

# THE MAST

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PHOTO BY MCKENNA MORIN

## Belton addresses campus' concerns

By McKenna Morin

Editor-in-Chief

After two years of searching, spending and interviewing, Pacific Lutheran University finally found its new president; the man already doing the job. For many Lutes, the announcement of Allan Belton as the new PLU President came as quite a shock.

With many Lutes asking questions, Belton has some answers. A student forum is planned for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Apr 30 in Anderson University Center CK West.

"Students can come and ask me whatever questions they want. Questions they may have asked to the candidates or any questions they may just want to ask me," Belton said. "It's a unique situation."

Belton was not one of the many candidates brought to the campus community for this position during the search process.

"The search committee was fully transparent with the finalists they brought on to campus. Allan was just not a candidate," said Board of Regents chairman, Ed Grogan.

This is where the problem lies for most students.

"I think if Belton had been part of the process, I don't think anyone would have been that upset if he had been chosen. Again, it's not about him, it's just that we didn't know this was a potential outcome and possibility," PLU junior, Barbara Gilchrist said.

When the previous president announced his resignation in

2017, the PLU Board of Regents announced the nationwide search for the position. It was supposed to take six to nine months to find someone to fill this spot, according to former chair of the Board of Regents, Gary Severson.

This process ended up taking two years.

"My biggest disappointment is really just that we put so much time and energy into this to get a result that could have just been named from the very beginning," Gilchrist said. "We didn't even need a search process for this."

Belton found out he was being considered for this role Mar 11, 2019. He was officially asked to fill the position four days later on Mar 15. The decision was announced to campus

19 days later on Apr 3.

"Members of the search committee actually know more than I do. I wasn't involved in the process at all," Belton said. "I am completely aware of the implications, the sense of loss, of all of the struggle of understanding of how does a completely open and transparent process end with a decision that is a surprise to everyone."

According to Grogan, this decision was a shock to the Board as well.

"It's not the result we anticipated. But it's our job to look at what's best for PLU and we believe we did that," Grogan said. "As the board went through the process we determined that the person already in the role was doing a tremendous job and

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# THE MAST

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## CORRECTIONS

### A few corrections regarding our last issue of *The Mast*:

#### Cover graphic corrections:

The cover graphic for the March issue of the Mast was created and provided by Kevin Jansen.

#### ASPLU corrections:

The article regarding the ASPLU elections was written by Kyomi Kishaba.

### 'Race and Personal Narrative' corrections:

Gurjot Kang's name was spelled incorrectly. Additionally, all work in the gallery is from African American artists, not students.

### 'Swedish impact in SCAN center' corrections:

The photos were taken by Colton Walter not Olivia Crocker. There was also a slight misrepresentation: the last paragraph says "On Tuesday, April 16, during Earth and Diversity Week, the Scandinavian Cultural Center will host a lecture ..." The lecture did take place in the SCC but was hosted by Environmental Studies, Global Studies, History, and Wang Center for Global Studies.

# No rules for TAs on campus

By Chloe Wilhelm, Tori Norman, Solen Aref

On many college campuses, teaching assistants are common. At Pacific Lutheran University, it's advertised that classes are not taught by TAs because of the small class sizes.

However, it seems many departments have different ideas on what it means to have TAs and how it impacts students.

Many of these variations stem from differences in funding, experience, and necessity of having TAs at PLU.

In the music department, TAs are allowed but sparingly used. In the sciences, TAs are used to assist with lab work and quizzes regarding labs. In the communication department, there are no TAs at all.

### The case for TAs

Communication Department Chair Dr. Amy Young said that she does not support the practice of hiring unpaid labor, particularly if that labor has no real means of support in terms of training for the job, viewing it as both unethical and unprofessional.

For this reason, as well as the department's inability to provide compensation for students' time, there are no TAs in the Communication department this year.

"Having a TA in an undergraduate class is an enormous commitment on a faculty member's part. And it is uncompensated labor for the faculty person and for the TA," Young said. "That is not a reasonable or sustainable model of instruction."

Young went on to explain that due to the small average size of communication classes, the use of a TA seems unnecessary. In larger classes, she feels the need is greater than in a class of 20 to 25 students.

Communication professor Amanda Feller disagreed.

"Primary motivations for TAs is it's one more tool for students, one more part of a pedagogical toolbox and a matter of academic freedom," Feller said. "It's a natural part of learning."

When addressing the issue of TA compensation, Feller explained that there used to be four statutes in place that allowed TAs to receive credit for the work that they did, either as cooperative credit or independent study, built in work-study pay, voluntary for graduate school applications and pay out of pocket.

Feller said she found the new curriculum of no TAs in the communication department to be confusing. Over her 19



GRAPHICS BY KEVIN JANSEN

years teaching

at PLU, Feller has had a total of 13 years with a teaching assistant, helping them to achieve their personal and professional goals.

She said she felt as though having a TA has benefited her in the past, as well as benefited the student. She added it was nice to have help preparing for classes, organizing, grading, assisting students with writing, as well as assisting with teaching presentations.

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The assistance TAs provide in class has been found in other departments as well.

Bryn Benson, who currently works as a Writing Center tutor, worked as a nursing TA during her sophomore year.

She said that TAs in the nursing department are paid minimum wage and assist with other classes that are required for the nursing major, such as labs for Biology 205 and 206.

"With Biology 206 labs, the big purpose of having TAs is to help with lab activities," Benson said. "One teacher doesn't cut it."

While working as a TA, she helped oversee labs for Biology 206 and was available to help students with anatomy, dissections, and answer any questions they had. She did not assist with grading assignments.

"I did one lab section, which was around two hours each week," Benson said.

Typically, the pre-nursing classes like Biology have one TA per lab section.

However, many departments at PLU do not appear to have the need for TAs.

