

# Scene

Summer 2007 • Pacific Lutheran University



*What do you believe is true  
even though you cannot prove it?*

PAGE 12

Inside:

> Former VP Mondale, 8

> Juggling act, 10

> Stellar baseball season, 23

# calendar



In April, members of the PLU community raised more than \$50,000 in the second annual Relay for Life event held at the campus track. A beautiful spring sunset provided inspiration for the hundreds of participants who spent about 16 hours circling the track to raise money for cancer research (see page 39).

## JUNE

**June 14, 5 p.m.**

KPLU Art of Jazz  
Mimi Fox Trio  
Seattle Asian Art Museum

**June 20, 11:30 a.m.**

Strawberry Fruit Festival  
Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth  
Red Square

**June 22-July 1**

TD Canada Trust Vancouver  
International Jazz Festival  
Sponsored by KPLU

**June 22-July 1**

JazzFest International  
Victoria, B.C.  
Sponsored by KPLU

## JULY

**July 12, 5 p.m.**

KPLU Art of Jazz  
Carolyn Graye's Denise Levertov Project  
Seattle Art Museum

**July 12, 7 p.m.**

Jazz Under the Stars  
Brazilian pianist Jovino Santos-Neto  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

**July 18, 11:30 a.m.**

Raspberry Fruit Festival  
The Islanders Steel Drum Band  
Red Square

**July 19, 7 p.m.**

Jazz Under the Stars  
Seattle pianist Bill Anschell  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

**July 21**

3rd Annual Roosevelt Bull Moose Festival  
Seattle's Cowen Park  
Sponsored by KPLU

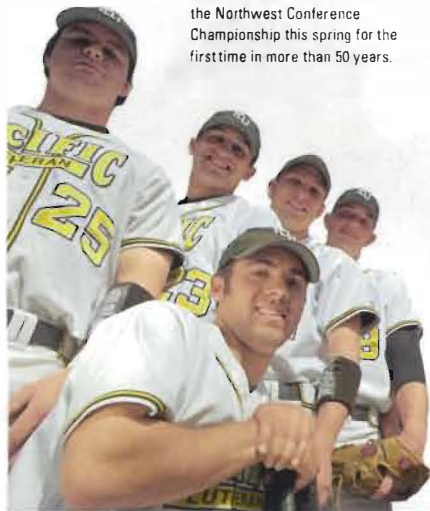
*continued on inside back cover*

# inside

Pacific Lutheran University Scene Summer 2007 Volume 37 Issue 4

- 4 **Here & Now**
- 8 **Life of the Mind**  
Mondale pushes students to explore beyond U.S. borders
- 10 **The juggling act**  
Families use creativity, stamina to balance work and home
- 12 **COVER STORY:**  
**What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it?**  
Nine faculty members respond

The Lute baseball team won the Northwest Conference Championship this spring for the first time in more than 50 years.



The Dance 2007 performance in April brought more than 60 dancers together to perform a variety of student-choreographed works in a vibrant performance in Eastvold Hall.

- 22 **Leadership & Service**  
Parents look back on 4 years at PLU
- 23 **Attaway Lutes**  
Stellar season puts 2007 in the record books
- 24 **Alumni News & Events**  
Alumni Recognition 2007
- 28 **Alumni Profiles**
- 30 **Alumni Class Notes**
- 40 **The Arts**
- 44 **Perspective**

## Scene

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Greg Brewis

**EDITOR**  
Amy Cockerham

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Steve Hansen

**WRITERS**  
Greg Brewis  
Amy Cockerham  
Steve Hansen  
Megan Haley

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Jordan Hartman '02

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Simon Sung

**ONLINE MANAGER**  
Toby Beal

**CLASS NOTES**  
Ann Johnson '81

**EDITORIAL OFFICES**  
Hauge Administration  
Building #207  
253-535-7427  
[scene@plu.edu](mailto:scene@plu.edu)  
[www.plu.edu/scene](http://www.plu.edu/scene)

**PLU OFFICERS**  
Loren J. Anderson  
*President*

Patricia O'Connell Killen  
*Provost*

Laura F. Majovski  
*Vice President,  
Student Life and  
Dean of Students*

Karl Stumo  
*Vice President,  
Admission and  
Enrollment Services*

Steve Titus  
*Vice President,  
Development and  
University Relations*

Sheri J. Tonn  
*Vice President,  
Finance and Operations*

**OFFICE OF ALUMNI & PARENT RELATIONS**  
Lauralee Hagen '75, '78  
*Director*

Erik Melver '96  
*Assistant Director for  
Programs and Services*

Jacob Himmelman '03  
*Assistant Director for  
Events and Outreach*

Nesvig Alumni Center  
Tacoma, WA 98447-0003  
253-535-7415  
800-ALUM-PLU  
[www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org)

**ADDRESS CHANGES**  
Please direct any address changes to [alumni@plu.edu](mailto:alumni@plu.edu) or 800-ALUM-PLU

**ON THE COVER**  
Illustration by Peter Georgeson

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

**Volume 37, Issue 4**  
Scene (SSN 0886-3369) is published quarterly by Pacific Lutheran University, S. 121st and Park Ave., Tacoma, WA, 98447-0003. Periodicals postage paid at Tacoma, WA, and additional mailing offices. Address service requested. Postmaster: Send changes to Development Operations, Office of Development, PLU, Tacoma, WA, 98447-0003, [deveops@plu.edu](mailto:deveops@plu.edu). © 2007 by Pacific Lutheran University



# here & now

## 'World Conversations' features international scholarship

A series of panel discussions and special guests marked a two-day symposium highlighting the work of the Wang Center for International Programs in February.

"World Conversations: Voices from Around the Globe" featured presentations by students and faculty recently returned from J-Term study away courses. The roundtable discussions were intended to help students synthesize their off campus experiences with life at home, and to make connections between what they learned away from PLU and their regular studies.

The event also featured tributes to key players in PLU's international education programming. A special luncheon was held to recognize Peter '60 and Grace Wang with the 2007 Peace Builder Award and to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Wang Center, which was established in their name in 2002. Immediately following the luncheon, former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale spoke about "the changing world conversation" (see page 8).

Later that evening, the campus came alive in a salute to the twin-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago is one of five "international gateways" in PLU's global studies programming. A large contingent of government officials, artists and performers came to campus for World Conversations to celebrate the relationship between their nation and PLU and to perform music and dance to showcase their vibrant culture.

"It was exciting to hold an event that gave us the opportunity to mine the depths of international experience we have right here on campus," said Neal Sobania, director of the Wang Center. "Our faculty, staff and students are excellent sources on so very many global issues because, to a large extent,



Performers from Trinidad and Tobago thrilled the audience with high-energy traditional dances during the final evening of "World Conversations: Voices from Around the Globe" in February.

**World  
CONVERSATIONS  
AT PLU**

they've really been out in the world and know what they are talking about."

Also during the event, the Wang Center announced the theme and dates for its next major public symposium. February 21-22, 2008 will mark a series of panels and speakers on the topic of global health.

## UC undergoes major renovation

The University Center closed in mid-March for its first major renovation since the building opened in 1970.

The construction forced UC offices to relocate until the anticipated re-opening at the end of the summer. Dining Services is serving meals out of the Columbia Center on lower campus, and the bookstore is operating out of the pro shop at the golf course. The offices of Student Involvement and

Leadership, Campus Ministry and Conferences and Events, among others, were also relocated to allow the building to be completely shut down.

"People are in good spirits," said Mark Mulder '93, '00, director of auxiliary services. "Our eyes are all on the end product and completely focused on what will be a fantastic University Center when the doors open."

The renovation will bring improved meeting and conference space to the UC, along with a large new convenience store and an improved commons dining area. The convenience store will replace the café that was located on the bottom floor in favor of to-go food items along with other essentials like personal-care products and school supplies. Meanwhile, the commons will serve several items a la carte, so former café patrons will still be able to get a hamburger or hot sandwich from the grill.

During the renovation, Dining Services has had to be creative in its approach to serving students. The Columbia Center space is much smaller than the UC commons was, so Dining Services opened a small, temporary restaurant on Garfield Street called Old Main Grill. Dinner is also being delivered via "room service" to one residence hall per week to help reduce traffic in the Columbia Center.

## Students serve others on spring break

Over spring break, more than 60 students embarked on service-oriented trips to work with social service organizations around the country.

The trips were part of the first-ever "Service Project Runaway: Alternative Spring Break Trips," a collaborative effort by various offices across campus to give students the opportunity to serve. Students and PLU employees traveled from the streets of downtown Tacoma, to the United States-Mexico border and beyond.

For the past several years, Campus Ministry has offered service-oriented spring break projects, most recently sending 16 students to New Orleans in 2006 to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. More than 80 students applied



Student Danielle Krogh pulls weeds in the community garden at Spanaway Elementary School as part of a service-oriented spring break project.

to participate in that project, which signaled a growing interest among students to give back to others, said Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman '03, program specialist in Campus Ministry. A larger program was developed to give students more opportunities this year.

Many students said they chose to participate in the service projects because it was a more productive way to spend the break. Freshman Mike Engh, who participated in the Habitat for Humanity project in Spokane, said he was excited to immerse himself in the project and see the fruits of his labor.

"I figured I'd take advantage of the opportunity and get something positive out of it," he explained.

This year's opportunities included a trip to the United States-Mexico border at El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico to volunteer at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, a Lutheran church that ministers to people on both sides of the border; a trip to Spokane, Wash., to work with Habitat for Humanity; volunteering at Holden Village, a Christian center located in the Cascade Mountains near Chelan, Wash.; and a visit to the Heifer International Ranch in Perryville, Ark., where students helped the organization's efforts to find sustainable solutions to global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.

[www.plu.edu/scene](http://www.plu.edu/scene)

CATCH THE LATEST

# Scene

ONLINE



Online news  
easy to find.

EXPLORE WITH FACULTY their most deeply held beliefs in a series of profiles based around one deceptively simple question: What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it? Read about the baseball team's first Northwest Conference title in more than 50 years. [www.plu.edu/scene](http://www.plu.edu/scene).

## here & now

continued

### New leadership announced

**P**LU recently named a new vice president of development and university relations, a dean for the School of Education, and a new director for the Choir of the West.



Steve Titus is the new VP of development, and began work at PLU on June 1. Titus comes to PLU from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Neb., where he was president for the last five years. Titus holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southwest Minnesota State University and a juris doctor degree from Marquette University Law School. He earned a doctorate in higher education and strategic leadership from the University of Virginia, where he was a Governor's Fellow.

John Lee is the new dean of the School of Education. Lee received his



doctorate from the University of Illinois-Chicago and comes to PLU with a proven record of administrative leadership at the University of Maryland-Baltimore and at Long Island University. Lee received his bachelor's degree in psychology and philosophy from UIC in 1987 and his doctorate from the same school in 1994.

Associate professor of music Richard



Nance was recently named director of Choir of the West, PLU's most prestigious touring musical ensemble. Nance is PLU's director of choral activities and also leads Choral Union and the University Singers. Nance has been a member of the music faculty since 1992. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M) and a doctorate from Arizona State University.



Chris Hunt '07 is an internationally ranked "speedcuber."

### Student makes mark in unusual subculture

**T**he Rubik's Cube clicks and clacks as Chris Hunt '07 deftly twists and turns the three-dimensional puzzle. After just 17 seconds, each face displays a single, solid color.

According to the World Cubing Association's Web site, Hunt is ranked

## Retiring Faculty

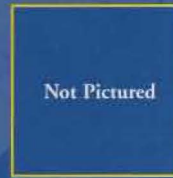
### PHASED:



**James Brink**, professor of computer science and computer engineering, hired in 1970



**Richard Farner**, associate professor of music, hired in 1976



Not Pictured

**Larry Hegstad**, associate professor of business, hired in 1979



**Richard Jobst**, associate professor of sociology, hired in 1967

### REGULAR:



**Patricia Gaspar**, professor of nursing, hired in 1991



**Cheryl Storm**, professor of marriage and family therapy, hired in 1985



**Patricia Chastain**, clinical assistant professor of education, hired in 2000

Thank you for  
your dedicated  
years of service

75th in the world in “speedcubing,” which refers to solving the puzzle as quickly as possible, and 60th in the world for solving the puzzle while blindfolded.

At a recent tournament in Boise, Idaho, Hunt’s fastest time was clocked at 15.6 seconds, but his world ranking is based on the average of five solves at the competition, which for Hunt was 17.75 seconds.

A computer science major and math minor, Hunt said his prowess with the cube developed through an “insane amount of practice time.” His cube is constantly with him, and he regularly manipulates it while walking to class or hanging out at home.

“It’s really easy to be good at,” Hunt said. “I’m pretty sure anyone can do it.”

Hunt received his first Rubik’s Cube for Christmas in 2003, and scoured the Web for help solving the puzzle. After practicing throughout the break, he could solve it in eight minutes, an impressive feat, he thought.

“It’s really addicting, especially because you make huge progress so quickly in the beginning.”

Hunt’s blindfolded time stands at 5 minutes, 40.36 seconds, which he clocked at the World Championships in 2005. The time includes the minutes he spends studying the cube and memorizing all the moves he has to make to solve it, as well as the actual time he spends solving the puzzle, he said. The world record for blindfolded solving is currently 1:20.30.

Hunt maintains a Web site dedicated to speedcubing: <http://strangepuzzle.com>

## Commencement features former labor secretary Reich

Spring commencement for the class of 2007 was held at the Tacoma Dome on May 27, and featured former labor secretary Robert Reich as the keynote speaker. Student speakers included Jennifer Henrichsen

*continued on page 39*

## ACCOLADES



The National Science Foundation awarded chemistry professor **Dean Waldow** a three-year grant of \$175,000 for research he is conducting with students on high-performance plastics. The funding will support wages for Waldow and three students over the course of three summers, as well as allow students to work during the academic year to continue the research conducted during the summer. The grant comes just months after another NSF grant Waldow received along with chemistry professors **Paul Davis** and **Myriam Cotten**. The earlier, \$181,000 award paid for the purchase and installation of an atomic force microscope, which was delivered to Rieke Science Center in March.



Education professor **Stephen Woolworth** was selected by the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education to receive its Scholar Award at the association’s annual meeting in New York in February. Woolworth will use the \$2,500 award to further his research related to the impact of social policy and community structure on the public school system.

Denison University’s Goodspeed Lecture Series featured religion professor of religion and humanities dean **Douglas Oakman** in March. Oakman’s lecture was titled “The Perennial Relevance of St. Paul: Paul’s Understanding of Christ and a Time of Radical Pluralism.” The Goodspeed Lecture Series features scholars whose work is in the field of religion or is related to religious

issues. It was Oakman’s second time lecturing at Denison as part of the Goodspeed series.



**Rona Kaufman** co-edited a new book called “Placing the Academy: Essays on Landscape, Work, and Identity,” with Jennifer Sinor. The book looks at the impact of landscape – in this case, the landscape of academe – and its impact on writers and teachers.



The Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy named marriage and family therapy professor **Charles York** as its 2006 Educator of the Year.

