



Scene

Spring 2009 • Pacific Lutheran University

The Burden of STEWARDSHIP

What can Christian ethics tell us about responsibility, spotted owls and being the dominant species? Page 14

Inside:

➤ Cousins Share Lute Roots, 12

➤ Capstone iCar, 8

➤ Neufeld's 'Friends', 22

calendar



The University Center. Photo by Jordan Hartman '02.

MARCH

March 2, 5:30 p.m.

MBA Executive Lecture Series
Morken Center, Public Events Room

March 4-5

Spring Career & Internship Fair
University Center

March 4, 11 a.m.

Study Away Fair & Photo Contest Winners
University Center

March 4, 7:30 p.m.

Hein-Fry Lecture: Dr. Steed Davidson, PLTS
University Center

March 5, 6:30 p.m.

Female Survivors of War in Uganda
Xavier Hall

March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Visiting Writer Series: Salvatore Scibona
University Center

March 13, 7 p.m.

Pierce County Reads: Investigative
Journalism
University Center

March 17, 10:30 a.m.

Rodeo Cowboys in the North
American Imagination
Garfield Book Company, Community Room

March 17, 4 p.m.

Pirates, Snakes & Irish Soda Bread ~
Culinary Adventure Series
University Center

March 17, 7 p.m.

The 35th Annual Walter C. Schnackenberg
Memorial Lecture
University Center

March 18, 6:30 p.m.

International Honors Colloquia
University Center

continued on inside back cover

inside

Pacific Lutheran University Scene Spring 2009 Volume 39 Issue 3

- 4 **Here & Now**
- 8 **Life of the Mind**
- 10 **Teaching by practicing**
MFT program provides experience for students and support for the community
- 12 **Lute roots run deep**
For cousins on campus, PLU is a family affair
- COVER STORY:**
- 14 **The Burden of Stewardship**
What Christian ethics can tell us about responsibility, spotted owls and being the dominant species



For these students, their PLU roots run deep – and wide. See page 12.

- 18 **The Arts**
Act 1: Be willing to take a chance
- 20 **Attaway Lutes**
Student-athletes as peer tutors
- 22 **Alumni News & Events**
PLU volunteers: the friends 'who are the rest of us'
- 26 **Alumni Profiles**
- 29 **Giving Back**
Athletic facilities: planning for the future
- 30 **Alumni Class Notes**
- 40 **Perspective**



Scene

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Illustration montage by Simon Sung



Scene is printed on 10 percent post-consumer recycled paper using soy-based sustainable inks. The paper was manufactured at a Forest Stewardship Council-certified plant.

Volume 39, Issue 3
Scene (SSN 0886-3369) is published quarterly by Pacific Lutheran University, S. 121st and Park Ave., Tacoma, WA, 98447-0003. Periodicals postage paid at Tacoma, WA, and additional mailing offices. Address service requested. Postmaster: Send changes to Development Operations, Office of Development, PLU, Tacoma, WA, 98447-0003, deveops@plu.edu. © 2009 by Pacific Lutheran University



here & now

300 students in 20 classes study away for J-Term

This past January, 20 classes met someplace other than the PLU campus. As part of J-Term, more than 300 students studied off campus in places such as China, Egypt and Iceland. Many students created blog entries to share what they learned, which can be viewed at <https://my.plu.edu/group/sojourner/2009/>.

In addition, the Wang Center for International Programs hosted a World Conversations event in late February. Professor Chuck Bergman discussed his work in the Amazon on the illegal wildlife trade, and Professor Colleen Hacker shared her experiences as an Olympic coach at last summer's games in China.

The event also featured students and faculty who shared their international experiences, from Trinidad & Tobago to Washington state's own Neah Bay.

To read more about PLU's World Conversations event, visit www.plu.edu/wangcenter.

Students talk trash in recycling class

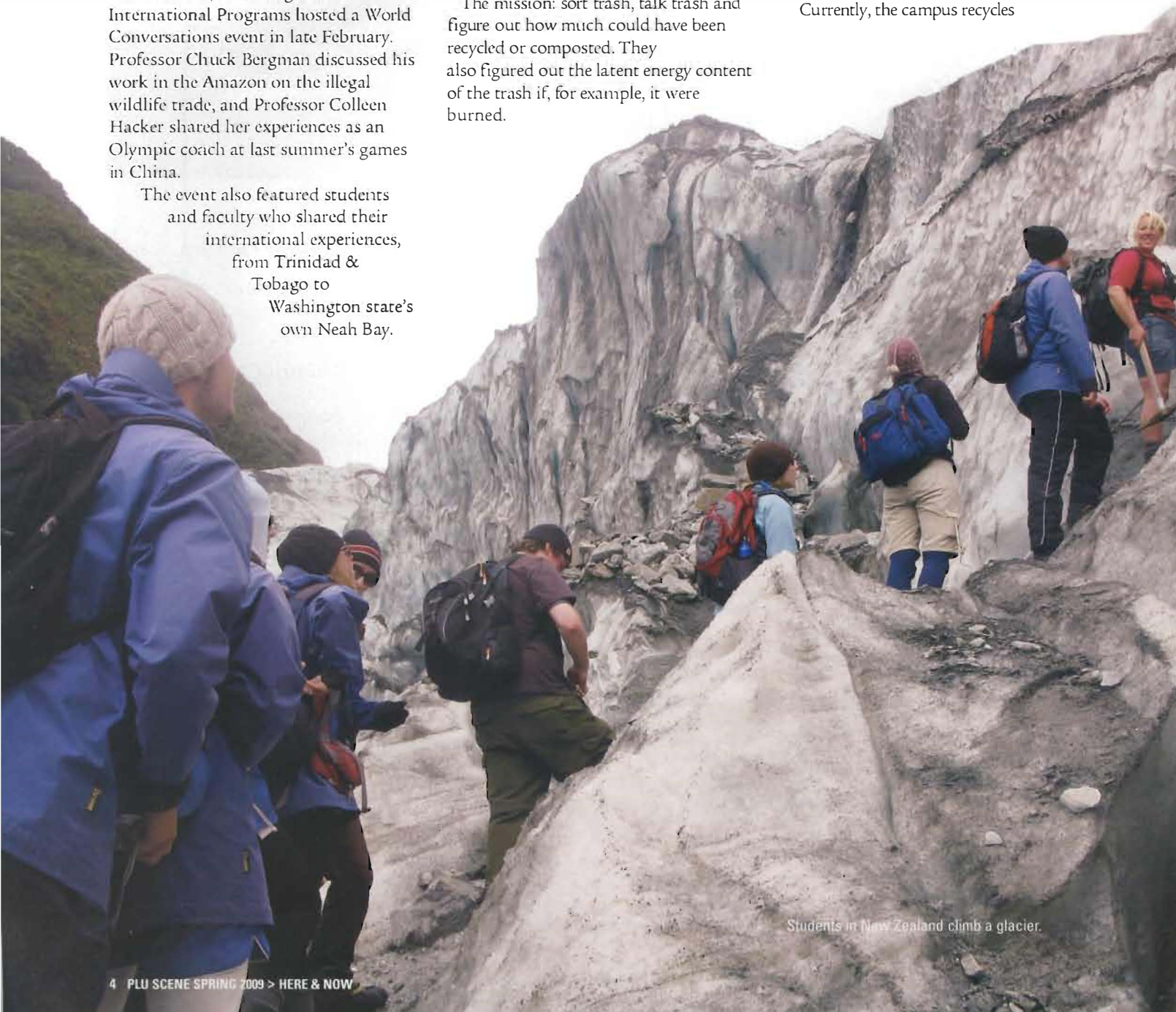
In professor Claire Todd's natural resources class recently, she asked her students to sort through a mound of garbage that had been deposited over six hours at Rieke Science Center that day.

The mission: sort trash, talk trash and figure out how much could have been recycled or composted. They also figured out the latent energy content of the trash if, for example, it were burned.

The goal of the trash sort, which has been a regular feature of this class for a decade, is to put the students on notice about just how much trash doesn't need to end up in a landfill.

"I want students to know that every bottle helps," said Barbara McConathy, PLU's environmental services coordinator, when asked what students should take away from the class. "Everything you put in the recycling bin will help PLU reach its 80 percent recycling goal. (Set for 2010)."

Currently, the campus recycles



Students in New Zealand climb a glacier.

up to 70 percent of its trash.

If the major buildings on campus would reduce the amount of trash thrown in a dumpster by just three totes a week (each tote represents about 90 gallons of trash), the university could save \$6,000.

Development and University Relations VP named



Steve Olson has been named vice president for Development and University Relations.

Olson joined the university's development office in July

2007 and most recently served as associate vice president for development. Before coming to PLU he was a program director with The James Company, a development and fundraising consultant for churches located primarily in the Midwest. There he managed stewardship and building appeals with congregations.

Previously, Olson was a Lutheran parish pastor for 20 years, serving congregations in Washington state and Minnesota. Olson and his wife, Barbara, who is executive associate to the president at PLU, live in Steilacoom, Wash. Their son, Aaron, is a senior and their daughter, Kari, is a sophomore at PLU.

"Steve is a seasoned professional who will bring to his new position both a keen understanding of fund development and personal outreach," PLU President Loren J. Anderson said, "I look forward to continued success in our development and university relations division."

Organ enthusiasts celebrate a decade at PLU

The past year marked the 10-year anniversary of one of PLU's most extraordinary features: The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Organ that resides in Lagerquist Concert Hall.

The organ was the dream of former PLU organist, David Dahl, who was told that while there was enough money to build Mary Baker Russell



The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Organ has been a main attraction at PLU for 10 years.

Music Center, there was no money to buy an organ. Enter friends of PLU. Jeffrey Smith, of Frugal Gourmet fame,

gave a large initial gift, which was followed by gifts from Mary Baker Russell, the Foss Foundation, and the Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation of Tacoma.

The organ, built by Paul Fritts & Company Organ Builders, has been one of PLU's marquee attractions ever since. It is, in fact, what drew current organist Paul Tegels to campus. He was awed by the size and power of the instrument, which includes playing not one, but three, keyboards.

"This was the main reason I applied for this position," Tegels said, looking up at the organ after playing a set for visitors. "It's not often you find an organ like this," he said.

Project Access

"Without Q Club I would not have been able to go to China. I now want to go back there and teach."

—Tyler Faust, Junior

What can you do to help make a difference for students and their families who may be having a difficult time financing college during this uncertain economy?

Join us in supporting Project Access, a special initiative that will provide 300 scholarships of \$3,500 each to new and continuing students at PLU. The students you will support come from all walks of life and have goals and aspirations to make a real difference in the world.

You may fund one or more Project Access Q Club scholarships or you may fund a portion of one scholarship, depending on your ability to give. Each fully funded \$3,500 scholarship can be named either in your honor or in the honor or memory of a loved one. You also will receive a brief profile of the student who receives your support.

Office of Development
www.plu.edu/project-access



continued

Cut the tape!



A year after groundbreaking, the 13,000-square-foot Martin J. Neeb Center, KPLU's new headquarters, is open for business. PLU President Loren J. Anderson, PLU Regent and donor Larry Neeb, Barbara Neeb and her husband, General Manager Emeritus Martin Neeb, took part in an official ribbon – er, audio tape – cutting last January. The \$8.9 million building will also be the home of PLU's development office. A formal dedication of the new building will take place in October.

PLU receives a 300 year-old Torah

Philanthropist Cindy Boyce has donated to PLU a Torah with a pedigree that dates back to the 1700s. Boyce's family has made donating religious artifacts to universities one of their philanthropic endeavors.

The 300 year-old scroll, transcribed in Morocco, has been decommissioned for a number of years. The manuscript is made of about 100 feet of tanned leather and each book is transcribed in Hebrew. Every detail was transcribed with painstaking detail by a specially trained scribe working under very strict rules.

The Torah is the most holy of sacred writings in Judaism. It's the first of three sections of the Hebrew Bible and



Professor Samuel Torvend '73 inspects the Torah given to PLU by philanthropist Cindy Boyce.

consists of five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The Torah Boyce donated to PLU is one of the oldest she has ever seen. Its value has been appraised at more than \$100,000.

After Boyce has collected the religious items, she searches for an institution that has the ability, knowledge and facilities to truly appreciate them. She discovered PLU was one of those places because her daughter has several friends who attend school here.

"This is a wonderful gift you give us," said Samuel Torvend '73, associate professor of religion and chair of the religion department, upon receipt of the Torah.



Former ASPLU leader tagged as Rising Star

Tamara Power-Drutis '08 received the Undergraduate Rising Star Award from the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

The award is given to an undergraduate annually based on service to others, demonstrating outstanding leadership skills, significantly contributing to their institution by planning an activity or program that benefits students, involvement in research that would benefit the student affairs profession, helping to make the campus culture a positive experience for students and going beyond what other students are contributing on campus.

Power-Drutis was the ASPLU vice president during the '07-'08 school year. While in that position she led an effort to make PLU a more sustainable and environmentally conscious campus.

Power-Drutis' honor was from Region V, which includes chapters from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Arizona, as well as British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

Power-Drutis was the ASPLU vice president during the '07-'08 school year. While in that position she led an effort to make PLU a more sustainable and environmentally conscious campus. [5]

ACCOLADES

Professor of biology **William Teska** received \$15,000 from the Wiancko Charitable Foundation for PLU's environmental studies program. The grant was a follow-up to last year's \$90,000. The money will be used as part of the faculty-student research and creative projects for summer 2009.



Michael Halvorson, assistant professor of history, published a book, "Defining Community in Early Modern Europe," co-edited with Karen E. Spierling, Ashgate Publishing. He also published the article, "Jews and Jesuits in a Confessional Age: Heinrich Heshusius and the Boundaries of Community in Hildesheim," published in October, 2008 in *Sixteenth Century Journal*.

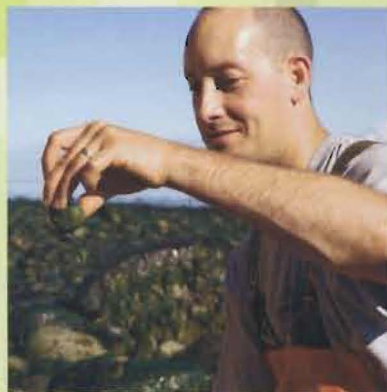


Christine Moon, professor of psychology, obtained a grant from the American Psychological Association and organized a one-day conference for researchers last fall, in Washington D.C.: "Fetal to Infant Continuities: Constructs and Measurement."



David Ward, assistant professor of the Marriage and Family Therapy Department, won the "Educator of the Year" award from the Washington Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Matthew Smith, associate professor of biology, received \$20,000 from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust for "Plant Systematics Faculty Research Start-up Costs Grant."



Michael Behrens, assistant professor of biology, received a grant of \$3,722 for travel costs from the Washington Sea Grant Program, 2009-2010. He will study "Spatial and temporal dynamics of sea urchin disease on the Olympia Peninsula."

Akiko Nosaka, assistant professor of anthropology, published, with Radheshyam Bairagi "Traditional Roles, Modern Behavior: Intergenerational Intervention and Contraception in Rural Bangladesh," *Human Organization: Journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology*.



Priscilla St. Clair, associate professor of economics, presented "Household Forestry Contracting and Labor Allocation to Forest, Farm, and Off-Farm Production in Rural China" at the Environment for Development Initiative annual meeting held in Beijing.

Stan Brue, former professor of economics, and his spouse Terry, created the Stanley and Terry Brue Travel Abroad Scholarships, which will fund two \$2,500 student scholarships to defray expenses associated with a study away course.

life of the mind

Senior capstone: 'the toughest class they will ever take'



If Tosh Kakar has his way, James Crosetto, Jeremy Ellison and Seth Schwiethale will have spent most of their senior year trapped in a project room just off Morken 212. It is a state-of-the-art room adjacent to the electronics lab. This room is theirs for the year, where they will study and experiment – as well as nap on a beat-up couch, and work into the wee hours of the night, fueled on carbonated caffeine drinks and delivered pizza.

And they'll be doing it for a mere four credits. Four.

"This is the toughest class they will ever take," says Kakar. "It is equal to 20 credits, easily."

Kakar, an assistant professor of computer science and computer engineering, is advising the trio of students in their senior-year capstone. He will guide and mentor the students for a whole year as they embark on the ambitious project of designing – from scratch – a remote-control car that is operable over the Internet. If the capstone project works as planned, Crosetto, Ellison and Schwiethale will be able to control a remote-control

vehicle from any laptop, so long as it can receive a wireless Internet signal. David Wolff, chair of the Computer Science and Computer Engineering program, calls it "something like the Mars Rover – the principles are similar, but on a smaller scale."

Everyone else, students and Wolff included, call it ambitious.

Such is the life of PLU seniors – the capstone project will be one of the most difficult, challenging and rewarding things they will do at the university.

Such is the life of PLU seniors – the capstone project will be one of the most difficult, challenging and rewarding things they will do at the university. It will combine just about everything they have learned over their time at PLU – and then some.