The Provost Office explained that PLU generally doesn't use TAs because it's not needed. They said one of the perks of going to a small school is that the class sizes are small enough where the professors can interact with their students one on one.

In comparison to bigger universities with class sizes too large for the professor to interact with students, PLU professors are able to do the work that TAs normally would.

"There is no university-wide policy on TAs," a spokesperson of the Provost Office said. "It's up to the discretion of each department head to decide if they need the extra help of TAs, and if their budget allocates for the added expense."

It's uncommon for humanities profes-

sors to have TAs in the classroom due to the small class sizes, but Dr. Nancy Simpson-Younger taught a Shakespeare on Film class during J-term 2019 with the help of three TAs.

This class had about 45 students enrolled, rather than the usual 20-30 students humanities classes have.

"We wanted to make sure that we had enough seats to offer, but we didn't have enough faculty to offer all those seats," Simpson-Younger said. "Our solution was we got a Mellon grant, and we used some of the Mellon money to fund TAs."

### The cost of TAs

Some departments at PLU continuously offer TA positions, while others vary each year depending on how much funding they receive.

Dr. Karen Travis, chair of the Economics Department, said that they have only had TAs when they have enough funding to provide professors with assistance for Statistics labs.

"This year, we've had one TA," Travis said. "Professor [Lynn] Hunnicutt is teaching Stats, and we had some funds."

She explained that the most they've hired are two in a year, since the hiring of TAs is always affiliated with the Statistics class. Economics TA's are paid. The wage varies depending on funding, but it is typically \$2 above minimum wage.

Travis said that the main duty of an economics TA is to help with labs. For statistics, that involves supervising work, helping students with assignments and working with computer programs like Excel, and being available to answer questions.

Travis explained that the differences in TA job descriptions, faculty responsibilities, and funding all relate to how TAs are paid differently between departments.

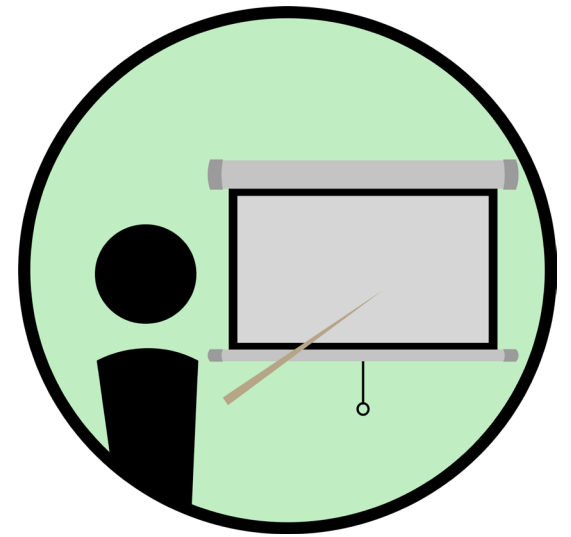
She said that PLU's professional schools, which includes education, business, and nursing, have their own budgets.

"They have a lot of power to use their budgets as they want," Travis said.

Some departments fund their programs differently. For psychology majors, TA positions are available but unpaid. This is because TA jobs are available through the school's Experiential Learning Requirement.

Dr. Wendelyn Shore, chair of the Department of Psychology, explained that psychology majors can complete the requirement by participating in a research internship, a research project or becoming a TA.

Students taking this course receive credit towards their major, rather than a



payment or stipend.

"We really regard it as part of our Experiential Learning Requirement," Shore said. "It's really the most concrete place where issues of vocation can be confronted before [students] graduate."

### The career experience of TAs

Despite all the differences between departments, many former and current TAs have said their experiences were positive overall.

Megan Longstaff, a senior applied science major, has been working as a TA in the applied science labs for the last four semesters.

"I love it," Longstaff said. "I personally like to make sure that they are getting the intuitive sense of what's happening and not just being shown and told. I want them to be able to understand it."

Longstaff said she saw the opportunity as more mutually beneficial than strictly as a job or seeing herself as above the students she helps.

"It is a valuable experience for both the TAs and the students being helped by the TA. TAs can relate to the students in that setting and can make topics more relatable in ways that professors may not be able to," Longstaff said.

She said that being a TA is "a great way to learn how people interpret different things."

Bryn Benson, who now helps students at the Writing Center, said that she loved being a nursing TA.

"I really enjoyed the class and had a lot of fun," she said. "I couldn't have asked for something better."

Dr. Karen Travis said that with the variance between departments rules, job responsibilities, and funding, there should be a discussion regarding TA policies on campus.

"It makes sense to have a general minimum set of rules or guidelines," she said. "Even though we're not doing this often, should we do it differently?"



# ASPLU welcomes new president & vice president

By Kiyomi Kishaba

Reporter

## What are the main goals of your presidential partnership?

"Within our roles this next year we really want to continue standing by the ASPLU [Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University] values of DJS [Diversity, Justice, Sustainability] but showing it within action," Gwin and Dizon wrote to The Mast.

"Within our partnership we really want to discuss gender roles in leadership, as well as work with the administration to provide better transparency to the student body. At the moment, our biggest goal is working through this transition and getting our footing. We have some plans to look into connecting with other student body presidents at other colleges in hopes to create a 'College Leaders Coalition.'"

## What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

"Our biggest challenge in this presidency will be trying to represent all voices. There are so many different ideas within campus that we are really trying to gauge the larger picture and show that to the administration as well as the Board of Regents. We are excited but are also aware that this will take a lot of sitting back and listening to the student body as a whole," Gwin and Dizon wrote.

## What do you hope to accomplish by the end of your presidency?

"Projects that are currently in place include improving ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] accessibility on campus, as well as continuing the DJS work that the senators and directors bring to our attention," Gwin and Dizon wrote.

