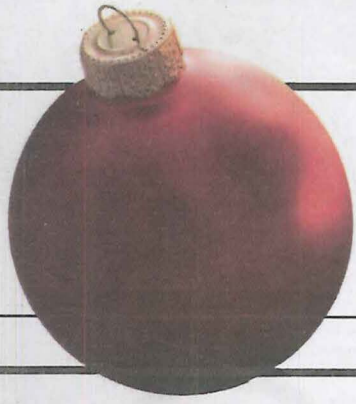




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**0 6 5** WINS

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Check in on our Drive to 125,  
with individual sport tally  
pg. 12



# THE MOORING MAST

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

DEC. 5, 2014

<http://mastmedia.plu.edu>

VOLUME 91 ISSUE 10



## The budget Krise-is

*President Krise explains budget situation*

**By ALLIE REYNOLDS**  
*General Manager of Mast TV*

Due to recent cutbacks in enrollment, changes will be happening campuswide during the next couple years.

The university is currently going through a 5 percent budget shortage from last year. President Thomas Krise believes the shortage has to do with popular state universities.

The University of Washington opened an extra 1,000 seats for their first-year class and Washington State University eliminated their essay requirement, making the enrollment process easier.

Small changes are happening here and there, while those are happening, Pacific Lutheran University is upping their enrollment division. The division is being combined with the academic division to connect the faculty and the academic side of PLU to the admission side for better cooperation between the two.

"Many students say that they came [to PLU] because of some contact they had from a faculty member, or a coach or from a staff member," Krise said. "So helping facilitate that and

making sure what people know what's going on back and forth is really important for successful recruitment."

Approximately 64 staff and faculty members around campus have been trained in a program called Six Sigma, which is a process efficiency system used by many corporations. Six Sigma trains staff and faculty to be more efficient and effective in their own work.

"We try to cut down on time people are spending doing things that might be automated so that we can then redeploy those people to do other things that can be done," Krise said.

Pacific Lutheran University community members are starting to notice a hit due to budget cuts. In response, a group of more than 100 individuals who manage budgets campuswide meet once a month with budget program leaders. The meetings include deans, department chairs, directors of programs and managers of units.

Teri Philips, the associate vice president of human resources, has been running a series of training sessions in order to educate staff members how to manage a budget in dire situations like the one PLU is currently going through.

Although PLU may be going through a budget adjustment period, nothing too significant has been put on the back burner because of the lack in enrollment this fall.

"We'd like to have a better way to welcome visiting students than just on the other side of Hauge [Administration Building]. We have some plans on where we might like to [build that]," Krise said. "But that's just kind of a nice to have thing, so we can wait on that until we can afford to do that."

PLU is trying to improve enrollment rates by offering new programs, such as the new minor in Genocide and Holocaust studies, and introducing the Master of Science in Marketing Research hosted by the School of Business. Along with new programs, President Krise mentioned the "My Language, My Choice" campaign, which advocates social justice to the South Puget Sound area and advertises PLU to the South Puget Sound community.

While President Krise admits budget cutbacks are never easy, "sometimes having to do hard work that's worthwhile is a pleasure."

## FROM FAILURE TO NEW FAVORITE?

*New restaurant tries to make 506 Garfield work*

**By SAMANTHA LUND**  
*News Editor*  
**STEVEN MCGRAIN**  
*Guest Writer*

Less than a block away on Garfield street, M&J's Spirits and Eatery is joining the Pacific Lutheran University community and hopes to be a campus favorite starting in 2015.

After four years, \$45,000 of debt and countless beers served to students, The Last Exit has shut down and made room for a new restaurant at 506 Garfield.

The owner of The Last Exit owed \$45,000 to the owner of the complex on Garfield Street. It is also widely known that the

owner served alcohol to minors and since then has been forced out of the complex. According to the new owner, the former Last Exit owner fled to Canada and will not be allowed to come back into the United States. The owner is trying to outrun the statute of limitations for his debt.

With The Last Exit owner fleeing the scene, Marco Hernandez opened a hookah lounge in its place. His intention was to mainly target PLU students, but the turnout was a completely different demographic that Hernandez was not proud of.

"I was blinded by the \$2,000 in revenue brought in on a Friday and Saturday night that I did not stop the issue, when it was

presented," Hernandez said.

Greg Premo, The Director of Campus Safety, told Hernandez there were issues regarding the kind of people the hookah lounge was attracting. Premo was concerned about students' safety on campus with the lounge so close.

After the meeting, Hernandez raised his price of entry from \$5 to \$17 but it didn't stop bad publicity campuswide. Hernandez chose to close his doors but retain the space with the hopes of starting something new.

With two small businesses failing in that location in the past

**CONTINUED ON  
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**BOTH ARTICLES  
HAVE VIDEO  
COMPONENTS ON**

**MAST  
TV**

<http://www.mastmedia.plu.edu>



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Campus Map Directory About PLU ePass

Search PLU

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY  
Inquiry. Service. Leadership. Core.

## PLU's website gets face lift

By **HALEIGH MISSILDINE**  
*Guest Writer*  
and **SAMANTHA LUND**  
*News Editor*

Pacific Lutheran University's website is the first thing most people see and it sets a tone for campus.

PLU's website has to stand up to thousands of other colleges and the poor thing was in need of a face-lift.

Hai Doan, Assistant Director for Social Media and Technology, said the website needed a more adaptive design. The popularity of smart phones forced PLU to build a more user friendly and phone compatible website.

The new website is more user-friendly but has many of the same elements of the old site.

The banner and menu at the top of the page has stayed, for example, but its

look is different.

Users looking at the website with a smartphone or tablet will see a nicer-looking page that fits to their screen.

For smartphone users, the change will make navigating through pages easy.

The biggest change the website went through is something most students and viewers will not notice. The site was changed from Cascade to WordPress. Cascade works well for people who are skilled in web design but WordPress is much easier to master and most people can use it without much effort.

"WordPress is a lot more user-friendly," Doan said. "You can interact with the elements."

With the old interface, Cascade, it was a lot harder to find which element, or part of the website, you wanted to change. The old website required more technical knowledge.

Cascade makes it easier for inexperienced users to make small mistakes that could cause big consequences. For example, accidentally deleting one line while editing could mess up an entire part of the website.

However, when working in WordPress, the elements are a lot easier to see visually and giving people access to edit certain parts of the website is simpler.

Doan teaches students and faculty from each department who need to update their pages how to use the new design, and they have learned quickly.

Many people are already somewhat familiar with WordPress, but even those who aren't can easily figure it out.

"It's easier for people who don't know much about technology to update the website," Doan said.



VIDEO  
COMPONENT  
ONLINE

## STUDENTS RESPOND TO FERGUSON

By **SAMANTHA LUND**  
*News Editor*

Peaceful and violent protests nationwide plagued the streets nationwide when Darren Wilson walked away from the Michael Brown shooting without being charged with any crime.

Wilson, a former police officer, was accused of murdering unarmed Brown. The grand jury's decision led to riots, the worst in Ferguson where stores were looted, set on fire and people were badly hurt.

The morning after, Pacific Lutheran University students stood in the rain to hold a silent protest.

Through social media and student determination, students came together in honor of victims of racialized violence.

Students and staff gathered together at the Karen Hillie Phillips Center. Beginning at 8 a.m. they stood for an hour, holding hands.

The protest was put together by senior Ashley Hill, a member of the Black Student Union.

Hill said she wanted to voice her opinion and decided to do it in a constructive way. That night, she organized a student-led protest for the next morning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FROSCHAUER

## Yglesias brings new energy to Women's Center

By **BROOKE WOLFE**  
*Staff Writer*

Jonathan Yglesias joined the Pacific Lutheran University community this year as the men's coordinator in the Women's Center.

The men's coordinator position was created in 2005 under a Department of Justice grant given to PLU. From that grant, the Men Against Violence group and the Men's Project also took off.

Yglesias said his focus is supporting students who are also interested in social justice.

Jonathan graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a master's degree in Sociology after earning a bachelor's degree in Biology and Women's and Gender studies.

"I accidentally took a women's studies course," Yglesias said, "and [in that course] they laid out a lot of language and concepts that I didn't know I was already familiar with but that I just didn't have names for."

After that class, Yglesias added Women's and Gender Studies to his Biology degree before starting the gender violence intervention post-baccalaureate

degree that was a part of his master's.

Yglesias has been at PLU for six weeks and organizes the Men's Project and the group Men Against Violence. The group's purpose is to end sexual and physical abuse against women.

Along with discussing aspects of abuse, the group also gives men the opportunity to talk openly about growing up as a male in this society, expectations and masculinity.

The Men Against Violence group is primarily for men, as the name suggests, but like the Women's Center, it continues to be gender inclusive.

Women are welcome to join the conversations brought to the group, Yglesias said, because other opinions and view points are appreciated in expanding the conversation.

Leading those changes is the possibility of renaming the Women's Center to show more gender inclusivity.

The Women's Center heads events like Take Back the Night and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is coming up this spring. The Men's Project also holds a Mother's Day brunch and is planning to continue the Men's Health Awareness campaigns on campus.

"I think there are good collaborations

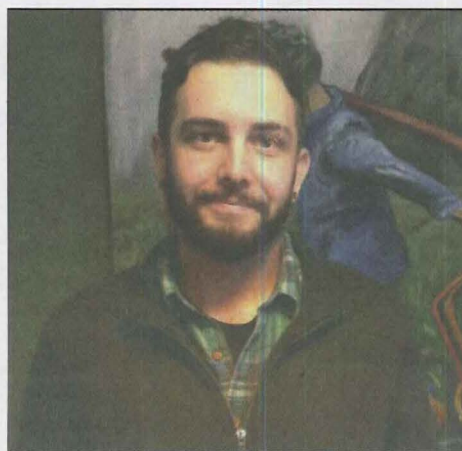


PHOTO BY BROOKE WOLFE

Johnathan Yglesias, men's coordinator for the Pacific Lutheran University Women's Center.

not just among offices, but of different student groups [at PLU] that I haven't seen on other campuses," Yglesias said. "Partnerships with the Diversity Center, Residential Life, and Student Athletics are all possibilities moving forward."