"Actually, a lot of the stuff we are encountering we never even learned in class," said Ellison, a computer science

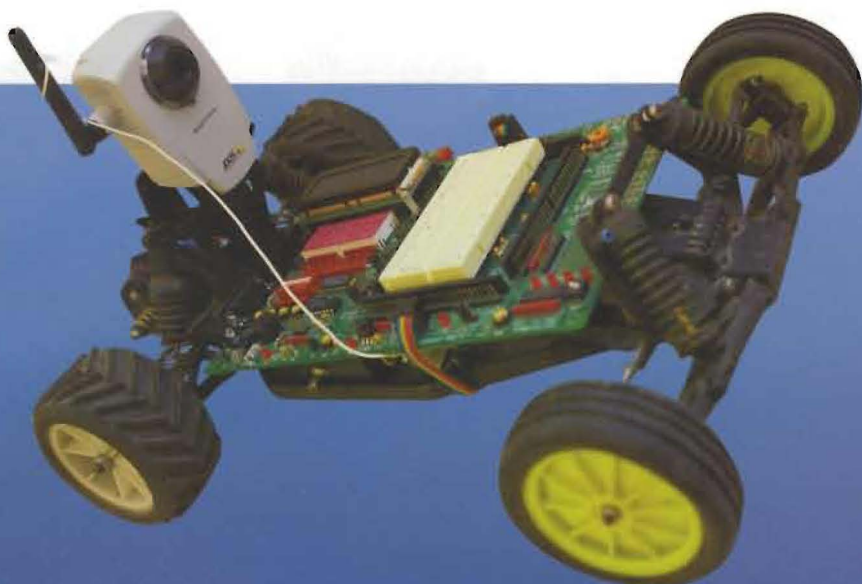
and computer engineering major from Gig Harbor, Wash.

That is no reflection of the classes Ellison took. Instead, it shows that the students are building upon their class lessons as they embark on their capstone.

George Hauser, associate professor of computer science and computer engineering and the professor who oversees all the capstone projects in the CSCE department, sees it the same way. "The stuff we are teaching in class are the building blocks for what they will do in their capstone, and what they do after they leave PLU," he said.

Crosetto, Ellison and Schwiethale are up against a tight deadline: the Natural Science Division's Academic Festival set for May 1 and 2, 2009, in the Morken Center for Learning and Technology. There, all seniors in the natural sciences will present the findings of their capstone research, or the results of their projects. A large number of alumni also attend the festival, some of whom discuss the work they are doing in the industry. Kakar referred to it as "bringing the whole family together."

"Festival" is the operative word here – the event bubbles with excitement,



(LEFT) James Crosetto, Jeremy Ellison (bottom) and Seth Schwiethale in their project room.

(TOP) A year of labor: the microprocessor controlled car.

(RIGHT) Professor Tosh Kakar with Crosetto, Ellison and Schwiethale.



according to Hauser. “Interview,” might be another apt descriptor – the event is known to draw employers who are looking for promising students who, even as undergraduates are exploring promising scientific topics.

Back to the project at hand – the “Mars Rover.”

When Crosetto, Ellison and Schwiethale envisioned their project, they hoped to work on something they’d be interested in – exactly the type of thing that makes a good capstone. Ellison suggested something he had been interested in for years: remote control cars. They developed a project abstract that embraced the discipline of computer engineering (building an microprocessor controlled car that has a camera mounted on it) with computer science (developing software that makes the car and camera operable in real time). Then, they moved into design analysis.

Then, they figured out how to scale back their plans for something more manageable.

It is part of the process, Hauser notes – nothing wrong with that. Part of any design process is discovering what is

manageable and what isn’t – and then figuring out what can actually be created.

“Even the things we thought would be the simplest tasks, like working on the basic interface with the robot’s camera, have posed unexpected problems,” said Seth Schwiethale, a computer science major from Port Angeles, Wash.

As he said this, all three professors – Wolff, Hauser and Kakar – nod knowingly. They’ve been there before. These are valuable lessons learned.

“I’m not going to step in all the time,” said Hauser, “[the students] won’t learn anything that way.”

By all indications, the students are learning – a lot. They’ve been able to adjust the scope of their project, and as the second semester begins, they’ve started prototyping their robot and the implementation phase.

This is where Kakar comes in. He likes to talk about “cracking the whip” – he even likes to pantomime the motion. He does it with a smile, but everyone gets the picture. This opportunity to work so closely with their professor is so valuable – Kakar is just as passionate about guiding the students through the

capstone as the students are in completing it.

Kakar talks about “milestones” – setting up enough successes early in the year, so that they are able to reach their project goal. All CSCE capstone projects take place over the entire academic year – professors like to get the students thinking about it during their junior year. Any project is going to need many milestones – and a mentor like Kakar to offer support, insight and an occasional whip crack.

Even so, there will be enough all-nighters in the project room before the trio is all done. But given the experience they are getting, their ability to work so closely with their professor – not to mention the opportunities it might provide after graduation – they all say it is worth the time and effort. Frequently, students are even hired based on their capstone accomplishments.

“It has been great,” says Crosetto, a computer science and computer engineering major from Ashford, Wash. “But you realize how much work it really takes.”

Just like real life. □

—Steve Hansen



Renee Johnson, a second-year MFT student, consults with another student between sessions at the program's East Campus location.



All MFT students work closely with other students and faculty members on every case. The practice enables students to impart wisdom from their own experiences.

Teaching by practicing

PLU's Marriage and Family Therapy program provides experience for student-therapists and support for the community

By the time the class of about 20 students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at PLU graduate, they will have provided 10,000 hours of community service.

"Everyone that we see here is from this community," said Renee Johnson, a second-year MFT student. By community, she means the greater Parkland, Tacoma and East Pierce County area. It's a welcomed and much-needed service provided by PLU and its master's-level students. And it also provides real-life experience for them.

The MFT program extends beyond what some might think. In addition to couples and marital issues, the student therapists help in addressing family, parenting, depression, anxiety, divorce, trauma, communication, anger management, sex and sexuality, grief and loss, and drug and alcohol issues.

Being able to address such a large spectrum of needs over the last two-plus years has been a benefit to more than 500 people who have sought therapy at the program's East Campus location at the corner of 121st Street S. and Pacific Avenue. In addition to classrooms, the Couples and Family Therapy Center is equipped with numerous consultation rooms, where fellow students and faculty members can observe and advise student therapists.

Every student in the program starts clinical work their first semester. The program is unique because usually the first clinical experience many students

in other programs get is when they start interning at an off-campus site.

"We prefer not to do it that way," said MFT Director Charles York. "By the time they hit the community they have a semester already under their belts." That experience gets students, as York likes to put it, "past the deer in the headlights stage."

There's only so much a student can learn in the classroom, York said. They need to interact with clients to understand that no two cases are exactly the same. And being able to consult with other students and faculty about cases helps provide the best service to the client.

"I like the approach this program has," Johnson said. "It's on-site learning in my mind."

"I think that the close-knit atmosphere of the faculty and students drew me in," said second year student Alaina Anderson. "It's probably the most important thing. I would be lost if I didn't have all these people to talk to and learn from."

It's well respected teaching too - all three faculty members of the program have won the Washington State Marriage and Family Therapy Educator's of the Year Award.

The services the MFT program provides and the preparation the students receive when they go to an off-site location is well recognized, York said.

"There are a lot of good agencies asking for our students," he said, "actually more than we can provide." □



MFT students handle all parts of the consultation process, from scheduling clients to conducting therapy sessions.

The MFT program extends beyond what some might think. In addition to couples and marital issues, the student therapists help in addressing family, parenting, depression, anxiety, divorce, trauma, communication, anger management, sex and sexuality, grief and loss, and drug and alcohol issues.



Rondi Gedde, Linnea Olson, Michael Monson and Kari Olson spend a few minutes catching up in the University Center. Says Kari Olson of the six cousins studying at PLU: "I love the shared experience."

Lute Roots RUN DEEP

The Olson-Monson-Gedde cousins make it a family affair

WHENEVER ADMISSION COUNSELORS were preparing to visit Brett Monson while he was in high school, they'd look at his application and then, inevitably, do a double take.

The five lines under "Who else do you know at PLU?" were filled with his parents, his aunts, his uncles and his grandparents. He'd finally start scribbling on the back.

"Yeah, I have pretty broad roots at PLU," junior Brett said while discussing how six students – cousins, brothers and sisters of the Olson-Monson-Gedde-clan – all came to be at PLU at the same time.

The first to arrive was Aaron Olson, a business major, who will graduate this year. He was followed by his cousin Michael

Monson (senior), who was then followed by Michael's cousin, Brett Monson (junior). Then there are Aaron's sister, Kari Olson (sophomore), cousin Linnea Olson (freshman), and another cousin, Rondi Gedde (junior).

These cousins are all connected by two brothers, the grandparents, who had strong connections to PLU and Lutheran universities. They were Dave Olson, former director of athletics ('68-'96) and his brother Luther Olson, whose son, Steve Olson is now vice president of Development and University Relations at PLU, and father of Aaron and Kari. Steve Olson is also the uncle of Linnea.

The Monson-Gedde side of the clan can be traced from Dave Olson's daughters, Julie '85 and Jana Olson '82. Julie is the mother of Michael Monson, and an aunt to Brett. Rondi is Jana Olson's daughter. Got all this?

If you don't, that's fine, the cousins say. They are accustomed to the confusion as they explain the lineage over a series of interviews.

Despite the family connections to PLU, Aaron, 21, said that coming to PLU wasn't a slam dunk. He grew up in Washington state, but moved to Minnesota. Ultimately, he wanted to return to the Northwest. So he came by himself to PLU four years ago and quickly grew to love the campus.



Although there seems to be an entire gaggle of cousins around the university, everyone reported that they don't see each other around every turn.

In fact, it came as a surprise when Aaron arrived for a communications class in 2008, and found out that Michael and Rondi were taking the same class.

Brett '10 said he remembers having childhood memories of coming to campus with his dad, Eric Monson '83, to watch football games. His mom, Lisa, graduated from PLU in 1986.

"I have kind of a history here," he said. "My dad would come down to see Frosty Westering, so I remember watching many of the games from the sidelines. They were so awesome. And to be actually playing football for the university now is amazing."

A biology major with hopes of becoming an orthopedic surgeon, Brett, 20, said he doesn't run into his cousins much, unless it's a chance meeting in the UC while grabbing lunch, as happened last fall during this interview, when Aaron and Kari bumped into him.

"If anything, I'd like to see more of them," he said.

Linnea Olson, 19, said she was mulling over going to PLU or Concordia College in Minnesota, her home state. She finally decided to become a Lute, to "spread my wings a little" and

get away from home. It didn't hurt, however, knowing she'd know someone once she arrived on campus.

Rondi needed more convincing. She at first wasn't going to go anywhere near PLU, since "it was the family school." So she first went to Western Washington University in March.


When she realized that Michael was transferring to PLU from Concordia, she made up her mind to transfer to PLU too.

"Really, family plays a big part of everything with us," she said. "There is support and contacts (at PLU)."

Rondi's living at home in Olympia now to save some money, but while on campus, she often drops by a house rented by Michael, which happens to be right across the street from a house Aaron is renting. So it provides an informal hub for the clan.

Michael, 21, is finishing up a business degree and is a self-avowed hockey fanatic. He first decided to stay in the Midwest, at Concordia College. But when the thermometer hit 67 below one winter, he decided to transfer west to warmer climes.

Kari said she had always wanted to come to PLU, and is glad she made that choice.

"Some people think it's weird," she laughed. "But I love the shared experience." 



The Burden of STEWARDSHIP

What can Christian ethics tell us about responsibility, spotted owls and being the dominant species?

When I tell people that I am a Christian ethicist, they frequently have one of two reactions. Either they make a nervous joke about how I'm probably judging their every action against a high moral standard, or they ask me for a quick answer to a moral question that has been bothering them. I'm never sure how to respond, because I don't believe that Christian ethics should involve easy judgments or answers. I have long sought a good way to explain that my discipline is not about party tricks or quick, newspaper-columnist style advice. Rather, it is about dialogue: dialogue between an ancient faith tradition and contemporary problems, between peoples of faith facing difficult choices. Lately, I've been trying to get this across by changing the subject to spotted owls.

The northern spotted owl lives in Washington, Oregon and Northern California, and it has been particularly vulnerable to the loss of our region's old growth forest, its only habitat. So, spotted owls were listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in 1990, sparking a contentious national debate in which the economic interests of logging communities here in the Pacific Northwest were presented as diametrically opposed to the environmental interests of preserving the subspecies and its habitat. After long fights and controversies, a critical habitat of more than 6 million acres of old growth forest was set aside for the spotted owl, and logging remains absolutely forbidden on those lands.

Years later, there are many who believe that more should have been done to save the owls, and many

others who still believe that this was a disastrous choice for the logging economy of the region. So, the debate about the spotted owl continues.

Unfortunately, the possibility of spotted owl extinction continues, as well. Already weakened by a reduced habitat, they are now also threatened by West Nile Virus, a changing climate and an invasive species, the barred owl. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this last threat is the most severe and immediate one, which could seriously endanger the surviving spotted owls.

Native to the Great Plains, barred owls are far more adaptable than their spotted cousins, and so have made their way across the country along the patchwork of habitats that human agriculture and transportation have built. By building more and more roads and developments, the human beings of this continent have constructed an enormous habitat corridor that has led barred owls from their native ranges to the old growth forest of the Pacific Northwest, where they can easily adapt and settle in, and where their nesting and dietary needs are virtually identical to those of the spotted owl. This adaptive species is also aggressive when competing for breeding ground, and observers have seen barred owls fly into spotted owl nests, roll the eggs out and lay their own. So, although it has left the front pages, the spotted owl remains an endangered species.

This is the kind of issue with which Christian ethics must

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The Burden of STEWARDSHIP

deal, an issue that calls for deep reflection and careful consideration rather than quick judgments or easy answers. Do human beings have a responsibility to spotted owls? To barred owls? How much of a responsibility, and how do we balance it against other urgent moral concerns? These are important questions raised by the case of the spotted owl, and the dialogue of Christian ethics calls for a response from faith traditions.

One response can be found in Genesis, Chapter 6, which begins the famous story of Noah and his ark. As this story begins, “the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth,” and God is preparing for a catastrophic flood (6:5). In preparation for this flood, God instructs one man to build a large boat, not just to save himself and his family, but also for representatives of every other species on the planet. God tells Noah to find at least two of “every living thing” and to “keep them alive with you” (Genesis 6:19).

Of course, biblical stories can be interpreted in multiple ways, but when reading this text with the spotted owl in mind, it is hard not to be caught by the words “keep them alive with you.” The concern here is not just the survival of human beings, but all of God’s creatures; Noah and his family are singled out because they can build an ark, but the ark is for all species. This suggests that, at least according to one text important to my faith tradition, human beings do have a responsibility for owls. In the face of threats to the survival of the spotted owl, we should work to “keep them alive with us.” The ark serves as a symbol: all God’s creatures are in the same boat together, and human beings are called to protect other creatures from the dangerous and uncertain world around us.

In Christian environmental ethics, we call this stewardship: human beings are part of creation, creatures like all others, but we also have a special place of power in the world, and we must work to use that power responsibly and carefully. Stewardship means that the world – the ark we all share – belongs to God, and human beings are charged with managing it. Stewardship tells us that we have been given a special responsibility to tend the creation like a garden, to till and keep God’s world. It teaches us an ancient lesson of ethics that might be referred to as the Spiderman principle: with



the great power we hold as the dominant species on the planet comes the great responsibility of taking care of the world around us.

Christian ethics therefore offers important moral principles to a dialogue about spotted owls: we are the stewards of creation, and as such we have a responsibility to other species. However, continuing the dialogue offers reminders that such a principle is not easy or straightforward when applied in the real world. In the early 1990s, this reminder came in the form of long debates about the cost to the economy of the Pacific Northwest if the spotted owl was protected. Many loggers and logging companies were convinced that setting aside enough forest to save these owls would destroy their industry and therefore the region’s economy. While the



worst of these predictions have not come true, some people have been adversely affected by efforts to save the spotted owl: keeping them alive with us has had a cost.

What's more, our efforts have not yet been completely effective: the spotted owl remains threatened, most particularly by the invasive barred owls, for which we have built a corridor straight into the Pacific Northwest. The Endangered Species Act charges the government to protect spotted owls, and so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is legally required to do something about this threat. Their current proposal, a policy that is being carried out right now by our government, is to kill barred owls, to capture and shoot the invasive birds. To save owls, we are killing owls.

This is a shocking fact, an uncomfortable sign that there is no easy way to steward the natural world. I believe barred owls are God's creatures, and that they themselves have done nothing wrong, simply following their instincts and adapting to the world human beings have reshaped. The idea that these owls should be killed bothers me, but I know of no other viable proposal to defend and protect spotted owls from their incursion. Since barred owls are not endangered, it does not threaten their species to kill individual owls. Still, this is a reminder that there is a cost to protecting the spotted owl, to other creatures as well as to human beings.


With the great power we hold as the dominant species on the planet comes the great responsibility of taking care of the world around us.

.....

This raises another set of very difficult questions: How hard must we work to keep other species alive with us? Will this goal ever come into conflict with the goal of thriving, fulfilled human lives? If it does, how do we decide between

them? Furthermore, how do we decide between the spotted owl and the barred owl, between the desire to keep all species alive with the concern to keep other creatures alive? What should we be willing to sacrifice to follow God's command to Noah, and when might we decide that such a command is unreasonable or impossible to obey?

The Christian tradition does not offer clear answers to these questions, and neither does our society. We do not have common ground on how to balance the human economy with species preservation. Animal rights activists and environmentalists do not agree on when or whether we can justifiably kill invasive creatures. My own view is that we should be working hard to save the spotted owl and to preserve its old growth habitat; I believe that logging must be restricted in a large territory and invasive barred owls should be eradicated as much as possible. However, I have come to these perspectives in dialogue with others who disagree, and I continue to respect them and learn from their views.