"We also are working with a great team made up of Carlos Alvarez, Carson Bergstrom, Haedon Brunelle and many others



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT PEREA

ASPLU President Kennedy Gwin and Vice President Todd Dizon smiling for a campaign photo.

about a Students Activities Fee and how that will be impacting the student body."

"Leadership wise, we are very excited to cultivate a team for the next year and bring ASPLU to its potential. Our goals this next year will be to help create meaningful projects as well as continuing to create a campus climate that promotes the idea that everyone can be a leader. As we grow in these positions, we also hope that the student body and university can grow with us."

# In with Cedar Grove, out with LeMay: An update on PLU's composting program

By Gurjot Kang

News Editor

67,500 pounds. That's the approximate amount of compost Pacific Lutheran University, PLU, produced between Jan. 2018 and Mar. 2019, according to Randy Evans, Waste Diversion Supervisor for Facilities Management.

For as long as Evans can remember, the waste connections company, LeMay Transportation Services, a subsidiary of Pierce County Refuse, has handled all composting services with the university. Yet, much to his surprise, on Apr. 1, 2019, Evans was notified by LeMay of their decision to cancel their composting services with PLU.

Evans was told by Ric Thompson of LeMay Services that they chose to end their program because the university's compost was contaminating other materials at the Hidden Valley Compost Factory in Puyallup, WA.

He also learned that LeMay's facility had to turn materials into compost in about 35 to 45 days, but the items PLU was giving were taking longer. So, Pierce County Refuse was using their workers to dig up any contaminated materials and take it to the landfill instead. Evans mentioned how Thompson described this as "a large expense" for them to take on.

Upon further research, Evans contact-

ed Dan Corum, Food Waste Manager for the City of Tacoma. Through Corum, he realized LeMay also handles the City of Tacoma's residential and commercial food waste.

However, unlike the City of Tacoma, PLU didn't have a contract with LeMay. Instead, the company charged PLU monthly for their compost services.

"Why are they taking the City of Tacoma's but they're not taking ours?," Evans wondered. "Are they not making any revenue when they're servicing our university and they are through the City of Tacoma because they're such a large city?"

For Evans, these questions still remain unanswered.

Since the cancellation, Facilities Management has been hard at work and found a new company to partner with for composting services: Cedar Groves Composting. Although Facilities Management now has this issue resolved, they don't want the conversation to end there.

As a result, Evans and Associate Vice President of Facilities Management Raymond Orr will host a meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 17 with student representatives from ASPLU and other departments on-campus. The goal of this meeting is to discuss how the PLU community can recenter and improve their commitment toward

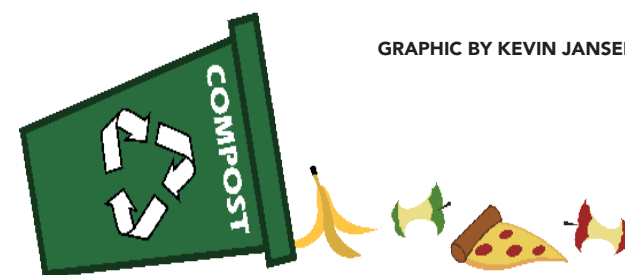
sustainability moving forward.

According to ASPLU Sustainability Director Isabel LaRue, many Lutes already care about sustainability and want to be environmentally friendly, but unfortunately, these ideals don't always correlate to PLU's actions. Back in 2010, as a part of PLU's Climate Action Plan, the university made a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2020. Since then, PLU has backpedaled on this mission.

"Something we really need to work on is having what we say we care about in terms of the environment and sustainability match what we're actually doing as an institution," LaRue said.

Orr agreed that as a campus, we must not forget about our efforts toward sustainability.

"How do we want to bring sustainability back into the focus for PLU?," Orr asked. "What are we going to do for the future? What's our part?"



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN JANSEN

**Continued from cover**

we wanted to keep that momentum."

Lutes also raised concerns about the wasted time and money. The Search Committee was made up of faculty, staff and students who spent two years interviewing candidates who were brought to campus, reading resumes and more.

"I think that all the hard work and effort the students put in for the Presidential Search Committee, all of the money that we spent trying to find potential candidates and having them come over here, that all went to waste," said newly elected ASPLU Vice President Todd Dizon.

According to Belton, there is a sum of money allocated every year for all executive searches such as Deans or Presidents.

"This fiscal year the budget was \$100,000. I don't know how much of it was spent specifically on this search. We spent \$42,000 out of that budget for all searches this year, but I would assume the Presidential Search is the biggest piece of that," Belton said.

Even with that money spent, the search taking over double the time and no candidates being chosen, Grogan said he doesn't think the search failed.

"It lead us to the conclusion it did. These are the results. It's a great result for PLU. It was unexpected but will be good for campus," Grogan said.

The choice was also confusing for some as Belton said multiple times he didn't want the position. In a Mast interview in 2017 he said, "I want to go back to my role...we are here to help people move forward until we get a new president."

When the board asked him to prepare for that offer, Belton still had reservations.

"There was a reason I didn't put my name in the hat. I didn't want to be president. I don't want the title. I don't want the pomp and circumstance. I don't want to be the face of the institution," Belton said.

"I am the first to admit this is a big surprise and it doesn't help us advance our goals of diversity and inclusion on this campus," He added.

The issue students seem to have with this decision is more about being left in the dark and less with Belton himself.

"People had a lot of faith in this process and I think because of the lack of transparency with this decision it let people down."

Dizon added, "I think that he is a really wonderful individual and has a lot of skills but that doesn't change the fact that its disappointing that we didn't choose one of the candidates we brought out," ASPLU newly elected President, Kennedy Gwin said.