President **Loren Anderson** was one of 12 university presidents selected to represent independent colleges and universities at the U.S. Department of Education’s “Summit on the Future of American Higher Education.” Convened by education secretary Margaret Spellings, the summit focused on the federal government’s priorities for higher education.



**Elizabeth Brusco**, a cultural anthropologist in the Division of Social Sciences, delivered two lectures in Sweden in April. Brusco was invited to give Uppsala University’s annual “Lucy Farrow Lecture,” named for a Los Angeles woman known as the “mother of Pentecostalism.” Brusco then traveled to Stockholm to lecture during the international “Religion on the Borders: New Challenges in the Academic Study of Religion” conference at Sodertorn University College.

# life of the mind

## Mondale pushes students beyond U.S. borders

Judaism or Buddhism? Religions of China or Japan? First-year Emily Hoppler Treichler hasn't decided which religion course to take, but she has come to an important realization.

She used to think she wanted to fulfill her religion general university requirements with classes about Christianity, but after hearing former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale speak, she's changed her mind.

"Now I want to take something less mainstream," Hoppler Treichler said. "I'm more interested in classes that will open my mind rather than confirm what I believe."

Hoppler Treichler, a reporter for the university's student-run newspaper, *The Mast*, was one of a handful of students who interviewed Mondale one-on-one during his February 23 visit to campus.

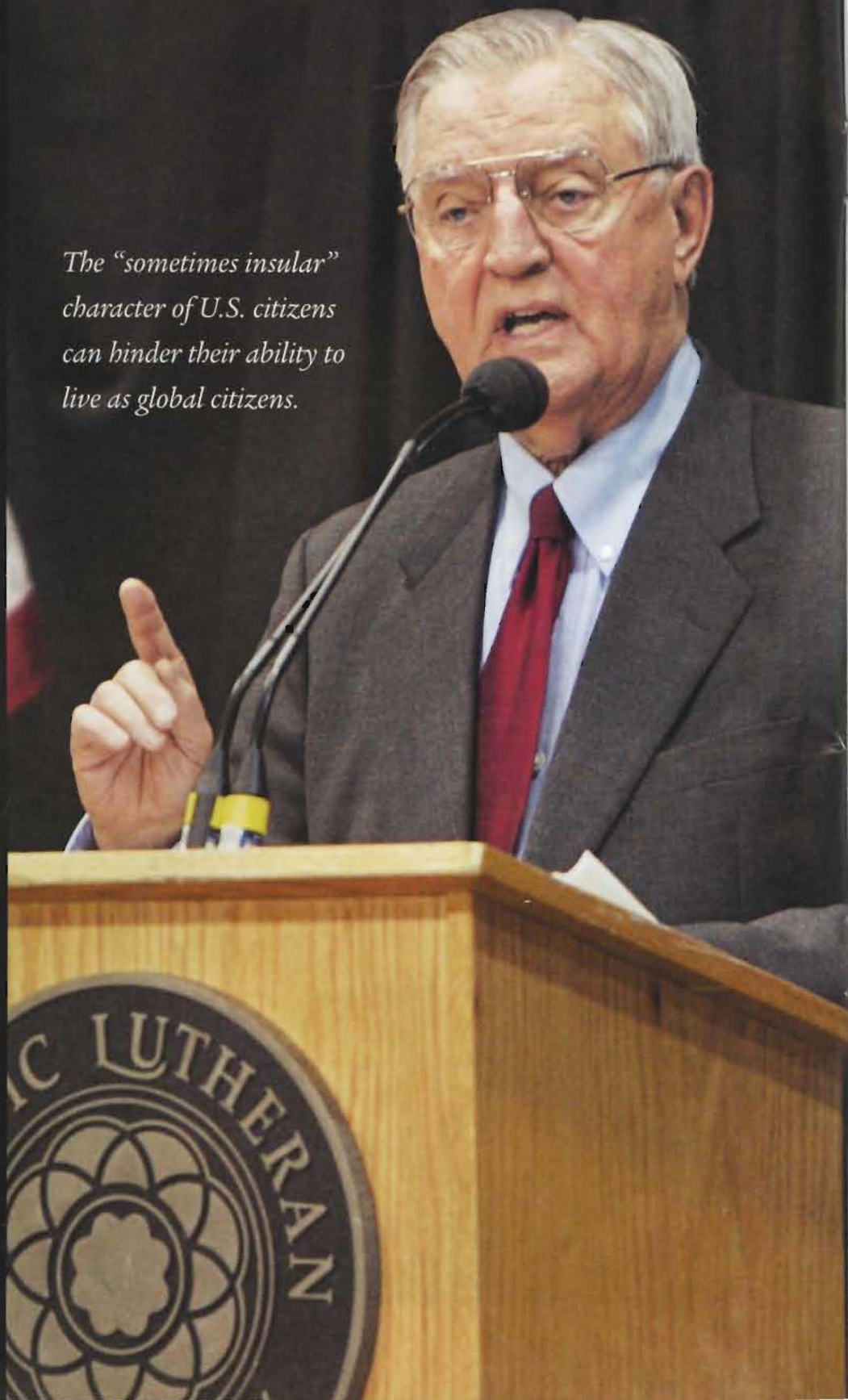
Hoppler Treichler said her interview with Mondale helped her recognize the importance of her contribution to the world conversation.

Mondale, who served under President Jimmy Carter from 1977-81, was the keynote speaker for PLU's World Conversations event (see pg. 4). His speech to about 450 members of the PLU community challenged students to learn about other cultures and global issues, and to stretch their minds to understand international affairs.

The World Conversations event, held Feb. 22-23, brought together students, faculty and guests to discuss J-Term study-away experiences and place them in a larger context. Those who traveled abroad shared their thoughts on justice, health, sustainability and peace in a series of panels and forums that were punctuated by several musical and cultural events.

The event, part of the continuing public symposia sponsored by the Wang Center for International Programs, coincided with the center's

*The "sometimes insular" character of U.S. citizens can hinder their ability to live as global citizens.*





fifth anniversary. Other highlights of World Conversations included a speech from journalist and human rights worker Ann Jones and a music and dance event featuring performers from Trinidad and Tobago.

During his keynote speech, held in the standing-room-only Chris Knutzen Hall, Mondale emphasized that unilateralism is no longer a wise policy, citing examples when the United States has "barged in" to other cultures without knowing much about them. Challenges facing today's world, such as global warming and atomic weapons, require international cooperation, he said.

"We have to learn, and be a part of this world in which we live," Mondale said.

"Before you can have a good conversation with someone, you must know something about which you are discussing." The "sometimes insular" character of U.S. citizens can hinder their ability to live as global citizens, Mondale said.

He noted that today's generation of college students has many advantages and is compelled to use them to learn about the world and how they can make a positive impact.

"[Mondale] clearly thought we students could make a difference," Hoppler Treichler said. Mondale's views about education as a way to become involved with the bigger, global picture surprised Hoppler Treichler. "I didn't consider having an education as helping the world conversation," she said.

Senior Ben Blankenship, another student who interviewed Mondale, said he felt inspired to make a mark on the world after hearing what Mondale had to say.

"As I listened and reflected on Mondale's manner and speech, (I saw) greatness is in the chances we take while still being an ordinary, approachable person," Blankenship wrote in a campus newsletter after the interview. Blankenship was surprised by the "flavor" of Mondale's responses. He said he expected "vanilla" to come from Mondale's mouth, but instead, Blankenship got candid answers from the former politician.

While Mondale's remarks were generally well received, he wasn't without skeptics. Sophomore Geoff Smock, president of the PLU College Republicans, took issue with some of his comments.

During a question-and-answer period following Mondale's speech, audience members asked him directly about the Iraq War.



Mondale said he supported the Iraq Study Group Report, released last December, which attempts to address a variety of military and diplomatic issues of concern to the broader Middle East. Mondale also supported engaging Iran diplomatically as a means toward resolution in Iraq.

Smock disagreed with the report's recommendations, particularly the idea of diplomacy with Iran.

"We can't expect help from Iran, because their interest and our interests are completely the opposite," Smock said.

But discussion – and even dissent – is exactly the point of bringing speakers like Mondale to campus, according to Laura Polcyn '75, '79. Polcyn is the assistant to President Loren Anderson and was on the planning committee for World Conversations. The entire event, she said, and Mondale's speech in particular, was designed to help students see the big picture when it comes to international scholarship and their call to lead "lives of service."

Part of that connection developed with links professors and students made through classroom learning.

Blankenship is involved in a PLU class

called MediaLab, which in its first years has helped connect journalism, graphic design, public relations and other communication students with local media outlets. Students have published work in newspapers, both in print and online, as well as photographs and video stories.

The video story Blankenship created about Mondale's visit appeared on the Web site of the metropolitan daily newspaper based in Tacoma. A news story and a blog entry based on the interviews were also published by Western Washington newspapers.

Blankenship said his time with Mondale helped him realize the importance of recognizing his own potential.

"So often I think we limit our aspirations to do great things when we believe that greatness is not intrinsic,"

Blankenship wrote.

Senior Shannon Murphy said she appreciated Mondale's call for more active participation in the global scene and his emphasis on using history as a guide for future diplomatic decisions.

"I think he really highlighted global understanding, which sometimes the U.S. as a whole doesn't seek out," said Murphy, president of the PLU Democrats. "The American way is not necessarily the best way."

Mondale's words brought to campus new ideas about how to participate in the world conversation, and Hoppler Treichler is ready to put those ideas into action.

"Mondale was fun. He didn't leave you feeling like you didn't do enough," she said. "He delivered a message about hope and possibilities."

After interviewing him about global warming, his diplomatic experiences in Africa and Japan, and current events, Hoppler Treichler resolved to broaden her academic perspective.

"I'm going to try to take classes specifically geared toward global issues, classes outside my own view," she said. "I'm going to get involved with groups that support equality." □

By Ingrid Stegmoeller '07





Stephanie and Jacob Miller.

## The juggling act:

Families use creativity, stamina  
to balance work and home

BY AMY COCKERHAM

Stephanie (Lund '95) Miller and her husband, Jeffrey Miller '93, '96 are in many ways typical new parents, but they are also a bit of a novelty.

Stephanie works at Parametrix, an environmental engineering firm in the Northwest. She is writing the environmental impact statement for the beleaguered Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement project in Seattle, a project so hotly contested that every word bears close scrutiny for its possible interpretation.

Her husband, Jeffrey, is the assistant principal of North Star Elementary not far from their Puyallup, Wash., home.

The couple, in their mid-30s, has spent the 10 years since they graduated intensely focused on their careers. They recently became parents for the first time. Little Jacob Miller is six months old, and his parents clearly adore him.

The Millers are typical in that they have found a creative way to balance work and parenting, but are atypical in that both have extremely accommodating employers.

Stephanie works about 35 hours per week, 12 of those from home. Jeffrey worked out a 20-hour-per-week flex-time arrangement at his school, and is Jacob's primary

caregiver. During the two or so days when both parents are at work, Jacob goes to the home of a close friend (and fellow PLU alumnus) who also has small children.

Their schedules are at times hectic, and the whole arrangement is patched together out of creativity, energy, sympathetic employers and no small amount of determination to do, right by their son.

"It's a pretty privileged position we're in to be able to do this," Jeffrey acknowledged.

In many ways, though, the Millers are an exception. For many families, the tax rate on second-earners, scant paid leave available to care for new children, and a dearth of attractive part-time work all add up to one parent – usually the mom – staying home.

In 2003, 5.3 million American women were full-time stay-at-home mothers, while about 980,000 men described themselves the same way.

Julie (Hankel '96) Christian is one of them. Less than a year ago, she and her husband, Aaron Christian '97, welcomed their first child, Evan. Julie, an English teacher at Hockinson High School outside Vancouver, Wash., opted to take a year off to be with her new son.

Before Evan was born, Julie and Aaron calculated how much it would cost to put Evan in day care in order for Julie to keep working. When faced with early, hectic mornings, thousands of dollars spent on day care and homework to grade in the evenings, Julie said it just didn't seem worth it.

"I'd be making \$10,000, and I'd be working really hard," she said.

According to campus academics – and several major studies of the world's industrialized nations – the seeming trend toward stay-at-home motherhood has more to do with the availability of quality child care and family-friendly work policies than women's preference for working, child rearing or some blend of the two.

Norris Peterson '75 is dean of the division of social sciences and an economics professor at PLU. He notes that while women's workforce participation rates have fluctuated over the last 20 years, the only notable increase in stay-at-home parenting is seen in affluent families.

Part of the problem, according to Beth Kraig, chair of PLU's Women's and Gender Studies program and a professor of history, is that a fundamental aspect of the fight for women's equality was overlooked.

"It was so obvious that men had more opportunities and choices than women," Kraig said. "I think people have realized that all along, we needed to be seeing that men lacked certain choices, too, such as the choice to be the nurturing parent."

She points to the lack of job-share and flex-time options and substandard child care as a big part of the problem.

"Everybody should be able to (stay home)," Kraig said. "Fathers should be able to do it as much as mothers should be able to do it, and ideally, fathers and mothers could do it in a flex-time model so that the child would have the impact of both parents there. We really need to revive that part of the discussion."

Lynn Hunnicutt, another PLU economics professor, was also the beneficiary of a supportive work environment. For a time, when several of the economics and social sciences faculty had young children, a portable crib was a permanent fixture in the office suite where they work.

Hunnicutt pointed out that staying home for more than the semester PLU gave her as maternity leave was never an option. Higher education, she said, is the kind of field in which extended absences can spell disaster to the tenure aspirant.

"But I love my job, and there was no way I wasn't coming back," Hunnicutt said. Her older son, Matthew, 7, is now in school. The 2-year-old, David, attends daycare at Trinity Lutheran Church, just across the street from campus.

Hunnicutt said her children are a great balance to a challenging job. Regarding a very contentious faculty meeting she said, "Afterwards (Provost Patricia O'Connell Killen) and I were walking up the hill and I said, 'It's a good thing I have kids because pretty soon I won't even be thinking about this.'"

Social change to help families balance work and home is happening, though slowly. In a tight job market, human resources professional organizations are beginning to see that helping parents remain in the workforce makes sense not just socially, but economically.

Kraig said she was encouraged when, this spring, the Washington state legislature took up a bill that would have provided five weeks of paid leave (up to \$250 per week) for new parents. Although it

ended up receiving the signature of Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire, the funding for the measure is still up in the air.

With all the hectic scheduling, doctor's appointments, day-care-pickups and end-of-day exhaustion that so many parents face, advocacy for policies to address the problem fall by the wayside, Kraig said.

"The struggling family doesn't have the two hours in the day or the five hours in the week they could use to get together and form a parents' rights lobbying group to push for quality, locally supported day care, or to push the state to regulate early childhood education and day-care centers," Kraig said.

