

# M

MAST MAGAZINE



**Black student retention**

**How diverse is PLU really?**

**Finding a new Pastor**

**Swimming's third NWC Title**

**Methanol in Tacoma**

**An Apology from WMGS 387**



# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**E**ach month I do a lot of reflection to find a theme for our magazine. I strive to find something that I can write about here that's both profound and can connect each student to this issue. This month, Black History Month, seemed like the easiest yet.

So often in the world of journalism journalists are obsessed over the story they're trying to tell. We become consumed with the idea of getting the dirt, understanding the issue and sharing it with you so you can learn about it and make up your own opinions based on the information available.

Each week you read about vandalism, accidents and new events coming to campus, but we leave you with the information, alone, to decide how you feel about it.

This week, we want to put your peers into the stories and let them share their opinions. This is the student voices issue, we look current events around campus and in Tacoma and asked students about their feelings and perceptions of what's happening.

The news isn't only about the facts. The

facts are our part, we provide those for you and you get to decide what you want to take away from it. If anything, what happens after the papers are printed, the stories are read and you have a moment alone with your thoughts is the most important part. It's the part when you decide what you'll do with the information you're given. It's the part where you decide if you'll be a passive bystander while events go on around you or if you'll stand up against the big business moving into Tacoma, or if you'll donate to whichever charity is visiting campus that week. It's the part where you decide what comes next.

Our job is now over, we've reported some news here, we've put some student voices together to show you how they feel, we've laid it out in an interesting way to try and grab your attention, but now it's your turn to do the most important part.

As always, my staff and I enjoyed making this for you, we consider it a privilege. Now, the issue is in your hands and you decide if it's a success or not. The ball is in your court now.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Methanol 253 | pg. 4

With the possibility of a methanol plant moving into PLU's back yard, one student shares her opinion.

### How diverse is PLU, really? | pg. 6

A PLU staff member is looking into black student retention rates, and two students give their take on race relations at PLU.

### Swim takes another title | pg. 10

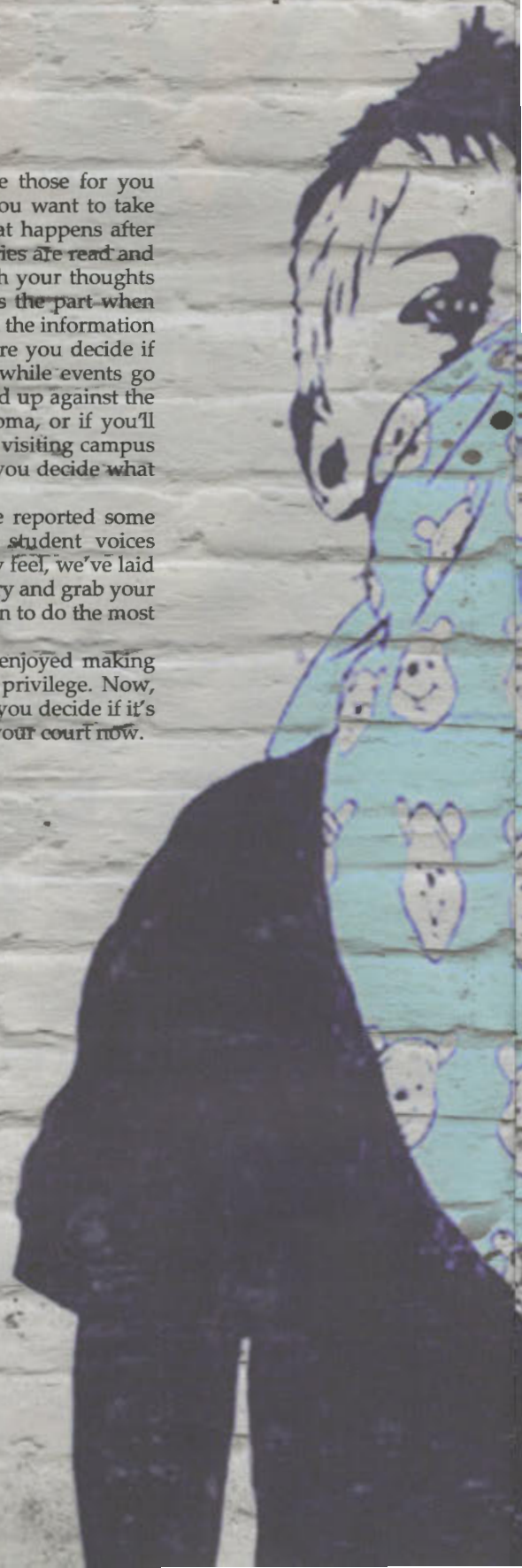
The swim team won another Northwest Conference title. Hear about it from someone on the team.

### An Apology from WMGS 387 | pg. 13

A formal apology from Introduction to Trans Studies students about their presentation.

### Finding the PLU Pastor | pg. 14

Interim Pastor John Rosenberg's time is almost up at PLU and he's looking for the next candidate.