To help with this disappointment, Belton said he plans on being very transparent in his next steps. He has met with



PHOTO BY HANNA MCCAULEY

President Belton meets with members of the Collective. The Collective presented a list of demands and questions to Belton April 10.

multiple student groups on campus already and hopes to continue doing so.

The Collective is one of the groups that have met with Belton many times. They presented a list of questions and demands that Belton said he is answering and responding to within the next week.

"I'm so glad they have agreed to sit down and let's not make this the end of it... I would rather we actually start working together," he said.

During his presidency, Belton wants to work with students to connect upper and lower campus with "a figurative and literal bridge." He also said he wants to replace Foss Hall with a wellness center.

"I do want to make sure this place succeeds. I want PLU to be successful," Belton said. "I was fully aware of the contro-

versy this would create... but PLU is an amazing place, people will express their concerns and turn around and work with you. I wouldn't choose any other place to be."

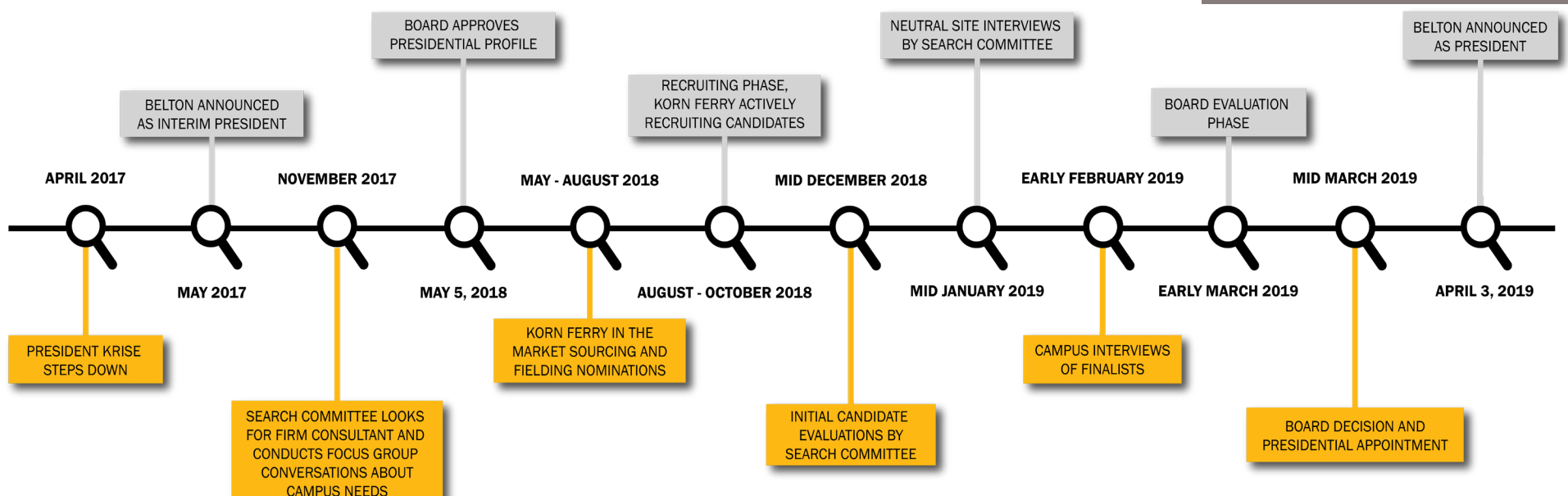
**A few qualifications the Committee was looking for, according to the Presidential Search Committee website**

--"Exhibits authenticity, warmth, optimism and a sense of humor."

--"Is committed to diversity in its many forms and comfortable articulating, promoting and celebrating it."

--"An effective fundraiser, who is able to generate increased resources and advance PLU's positive philanthropic culture."

--"The next president will be (or will become) a member of a Lutheran congregation, or of a denomination in full communion with the ELCA."



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN JANSEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLU.EDU

## Senior capstone showcase opening soon

By **Hannah Montgomery**  
Online Editor

Senior students of Art and Design will showcase their work in the upcoming Senior Art Exhibition in the University Gallery in Ingram Hall from April 24 to May 25.

The exhibit, Palimpsest, will contain work of many medium which include manuscripts and art.

Graphic design, printmaking, painting, and photography are

just a few of the types of art the 19 seniors will display. For some students, this project has been created over the course of two years.

Support your students by visiting the gallery and appreciating the countless hours they have put into their masterpieces.

**The exhibition will be on display April 24 – May 25, 2019. The University Gallery is free and open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and by appointment.**



## First peoples language in a new setting

By **Olivia Crocker**  
Copy Editor

From the early Native Americans to Pacific Lutheran University, the Lushootseed language has been around for centuries and is making its way into scholarly study.

Nancy Jo Bob is a visiting lecturer of Southern Lushootseed, the native language of a number of Salish tribes in Washington including the Puyallup, Nisqually, and Muckleshoot tribes.

While the language is new to PLU and in its second semester, Bob said bringing it to the school has been in the works for around five years.

"It goes beyond an introduction to southern lushootseed...it is a history."

The course is included in the Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor. PLU is the first university to include southern lushootseed in a minor program, but the University of Washington also offers the language. SOLU 101: Southern Lushootseed: Introduction to Oral Language covers introductory speaking, reading, and writing.

Bob said these skills go deeper than simply understanding the rules.

Bob said that southern Lushootseed is one piece in a larger root system of indigenous languages. Learning southern Lushootseed provides students with the skills to learn others in the root systems.

For students interested in learning other indigenous languages, enrolling in SOLU 101 will give them the necessary foundation.

Bob's students have been successful in learning the language, due largely to their enthusiasm in learning.

"I set their goals to be achievable...they can be lifelong learners of the language."