The Men's Project and the Women's Center are determined to continue outreach from their office, and keep reaching students who are not already involved.

"I am very grateful to be here," Yglesias said.

### RESTAURANT FROM PAGE 1

three years, Hernandez has set his sights on bringing a fresh new look to the space on Garfield Street.

Hernandez said his intentions are to have involvement with PLU students because the revenue that could come from students would be monetarily significant.

This time, his attempt is M&J Spirits and Eatery, a restaurant and bar with a "family feel." Hernandez hopes the restaurant will thrive in the location.

"I want it to be able to be a place that Lutes want to go to," Hernandez said. "Since I am close to campus, it will be safe for them to get home. I am hopefully here to stay."

The restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner and the bar will open at night. Hernandez is also installing a mechanical bull that he thinks will bring in many students.

Construction is still underway. Hernandez is still installing outlets and trying to install a working Xbox for customers to enjoy.

If all goes as planned, M&J's should be open by January, just in time for students to get back from winter break.

# HOW TO SOUND SMART

## When talking about Ferguson

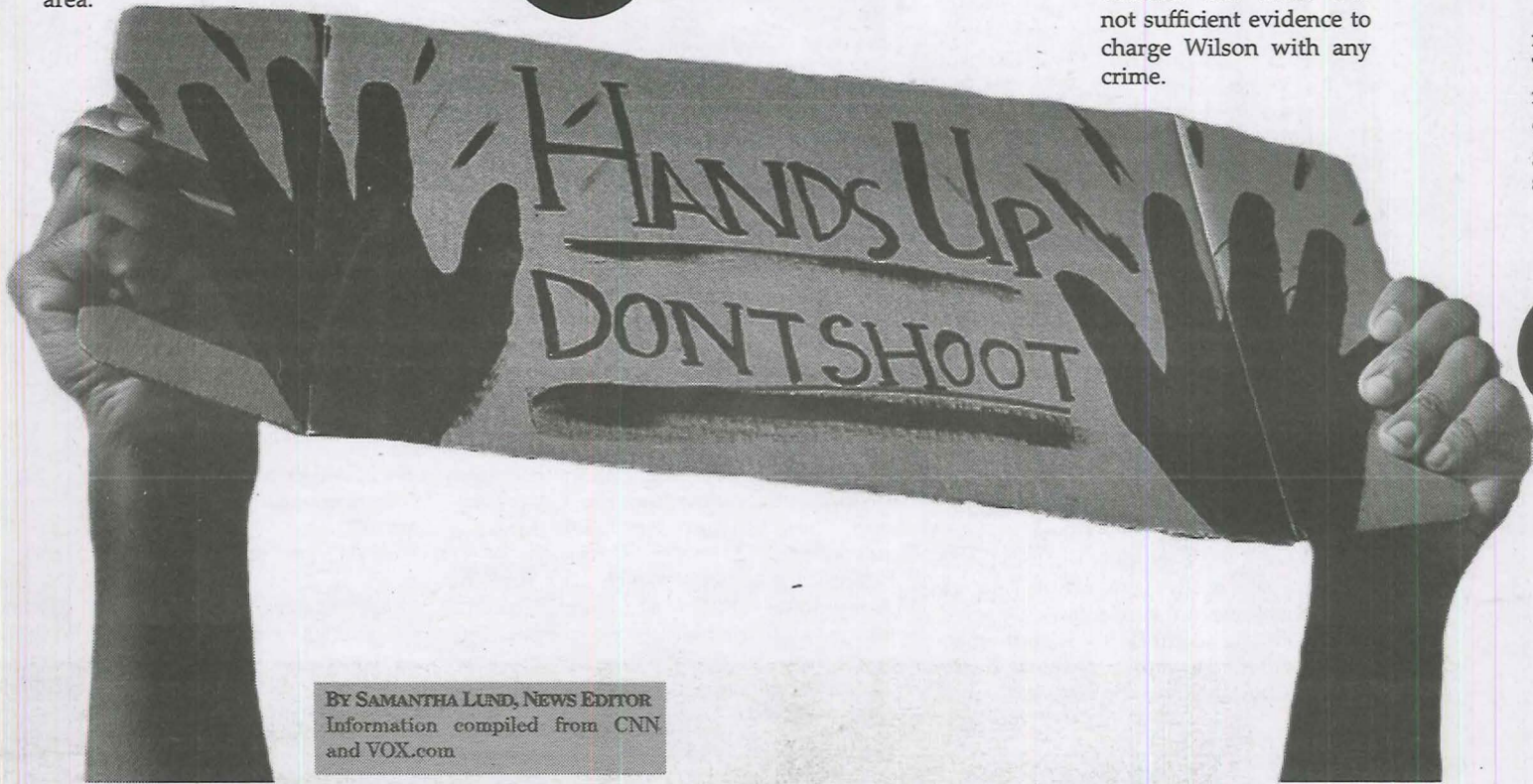
**1** Ferguson is a city in Missouri near to St. Louis where the demographic is 29 percent caucasian and 67 percent black. When compared to other towns in the area, Ferguson is not statistically as a violent area.

**2** Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, was shot and killed on Aug. 9 by Darren Wilson, a white police officer.

**3** A grand jury hearing was held to decide if Wilson should be indicted and taken to a criminal trial. The grand jury decided that there was not sufficient evidence to charge Wilson with any crime.

**4** Some witnesses said Brown never moved toward Wilson before he was shot. Other witnesses said the opposite, that he was moving toward the officer. The most credible witnesses reported that Brown charged Wilson making "a grunting, like aggravated sound."

**5** After the decision, a wave of anger swept nationwide and those who gathered outside the Ferguson Police Department began to riot. During the protests, buildings were set on fire, looted and cars were turned over. Police officers used tear gas in response to the riots.



By SAMANTHA LUND, NEWS EDITOR  
Information compiled from CNN and VOX.com

# LUTES LIGHT UP RED SQUARE



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LUND

By GENNY BOOTS  
News Writer

Lutes donned fuzzy hats, cozy mittens and warm drinks in Red Square to watch the 15th annual Christmas tree lighting.

Students sang carols and watched Red Square light up Dec. 3. President Krise ceremoniously flipped the switch, lighting up

the square.

The event is always the Wednesday before Christmas concerts start on campus, allowing everyone to get into the holiday spirit.

Campus Ministry started the event as a way to fundraise money to decorate campus. Eventually, Pacific Lutheran University had enough lights and the event has shifted into a fundraiser for families

in need. Now, students or community members can donate money and in return, get to put the name of a loved one on a that will hang on the tree as a decoration. All of the proceeds from the fundraiser go to giving families in need presents and other necessities to give them a Christmas they would not be able to celebrate otherwise.

Reverends Nancy Connor and Dennis Sepper led

the crowd in prayers and carols to welcome the Christmas season.

"It's tree o'clock!" students yelled waiting for the tree to be lit.

The fir tree was donated by Linda and Dave Pyle (alums '01, '98) from the Windy Hills Farm in Olympia.

The tree is accompanied by a star on the top of Harstad Hall, as well as a lit cross on the other side of Red Square. The

rose window on top of the Karren Hillie Phillips Center is also lit up for the holidays.

The tree will shine throughout the holiday season and students will be able to donate, decorate and see the lights until the end of the semester.

More Christmas events can be found on Campus Ministry's site as well as on PLU's calendar.

This Week:

A&amp;E

ONLINE

TERRAN'S  
take

GET THE SCOOP!

## Weekly Gossip with Terran

Go online and get the scoop on celebrity gossip with our in-house pop culture expert, Terran Warden!

This Week:

Shia LaBeouf's alleged rape during his performance art exhibition.

Stay Tuned:

Terran's Take will be updated weekly online throughout January.

The Mooring Mast and Mast TV will return in February.

On the  
aGENdaNEWS  
@NINE  
MAST TV

Genny Boots and Michael Diambri cover this year's best everything, and Terran Warden premieres Terran's Take!

Watch it later online at  
<http://mastmedia.plu.edu>  
or tune in at 9 p.m.  
every Thursday to News  
@ Nine on Mast TV!

## LuteLooks gets new look

By MATTHEW SALZANO  
A&E Editor

She sees you when you're walking around campus, she knows when you're checking her blog and she's been listening to your comments — much like Santa Claus, junior LuteLooks editor Grace Takehara is delivering gifts this winter.

With a new website, new contributors and new content, Takehara is taking steps to make sure the blog she started in 2013 doesn't become "stagnant."

To begin grand changes to LuteLooks, Takehara has been working on transitioning from Tumblr, a blogging site which functions almost like a social network, to Squarespace, a more traditional website hosting service.

Takehara held two focus groups to find out where students turned for content when they woke up in the morning. She determined that the goal was a visual, up-to-date and easy-to-use website.

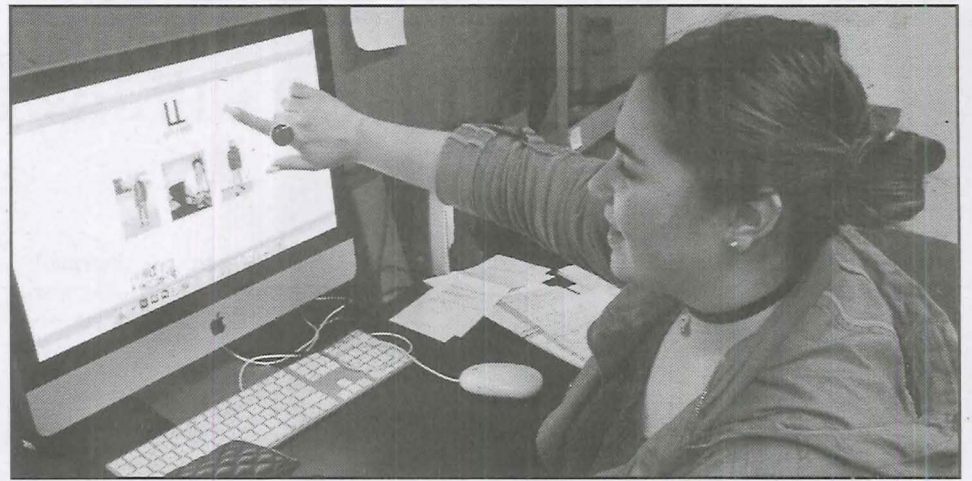
With that in mind, the new website — of which *The Mast* has been given a small preview — focuses on large images, easy-to-read text and minimalistic design.