# four **spring** favorites

*according to RMW.*

## **READ |**

Sweet Thursday, by John Steinbeck  
"Colorfully drawn characters that make you laugh and cry."

## **WATCH |**

"The Shaw Shank Redemption  
"I never tire of Morgan Freeman's voice.""

## **| LISTEN**

"Anything. Louis Armstrong had it right...  
"There are only really two types of music:  
Good and bad.""

## **EAT |**

"Vegetable Fried Rice, perfection."



*This month we turned the spotlight on to Associate Professor of Communication and Student Media Faculty Advisor Robert Marshall Wells.*

*Along with teaching students and overseeing student media, Wells is the advisor for MediaLab and Director for the center Center of Media Studies at PLU.*



# #METHANOL253

Northwest Innovation Works (NIW) is proposing building facility to convert natural gas into methanol at the Kaiser Aluminum site in the Port of Tacoma.

According to NIW, "The methanol will be used as feedstock in Asia to produce olefin, a compound used in such consumer goods as plastic containers, cell phones and carpet fibers. The cleaner-burning methanol would help reduce China's reliance on higher-emission coal and petroleum."

This is PLU student Helen Smith's opinion on the issue:

The winds of change are coming to Tacoma, Wash. Instead of carrying the familiar "Aroma of Tacoma" from the paper mill, they may be carrying emissions from what is planned to be the biggest methanol plant in the world. The project is right in the Port of Tacoma and largely backed by investors from China. According to the environmental group, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 20,000 gallons of methanol could be produced daily, which would then get shipped to China and be used to manufacture plastics.

The plant offers many interesting new opportunities to the Tacoma area, including 200 permanent jobs. Plant designers have also vowed to use up-to-date technology which is supposed to lower emissions. However, that technology has never been used on a plant of this scale. The sheer size of the plant itself makes the environmental impact difficult to anticipate because there has never been a plant this large before. Whatever positives may come out of this, the plant could threaten other staples, including the environment, of Tacoma life just with its magnitude.

According to Q13 Fox, the plant would require exorbitant amounts of water resources, using between 14-22 million gallons of water daily. The entire city of Tacoma uses 15 million gallons each day. This new plant would place twice the amount of burden on Tacoma's main water source, the Green river, than it already does. The Green river's water levels are already low because

of the recent drought and lower than average snowpack in recent years. Low water levels currently threaten the Green river ecosystem and wildlife, including culturally important Pacific Northwest (PNW) creatures like the Chinook Salmon and the Orca whales who feed on them.

At the present time, it's not possible to tell how wide-reaching the impacts of this plant will go. According to the Vashon Beachcomber, the environmental impact study will also include the impacts of transporting methanol across the Pacific to China and the plastics made with the methanol.

With some of the most important features of Washington at stake, a methanol plant is too big of a risk. At it's heart, Tacoma is not an industrial city. Tacoma residents believe in Mount Rainier, farmers markets and the forests that supposedly house the infamous Sasquatch. Salmon are so important to PNW culture that when it came time for Washington to have its own quarter, it was the fish that someone decided to slap on the side of it opposite George Washington's head. These are

the staples of PNW living and the citizens shouldn't have to compromise.

The environment is so important in Tacoma that it even manifests itself at Pacific Lutheran University, where they teach students to care for the earth. Whatever short term benefits may come from an operation this size could also undoubtedly be found in investing in renewable energy instead, something that is definitely the way of the future, and is more true to the values of the city itself.

Opposition to the plant has been vocal, so much that Northwest Innovation Works (NIW), the company behind the plant, has postponed moving forward with the project hoping to first drum more support from the public. Although I find it hard to believe that NIW is going to find much. We are a people that loved trees so much that Washington is called "The Evergreen State."

The only thing surprising about this situation is that someone thought they could put an industrial plant in Tacoma without a fight, because Tacoma makes its priorities obvious, wearing our hearts are on our sleeves.



Photo courtesy of Zach Powers

'No Methanol' protest in Tacoma, Wash. at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center, posted Feb. 10, 2016.





