in Chicago. Her education helped her

“I feel like it’s very Lutheran to have interfaith dialogue.”

think of gender as a nonbinary spectrum. It proved invaluable while caring for a variety of queer youth who identified as transgender, gender nonconforming and gender fluid.

Gender studies also alerted Rude to the reality of privilege and systematic injustice. Even more, she learned how privilege could be used to potentially build bridges between different demographics.

“I learned how most of us have a mixture of privilege and oppression and how that can help us relate to each other,” Rude said.

As she inherits her new role as campus pastor, she plans to make strides toward stronger religious intersectionality and

interfaith dialogue on campus. Even though PLU finds a strong sense of identity in its middle name, Rude holds that variety and exchange should be far from discouraged. If anything, she says diversity is a Lutheran virtue.

“A Lutheran value is critical inquiry,” Rude said. “A Lutheran value is engaging the neighbor. I feel like it’s very Lutheran to have interfaith dialogue.”

Furthermore, Rude believes a vital part of Lutheran education is the ability to listen and think critically about religious rhetoric. Whether in media, politics or everyday conversation, Lutes should be quick to spot bias and eager to learn through open communication.

“**I** think all of us can figure out what our [particular beliefs are] — which might be different for each of us — and [still] have an open door to others,” Rude said. “Even if people don’t have a faith, I think even academically we all need skills in interfaith dialogue because of the world we live in.”

In the midst of enacting inclusivity and conversation, Rude is sure to be found mingling with students and faculty across PLU’s campus in the coming school year — learning what it means to be a Lute while continuing to serve as an LGBTQ advocate on campus and beyond.

“I can feel the energy building around here. I think people are really excited to have a fresh start and dive in.”



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MAST MEDIA

M
MAST MAGAZINE

THE MAST

MAST
TV

GET INVOLVED! INTEREST MEETING

8 P.M. SEPTEMBER 6 in AUC 172

Mast Media is a student-run, converged newsroom including *The Mast*, Mast TV and *Mast Magazine* striving to bring high-quality media to the broader Pacific Lutheran University community. Find us in the lower level of the Anderson University Center in room 172.

There are many opportunities for students to write, report and create their own television or radio show. **We're especially looking for television producers and multimedia reporters.** No experience needed: only curiosity and a willingness to learn!

FALL 2016



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	MOVE IN DAY! 2	3 Labor Day Weekend
4	5	Classes Begin	7 Telling Tales: Selections from the Permanent Art Collection	8	9 CHOCOLATE TRAIL @ The Scandinavian Stop Involvement Fair	10
Labor Day Weekend						
11 W. Soccer vs. Whittier	12 ADD CLASS DEADLINE: Last chance to add a class without a fee.	13 M. Soccer vs. Northwest Christian	14	15	16 Volleyball vs. Willamette	17 W. Soccer vs. Whitworth Volleyball vs. Lewis & Clark
18 W. Soccer vs. Whitman	19 DROP CLASS DEADLINE: Last chance to drop a class without a fee. Blood Drive	20	21 Volleyball vs. Puget Sound	22	23	24 Opera Club: Screening Screening of "Carmen" with Pizza and PJs M. Soccer vs. Whitman
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 W. Soccer vs. Puget Sound	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 University Jazz Ensemble Concert	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17 Opera: Fiery Jade-Cai Yan	18	19
20	21	22	23	Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 Thanksgiving Break	2 24	3

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Death and the Maiden: A dark drama about guilt and trust	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Volleyball vs. Linfield	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 M. Soccer vs. Willamette	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GRAD APPS. DUE: Last chance to submit application for January graduation	2 Dance Team Winter Showcase	3 Christmas Concert: "In Sweet Rejoicing"
4	5	6	7	8 Sounds of Christmas	9	10 Classes End
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FINAL EXAMS

CHRISTMAS
25