After four months of research and design, the new website will unveil Jan. 15.

In addition to a new online space for LuteLooks, there are new voices.

"I really want [LuteLooks] to be innovative, and keep pushing forward and expanding," Takehara said. "By adding contributors, they get to do things that add to LuteLooks and keep pushing it forward. I think that's really valuable in keeping [LuteLooks] relevant to students."

Two music contributors, sophomore Austin Miller and junior Zachary Kuntz, as well as two lifestyle contributors, senior

PHOTO BY MATTHEW SALZANO  
LuteLooks editor junior Grace Takehara points out changes to her blog.

Dania Tolentino and first-year Rizelle Rosales are being added.

Takehara doesn't want to take away from the original goal of LuteLooks — focusing on the best on-campus fashion — but feels that music is simply a "natural addition" to accompany fashion on her blog.

She thinks the new Lute contributors will find music, fashion and culture content to inspire readers.

Students well-acquainted with culture at PLU may be aware of the newest form of celebrating Lute fashion, an Instagram account titled "Pfly Looking University" with the username Pfly\_looking\_university.

The Instagram, which is run by anonymous PLU students, collects submissions primarily via email and posts these pictures with conversational captions, such as "what quality do you like about yourself?"

They also allude to a future tumblr blog.

With LuteLooks being an on-campus fashion blog, one could argue there is no need for another. In one comment, the user claims they are a better representative of PLU's community.

"Instead of focusing on one fashion style or trend we want to showcase the university as a whole," the Pfly Looking University administrator wrote on the first Instagram post. "We want to show off the colorful, quirky and realness of our campus... As a team with varying fashion taste, and personalities in general, we [are] able to create a more diverse [and] inclusive page."

Takehara understands this could be seen as a threat to her blog — before these changes, she was the one voice of LuteLooks representing one point of view. However, she's okay with this allegation.

"LuteLooks is striving for excellence," Takehara said, "not the everyday."

## Q&amp;A: Alumna Author Marissa Meyer

By KAITLYN HALL  
Copy Editor

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?

Author Marissa Meyer, a Pacific Lutheran University alumna, seeks to answer this age-old question with the release of her 272-page novella, "Fairest," Jan. 27, 2015, as part of *The Lunar Chronicles* series.

"Fairest," detailing the backstory of maleficent Lunar Queen Levana, departs from the timeline of *Lunar Chronicles* novels "Cinder," "Scarlet" and "Cress," which follow the titular characters as they plot to overthrow and try to escape Levana.

Though she's now an internationally-read author, Meyer overcomes similar challenges and celebrates similar victories as those of PLU students and community members.

Fans of Meyer's *The Lunar Chronicles* will have two novels to look forward to in 2015: "Fairest" and "Winter," the *Lunar Chronicles* conclusion based on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

Meyer's "Heartless," a prequel to "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" that explores the backstory of the Queen of Hearts, will be published in early 2016.

**How have you coped with rejection you've faced as a student or an author?**

I think it's so important to maintain perspective when you're working in any sort of creative field. It's all subjective!

I had a fairly fast road to publication, ignoring the 15 years in which I was learning the craft of writing. Once I finally decided to send my work to agents and publishers, it took less than three months to receive a book deal. So I didn't

go through the period of painful rejections that a lot of authors experience.

However, now that the books are out in the world, not every review is glowing and not every reader is a fan. But that's okay—you have to hope that your book finds the readers it was meant for, and understand that it wasn't written to please everyone.

Some books that I love passionately have one-star reviews on GoodReads; other books that I hated just as passionately have humongous, enthusiastic fanbases.

Write the books you love and hope that they will find their readership. That's the best we can do.

**Why did you choose to tell Levana's story in "Fairest"?**

I was trying to write "Winter," the final book of *The Lunar Chronicles*, but I kept hitting a wall with it. It eventually occurred to me that I was getting stuck because I didn't yet have a good enough grasp on the villain, Queen Levana, and her motivations, as well as the relationship she has with Princess Winter, her stepdaughter.

I realized that to finish "Winter" and write the series conclusion authentically, I needed to explore Levana's history more.

I'd known for a couple of years that I wanted to write her story at some point, so I decided to take a break from "Winter" to write it.

I wrote it in only a week—it was the fastest thing I've ever written and required surprisingly little revisions, which has not been the case for my other novels, so I think it was the right time. And after that, I was able to go back to "Winter"

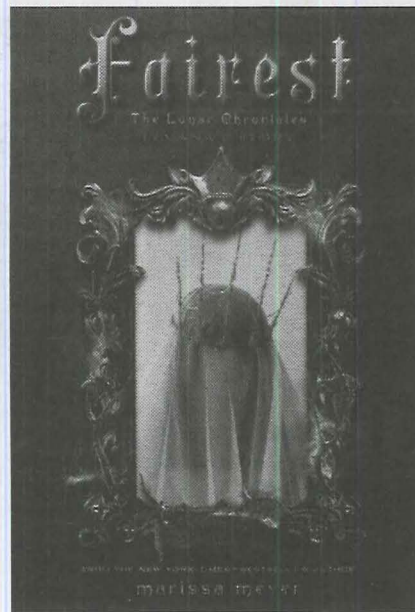


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARISSA MEYER

**"Fairest" launch party**  
6 p.m. Jan. 27  
Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.  
Tacoma, Wash.

and things started coming together a lot more easily.

**What do you draw inspiration from?**

Inspiration can come from anywhere: a great book, or sometimes even a bad one, a movie, some poignant song lyrics, a dream, a conversation, or a magazine article—you just never know.

I think it's important as writers to get out in the world and explore. I love taking classes or trying new things, like going on a hot air balloon ride or taking a trapeze-flying class. It might not make it into a book someday, but, then, it just might.

**Do you have a best piece of advice for writers?**

There are a lot of variations

on this advice said by many brilliant writers: Give yourself permission to write something terrible.

Don't stress yourself out over whether it's "good" or "great" or "perfect" — that's an easy way to never get anything written at all. Just write.

Write your purple prose full of exclamation points and adverbs and all the things they tell us not to write.

Write cardboard character. Write clichés and predictable plots. Because you can always go back and rewrite and revise and edit and fix.

You can always make it better. But, first, you have to write it.

**How has *The Lunar Chronicles* changed your life?**

There are a lot of obvious changes—I'm a full-time writer now, whereas I was working as a freelance proofreader when the series sold.

I get to travel and meet readers a lot. I receive fan mail. I got to pay off my student loans, which was a cause for celebration.

But on a more internal, creative level, seeing these books brought to life has given me so much confidence as a writer.

Not that I think everything I write is brilliant or everything I write is going to be a winner—far from it—but at least now when I'm looking at a blank page getting ready to embark on a new story idea, I know that I'm capable of finishing it.

I know it'll be tough and every book will be its own journey, but I can look back and say: See, Marissa, you've been here before. You've done this. You know you can do it again.



# The Mast's BEST OF 2014

A NOTE FROM A&E EDITOR, MATTHEW SALZANO

To wrap up the last issue of *The Mast* for 2014 A&E writers Michael Diambri, Brooke Thames and I decided to share our favorite pieces of entertainment media throughout this past year — giving you a month to catch up before 2015 starts.

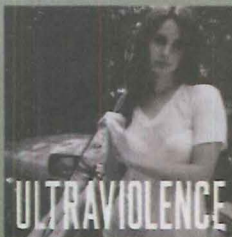
## ALBUM



**"Pop Psychology" by Neon Trees**  
Neon Trees introduced their new album with their hit single "Sleeping With A Friend," but this track is just one of the many fun anthems that fill the 10 slots on the album. Quirky-cool lyrics mixed with punchy beats and lively rhythms makes this a pop-lover's dream — and my personal dance album of 2014. — B.T.



**"Girl" by Pharrell Williams**  
When I first heard "Marilyn Monroe," the first track of "Girl," I hated it. I thought it sounded off pitch, or something. But I couldn't get it out of my head. Before long, I had the album stuck on repeat. Williams' talent for creating infectious tunes is why this is my album of the year — it is pop gold. — M.S.



**"Ultraviolence" by Lana Del Rey**  
This is Del Rey's darkest, sexiest album to date. Although radio stations won't play her music because "it's too sad and slow," Del Rey is really becoming a force to be reckoned with in the music industry. Del Rey truly is "blessed with beauty and rage." — M.D.

## MOVIE



**"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1"**  
Freshly released to fanatics in theaters nationwide, "Mockingjay Part 1" reigns supreme for films that made their debuts in 2014. While this latest installment lacks the fast-paced action of its predecessors, the film is jam-packed with intricate plot, dramatic character evolution and political intensity that keeps the audience captivated for the entire two hours of the motion picture. — B.T.



**"Boyhood"**  
"Boyhood" is a masterful piece of cinema. Filmed over 12 years with the same actors, the movie documents the life of a fictional family in real-time. It is a coming-of-age story about the struggles and joys of life. The movie is long, subtle and so impactful. Months after seeing "Boyhood," I was still thinking about it and having my heartstrings tugged by it. I have never experienced a movie like this. — M.S.



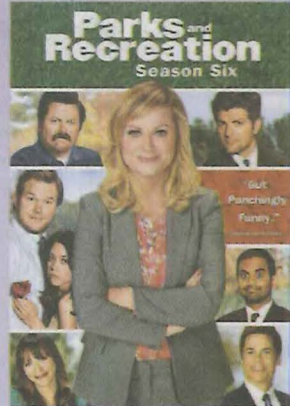
**"Gone Girl"**  
You are the wrong girl if you don't like "Gone Girl." Read my entire review from the Oct. 24 issue of *The Mast* online at <http://mastmedia.plu.edu/> — M.D.