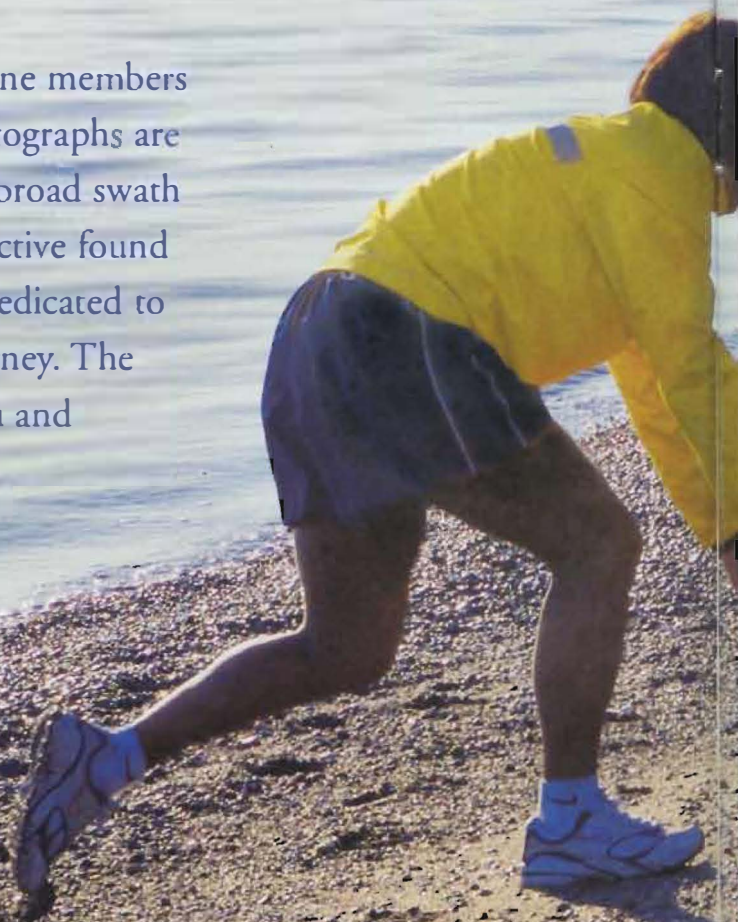
"It's as if we so undervalue the importance of early childhood education that we leave it to the whims and circumstances of the individual parents," she said. "And many PLU grads will have more wherewithal because they're in that 25 percent who have a college degree." □



PLU economics professor Lynn Hunnicutt scoops up her 2-year-old son, David, at the end of his day in Trinity Lutheran Church's day-care program. Hunnicutt said easy access to quality child care – Trinity is less than a block from her office – makes balancing work and family much less stressful.

# *What do you believe is true even though you cannot prove it?*

We brought one audacious question to nine members of the faculty, and the following answers and photographs are the result. The subjects of the story represent the broad swath of academic interest, seniority, gender, and perspective found in any healthy community – particularly one so dedicated to contemplation of each individual's vocational journey. The answers and images will inspire you, entertain you and challenge you to consider what you hold dear.



**Colleen Hacker**  
Professor of physical education  
Hometown: Lititz, Penn.

**I believe that each of us is the beneficiary of a world of possibilities, potential and promise that someone or something else fosters within us.** Each of us has benefited from a recognition or development of talents that we would have been unlikely to discover on our own. It may be as fleeting as a single conversation or as substantial as a loving or mentoring relationship. It may be through written or spoken word or by an encounter with wildlife, nature, music or sport. It may be someone else's story or an actual life experience. It is as likely to be formal and intentional as it is informal and unexpected. For me, the most powerful influence was my association and relationship with remarkable people and literature (books, poetry, quotes, life stories). For others, it might be an idea that showed them that something larger than themselves, for themselves, was out there – something deeper and more meaningful. It might be a career path turned into a calling because of the powerful influence of a significant person or ideal. It might be a way to interact and influence



the world simply by living our lives more intentionally and authentically. Whatever possibilities we envision for our lives, someone, through action, word or deed, has shown us that we're worthy and that dreams can be achieved. No matter what, we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us – people, who through their very lives, changed how we ultimately live ours.

It doesn't start with us. That's why being grateful, appreciative and aware is so important. When that awareness is opened for us, we are then confronted with the most powerful gift we have – the gift of choice. The choice to strive, to pursue, to uplift, to nurture and to serve with our own unique, signature strengths. We also face other options as well: the choice to settle for mediocrity over excellence, to destroy rather than create, or to criticize and condemn rather than inspire and improve. In the end, it all comes down to choice.

>>

## Jill Whitman

Professor of geosciences

Hometown: Lexington, Mass.

**My thought is that everything is connected to everything else in the complex system of the earth. And it's the complexity of the concept that makes it impossible to ever prove.**

This is a concept that has grown with me over time and life. Part of it comes out of the disciplines I've studied, and part of it is this ever-increasing awareness that we develop. We start out as young children and our world is very small – it's family or school or our town. As life goes by, we learn about history and the connections between peoples in different parts of the world, for example. When I went off to college, I ended up studying marine geology and oceanography. I was particularly interested in ancient ocean systems as recorded in the sediments of the deep sea. What we find in the sediments of the ocean is connected to the chemistry of the ocean and physical, biological and even atmospheric processes, and so my world of study went from geology to studying a much broader set of sciences together.

But this idea has hit me in the face now more than ever because of the direction I've taken here at PLU, which was to get involved with the environmental studies program and sustainability efforts. It has caused me to look not only at the natural systems of the earth but the human impact on the natural systems. You learn how human activity in one place can end up affecting water availability in another place, and you start to appreciate how big the consequences of human actions can be.

I feel a sense of awe when I think about these connections and the remarkable consequences. Some people might think of the 'butterfly effect,' but what I'm talking about is something even bigger than that. It's not just the concept that if a butterfly flaps its wings somewhere, it creates a tornado somewhere else. It's more about the connection between the decisions we make personally and how those decisions impact this incredibly complex web of life on our planet earth.





JP and Naomi Avila

“When my wife and I wrote our wedding vows, one of the things I wrote was ‘I promise you laughter amongst all things’” - JP AVILA

## JP Avila

Assistant professor of art  
Hometown: Banning, Calif.

I would say the thing I believe is most true is that you can cure anything with happiness. My father and mother are big jokesters, and so they're always using laughter and I think I've somewhat picked up on that. My grandmother, whom I also spent a lot of time with growing up, is also very much an optimist. She's a quiet lady, but she's very spunky and she loves a good laugh.

In my classroom, I don't try to be funny but it is part of my personality and I think I use that to diffuse a lot of the stress I put my students through. I'm a demanding teacher, and that can become very frustrating because I'm never happy with the end result. Even the final critique involves asking students “What

more could you have done with it?” There's got to be some release from that, so I try humor. That's my thing. I don't know if it works, but I feel that the students feel a bit more at ease.

I include it in my life as well. When my wife and I wrote our wedding vows, one of the things I wrote was “I promise you laughter amongst all things.” It's something that is of great use regardless of culture, gender, or anything. You smile at me and I will smile back at you. It's a contagious type of thing, and I don't need to know the language in order for us to be happy or to share a laugh. I think about the world we live in right now, and we have such hostility around us. Language is such a hot commodity

and a hot topic: we have to be politically correct, we have to be sensitive to different cultures, we have to be sensitive to different ethnicities, genders and ages. But it all can be diffused, and we can all find a common ground with laughter and with a smile.

## Tom Campbell

Professor of English

Hometown: Portland, Ore.

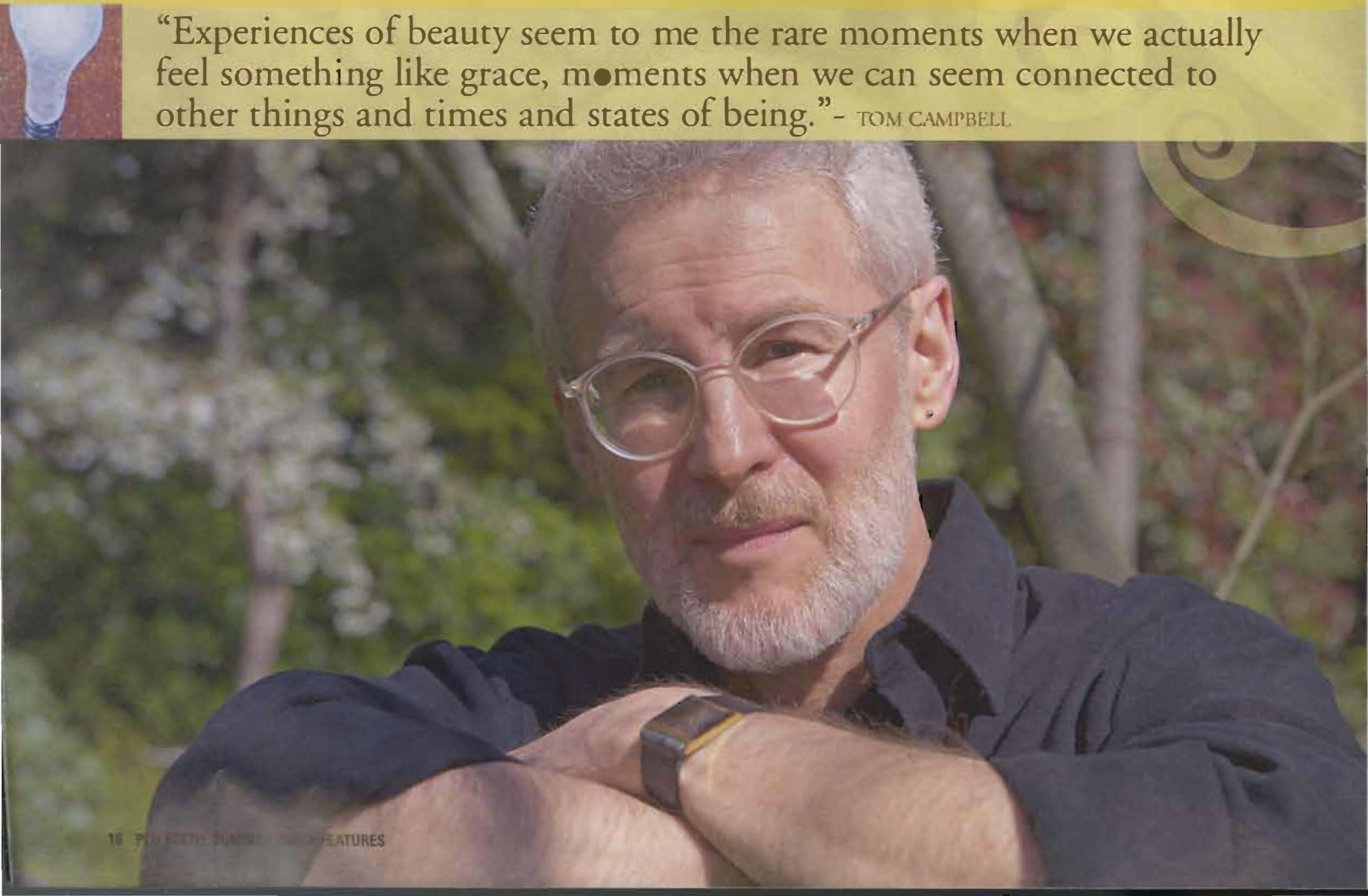
I believe, but can't prove, that beauty is good for us – by which I mean it makes us better people. It's morally good for us. Of course, the minute I say that, there springs to mind the countervailing example of Auschwitz commandants, after a day at the ovens, sitting enraptured by the beauties of Schubert Lieder. Yet there's also the image of Lenin putting aside Beethoven, music he loved, precisely because its beauty impeded his conducting of a bloody revolution: it made him want to pat heads instead of beat them.

I was struck some years ago reading philosopher Elaine Scarry's "On Beauty and Being Just," feeling that, finally, someone with real credentials was proposing a connection between aesthetics and morality, reviving a 19th century

view of the relationship between truth and beauty that's always made sense to me. She suggests that an encounter with beauty, in any of its forms, calls us to an intensity of consciousness, to a sense of life's utter preciousness and amplitude, actually prompting us to replicate the beauty we see. It ignites our desire for truth and fuels our desire to repair the damage done by injustice. She isn't offering a proof, of course, but I find her argument very persuasive. Experiences of beauty seem to me the rare moments when we actually feel something like grace, moments when we can seem connected to other things and times and states of being. Beauty is certainly transformative. I'm not the only one who believes that: most folks have been moved, shaken, stunned, been altered by

the beautiful in life or in art. And maybe most folks even think such an alteration is for the good. I don't know. But I know that I think it is. I believe beauty makes us better people; it can make us more alive, more connected, more receptive, more humble, more inquiring and discerning, more generous and generative. In a time of ideological brutalities and ugly partisan brawls, it seems a notion worth considering.

“Experiences of beauty seem to me the rare moments when we actually feel something like grace, moments when we can seem connected to other things and times and states of being.” - TOM CAMPBELL





## Mary Ellard-Ivey

Associate professor of biology  
Hometown: Dublin, Ireland

First off, it's a flawed question because scientists in my field don't ever prove anything. We make falsifiable hypotheses and generate data to support these hypotheses. I would rephrase the question as: "What do you believe even though you can never subject it to the scientific process?" So that's how I'm interpreting it.

I suppose I think about the two parts of myself: there's the scientist who makes a lot of decisions via the scientific process, and then there's the other part of myself, times when I dump my scientific training. All of the more important decisions – decisions about family, decisions about marriage, decisions about relationships – I believe that in those areas science often doesn't work. Those decisions are simply made on some other basis.

So what kind of things do I believe in those areas?  
**I believe strongly to go with your gut, and that anybody that makes you laugh is a good person to be around. I believe that laughing will extend your life.** I believe that having a good attitude can alter your perspective on anything. You could explore those things and try to subject them to science, but there are some things we'll never understand.

A nice thing about getting older is being confident about decisions you've made based on irrational notions. I just accept that. I think about having children for example. From a biological perspective it's a sensible decision but from an individual practical perspective it's irrational in many ways. They're a lot of work and an extremely expensive hobby, yet they are the center of my universe.

So the distillation of my answer is: Decisions about the important things in my life, my relationships with the people I work with and my family, are not grounded in science. You can never prove that you've made the right decision.



## Louis Komjathy

Visiting assistant professor of  
East Asian religions  
Hometown: Modesto, Calif.

The distinction between belief and proof is problematic. It presupposes that what we believe is somehow irrational, and that what we can prove is somehow rational or scientific. This conventional dichotomy also contains an assumption about the possibility of “objectivity” or “neutrality,” which from my point of view is largely a fiction. In fact, there is an interconnection between consciousness and reality, and so we are always seeing the world through a specific kind of consciousness or a specific worldview. One of the challenges is to investigate our unquestioned assumptions and to try to understand why we believe what we believe. **What I “believe” is not absent of “proof;” it is rooted in experiential understanding, in the**

**diverse experiences that compose my life.** So, I would frame the question as, “What are some of your deepest convictions based on an engaged life?”

I believe that there is interplay between inquiry, practice, experience and insight. We are all practicing something, whether we know it or not. And so, going back to the question as I framed it, I believe there are levels of consciousness and different ontological conditions. Throughout human history, philosophers, poets, psychologists and religious adherents, among others, have attempted to map such levels and conditions. Here it is important to recognize that reason or intellect is only one aspect of consciousness; consciousness cannot be reduced to rationality.