# PLANT EFFECTS



200 new  
permanent jobs



Promise to bring  
new technology



Doubles Tacoma's  
water demand



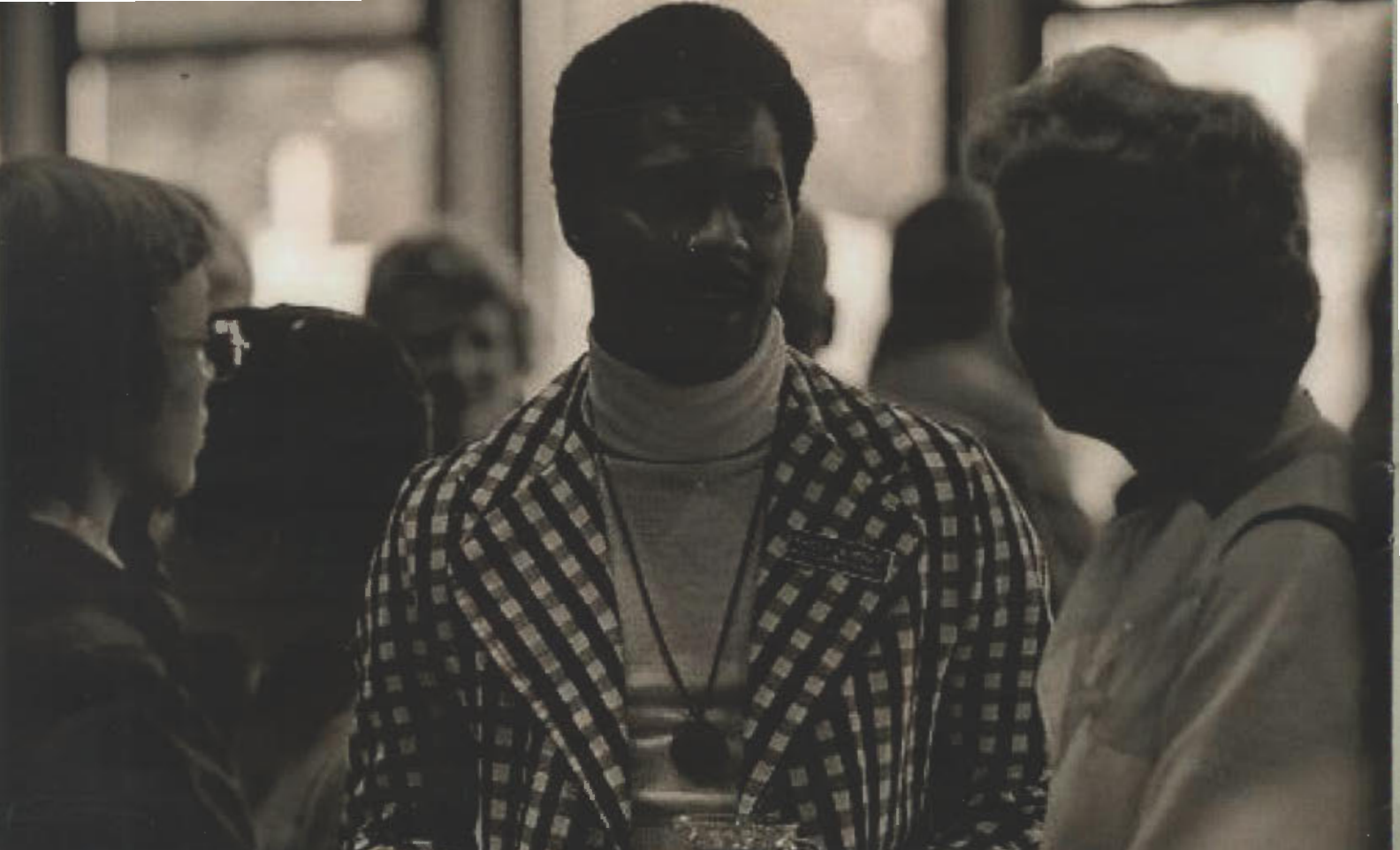
Threatens Green  
River ecosystem



Converts natural  
gas to methanol  
for Chinese plastics



Pollutes burnt gas  
in process



# A STUDY IN DIVERSITY: HOW DIVERSE IS PLU, REALLY?

by Genny Boots

A new survey intends to check the numbers behind Pacific Lutheran University retention rates, recruitment and overall trends for students of color. Beginning this spring, Director of Multicultural Recruitment for PLU, Melannie Cunningham will begin the Multicultural Recruitment and Success Survey.

The project will also study how students of color feel at PLU and their sense of belonging on and around campus.

"We really need to step back and take a look at how well we are doing. Is our environment conducive to receiving students that aren't white and Scandinavian, which is our heritage," Cunningham said. "We say that we are diverse and welcoming, and how do we know that for sure?"

Students of color at PLU are a minority, with only 27.8 percent of the

2015 population identifying as such. According to the Chair of Women and Gender Studies, Teresa Ciabattari's 2015 Office of The President blog post about students of color, those students who identify as African American, Asian American and Native American at PLU "are less likely to return to PLU for a second year and to graduate in four to six years."

This data has been taken from analysis of the annual MapWorks surveys and Student Satisfaction surveys and Diversity Learning Environment Surveys, both from 2012. National higher education studies have similar findings, according to the Education Trust, "60 percent of whites but only 49 percent of Latinos and 40 percent of African Americans who start college hold bachelors degrees six years later."

And there is good reason

to pay attention to these numbers. "From an economic standpoint, it costs less to keep a student than it does to recruit a student. But also, just who we are as a university it doesn't feel good that people feel like they don't belong," Cunningham said.

As a university, PLU has set Diversity, Justice and Sustainability (DJS) as university wide pillars. DJS are listed as goals in PLU strategic planning pages, the PLU 2020 plan and across the university literature. Yet, "black students and other students of color have said in particular that they didn't feel like they belonged here," Cunningham said.