Bob wants her students to know how to continue their study outside of the classroom. She is focused on providing them with the tools to continue learning, and the students' excitement in this focus has been a big piece in their success.

While the language is now a requirement in the Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor, the introductory course is open to any interested students.

The course will be offered in fall 2019. For additional enquiries, contact Nancy Jo Bob at [nancy.bob@plu.edu](mailto:nancy.bob@plu.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLU.EDU

Professor Nancy Jo Bob is in charge of the new Lushootseed language studies class coming to PLU in the fall of 2019.

# Catching up with music chair Galante

By Victoria Norman

Arts and Culture Editor

From classrooms to the concert hall, Dr. Brian Galante has played a role in the expansion of the PLU Music Department. Now, he gets to do even more.

Galante was elected to be the new chair of the music department at the end of last school year, changing his position as a teacher and conductor to being the head honcho in the halls. It has been a year of learning and changes, but Galante feels up for the challenge and is looking forward to more improvements in the years to come.

"We have a good energy about growth in majors. Students are responding well to the changes and faculty has been supportive and understanding" said Galante.

His hope for the department as a whole is to continue to move in the same positive direction that he has seen this past year and maintain the spirit of collaboration and openness in the department. He would like to be able to find new ways to increase resources to the department.

"Our dreams cost money" Galante said. "I want to prepare students to be 21 Century artists and would like to provide the materials necessary to do so."

He also hopes to find better ways and spaces to accommodate the growing numbers in the music department as well

as continue to foster success in his next steps as chair. He looks forward to offering further opportunities to students to tell their story with donors, faculty, and other students alike.

He said that his new role does not allow as much time in the classroom as he once had, but appreciates the broader look at the department. He misses teaching some of his courses, but has maintained his position as conductor of the Chamber Singers chorus on campus.

"It is not something I would ever consider giving up" said Galante. "I love rolling up my sleeves and working with students. It's a part of who I am."

This is the same enthusiasm and dedication that he strives to bring to his role as chair of the department and something that the students are responding to as well.

"I think he's great" said Julie Landes, a senior music education major. "He's organized and gets things done."

Holly Evans, a senior vocal performance major, agrees with Landes. Evans has spent the last few semesters in Galante's ensemble and has enjoyed working with him both in and out of the classroom.

"He's a big picture type of leader" said Evans. "He is interested in progress and work ethic. He is passionate about music and takes time to teach technique while



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLU.EDU

Brian Galante continues to conduct while fulfilling his duties as music chair.

maintaining a light and fun environment the majority of the time."

Dr. Edwin Powell, conductor of the Wind Ensemble, also feels as though Galante was the right pick for the position.

"He is highly organized, efficient, and has a keen grasp on how to solve problems in fair and equitable ways" said Powell. "I think he's a great leader."

While there is still work to do in the department, there is support behind Galante and high hopes looking forward. The new chair is excited to see where next year takes him, and the department is pleased with his work thus far and hopes to see more such work in the future.

## Music making its way through campus

The Music Department at PLU presents a large variety of concerts throughout the year. These events are hosted in either the Mary Baker Russell Music Center (MBR), or Karen Hille Phillips Center for the Performing Arts (KHP). Most events will be held in Lagerquist Concert Hall (LCH), unless otherwise marked. Admission is free to PLU students, unless otherwise noted.

May 1, 8 p.m. - Sophia Robinson Sr BM Viola Recital  
 May 2, 8 p.m. - University Chorale  
 May 3, 8 p.m. - Steel Pan & Percussion Ensemble  
 May 4, 12 p.m. - Erika Query Sr BME Violin Recital  
 May 4, 2 p.m. - Kyle Doughton Jr BM Trumpet Recital (MBR 306)  
 May 4, 3 p.m. - Solvinden Flute Ensemble  
 May 4, 5 p.m. - Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble  
 May 4, 8 p.m. - Carl Johnson Sr BME Violin Recital  
 May 5, 12 p.m. - South Sound Saxophone Ensemble  
 May 5, 3 p.m. - Stephanie Pfundt Sr BM Vocal Recital  
 May 7, 5:30 p.m. - Aesthetic Cosmopolitan Project (MBR 306)  
 May 7, 8 p.m. - University Symphony Orchestra  
 May 8, 8 p.m. - Josh VanCleave Non-Degree Jr Recital (MBR 306)  
 May 9, 8 p.m. - Keyboard Students Recital

May 10, 5 p.m. - Zonda Student Wind Quintet Recital  
 May 10, 7:30 p.m. - Night of Musical Theatre: I Gotta Story (KHP)  
 May 10, 8 p.m. - Holly Evans Sr BM Vocal Recital  
 May 11, 12 p.m. - Lucas Larreau Sr BM Piano Recital  
 May 11, 3 p.m. - Woodwind Student Recital  
 May 11, 4:30 p.m. - Brass Students Recital  
 May 11, 7:30 p.m. - Night of Musical Theatre: I Gotta Story (KHP)  
 May 11, 8 p.m. - Brennan Brichoux Sr BM Voca Recital  
 May 12, 3 p.m. - University Wind Ensemble  
 May 12, 5 p.m. - Cat Tyler Non-Degree Jr Recital (MBR 306)  
 May 12, 8 p.m. - Andrew Riecke Sr BME Vocal Recital  
 May 14, 6 p.m. - Chamber Music Kaleidoscope  
 May 14, 8 p.m. - String Kaleidoscope  
 May 15, 8 p.m. - University Concert Band



School of Arts +  
Communication

# The end is near in Avengers: Endgame

By Isaiah Shim  
Sports Editor

After 21 movies over the course of a decade, the era dubbed "The Infinity Saga" by Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige is coming to a close in this month's *Avengers: Endgame*. Since it is one of the biggest releases of this year, here are some things that you should know before seeing *Avengers: Endgame*.