This is why I use the spotted owl to explain what Christian ethics is: the owl demonstrates the complications of applying morality in our world, reminding us how deep and intricate are the moral challenges we face, how the best we can do in many situations is continue a dialogue rather than seek easy judgments or answers. If we are to deal with issues as complicated as the spotted owl, if we are to draw on a diverse tradition thousands of years old, then Christian ethics must be about such continued dialogue, questions, and complexity. 

ACT I:

Vpstart Crow is willing to take a chance

Sticking your neck out for what you love can be a grueling endeavor. But never doing so is even worse.

That's the lesson learned by Travis Morris '10 who, along with Julie Wolfson '08 and his brother Tristan '08, founded a student-run, independent theater company called Vpstart Crow (Pronounced "upstart crow"). They focused on a kind of on-location acting, known as "found" theater. It is an innovative type of theater that can take place anywhere – not just a performance hall.

The group was enthralled with the idea, Wolfson even sunk her own money into it.

"We were still naïve enough to say we'll pay to do this," Tristan Morris said.

It wasn't that they didn't like performing in the theater department's shows – quite the contrary. They just wanted more theater, especially during the down times on campus. So they stuck their neck out. And Vpstart Crow was born.

They didn't know what to expect.

Their first effort was the one-woman show "Search for Signs of Intelligent Life," with Wolfson acting, Tristan Morris directing, and a few other students, including Travis Morris, helping out.

"Give people the tools to make what they're passionate about, and inspire others to be part of the world"

"Give people the tools to make what they're passionate about, and inspire others to be part of the world," Wolfson said she learned from her professors. "That really stuck with me and I think it's what is taught here."

The chance they took inspired other students, like Zoe Mandels, to do the same.

Mandels applied for a grant called the Carol Sheffels Quigg Award for Excellence and Innovation in 2008. The award seeks to recognize PLU students, faculty and staff who are creative in advancing the university's mis-

sion. Every year, those with great ideas take advantage of the award.

The recognition was great. The \$2,000 was even better. The group used the money to purchase lighting that can be easily transported and set up, so that they could mount performances virtually anywhere – key to advancing the notion of "found" theater.

Mandels efforts made sure the theater group would have funds to keep providing innovative, low-cost theater for years to come. Although Julie and Tristan have since graduated, the group they founded continues.

Travis Morris said this year has been a learning process as well, as the club has established what it's going to be for years to come.

"It's going to be defined each year," he said. "So much of it was conceived by the shows that were performed."

So, year by year Vpstart Crow could be different and really depends on the chances students are willing to take, he said.

Or, in what ways they are willing to stick out their necks. S

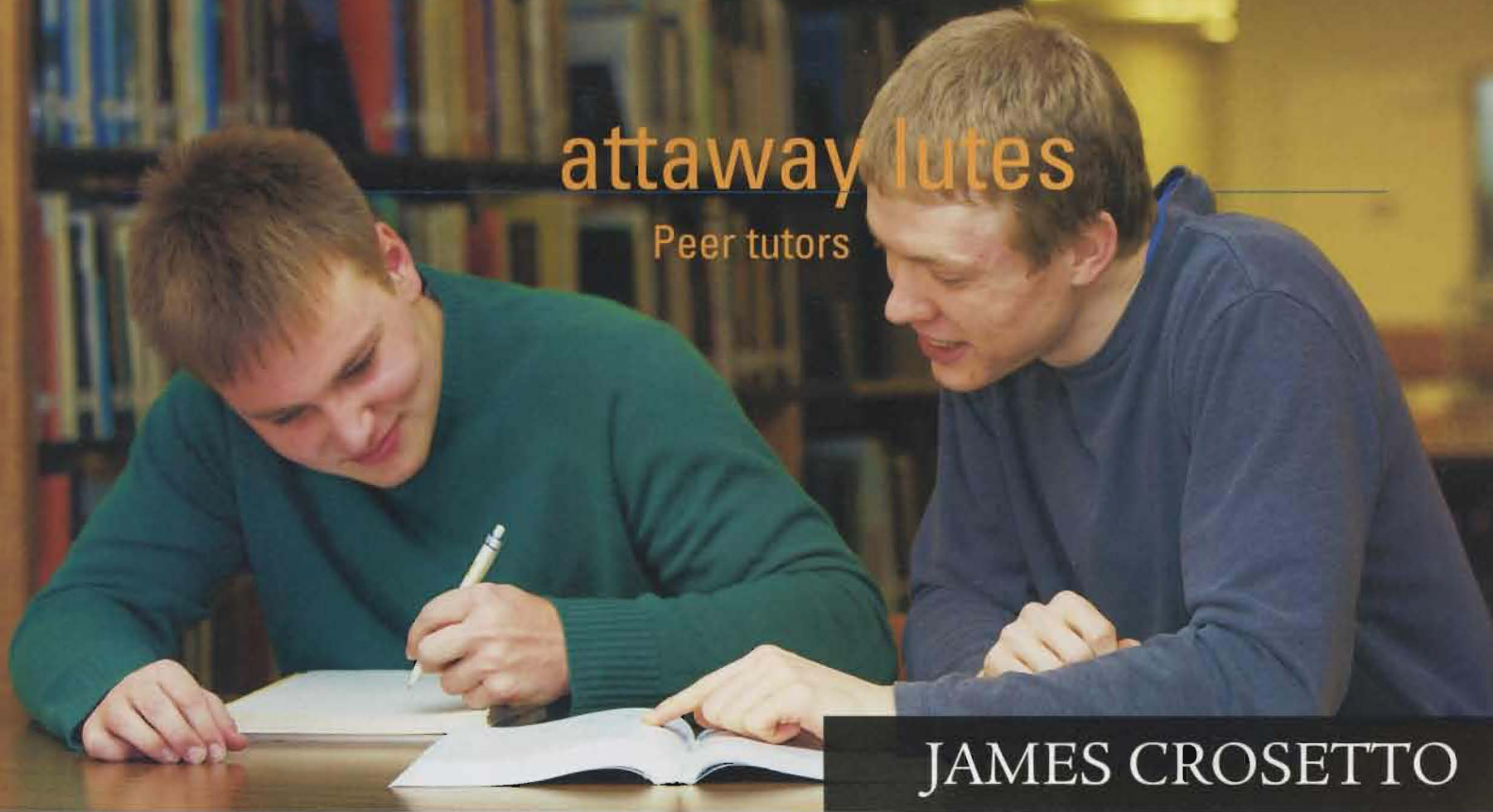
– Chris Albert

Travis Morris of Vpstart Crow, in Eastvold Hall



attaway lutes

Peer tutors



JAMES CROSETTO

On any given weekday afternoon you will find James Crosetto and Lexie Miller engrossed in athletic endeavors.

Look for Crosetto on the tennis courts hitting reaction volleys or working up a sweat while playing a challenge match against a men's tennis teammate. Nearby, Lexie Miller puts in countless practice laps, aimed at preparing her for the track and field season and her specialty, the 3000-meter steeplechase.

For Crosetto and Miller, participating in intercollegiate athletics at PLU means living out a passion, and it is as important a part of their lives as their academic pursuits. And make no mistake, academics is a major part of both of their lives.

Crosetto and Miller are two of approximately 32 peer tutors who work for the Academic Assistance Center. Additionally, they are two of five current tutors who also participate in intercollegiate athletics. (The others are Dan Hibbard, track and field, who tutors in biology; Kat Jenkins, women's crew, who tutors in math and physics; and Luke Weinbrecht, track and field, who tutors in geoscience.)

For 35 years PLU's peer tutoring program has aimed to "provide academic support for students at all academic

levels, from those striving for an 'A,' to those hoping to get through a class with a passing mark, and everywhere in between," says director Leslie Foley '88.

All tutors must first be approved by the department in which they tutor, and then they are trained by Foley in a one-credit course that meets College Reading and Learning Association guidelines. For Crosetto and Miller, both CRLA certified, training to become a tutor has similarities to training for athletic success.

MEN'S TENNIS JAMES CROSETTO

A smile comes easily to the face of James Crosetto, a senior from Eatonville, Wash., who is majoring in computer science and computer engineering. The tall, blond-headed Crosetto is justifiably proud of the classroom acumen that has led to a 3.88 grade point average. His natural propensity for all-things computer is buoyed by a strong work ethic. "I really enjoy it, so that probably helps," Crosetto said. "But I like to think that I put in a lot of hard work."

He's just as proud, however, of his success on the tennis court as a four-year varsity performer for the men's tennis team. That success, he would admit, is due more to hard work and

passion than to natural athletic ability.

In his first three years on the tennis team, James has been on the cusp of establishing his place among the top six singles players. He has compiled a career 14-3 singles record at PLU, including an 8-2 record in 2007. He is 9-9 in doubles play. His senior season figures to be much like the first three – intermittent appearances in singles and doubles play depending on the competition. After all, it's tough work breaking into the top six of the regionally ranked team.

For Crosetto, the pursuits of academic and athletic excellence are a normal part of life, and his role as a peer tutor fits into that lifestyle.

Crosetto started as a peer tutor in the fall of 2007. Leslie Foley was looking for a new computer science tutor and Crosetto was recommended by the department. For the last year and a half he has tutored students taking introduction to computer science and data structures. Those students can find Crosetto in the computer science lab five hours during the week. "It's not a huge time commitment and it makes it easier to work it in with tennis," Crosetto admits.

"(Being a peer tutor) creates more pressure and takes more of my time, but it fits really well with my major," he



LEXIE MILLER

said. "When I'm helping people, I get to see a lot of problems that they run into, and helping solve them gives me a better understanding of the subject. For me it's a good experience, as well as being a job."

Crosetto's main tools on the tennis court are a solid forehand and a fast serve. His most important tools while tutoring are patience and a good sense of humor. "If people are getting frustrated with their assignment, just being able to lighten up the mood helps a lot," he said.

Because the tennis team plays upwards of 25 matches during a season, there have been occasional conflicts between Crosetto's tutoring schedule and his tennis matches. But the conflicts are easily resolved. "I've never really had to decide between one or the other," he said.

That is fortunate, because Crosetto's passion for being a student is matched only by his passion for being an athlete. At PLU, both those passions are satisfied.

CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD LEXIE MILLER

For an athlete who spends so much time running anything but a straight line, Lexie Miller is about as straightforward a person as you'll ever meet.

Miller, who graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma, has been a member of the women's cross country and track and field teams throughout her four years at PLU.

Like Crosetto, Miller has been a peer tutor since 2007, and was recommended for the position by a faculty member. She tutors math students at nearly every level. Miller, who maintains a 3.91 grade point average, can be found in the math lab four nights per week for a couple of hours each night.

"I have to look for new ways to look at a problem. I have to explain the method behind it, which has really challenged me and made me a better student." —Lexie Miller

The lanky Miller pursues running the same way she does mathematics, with equal measure purpose and success. Throughout her cross-country career she has been among PLU's top runners, and last spring during the track and field season she shattered by nearly 18 seconds the school record in the

women's 3,000-meter steeplechase, running 11:30.73. Her goal is to break the 11-minute barrier, and that would put her within range of qualifying for the NCAA Division III national meet. "If I break 11 (minutes), I might as well go for nationals," Miller said.

Miller says patience is most important to her while tutoring. It is because mathematics comes so easily to her that she is a tutor, and yet it is that very quality that can cause her frustration with students who give up too easily on a problem.

"The biggest thing is learning patience, because not everybody has the same learning style and not everybody understands it the same way that I do," Miller said. "I have to look for new ways to look at a problem. I have to explain the method behind it, which has really challenged me and made me a better student."

Miller has, for the most part, broken her life into a simple equation: athletics plus school equals one day. "Twenty-four hours in a day is plenty for those two. Some other things can suffer," she said.

Miller puts it another way: "Running for me is like a study break. Everybody needs a few hours a day away from the books." ☐

—Nick Dawson

alumni news and events

Rev. Harvey Neufeld: 'Friends who are the rest of us'

Rev. Harvey Neufeld, who served PLU for years as director of church relations, published a book of essays and reflections titled "Travelin' with Harv." In his essay "A Time to Share," Harvey had this to say:

"No institution can afford to employ all of the help needed to interpret the significance of its educational service or to secure resources required for its operation. Therefore, our effectiveness as an institution may well depend upon our ability to extend our outreach through the involvement of others. Someone wisely said, 'A man is not all himself. His friends are the rest of him.' And we have many friends who are the rest of us."

At Pacific Lutheran University, the "many friends who are the rest of us" come in many forms including alumni, families, donors and volunteers. Here we recognize a number of volunteer groups without which PLU's outreach, effectiveness and educational service would have not achieved such success.

LUTE CLUB

My partnership with Lute Club has, first, reestablished my connection with the PLU student-athlete experience that had slipped into the recesses of my brain these 20+ years since my graduation from PLU, and, second, inspired an expression of loyalty to PLU that had fallen off of my priority schedule despite my deep-seated appreciation of the university's contribution to my personal achievements. I am proud to devote my time and resources to the cause of affording current PLU student-athletes the opportunities that gave me friendships, memories and lessons that will sustain me throughout my life.

Susan Caulkins '82
President, Lute Club Executive Board

PARENTS COUNCIL

Through this experience, PLU has become much more than just an institution of bricks and mortar, more than just a landmark in Tacoma. Being involved in the Parents Council at PLU has now become people and ideas all working together. I love being a part of this community and enjoy watching it evolve.

JeanMarie Foss
Co-Chair, Parents Council

ALUMNI BOARD

From a practical viewpoint, my experience has honed my skills in leading a group of dedicated, but widely scattered volunteers, most of whom I see twice annually. What an opportunity to see alumni from 50+ years strongly committed to PLU's future! But more rewarding is the knowledge I've gained from the many wonderful people, from top administrators to incoming first-years, who remind us that being a Lute is something special. When I was a student, I thought PLU was a great place. My experience has shown me it's gotten even better, and its best days lie ahead.

David E. Johnson '74
President, Alumni Board



PLU GOLD

Being a member of PLU GOLD allows me to give back to a place that means so much to me. As a recent grad, I am not in a position to make a big donation. GOLD lets me show my support for PLU in other ways. I love meeting up with friends (and making new ones) as we find our places in the world, post-college. Every time I go to a planning meeting or an event, I am reminded of things I learned at PLU – the importance of lifelong learning, being a global citizen, and how to “ask big questions.” PLU GOLD is something I am so glad to be a part of!

Ellen (Brotherston '07) Aronson
GOLD Committee

PLU BUSINESS NETWORK

It is an honor to be part of a team so passionately devoted to advancing lifelong learning and opportunity for alumni, students, faculty and staff of the School of Business and PLU. Our board has helped me grow as a leader, and the PLU Business Network helps me connect with more business alums and students than ever before. This experience has been invaluable for career and personal growth. It is even more fulfilling to know our work helps strengthen and grow PLU's role in the communities we serve.

Derek Lunde '05
President, PLU Business Network

SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI

Back in 1991, I was part of the trio that implemented the School of Nursing Alumni. From that beginning, the opportunities to continue relationships with my former classmates and professors has been a major benefit. Nursing instruction at PLU is not just didactic; the values demonstrated by School of Nursing faculty and staff become more noticeable once a graduate is out on his or her own, mixing with the general public. Participation in the Nursing Alumni has given me contact and friendships with multiple generations that I would not have had otherwise. Those friendships have been particularly valuable in times of personal grief and stress. They remind me that I am a part of a large “family” with a common experience – PLU – and that is comforting.

Judy Scott '78, '97
Co-Founder and Past President, School of Nursing Alumni

BOARD OF REGENTS

I have had the privilege of serving on PLU's Board of Regents for over 13 years and have found it to be very rewarding for several reasons. First is the opportunity to positively influence some of PLU's core operations. Second is the privilege of working with highly skilled and dedicated fellow regents in service to an institution that we all know and love; not all regents are PLU alums, but all are deeply committed to PLU's mission, vision and values. Finally, there is great satisfaction in knowing that all regents are helping PLU make a difference in the world by graduating students dedicated to lives of thoughtful service, inquiry and care.

James M. Hushagen '70
Board of Regents

ALUMNI ANGEL

Today's economic downturn causes one to wonder about the returns on one's investments. I began volunteering in the Office of Constituent Relations six years ago when the loss of my spouse created a real need for belonging. My conservative investment of one morning a week at PLU has yielded a rich return: involvement in my alma mater, an opportunity to give a little to the school that gave me so much, a chance to work with the amazing young men and women on this campus. These returns are not taxable.

Dick Weathermon '50
Alumni Angel

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Being the Class Representative for 2008, I have already seen the impact that class representatives have on the PLU community. I have learned the importance of staying connected to PLU as an alumna, and look forward to helping my fellow classmates stay connected by informing them of the successes and needs of the university. Through this role, I am able to help fellow alumni understand the lasting impact they can have on the future of PLU and the ability for our students to continue to receive an excellent education. I have become closer with my fellow Lutes and am confident that as young alumni, the class of 2008 can continue to make a difference for PLU.

Courtney Stringer '08
2008 Class Representative



continued

Pencil Us In

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 13**Tables for Eight, Scandinavian Cultural Center, PLU
- April 24-26**Spring Parents Council Meeting, PLU
- April 24-26**Spring Alumni Board Meeting, PLU
- May 2**Spring Donor Banquet, PLU
- May 24**Spring Commencement, Tacoma Dome
- August 14-17**2009 Lute U

For more information: www.plualumni.org or call 800-ALUM-PLU.