## TV SHOW

**"House of Cards"**  
Season two of "House of Cards" rocked my world. Kevin Spacey continued to amaze viewers with his excellent performance as Francis Underwood. The political drama got even more intense, and the show proceeds to amaze me with its technical excellence. If I remember any show from 2014, it'll be this one. — M.S.



**"Big Brother 16"**  
Not only was the cast of "Big Brother 16" fantastic — mastermind Derek, good-hearted Donnie, and lying, cheating, backstabbing Frankie — but the twists and turns of this season made the competition a must-watch for all BB fanatics. The many surprises, which shocked and excited viewers along with explosive drama, made this season of "Big Brother" the greatest that I have ever enjoyed. — B.T.

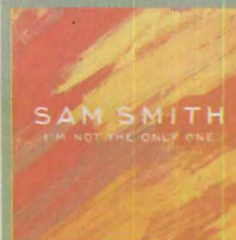


**"Parks and Recreation"**  
Leslie Knope is my hero and my muse. "Parks and Recreation" is the quirkiest, most lovable show on television and I can't wait for it to return in January 2015 for its final season. — M.D.

## SONG



**"Chandelier" by Sia**  
Not only does "Chandelier" provide a great amount of lyrical and emotional depth, but also vocals that blow me away every time I hit the repeat button. Sia truly sings "like tomorrow doesn't exist," and the passion in her voice is what makes this track exciting to listen to again and again. — B.T.



**"I'm Not The Only One" by Sam Smith**  
Smith sings like an angel and makes you cry like a baby. The song simply draws you in — it is an outstanding achievement in pop ballads. — M.S.



**"Take Me to Church" by Hozier**  
If Hozier preached at my church, I would be in the front row every Sunday. Alternative music fans have been entranced by this song since the day it was released. Now even the mainstream kids are starting to love it. This song is going to be a hit for a long time. — M.D.

Tell us your best of 2014 — tweet @PLUMast

## Scandinavian Sale

By BROOKE THAMES  
A&E Writer

A lot more than sweaters were exchanged at the Danish Bazaar and Nordic Exchange hosted by Pacific Lutheran University's Scandinavian Cultural Center on Nov. 22.

The weekend marked the fifth year that the Scandinavian Cultural Center has held this Christmas-themed sale in collaboration with The Danish Sisterhood, a group of 30 women that meets monthly in the center located in the lower level of the Anderson University Center.

Every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, The Danish Sisterhood organizes and executes a large and

extravagant shopping experience featuring homemade items of Scandinavian culture.

Handmade goods such as cookies, dishes and clothing were displayed on tables that fill both the lower UC and the Scandinavian Cultural Center.

PLU students, faculty and other citizens of the Parkland/Tacoma area are invited each year to experience the rich culture of Nordic tradition and take a little piece of it home to enjoy.

While this year's event was only the fifth that The Danish Sisterhood and PLU's Scandinavian Cultural Center have presented the Danish Bazaar and Nordic Exchange, the tradition is far from new.

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

CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO

## Review: "Broke Boy Syndrome" by Tope

By DAVID MAIR  
Staff Writer

Tope's newest album "Broke Boy Syndrome" will be released Dec. 15. The Portland native rapper continues to grow as an artist with his latest album.

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

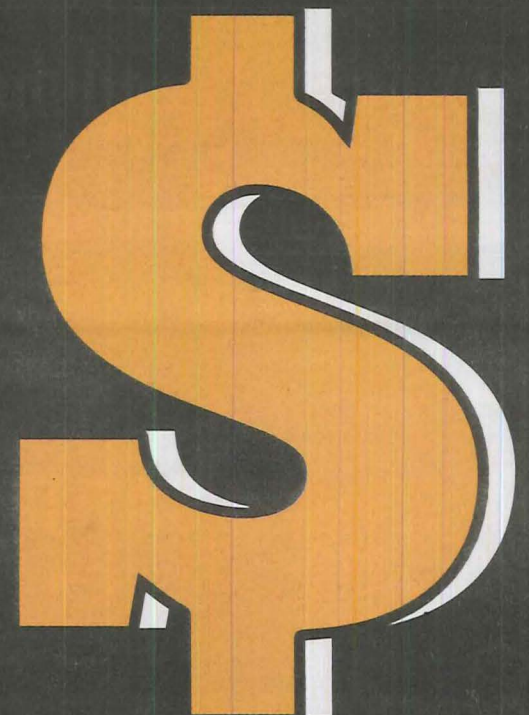
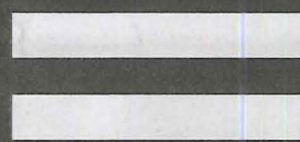
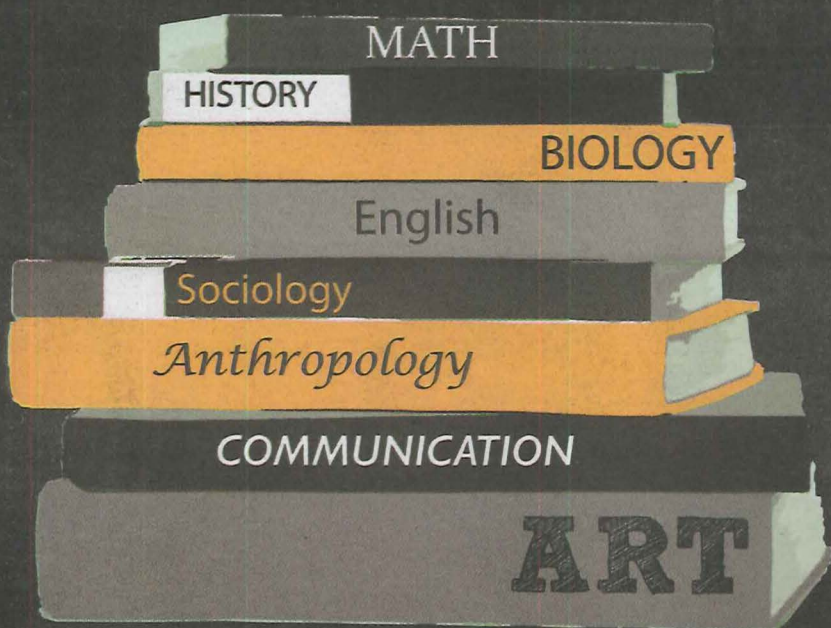
PHOTO COURTESY OF TOPE



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# Lutes join Tacoma Ferguson protest

By **ANGIE TINKER**  
Matrix Co-Editor

Local public officials and advocates joined with citizens on Monday to show solidarity with protesters in Ferguson, Mo.

On Aug. 9, Michael Brown, a black teenager, was shot by Officer Darren Wilson. Though disputed by claims that Wilson was attacked by Brown, protesters argue Brown was holding his hands up peacefully.

On Nov. 24, a Missouri grand jury decided there was not enough evidence to hold a trial against Wilson.

Both events have sparked protests about race and police brutality in Ferguson and nationwide.

In Tacoma, a diverse crowd of about 100 assembled at the County-City building.

The protesters peacefully marched to Shiloh Baptist Church, escorted by police officers on bike. Protestors chanted the rally slogan, "No Justice No Peace," and held signs memorializing Brown.

A group of Pacific Lutheran University students joined in the discussion.

At the church, a series of speakers discussed the importance of responding and acting proactively. Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Chief of Police Donald Ramsdell and Patricia Talton, president of the Northwest Leadership Foundation all spoke.

Strickland called for meaningful discussion, saying, "Take the time, be

patient, and reach out to those from different perspectives. And if they disagree with you, ask them one simple question: Why do you believe that?"

Ramsdell signaled police willingness to help, saying, "We are here to listen, we are here to support."

Talton encouraged citizens to remain active, saying "We are here to generate and use power. We all have it right where we are. Don't think it's just the mayor, just the chief of police."

After the speeches, citizens were split into groups to help answer the question, "What now?"

PLU students helped brainstorm. Senior Dan Stell, Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University Vice President, championed the view that people should stay in the moment and understand their emotional responses.

Stell reflected on the process of group discussion.

"It made it more real to be a participant rather than talking about it like we do at school," Stell said. "[It made me feel] congruent with my thoughts and actions." Proposed reforms included commonly heard cries to have police officers wear body cameras.

There were more original ideas, however, such as forming a citizen advisory committee, mandating periodic cultural sensitivity training for police and having an independent prosecutor for cases involving police abuse of powers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE TINKER

PLU students who attended the protest (left to right): Angela Tinker (junior), Dan Stell (senior), and first-years Quenessa Long, Tono Sablan and Ray Taula. Two students from Stadium High School joined the photo as well.

mile?" Johnson said.

This was just a beginning in the process of understanding for both Tacoma and PLU.

The Rev. Eric Johnson urged people to keep agitating for change.

"Now that we have gathered and walked a mile, now what? Will we take the next step, be the voices and go the next

At PLU, the Diversity Center, Women's Center and Center for Community Engagement & Service hosted another forum in the Scandinavian Center yesterday, Dec. 6.

## Open mic night from student media



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAXIFRAGE

The Open Mic Concert, hosted by ASPLU, *The Matrix* and *Saxifrage*, will take place tonight. If you would like to perform, email [lasrgm@plu.edu](mailto:lasrgm@plu.edu).

By **MEG DOLDE**  
*Saxifrage* Co-Editor

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. in The Cave, Lute Air Student Radio, *Saxifrage*, *The Matrix* and Associated Students of Pacific Lutheran University are hosting two events you don't want to miss: the final Open Mic of the semester followed by a concert featuring the band Ings.

Originally from Springfield, Mo., Ings is a lullaby rock outfit now based in Seattle. Their first EP, *Dog Physics*, debuted in 2013, a five track record with titles such as "SoND" and "Sleepy Blinking."