## Who's still alive

After the devastating ending of last year's *Infinity War*, it is easy to think about the ones who got dusted, but with *Endgame*, the fate of the universe lies in the hands of the living.

Among them are the original six Avengers: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Hawkeye and the Hulk. Along for the ride are a couple of Guardians of the Galaxy and Wakandans, Rocket Raccoon, Nebula, Okoye and M'Baku.

The rest of the team consists of Ant-Man, War Machine, Valkyrie, Wong, and Captain Marvel. The fractured roster will attempt to undo the Snap and bring back their fallen comrades.

## It's going to be one long movie

Co-director Anthony Russo revealed earlier this month that the runtime will be three hours and 58 seconds.

In an interview with *Total Film* magazine, directors Joe and Anthony Russo commented on the runtime, stating, "It was going to be a difficult story to tell. Meaning that it would require a lot of screen time to tell it properly."

First year student and Marvel fan Wyatt Winkle was not deterred by the lengthy runtime.

"I'm not bothered by it honestly. I'd be

okay if it were five hours," he said.

My own father, John Shim, who at 51 years old, also has no problems with the runtime.

"At three hours, I'm definitely getting my money's worth," he said.

## Don't trust the trailers

Although there has been very little footage that has been shown, the trailers for the movie include shots that will not even make it into the final cut of the film.

When speaking with *Empire Magazine*, the Russos revealed that there is just too much footage for them to use, so they do what they can with it.

"We can manipulate [shots] through CG to tell a story that we want to tell specifically for the purpose of the trailer," they said.

Winkle was frustrated to hear this "It's like they give you an idea of what you want to think and give you something else," Winkle said.

On the contrary, Shim was fine with the deception. "I don't like any kind of spoilers so I'm okay with being tricked a little bit by the trailers."

## Even more characters will die

With stakes as high as these, you can expect there to be consequences.

With some of the actor's contracts ending after this movie, most notably Chris Evans (Captain America) and Chris Hemsworth (Thor), it is highly likely that some fan-favorites are going to die.

"It's disheartening. We've followed all of their stories throughout the years." Shim felt differently about the characters, thinking about the long term.

"For the progression of Marvel and their new characters to get introduced, I think I am okay with some of the current charac-



PHOTO COURTESY OF @MARVELSTUDIOS/TWITTER

ters to be killed off," he said.

## One last cameo

A main staple of Marvel movies have been the cameos of legendary creator of numerous Marvel characters, Stan Lee. Lee's passing last November shocked many, and fans were wondering when his last cameo would occur.

Joe Russo confirmed at a promotional event in India that *Endgame* would feature Lee's last cameo.

Winkle was sad to hear this. "He did so much and now with Stan Lee being gone, Marvel films will have one less thing to look forward to," he said.

Shim felt similarly, but also found a silver lining in the situation.

"The only underlying happy thought is that he has been reunited with his late wife," he said. It is almost fitting that Lee's last cameo would be in the final movie of the first era of Marvel movies. *Avengers: Endgame* releases worldwide in theaters April 26.

## Mon's Misadventures

In Capstone Part 2: I WANT TO GET OFF THE RIDE...





# The Oxford Column: Brexit backlash

By Raven Lirio

Copy Editor

Just last week British Prime Minister Theresa May met with the European Council in Brussels to ask for an extension on the Brexit deal, which is now set for Oct. 31, 2019. This extension is just another to an already rocky road on the United Kingdom's attempt to leave the European Union.

Dating back to Jun. 23, 2016, the United Kingdom voted with 51.9% to leave the EU after a referendum vote. The UK began the two year process to finalize the leave which was set to take place on March 29 this year.

However, there has been a divide between members of Parliament and no majority decision has been reached for withdrawal over the past few months. The withdrawal agreement, which proposed how the UK and the EU would deal with Brexit, was endorsed by the 27 EU Member states but rejected three times by the House of Commons.

The European Council allowed an extension until Oct. 31 in order for the UK to present an official plan.

There have been multiple calls from anti-Brexit supporters for a recount, particularly young people and students. Several students have voiced outrage about the vote, which many believe does not represent the demands of the younger generation.

"Personally, I think Brexit's ridiculous. People voted for something without even knowing exactly what they were voting for," said Emily Hanley, a student at Teeside University in Middlesbrough.

"The whole campaign was one lie after another to try and convince people that everything will be better. I think we should revote, after all, most of those who have voted have either changed their mind, or were the older generation. We didn't ask for this."

A red "Brexit Facts Bus" has been going around on a nationwide tour which states "Brexit

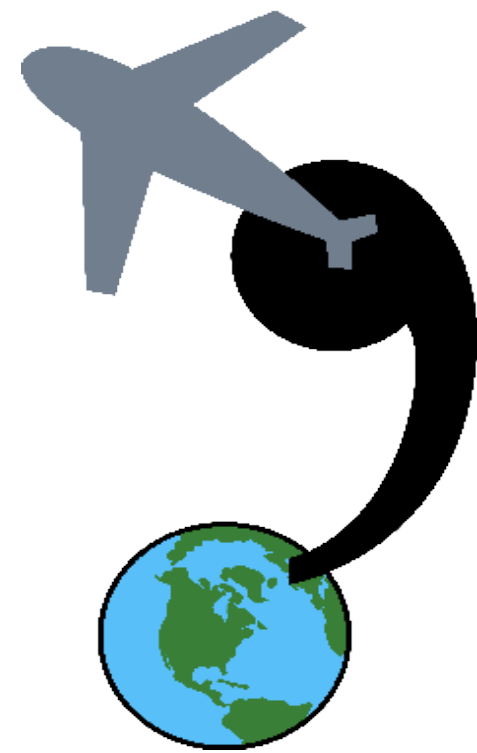
to cost £2,000" in huge letters on the side. The bus was organized by the "Is it worth it?" campaign in an attempt to ask Leavers to think about the costs of Brexit.