Come see us on Facebook

Registered members of the PLU Online Community can access all of the community's features while logged in to a Facebook account: searching for classmates, establishing a permanent forwarding e-mail address and updating alumni profile information.

Finding us is easy. Log into Facebook, search for "PLU" within "Applications," and find "PLU Alumni Community Connections Application."

It works like any other Facebook application. Once you add it, you are able to take full advantage of its features. Through the "Share +" button on the application, you can post a message on your Facebook profile or send a message to a group of your friends. And if you are not a registered member, the PLU Alumni Community Connections application is the place to learn more.

Picture Perfect

IN 1985, A GROUP OF FRESHMAN BEGAN RUNNING CROSS COUNTRY for coach Brad Moore with the team name "Parkland Youth." The name stuck, and they have called themselves that ever since. In 2008, members of the group reunited to run Oregon's 197 mile relay, Hood to Coast. "Parkland Youth" placed third in the Masters Division, and 28th overall out of 1,000 teams.



1985

Left to right: Darrin Hatcher, Shawn Beeman, Kris Kraiger, Allan Giesen, Mett Knox, Scott Roberts, Robert Latting and Nathan Hult.
Front: Chris Spence.



2008

Front, left to right: Shawn Beeman '90, Eric Davis, Nathan Hult '89, Kris Kraiger '89, Allan Giesen (attended PLU 85-88), Ken Gardner '89, Glenn Irwin, Mark Keller '88. Back row, left to right: Matt Knox '90, Darrin Hatcher '89, Charley LeWarne '89, Mike Oehl, Robert Latting '89, Brian Jacobson '89 and Scott Roberts '89.



This photo was taken in PLU's Red Square during Homecoming. Although they have pursued different careers and adventures, Homecoming has become a wonderful way for these friends to reconnect (along with some great summertime weekends). Pictured here, left to right: Deanna (Thorp '76) Nowadnick, Sharon (Rash '75) Gray, Sheryl Wold '76, Claudia (Rea '75) Browsers and Nancy (Young '76) Redden.

2009 Lute U

Friday-Monday, August 14-17


Alumni, parents and friends are invited to hone their sense of sight, smell and taste as we travel to the eastern Washington Wine Country. From our first destination in Walla Walla, Wash., to the trip back home along the Columbia River Gorge, this trip is a chance to spoil the foodie in you, and to celebrate PLU connections along the way.

Participants leave Friday morning and travel in style on a fully equipped deluxe coach bus to Walla Walla. Friday and Saturday night accommodations will be at the Marcus Whitman Hotel; the only luxury hotel in the heart of Washington's most acclaimed wine region. Saturday evening's special event will feature cuisine from local PLU purveyors.

On Sunday, we will venture back through the Columbia River Gorge to visit the historic Maryhill Museum and its full-size replica of Stonehenge. That evening, we will arrive in Troutdale, Ore., at the Edgefield Hotel. This remarkable destination resort is a world of relaxation that seamlessly blends Oregon's natural beauty with McMenamins' signature whimsy: historic buildings artfully restored and rich with cozy interiors, tranquil ponds and dazzling gardens, great food and drink, plentiful entertainment and surprising recreations.

A PLU "scholar in residence" will accompany us on our trip to provide added enrichment for our minds.

The cost of the trip includes transportation to and from PLU, three nights lodging, your entrance to all wineries and the museum, as well as select meals, including Saturday night's special meal at Thundering Hooves. The group returns to PLU Monday.

Space is limited and reservations are required by June 1. You may place a reservation by returning the attached form or by visiting www.plualumni.org, for more information and the opportunity to register. 

SIGN ME UP for Lute U

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

- Double occupancy \$465
 Single occupancy \$605

Price per person \$ _____
Multiplied by _____ registrants \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

- Check enclosed, payable to PLU
 Bill my: VISA MasterCard

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____

Please list the names of registrants:

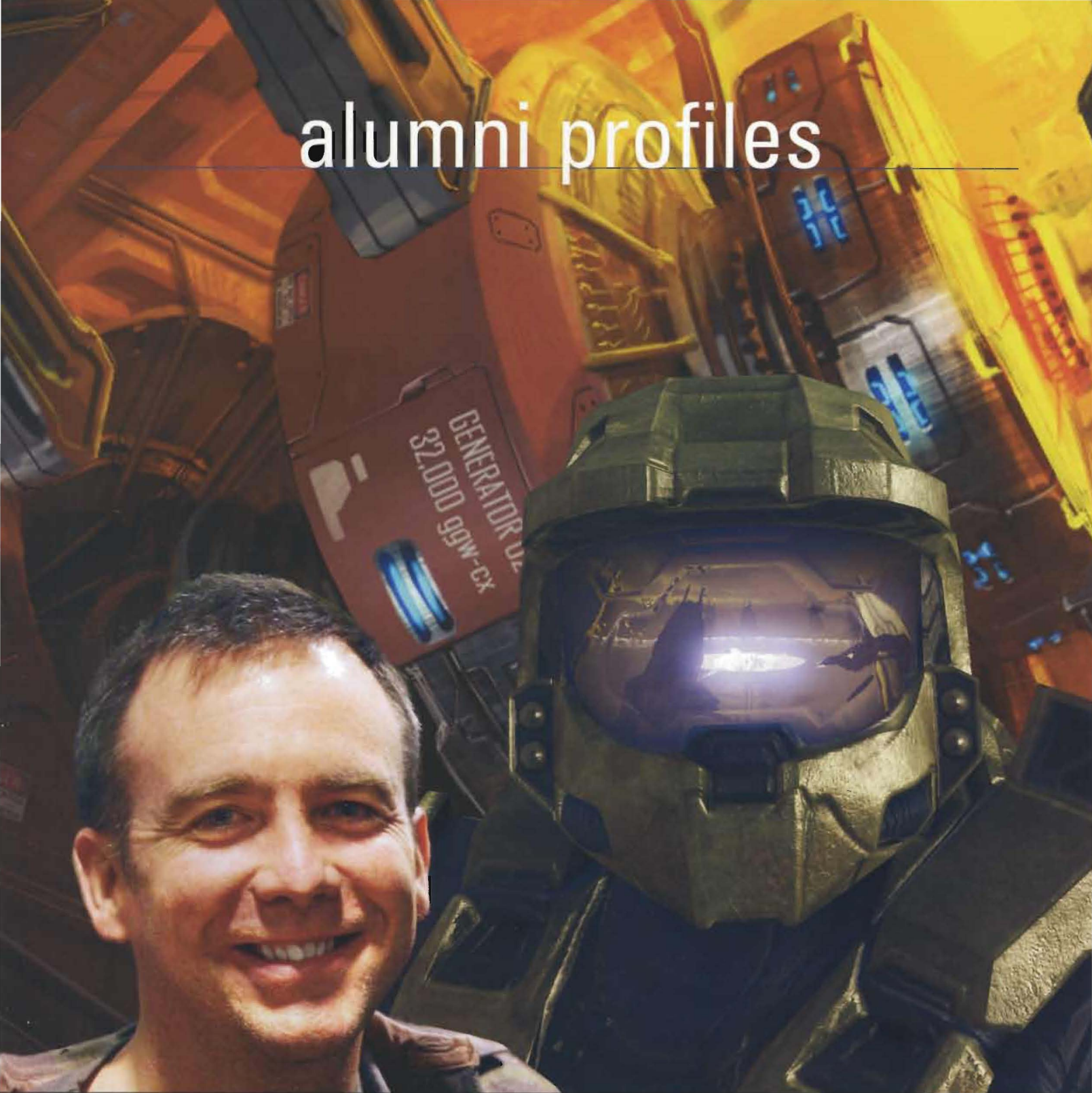
- I am traveling alone, but would like to share a room.
(Please register as single occupancy and if a single roommate becomes available, we will contact you.)
 Please contact me/us regarding the possibility of meeting the group in Walla Walla.
 Please contact me/us regarding a payment plan.

Please mail completed registration form and payment no later than June 1. If you are considering the trip, please let us know that with a call or an e-mail to alumni@plu.edu.

Office of Constituent Relations
Alumni College Program
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA 98447

If you have any questions, please call the
Office of Constituent Relations at 253-535-
7415, 800-ALUM-PLU or alumni@plu.edu

alumni profiles



Pete Parsons' meteoric career trajectory is founded on what he finds 'awesome'

It'd be easy to say that PLU graduate Pete Parsons '89, over his career, has found himself in the right place at the right time.

He was on the Xbox development team when there were fewer than a dozen people working on the project. He was product manager for some of the early groundbreaking video games like Flight Simulator and Age of Empires. He had a hand in the "Where

the Hell is Matt?" video going viral.

Oh, and by the way, he also led the development team of Halo 2 and Halo 3 – also known as The Greatest Video Games in the World.

To say that Pete Parsons has been in the right place wouldn't quite be accurate. He's been making it the right place. It has always been an essential part of his core philosophy.

"I always ask myself 'What would be

totally awesome to do? Then I should go do that,” he said.

What was true in his career, was also true for his education.

Parsons originally entered Washington State University. But as he started to figure out what he wanted to do after college, transferring to PLU made a lot of sense. “I liked what I saw at PLU,” he recalled. “I liked the smaller environment and the smaller class sizes. It felt good to me. Plus, I thought they had a great business program.”

Also factoring into the equation: a move to PLU would allow him to be closer to the businesses that would likely employ him.

That proved to be true.

Parsons would graduate PLU with a degree in finance, taking a position at Weider Nutrition, the maker of sports drinks and nutrition bars. Health and fitness was one of his two passions (the other being gaming and software) worked his way up the ladder, rising to VP of marketing and product development. By any measure, a good gig.

But after a while, it was time to follow his other passion. So he left his post and looked for a job in the gaming industry. Which raises an important question: How exactly does someone from the nutrition biz just “shift over” to a sweet gig in the gaming industry?

Parsons laughed at the question. “I’ve always done the things I wanted to do. It was my passion, and it was time to follow that passion. I didn’t care what it took or what I would get paid. I probably would have taken a job for free.” Parson paused. “Which, come to think of it, at first, I was getting paid pretty close to that.”

He landed at Microsoft, working as a product manager on *Monster Truck Madness II*. Then came the more famous titles, and then the opportunity to work on the then-secret Xbox. When Parsons was asked to work on Microsoft’s acquisition of Bungie Studios – creator of the Halo series – his career officially could be considered headed for the stratosphere.

We all know how Halo worked out. As studio manager of Bungie Studios, he presided over the creation of the most critically acclaimed and commercially successful video game series of all time, generating sales in excess of \$1 billion. And it wasn’t just video games – the franchise included best-selling novels, soundtracks and so on.

Then, after completing pre-production of Halo 3 and developing a partnership between Microsoft and Peter

Jackson, the Academy Award-winning director of the *Lord of the Rings* films, Parsons did what many would consider unthinkable.

He quit.

For Parsons,

this decision goes back to the same question he has always asked of himself: What would be totally awesome to do?

Parsons likes to work with college-age students and help them set priorities as they consider their future. He will often come to PLU and other places to discuss how his choices have shaped his career. Time and again, he asks those to whom he is speaking to ask themselves that same fundamental question.

“I will talk to students who have planned-out a certain career track – they will say, ‘I want to be at so-and-so position in two years, and VP in five.’ That focus is great,” said Parsons. “But I always ask them, ‘Is that the thing you care about? Is that what would be totally awesome to do?’”

At this stage of his life, starting his own business is what would be totally awesome. He started *Fyreball*, which became *Meteor Technologies*, a platform that allows e-marketers to measure and track Web-based creative campaigns through the single-most powerful (and least understood) marketing tool there is: word of mouth.

Nobody has been able to do it yet. Parsons thinks he is onto something – and companies like Microsoft, Disney, Sony, AT&T Wireless, some of his first clients, seem to think so too. One of Parsons’ first proof-of-concepts was the “Where the Hell is Matt?” video, which

he says enabled *Meteor Technologies* to track how and why bad-dancing Matt’s video was passed through cyberspace.

It remains to be seen how Parsons’ latest venture will re-shape how companies advertise on the Web. Time will tell. One thing he does know, even with the hardships and the sleepless nights that come with creating a Web start-up, the process has been exactly what he hoped it would be: Awesome.

Mayo Clinic physician lives life in balance

PLU’s leaders often say the university creates well-rounded individuals. Clayton Cowl ’88 is a prime example.

A chemistry major and communication minor at PLU, Cowl now works at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Cowl, who became a physician and scientific researcher after leaving PLU, is working on testing oxygen masks installed in the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, holds joint appointments in the clinic’s divisions of preventive, occupational and aerospace medicine, and pulmonary and critical care medicine.



Clayton Cowl '88

In addition, Cowl works with the Executive Health Program, a preventative health screening assessment for high level executives of organizations.

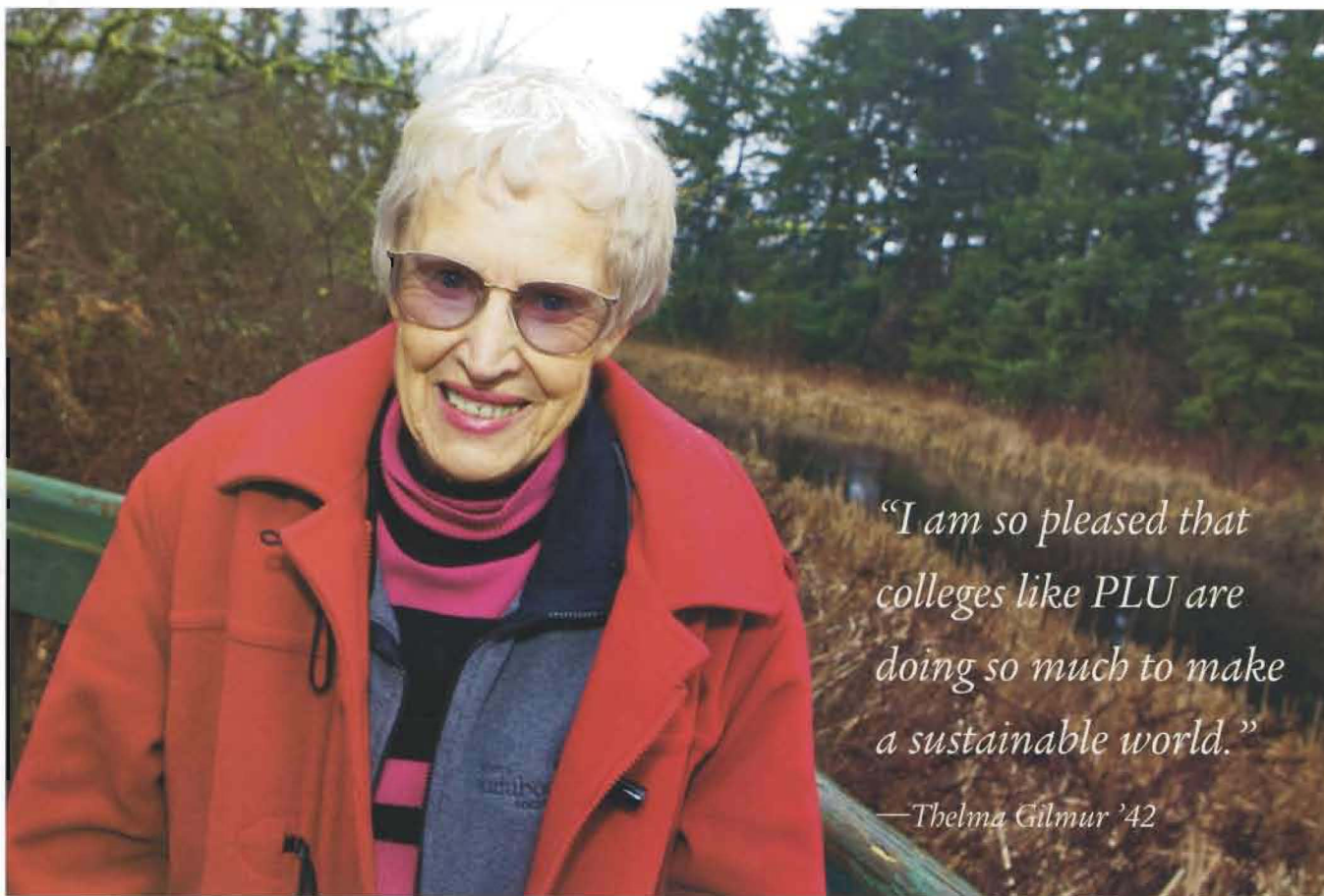
Along with his challenging career at Mayo, Cowl finds time to serve on several national and international medical organizations. He has a passion for flying aircrafts, particularly hot air balloons. And he finds time to referee high school football games.

Cowl, who says life is a balance, adds that it is important to stay grounded and establish priorities.

“Your faith number one, family a close second, followed by your work and career,” Cowl said. “The rest of the stuff just falls in place.”

—Melissa A. Campbell '10





"I am so pleased that colleges like PLU are doing so much to make a sustainable world."

—Thelma Gilmur '42

Thelma Gilmur '42 earned a lifetime achievement award from the Cascade Land Conservancy for her years of commitment to conservation.

A lifetime of stewardship honored

Students, faculty, and staff have made huge advances in the last several years to make PLU an ecologically friendly and sustainable campus. Thelma Gilmur '42 has been living these ideals her whole life.