And there is room for improvement. Not only are students of color underrepresented on campus, but according to the 2014 Human Resources faculty and staff demographics, PLU has six (or 11





All photos courtesy of PLU archives

percent) professors who identify as a person of color. This is concerning for Cunningham, but an area that has room for growth.

"So when you ask me if we are doing better I think that again, the fact that we are talking about it and shedding a light on it and the administration and those responsible for making it happen are acknowledging that we need to make it happen," Cunningham said.

Cunningham is hoping to address these issues, starting with face-to-face interviews. This spring survey is a program assessment, which means that the data and trends are collected via interviews. Cunningham will be talking with current students of color, alumni, faculty and students who left PLU before graduating and many other groups to understand their experience at PLU.

"My goals for the assessment is to have quality conversations, open



and honest conversations with as many people who are willing to talk to me about their experiences here at PLU -- good, bad or the other," Cunningham said.

The results collected from the assessment will be released sometime spring semester, with interviews starting this week. Conversations of diversity, race and ethnicity are continuing to happen around campus, but Cunningham encourages students to get involved.

"I want PLU students to recognize that this whole conversation about race is one that they must engage themselves in. It's not just for the students of color to engage in. It is everyone's conversation."

For more information about the Multicultural Retention and Success Survey, contact Melannie Cunningham at [cunningham@plu.edu](mailto:cunningham@plu.edu) or 253-535-8716.



# On Being Black...

by Brooke Thames

The other week, my two closest white friends and I stopped to take a look at the Black History Month calendar posted in the University Commons.

I lit up, excited to find out what events were being hosted to commemorate black history and black culture. My glee was short-lived, however, as one of my friends turned to me and asked - deadpan, with no sense of humor whatsoever

Louis Armstrong



Bill Cosby



- when Black History month was.

I felt my eyelids expand to their maximum potential, and I swear I probably looked like someone had pasted googly eyes on my face.

Needless to say, I was shocked. Like, really shocked.

Then I was just confused. How could she not know that February was Black History Month? How could anyone just forget where Black History Month sits on the Gregorian calendar?

Was she not paying attention in school? Did her teachers do her the injustice of failing to recognize February as Black History Month? Was she just that plain ignorant?

I wondered these things in sequence until I finally remembered that my friend wasn't black. She doesn't know when Black History Month is because she doesn't have to.

She doesn't have to because she is white.

She doesn't walk through life hyper-aware of injustices, aggressions and prejudices against persons of color. She doesn't live life through the perspective of someone whose ethnicity has been oppressed, deprived and disenfranchised for centuries.

I do. I do because - as a young African-American - it's

Ray Charles



PLU has a history of hosting famous black performers and entertainers.

impossible to look at life any other way.

It's impossible not to notice when I'm one of the only black people in a room. It's impossible not to notice the awkward side-glances from my white peers when words like "slavery" and "segregation" are mentioned. It's impossible to ignore the slanderous, false or completely nonexistent representations of black people in the media.

It's also impossible to ignore the fact that most white people don't notice any of these things at all. Just when I start to forget, a scenario like the one I mentioned above never fails to remind me. And my reaction is always the same.

First I'm shocked.

Then I'm confused.

Then I'm angry.

Like, really angry.

Don't misunderstand - I'm not angry at white people. I wasn't even angry at my friend for her absurdly ignorant question. Rather, I'm angry at the society that allows and promotes said ignorance.

I'm angry at the way I am burdened with a history of pain, suffering and abuse that others are allowed to ignore. I'm resentful of how I am made to constantly feel like an "other" among my peers. I'm outraged that those who are the majority are not obligated to recognize, acknowledge and work to reverse the privilege they have earned by the simple virtue of being white.

More than that, I'm disheartened by the fact that I'm pressed to stay silent - that I cannot rightfully express these feelings out of fear of appearing as another angry black person.

Let's be clear: Pacific Lutheran University is a great school, and I can't imagine earning my higher education at any other institution. Even so, it's difficult to ignore the poignant feelings I'm bombarded with every day as one of the few people of color on campus.

I think it's important to acknowledge these feelings and experiences, and bring them to the forefront in hopes that students can start real discussions about race and identity on campus and challenge themselves to step into the shoes of someone else.



---

# On Being White...

---

by Samantha Lund

Last week I attended a couple Black History Month events on campus, I ended with a forum on black activism and black excellence titled "From Yesterday to Today."

To put some context around this story, I'm white. I'm very white. I'm blonde, I have blue eyes, one set of my grandparents migrated to the United States from Germany, I have some Irish and Scandinavian ancestry in my bones. Of course, there are parts of me that aren't as white as I look. I'm hispanic, I grew up with a grandfather who communicated with me exclusively in Spanish and I attended a bilingual school in the Arizona desert. I was the only white kid and had to learn Spanish to make friends—that's the closest thing I've ever felt to being a minority.

When I walked into the lecture and discussion last Monday, the first thing I thought was: I'm going to be the only white person here... maybe I shouldn't be here.