“Knowing” may be as limiting as advantageous.

From my perspective, we have extraordinary and often unidentified capacities to become realized beings. How do we become fully human? How does one become an authentic person? In our present context, education may be understood as a transformative process – part of the challenge is to awaken people to their potential to see the world from different points of view and to investigate their own unquestioned assumptions. These two dimensions of education are related to mapping the human condition in terms of different ontological levels or forms of consciousness. Here interior silence, contemplation and wild places are essential.

## Maria Chavez

Assistant professor of political science  
Hometown: Chico, Calif.

**I believe, but cannot prove, that human beings are truly limited in their ability to empathize with one another.** What else would explain the lack of fairness and justice in so many of our public policies?


It is truly impossible to walk in the footsteps of another in both the sorrows and joys in life. Unless we have personally experienced the despair and fear of being homeless, for example, or hungry, or forced to leave one's home for economic or political reasons, unemployed, uninsured; a victim of cancer; a victim of hate; losing a child to drugs, or a parent

to Alzheimer's, we have very real limitations in the feeling and knowledge of these experiences.

I don't mean to imply people don't care or that people don't try to feel for others. I simply believe that there are just real limits to people's ability to understand the pain (and joy) of others. We do try, and some of us are far better than others – it is that extra step that most of us can't seem to take. If enough of us knew what it was like to live in the streets for a week, or to be a child of a war, those are the things that would enable the next step, such as implementing public policies

directed toward either alleviating those situations, or enabling more positive situations. Yet, without that personal experience, most of us just don't really get it.

I believe that this human limitation is part of the reason we've never been able to create a truly just society and world.




“I simply believe that there are just real limits to people's ability to understand the pain (and joy) of others.” - MARIA CHAVEZ





Donna and Lenny Reisberg.

 "If I ask more questions and talk less, I find I get better results and better information." – LENNY REISBERG

## Lenny Reisberg

Professor of education  
Hometown: Dallas, Texas

One thing I believe to be true is that it is better to know some of the questions than to know all of the answers. That's a quote by James Thurber that I've really tried to integrate into professional life and personal life for many years now.

You know, we're here at PLU, we're professors, so we get paid to profess. To talk. To give our opinions. To tell facts to students. But if our goal is to try to get students to think and be problem-solvers

and be creative, then it's a lot better to ask questions than to give them facts and information. I was an administrator here at PLU – at one point I was the dean of information resources and the associate dean of the School of Education – and you get in meetings and people talk all of the time and give their opinions, and they don't often take the time to figure out how other people are thinking about things. And so sometimes we make decisions without all the information.

So I've really tried to follow that principle: listen more, talk less. It works really well in personal life, too, with my family and my wife. If I ask more questions and talk less, I find I get better results and better information. Empirically it's hard to test. Perhaps if everyone just gives their opinion we'd get great results, but I don't think so. It's just something I believe, and I've found that for myself, asking more questions and talking less works. If you ask the right question, you really get people to think and communicate.

## Carolyn Schultz

Professor of nursing

Hometown: Chicago, Ill.

As a nurse for 39 years, and as chair of the Franciscan Health System, **I know, but can't prove, that passion is essential in defining a profession.**

Passion comes from developing a series of habits – values, attitudes, beliefs, skills – that you don't have to think about; that you just do. And when you can do that on a regular and consistent basis, you open yourself to developing passion.

In Fred Lee's "If Disney Ran Your Hospital," he discussed four levels of motivation, the first two being compliance (you do so because your boss makes you) and will power (you do what you should do). The third is imagination (you do what you want to do because you feel like doing it). It is here where you start letting yourself be open to another person's experience: What if that were my mother? What if that were my sister? You need imagination to ask these questions – and that's when passion begins to develop.

The fourth level is habit – doing what comes naturally.

Habits develop talents. Talent is habit, habit is talent. Certain attitudes and skills generate the right responses that emerge naturally. That's where empathy develops, and that is what I'm really talking about: empathy and the ability to inspire compassion.

I think of Mother Theresa, and how she was able to do what she did, everyday. She saw Christ in every person that she touched. She could feel empathy, and inspire compassion, because she had the imagination to develop the habits.

I don't think there is a generic definition of passion – each professional person needs to find out for themselves what passion means to him or her. In nursing and teaching – my two passions – my passion is based on empathy. Empathy doesn't happen until we develop those habits – values, attitudes, beliefs, skills – over and over again; until we get over having to worry about or having to think about the things we say, or the skills we employ. If you develop the habits of thought and action, then you can open yourself up to being aware of your passion. **S**

PHOTO BY CHRIS WILLARD



# leadership & service

## Parents look back on 4 years at PLU

**A**round this time four years ago, we knew that our youngest daughter, Kaarin, would soon be heading to Pacific Lutheran University to spend the next few years on a campus with which we already felt a true connection. Her sister, Kristin Rue, graduated from PLU in 1997; I am a 1970 graduate.

Yet, Kaarin's experience has been unique to her and to us. As a result, PLU—a place we already valued—has become even more important to us. When Kaarin visited campuses as a high school student, preparing to make that momentous decision, PLU became the clear choice: Kaarin recalls President Loren Anderson taking the time to get to know so many prospective students. "He called me by name," she recalls. Hearing a young graduate speak about preparing for "lives of service" also made a big impression.

Her choice was definitely correct. Four years ago Kaarin threw herself into campus life with gusto and she hasn't stopped learning and growing from the day we left her at Pflueger Hall.

It is hard to find things Kaarin hasn't liked about PLU: we hear of challenging and inspirational professors, of the joys of marvelous work partnerships in her on-campus job, of laughing with friends, of late nights talking philosophy and religion, of study sessions with her fellow "math nerds," of times spent at games, plays and at musical performances. We hear of frustrating, challenging, growth-provoking conversations in International Core classes. We relish the pictures sent via e-mail of campus dances, crazy times in the dorn, days spent at PLU courses in Norway and in Costa Rica.

Through all of this we have watched a confident high school graduate mature into a self-assured, aware, contributing citizen of the world. Her father and I can't say enough good things about PLU.

Parent Council has provided us the opportunity to continue a new type of involvement in our daughter's educa-



Jan (Swanson '70) Praxel and her husband, Jack Praxel, visited with daughter Kaarin during a visit to campus for a Parent Council meeting this spring.

tional experience. We've appreciated the chance to get to know a group of parents who care as much as we do about the university and its future. The council provides an excellent opportunity to get involved, learn about campus life, see Kaarin during an extra visit and give back a little to a place that has given us so much.

The Parent Council meets twice a year to serve as a sounding board for the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations as it tailors its program to help keep parents informed. The council recently got a sneak peek at the new "parents" page of the [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org) Web site, and was able to provide feedback on changes that parents would like to see. For instance, we suggested placing vacation dates front and center so parents would be able to plan holidays and family gatherings easily.

As an aside, this group now meets in the new Morken Center, the "green" building on campus. In creating this structure, PLU has taken a stance concerning the environment that speaks volumes to me regarding the university's awareness of pressing issues in society.

Kaarin graduated in May and our immediate family's connection with PLU has changed, but we'll continue to send friends and acquaintances to this marvelous place of learning. Thank you, PLU, for all our family has gained during our 40-year connection with this institution. [S]

By Jan (Swanson '70) Praxel

# 07-08

## Parent Council

Karl and Nancy Cambronne  
*Minneapolis, Minn.*

Susan Davis  
*Hoquiam, Wash.*

Jill Elliott  
*Poulsbo, Wash.*

Wilt and Ann Feider  
*White Bear Lake, Minn.*

Jerry and JeanMarie Foss  
*Fircrest, Wash.*

Dave and Kim Guinn  
*Arvada, Colo.*

Roy '78 and Peggy '79 Hammerling  
*Fargo, N.D.*

Gail Hashagen  
*Sammamish, Wash.*

Robin Kalohelani  
*Aiea, Hawaii*

Mike '79 and Melinda '80 Meyer  
*Renton, Wash.*

Rob and Jackie Ogan  
*Salem, Ore.*

Jeremy (chair) and Susan '76 Stringer  
*Bellevue, Wash.*

Gene and Jef Twiner  
*University Place, Wash.*

# attaway lutes

Stellar season puts 2007 in the record books



Senior members of the conference-winning baseball squad were pivotal to its success. Pictured in front are Jared Simon and Logan Andrews; from left to right in the back row are Bryce Depew, Ryan Thorne, Tyler Green, Kael Fisher, Joe DiPietro, Jeff Caley, Justin Whitehall and Roger Guzman.

Joe DiPietro felt sharp – and looked it – in the first three innings of Pacific Lutheran’s baseball game against Northwest Conference power George Fox on a Saturday in late March. DiPietro, a senior from Yakima, mowed down nine straight Bruin batters.

With game-time temperatures in the low 50s and the wind blowing, however, DiPietro felt the chill seeping through his sweat-soaked undershirt. Struggling to stay warm, he walked two batters, got an out, and then walked another to load the bases. That brought Daniel Downs to the plate, the Bruins’ No. 5 hitter, who packed an impressive .395 batting average.

That’s when DiPietro “the pitcher” took over. Making the most of his veter-

an defense, DiPietro threw a slider that Downs pounded into the ground. Shortstop Logan Andrews fielded the ball near the second base bag and turned the double play to get the Lutes out of the inning. DiPietro finished with a three-hitter in a 9-1 PLU victory, setting up a three-game series sweep of the No. 5-ranked Bruins, and catapulting the Lutes into first place in the conference standings. It’s the kind of performance that has defined the team all season long.

This spring, the Lutes won their first conference title of any kind since Pacific Lutheran College won consecutive Evergreen Conference championships in 1953-54. The Northwest Conference title was the first ever for a Pacific Lutheran baseball team. As conference champion,

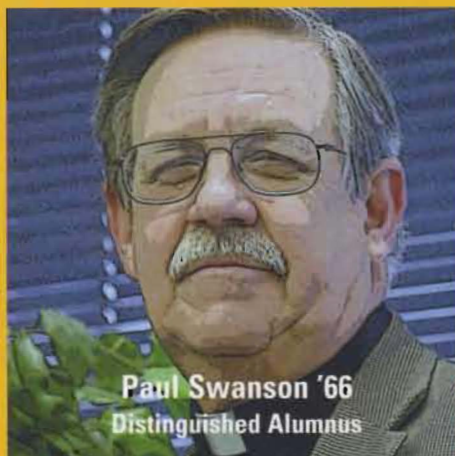
PLU qualified for the NCAA Division III regional tournament held May 16-20. The team’s unparalleled success, including a school record 21 wins during the regular season, can be credited to an outstanding young coach and his first PLU recruiting class – eight seniors who form the heart and soul of the program.

This year’s senior class is the first that Geoff Loomis, the program’s head coach since 2003, personally recruited. A coach’s first recruiting class is always special, but in a conference with loads of talent, sentimental value will only get a team so far. The eight seniors on the team – plus two transfers who have since joined the program – have made it their

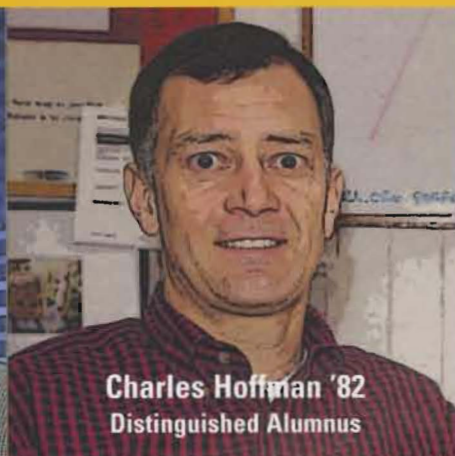
*continued on page 38*

# ALUMNI RECOGNITION 2007

With more than 37,000 active alumni, there is always a reason to applaud and celebrate the accomplishments of our remarkable alumni and friends. Congratulations to all of our nominees and to this year's list of awardees.



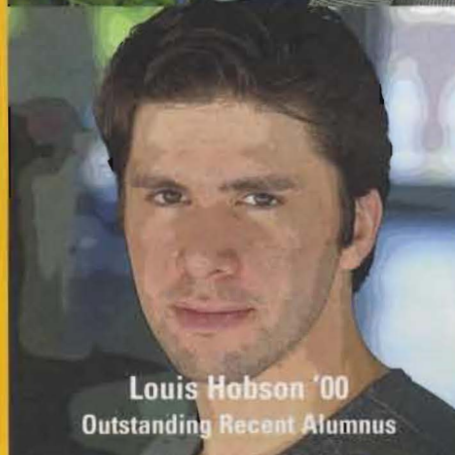
**Paul Swanson '66**  
Distinguished Alumnus



**Charles Hoffman '82**  
Distinguished Alumnus



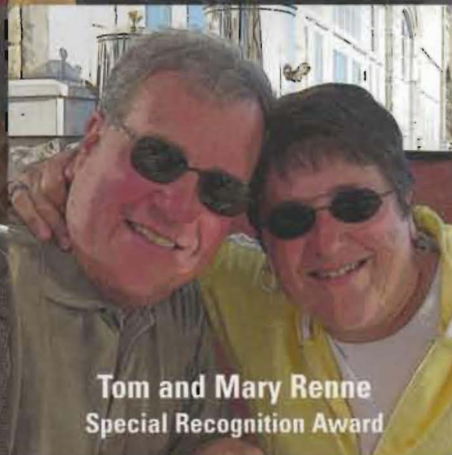
**Brenda Morris '91**  
Outstanding Alumnus



**Louis Hobson '00**  
Outstanding Recent Alumnus



**Erving '55 and Nancy Svertson '79**  
Heritage Award



**Tom and Mary Renne**  
Special Recognition Award



**Anita (Gregersen) '59**  
Christian Alumni Service Award



**Kaarin Praxel '07**  
Brian Olson Award



**Paige Sthen '07**  
Brian Olson Award

**Distinguished Alumnus Award:**  
*Through years of dedication and service, this alumnus has achieved professional or vocational distinction.*

For his outstanding leadership as a

pastor and bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, **Paul Swanson '66** receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Bishop Swanson, unlike any other current bishop, built the synod from

the ground up, becoming a bishop at a very young age and staying longer than most. After attending the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Bishop Swanson served as a parish pastor for 17 years before



becoming the first bishop of the Oregon Synod. Considered by many of his colleagues to be a "pastor's pastor," Bishop Swanson will be retiring from the Oregon Synod this August after 20 years of service. Swanson and his wife, Mary (Green '67), live in Portland.

For his groundbreaking work in the field of financial accounting software development, **Charles Hoffman '82** receives the Distinguished Alumnus Award. After graduating and working in the accounting industry for a few years, Hoffman saw a need for the exchange of information between accounting and business software. In 1998, he developed a solution in the basement of his house in Tacoma. The XBRL reporting system has become an almost instant success. It is already widely recognized as an innovative and important advance in the communication of financial data in standard format to the community of investors and regulators it serves. Hoffman lives in Tacoma.