Inge Chiles is the founder and singer of the band. I first met Chiles last spring when her group played a show at Northern Pacific Coffee Company (NPCC). She's incredibly down-to-earth and clever, as evidenced by the lyrics she writes.

In the title track, Chiles sings, "I will speak your language. I will teach your dog physics."

This line, among many others, highlights the whimsy and sincerity that is characteristic of Chiles' songs. Chiles wrote all of the songs in her bedroom, and in her EP she invites us into a world where dogs are friendly aliens and secrets are kept safe.

The Open Mic, which will take place before the Ings concert, is a continuation of Student Media's effort to provide PLU students with

opportunities to showcase their creative talents.

Earlier in the semester, student media hosted an Open Mic that was attended by musicians, poets and beat boxers alike.

"Open Mic is a great way for students to share their creativity with their peers in a relaxed setting. It really is a lot of fun," senior Olivia Ash, director of LASR, said.

Though finals are fast approaching, tonight's offerings promise to provide an equally relaxed atmosphere. Anyone interested in performing or reading is encouraged to participate, or listen to other students and the wonderful Ings.



## The return of student media

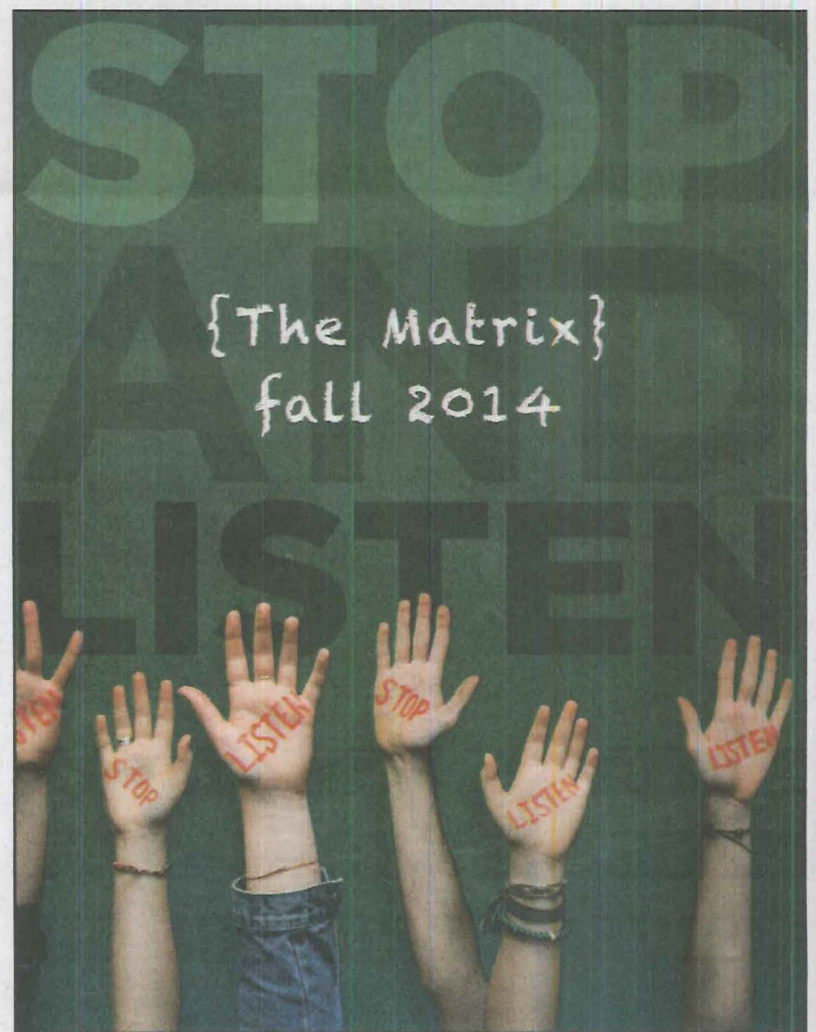


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MATRIX

The fall 2014 *Matrix* is here! Look for it around campus, or pick up a copy in the lower AUC by room 144. Learn about various social justice issues PLU students are passionate about and be inspired to write for *The Matrix* for the Spring 2015 issue!



PHOTO COURTESY OF LASR

Lute Air Student Radio is back on air! After some hiccups with the technology, LASR is back on and blasting the good tunes it's known for. Listen at <http://www.plu.edu/studentmedia/lasr/>

# Support diversity in politics

By **TAHLIA TERHUNE**  
Guest Writer

We are still making history in the U.S. today. The latest election, both nationally and locally, provided diversity for U.S. government and marks a triumphant step for diversity in politics.

We need diversity in politics. The U.S. is a democratic government, meaning we elect representatives to voice our opinions in the House, Senate and local government. To fully represent the people, you need a proper representation of the American public.

This goes to say that a typical mid-forties, white, male politician should no longer be the only representative.

We need diversity to reflect the true American public. We need older and wise, younger and creative, male and female, multiple ethnicities and differing religions.

This blend of who we are as a country must be reflected in our political leaders to offer new approaches, ideas and solutions.

This election, year we moved one step closer to becoming a more diverse government. From Utah, Mia Love

became the first black Republican woman to be elected to Congress, according to the Washington Post.

It's 2014 and we are still making history.

There were nine major firsts in the 2014 midterm elections according to *NY Daily News*.

Each of the firsts in the breakout box represents an opportunity for new voices to be heard in politics. Each individual elected, while still maintaining to represent the public as a whole, brings a unique approach to government.

"It's important in order for all ethnicities and backgrounds to be

represented," junior Cory Nelson said.

If we tend to keep a like group of people in government, we miss opportunities to represent the entire public properly.

If our perspectives shape reality, we need multiple perspectives to view legislature, initiatives and more from multiple standpoints.

We have the opportunity as a young generation to voice our opinions. Voting is our primary way to make sure we feel well represented. Next time elections come around, remember you have the opportunity to make history.

## First...

- Black senator elected by popular vote in the South: Tim Scott, R-S.C.
- Black Republican woman elected to the House: Mia Love, R-Utah
- Iraq War combat veteran elected to the Senate: Tom Cotton, R-Ark.
- Female veteran elected to the Senate: Joni Ernst, R-Iowa
- Female senators for Iowa and West Virginia. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa and Shelley Moore Capito, R-W. VA.
- U.S. governor in a wheelchair in the 21st century: Greg Abbott, R-Texas.
- Openly gay state attorney general: Maura Healey, D-Mass.
- Youngest woman elected to Congress: Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.

## UnPLUG research now complete: Expect results soon

By **ASHLEY CONNORS**  
PLU Sustainability

During October, Neil Wagner, Aiko Nakagawa, and I conducted a study on energy consumption through the annual program UnPLUG. The data collection phase of our research is now complete.

Depending on the residence hall in which you live and where you usually spend your time on campus, you could have seen one of our advertisements.

The advertisements came in the forms of flyers, pledges, colored tape by door handles and light switches,

surveys and the Sweater Swap hosted by Resident Hall Association and the Sustainability Office in October.

You may also have participated in one of these if Neil, Ashley or I directly asked you to participate. We hoped the ads would help reduce energy use in the residence halls, and we wanted to see the effect of different types of reminders on energy usage.

A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers and to the grant from Independent Colleges of Washington, funded by Puget Sound Energy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email our lead researcher, Aiko Nakagawa,

at nakagata@plu.edu, her adviser Dr. Chris Hansvick at hansvick@plu.edu, or the Human Participant Review Board at hprb@plu.edu. You are also invited to PLU's Psychology Conference Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. where Aiko Nakagawa will present the results of this study.

In addition, be on the look out for a follow up to this article, which will highlight the primary findings of our research.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: WORDS DON'T HURT

By **WILL FALLEN**  
Parkland community member

*Editor's Note: Will Fallen is a member of the Parkland community. His school's prom and graduation took place on the PLU campus, as did several sporting events, including swimming and basketball. He works at the Coca-Cola plant on 116th St. S.*

No matter what the word, they are merely words and no amount of infliction or ill intent can change that.

The context in which a word is used does far more to define the user than the word. Falsely yelling "Fire" in a crowded theater is a malicious act, but the word itself is not a "bad word" at all.

In an effort to drive out the political incorrectness of racism, sexism, bigotry and bullying, we have entered an era where the idea "words can hurt" has become an acceptable opinion, rather

than accepting the fact that some people are just jerks, and their behavior should be the focus of scrutiny.

We can't be willing to control the words around us simply because we can't control our feelings about them.

**"We can't be willing to control the words around us simply because we can't control our feelings about them."**

Now we have the very institutions that teach us these words, telling us to forget about them.

Why did we all spend the first years of our lives learning them then? Even if their meaning has changed over the years, our right to use them has not.

Maybe it's because of the plague of school violence that has found its way into the system, pushing the pendulum so far away from

us that this is the only way we know how to get it back.

A college in North Carolina has banned the term "freshman" and replaced it with "first-year."

While I don't mind that act in itself - I've never been fond of the term anyway - at no

time have I ever considered "freshman" to be favoring or promoting raping women. Nor do I think that "first-year" celebrates diversity.

It is as generic of a phrase that they could come up with to insure no offense could be taken by anyone. Why should we all live in fear of saying the wrong word?

In the past, if we said something that didn't reflect our intended meaning, we apologized to that person, if

we chose to, and moved on.

Now, people are put on display for their mistakes, we demand a public apology, we want to see them grovel, we want to see them break and in the end we demand that they be fired anyway, whether the offense had anything to do with their job or not.

Who is truly committing the malicious act?

Sometimes, change is really just preserving what we believe to be right. I know deep down that most people mean well in their attempt to stop the use of certain words; maybe that's why colleges are embracing the idea of banning them.

But a place we turn to, to further our education as adults, should not be in favor of restricting any piece of it. If you instill people with all the knowledge you have, you must also give them the freedom to make their own decisions about it and not try to take it back when you don't like their choice.



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The views expressed in editorials, columns and advertisements do not necessarily represent those of *The Mooring Mast* staff or Pacific Lutheran University.