As I sat and listened to the lecture, then the discussion afterwards, I found that being one of two white students in the room, I was experiencing a lot of what black students experience in class each day. I clearly stuck out, and I felt like it was obvious.

After listening to a handful of stories about students' frustrations attending classes in which they were expected to represent their entire race, simply because they are the lone black students on a predominantly white campus, I found myself wanting to apologize for not only all the white students here, but for never realizing how much I take for granted.

If I want to remain unseen on campus, I just don a Pacific Lutheran University quarter-zip sweater, some yoga pants and keep my head down for a day.

If I want to stand out, I'll throw on some loud colors or some bright red lipstick. But sitting in this room, I felt what it was like to not control whether I was noticed or not. I was one of two white students in the room, and I felt like I was representing my entire race for two hours. I can't imagine carrying that weight everyday as I walk into class.

PLU's diversity numbers are outrageous. About 67 percent of our campus is white, the other 33 percent is a mix of hispanics, people of mixed races and black students—who make up a mere three percent of the population.

With that, I looked into our faculty situation on campus. There's one black faculty member. Just one. That's not only a poor statistic we carry around, but students are at a disadvantage because aren't getting



the "well rounded education" they expect when all their professors are middle-class white people.

I'm glad I went to the lecture. Deep down I'm happy I opened my mind, heard other people's voices and tried to understand their struggles and victories. I don't consider myself an ally to black people, I don't consider myself an activist. I've always considered myself a feminist and that was it.

However, while I was sitting there listening to students' accounts of passive racism around campus I couldn't help but think that more white Students should be sitting with us. If our campus is made up of three percent black students, then it'll

---

**"I'm happy I opened my mind, heard other people's voices and tried to understand their struggles and victories."**

---

take many more people to change campus culture. Even assuming every black student on campus was in the room with me (which definitely wasn't the case since there were only about 25 people in the room) that would only be a very small part of campus, and we'll need many more people to step up and help.

I can't help but thinking that getting more white students to Diversity Center events, where yes, we might feel awkward, or like we don't belong, would at least open minds up to how us, as individuals, are being ignorant.

"A white person cannot call themselves an ally," someone in the room said to the group. That's something they have to earn. They should have to come with references from black people, the group joked.

So I'm challenging you. From one student to the next, to just go to an event, open your mind and engage the black/Hispanic/Asian/Hawaiian/American Indian community on campus. It's not for them, it's not to help black students—don't inflate your sense of self by thinking you need to be a self-proclaimed ally—it's for you. It's to educate yourself.



# LUTES MAKE IT 3

By Stephanie Compton

The Pacific Lutheran University Swim Team won big across the board this season and ended it all with a record-setting championship.

Over the weekend of Feb. 14, the women's team took home their third straight Northwest Conference Women's Swimming Team Championship after an undefeated season.

The women's team took first place with 796 points, beating their closest competitor by 291 points. The Lutes would have beaten their 2015 team and they would have also bested their 2015 score of 779 points.

The combined men and women's teams also had a record

setting weekend. The final total for programs records broken was 16.

The men's team took home third place with 548 points. With an incomplete men's roster and capped off their season in an incredible way. They also broke a handful of program records.

Although many swimming records are set individually, championships only come through the combined effort of everyone on the team.

Through all the practices and early morning lifting sessions, an undefeatable team is created.



Photo Courtesy of John Froschauer

## Athelete's Perspective: Sarah Ameny

By Sarah Ameny

During our winter training trip, our coach told us: "Rent is due every day. We don't own a championship title forever, or any records or any NCAA cuts. We're renting them, and we need to pay up in practice every single day."

Both the men's and women's teams put in so much work this season. We created bigger goals than ever before, so we trained harder than ever before. Once it was time for conference and we were shaved and tapered, the energy of the team was electric.

Everyone had an extra pep in their step, and we all had the desire to kick ass. Each team member came together to fight for the same goal.

We knew individually what needed to be done to reach that team goal, and everyone was behind it all the way.

We've been building up to this weekend since the first day of practice way back in September. The Conference meet

goes by so quickly that it's hard to put into words all of the emotions that we feel.

We put so much pressure on ourselves to perform well this weekend; so much mental energy is spent trying to visualize the perfect race and remind ourselves of our goals.

Championships are won in the morning. The nerves of prelims were getting to us a bit, but we wanted so badly to show our depth in finals.

During prelims, we have to swim fast and put ourselves in a great position to score at finals that night. At finals, our only goal was to go fast and beat somebody. The entire team was up and cheering on the bulkhead for every race, and the energy on deck was pumping us up.

One of the best feelings is watching a teammate smash a record or go a best time or out touch someone in a finish right before you get up behind the blocks.

After the final relay on Sunday night, Coach brought the whole team into

a huddle and started tearing up. He told us how proud he was of both teams and that this year we pulled off something amazing.

The men's team had no idea that, at the beginning of the season, they could fight for second without a full squad.

Hearing that from our coach made us feel so proud of ourselves and our teammates.