Gilmur, 85, accepted the Helen Engle Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cascade Land Conservancy last fall in honor of her years of commitment as a conservation advocate and charter member of the Tahoma Audubon Society.

Her dedication to preserving nature began at a young age. "I grew up on a farm in the area," she said. "Over time, I remember seeing farmland slowly disappear." She noted that few regulations existed then to protect undeveloped land.

A proposed development project at China Lake Park in her Fircrest neigh-

borhood led Gilmur into her first conservation mission. She and a group of local conservationists recruited friends and strangers to help save the beloved urban forest area.

"After China Lake, people became enthusiastic about conservation," she said.

Increased interest led to the creation of the Tahoma Audubon Society in 1969, the county's first chapter of the national environmental advocacy organization.

Gilmur has also made a big difference through her passion for education. She received her teaching degree from PLU and has served as a teacher and administrator throughout the United States. During her career, she often taught environmental education in the classroom.


"In the '60s and '70s, outdoor education became a much bigger part of the curriculum," she said.

Schools began taking their students on nature field trips, and Gilmur would

often be the one to teach students about native plants and wildlife.

While she was serving as the chair of elementary education for the Tacoma School District, U. S. Congress passed the law that established Earth Day in 1970.

Gilmur fondly recalls her time at Pacific Lutheran College. Diverse wildlife such as owls and deer roamed in the forests that stood directly behind Harstad Hall, and Clover Creek flowed freely through the center of campus. She has continued to bring groups of young conservationists to campus in the last several years to teach them about the flora and fauna that remain PLU.

"I am so pleased that colleges like PLU are doing so much to make a sustainable world," she said. "It's wonderful to see happening because it's just so necessary." 

—Mike Engh '10

giving back

Lute athletic facilities: 'Defining a vision, planning for the future'

What does it take to mount a successful athletic program these days?

A few things immediately come to mind: talented and highly motivated student athletes; experienced, dedicated and supportive coaches and staff; and high-quality equipment.

According to Laurie Turner, director of athletics, PLU is doing all of these things very well.

"We have had remarkable success over the years in our athletic program," she said. "When you compare our program to that of other schools in the Northwest Conference and region, we stand out in just those ways in which we define success at PLU.

"We are helping individuals develop intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. We are giving them the skills for a lifetime of leadership, personal success and service to others.

"PLU has also done a remarkable job in defining a vision and in planning for the future of athletic facilities to keep our programs among the top tier," she said.

It's part of a pattern at PLU.

Over the past 15 years, the campuswide, long-range facilities master plan has led to revitalization and renewal across campus.

Now the focus of attention includes enhancements in recreation and athletic facilities.

The university's commitment to maintaining first-rate space on lower campus can be found in the Athletic, Recreation and Physical Education Master Plan. It calls for a broad menu of improvements that will meet the facilities needs for recreation, training and competition in every sport.

"The projects will be phased in over time," Turner said.

The first major component is the creation of two outdoor all-weather lighted synthetic fields for practice, competition and recreation.

One of the fields will be designed to accommodate the addition of spectator seating, giving the campus a multipurpose stadium sometime in the future.



Athletic enhancements like an all-weather field will benefit the women's soccer team, as well as other teams and the general student body.

The first major component is the creation of two outdoor all-weather lighted synthetic fields for practice, competition and recreation.

The construction of new indoor space for practice, instruction and recreation is also planned for phase one. It will probably include an indoor track as well as a floor surface capable of handling indoor tennis, basketball and volleyball.

Some improvements to Olson have been accomplished. A resurfaced basketball court, some new bleachers, an improved training room and locker room enhancements were all completed last summer with donor support.


Phase two of the master plan will guide many other upgrades including the swimming pool, fitness center, baseball and softball fields, outdoor track

and additional work on Olson.

All of the athletic facility enhancements will be funded by donor contributions.

"Our priorities are flexible," Turner said. "We intend to enhance the athletic and recreational experience across all collegiate and recreational programs.

"If a donor is ready to step up right now to make a difference for any one of our programs, we have components in the long-range plan that will make that gift work for the donor, for the team and for the overall progress of our athletic facility enhancements.

There are many ways to make an investment in athletic programs at PLU. Contributions can be made outright or through planned giving vehicles, such as a bequest provision, trust, gift annuity or gift of life insurance. To learn more about investment options and supporting Lute athletics and facilities enhancements, please contact Laurie Turner at turnerll@plu.edu or 253-535-7361 or contact the Office of Development at 253-535-7177 or visit www.plu.edu and click on "Make a Gift." 

—Greg Brewis

alumni class notes

Class Representative positions available:
1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1968, 1980, 1987 and 1991

1930

Edna (Dagsland) Haneberg recently celebrated her 98th birthday and lives in a retirement home in Sandy, Ore.

1931

Ida Adelaide (Hinderlie) Berntsen died Dec. 31 in Gig Harbor, Wash. Born Dec. 21, 1911, in Canby, Ore., she moved to Washington as a child and lived most of her life in Parkland, where she was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and in the community. At PLU, Ida was a founding member of the Choir of the West. Hinderlie Hall on the PLU campus is named in honor of her parents, Berent Severin and Ragna Arntsen Hinderlie. Ida began her teaching career at Arletta in the Gig Harbor area, and also taught in Clover Creek and Parkland schools. In 1935, she married Henry Benjamin Berntsen who died in 2004. Their retirement years were spent in their beach home in Cromwell, Wash., in Yuma, Ariz., and at their six-plex unit at the Tacoma Lutheran Home. There, faith, family and friends continued to be their focus. Ida is survived by son **David '58** and his wife **Carolee (Chidgren '59)**; son **Ron '60** and his wife **JoAnn (Storaasli '62)**, four grandchildren: **Christian '85**, **Paul '85** (Jesse), **Lisa '87** (Royce) and Mark, four great-grandchildren: Alicia Stephens and Joel, Hope and Annika Berntsen, and by many nieces and nephews. Ida was preceded in death by her brothers Ed and **Ray Hinderlie '36**, and her sister Gladys Winblade.

1936

Class Representative – **Volly (Norby) Grande**

Ralph Bolstad and his wife, **Rosemary Bolstad '49**, feel that St. Paul's Manor is a great place to live in San Diego. The cathedral is three blocks away, Balboa Park is four blocks away and the sun shines every day. In addition, there are lots of friendly folks, and they feel like they are part of a new family.

1937

Helen Marie (Holtcamp) Sanders celebrated her 91st birthday Nov. 16.

1938

Evelyn (Syverson) Berg died Oct. 30. She was born January 20, 1917, spending most of her childhood in Tacoma. Evelyn graduated from Lincoln High School and Pacific Lutheran College. An outstanding musician, she played violin and piano, performing with the Everett Symphony.

She also sang with Everett's First Baptist Church choir. Evelyn was proud to be one of Everett School District's first married women allowed to teach following the war. Married to Rodney Berg, they raised two daughters and a son. Evelyn is survived by her daughters Christine Wise (Jim) and Ann Thomas (Al); grandchildren Sarah Wise, Nathan Wise (Kristen), Bethany Thomas Clemons (Seth), Gwendolyn Thomas, Aaron Berg and Sean Berg; and by her great-grandchildren, Madeline and Clark Clemons.

1939

Ella Mae (Adams) Fenn died Sept. 24. A graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, she taught elementary school for many years. Ella and her husband Ernie raised their family in the Seattle area. Ella was proud of having been a licensed private pilot. She also enjoyed bridge and baking bread. She is survived by her children Larry and Ronald Mattson, Linda Wilhoit and Lanette Knapp; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

1940

Class Representative – **Luella (Toso) Johnson**

1942

Thelma (Thureson) Gilmur received the Helen Engle Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cascade Land Conservancy, a conservation organization that works to protect forests, farms and environmentally sensitive areas in the region. In addition, she was featured in Tacoma's News Tribune for her decades of work on behalf of nature and open spaces. She is a tireless volunteer and a conservation icon, having had Tacoma name a Fircrest park in her honor.

1945

Class Representative – **Annabelle Birkestol**

1947

Class Representative – **Gerry Lider**

1948

Class Representative – **Norene (Skilbred) Gulhaugen**

Pastor John Nicolai and his wife, Lorraine, of Bismarck, N.D., died in an automobile accident near Dickinson, N.D. on Oct. 7. They were traveling to Tacoma to attend John's 60-year anniversary of graduating from PLC. John Nicolai grew up in Orland, Calif., and was a member of First Lutheran Church. He graduated from Orland Joint Union High School in 1942 and from Pacific Lutheran College in 1948. After spending a year at UC California, he entered Luther



Seminary and graduated in 1952. During his time at Luther Seminary he met Lorraine Solberg and they were married in 1951.

He was ordained into ministry at First Lutheran in Orland in 1952. He served his ministry in North Dakota, spending three years in the Dunn Center area and the remaining years at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck. John and Lorraine retired in 1989. They are survived by five children, Pastor Randall Nicolai, Renee Cleary, Pastor Steven Nicolai, Susan Weiss, David Nicolai and 14 grandchildren. He is also survived by his only sister, Lena Woodmansee of Chico, Calif. He has five surviving nieces and nephews: **Pastor Denton Kees '64**, Bette Harrison, Judy Joksch, **Pastor Bill Kees '65** and **Lembit Ratasapp '75**.

1950

Class Representative – **Dick Weathermon**

Jess Thompson and **Doree (Vinje '48) Thompson** realize the wisdom in what Methuselah always said: Life goes on. Doree retired long ago and Jess fizzled out way long ago. Jess still likes to play guitar and entertain with his old-timey/folk/novelty/ humor songs, *a la* Burl Ives. He still loves to make people laugh, as he has done since those wonderful days when PLC overflowed with veterans and was filled with beautiful girls. This greeting to you all will at least encourage others to put something into Class Notes, he hopes. How about returning the howdy? jexxthomps@yahoo.com.

1951

Beverly Ann Burr died Sept. 13. She was preceded in death by her husband, Don, in 2003, and her then 8-year-old daughter who was abducted in 1961 and never found. She is remembered as a mother who put aside her own grief, and her own aspirations, for the sake of her children. Beverly was a friend to many in Tacoma, a passionate gardener, a Girl Scout leader, editor of the Church of St. Patrick's senior newsletter, maker of prom dresses, a writer and collector of recipes. She wrote for her obituary "Thank you, God, for letting me live in this beautiful world you created. Thank you for five precious children and dear relatives and friends." Beverly is survived by four children: Julie Burr Spani, Greg Burr, Mary Geomans and Laura Henkel.

1953

Class Representatives – **Naomi (Roe) Nothstein** and **Carol (Schuler) Karwoski**

Charles M. Gunnerson died Nov. 13. Charles was born in Driggs, Idaho, on May 29, 1930. While pursuing an engineering degree, he received a call to the ministry. He was ordained in Omaha, Neb. After leaving the parish ministry, Chuck received further clinical pastoral education and served 10 years as chaplain at Providence Hospital in Everett, Wash. He retired in 1996. His steadfast caring and compassion extended far beyond the local institution. His love for nature, the environment and peacemaking was tireless and global. Chuck is survived by his wife, Sharon; brother Hanford and sister Jean; and children **Karen (Gunnerson '77) Olson**, **Janet (Gunnerson '82) Amundson** and **Eric Gunnerson '86**.

1955

Class Representative – **Phyllis (Grahn) Pejisa**

1956

Class Representatives – **Ginny (Grahn) Haugen** and **Clarene (Osterli) Johnson**

Jack L. Hoover died Dec. 17, after a short but fierce battle with cancer. Jack attended Pasadena City College, joined the Air Force during the Korean War and finally went to PLU, where he graduated with degrees in education and business. He lived in Washington, Colorado and Montana with his wife, **Marilyn (Johnson '57)**, and their two children, Jill and Jack Edward. Jack served as a university administrator in those states until he started his own business, Foundation for International Services, 30 years ago. A dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, Jack's family was the core of his life. He also had a deep connection to his church and to community service. Loving the game of basketball, he was inducted into the PLU Hall of Fame. He played under coach **Marv Harshman '42** during the great basketball years of the 1950s. Jack is survived by his wife, Marilyn; children Jill Reich, son-in-law Mark Reich and their daughters Christina and Melissa; **Jack Edward Hoover '81**, wife Sheri, and children Evan and Jenna; and his brother-in-law Dwight Johnson.

1957

Class Representative – **Marilyn (Hefty) Katz**

1958

Class Representative – **Don Cornell**

1959

Twila (Gillis) Springer and her husband Bruce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 1, 2008, with a wonderful party in Port Angeles, Wash., planned by their four children. They felt

blessed to have celebrated with friends and family and then spent three weeks in Hawaii. Both are retired teachers who live in Port Angeles.

1960

Class Representative – **Marilu (Miller) Person**

Philip Erlander is sharing an interim pastoral ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he resides.

1961

Class Representative – **Ron Lerch**

Ken Ericksen, professor of English at Linfield College, presented the first faculty lecture of the academic year. "St. Paul, Shakespeare and Dr. Seuss: On Beyond Tragedy" focused on the common themes of second chances and renewed hope. Ken drew on similarities between Seuss and St. Paul to discuss Shakespearean tragicomedies, serious plays with happy endings. Ken Ericksen has a bachelor's degree from PLU, and a Master's and Ph.D. from Rice University.

Gary Stuart Kieland died Oct. 25. He died of cancer at home with his family by his side. Born in Conrad, Mont., on April 19, 1938, Gary grew up in West Seattle and graduated from West Seattle High School. After graduation from PLU, Gary served as a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years. He worked briefly for Aetna Life Insurance, but spent the majority of his career as Vice President of Sales for Summit Timber Company in Darrington, Wash.

Respected and admired by his associates and all the Summit employees, Gary retired in 2003 after having carried on the tradition of excellence established by his father-in-law and founder of Summit Timber Co., Burke Barker. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Cliff and Edna, and his sister, Sheri. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Diane, of 40 years; his two sons, Stuart and Christopher; grandson, Cole; his sister, Judy; several nieces and nephews, many close friends, and his favorite sidekick, his Golden Retriever, Sunny Jim.

1962

Class Representative – **Leo Eliason and Dixie (Likkel) Matthias**

1963

Class Representative – **Merlyn and Joan (Maier) Overland**

Joyce (Lundmark) Andersen died Sept. 24, after living with and battling Parkinson's disease for many years. Joyce was born in Tacoma on February 10, 1941, to Linus and Helen Lundmark. A graduate of PLU, Joyce taught music in the Portland public schools for most of her professional life. She and her former husband adopted twin boys, Erik and Peder, in 1968. Joyce was a remarkable

woman and her artistic creativity blossomed in a multitude of ways. Music was integral in her life. As a professional music educator, she taught children of all ages, but it was never just a job to her. Joyce loved to travel; her sense of humor and adventurous spirit made her an excellent traveler. Her generous heart extended to all of God's creatures, human and otherwise. Those she loved, she loved deeply. Her faith was foundational to who she was and how she lived her life. She is survived by her brother, Bill Lundmark, and by her sons, Erik and Peder.

Gary Shaw has retired again for the fourth time. He retired after 30 years from Georgia-Pacific Corporation, after 28 years as Lt. Colonel in personnel and finance with the U.S. Army Reserves, and after six years from Personnel Staffing Contract Employment Sales. He is now retiring from being a drug and alcohol counselor for Western Washington Drug and Alcohol Clinics in the Tacoma, Sumner and Renton areas. Since school he has lived and worked in Washington, Oregon, Connecticut and Georgia. Gary relocated to Arizona from Washington state in 2007. He keeps active and enjoys working about two days a week as a substitute teacher. He is trying to publish a fiction novel and a children's book, as well as dabbling at writing a screenplay. He also plays guitar and has written more than 200 songs. Gary has five children and five grandchildren and another grandchild due in June.

1965

Class Representative – **Dave Wytko**

The Reverend Stanley Hoobing is now serving as an interim pastor in the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Twin Falls, Idaho. He began serving on July 15. Prior to going to Twin Falls, Stan was an interim pastor in the Oregon Synod at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Prineville from Nov. 1, 2006, to June 8, 2008.

1966

Class Representative – **Frank Johnson**

Janet A (Watne) Mellies died Aug. 6. Janet was born Sept. 4, 1943, in Doaka, Oubangui-Chari, French Equatorial Africa (now Central African Republic) to the Rev. John T. and Alma C. E. Watne, who were missionaries. She worked as a nurse at hospitals in California and Arizona. Since 1995 she worked in the intensive care unit at Western Arizona Regional Medical Center in Bullhead City. Janet is survived by her sons Craig Borchmann and John Borchmann; seven grandchildren; her brother Joel Watne and his children and grandchildren; and her sister Sylvia Fee and her children and grandchildren.

Willy (Baer) Ertsgaard has retired after 20 years with McGraw-Hill Publishers,

serving as vice president of the 10-state western region. **Lynn Ertsgaard** continues his own business in financial services as an insurance and investment broker. Their son, **Bryan '93**, and wife, Melissa, live in Dayton, Ohio, where they both teach elementary school. They have three children. Their son, **Joel '94**, is an art director at REI, and his wife **Sarah '94**, is an occupational therapist. They have two children and live in Shoreline, Wash. Their son, Leif, lives in Seattle and works at KCTS Public Television.

1967

Class Representative – **Craig Bjorklund**

Paul Crouner has retired from 30 years in the classroom, most of the time in Centralia, Wash., except for a few beginning years in Vancouver, Wash., and one year as a Fulbright exchange teacher in Yorkshire, England. He has also retired from his job at The Chronicle in Centralia where he was responsible for their education outreach program called Newspapers in Education.