Protests from French Customs at the border delayed trains from all throughout Europe in response to Brexit votes in Parliament. Trains were cancelled for hours and various Eurostar trains had to delay their services to accommodate other late trains. The French Border declared that the protest was to demonstrate the chaos that would ensue at customs should Brexit continue.

Even Pacific Lutheran University students have faced issues in traveling in the wake of the Brexit votes.

"The French border control took hours longer to allow us to board the train, causing over a five hour delay to go back into the UK," said junior Bailey Chen, who is currently studying in Oxford.

With the delay to Oct. 31, things are still up in the air for



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN JANSEN

the future of the UK. While the final leave shouldn't be affecting students this spring any further, problems may arise for those studying away in the fall.

"Although I personally did not think I was going to be affected by Brexit, traveling out of France proved me wrong," said Chen.

## Reduce, reuse, recycle: Earth Day 101

By Hannah Montgomery

Online Editor

Spring is here, and Earth Day is arriving on April 22. There are many ways to help the planet. Here are some of the best ways to celebrate Earth Day this year.

### Attend events on campus

There are many events you can attend for PLU's Earth and Diversity Week, which runs from April 15 to 19. Check out the DJS Fair in the University Center or Sounds of Solidarity in the CAVE, which gives space to students who wish to share personal stories, speeches, or poems.

If crowds are not your thing, check out collage making or

yoga on Friday, April 19. There, you can find peace and quiet with a little art therapy.

### Make changes to your routine

Try to make your lifestyle more sustainable by becoming mindful about the resources you use, like water.

You can easily use less water by turning off the tap when washing your hair or brushing your teeth.

The average American uses 80 to 100 gallons of water a day according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Try to reduce this amount by consuming less animal products, like meat and dairy.



### Save electricity

Make sure to unplug your computer or phone charger when they reach 100 percent. This way, you are using less electricity and protecting your devices from becoming over charged.

Another way to save electricity is to remember to turn off the lights when leaving a room, even if it's for a short time.

### Take a walk and explore nature

You may feel like you know the layout of PLU's campus. However, try taking a walk when you have no destination. This way you are not in hurry to get to class or a meeting and you can enjoy the fresh

air and wildlife.

Try exploring an area or path you have never used before and take in the beauty of the evergreens and blooming rhododendrons. According to Harvard Medical School, doing so can improve your mental health.

### Use less single-use plastic

It may be enticing to grab a straw or plasticware from OMM if you're in a rush to class. But, to try to be mindful about how many of these items you pick up. Instead, bring your ice cream back to your dorm and use silverware or keep a reusable straw in your bag for your early morning iced coffee.



# Free speech: constitutional or debatable?

By Solen Aref

Reporter

On March 21, Donald Trump signed an executive order guaranteeing students the freedom of speech at federal public universities because he believed the voice of conservative students were being oppressed.

However, students' right to free speech is already protected at these universities by the First Amendment of the constitution, so Trump's executive order is a little pointless.

Although freedom of speech is protected at public universities, this Constitutional right does not extend to PLU because it is a private institution.

Similar to how a privately owned company like Facebook holds the right to take down posts they deem inappropriate or offensive, private universities reserve the control to censor speech.

However, at PLU, there is a provision in the Student Code of Conduct that states that "every student has the right to express a personal opinion as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others, disrupt community or university functions, or otherwise violate university policy, or local, state or federal laws."

This clause appears to give students the right to free speech under the conditions that their expression is not harmful to others.

Taking a glance at advertisements and posters for organizations around campus, it is apparent that students can freely assemble to celebrate their religion, sexuality, and political affiliation of choice.

"I don't think free speech is really limited. The campus is pretty liberal and most of that comes from speech students engage in or allow, said Summer Ash, a sophomore student at PLU.

"What I see most is speech that is trying to push boundaries and is very student dictated and student promoted. I think generally any speech that is deemed acceptable or unacceptable is on the part of the students," she said.

But is this freedom of expression truly equal?

Marnie Ritchie, a PLU communications professor that studies media law, stated "I think that any conversation about free speech on campus, whether public or private, should consider the wider structural constraints on what we call freedom and what we call speech."

"By that I mean not everyone can speak



PHOTO BY MCKENNA MORIN

The subject of free speech has been debated on many college campuses, including PLU.

and not everyone can be heard because of institutional racism, white supremacy, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of discrimination. These institutional biases still affect PLU," Ritchie said.

Even though PLU exists in a largely liberal bubble, cultural power dynamics continue to play a role in regulating the declared freedom of expression.

The provision states a student has a right to a personal opinion as long as it does not disrupt the community, but who has the power to make the decision of what is disruptive and what is not?

This returns to Trump's assertion that conservative voices are oppressed in university communities. In cases like the UC Berkeley protests against white nationalist speaker Milo Yiannopoulos (2017), it could be argued that the conservative students were robbed of their freedom to listen to Yiannopoulos' presentation.

Ritchie described this myth of political correctness, proposed by John K Wilson, that every person should be able to say and express anything, and if they cannot then they are the victim.

"This myth is used by white, cis, heterosexual conservative public figures to allow discrimination to encroach on university spaces," said Ritchie.

However, the ideologies expressed by Yiannopoulos are harmful and offensive, to say the least, and therefore should not be on a university campus. So what can be said to people who believe their white supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies should be protected by free speech at universities?

"The university is not a space of free enterprise because universities have policies and rules and guidelines that structure them that members of the community tacitly agree to," Ritchie said. "Freedom of speech isn't freedom from consequences, so universities should take seriously the performative effects of people's speech."