**Outstanding Alumnus Award:**  
*Awarded to an alumnus, beyond 15 years of graduation, who has excelled in a special area of life.*

For her skillful management of the initial public offering of Zumiez, Inc. as the company's CFO, **Brenda Morris '91** receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award. Coupled with her recent transition to the position of CFO for iFloors, Inc., her success at Zumiez and her active involvement with the School of Business Executive Advisory Board at PLU, Morris is a fitting example of vocational accomplishment. She lives with her family in Sumner, Wash.

**Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award:**  
*Award to an alumnus, within 15 years of graduation, who has excelled in a special area of life.*

For his outstanding achievement and success in theater both locally and nationally, **Louis Hobson '00** receives the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award. As a leading young actor at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre, Hobson has held the lead in a number of pro-

fessional musical productions throughout the Puget Sound and around the country including "HAIR," "Miss Saigon," "Wizard of Oz," "Sound of Music," "Pippen," "Evita" and, just recently, "West Side Story". Hobson lives in Tacoma with his wife, Noreen (McEntee '00).

**Heritage Award:**  
*Awarded to an alumnus for years of distinguished service to the university.*

For his outstanding leadership at PLU as a faculty member, administrator and vice president, and for her remarkable volunteer involvement at PLU, **S. Erving '55 and Nancy Severtson '79** both receive the Heritage Award. Erv Severtson served PLU as a member of the faculty for more than 30 years and as vice president for student life for 14. He has come back to campus numerous times since retirement to fill interim positions and head major search committees. He is a counselor, mentor, father figure and friend to many people. For nearly 50 years, both Erving and Nancy have supported the growth and stability of the university with their time, financial gifts and talents. For the countless hours she has shared her husband with PLU and for her many hours as a volunteer, Nancy Severtson is also being honored. The Severtsons live in Gig Harbor, Wash.

**Special Recognition Award:**  
*Awarded to an alumnus or friend of the university who has served the university in a unique or special way.*

For their unwavering loyalty as volunteers **Tom and Mary Renne** receive a Special Recognition Award. The Rennets have sent two children to PLU, served on the Parent Council for several years (including two years as co-chairs), continue to be strong financial donors and to donate their time and boundless energy to the university even though their children have graduated. Since leaving the Parent Council, Tom Renne volunteers his time with PLU Lute Club to raise money for athletic programs. Tom and Mary Renne live in West Linn, Ore.

**Alumni Service Award:**  
*Awarded to an alumnus who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer leadership and/or service to the community.*

For her outstanding volunteer servant leadership to PLU and the broader community, **Anita (Gregersen '59) Christian** receives the Alumni Service Award. Anita has spent countless hours on campus and in the community raising money for student scholarships. Most notably, she has chaired the annual Yule Boutique for eight of the last 12 years. She still serves as co-director of hospitality at Trinity Lutheran church, where she taught Sunday school and sponsored the Youth of Trinity group. She is currently the president of Women of the ELCA Southwest Washington Synod. Christian lives in Parkland with her husband, David.

**The Brian Olson Award:**  
*Presented to a student who has demonstrated commitment to the university and the alumni association. By recognizing the importance of connecting students and alumni, this student has shown a potential for lifelong service to the university.*

For her outstanding achievement as a leader on campus and her countless hours of work for the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, **Kaarin Praxel '07** receives the Brian C. Olson Leadership Award. Praxel was co-chair of PLU's chapter of Habitat for Humanity and served as president of her residence hall. She served as executive director for the Student Alumni Association from 2006-2007 and has already agreed to be the 2007 co-class representative. She is from Spokane, Wash.

For her three years of work as a TelALute, raising almost \$50,000 for student scholarships over the phone, **Paige Sthen '07** receives the Brian C. Olson Leadership Award. Sthen served as president of University Congregation and is a member of Q Club. Sthen is from Brookings, Ore. ☐

# alumni news & events

continued

## ALUMNI BOARD NOMINATIONS OFFICIAL BALLOT

2007-2008 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following candidates are nominated for the 2007-2008 Alumni Board of Directors. Please vote for two candidates – two response boxes are provided if two alumni live in the same household.

Detach this form and mail before Aug. 1, 2007, to the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, Nesvig Alumni Center, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447. You can also cast your ballot online at [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org).

- LeAnn Jones '02  
  Judith Perry '63  
 Write-in candidate(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BALLOT

## Alumni office hosts a summer full of events

**D**ozens of events highlight the summer schedule of the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.

“We would like to extend a special invitation to all alumni, parents and friends of PLU to come to campus to visit us weekdays this summer at the Nesvig Alumni Center for a cup of coffee and a campus tour,” said Lauralee Hagen, director of the office.

To register for these events or for more information, go to [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org) or call 800-258-6758 or 253-535-7203.



### LUNCH ON RED SQUARE

Monthly Fruit Festivals feature a berry dessert and entertainment during festive gatherings in Red Square this summer. The staff of the alumni office invites alumni for a picnic lunch in conjunction with the festivals. To order a gourmet box lunch for \$10, please RSVP at [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org). For those who register in advance, the berry dessert is free; without a reservation, dessert is an additional \$2. All berry festivals start at 11:30 a.m.

- June 20 – Strawberry Fruit Festival featuring Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth
- July 18 – Raspberry Fruit Festival featuring the The Islanders Steel Drum Band
- August 15 – Blueberry Fruit Festival featuring The Coats

### PLU ARCHIVES OPEN TO VISITORS

University archivist Kris Ringdahl '82 has been a valuable resource to PLU for more than 40 years. She will host alumni for a tour of university history in the archive office at Mortvedt Library from 10-11:30 a.m. on July 18 and August 15. For information about the archives and

## Picture Perfect



These 1957 graduates of the nursing program meet twice a year to reminisce. This photo was taken in September 2006 on Hood Canal in Washington. Pictured, from left to right, are Pauline Vorderstrasse '57, Elaine (Mobley '57) VanWoudenberg, Elois (Nelson '57) Isaacson, Marilyn (Luft '57) Nelson, Janee (Krug '58) Theleman, Louise (Larsen '57) Grande, Janelle (Bricker '57) Personius, Ann Nielsen '57, Stella (Anderson '57) Nieman and Lina (Taber '57) Hoffenbaker. The group is looking forward to its 50th-reunion this year.

When PLU freshman Ryan Nichols, right, attended the World Cup in Germany last summer, he was surprised to find himself seated in a sold-out soccer match next to history professor Michael Halvorson '85, who had been his international Core 111 teacher the previous fall. After a few laughs and double-takes, the two soccer fans settled down to an exciting match between Portugal and Angola. You simply never know where Lutes will run into each other!



its regular hours of operation, please visit [www.plu.edu/archives](http://www.plu.edu/archives) or call 253-535-7586.

#### BEHIND-THE-SCENES CAMPUS TOUR

On July 18 and August 15, the alumni office will provide "behind-the-scenes" campus tours aimed at reorienting graduates with a transformed campus landscape. Featured locations include Garfield Book Company at PLU, the university's new bookstore, due to open in early June; the building site and plans for the new KPLU studio; the Wang Center for International Programs; and the Morken Center for Learning and Technology.

#### ALUMNI BOOK CLUB SERIES

Soon-to-open Garfield Book Company at PLU at the corner of Garfield Street and Pacific Avenue, will feature a series of free book club discussions hosted by the alumni office and featuring PLU faculty and alumni, plus a few local guests. The series begins this summer.

- "A Prayer for Owen Meany," by John Irving, facilitated by professor of religion Samuel Torvend '73, Wednesday, July 18, 7 p.m.
- "The Matador's Cape: America's Reckless Response to Terror" by Stephen Holmes, facilitated by Christian Lucky '89, Seattle attorney and special counsel to Bellevue Hospital in New York for catastrophic response. Tuesday, July 31, 7 p.m.
- "The Pact" by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt, facilitated by a panel to include: PLU faculty members Ron Byrnes and Joanna Gregson; Enumclaw School District Superintendent Mike Nelson '85 and others. Wednesday, August 15, 7 p.m.

#### MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The alumni office is sponsoring a night at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma as the Tacoma Rainiers take on the Portland Beavers on Friday, August 24 at 7:05 p.m. Admission is \$9.50 and includes a hot dog, chips, soda and a fireworks show. [S]

Pacific Lutheran University Presents



*Designed in the 1970s, the University Center dining room is a hub of university activity.*

## P r o u d P a s t B R I G H T F U T U R E H o m e c o m i n g 2 0 0 7

Wear your Lute colors proudly when you come back to campus October 11-14 for Homecoming 2007: Proud Past, Bright Future. In addition to this year's class reunions of **1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002** there will be a special affinity reunion honoring ASPLU and a celebration of the renovated University Center.

This is a sampling of the weekend's activities and events. Please watch for registration materials this summer. For more information or to register visit us online at

[www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org), or call **800-ALUM-PLU**

#### Thursday, October 11, 2007

Songfest

Homecoming Celebration Brunch

Homecoming Football Game

PLU vs. Menlo College

#### Friday, October 12, 2007

Classes Without Quizzes

Homecoming Chapel

Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon

ASPLU Reunion

Class Reunion and Affinity Celebrations

PLU GOLD (Graduates of the

Last Decade) Mixer

Homecoming Gala at the

Tacoma Art Museum

#### Saturday, October 13, 2007

Nursing Alumni Reunion Reception

Homecoming Coffee Hour

Into the Streets Community Service

#### Sunday, October 14, 2007

Homecoming Breakfast

Golden Club Brunch

Homecoming Worship



*Artist rendition of the new interior of the University Center dining room remodeled for 2007/2008.*

# alumni profiles



## Anderson family known for generations of giving

**W**hen Bud Anderson '31 was just a kid, he remembers then-PLC President Ola Ordal stopping by the house after church on a Sunday afternoon to chat with his father. Bud's father, Herman Edwards (H.E.) Anderson, was a regent at the time, and this conversation – as was the case for many others – focused on money. Namely, the lack of it.

"It is said my father loaned \$10,000 so PLC could make payroll," recalls Bud. "I don't know if he ever got it back."

In fact, as Bud looks back on it, he is pretty sure that his father not only lent PLU the money, but he took out a loan to meet that obligation.

The history of PLU has no shortage of individuals who have sacrificed significantly to help a small struggling school – intended to help Norwegian fishermen improve their English skills – become what it is today. That was, in part, due to the vision of individuals like H.E. Anderson.

And clearly, that vision continues with Bud and his wife of more than 60 years, Vivian. Bud, who transferred to the University of Washington after three years at PLC, is the former CEO of Tacoma Steel Products. Now in his early 90s, he and Vivian split their time between homes (and golf courses) in Palm Springs, Calif., and Tacoma. Until

recently, Bud has shored his age on the golf course every year, save his 77th year. He vows to do it again.

In addition to their work at PLU, Bud and Vivian are also actively involved with the Anderson Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization that they established. They are very proud to help support the Boys and Girls Club of Tacoma, and in particular the programs that have helped increase high school graduation rates.

It was President Seth Eastvold who asked Bud to continue the legacy of his father, by joining PLU's Board of Regents. "They were looking for someone to help them raise funds," said

Anderson of his 1962-67 term on the board. "I wasn't much of a success."

Such sentiment, while genuine, is hardly accurate. And it only underscores the selflessness of both time and money the Andersons have contributed to the university. It is hard to walk around campus and not find something with the Anderson name on it, most often to honor Bud's parents. Like the sections of the Morken Center, Xavier Hall and the UC clock tower, Bud and Vivian have proven to be invaluable assets to PLU.

In talking to the two, it does not take long to see why they have been, throughout the years, so involved in the PLU community: They positively light up when discussing the opportunities made available to students. One can tell that being a part of an active campus community that continues to grow is so important to them.

It was several years after Bud's term on the board, in the early 1990s, when he and Vivian were asked to come to PLU's aid once again, this time by the recently appointed President Loren Anderson. Bud and Vivian both laugh when they think about it – they were asked to rebuild the clock tower that was named in honor of H.E. and Agnes Anderson. "They were afraid it was going to fall down," said Bud with a laugh, "so they asked, 'who built this thing in the first place?' That's how they got back in touch with us."

They did, of course, assist in rebuilding the campus icon. And that rekindled a relationship that continues to blossom. "You could tell that he was going to do a lot here," said Bud of the new PLU president. "And we wanted to be a part of that."

That feeling is mutual – and, again, certainly understates the impact Bud and Vivian have had on the university. "Bud and Vivian are among the most important friends PLU has had," said Loren Anderson. "Their support for PLU, and their deep appreciation of its legacy, is an essential part of our continued growth. They are an example of those who, with an eye on the past, continue to help prepare PLU for the future; and they do so with a humility of heart and generosity of spirit that is simply inspiring."

By Steve Hansen



Ryker Labbee '96 gives a monk in Shan State, Myanmar (Burma) a photography lesson. Photo by Tamara Plush.

## Labbee leaves career track to help others

Ryker Labbee '96 wants to change the world. The 33-year-old is on his way to reaching that goal.

Since quitting his job as a Seattle-based technical consultant about three years ago, Labbee has pursued his passion to instigate change in developing countries. He is now preparing to begin his first year of graduate studies at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

"Being secure and bold enough to walk away from a good job to pursue my passion is something I'm most proud of," Labbee said.

In the past three years, Labbee has traveled to about 30 countries. But he's spent much of that time interested in Cambodia, where the Bellevue nonprofit Stop Exploitation Now! (SEN) – of which Labbee is a board member – commits most of its resources.

Labbee said he always has been interested in Cambodia's history, but was truly moved to help the Cambodian people in 2003, during his first visit with SEN.

He described a 9-year-old girl named Dara, whom he first saw at a shelter for rescued child prostitutes and street workers. "She volunteered to be my adopted child," Labbee said. "She captured my heart a little bit."

Another inspiration was a female victim of domestic abuse who was burned by acid—a common occurrence. The woman's infant daughter, who was in her arms when the acid was thrown, was burned as well.

"It was one of those haunting scenarios," Labbee said.

Something that frustrates Labbee and prompted him to pursue a graduate degree in international affairs is that while SEN helps individuals, it

cannot change policies.

"I think I found as I traveled and explored that international affairs is my passion," Labbee said. "It's a desire to make more Americans aware of the big bad world we live in."

By Laura Zaichkin '07

## Amondson sets world record

After 30 years in health care, Susan (Wark '77) Amondson had watched enough people suffer with the debilitating effects of cancer to spur her to action.

Last August, Amondson, who graduated with a degree from the School of Nursing, spent 24 hours laboring over a stair climber at the Louis County (Wash.) Fair



to raise money for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

In doing so, she set the women's world stair-climbing record at 10 vertical

miles. Amondson used the 24-hour challenge to kick off fundraising for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's "Climb to Fight Breast Cancer" at Mount Kilimanjaro. This July, Amondson will take on the 19,340-foot African peak.

Amondson's consistent dedication to celebrating life with passion and paying it forward through inspiration was shared by her best friend and climbing partner, Jeniffer Affeldt, who lost her life in an August 2006 climbing accident.

"My best friend taught me to not be afraid to enjoy life, engage in it and continue to challenge myself," Amondson said. "She truly inspired me to reach each peak."