1968

Rosemary Foster recently retired from teaching after 38 years serving the University Place School District near Tacoma.

Mary Kathryn (Gravrock) Hilstad died Oct. 14. She was born Aug. 12, 1947, in Mountain Lake, Minn., and grew up in Oakland, Calif. Mary graduated from PLU with a degree in education and there she met **Gordon Hilstad '69**, whom she married. Mary taught first grade in St. Helens, Ore., for five years, but her great joy was nurturing her children. She delighted in using her great artistic, musical and teaching gifts to bless and raise them. Mary sang in musical groups throughout her life and was an accomplished soloist. For the past 13 years she sang with PLU Choral Union. In all of this she praised her Lord through her singing. Mary is survived by her husband, Gordon, of nearly 39 years; her sons Mark and Adam; her daughter **Kirstin (Hilstad '04)**, and son-in-law **Bryce Schaffner '04**; her sister, **Anne Urlic '65**, her brother Paul Gravrock; and many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly, and a host of friends who were blessed by her life, witness and faithful prayer.

Jennifer (Braa) Neiswender RN retired from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Lebanon, Penn., Sept. 30, after nearly 20 years of service. Retiring from her position as nurse manager of four community-based VA outpatient clinics in Camp Hill, Lancaster, Reading and York, Jennifer culminated a rewarding 40 year nursing career. She graduated magna cum laude from PLU in 1968. Jennifer and her husband Michael reside in Lancaster County, Penn.

1969

Class Representative – **Rick Nelson**

Jay Robinson won the King City Men's Golf Club championship last August in Oregon. Jay graduated from PLU where he majored in economics and was the number-one ranked player on the golf team all four years. No matter where Jay's career has taken him, he has continued to play golf. A Tigard resident, Robinson plays at the King City course about five mornings a week at 7 a.m. He credits his success in part to his aunt who gave him a couple of women's golf clubs when he was 12 years old. His most memorable golf experience this year happened when his 85-year-old mother, Jean Carrier, who lives in the Highlands, out-drove him on one hole.

Marvin Slind has published "Linka's Diary: An Immigrant Story in Word and Sketches" (Lutheran University Press, 2008). Linka Preus was a mid-19th century immigrant from Norway, whose family played a significant role in the development of the Norwegian Synod of the Lutheran Church. His diary translation was completed with the assistance of Eva-Kristin Urestad Pedersen and Ragnhild Hjeltness, two students from Norway who attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he is associate professor of history. This new edition of the diary also includes a collection of Linka Preus' sketches, with which she documented many of the prominent events she observed in the early Norwegian-American community. The sketches are edited by Gracia Grindal of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Cynthia (Bialik) Radford recently lost her husband, Richard. His memory is being honored with a two-month exhibit of his collection of antique woodwind instruments at the Sharsteen Museum in Calistoga, Calif.

1970

Class Representative – **Bill Allen**

1971

Class Representative – **Joe Hustad, Jr.**

Melinda (Liebers) Cox recently participated in a two-person exhibition, "73/67 Heartland Intersections; Midwest Reflection," at The Gallery at Tacoma Community College. Melinda earned a BFA from PLU and has been teaching at Tacoma Community College for a number of years.

Michael Neils serves as senior advancement officer for Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology in Los Angeles. He and his wife, Mary C. Tabata, have a baby girl named Faith Anne Neils.



David Soderlund professor of insecticide toxicology and chair of the Department of Entomology at

Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y., received the 2008 American Chemical Society (ACS) International Award for Research in Agrochemicals. The award, conferred at the ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Philadelphia, recognized Soderlund's "pioneering research and continuing discoveries on the insect sodium channel and insecticides that disrupt its action." Soderlund received a Ph.D. in entomology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976. After post-doctoral research at Rothamsted Experimental Station in the U.K., he joined the faculty of the Department of Entomology at the Geneva Experiment Station. Soderlund is also director of the Northeast Region IR-4 Program, part of a national cooperative program between the USDA and land grant universities to register crop protection tools for use on specialty crops. David is not the first PLU alum to receive the ACS International Award: **Bob Krieger '67** (at UC-Riverside) received the same award in 2005.

Marsha Hein retired from nursing, moved back to the family homestead in Fairfield, Wash., and is raising alpacas full time.

1972

Class Representative – **Molly Stuen**



The son of **Signe (Otheim) Wills** and the late **Gordon Gunderson**, **Erik Gunderson**, married **Ashley LaFountain** on August 10 in

Puyallup, Wash. **Mark Gunderson '07** was the best man. Erik graduated with a MBA from Washington State University and teaches Math at Auburn High School. Ashley is a graduate student at Mars Hill Graduate School in Seattle working on her masters in counseling psychology. They currently live in Federal Way, Wash.

1973

Class Representatives – **Karen (Wraalstad) Robbins** and **Sandra (Dimler) Privett**

Alvina (Hauf) Olstead has been called to First Lutheran Church in Opheim, Mont., as their pastor. Alvina also serves as music teacher for grades K-12, including teaching secondary band, choir and elementary general music.

1974

Class Representative – **David Johnson**

Dr. Linda Beattie Inlow recently accepted the chaplain position of Community Home Health and Hospice. She serves as primary spiritual support to patients and families in the three counties serviced by the Longview branch of CHH. Linda and her two teenage children reside in Longview, Wash.

1975

Class Representative – **Helen Pohlgr**

Mary L. Fuller died Sept. 17. Born July 6, 1928, Mary graduated from the University of Puget Sound and received her Master's Degree from PLU. She worked as a caseworker for McNeil Island Federal Bureau of Prisons. Mary was a master gardener and enjoyed cats. She is survived by two sons **Bruce Voie '74** (Lori) and **Edward Voie '75 (Katie '01)**; eight stepsons and daughters, six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

1976

Class Representative – **Gary Powell**

1977

Class Representatives – **Leigh Erie** and **Joan (Nelson) Mattich**

Bruce Hoffman has been promoted to director of underwriting at the SAIF Corporation. Bruce has been with SAIF Corporation since April 2003. His wife, **Erma (Hennessey)** has worked for Joe's Sports since 2005. They now live in Salem, Ore.

1978

Class Representative – **Pete Mattich**

Roger Reed has accepted the position of assistant director of institutional research at California State University, San Bernardino. Roger resides in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

1979

Class Representatives – **Dave and Teresa (Hausken) Sharkey**

Richard E. Teboe died Aug. 31. Born in Winnebago, Neb. on Jan. 10, 1933, he attended government schools in Pipestone, Minn., Wahpeton, N.D., and Haskell, Kan. He was a retired Army career man. He worked 11 years for the state of Washington in the Alcohol and Substance Abuse program. He enjoyed 37 years of sobriety with the help of AA. He is survived by his wife **Annette** of Olympia, Wash.; sons **Dale** and **Cruz**; daughters **Roberta**, **Alsace** and **Marie**; and brother **Randy** and sister **Marcia**.

1981

Class Representative – **Dean and Susan (Lee) Phillips**



James Martin-Schramm was named the first research chair in ethics and public life at Luther College.

The Center for Ethics and Public Life enhances the education, reflection about ethical matters and responsible citizenship to help students learn what it means to live a good life. James Martin-Schramm will engage

in scholarship consistent with the center's purpose.

Greg Lehman accepted the position of photographer/communication officer with Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash. Greg continues to operate Greg Lehman Photography providing wedding, portrait and photojournalism services throughout the Northwest. He and his wife, **Ann**, reside in Walla Walla.

1982

Class Representative – **Paul Collard**

Robin (Yost) Pederson led the McMinnville (Dre.) High School Symphonic Choir in a musical extravaganza. The special collaborative effort featured 150 musicians in a celebratory Veterans Day concert. In addition to teaching music at McMinnville High School, Robin serves as music minister at McMinnville Cooperative Ministries.

Tom Fergin teaches biology at Wilson High School in Tacoma. He is married and loves to spend time outdoors – fishing, hunting, windsurfing and camping. Two chocolate labs are their kids.

1983

Class Representative – **Dave Olson**

Robert Whitton recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with his employer Topping Volvo in Olympia, Wash. He and his wife, **Angie**, live in Graham, Wash.

Bruce Berton is now the deputy director of the U.S. State Department's Frankfurt Regional Support Center in Germany.

Ray Wilson has moved from being assistant principal at Chief Kanim to the same position at Snoqualmie Middle School in Issaquah, Wash. Ray, who began working at Chief Kanim four years ago, is changing job locations due to the fluctuating middle-school populations. He grew up in Renton, graduated from PLU and completed an administrative program at Heritage University, a Yakima-based school with a satellite campus in Seattle. Ray said he was excited about his Snoqualmie Middle School move, but added he would miss Chief Kanim.

1984

Class Representative – **Mark Christofferson**

1985

Class Representatives – **Janet (Olden) Regge** and **Carolyn (Plocharsky) Stelling**

1986

Class Representative – **Stacey (Kindred) Hesterly**

Anthony Culanag is currently working on an independent film called "Voiture" which is being filmed around the Puget Sound area. The story is of a young female investigator searching for a

World War II pilot who owns a rare automobile. The anticipated release date is 2009 in time for entry into the San Francisco Film Festival. Anthony is also employed by F/22 Studioworks as a graphic designer. He resides in Tacoma.

Nancy Dahlberg, ICU Nurse Manager from Kennewick, Wash., **Sheila (Swanson) Smith**, environmental cleanup expert from Port Orchard, Wash., **Kathy McConnell**, first grade teacher in Portland, Ore., and **Sarah (Kobernusz) Gibbs**, quiltmaker from Olympia, Wash., all met for their yearly college girls reunion. "Catching up with each other always makes us wonder what became of the Foss Second North group from 1983-1985," they say. They request others submit a Class Note at alumni@plu.edu.

Ted Case has been appointed executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative. Ted is the director of government affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Before joining NRE-CA in 1997, he was a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative **Bob Smith**, specializing in natural resource and energy issues. He also was a staff member on the House Natural Resources Committee's Water and Power Subcommittee. He has a master's degree in fiction writing from Johns Hopkins University.

Colonel Richard Swengros is serving the United States as Provost Marshal, Multi National Corps, Iraq, a prestigious position that oversees the military police not only of the United States, but also of coalition forces. The Provost Marshal is the senior law enforcement officer responsible for establishing law and ordering policies and procedures. Richard received his BA in criminal justice from the FBI National Academy, MA in organizational systems from PLU and another MA in strategic studies from the U.S. War College. He has received many awards including the Bronze Star, the Army Superior Unit Award and the Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters.

David Durr and his firm OneDurr Painting were recently featured in the Business Examiner. In the article David shared the history of starting his company in 1982 as a way to earn money for school. Now the company has 30 fulltime workers at numerous job sites. He is currently concentrating on developing and growing the business, which is headquartered in Pierce County.

1987

Carlin (Myrbo) Harris, a licensed Mental Health Counselor, has opened a private practice on South Hill in Puyallup, Wash. She specializes in children and play therapy.

Rick Larsen was re-elected for a fifth term in the Second Congressional District of Washington state. His hometown is Everett, Wash.

1988

Class Representative – **Brenda Ray Scott**

1989

Class Representative – **Lisa (Hussey) Ferraro**

Erik Moen attended the 2008 Beijing Paralympics as a staff member with USA Cycling and their 12 athletes. Erik resides in Kenmore, Wash.

Mary (Walker) DeMuth released her sixth book, *Daisy Chain*, in March 2009 via Simon and Schuster's Zondervan imprint. Set in the fictitious town of Defiance, Texas, this southern literary coming-of-age story explores loss, grief and redemption. Mary has also opened The Writing Spa, www.thewritingspa.com, to mentor aspiring writers through the publishing process.

1990

Class Representative – **Sean Neely**

After being out of the area for 17 years, **Lesley Pettigrew** moved back to Seattle with her family. Lesley's husband Takato Imaizumi is a biology professor at the University of Washington. Their daughter, Elen, 9, is in the fourth grade.

Amy Roraback is a combined first- and second-grade teacher in the Shoreline School District. Amy resides in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle.

1991

Youlander M. Hilton recently sponsored three eighth grade students from Huntington Middle School in Newport News, Va., to meet the American Ambassador from Belgium, Dominique Struye de Swielande. Youlander is a family life specialist in the Newport News Public Schools and lives in Suffolk, Va.

Ron Shrum accepted a yearlong assignment in Grottaglie, Italy, to perform supply chain recovery/lead duties for Boeing at a 787 partner site.

1992

Class Representative – **Darcy (Pattee) Andrews**



Chuck McFarland and wife **Michelle (Mate)** live on Queen Anne Hill

in Seattle with their three kids: Audrey, 9, Emmett, 6, and Elsie, 3. Chuck recently opened a State Farm agency in the Seattle neighborhood of Ballard and would appreciate hearing from any Lute.

Brian E. Watson is an artist working in wood. Brian's inscribed sculptures are hand carved with text: one word or a short passage. His work has been exhibited throughout the Pacific Northwest. In addition to making art, Brian grows a large organic garden and recently com-

pleted a project called "One Family, One Summer, One Tank of Gas." Brian lives with his wife Elizabeth Roberts and their daughter Katherine, age 5, in Bremerton. Brian's Web site is www.bwatsonstudios.com.

1993

Class Representative – **Barbara (Murphy) Hesner**

1994

Class Representatives – **Dan Lysne** and **Catherine (Overland) Hauck**

David Gamon was awarded the 2009 Teacher of the Year award for Educational Service District 101. David is one of nine teachers in the state of Washington presented with the award for exceptionality in teaching. David resides in Spokane, Wash., with his wife, **Jennifer (Seim) Gamon**, Aislin, 8, Quinn, 5, and Eamon, born February 3, 2008.

1995

Class Representatives – **Krista Sickert-Bush**



Sarah Elizabeth Hatfield married **Greg Alan Williams** on October 13,

2007, at Mount Springs Lodge in Leavenworth, Wash. The couple officially honeymooned on Maui and Oahu. They continue regular "honeymoons" at their cabin in Leavenworth. Sarah is a counselor at Henry M. Jackson High School in Everett, Wash. Greg is a senior project manager for Ferguson Construction in Seattle. Sarah and Greg purchased and remodeled their home in Woodinville, Wash., this past year.

Judd Benedick is in his second year as coach of the Mountain View High School football team in the 5A Southern Idaho Conference Division 1. As a football player at PLU, he earned NAIA All-American honors and was on the team when they won the 1993 national championship. He is an art teacher at Mountain View, and he enjoys the change of pace football offers.



Daren Benson married **Sarah Delamarter** on April 26, 2008. Daren and Sarah work and live in Portland, Ore., with their two crazy dogs.

1996

Class Representatives – **Mari (Hoseth) Lysne** and **Jennifer (Riches) Stegeman**

Sherrie Hofmann is the pastor of five Lutheran churches in West Virginia: St. Peters Lutheran in Point Pleasant, Our Savior in Ravenswood, St. Paul in New Haven, St. Mark in Letart and Zion in

Letart. Sherrie served in the Air Force for 18 years, retired early and obtained her degree in accounting and finance from PLU. However, it was her religion class that sparked her interest. Ministering to the people is what Sherrie describes as her favorite aspect of being a pastor. She lives in Baker, W.Va., with her family.

1997

Class Representatives – **Andy** and **Stephanie (Merle) Tomlinson**

Joshua Johnston and wife **Dana (Joque) Johnston** are now living in Lakewood,

Wash. Joshua recently completed a fellowship in sports medicine in Santa Monica, Calif. During his fellowship he was an assistant orthopedic team physician to the L.A. Galaxy Chivas USA of Major League Soccer, the U.S. Soccer Federation teams including the men's and women's national teams, and Pepperdine University. He has established a practice in Federal Way, Wash.

Charlotte Stelzer writes that after 10 years of teaching in the Clover Park School District, she has accepted a K-2 Learning Center position in the University Place School District.

In Memoriam

1931

Ida (Hinderlie) Berntsen on Dec. 31

1938

Evelyn (Syerson) Berg on Oct 30.

1939

Ella Mae (Adams) Fenn on Sept. 24

1948

Pastor John Nicolai on Oct. 7.

1951

Beverly Ann (Leach) Burr on Sept. 13.

1953

Charles M. Gunnerson on Nov. 13.

1956

Jack L. Hoover on Dec. 17

1961

Gary Stuart Kieland on Oct. 25.

1963

Joyce (Lundmark) Andersen on Sept. 24.

1966

Janet A. (Watne) Mellies on Aug. 6.

1968

Mary Kathryn (Gravrock) Hilstad on Oct. 14.

1975

Mary L. Fuller on Sept. 17.

1979

Richard E. Teboe on Aug. 31.