The men's team came together to battle for second place. The women's team dominated the meet, wrapping up an undefeated season and winning our third straight Conference title. Both teams smashed records and put up an impressive number of NCAA 'B' cuts.

One of our team sayings is, "We're like a freight train. You can't stop us, you can only hope to contain us."

But the rest of the conference couldn't even hope to contain us this year.





**Podium**  
**Performances**

**Women 100 Freestyle:**

#1 Alex Weeks, 52.1

**Women 200 Butterfly:**

#2 Sarah Ameny, 2:10.19

**Women's 1650 Freestyle:**

#1 Erica Muller, 17:26.22

**Women 200 Breaststroke:**

#1 Shanell Sullenberger, 2:25.1

#3 Kylie Webb, 2:26.07

**Men 1650 Freestyle:**

#2 Hunter Cosgrove, 15:56.89

#3 Bradley Jerome, 16:03.78

**Women 400 Freestyle Relay:**

#1 Pacific Lutheran (Weeks, Armstrong, S. Sullenberger,  
Dean), 3:32.11



Photo Courtesy of John Froshauer

The Women's Swim Team takes a victory leap into the pool after winning the NWC Championship for the third year in a row.



# Fantastic House For Rent!

One block from library!

Four bedrooms, Two bathrooms,  
Washer/dryer, Big kitchen, Big living room,  
Two refrigerators,  
\$1500/month (\$375/room)

Address: 507 S. 120th Street.

To apply email: [annagrace\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:annagrace_99@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.PLURental.Homestead.com](http://www.PLURental.Homestead.com)



## CORRECTIONS

- In last week's issue, the article titled "Cam Newton: Great Athlete, not a great leader" was written by Kellen Westering, not Dylan Foreman.
- In the same issue, the PLUtonic photo spread was taken by McKenna Morin, Mast Media's photo editor.
- The feature image in the centerfold was taken from Creative Commons but was not credited.
- Coffee, obviously, was misspelt on the front page. Worth a laugh at least.



# Little Carly's Corner

THINGS I SHOULD ALSO HAVE

A DEGREE IN WHEN I GRADUATE:

<p>① HOLDING DOORS OPEN FOR PEOPLE, B.A.</p>	<p>② PUTTING STUFF IN A COMPOST BIN, B.S.</p>	<p>③ PRONOUNCING NORWEGIAN NAMES MOST-LIKELY INCORRECTLY, M.S.</p>	<p>④ "GOING TO OMM FOR A SNACK, REGARDLESS OF THE HOUR," M.A.</p>
<p>⑤ CEREAL-EATING, M.S.</p>	<p>⑥ AVOIDING PUDDLES, WHILE BALANCING BREAKFAST, COFFEE, AND A BACKPACK, BEFORE 8 AM, B.S.</p>	<p>⑦ QUADRICEPS - WORKOUTS (THANK YOU, HINDERLIE HILL), B.A.</p>	<p>⑧ BOOKING IT TO ADMIN FROM MORKEN WITH A SNACK BREAK AND PIT-STOP IN BETWEEN, ALL UNDER 10 MINUTES, B.S.</p>



# An Open Apology

from students of WMGS 387: Introduction to Trans Studies

---

The students of the WMGS 387 class would like to take a moment to acknowledge our missteps in programming for Transgender Awareness Week 2015. During this week, our class created and executed a project with the intention of informing the PLU community about transgender history, memorializing transgender individuals who have passed in the last year due to violence, and providing an opportunity for PLU students to become agents of gender justice. One of these actions resulted in critical feedback, which gave our class the opportunity to come to grips with the fact that our intent, whatever it may be, can have a profound impact that does not always align.

The gallery section of our project, shown in the University Center on Nov. 18, was not executed to the best of our ability, nor did it represent transgender individuals in a fully encompassing or honorable way. The well-deserved criticism we received on this portion of our project served as a learning opportunity for all of us involved, as well as a reality check of the cisgender privilege we occupy. Although we had hopeful and positive intentions for this portion of the project, the actual effect of it fell short of our intended outcome. Through feedback from the PLU community, including that from individuals who identify as transgender, we have had the chance to examine and take responsibility for the ways in which the gallery fell short

of the full extent of our ability. Reflecting back, we recognize that the gallery was not to a standard that honored the lives of those represented or showed solidarity with transgender individuals; those whose memories we were hoping to honor, and the community we were attempting to be allies with deserved more time and effort than we gave. The photos and paper used to display the biographies of transgendered individuals who have been murdered in the last year were of low quality and in no way came close to representing these individuals in a respectful manner.