That lesson is reflected as Amondson continues to challenge herself and put her passion for climbing toward a greater cause – cancer research.

"If you begin by building your foundation, recognizing who you are and where your spiritual strength is, it is easier to climb the peaks of life," Amondson said. "My goal is to be the best in the areas that God has put me in life." S

By Sabrina Coady '08

# alumni class notes

Class Representative positions available:  
1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1944,  
1946, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1964, 1968,  
1969, 1978, 1991, 1999

## 1935

**Roland Swanson** died Jan. 8. He graduated in 1942 from Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Ill. He was ordained into the parish ministry and served Messiah Lutheran Church in Bakersfield, Calif.; Central Lutheran Church in Yakima, Wash.; Salem Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, Wash.; and Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, Ore. He was active in numerous church and community organizations throughout his life and served as the secretary of the Pacific Northwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America from 1963 to 1975. His wife of 63 years, Isabelle, preceded him in death. He leaves behind four sons and their spouses, **Paul '66** and **Mary (Greene '67) Swanson**, **Mark '68** and **Wendy (Lider '71) Swanson**, **Peter '70** and **Jean '72 Swanson**, and **Thomas '74** and **Debbie Swanson**. Roland also leaves behind six great-grandchildren and 16 grandchildren, including **Kristen (Swanson '93) Paschall**, **Karlynn Swanson '96**, **Nathan Swanson '00**, **Laef Swanson '05**, **Torey Swanson '99**, **Erik Swanson '00**, **Kurt Swanson '04**, and current PLU students, **Colin '09** and **Carl '09 Swanson**.

**Viola (Larsen) Nybakke** died Oct. 23. She taught for 30 years in small Oregon schools, such as Monitor, Whiskey Hill, Hubbard, Dayton and Aurora, as well as in large schools in Portland and Redondo Beach, Calif. In the early years, she even taught her own children in a one-room schoolhouse. She was an active church member, playing the piano and teaching Sunday school. Viola is survived by her son, **John**; her daughter, **Phyllis Cavens '61**; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death in 1990 by her husband of 54 years, **Clifford**.

## 1936

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

## 1937

**Obert Haavik** died Dec. 24. After serving in the Navy, he worked for Continental Can Company in Seattle, San Francisco and Portland until his retirement in 1975. He spent the next 25 years as a relief worker for World Concern, visiting over 25 countries. His wife of 48 years, **Edna**, preceded him in death. Surviving him are his son, **O. Jay '65**; his daughter, **Diane '68**; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1938

**Nevella (Ross) Lemagie** died March 12. She began her career in education in

Puyallup, Wash., but after marrying her husband, **Dick**, in 1945, Dolly took time to raise her family. In the Mid-'60s, she returned to teaching and helped organize the local Head Start program in Tacoma. She and **Dick** both retired in their mid-50s and enjoyed many years cruising in their '42 **Grand Banks** on Puget Sound and in Canadian and Alaskan waters, frequently for five months at a time. Dolly was a member of the Day Island Yacht Club and for many years acted as the club's historian. She was also an avid writer, recording many stories of their travels, as well as family history. After 61 years of marriage, **Dick** preceded her in death by only seven weeks. She is survived by her son, **Pat (Lynne)**; her daughter, **Colleen '72**; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1940

Class Representative – **Luella Toso Johnson**

## 1941

**Alalie Fosso Johnson** died Feb. 11. After graduating from PLC, she taught in Seattle and Shoreline (Wash.) schools until her retirement. She had many friends in the school system and in her church, where she was very active. She loved people and enjoyed cooking, entertaining and traveling. She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, **Kenneth '42**, a former Seattle school principal; her sister, **Corrine (Fosso '48) Stuen**; and her brothers, **Paul '38** and **Harold '51 Fosso**. She is survived by her son, **Tim**; her daughter, **Cori Wright '81**; four grandchildren, including **Randi Johnson '05**; her sister, **Ruth (Fosso '46) Gilbertson**, and brother, **Don Fosso '57**. She was also an aunt to five nieces and seven nephews who graduated from PLU.

**Peter Londahl** died Dec. 4. He received four degrees from PLC: an associate's degree in 1937, a normal degree in 1939, and two bachelor's degrees, one in 1941 and the other in 1948. He completed his master's degree at the College of Puget Sound in 1954. During World War II, he served in the United States Army. He taught for 50 years in Western Washington and served as a vice principal and guidance counselor. He was also a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Olympia, Wash., and the Gloria Dei Jubilee Club. Peter enjoyed reading, college football, the Mariners, crossword puzzles, home building projects, games, trips to the Oregon coast and boating. He and his wife of almost 50 years, **Daphne**, both died in an accident in their home. They are survived by their daughters, **Priscilla**, **Kristin**, **Gretchen** and **Daphne**; 10 grandchildren, including **Amelia Partlow '03**; and one great-grandchild.

## 1942

**Nadine (Friedline) McMillan** died Nov. 8. She was an elementary school teacher in the Sumner and Oring (Wash.) school districts. She was an active member of the Sumner Presbyterian Church and the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Don**, and her son, **Lauchlin**. She is survived by her daughter, **Nancy**; son-in-law, **Emory Van**; two grandsons; and four great-grandchildren.

**Robert Thoren** died March 3. He served with distinction as an Army captain in Europe during World War II. After the war, he attended PLC and then began a successful career as an independent insurance agent. His commitment to people, service and professionalism gained him a reputation of integrity and the respect of his peers and his many clients during his 40-year career. He was also a devoted member of Little Church on the Prairie in Lakewood, Wash. His first wife, **Mary**, preceded him in death, as did his sisters, **Lorraine Forsberg '32** and **Mable Shore Kish**. Surviving him are his wife, **Betty**; his sons, **James (Victoria)** and **Jeffrey (Peggy)**; and three grandchildren.

## 1943

Class Representative – **Lorna (Rogers) Greer**

## 1945

Class Representative – **Annabelle Birkestol**

**Mildred (Tollefson) Krueger** died Jan. 5. She taught for 20 years in elementary schools in the Tacoma and Portland, Ore., school districts. In 1975, she moved to Seattle, where she helped her husband, **Bob '40**, start a business as a restaurant equipment factory representative. During the last 30 years, they lived on Mercer Island, Wash., where Mildred was also a talented gardener. Bob, her husband of 56 years, preceded her in death. She is survived by her children, **Marty (Carroll)**, **Mike (Gabriela)**, and **Janie (John) Putt**, and two grandchildren.

## 1947

Class Representative – **Gerry Lider**

## 1948

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

## 1950

Class Representative – **Dick Weathermon**

**Edna (Haglund) Dorothy** died Oct. 8. After receiving her degree from PLC, she taught elementary school in Washington state on Vashon Island and in the Lake Washington School District. She raised her family in Kirkland and was a charter

member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, **Edwin '50**; her son, **David '77**; her daughters, **Cathy Speral '78** and **Sue Hardin**; and five grandchildren.

## 1951

**Robert Voie** died Sept. 24. Before attending PLC, he served three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he went back to school and graduated from Everett Junior College. He then went to work as a correctional officer for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on McNeil Island, while attending PLC. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he left the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to work in security at The Boeing Company, where he stayed for 33 years, retiring in 1986. During that time, he held a second job as regional director of the United Plant Guard Workers of America for 26 years. In 1972, he and his wife, **Mary**, divorced and in 1977, he married his second wife, **Bertha**. One of his greatest joys was traveling, which he and **Bertha** did a lot. He also enjoyed gardening, finances, politics and current events. He is survived by **Bertha**; his sons with **Mary McConihe**, **Bruce '74** and **Edward '75**; his stepson, **Steven Johnson**; 11 grandchildren, including **Christa Whelchel '02**; and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1952

**Margaret (Winters) England** and her husband, **Lee**, are doing very well and are enjoying the quiet life on their farm in Elkview, Wisc. **Margaret** retired as manager of their purebred Arabian horse breeding farm, **LeMar Arabians**. All horses and cattle have been sold since 2002. **Lee** is a retired accountant and business manager.

**Richard Berg** died Dec. 22. Before attending PLC, he served four years in the United States Navy during World War II. He worked as a business representative for the plumbing industry until his retirement in 1984. He loved to golf with his friends at Oakbrook Golf and Country Club. One of his proudest accomplishments was a hole-in-one at Fort Steilacoom Golf Course. He was preceded in death by his eldest son, **Martin**, and leaves behind his wife of 59 years, **Marilyn**; his son **Rick (Cheryl)**; and his daughter, **Allison**.

## 1953

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

## 1955

Class Representative – **Phyllis (Grahm) Pejsa**

## 1956

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

**1957**

Class Representative – Marilyn (Hefty) Katz

**1958**

Class Representative – Don Cornell

**Jon Soine** is a residential and commercial real estate agent for Windemere Real Estate and the new president of the Whatcom County (Wash.) Association of Realtors. The organization's goal this year is to get \$100 million in state funding to create and maintain parks and preserve wildlife. Jon says he is a "big believer in maintaining a balance" between preserving wildlife habitats and providing an adequate number of affordable homes. He is also a member of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition.

**1959**

Class Representative – Todd Penson

**Twila Ann (Gillis) Springer** and her husband, Bruce, retired in 1992 after years of teaching in the Northwest and overseas. They live in Port Angeles, Wash., their permanent home since 1969, where they have home schooled a grandson for three years. It has been a rewarding experience!

**1960**

Class Representative – Marilu (Miller) Person

**John Olson** died Dec. 3. He attended seminary in Berkley, Calif., and was ordained as a Lutheran minister. During the first 15 years of his ministry, he served numerous congregations in southern California and in the Sacramento area. After moving to Spokane in 1977, he began his 22-year ministry in ecumenical and community work. He first served as director of Spokane Ecumenical Ministries, but soon began acting as an at-large minister to the community, involving himself in many other programs. These included the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council, the Interstate Task Force on Human Relations, Nightwalk Ministries, Camp PEACE and the Greater Spokane Coalition Against Poverty. He also served as a pastor at several Spokane churches, including Grace Lutheran Church for 11 years. In 1999 he retired to the Seattle area, where he continued to serve the religious community. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, **Marie (Ostroot '61)**; his son, Kevin (Kathie); his daughter, Kim (Doug); his son, Keith (Jen); and four grandchildren.

**Larry Johnson**, retired pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, Calif., initiated the reinstatement of the Scandinavian Festival, which had been held for 30 years at California Lutheran University before a hiatus last year. As a member of the board of the sponsoring Scandinavian American Cultural & Historical Foundation, he set

up town meetings that led to the festival, which took place in April. As a member of the festival's executive committee, he coordinated plans for a Scandinavian worship service as part of the festival. **Dennis Bryant '71**, director of conferences and events at CLU, also played a major role during the celebration. **Richard Londgren '59** is a fellow Lute on the executive committee, and his wife, **Anita (Hillesland '59) Londgren**, organized the opening reception for Scandinavian consulates and other dignitaries.

**1961**

Class Representative – Ron Lerch

**Russell Mueller** retired after 43 years of ministry. After PLU, he studied at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and received his doctorate from the San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian seminary. He began his ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church in Mohawk, Mich., and preached in one other Michigan parish, two parishes in Nebraska, and two churches in Pennsylvania.

**1962**

Class Representatives – Leo Eliason and Dixie (Likkel) Matthias

**1963**

Class Representatives – Merl and Joan (Maier) Overland

**Gary Shaw** retired in 1996 after 30 years in sales and market analysis with Georgia-Pacific Corporation and 28 years with the United States Army and Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel in personnel, administration and finance. After 25 years in Atlanta, he moved back home to the Olympia/Lacey (Wash.) area in October. He now works 30 hours a week in retirement, giving back for 31 years of happy and continuous sobriety, as a drug and alcohol counselor for Western Washington Drug and Alcohol in Tacoma, Olympia, Auburn and Renton. He's glad to be home in Lute country and would love to hear from old roommates.

**1965**

Class Representative – David Wytko

**Tom Carlson** is the author of *Pi Photo Contest: Take Your Best Shot*, published in the Washington Apple Pi Journal, a bimonthly magazine for the largest of the Washington, D.C., metro area's Macintosh user groups. The article explains subject area, skill levels, judging, submissions and recognition planned for prospective contest participants. The architecture subject area, defined as buildings, fountains, bridges and statues, is illustrated with a photo of Martin Luther watching students in PLU's Red Square. Tom retired in April after 39 years with Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., global management and technical consultants.

**1966**

Class Representative – Frank Johnson

**1967**

Class Representative – Craig Bjorklund

**Ronald Rosevear** died Dec. 21. During his career, he taught school and sold paint and hardware in the Tacoma area. He was a very hard worker, always dedicated, dependable and knowledgeable. Ron is survived by his wife, Sharon ("Sheri"); his daughter, Stacy Eney; his son, Ryan; his stepson and very close friend, Gary Lebow; and his brother, **Fred '69**.

**Nancy (McCallum) Buccino** died Feb. 12. She began her career in education in her hometown of Great Falls, Mont. She went on to teach in Santa Barbara, Calif., but after two years moved to Oregon, where she taught for 25 years in the West Linn School District. After retiring in 1998, Nancy enjoyed spending time in Montana with family and friends, traveling, and pursuing her love of music. She played several instruments and sang in the choir at West Linn Lutheran Church, where she was an active member. She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Monroe.

**1968**

**David Herfindahl** is the new Riverside County (Calif.) deputy public health officer. He had been the Siskiyou County (Calif.) health officer and director of the Public Health Department, whose programs and spending doubled, at no cost to the county, during his 13-year tenure.

**Barbara (Thrasher) Richards** is a trainer/consultant with the Becoming Parents Program and at NCAST-AVENUE at the University of Washington, a self-sustaining program affiliated with the School of Nursing and the Center on Human Development and Disability/Center on Infant Mental Health & Development. Her husband, Fred, is retired. She lives in Jefferson, Ore., and has two children, Tiffany Pfaff, 27, and Mark Pfaff, 25.

**1970**

Class Representative – Bill Allen

**Doug Nixon** is a new member of the Cheney (Wash.) Planning Commission. He owns the Farmers Insurance office in town and has also been a member of the American Legion for 25 years.

**Ivan Gorne** is vice president of student services at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. In addition to his bachelor's and master's degrees from PLU, he received a juris doctor degree from the University of Puget Sound. He has more than 30 years of experience in education in both administration and teaching.

**1971**

Class Representative – Joe Hustad, Jr.

**1972**

Class Representative – Molly Stuen

**Richard Martin** died Feb. 2. Rich taught and served as an administrator and counselor in the Olympia and Tumwater (Wash.) school districts for 30 years. For 31 years, he was a member of Westwood Baptist Church. Surviving him are his wife of 35 years, **Lynn (Rosinbum '71)**; his sons, Justin (Beth) and Scott; and his granddaughter, Naomi Re.

**Bonnie Hitchcock** is a Dominican nun, who took the name Sister Mary Lucy 20 years ago. She is a registered nurse, working at Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne, N.Y., with incurably ill cancer patients. She says she loves what she is and what she does. She's also proud of PLU!