Friends and Faculty

Walter E. Pilgrim, professor emeritus of religion and longtime faculty member, died October 27, 2008 after a long illness, at the age of 74. After serving as a parish pastor, Walt joined the PLU faculty as an assistant professor in 1971, was promoted to associate professor in 1976, and professor in 1982. In 1973, he founded and directed the Lutheran Institute for Theological Education (LITE). Walt made significant contributions to the academy and the life of the church. His theologically sensitive biblical scholarship and effective teaching of students were always balanced with his concern for clergy education and service to the church. In 1999, Walt entered phased retirement. Several scholarly articles and two books, "Good News to the Poor" and "Uneasy Neighbors: Church

and State in the New Testament," demonstrated Walt's ongoing concern for the social meaning of the New Testament. His work with students in the Hilltop area of Tacoma, his involvement with environmental concerns, and his teaching tours of the Holy Land all show the worldly engagement of his scholarship – a distinctive hallmark of a Lutheran educator. Born on March 26, 1934 in St. Paul, Minn., Walt earned a B.A. from Wartburg College in 1956, a B.D. from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1960, a Th.M. in 1966, and a Ph.D. in 1971 from Princeton Theological Seminary. Walt is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Jeanette '87**, and daughters: **Kathryn '83**, **Kristen**, and **Karyn**.

Former colleague in the School of Nursing, **Merrily Allen** died Oct. 22. Merrily Allen joined the nursing faculty in 1982. She came to PLU as one of the first advanced registered nurse practitioners in the state of Washington. She was widely admired and held in great esteem for her excellent character, hard work, and successful career, both in clinical practice and as a faculty member in the School of Nursing. Merrily earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in 1984 and her doctorate in nursing science from the University of San Diego in 1990. She was promoted to associate professor at PLU in 1996. While at PLU, Merrily served as director of the Wellness Center. She also held positions at the Hahn School of Nursing at the University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego. After retiring as a member of the PLU nursing faculty, she continued providing health care services as a family nurse practitioner at the Wellness Center and at the Vashon Plaza Medical Center. The highlight of her academic career at PLU was working with Dr. Cleo Pass in the development of the MSN-Nurse Practitioner Program. Merrily ended her tenure at PLU, knowing that the Wellness Center was strong and growing and that the Family Nurse Practitioner Program was a success.

What's new with you?

> Please fill out as much information below as possible, including city of residence and work. Feel free to use another piece of paper, but please limit your submission to 100 words. Photos are welcome, but only one photo will be used, and on a space available basis. Notes will be edited for content. Photos must be prints or high quality jpegs. Please, no reproductions or copies from other publications. **Deadline for the next issue of Scene is March 22, 2009.**

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MAIDEN)	PLU CLASS YEAR(S)
SPOUSE	SPOUSE'S PLU CLASS YEAR(S) IF APPLICABLE
STREET ADDRESS	IS THIS A NEW ADDRESS? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
CITY STATE	ZIP
PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL/WEBSITE POST ON THE ALUMNI E-MAIL DIRECTORY YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Job Information

JOB TITLE	EMPLOYER
WORK ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
WORK PHONE	WORK EMAIL

Marriage (no engagements, please)

SPOUSE'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, MAIDEN, LAST)
DATE/PLACE OF MARRIAGE
SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION

Birth

CHILD'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)	BIRTH DATE (M/D/Y)	GENDER: MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>
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SIBLINGS/AGES

Promotions/Awards

NAME
TITLE OF POSITION/COMPANY/AWARD/ DATE ASSUMED

> **MAIL TO:** Office Constituent Relations, PLU, Tacoma, WA 98447-0003; **FAX:** 253-535-8555; **E-MAIL:** alumni@plu.edu; **Internet:** www.plualumni.org. Please limit to 100 words.

Michael Chunn and Wendy Henson were married on August 31, 2008, at Elegant Gardens in Kennewick, Wash. Michael is now working at Energy Northwest in Richland, Wash. He is the customer solutions manager and is responsible for the help desk as well as the communication and emergency preparedness infrastructure at Columbia Generating Station. Wendy works in human resources for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Michael and Wendy currently live in Richland.

Caleb Piland coached the second-year Union High School football team to a 13-0 record and a berth into the Washington Class 3A state championship game. After six years as the head coach of Evergreen High School of Vancouver, Wash., with a win-loss record of 54-13, Caleb was named athletic director of the new Union High School in 2007.

Don Pruett spent five weeks during the summer of 2008 touring schools in India with a group of Fulbright-Hayes Scholars. The group was made up of 16 middle and high school math and science teachers from across the country. Don is a science specialist with the Sumner School District in Sumner, Wash.

Philip H. Jones earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Washington in 2001. Recently he became a partner of Pearl Street Family Dentistry in Tacoma. He and his wife, Kari, live in the area with their son, Philip H. Jones, Jr., born Sept. 7, 2007.

1998
Class Representative – **Shannon (Herlocker) Stewart**

Sheree (Deskin) James and husband Terry celebrated their seventh anniversary. The couple met while Sheree was attending PLU in 1996. They have two children; son Malakai and daughter Maliyah. The family lives in Woodinville, Wash.

1999
Class Representative – **Julie (Johnston) Bulow von Dennewitz**

2000
Class Representative – **Ashley Orr**

Robyn Rost earned a Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies from Dartmouth College in 2005. She has worked in the Northeast with local non-profit organizations since then. She is currently employed by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science as a non-profit development, grants and membership manager.

Deborah L. Erickson has received a promotion. She is now the director of online product development at TDWI.

Wendy Joy Garrigues has started a company for selling her artwork. She has whimsical chickens, Louisiana gators,

and other fun creations. Her brother built her Web site, www.WendysJoy.net to share her drawings with the world.

Amber Diane Hahn-Landis married Christopher Storr Keenan June 21 at Central Lutheran Church. **Lori (Hahn '04) George** was matron of honor and **Jessica Coleman '00** was a bridesmaid. The bride earned her degree from PLU and her Master's degree from Golden Gate University. She is a finance supervisor for Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. The bridegroom is assistant vice president for Yakima National Bank. The couple resides in Yakima, Wash.

2001
Class Representatives – **Keith Pranghofer**



Rebecca Alice Wells married Christopher Allan Carpenter June 7 at the First Baptist Church of Shelton, Wash. Pastor Bill Wells, the bride's

father, officiated the double-ring ceremony. Lutes attending the bride and helping with the ceremony were **Lisa Welsh, Jenny Sullivan** and **Amy (Schouten) Green '00**. Rebecca currently works as the society editor and county government reporter for the Shelton-Mason County Journal. Christopher earned his bachelor's degree from Saint Martin's College in 2003. He now works in the technology department of the Shelton School District. The couple honeymooned in Honduras. They make their home in Shelton.

Ann Louise Bierwagen married Roberto Ledezma August 17 at the Bierwagen's cabin on the Walla Walla River near Milton-Freewater. The bride is the daughter of **Gary '68** and **Mardel Bierwagen**. She is employed by North Franklin School District at Robert L. Olds Junior High School in Connell. The groom is the son of Everesto and Zenayda Maria De Ledezma of Boquete, Panama. He is a 1994 graduate of San Francisco de Asis, David, Panama. He is employed by McCain Foods Inc., in Othello, Wash. The newlyweds live in Connell, Wash.



Marieka Rogers married Raphael Miller Aug. 24 in a sunset ceremony at Makapu'u Point in Oahu, Hawaii. **Paulie Payne '02**

was a bridesmaid. Marieka graduated from PLU with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology and has since earned her Masters and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Alliant International University in San Diego. Marieka has a private practice in

Woodinville, and Raphael is a project manager for Howard S. Wright Construction Company in Seattle. The couple lives in Seattle.

Kelly (Kearsley) Johnson has been a business reporter at the News Tribune since 2005. She covers the Port of Tacoma and international trade. Kelly enjoys being in cities with inferiority complexes and, in fact, prefers it. Prior to working at The News Tribune, she spent three years as a reporter for the Bulletin in Bend, Ore., and another year working stints for the Associated Press and Seattle Times. Kelly lives in Tacoma with her husband and miniature schnauzer.

Traci Lyn Owen of DuPont, Wash., and **James B. Kinney II '02** of Fort Lewis, Wash., were married Sept. 28 at the Fort Lewis Golf Course. **Elizabeth Kinney '99** and **Janis Kinney '03**, the groom's sisters, were bridesmaids. **Jason Russell '01** was best man and **Darren Riley '04** was a groomsman. She is a teacher at Seven Oaks Elementary School in Lacey, Wash. He is employed by the Department of Defense as a civilian at Fort Lewis. They honeymooned in San Diego and live in DuPont.

2002

Class Representatives – **Nicholas Gorne** and **Brian Riehs**



Sara Wilson married Grant Bryan Dec. 29, 2007, in Anchorage, Alaska. Sara worked as the human resource manager of the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau. Now in Everett, Wash., Sara recently began working as a human resource consultant for Everett Community College. Grant is a commissioned officer in the United States Navy.

Meredith Woolsey married **Erik Mortensen '01**. She recently obtained her Masters of Science in management from Troy University. Meredith currently owns a personal styling business that focuses on helping individuals leverage their own unique style to meet their life goals. Erik received his MBA from PLU in 2008. He is the associate director of business operations at Group Health Cooperative.

Michael Dailey's composition "Ave Maria" is now published by MorningStar Music as part of the St. Louis Cathedral Choral Series. Michael is still in his position at St. John the Evangelist Church in West Chester, Ohio, where he directs five choirs and a parish orchestra.

Shaun Takenouchi married Devon Turner July 26 at Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Branden Durst was re-elected as Idaho State Representative for the 18th District seat A. He lives with his wife, Jaime, in Boise.

2003

Class Representative – **Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman**

Paul Allen married Thea Varichak September 27 at Atonement Lutheran in Missoula, Mont. Paul is employed by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as a graphic designer for Bugle Magazine. They make their home in Missoula.

Stacey Kreitz received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay. She is still employed with Brown County Wisconsin, Human Services - Child Protective Services.

2004

Class Representative – **Tammy Lynn Schaps**

Kaitlin (Glines) Barnhart works as a social worker and counselor at the Kootenai Cancer Center. She lives with her husband Eric and daughter Maylee.

Lindsey Worthington graduated from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in June. Lindsey is currently working as a dentist at the Lincoln County Community Health Center in Libby, Mont.

Fred Larabee started a graduate degree in entomology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in the fall of 2008. He and his wife Melissa reside in Champaign.

2005

Class Representative – **Micheal Steele**

Kelsey Briggs married **Matt Morello '04** July 19, at Warm Springs Inn in Wenatchee, Wash. Attending the couple were **Jackie (Nuechterlein '05) Epperson** and **Scott McVicker '02**, both of Tacoma; **Katie Dickman '05** of Yakima, Wash.; **Michael '04** and **Megan (Apperson '04) Rosenau**, both of Savannah, Ga. The couple is making their home in Tacoma. She graduated from PLU with a bachelor's degree in English. She is a graduate student in the speech and language pathology program at the University of Washington. He graduated from PLU with a bachelor's degree in sociology and is a construction manager for BMC West in Everett.

Donna (Pickett) Gates-Smeall has published her first book of poetry entitled "Com -PEN -di -um." Her book is available at Barnes and Noble.com as well as publishamerica.com. Donna is married to James Smeall, who works in nuclear waste management. They reside in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Justin Klump a Portland based singer-songwriter quit his job to pursue music

full-time. On Nov. 18 he independently released "Thousand Mile Dream." Built around sophisticated guitar playing and acoustic folk-pop tendencies, the 11-song album is filled with solid musicianship, honest lyrics and refined songwriting. He has played such venues as Qwest Arena in Boise, Idaho, Hotel Café in Los Angeles, and the Aladdin Theater and Crystal Ballroom in Portland, Ore.



Lauren (Wood) Waltzing and **Robert Waltzing '06** are residing in Redmond, Wash. Robert was recently honored with the Allys Rising Star Award for 2007.



Annie Noles married **Michael Scott Tanner**. Annie earned her Master's Degree in Special Education from Pacific

University in Forest Grove, Ore., in August.



Lori Young married **Don Nepton** December 15, 2007 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows in Tacoma. Bridesmaids

included Erin Hodge and Christine Doidge. Groomsmen included **Tony Webb** and **Ryan Funk '07**. **Lara (Teigen) Wood** was a reader and **Sean Haley** was the pianist. Many Lutes, both family and friends, were in attendance. Lori works as a registered nurse at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, and Don is the director of bands at Bonney Lake High School in Bonney Lake, Wash. They live in Puyallup.

William Callicot and wife **Jeana** are living in Lake Forest Park, Wash., with their daughter **Felicity**. William is the director of health care policy at Providence Health Services. Jeana is a stay-at-home mom.

2006

Class Representative – **Jenna (Steffenson) Serr**

Rachel (Hesse) Brown and husband **Jason** were married on Jan. 16, 2007, in Tacoma. The couple now lives in Lebanon, Tenn., where Rachel is an in-home family counselor with Youth Villages.

Jeremy Hutchins married **Katie Teeples** Aug. 9 at the Windmill Gardens in

Sumner, Wash. The bride earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Washington University. She is a substitute teacher for the Kent and Renton school districts. The bridegroom earned two bachelor degrees from PLU. He is a second-year medical student at A.T. Still University. Following a trip to Negril, Jamaica, the couple is at home in Renton, Wash.

2007

Class Representative – **Kaarin Praxel**

Shereen "Wai" Perreira is currently a pathology lab assistant at the renowned Queen's Medical Center and will be training to become a Flow Cytometry Medical Technician. She calls Honolulu, Hawaii, home.

Becky Mares and **Kate Fontana '08** were recently featured in a Tacoma News Tribune article highlighting the PLU Community Garden, which was their brainchild while they were students. The organic garden, maintained by volunteers, PLU students, alumni and college neighbors, donates the produce to the food bank run by Trinity Lutheran Church, across the street from the Parkland campus. In 2008, 2,200 pounds of produce were harvested.



Casey Pyle proposed to **Rosanna Reardon**, while on a PLU service learning project in Beijing, on the Great Wall of China. The happy couple

was married Aug. 2 by his grandfather, a retired military chaplain, at Discovery Baptist Church in Gig Harbor, Wash. Many PLU Alumni were in the bridal party including: Casey's mother **Kim (Brown '81) Pyle**, **Brett Patterson**, **Cindy Tingley '06**, **Allison Caldwell '06**, **Anna Finley '06**, **Gia Gauthreaux**, **Julie Bergstrom '08**, **Matthew Simpson**, **Trevor Jacka** and **Ty Rallo**. Casey graduated with a BS in Biology and is currently in graduate school to become a physical therapist at the University of Puget Sound. Rosanna graduated with a degree in communication and is planning to pursue a career in the entertainment field.

Jennifer Culkin was recently featured during a Northwind Reading Series presentation. Jennifer's essays have appeared in The Georgia Review and Utne Reader. She has received awards for nonfiction and fiction in the 2006 Atlantic Student Writing Contest, the 2007 Gamma Gold Award for Best Feature from the Magazine Association of the Southeast, a 2008 Grant for Artists' Projects from Artist Trust and a 2008 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. Jennifer's memoir, "A Final Arc of Sky," will be released by Beacon Press in April 2009.

Brandon James Hoekstra married **Lauren Elisabeth Westgaard '08** in an evening ceremony Aug. 9 at Villa Madera in Lakewood. **Severin Hagen-Lillevik** and **Konrad Rehn** were part of the wedding party. The bride is pursuing a bachelor's degree in anthropology/museum studies at Central Washington University. The groom graduated from PLU with a bachelor degree in business. He is employed as a Washington State Parks ranger at Olmstead Place in Ellensburg. Brandon and Lauren took a wedding trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. They live in Ellensburg, Wash.

Audrey Lynne North married Jacob Holly Thornburg on Shipwreck Beach, Kauai, Hawaii June 29. The bride graduated from PLU with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. She currently is employed at PLU as their biology lab manager. The groom is currently employed at United Moving and Storage in Bremerton. They honeymooned in Kauai and Maui, Hawaii. The couple lives in Gig Harbor, Wash.

2008

Class Representative – **Christy Olsen Field** and **Courtney Stringer**

Breanne Coats has joined the editorial staff of the *Business Examiner*. Breanne

graduated from PLU with a double major in communication and history. She discovered her passion for writing stories while attending Peninsula High School in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Courtney Stringer is working as the assistant director for annual giving at Annie Wright School in Tacoma.

Kaitlyn Nicole Moody married Christopher John Almeida July 19 at Pioneer Park in Steilacoom, Wash. Christopher's parents are Juan and **Norene Almeida '95**. Lutes attending the couple were **Peter Danielson '04** of Boise and **Amy Hotvedt** of Orting, Wash. The newlyweds honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico, and are making their home in Lakewood. Kaitlyn graduated from PLU with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is a first grade teacher at Dower Elementary School in Lakewood. Christopher graduated from Pierce College. He is a client service professional at Key Bank in Tacoma.

Future Lutes

1971

Michael J. Neils and wife Mary C. Tabata announce the birth of their

daughter, **Faith Anne Neils** (PLU entering class of 2025)

1991



Kristi (Tellefson) Gaimster and husband Mark welcomed daughter **Lauren Grace** to their family on November 26. Lauren joins brothers, **Jonah**, 4, and **Adam**, 2. Kristi works in the corporate finance department at DaVita where she has been employed for nine years. Kristi and Mark are in their fifth year of ownership of Il Fiasco Italian Restaurant, located in Tacoma's Sixth Avenue business district. The Gaimsters live in Tacoma.

1993



Mark Stevens and his wife **Sopheany** announce the birth of **Myja Stevens** on Sept. 29 at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu,

Hawaii. She joins her brother **Luke**, who has just started kindergarten at Miliiani Ike Elementary. Mark, who is a major, is back in Iraq with the 25th Infantry. Sopheany and the children will spend the year in Fairbanks, Alaska. Grandparents **Cheri** and **John Stevens '63** helped welcome Myja.