The gallery also did not address the structural systems which subject transgender individuals to violence. These injustices could have easily been remedied with better presentation of the biographies and a well framed introduction to give the respect and effort necessary to remember the individuals highlighted. Transgender activist Brynne Tannehill states, "Being transgender isn't what is killing us. It is the culture we live in. It is a culture that teaches people that we aren't real men or women, one that reduces us to jokes intended to inspire visceral reactions of disgust. It is a culture that teaches people that such portrayals are not just acceptable but entirely justified..." By becoming aware of the various ways our culture subjects transgender individuals to violence, everyone can begin to work towards gender justice. This project was an effort to work

towards that goal, and though the gallery was not as productive towards our goal as we had envisioned, it did provide for deeper conversations about allyship and gender justice on our campus to arise. There were several needs emphasized through the feedback our class received that, as non-trans individuals, we had no awareness of. As result of this feedback, our last day of tabling focused on creating an opportunity for the PLU community to write down suggestions about policy changes to make PLU more inclusive for people of all gender identities, in hopes that our community as a whole would become more cognizant of and engaged in these issues.

While we are disappointed by the ways that our project failed to meet its goals, we are grateful for the conversation and reflection that resulted. We hope that our mistakes and efforts will continue to inspire others, ourselves included, to strive to be better allies for gender justice on the PLU campus and beyond. We are truly sorry for the harm we have caused, and should you wish to continue the conversation about gender justice and the needs of transgender students at PLU, please feel free to contact the Women's Center at [womencen@plu.edu](mailto:womencen@plu.edu) and/or the Diversity Center at [dcenter@plu.edu](mailto:dcenter@plu.edu).

Respectfully,  
The Students of WMGS 387

---

## Transgender Resources

**Residential Life** at PLU routinely works with students to address issues of individual need, comfort and fit with the on-campus living experience. Incoming students for whom their biological sex does not match their gender identity should contact Residential Life to discuss their individual situation and to determine the best option based on individual circumstances, need and availability. The Gender Inclusive Housing Application is available via the Women's Center's website, [plu.edu/womenscenter](http://plu.edu/womenscenter).

**Cedar River Clinic** in Tacoma offers quality health care in a safe and culturally responsive environment. Every client who receives care at Cedar River Clinics is treated with dignity and respect. The Cedar River Clinic can help with surgical referrals for gender reassignment, breast and cosmetic surgeries.

**Medicaid:** Gender dysphoria is a medical condition recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International classification of Disease. Medicaid can help cover the cost for certain procedures, including Hormone Replacement Therapy, prepuberty suppression therapy and Gender Reassignment Surgery.

**Legal Name Change:** Information about legal name and gender changes on documents can be found through the Washington DMV website.

**Oasis Youth Center:** Drop in and support center for LGBTQ youth ages 14-24.

**How to be an Ally:** Check out <http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/06/how-to-be-ally-to-trans-friend/> for a information on how to be an ally to a transgender friend.





# The Search

## for the PLU Pastor

**BY MADDIE BERNARD**

Pacific Lutheran University is now accepting applications for the position of University Pastor to serve in the 2016-17 school year.

Earlier this month the Campus Ministry Nominating Committee, along with the help of Interim University Pastor John Rosenberg, crafted the job description and posted it to the public. The application period is now open and will last for about two months, with the nominations being screened through the Southwestern Washington Synod.

It is unknown how many applications have been received at this time, but Pastor Rosenberg expects about 50-60 people to apply.

"There has been people who have been asking about this job since last summer," Rosenberg said. "There are a lot of really good, qualified applicants

out there -- PLU is an exciting place, and this is an attractive position."

After the application and interview process is over, the Nominating Committee selects the top five applicants and narrows the pool down to three with the help of the Campus Ministry Council and Rosenberg.

Then, the top three applicants are introduced to University President Thomas Krise and Vice President of Student Life Dr. Joanna

Royce-Davis. Krise and Davis select one applicant, and the Southwestern Washington Synod extends the official call.

If all goes well, a new University Pastor will be in place for next fall. In the meantime, Rosenberg will finish out the year at PLU.

Rosenberg came out of retirement to serve as PLU's Interim University Pastor. During this year, it was his job to bridge the gap between the past and the future of Campus Ministry while the University did not have an official pastor.

"Interim pastors come, by definition, during a transition, so you are helping to say goodbye to what was and hello to what might be," Rosenberg said.

"You are closing a chapter and also getting ready to open a new one."

Rosenberg enjoyed his time serving at PLU and is excited to be a part of the process in hiring a new full-time pastor. He is confident in the Committee's ability to make decisions, but believes the new pastor must have an inclusive mindset in order to be successful at the University.

"I think it's somebody that should be really rooted in the best of the Lutheran tradition, but at the same time, somebody who is willing to be hospitable to people of different religious understandings," Rosenberg said. "PLU is a wonderful and exciting place. The challenge for the new pastor will be to hang onto and share those uniquely Lutheran gifts."

---

"The challenge for the new pastor will be to hang onto and share those uniquely Lutheran gifts."