Ash echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the university's obligation to create a safe space for all students to pursue an education.

"The fundamental idea that when you use rhetoric that is hateful or exclusionary chills the other people's ability to engage in speech," Ash said. "Some people's ability to engage in speech is inherently excluding other people's ability to engage in speech, especially in colleges where it is so important to be able to have public discourse and activism."

PLU's code of conduct guaranteeing students the freedom of expression is only a small part of the factors influencing free speech on campus. Free speech itself is more complicated and nuanced than what can be contained in a provision or executive order.

Therefore, freedom of speech and expression must be an ongoing conversation within communities and universities. Ritchie summed up this conviction, stating:

"The concept of free speech should always be contextualized in systems of oppression because that raises the question of who is allowed to speak, and if they are allowed to speak, are they even heard?"



PHOTO BY COLTON WALTER

The team comes together after a match against Whitman College. The final match of the season for the team is at Whitworth University on April 19.

**By David Walter**  
Reporter

The Pacific Lutheran women's tennis team is in the middle of wrapping up their season and hope to gain some momentum before going into the NWC tournament on April 27 and 28.

"With our final match coming on April 19, I think our primary goals are to continue improving, competing, and having fun while doing it," sophomore Bayley Gochanour said.

"We only have a few practices left with our captain Kristi Floyd, who is graduating, and Rebekah Dumestre who is

going to Oregon State University next year to finish her 3-2 Engineering Program."

"Both of these players have been incredible role models and leaders on our team, and I think I can speak for my team when I say we want to enjoy our final opportunities to play PLU tennis with them."

Despite the adversity the tennis team is facing this year, Gochanour said they are improving and getting stronger everyday.

"As a team I think we recognize that we are in a 'rebuilding' stage with new coaches taking over the program this year. However, I can feel us improving in every single match we

## Women's tennis wraps up spring season

play. Our new coaches John and Cheri Campbell have been fantastic additions to the PLU tennis program and I truly can't say enough positive things about them," Gochanour said.

Junior Kylie Rademacher gives her insight on playing both tennis and basketball while living up to the expectations of being a student athlete at PLU.

"My time as a student athlete has been defined by the relationships I have formed," she said.

"Basketball and tennis have brought some pretty unbelievable people into my life, who pour their hearts into competition, with people who love and pursue Jesus endlessly with me, people who laugh with me and cry with me. We are so much more than teammates, we really are family," she said.

She said tennis provides different benefits than basketball.

"Tennis requires a lot of mental toughness and focus

while you're playing, but unlike basketball you don't scout your opponent or spend all week preparing game plans. You just take care of you and I think that is what I enjoy the most about tennis that is different from basketball, tennis is a complete stress relief in my life," she said.

"I love just being able to go hit and be with friends at practice after a long day."

Looking ahead to her final year at PLU next year, Rademacher said she's excited to do it all over again.

"Looking ahead to senior year I am so excited to continue to build relationships with my teammates and to push myself on both the tennis and basketball court," she said.

"I am planning to pour all that I can into this one last offseason, I cannot believe it is going to be my senior year already."

## DeMattos leaves tennis team with high hopes

**By David Walter**  
Reporter

The men's tennis team is nearing the end of their season and preparing for the NWC tournament on April 27 and 28.

Justin DeMattos, who is this year's lone senior on the team is hoping the team can continue to improve by playing within themselves.

"By the end of this season we hope to improve our games by playing within ourselves," he said.

"By that, I mean every guy on the team has

the talent to compete with the players that we are up against, but rather than focusing on competing against them, we want to focus on the way each one of us plays and what we can do vs. what we can't do."

He reflected back on these past four years as a Lute.

"The past four years of my life at PLU has really taught me a lot about myself and the world in general," DeMattos said.

"I have gained a better understanding of who I am and what I want to do with my life

and I have learned so much about all kinds of different subjects and academic fields," he added.

"The past four years have certainly been a learning experience and have certainly been some of the best times of my life for sure."

DeMattos was confident about the PLU tennis players and the program going into the future.

"Looking back on my four years I think that the team where it is right now would be able to beat any of the teams that we have had since



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK ALBANESE

Senior Justin DeMattos is optimistic for the future of the team. DeMattos is the only senior on the team, as well as the only upper classmen.

I have been here," he said.

"We have a lot of talent this year and nearly all of the roster is made up of underclass-

men who will continue to improve in the coming years. The future is definitely looking up."

# Rowing: a regatta in pictures



## By Isaiah Shim

Sports Editor

The women's rowing team was dominant at American Lake in their past regatta, the Meyer/Lambreth Cup.

Hosted by the University of Puget Sound, both of the school's men's and women's teams went head to head in a total of six races.

The women swept the Loggers, winning in all three of their races. The women's novice boat

of four people started the day off strong, beating the Loggers with a time of eight minutes and nine seconds. They finished the race a staggering 64 seconds before the Loggers crossed the finish line.

The Lute's 2nd varsity eight boat barely edged out the Loggers by about one second, finishing with a time of six minutes and 59 seconds.

The varsity eight boat finished out the day, completing the sweep with a time of six minutes

and 51 seconds.

The Lutes won the tie breaker because of their combined margin of victory taking home the Meyer/Lambreth Cup.

The Lutes have won the Meyer/Lambreth Cup in three of the last four years.

The team's next regatta will see them traveling to Vancouver Lake on Saturday, April 20.

## PHOTOS BY ISAIAH SHIM

Top left: A boat of 8 women huddle before their race.

Bottom left: A member of team rows against UPS in a race on American Lake

Top right: The Varsity 8 rows towards the finish line, passing the island on American Lake.

Middle right: The Varsity 8 warms up before their race against UPS

Bottom right: The second Varsity 8 boat pulls out of the dock, heading to the line up for the start of their race