Jenny Berk and her husband **Alex Hoffner** announce the birth of their daughter **Sara Rebecca** on March 3, 2007. She joins her brother **Drew**, 5.

Last year they moved to Evans, Ga., where Alex is the pastor in charge of worship and family ministries at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Jenny is a church textiles designer and a domestic engineer specializing in professional volunteering. They hope to make it up to the Northwest to visit sometime (most likely in the far future).



Sam Cook and wife **Teresa (Kelley) Cook** welcomed their second child, **Zachariah Matthew Cook**, on October 18. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 19

inches. The normal delivery took place at Pondok Indah Hospital in Jakarta,

Indonesia. Sam and Teresa also have a daughter, **Abigail Hannah**, who celebrated her second birthday in September. Sam is in his third year as head of North Jakarta International School. Teresa is teaching fourth grade and is also the school's curriculum coordinator.

Kim (Nirk) Waterstraat and her husband John adopted four-year-old **Maiya Christine Waterstraat** from China on Oct. 7. Her birth date is May 10, 2004. She joins brothers **Nicholas**, 8, and **Nathan**, 6.

Ed Grogan and his wife **Kathy** announced the birth of their daughter **Zoe Gloria** on December 12. Zoe joins siblings **Quin** and **Kai**. Everyone in the Grogan family is happy, healthy and enjoying the new addition to their family.



David Gamon resides in Spokane, Wash., with his wife, **Jennifer (Seim) Gamon**, Aislin, 8, Quinn, 5, and Eamon, born February 3, 2008.

1995

Jason DiStefano and **Ann Fujimoto-DiStefano** announce the birth of **James Kamana Kohe DiStefano** in Pullman, Wash., on Oct. 12. Jason is the football recruiting and operations assistant at Washington State University and Ann is a physical therapist at Pullman Sports Physical Therapy (DPT, University of Puget Sound).

1996



Heather Elmore welcomed son **Jabin Elmore-Martinez** on Feb. 19, 2007. Heather is an education services manager with Northwest Community Action Center/Yakima Valley Farm Workers' in Yakima, Wash.



Edmond Hrivnak and wife **Jennifer** welcomed daughter **Shae Marie** into their family on Nov. 28.

Shae weighed 7.4 lbs and was 19 inches long. She was well received by her older brother **John Dawson** who is 18 months old. Jennifer is currently working on her Masters in Nursing at PLU. Ed is a firefighter with Central Pierce Fire and Rescue. They live on Spanaway Lake in Tacoma.

1997



Matthew Bliss and **Heather Zappone Bliss** welcomed the birth of their son, **Patrick David Bliss**, on Aug. 3, 2007.

Work at PLU

Eva Johnson
Director of Student Involvement and Leadership
1995 PLU Graduate

www.plu.edu/humanresources

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
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Philip H. Jones his wife, Kari, live in the Northwest with their son, Philip H. Jones, Jr., born Sept. 7, 2007.

1998



Heidi (Splittgerber) Zuniga and Victor Zuniga welcomed a daughter, Isla Marie Zuniga, on Nov. 26.



Derek and Amy (Reed '01) Reinke announce the birth of **Drew** Ethan Reinke on July 29. They live in Tualatin, Ore.

1999



Sam and Hilary (Petersen '00) Lester are pleased to announce the birth of their third daughter, Alicia Ruth on

Oct. 8. She joins her two older sisters, Serena, 3, and Maiya, 1.



Robert Peebles and wife Sarah welcomed son Merritt MacArthur Peebles to their family on July 22. Merritt joins sister Elizabeth

Grace. Robert is working as a financial consultant at DA Davidson in Wenatchee, Wash. Sarah is a stay-at-home mom.



Mark Rentfrow and his wife Aimee announce the birth of their son, Bergen

Michael Baldoz Rentfrow on October 14. They live in Olympia, Wash.



Jonathan and Ahna (Lietke) Strand welcomed Timothy Isak on July 28, 2007. He joins big brother Joseph, 4. They live in Santa Clara, Calif.,

where Jonathan works as a research and development engineer at Numonyx and Ahna is a homemaker.



Lindee (Glandon) Bly and husband Mark announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn

Arda, on July 22, in Denver. She joins big brothers Nolan Patrick, 5, and Wyatt George, 3. Mark is a staff pharmacist for FastRelief USA and Lindee is a stay-at-home mom. They make their home in Evergreen, Colo.

2000



Katie (Smith) Yocom and Nathan Yocom '02 announce the birth of their son Ethan Wayne on February 9, 2008. He joins his sister Sydney, age

4. Katie is a stay-at-home mom and Nathan works as a software engineer for Zipper Interactive in Redmond, Wash.

Erin (Swanson) Hoar and husband Kevin welcomed daughter Keira Marie Hoar in their family on August 14.



Greg Kuhlmann and wife Julie welcomed William Cole Kuhlmann to their family on July 24. William

joins big brother Ben.



Tharen (Michael) Inverso and husband Christopher Inverso '01 announce the birth of their second daughter, Elise Rose

Inverso, on July 10. Elise joins big sister Siri Joy, 2.



Tara (Roberts) Balcom and her husband Kevin were blessed with the birth of their daughter Kristen Moriah on August 29. She joined her big sister Katelynn, 2.

Kristen was born with a genetic condition called Trisomy 18 and was born into heaven just three days later on September 1. Although short, her life was, and is, celebrated. The Balcoms live in Parkland, where Tara is a full-time mom and wife, and Kevin works for the city of Tacoma.

Beth (Steele) Cavanaugh and her husband Colby welcomed their first child,



Liam James, on Jan., 2008. The family lives in Portland, Ore., where Beth teaches English and drama at Milwaukie High School.

2003



Kelly Gaspar Poth gave birth to son James Austin Poth on August 29, 2008.


2004



Shaun and Shannon (Brewer) Parthemer welcomed their daughter Macie Amalia on July 3, 2008. Shaun is a commercial

insurance agent for Totem Agencies, Inc., in Kirkland, Wash. Shannon is the community relations and communications coordinator for Lake Washington School District in Redmond, Wash. The Parthemers currently reside in Lynnwood, Wash.

2007

Anthony Gomez and wife Lana, announce the birth of their baby girl, Raelynn Michelle Gomez, on August 21, 2008. Raelynn weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. 

2001



Kim (Johnson) Rothlisberger and husband, Travis, welcomed into this world son Jakob Rothlisberger on April 4, 2008. The family resides in Renton, Wash.

Aaron Rose and wife Robyn had twin boys Logan and Zach Rose on Oct. 16, 2006.



Tyler Imig and wife Christen announce the birth of their daughter, Jordyn Kailaji

Imig on July 12. Tyler is a special education math teacher at Aiea High School in Aiea, Hawaii.

2002



Roxanne (Badillo) McCloud, husband Robert and son Joziah welcomed Keisha Grace into their

family on April 15, 2008.




Jill (Wilmovsky) and her husband **Leif Hatlen '00** celebrated the birth of their son Gunnar William Hatlen

on May 20, 2008. Jill is a first grade teacher at Lydia Hawk Elementary in Olympia, Wash. Leif is the manager at Venture Bank in the Dupont and Hawks Prairie branches.

GO LUTES

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perspective

continued from back page

History of Childhood and Youth in Norrköping, Sweden. Soon thereafter, I received a Fulbright Distinguished Lectureship to teach at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, in the 2008 spring semester. And then this past September, I was again honored to be invited to present a paper at the Ninth Australian Adoption Conference in Sydney.

My new international perspective deeply influenced my research. At conferences in England, Sweden and Australia, I was at first stunned and then excited to discover literally hundreds of like-minded people – scholars, professionals, and government officials – all talking about adoption issues. To understand the significance of this seemingly mundane fact, one must realize that the history of adoption in the United States is a new discipline and that only a handful of scholars, scattered over several disciplines, actively practice the craft. Conferences dedicated to the history of adoption in the U.S. are practically unknown, and there are no Internet discussion lists devoted to adoption history. International conferences provided me, for the first time in 20 years of research on adoption, with a community of like-minded scholars and professionals. Now I have begun to e-mail them regularly, share ideas and findings, and collaborate on research and writing projects. After French scholar Ivan Jablonka and I met in Sweden, we began e-mailing about the idea of collaborating on a comparative history of early 20th-century adoption institutions. Similarly, several Australian and Canadian researchers and I are planning to present papers on various international aspects of adoption at the forthcoming Fifth Biennial Conference on the History of Childhood and Youth in Berkeley, Calif., later in 2009. Neither these collaborations nor the comparative nature of the questions we are asking together would have been possible without “going global.”

A comparative approach to the history of adoption has also led to my revising some of the fundamental research



The participation of Korean students forced Carp to re-examine his notions about the Western family.

questions swirling about adoption reform in the United States – in particular, the highly contentious issue of whether allowing adopted adults access to their adoption records, which are sealed in most states, would have a negative effect on birth mothers who had been promised secrecy by social workers at the time they had relinquished their babies. My earlier research was ambivalent on this issue, there not being sufficient evidence to support a conclusion, one way or another. But the paper I delivered in Sydney, based on new research in Great Britain and Australia as well as the United States, addressed this issue. My paper was the first one to test empirically how safe birth parents and adopted adults were in countries that have opened their adoption records, usually birth registration records, using contact preference forms and contact vetoes. The results of this investigation revealed that a vast gap exists between the fear by birth parents and adopted adults that their privacy will be invaded and their family disrupted and the reality that few or no offenses are committed. I concluded that opening adoption records with contact preference forms or contact vetoes provided a balanced adoption disclosure system and was a viable alternative to the sealed adoption policies currently used in the vast majority of American states and Canadian provinces. The paper has subsequently been published in *Adoption Quarterly* (offprint sent upon request).

Global experience has similarly altered my teaching perspective. I taught two courses to undergraduates at Yonsei, one of which was “Families and Childhood in American History, 1607 to the Present.” The active participation of the students taught me that my ethnocentric notions about the Western family needed to be seriously qualified, as I learned about the Korean extended family kinship system, the family naming register (recently abolished), the importance of Confucianism, and the various levels of respect imbedded in the Korean language. I hope to teach this course at PLU, and when I do, to incorporate a comparative international perspective.

I plan to continue my research, publishing and teaching in an international context. Currently, I am writing a biography of Jean Paton, a middle-aged, twice-adopted, ex-social worker who pioneered the adoption reform movement, both here and abroad. After I finish that project, I plan to write a history of adoption records in global perspective. In 2009, I am looking forward to attending a business history conference in Milan, in anticipation of adding a comparative history component to my American Business and Economic History course. As I look to the future, I can be sure of one thing: having gone global, there is no going back. [5]

E. Wayne Carp holds the Benson Family Chair in History and is professor of history at PLU. His research focuses on the history of secrecy and openness in adoption. He is the author of “Family Matters: Secrecy and Disclosure in the History of Adoption” (Harvard University Press, 1998) and “Adoption Politics: Bastard Nation and Ballot Initiative 58” (University Press of Kansas, 2004) and the editor of “Adoption in America: Historical Perspectives” (University of Michigan Press, 2002). A recognized expert on legal issues, he has served as a consultant and expert witness throughout North America in cases that concern “wrongful adoption,” secrecy in adoption records, and the history of adoption disclosure laws.

calendar

continued from inside front cover

March 18, 7 p.m.

The 35th Annual Walter C. Schnackenberg Memorial Lecture
University Center

APRIL

April 3, 2 p.m.

Psychology Colloquium
Xavier Hall

April 14, 10:30 a.m.

Wings of Beauty: Butterflies of Washington
Garfield Book Company, Community Room

April 14, 8 p.m.

Studio Series: Bach Aria Project
Mary Baker Russell Music Center,
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 15, 6:30 p.m.

International Honors Colloquia
University Center

April 18, 8 p.m.

Eliot Chang the Comedian
Diversity Q&A Workshop
South Hall, Main Lounge

April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Earth Day Speaker
Scandinavian Cultural Center

April 22, 6 p.m.

Saxifrage: 35 Year Anniversary Gala and Release Party
University Center

April 23, 8 p.m.

Visiting Writer Series: Brad Land
Scandinavian Cultural Center

April 24, 8 p.m.

Harstad Hall All-Campus Event
Red Square Dance Party
Red Square

April 25, 5:30 p.m.

Hawaii Club Luau
Olson Auditorium

MAY

May 1, 12:30 p.m.

15th Annual Natural Sciences Academic Festival
Morken Center

May 1, 8 p.m.

Jazz Series: University Jazz Ensemble
Mary Baker Russell Music Center,
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 2, 8 a.m.

15th Annual Natural Sciences Academic Festival
Morken Center

May 2, 3 p.m.

Studio Series: Harp Ensemble Concert
Mary Baker Russell Music Center,
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 7, 7 a.m.

Student-Faculty Research Celebration
University Center

May 13, 5 p.m.

2010 J-Term Off-Campus Pizza Party
Olson Auditorium

May 16, 8 p.m.

Artist Series: Holly Boaz,
Faculty Vocal Recital
Mary Baker Russell Music Center,
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 21, 10 a.m.

Bronn Journey: Voice of the Harp
University Center

May 22, 6 p.m.

School of Nursing
Graduate Recognition Ceremony
Trinity Lutheran Church

May 23, 11 a.m.

School of Arts & Communication
Senior Recognition Reception
Ingram Hall


May 23, 12:30 p.m.

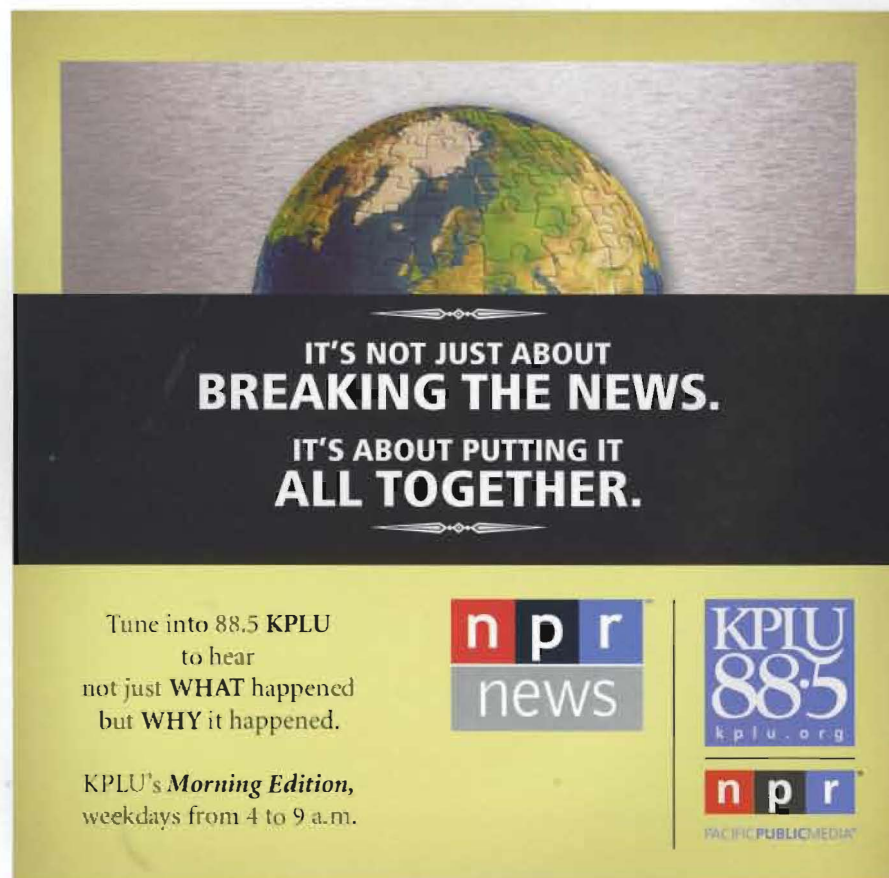
School of Arts & Communication
Senior Recognition Ceremony
Mary Baker Russell Music Center,
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 23, 2 p.m.

School of Nursing Recognition and Pinning Ceremony
Trinity Lutheran Church

May 24, 2:30 p.m.




Commencement
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perspective

Going Global



When E. Wayne Carp was hired as a legal consultant by the Canadian government, it fostered an international perspective that deeply influenced his research and led to a coveted Fulbright Distinguished Lectureship in Seoul, Korea.

By E. Wayne Carp

Trained as an historian of the American Revolution and blessed with an abundance of sources, I saw no scholarly reason to travel abroad, although I had wanted to see England, the mother country from which America was born. My subsequent research on the history of adoption, which produced three books over the course of 20 years, focused entirely on the United States. I had little interest in writing or teaching history in a comparative dimension.

My attitude and practice changed dramatically, however, in 2005 when, out of the blue, the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario, Canada, hired me as a

legal consultant, in the case of *Marchand v. Ontario* in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. I was asked to research and write an affidavit on the history of adoption legislation, focusing on secrecy and disclosure in Ontario's adoption records, and placing Ontario's experience in a wider context. In practice, this meant comparing Ontario's adoption disclosure laws with those of other English-speaking jurisdictions, including Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. That experience forced me out of my insular focus on the United States and channeled my research interests to

international adoption, and in particular, a comparative history of adoption records in global perspective.

Quickly, as an unintended result of my new research interest, I became a world traveler. In July 2006, I was honored to be invited to England to be a keynote speaker at the Second International Conference on Adoption Research at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. This marked my first trip abroad. The following year, I was invited to give a talk at the biannual conference of the Society for the