**John P. Rosenberg**  
Interim University Pastor

---



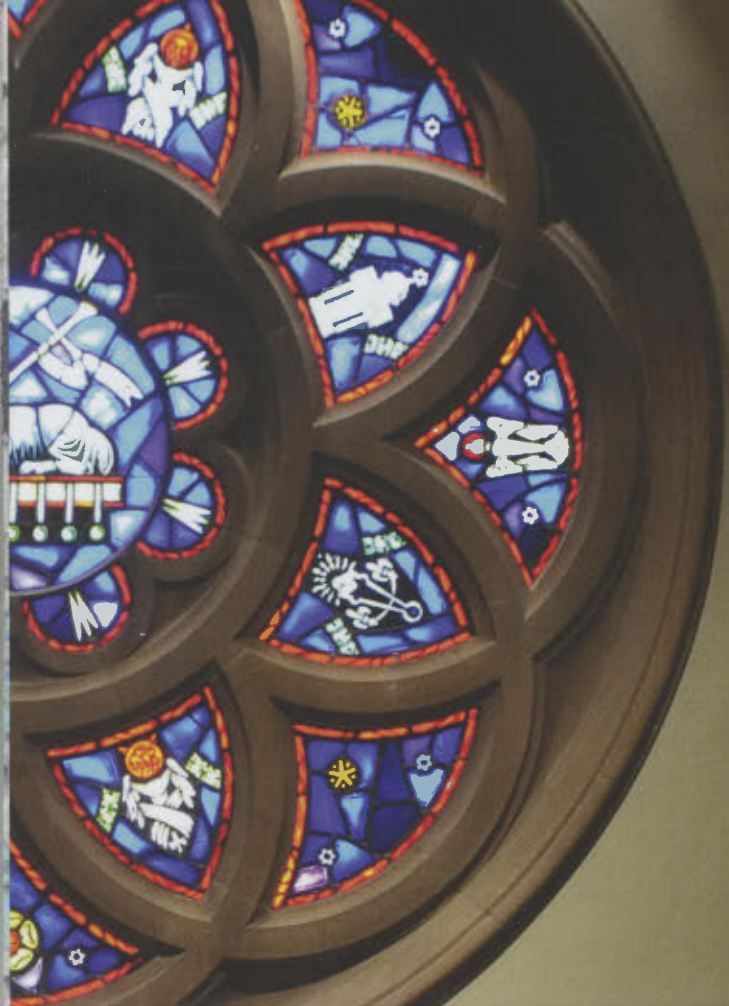


PHOTO BY MCKENNA MORIN

Morning Prayer (formerly Chapel) is held Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Ness Family Chapel and is led by Interim University Pastor John Rosenberg (pictured left). Evening Prayer, new this year, is also held in the Ness Family Chapel, and is led by Eddie McCoven.

# Calling a new pastor

BY  
EDDIE J. MCCOVEN

Calling a new pastor to serve in a faith community is not the easiest of tasks. Some congregations spend months. Some, like Emerald City Metropolitan Community Church in Seattle, spend years in the search of a shepherd for their flock. That's why some denominations give their bishops the authority to appoint pastors to congregations. But even then, some congregations are too small to afford a full time pastor. Pastors can end up serving two to three congregations that may be very far apart. This is often the case in rural areas.

The Pacific Northwest is one of the least religiously affiliated areas of the United States. Likewise, ordained ministers are also in short supply, especially in Mainline Christian denominations. While Pacific Lutheran University maintains a relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), according to statistics published by the Office of Admissions, only 17 percent of the student body identifies as Lutheran, 10 percent identify as Roman Catholic, and 33 percent identify as Other Christian.

While the university would most likely be able to hire any ordained minister to serve as a University Chaplain, the same is not so for the University

Congregation. The University Congregation can only be served by an ordained minister on the roster of the ELCA. Since the staffing in Campus Ministry was reduced to one ordained position from two, the University Pastor has to serve the University Congregation and the campus community, and therefore, must be an ELCA pastor. The tough thing about this is that the university will be required to hire a University Pastor that, from first glance, only represents 17 percent of the student body.

In their search for a new pastor, the university will have to look for candidates who are ecumenical, who will reach out and work with all

Christians and non-Christians on campus, will have to be able to run a ministry to the nearly 3,000 members of the Lute community with minimal staff, and will have to be very knowledgeable about and be able to lead contemporary and alternative styles of worship that cater to the needs and wants of our diverse student population.

It can be done. The university will be able to find a pastor who can both represent our Lutheran tradition and our diverse community. But the process will not be without its challenges, and may take longer than just a few months.





# M

MAST MAGAZINE

Pacific Lutheran University  
12180 Park Ave S.  
Anderson University Center  
Room 172 Tacoma, WA  
98447 • [mast@plu.edu](mailto:mast@plu.edu) •  
[mastmedia.plu.edu](http://mastmedia.plu.edu)

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
SAMANTHA LUND

**EDITORS**  
MCKENNA MORIN  
PARIS FRANKLIN  
RACHEL DIXON  
JEFF DUNN  
COURTNEY MIRANDA  
BROOKE THAMES  
STEPHANIE COMPTON

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
HELEN SMITH  
EDDIE MCCOVEN

**ACADEMIC ADVISER**  
JOANNE LISOSKY