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## JOB OPENING

*The Mast* is hiring!  
We are looking for  
a Sports Editor for  
spring semester.  
If you would like to  
apply, email *The Mast*  
at mast@plu.edu



# Remember Christmas is still a religious holiday

By BROOKE WOLFE  
A&E Writer

Christmas is rooted in the religious traditions of the holiday. Even activities that non-religious families take part in still have religious meaning.

Church services, adapted advent traditions and recycled decorations have led the Christian holiday into the 21st century.

The holidays have become days covered in red and green but behind the sparkling wrapping paper and velvet bows, people's Christmas traditions stem from the Christian faith.

"Christmas is about fellowship, friends and family," first-year Autumn Scherf said.

Arguably, Christmas Eve church services attract crowds unseen on any other night of the year. This act of going to church, at least on that day, is a tradition that has yet to be broken.

"In many ways Christmas has become commercialized," Scherf said, "yet in many ways it has still remained quite religious."

Besides the churchgoers, decorations can be traced back to their religious context.

Christmas wreaths are a common decoration that can be seen on doors from Thanksgiving on. Some see wreaths as a symbol of

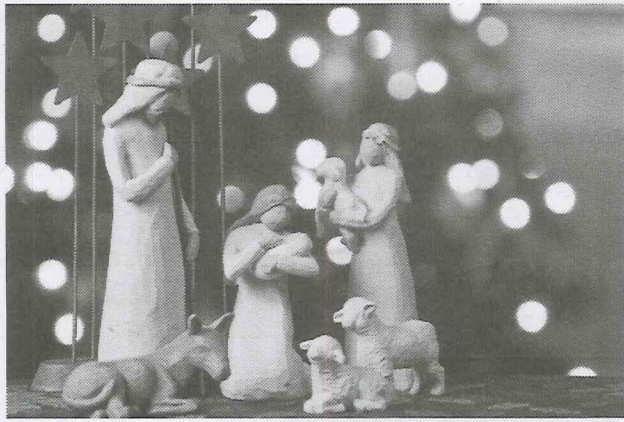


PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

The Nativity is a common holiday decoration for many households. It is an example of the religious foundation of Christmas.

the journey from Adam to Christ.

This journey is illustrated through the wreath that is formed from a wire circle covered in evergreen branches. The circle shows that the journey for Christ's return has not yet come.

Christmas baking is also included in the Christian tradition. With the advent cycle, cooking usually began Dec. 20 and went until Christmas Day. These trends are still seen today in the preparation of gathering families and friends over food before continuing with festivities.

Along with baking, giving time or gifts has also grown in importance. This selfless nature of Christmas has continued the attitude that Christ strived to pass on to the members of the church.

Volunteering at shelters

and churches has influenced Christmas activities as a good summation gesture. While doing these things is beneficial to communities, Christians have been completing the same tasks as community building activities for Christmas long before the secular idea.

While some families have adopted a Santa-centered holiday, Christmas has remained close to Christian traditions. In the decorating, celebrating and activities leading up to Christmas, the religious ties seep through.

From the church services that bring massive numbers of people into places of worship, to the selfless duties of the season, Christmas was for Christ Mass. It changed with the times to become a new, but still religious, Christian holiday.

# Christmas for Christians and non-Christians alike

By KAITLYN HALL  
Copy Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Gifts and the act of giving is ingrained within the holiday season and spirit for everyone to enjoy.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, but not just for Christians.

A nativity will occupy my mantle, celebrating the birth of Christ, and I will worship at a Christmas Eve service.

Despite its undeniable roots in Christianity, though, I can also celebrate Christmas as a cultural holiday, complete with strings of glittering lights, scratchy sweaters and images of elves and reindeer.

The 92 percent of Americans who celebrate Christmas, according to a 2013 Pew Research study, includes 80 percent of non-Christians, demonstrating the power of Christmas nationwide as a cultural holiday.

According to Pew Research, only 39 percent of traditional college-age adults, ages 18-29,

celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday.

But Christmas as a cultural holiday isn't just about presents under the tree or the round belly and hearty, booming laugh of Santa Claus.

The center of Christmas as a cultural holiday is giving gifts of time, money and kindness without an expectation of anything in return.

It's that time of year where neighbors bring one another plates of freshly-baked cookies.

Community members sponsor families that don't have enough money to buy Christmas gifts for their children.

Bell-ringers sit shivering outside stores collecting donations that go to shelters and food banks.

We see the material, extravagant gifts and the bustling shopping malls, but it's our desire to give that hides behind the material façade.

We need to revel in the opportunity Christmas gives us to join together in shared celebration.

So be kind, celebrate and give—it's the happiest season of all.

*Do you think Christmas is too Christian? Or too materialistic? Tweet The Mast @PLUMast with your opinion.*

# Study Break

## Life Hacks

Put ice cubes in your plant holders to ensure your plant or tree does not dry out if you forget to water.

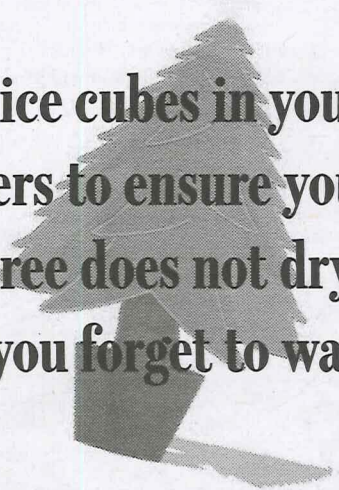


PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

## SUDOKU High Fives

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© JFS/KF

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

# SPORTS SCOREBOARD

## Men's Basketball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Lewis & Clark	4	2	0	0-0	Won 1
Puget Sound	3	2	0	0-0	Won 2
Whitman	3	2	0	0-0	Won 1
Whitworth	3	2	0	0-0	Won 2
George Fox	2	3	0	0-0	Lost 2
Pacific	2	3	0	0-0	Won 1
Willamette	2	4	0	0-0	Won 1
PLU	1	4	0	0-0	Lost 3
Linfield	1	5	0	0-0	Lost 3

LUTES' UPCOMING GAME: Dec. 7 vs. UC Santa Cruz, 2 p.m.

## Women's Basketball

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	CONFERENCE	STREAK
Puget Sound	5	0	0	0-0	Won 5
George Fox	4	0	0	0-0	Won 4
Whitworth	4	0	0	0-0	Won 4
Linfield	5	2	0	0-0	Won 2
Pacific	3	2	0	0-0	Lost 1
Whitman	3	2	0	0-0	Won 3
Willamette	3	3	0	0-0	Lost 1
Lewis & Clark	1	3	0	0-0	Lost 3
PLU	1	3	0	0-0	Lost 3

LUTES' UPCOMING GAME: Dec. 5 vs. Colorado College, 8 p.m.

### AROUND THE LEAGUE...

**MEN'S and WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** Both PLU basketball teams will begin their Northwest Conference campaigns at home on Names Family Court Jan. 2 against Pacific. The women start at 6 p.m. and the men at 8 p.m.

**SWIMMING:** PLU's men and women swim teams begin the Husky Invitational in Federal Way, Wash., today, Dec. 5 at the King County Aquatic Center. The three day event brings together swimmers from Division I, II and III schools and will end Dec. 7. The Lutes return to PLU Pool on Jan. 23 to take on Whitman.

Information courtesy of <http://www.nwcsports.com/landing/index>

## Santoro Speaks... Saying your good-byes is never easy

By **GIANCARLO SANTORO**  
Sports Editor

I always expected that my final weeks at Pacific Lutheran University would creep up quickly, but that doesn't make it any easier to reconcile the fact that I will no longer be a student here—or the sports editor for the *Mooring Mast* newspaper—much longer.

While the majority of the university will be dreading their return to classes after winter break, I will most likely be back at my parent's house, wishing I had an excuse to go back for a just a little longer.

When I had my first visit to PLU as an anxious high schooler and prospective college student, I can say I was more apprehensive than thrilled.

My only experience with the South Sound was when my parents would drive me there to play the local Tacoma soccer club, or to watch my high school football team smash and bash its way to another state championship at the Tacoma Dome.

In fact, I spent a lot of my time bad-mouthing the "Tacoma Aroma," and its rundown, cold exterior.

Coming from the suburban haven that is Sammamish, Wash., a town that is consistently voted as one of the wealthiest, most welcoming and best places to live in the entire country, I was understandably disillusioned with what PLU and Parkland had to offer.

I was a decent student in high school, usually skating around a B to B+ average, but I was never fully committed to going to college, and this was reflected in the fact that I

only sent out three college applications to in-state schools.

When it came to deciding where I would spend the next four years of my life after high school, I didn't have a lot of options.

My first choice school rejected me, and my second choice wait-listed me, leaving PLU or community college as my only real options. If I wasn't recruited by PLU soccer coach John Yorke, I may not have even been accepted to PLU.

Not wanting to let the opportunity go to waste, I packed my bags and moved my hopes and dreams an hour south to become a Lute.

Four years on the team yielded one NWC championship, two NWC First-Team and All-West Region Third team selections and even a trip to Brazil to play soccer.

Needless to say, I am very thankful.

Now that I am two weeks from becoming a college graduate, I can honestly say it was the best decision I could have made.

As with most college students, I have done a lot of growing during my time here. I have an entirely different perspective of Tacoma and PLU, and even though I probably won't miss the city itself very much when I leave, I will miss being a part of what I like to consider the PLU network.

Let's be clear: I am not talking about the kind of network or networking drilled into our heads by the PLU Career Center, but rather the network of people and places that makes this place so special to me.

I was never involved in anything school-related in high school, except for being on the soccer team, and it took

until my junior and senior years as a Lute to start to make an impact on campus.

When I finally declared a major in Communication with an emphasis in Journalism, I decided it was time to step out of my comfort zone and get involved with student media.

For the longest time, I thought that school spirit and being involved on campus weren't for me. I was already on the PLU men's soccer team and was representing the university every day at practice and games, so why do more?