**Mike Warner** is president of the Eugene (Ore.) Active 20-30 Foundation. He is also a charter member of the Lane County Recreational Vehicle Consortium and a member of the board of directors of the Lane Workforce Partnership. He recently completed 13 years on the board of the Oregon Club of Eugene-Springfield.

**1973**

Class Representative – Karen (Wraalstad) Robbins

**John Nilson** was appointed minister of environment in Saskatchewan, Canada, in February 2006, after five years as minister of health. He has been a provincial cabinet member for over 11 years. He is also co-chair of the Reforming States Group, a nonpartisan organization of senior executive and legislative leaders from more than 40 states and provinces formed in 1992 in response to unrelenting increases in prescription drug spending and use. John, his wife, **Linda Lee '74**, and daughter Solveig, 17, live in Regina, Saskatchewan.

**1974**

Class Representative – Dave Johnson

**John Roeber** retired after 32 years of teaching. He taught for 31 years in the Snoqualmie Valley School District, 29 of which were spent at Mt. Si High School, where he taught social studies, geography, English, art and athletics. He also served as head or assistant coach of several sports, including baseball and softball.

**Randal Shipley** is a vice president and commercial lender at the Federal Way (Wash.) branch of Heritage Bank. He has over 30 years of banking and finance experience. He is an associate trustee of St. Francis Community Hospital and a member of the Tacoma Estate Planning Council, South Sound Estate Planning Council and the Planned Giving Council of Pierce County. Randal is also a member of PLU's Athletic Hall of Fame and is a college All-American in football and track.

**Kenneth Waag** celebrated the 27th anniversary of his ordination on July 8, 2006, the same day his daughter, Sarah, was married to Jack Keller in Fargo, N.D. He and his wife, Julie, live in Great Falls, Mont., where he is senior pastor at Faith Lutheran Church.

**Linda (Lee) Nilson** is a family physician at a cancer clinic in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. She and her husband, **John '73**, have two daughters: Ingrid, 20, who is pursuing an acting career in Vancouver, B.C., and Solvig, 17, who graduates from high school in June with bilingual honors in French.

**Priscilla (Pflueger) Smith** is director of hospitality at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, N.D., where her husband, Kevan, is pastor.

**Melodee (Malm) Mathay** is in her 18th year as a senior attorney for California's Fair Political Practices Commission in Sacramento, Calif., prosecuting elected and public officials on campaign and ethics violations. She and her husband, Herb, live in Granite Bay, Calif.

#### 1975

Class Representative – Helen Pohlig

**John Parks** died Oct. 15. He lived in El

Paso, Texas, where he was the community's first director of emergency management until his retirement in 1992. During a 26-year career in the military, he did two tours in Vietnam and one in Korea, retiring in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army. He earned his master's degree from PLU while serving in the Army. Jack was also a community activist. He was a national president of the American Society of Professional Emergency Planners, a president of the Five Points Lion Club, a director governor for Lions Clubs International, and a lifelong member of the Military Officers' Association of America. In 1988, he was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame as a rifle marksman. A longtime member of Faith United Methodist Church, he served as a Sunday school teacher, administrative board chairman and liturgist. He is survived by his wife, Anne, three children and four grandchildren.

#### 1976

Class Representative – Gary Powell

**Paula Jasper** is an art history instructor at the Community College of Allegheny County (Pa.). She lives in Girard, Ohio.

**Carl Florea** is the new director of the Housing Resources Board, Bainbridge

Island's non-profit affordable housing provider and advocate. Carl has 30 years of experience in community service. He was a Lutheran minister in Montana and Eastern Washington, and worked through inner-city programs in the Deep South, and more recently through social service agencies in Leavenworth, Wash.

#### 1977

Class Representatives – Leigh Erie and Joan (Nelson) Mattich

**Greg and Marlene (Selene) Kleven** have been living in London for the last five years. Greg is the managing director of the Europe/Middle East/Africa division of TCS Corporation. Marlene is the medical evacuation coordinator at the American Embassy in London. Their older son, Dane, 21, is a junior at The Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California and their younger son, Matthias, 16, is a sophomore at The American School in London.

**Ron Snyder** is a musical director and accompanist in the Los Angeles area. He has worked in various venues for many of L.A.'s finest singers and performers. He's played on cruise ships throughout Alaska, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Mexico and the South Pacific for Exploration and Holland America Lines. He has also performed in Las Vegas, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the London Palladium. A highlight of Ron's career was working as the musical director for Mark Savage's production of "Pinafore!" at the Celebration Theatre, for which he won two L.A. Weekly awards for Musical Director of the Year and for Musical of the Year. He also won a Dramalogue Award as the musical director for Celebration Theatre's production of the "Ballad of Little Mikey," also written by Savage.

**William Carnett** is the medical director for Silverton Hospital's Immediate Care Center in Woodburn, Ore. He received his medical degree from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

#### 1978

**Laura (Blobaum) Knoerr** is artistic director at Hidden Talent Theatre in the Chicago area. She is also a self-employed writer and director. Her husband, David, is an entrepreneur. They live in Elgin, Ill.

**Vickie Grahn** graduated from Seattle University with a juris doctor degree in 2004. She is an attorney with Land America Financial Group in Seattle.

#### 1979

Class Representatives – Dave and Teresa (Hausken) Sharkey

**Doug Hoffman** was one of 25 educators chosen to travel in Saudi Arabia for two weeks under the Educators to Saudi Arabia program administered by the Institute of International Education. Doug

is a media specialist in the Lincoln County (Ore.) School District.

**Allison Arthur** has a new position as a reporter with the Port Townsend & Jefferson County (Wash.) Leader. She was previously an editor at newspapers in Friday Harbor and Vashon Island, Wash. and in Astoria, Ore.

**Michael Bury** died Dec. 28. After graduation from PLU, he moved to Portland, Ore., where he was a department manager for Best Buy. He was on the staff of Portland Youth for Christ for 15 years and served as its executive director for five years. He also received master's degrees from the University of Phoenix and George Fox Seminary. Survivors include his wife, Karin; his daughter, Kersti; his son, Robert; his parents, Joyce and David; his sisters, Diane Geona and Cheryl Brown; and his brother, Steven.

#### 1980

Class Representative – Drew Nelson

**Pete Strom** is the general manager of Onyx Software Corporation, a business unit of M2M Holdings, Inc. He has more than 20 years of consulting, sales and sales-management experience in the software industry.

#### 1981

Class Representatives – Dean and Susan (Lee) Phillips

**Gayle (Ensor) Warner** is a safety administrator and designated employee representative at Eagle Systems, Inc., based in Wenatchee, Wash. Her daughter, Jaylee Hille, 23, is a stage manager for various Central Washington theater groups, and also sings and acts. Her son, Shane Hille, 21, serves in the Air Force and is stationed in Italy. Stepdaughter Ashley Warner, 19, lives at home and works at Eagle Systems, Inc., in the driver manifest department.

#### 1982

Class Representative – Paul Collard

**Julie Holboke Ertel** married Joseph Frediani July 9, 2006, in Vancouver, Wash. Julie is a teacher in the Gresham-Barlow (Ore.) School District. Joseph is a director of operations at United Pipe & Supply. They live in Portland, Ore.

#### 1983

Class Representative – Dave Olson

**Bracy Elton** has left Cray, Inc., in Seattle to take a position with the Ohio Supercomputer Center at Ohio State University as director of signal image processing in the user productivity enhancement training subprogram of the defense high performance computing modernization program.

#### 1984

Class Representative – Mark Christofferson

**A gift from my IRA**

"My husband, Walter, was in the PLU class of 1956. I took advantage of the provisions in the Pension Protection Act to make a gift from my IRA to add to the endowed scholarship established in Walter's memory. What gives me the most pleasure is knowing that current and future generations of PLU students will benefit from this scholarship." -Joan Schwandt

For more information about making gifts from your IRA or other retirement plans, please contact Ed Larson or Doug Page at 800-826-0035 or [development@plu.edu](mailto:development@plu.edu).

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



**Janna (Hamilton) Hudson**, her husband, Tom, and children, Brianna, 5, and Ryan, 4, are enjoying Italian life and European travels. Tom is a captain in the United States Navy, serving as senior dental executive at the U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Italy.

**Juanita Hopkins** died March 5. She was a registered nurse in Washington and Oregon, specializing in labor and delivery. She loved spending time with her family, as well as gardening, reading, baking, crafting and sewing. She was preceded in death by her son, Lawrence. Surviving her are three sons, 10 daughters, 21 grandchildren, and one great-grandson

### 1985

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

### 1986

Class Representative – Stacey (Kindred) Hesterly

### 1987

Class Representative – Darren Hamby

### 1988

Class Representative – Brenda Ray Scott

**Steve Smith**, director of community relations for the University of Washington Tacoma, is the new president of the Rotary Club of Tacoma No. 8. **Jeff Rounce '85**, publisher of the Business Examiner, is the president-elect nominee, who will serve as president following Steve.

### 1989

Class Representative – Lisa (Hussey) Ferraro

**Chris Algeo** is a vice president and commercial banker at Sterling Bank's Fircrest, Wash., branch. He has 17 years of financial experience, 14 years working as a commercial lender.

**Del Shannon** was honored by the United States Society on Dams (USSD) with the 2007 Award of Excellence in the Constructed Project for his work as the lead designer and engineer-of-record on the Pine Brook Dam, located in Boulder, Colo. The award, presented at the 2007 USSD annual conference in Philadelphia on March 7, recognizes the best water storage project in the United States each year. He lives in Boulder.

### 1990

Class Representative – Sean Neely

### 1991

**Robert Strachan** is a director responsible for West Coast consultant relations with Deutsche Bank's Asset Management division. He has 20 years of financial services experience and is based in San Francisco.

**Ken Kriese** completed his doctorate in ecology from the University of California in December 2004. After teaching at the university and working for the State of California, he relocated to Memphis, Tenn., in October 2005 to work as a regional biologist for the Latin America and Caribbean program at Ducks Unlimited, Inc. His focus is the conservation of wetland habitat and aquatic birds in Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America.

**Scott McMillan** is owner and CEO of Colmac Industries and Colmac Coil. In March, he received a Governor's Emerging Trader of the Year Award from the Seattle World Trade Club, which recognizes substantial contributions to the development or facilitation of international trade in Washington state.

### 1992

Class Representative – Darcy (Pattee) Andrews

**Doug Pennington** is chief market analyst with the Washington state insurance commissioner's office. He assumed his management position in January to develop a new market analysis department.

### 1993

Class Representative – Barbara (Murphy) Hesner

**Tyler Stone** is the new Wasco County (Ore.) employee and administrative services director. He most recently served as director of process improvement at Minor and James Medical in Seattle.

**Cliff Mills** is a supervisor at Crisis Clinic in Seattle and is applying for graduate school at the University of Washington.

### 1994

Class Representatives – Dan Lysne and Catherine (Overland) Hauck

**Gino Casello** is founder and president of Casello Commercial, Inc. He specializes in the acquisition and investment of commercial buildings in the Puget Sound area.

**Darrick Hartman** is a teacher in Tacoma, where he lives with his wife, Lori Fernholz-Hartman, and their children, Dylan 7, and Hadyn, 4. They plan to travel to Germany this summer.

### 1995

Class Representatives – Krista Sickert-Bush and Stephanie Page-Lester

**Chris Gleason** is the new manager of the Tacoma Public Utilities community/media services office. She has worked for Tacoma Power since 2003, providing public relations and marketing support for several programs and services, including the Narrows Crossing project and Tacoma Power's parks.

**Judd Benedick** is the head football coach at Mountain View High School in Meridian, Idaho.

**Rachael (Gunn) Lord** is executive director of CASA of Westmoreland, Inc., in Pennsylvania. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is new to the area and she looks forward to developing it into a successful non profit dedicated to advocating for abused and neglected children. The organization's Web site is at [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/CASA](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/CASA).

**Mike Lee** is an environment reporter for the San Diego Union-Tribune. The newspaper honored him in 2006 for best achievement by a staff writer. He lives in Fallbrook, Calif., where his wife, **Kristen (Buckley '96)**, home schools their sons, William Grant, 6, and Michael Owen, 4.

**Todd Jones** is a real estate compliance manager at Expedia.com. His wife, Stephanie, is a systems analyst at LexisNexis. They live in Snoqualmie, Wash.

## In Memoriam

### 1935

**Roland Swanson** on Jan. 8

**Viola (Larsen) Nybakke** on Oct. 23

### 1937

**Obert Haavik** on Dec. 24

### 1938

**Nevela (Ross) Lemagie** on March 12

### 1941

**Peter Londahl** on Dec. 4

**Alalie Fosso Johnson** on Feb. 11

### 1942

**Robert Thoren** on March 3

**Nadine (Friedline) McMillan** on Nov. 8

### 1945

**Mildred (Tollefson) Krueger** on Jan. 5

### 1950

**Edna (Haglund) Dorothy** on Oct. 8

### 1951

**Robert Voie** on Sept. 24

### 1952

**Richard Berg** on Dec. 22

### 1960

**John Olson** on Dec. 3

### 1967

**Ronald Rosevear** on Dec. 21

**Nancy Buccino** on Feb. 12

### 1972

**Richard Martin** on Feb. 2

### 1975

**John Parks** on Oct. 15

### 1979

**Michael Bury** on Dec. 28

### 1984

**Juanita Hopkins** on March 5

### Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Roger Gard** died Jan. 19. He joined the faculty in 1974 as director of bands. His elegant conducting, incredible ear and adventuresome programming brought the PLU Wind Ensemble to new levels of achievement and recognition. In 1985, Roger took over the leadership of the jazz program and laid the foundation for the outstanding reputation the program enjoys today. In both his roles as wind conductor and jazz director, Roger enriched the campus by bringing noted musicians to campus to work with students. An outstanding trombonist, he was a

founding member of PLU's Lyric Brass Ensemble and performed often in local and regional classical and jazz ensembles. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Lori; his five children, Jeffrey, Jonathan, Christopher, and Catherine Gard '97.

**George Wehmann** died Feb. 27. He served on the PLU Board of Regents from 1987 to 1995. After receiving a



degree in meteorology from the University of Washington, he moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where

he began an extensive career in the development and refinement of the nuclear industry. He was co-founder of the Idaho Sight and Hearing Foundation, a devoted member of the Lion's Club, and an active member of his church. George also served multiple terms as a councilman and then as mayor of Ammon, Idaho. He is survived by his four children, **Lois La Curan '70**, **Ronald '73**, **Donald '76** and **John**; nine grandchildren, including **Dana '04** and **Ronald '06 La Curan**; and two step-grandchildren.