During my first two years, I was more content to just go to class, go back to my dorm and hang out with my friends. PLU was more of a place that I felt society required me to be at for four years, rather than a place that I wanted to be at.

That all changed when I joined student media.

Suddenly, I was part of the university in more ways than just being an athlete, and I became exposed to the rest of the student body that I previously only interacted with in class.

I even went on camera for Mast TV, and took the sports editor job at *The Mast* for my last semester, two things I never thought I would do.

There's no easy way to write these things without sounding sappy and sentimental, and even though I am excited for the future, I don't mind that I feel this way.

I'm happy I'm not a senior who is constantly complaining about how they can't wait to get out of here, because it means I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Lute.

## Reflections from an EMAL

By **AUSTIN HILLIKER**  
Guest Writer

My high school football coach always said, "There will never be anything better than playing on Friday nights, underneath the lights."

Now that my four-year football career at Pacific Lutheran University has come to an end, I would have to respectfully disagree with that comment.

There is nothing better than playing at 1 p.m. on a Saturday with one hundred other guys that I can truly call my brothers.

Choosing to attend PLU, and then becoming a member of the football team, was hands down the best decision I have made in my life thus far.

Not only has this program taught me both the basic and advanced techniques to succeed on the gridiron, but it has also taught me to be a better man.

Brotherhood, respect, love and selflessness were just a few of the countless things that I learned while playing for Scott Westering and the PLU coaching staff.

I learned that it's not about how many games we win

or how many games we lose. It's about the relationships that are built while battling with my brothers on and off the field.

In 10 years I won't remember playing Willamette, UPS or Linfield. I'll remember hanging out with my teammates in the dorms during my first year and going to a lake house with 25 of my teammates for senior trip. Even the late-night talks with my quarterback, Dalton Ritchey, in hotel rooms, during overnight away trips.

When people ask me to talk about the PLU football program, I won't talk about how many receptions I had, I'll talk about the exciting times with my brothers.

Never in my entire life have I felt so loved by both a coaching staff and players on a team. If I ever needed anything, I could always count on a fellow EMAL (Every Man A Lute) to be there for me.

Whether it was 3 p.m. or 3 a.m., I knew that someone would pick up the phone and help me with whatever I needed to get done, no questions asked.

Football might be over for me, but the relationships that I have built while participating in this program will never fade away. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything

in the world.

I owe a million thanks to the coaching staff, players and anyone involved in this program. I now have the tools to succeed and be the best man I can be, all thanks to you.

Once an EMAL, always an EMAL.

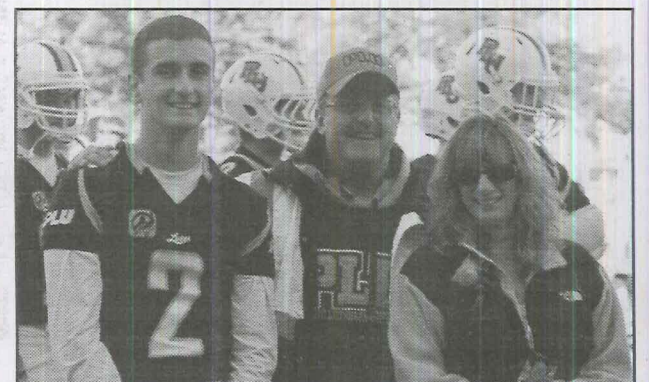


PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN HILLIKER  
Hilliker poses with his parents during PLU's Senior Night and final home game of the 2014 NWC season.

# SAAC to vote on use of football pads during off-season

## Does practicing with pads make a difference?

By **GIANCARLO SANTORO**  
Sports Editor

For football fans and players alike, there are few sounds more satisfying than a big hit. The kind of hit where both players' pads smack together like the sound of a whip being cracked has the ability to stir even the most reserved fan out of his or her seat.

While this is commonplace in games, it's very unlikely, and even against NCAA rules, to produce this sound during Division III off-season football practices.

According to the NCAA, legislation has been brought to the table by 22 schools hoping to reshape how spring off-season practices are conducted.

The main issue, whether or not to allow football players to use pads during the off-season, will be voted on at the upcoming 2015 NCAA Convention.

Pacific Lutheran University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, or SAAC, is part of the voting process, and PLU's SAAC president, senior Amy Wooten, attended the Northwest Conference SAAC meeting to vote.

The goal of the conference was to give a say to SAAC representatives from all the institutions in the NWC.

"Practicing with pads is always a touchy topic because it becomes a matter of injury prevention," Wooten said. "If we let the guys go full pads, are we creating an environment for more concussions and torn ACLs?"

Part of the vote will also determine how many days the team can practice, and how many of those days players can use pads. The proposal tables that at least three days of the week would permit live tackling with pads and two days would be used for 11-on-11 scrimmages.

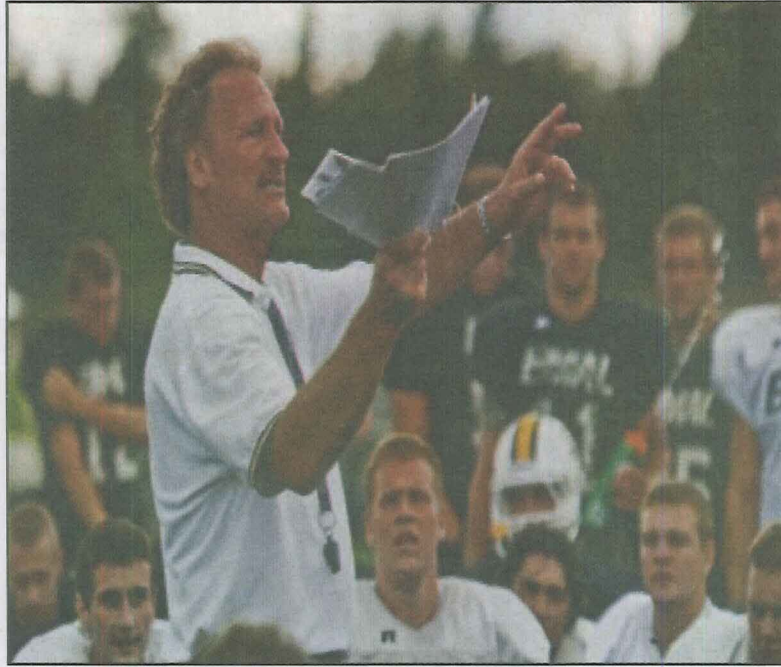
While practicing with pads may seem like a no brainer, not everyone on the PLU football team is convinced it's the best option.

"In previous years without pads, we have been able to focus a lot on our systems and plays, which is great to do, especially in an offense as complex as ours," senior tight end Lucas Sontra said. "It's great to be able to focus on the

fundamentals and skills of the game as opposed to hitting someone as hard as you can."

Those who oppose the measure also cite issues such as athletes not being able to compete in other spring sports and athletic trainers facing an impossible task of caring for spring sports and the football team, which plays in fall.

Sontra also argued that players can actually become better at football by not using pads.



PLU head coach Scott Westering addresses his team. Westering has been PLU's head coach since 2004 and has overseen a decade of off-season practices with the football team. The NCAA's vote could bring big changes to a team that missed out on the NCAA Division III playoffs this 2014 season.

"I think spring ball is one of the best opportunities for the team to get better as a whole," Sontra said. "Every player gets equal reps, and it's not about competing for a spot, but just competing to get better."

While Sontra has used up his four years of eligibility, and

won't officially be on the team come spring season, some Lutes with time left to play are in favor of the proposal.

"I do believe that certain aspects of no pads is beneficial, since it allows us to emphasize the aspects of the game that don't require contact," junior linebacker Connor Schilling said. "At the same time, football is the most physical game on earth, and we are inhibited from practicing the contact portion."

"Hitting is the most important part of football, and although there are other aspects we can work on, we're neglecting the fact that contact is an inevitable part of the game," Schilling said.

It's the hitting part that Schilling mentioned that is cause for concern amongst dissenters to the legislation.

The backers, however, say that the vote would provide student-athletes with skill instruction and development that other sports like soccer, volleyball and basketball, receive during their off-seasons. Most importantly, it would give football players time to learn safe tackling techniques.

"Using pads in the spring would give us a chance to practice the proper way to hit and use our pads in a safe manner," Schilling said. "Spring would give us a longer time period to focus on safe hitting, so by the fall, we have already covered that part and can focus on working on our plays."

"You couldn't take a soccer ball away from the soccer team and expect them to have a beneficial practice. Likewise, in football, taking away our pads is just hurting us in the long run," Schilling said.

Regardless of the outcome, the pressure ultimately falls on the coaches to ensure their players aren't getting hurt, and Wooten doesn't think there is anything wrong with the legislation.

"I think it's important to allow our athletic teams the ability to have a substantial amount of practice in the off-season so that they can get better," Wooten said. "Our athletes' safety and health comes first.

Once we find the right balance of safety and intensity, our football teams will be able to practice with more than just a football."

## Rough pre-season so far for men's basketball

By **CHRISTIAN BOND**  
Guest Writer

With the winter season in full effect in the Pacific Northwest, it's time to head indoors to watch some Lute basketball.

On Dec. 1, Pacific Lutheran University Men's basketball team headed to the ShoWare Center in Kent to face Seattle University in a non-conference game.

The Division I opponent proved to be too much for the Lutes, who were swept aside 72-33, but they didn't go down without a fight.

The first 9 minutes of the game went well for the Lutes. The score at 11:07 was 9-13 in favor of Seattle U.

It was the closest the Lutes would get, as the experience and athleticism of Seattle U began to show as the Redhawks started to run away with the game.

Seattle U shot 54.8 percent from the field in the first half, hitting seven three pointers along the way. The score heading into halftime was 43-21, in favor of Seattle U.

Shooting struggles continued for the Lutes throughout the second half.

Just 12 points was all PLU could muster up against a strong Seattle U team in the last half of the game.

Despite shooting only 33 percent from the field, it was enough to fend off the Lutes.

The final score was 72-33 in favor of Seattle U.

Going into its final stretch of pre-season games, PLU is now 1-4 overall and on a three-game losing streak.

### Looking Forward

I interviewed first-year guard, Dylan Foreman, to get an update on how the season has been so far, the game against Seattle U, and a look to the near future for PLU basketball.

When asked about how the season has been so far, Foreman said, "we are still trying to put the pieces together, trying to find out what works on the floor and what

doesn't. Also trying to find rolls for everyone. Playing all forty minutes is something that needs to improve as well."

In regards to the Seattle U game, Foreman found positives. "Although the score didn't reflect it, the game went pretty well because we got good shots on offense, even though they didn't fall," Foreman said. "On defense we kept them out of the lane and contested all of their shots."

In regard to the rest of the season, Foreman isn't too worried about a few bad results during pre-season. "The important thing is to keep building," Foreman said. "We need to get ready to win when league play starts."

January holds the bulk of Northwest Conference league play for PLU, and the team wants to be playing its best ball during that time.



Seattle U junior center Jack Crook goes up to score between PLU players Austen Wilson (22), Kevin McCrossin (25), Jourdan Johnson (1) and Brandon Lester (far right).

### Men's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 7	UC Santa Cruz	2:00 PM
Dec. 10	Evergreen	7:30 PM
Trinity Tournament in San Antonio, Tex.		
Dec. 19	Schreiner	1:00 PM
Dec. 20	Southwestern (Tex.)	1:00 PM
2014-2015 Northwest Conference Season		
Jan. 2	Pacific	8:00 PM
Jan. 9	at George Fox	8:00 PM
Jan. 10	at Lewis & Clark	6:00 PM
Jan. 16	Linfield	8:00 PM
Jan. 17	Willamette	6:00 PM
Jan. 23	at Whitman	8:00 PM
Jan. 24	at Whitworth	6:00 PM
Jan. 27	at Puget Sound	8:00 PM
Jan. 31	at Pacific	6:00 PM

### Women's Basketball Schedule

Pacific Northwest Tournament/Pre-season		
Dec. 5	Colorado College	8:00 PM
Dec. 6	UC Santa Cruz	6:00 PM
Dec. 12	Northwest (Wash)	7:00 PM
Dec. 13	Evergreen	6:00 PM
Dec. 21	Cal Lutheran	2:00 PM
2014-2015 Northwest Conference Season		
Jan. 2	Pacific	6:00 PM
Jan. 9	at George Fox	6:00 PM
Jan. 10	at Lewis & Clark	4:00 PM
Jan. 16	Linfield	6:00 PM
Jan. 17	Willamette	4:00 PM
Jan. 23	at Whitman	6:00 PM
Jan. 24	at Whitworth	4:00 PM
Jan. 27	at Puget Sound	6:00 PM
Jan. 31	at Pacific	4:00 PM

# “Drive to 125” Fall, Winter sports

PLU athletic director Laurie Turner:

“The idea for ‘Drive to 125’ was suggested by [associate athletic director] Jen Thomas, and I thought it was a great opportunity to uplift the university’s 125th celebration throughout the year. This has provided an internal opportunity to bring all our athletes and coaches together to achieve a common goal. It will take a team effort to achieve.”

## Wins by Sport

<b>Volleyball</b>	21
1st place NWC	
<b>Women’s Soccer</b>	14
3rd place NWC	
<b>Men’s Soccer</b>	10
4th place NWC	
<b>Swimming</b>	10
In-season	
<b>Football</b>	7
3rd place NWC	
<b>Cross Country</b>	1
N/A	
<b>Men’s Basketball</b>	1
In-season	
<b>Women’s Basketball</b>	1
In-season	
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

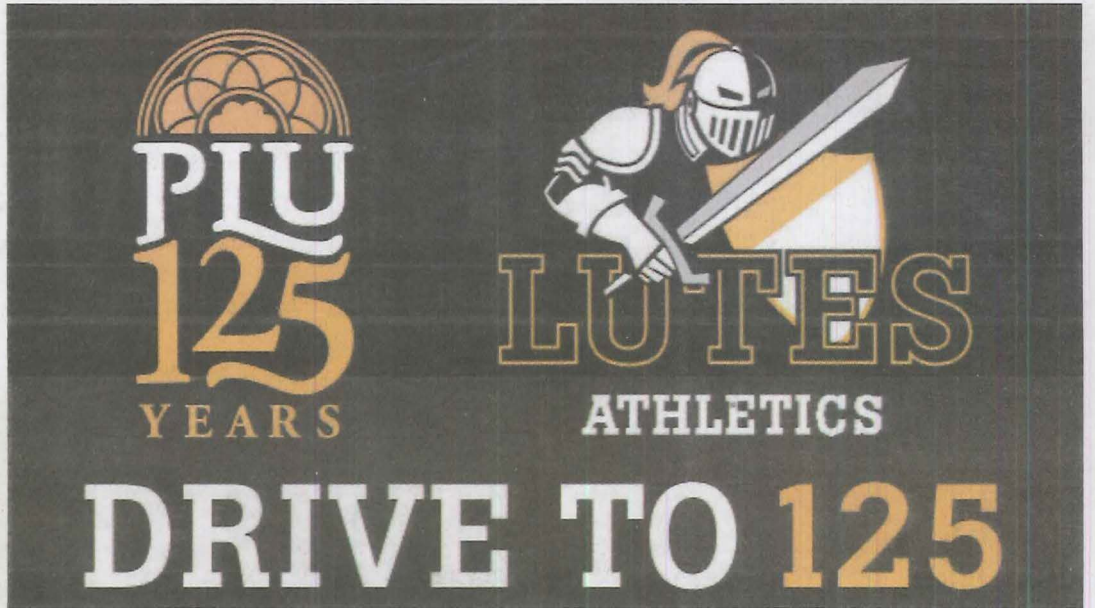


PHOTO COURTESY OF PLU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



PHOTO BY GIANCARLO SANTORO

# Dual-sport athlete notes similarities, not differences

By **DAVID MAIR**  
Staff Writer

For Pacific Lutheran University sophomore Clint Absher, there are more similarities than differences when it comes to playing two college sports.

In just his second year at the university, Absher finished his first Northwest Conference season on the men’s soccer team and is beginning his second as a PLU basketball player.

Even though they are two completely different sports, he remembers when to use his hands, when to use his feet and always to use his head.

He’s seen the hardwood of the basketball court more than the rugged turf of the soccer field, and has played basketball for 15 years.

At Puyallup High School, Absher earned two varsity letters in basketball, and was also team captain for two years.

The 2013-2014 winter sport season was his first picking up the basketball for the Lutes as a guard. He played in 12 games.

“[Absher has] great athletic ability,” PLU head basketball coach Steve Dickerson said. “Most importantly, he’s an outstanding young man.”

In addition to playing basketball, Absher has also played soccer for the past nine years.

He joined PLU’s soccer team last spring during the off-season as a mid-fielder.

“Clint [Absher] made a nice impact with his athleticism, hard work and great team character,” PLU head coach John Yorke said. “We are happy to have him here as a part of the men’s soccer program. He has a lot of potential as a soccer player.”

Absher said he feels that his role on both teams is very similar, which is to “bring a lot of energy.”

Despite only playing five games for the men’s soccer team this season, Absher could potentially become one of the leaders come 2015, when he will be a junior on a team composed mostly of underclassmen.

He said basketball is more “aggressive”

than soccer, yet both are still “obviously competitive.”

Absher said his teammates in both sports create a great atmosphere to play in.

Absher explained that there are “two sides,” to both sports, and it’s “eye-opening [to see] what two teams can be like.”

“Playing basketball and soccer made me focus on exact things I need to work on,” Absher said. “[This] carried over into other parts of my life, too.”

Just being a college student is quite an ordeal to balance, and adding two sports to that would seem near impossible to the average student, but not for Absher.

Absher’s dual-sport lifestyle is also helped by the fact that PLU is a Division III school, rather than Division I or II, where scholarships are involved.

Balancing games, practices and meetings “is the hardest part,” Absher said. The process is made easier for him through “a lot of help” from his parents, along with his teammates.

Yorke acknowledged the challenges that Absher faces.

“Playing both sports is probably very difficult,” Yorke said. “I support his decision to play two sports and I’m excited to see him on the basketball floor this winter.”

Even though Absher is only a sophomore, he looks toward the future “realistically,” knowing he probably won’t play either sport professionally after PLU.

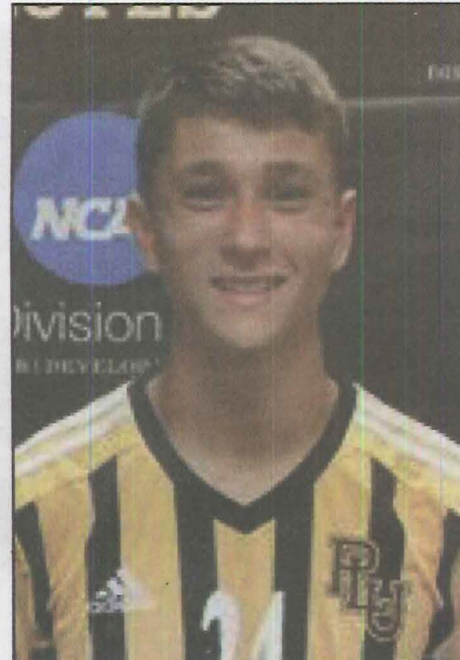
Absher, a Business major, is looking for an opportunity in business management or construction management following college.

Since Absher is still a sophomore, he has a while to decide. Until then, he can be caught on the field in the fall and on the court in the winter, bringing vital energy to each team.

Since athletes at Division III level aren’t bound to a team by money, Absher is an example of someone who truly plays for the love of the game.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS



Top: Absher’s 2014 PLU soccer roster picture.  
Bottom: Absher’s 2014-2015 PLU soccer roster picture.

Despite being a sophomore, Absher has three years of eligibility left on the men’s soccer team and will have two years left on the men’s basketball team after this upcoming season. Absher appeared in five games for the soccer team and three so far for the basketball team.

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