**Marvin Swenson** died March 24. Joining PLU in 1969, he was hired to oversee construction of the University Center and to serve as its director. When he began his phased retirement in 1985, he was director of the University Center and campus activities. During his almost 20 years of service to PLU, Marv mentored countless students. Many of them chose to pursue careers in higher education. He also supported students and faculty of the arts, especially through the artist series. His expertise was recognized as he served in regional and national roles of the Association of College Unions International. Marv is survived by his wife, Jean-Marie; his daughter, Marva Blackmore; and four sons, **Michael '73**, **Patrick '82**, **Paul '84** and **Jim '88**

# What's new with you?

> Please fill out as much information below as possible, including city of residence and work. Feel free to use another piece of paper, but please limit your submission to 100 words. Photos are welcome, but only one photo will be used, and on a space available basis. Notes will be edited for content. Photos must be prints or high quality jpegs. Please, no reproductions or copies from other publications.  
**Deadline for the next issue of Scene is June 15, 2007.**

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

## Job Information

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

## Marriage (no engagements, please)

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

## Birth

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

## Promotions/Awards

NAME
TITLE OF POSITION/COMPANY/AWARD/ DATE ASSUMED

> **MAIL TO:** Office of Alumni & Parent Relations; PLU, Tacoma, WA 98447-0003; **FAX:** 253-535-8555; **E-MAIL:** [alumni@plu.edu](mailto:alumni@plu.edu); **Internet:** [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org). Please limit to 100 words.

**Jay Jensen** has been accepted to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry.

**1996**  
 Class Representatives – Mari (Hoseth) Lysne and Jennifer (Riches) Stegeman

**Amy Wigstrom** is the new executive director of the American Heart Association in Tacoma. In March, she left her previous post as executive director of the Tacoma Symphony after four seasons with the orchestra.

**1997**  
 Class Representatives – Andy and Stephanie (Merle) Tomlinson



**Stephen Rue** had his second solo exhibition in January and February at the Lorinda Knight Gallery in Spokane, Wash., where he lives. In this series of 21 paintings, entitled "Saints and Sinners," Steve used saints, along with other subjects and images, to delve into psychological and religious concepts while deeply examining his own faith and spirituality. Among his subjects are his father, **Phil Rue '68**; his wife, **Kristin (Hollingbery) Rue '97**; his mother-in-law, **Jan (Swanson) Praxel '70**; his sister-in-law, **Kaarin Praxel '07**; **Erik Manz '99** and other friends -- and even himself. To view Steve's artwork and read his artist's statement, visit [www.rueart.com](http://www.rueart.com).

**Jesse Caryl** was chosen as a "Rising Star Super Lawyer" by Law & Politics magazine, which names California's top up-and-coming attorneys, chosen by their peers and through independent research. He is an associate with the law firm Ford & Harrison LLP in Los Angeles.

**David Nova** passed the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) exam, conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management, and is now the director of human resources for the Hacker Group, a direct marketing agency in Bellevue, Wash.

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

**Jamie (Meyers) Bredstrand** is a customer service representative for The Boeing Company division of Regence Blue Shield in Burlington, Wash. Her husband, Jeffrey, is a firefighter for the City of Seattle.

**1999**  
**Natasha Curry** returned home to the Puget Sound area in January to join the KOMO 4 News Morning Team as anchor/reporter. She also co-hosts Northwest Afternoon with Kent Phillips and Cindi Rinehart. A former Miss Washington, she has spent the last sev-



eral years working as a news anchor and reporter in Washington, Arizona, South Carolina and Texas. She and her husband, **Todd Morrisson**

'03, met when they were chemistry lab partners at PLU. They live in Puyallup.



**Anneke Geballe** married Peter Geel Oct. 8 in Everett, Wash. Lutes in the wedding party included **Matthew Geballe '02**, **Rebecca (Kluck**

**'02) Geballe, Audra (Buckley) Osborn, Lori (Grimberg) Eng and Jana (Strasburg '98) Steiner.** Anneke is a cancer information specialist at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Peter is a director of youth and family ministries at Sand Point Community United Methodist Church. They live in Seattle.



**Sarah McCoy** married Keith Hobart Sept. 30 in Colorado Springs, Colo. **Erin (Tilney '00) Eilmes** was in the wedding party. Sarah earned her

master's degree in reading from the University of Colorado while teaching second and third grades for the last seven years in the Cheyenne Mountain School District in Colorado Springs. Keith is in the Air Force Reserve and will move to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina after he finishes his pilot training.



**Craig Vattiat** married Margaret Timm Dec. 17 in Portland, Ore. Craig is a business teacher at Oregon City High School and Margaret is a

dietetic intern at Oregon Health and Science University. They live in Portland.

**Patrick and Michelle (Sayler '98) Query** live in Highland Falls, N.Y. Patrick is an assistant professor of English at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Michelle is an occupational therapist.

**2000**  
 Class Representative – Ashley Orr

**MaryBeth Leeper** is the cultural-diversity liaison for the City of Auburn (Wash.).

Fluent in Spanish, she is the first person to hold the position, in which she is exploring ways to link minority communities to the government.

**Cecilie Kongsvik** married **Erik Ibsen '01** June 11, 2005, in Copenhagen, Denmark. **Mone Sveia '01** was maid of honor. Other Lutes in the wedding party included **Kenneth Gundersen '01, Cecilia Flachs, Nina Iversen '99** and **Hege Kjoniksen '99**. They live in Copenhagen.



**Jenny Roraback** married **Ryan Carson** May 28, 2006, at Central Lutheran Church in Seattle. Alumni in the wedding party included maid of honor **Amy**

**Roraback '90, Chad Roraback '99, Sarah Roraback '98, Jon '01 and Tiana (Harper) Nelson, Bridget Pearson, Todd Shively, Nora (Hampton) Gregersen and Katie (Mininger) Meers.** Lutes in attendance were **Erin Swanson, Lindsay Daehlin, Tasha Ockfen, Mariah (Toft) Tackett, Dave and Kelly (Harbert) Goodsell, Sarah Stauffer, Bobbi Hughes, Beth (Steele '00) Cavanaugh, Alex Doolittle and Abby Jenkins '02.** Jenny is attending medical school at the University of Washington, and Ryan is a law student at Seattle University

## 2001

Class Representatives – Keith Pranghofer



**Kirsten Trulson** married **Jarel Bakke** Aug. 5, 2006, at Pine Lake Covenant Church in Sammamish, Wash. The bridal party included **Lisa Muroya,**

**Jen (Spiedel) Stewart** and **Jill Erickson.** Among the groomsmen was **Bill Stewart.** Other Lutes involved were **Bjorn Anderson '02** and **Vester Wilson.** Kirsten and Jarel met while pursuing doctorates of physical therapy at the University of Washington. Kirsten is a physical therapist at Kitsap Physical Therapy and Jarel is a physical therapist at Harrison Hospital. They live in Poulsbo, Wash.



**Whitney Dolman** married **Wylie Sampson** Sept. 16, 2006, at the Temple of Justice in Olympia, Wash. Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens presided

over the ceremony. Whitney is a data entry supervisor and title assistant at StewartTitle Company in Olympia, and

**Wylie** is finance accountant with the Clover Park School District. They live in Lakewood, Wash.

**Sarah Champion Freitas** is the new manager of strategic development at SiteCrafting, Inc., a Web design and development company. She is responsible for traffic management, client communications and special marketing projects.

**Gregory Thomas** has the chance to help save lives and work on cutting-edge technology at the same time. He works for Raytheon as a Department of Defense contractor in Iraq on an infrared system that allows soldiers to view and track potential adversaries before they can do any harm. He'll be there until Nov. 7, when he will return home for reassignment within Raytheon.

## 2002

Class Representatives – Nicholas Gorne and Brian Riehs

**Peter Wogsland** has joined the law offices of Micheau & Associates in Cosmopolis, Wash. He graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law.



**Katie Gauthier** married **Brandon Whitley '03** on July 7, 2006, at Tracy Castle in Wilkeson, Wash. **Amy and Nicole Gauthier** were the maids of

honor. Lutes in the wedding party included bridesmaid **Cameron Wright** and groomsmen **Josh Reiman '03** and **Adam Utley '04.** **Jennifer Peck '04** officiated the ceremony. Katie and Brandon live in Atlanta, where Katie is an assistant director of a preschool and Brandon is working on his master's degree at Georgia Tech.

## 2003

Class Representative – Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman



**Megan Freiling** married **Lee Hutton** Oct. 14 at Fairwood Community United Methodist Church in Renton, Wash. Alumni in the

wedding party were groomsmen **Ryan Greco,** reader **Laura (Hunter) Rose** and usher **Eli Armen-Van Horn '04.** Alumni in attendance included **Kristin (Hovenkotter '02) Greco, Jon Rose '04, Matt '02 and Abby (Gray) Faust, Nick Moseman '02, Fred Larabee '04, Amy Kostelecky-Roe '04 and Aaron Schrenk '04.** Megan is a television producer for Pierce County's RCC (Rainier Communications Commission). Lee is a freight train conductor for BNSF

Rail in Seattle. They live in Auburn, Wash.

**Jillian Foglesong** graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in May and will complete her residency training at Family Medicine Spokane in Spokane, Wash.

## 2004

Class Representative – Tammy Lynn Schaps

**Breanne Pautz** married **Daniel Tanzer** June 30, 2006. She is a middle school teacher and Daniel is a mail carrier. They live in Söderköping, Sweden.

**Michelle Racicot** is deployed in Iraq, working with the 21st Combat Support Hospital as an emergency room nurse.

**Megan Hurt** is working in her dream job as an electrophysics engineer on the new Boeing 787. She enjoys the challenges and rewards of working on the cutting edge of airplane technology and looks forward to a promising career. She lives in Everett, Wash.

## 2005

Class Representative – Micheal Steele

**Micheal Steele** is the new executive

director of the Chelan (Wash.) Chamber of Commerce. After graduating from PLU, he worked as a White House intern in the office of political affairs, where he drafted political briefings for the president and cabinet members concerning 10 Western states. When he returned to Washington state, he worked in the state legislature for the Republican caucus. He is now also a field director for the Republican caucus political action committee.

**Valentina Petrova** is an account coordinator for Owen Media, Inc., in Portland, Ore., a global high-tech marketing agency. Val was most recently a reporter for The Central Kitsap Reporter in Washington state. She has also been a freelance writer for The Kitsap Sun and has interned at the Seattle bureau of CNN and at a newswire service based in Washington, D.C.

**Mary Bartlett** is an accountant at Peterson Sullivan, an accounting, auditing and tax services firm based in Seattle.

**Anne Mastrodonato** is a service delivery specialist in the Carson Valley branch of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada. She has worked in childhood education and social counseling.

# Books, Clothes, Community, Conversation

YOUR COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

GRAND OPENING

SEPTEMBER 2007

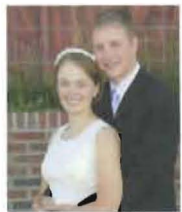
www.garfieldbookcompany.com



**Luthera Walk** is finishing her master's degree in social work at the University of Washington. She will pursue a career with the Veterans Administration, working with Wounded Warriors, which provides support to the families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations, or work in geriatric long-term care/hospice.

**Andy Palmquist** is a graduate student pursuing a doctorate in the history program at the University of Maryland-College Park.

**2006**  
Class Representative — Jenna (Steffenson) Serr



**Emily O'Leary** married Joel Barker Aug. 19, 2006, in Butte, Mont. She is an administrative assistant at Robert Half International.

Joel is a development officer. They live in St. Louis Park, Minn.

**Tina Schmidt** is a health science research specialist with the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Seattle. She lives in Puyallup, Wash.

**2007**  
Class Representatives — Maggie Morgan and Kaarin Praxel

## Future Lutes

**1985**  
**Jeff and Lindsay (Nicol '93) Elston** announce the birth of their son, Alexander, on Sept. 21. He joins Gard, 7, and Natalie, 4. Jeff is vice president of development at Executive Conversation. They live in Seattle.

**1988**  
**Katherine Hedland Hansen** and her husband, Bryan, announce the birth of their son, Hawke Aren Hansen, on Dec. 26. Katherine, former director of news and information at PLU, is director of communications at Seattle University School of Law.

**Catherine Miller** and her husband, Lars Åke Norling, announce the birth of Sarah Rebecca on Nov. 8. She joins Andreas, 3. Catherine is a project manager in Stockholm, Sweden. They live in Bromma, Sweden.

**1989**  
**Ken Schonberg** and his wife, Jody,

announce the birth of their son Joshua on Nov. 17. He joins Matthew, 6, and Daniel, 2. Ken is a support manager with Symantec Corporation. They live in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

**1990**  
**Sean Neely** and his wife, Ester Suan Tjoe, announce the birth of their daughter, Keira, on Feb. 3. Sean is an instructional designer at Group Health. They live in Kent, Wash.

**1991**  
**Erika Hermanson** and her husband, Patrick Banasky, announce the birth of Karl Patrick on July 9, 2006. He joins Claire Abigail, 3. They live in Seattle.



**Gail (Ingram) Kinner** and her husband, David, recently adopted their first child, David Christian, born on Dec. 1. Gail is a marketing manager at University Mechanical Contractors, Inc. They live in Mukilteo, Wash.

**1992**  
**Kristina (Price) Navarro** and her husband, Michael, are thrilled with their first child, Gabriel Michael, born on Jan. 3. Kris is a speech language pathologist for the San Antonio (Texas) Independent School District and Mike works in sales at Rosenberg Supply Company.



**1993**  
**Sam and Teresa (Kelley) Cook** announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Hannah, on Sept. 17. She was born in Shanghai, China, while Sam and Teresa were working at Hangzhou International School. In January, they moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, where Sam will take over as headmaster at North Jakarta International School. Teresa will teach in the lower school and work with the school curriculum. You can email them at [sntcook@yahoo.com](mailto:sntcook@yahoo.com) and check out their new school at [www.njis.orid](http://www.njis.orid).

**1995**  
**Heather (Mullen) McClure** and her husband, Danny, announce the birth of their daughter, Audrey, on Oct. 17, five days after Heather took a promotion as princi-



pal public events manager for the University of California Davis department of music. Danny is an environmental engineer. They were married on June 11, 2006, in Sacramento.

**1996**  
**Josh and Aimee (Andrews '98) Requa** announce the birth of Mason Joshua on July 24, 2006. He joins sister Madelyn, 4. Josh is an engineer at Janicki Industries. Aimee is a teacher in the Sedro-Woolley (Wash.) School District. They live in Sedro-Woolley.



**1997**  
**Brian van Valey** and his wife, Kelly, announce the birth of Finley Randall on Feb. 5. He joins his brother, Angus, who will be 2 in October. They live in Snohomish, Wash.



**Andy and Stephanie (Merle) Tomlinson** welcomed Brandon James on Aug. 11, 2006. He joins brother Bryan, 4, and sister Megan, 2. Andy is vice president of finance for Atlas Products, and Stephanie is a stay-at-home mom. They live in Nampa, Idaho, and can be reached at [tomlian@hotmail.com](mailto:tomlian@hotmail.com) or [stephanietomlinson@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanietomlinson@hotmail.com).



**Kyle Andrews** and his wife, Angela, welcomed their daughter, Kennedy Joy, on May 11, 2006. Kyle reports that she has her daddy wrapped around her little finger. Kyle is a technical account manager at Microsoft and plays guitar and sings in the band, Poorsport (a.k.a. "Who's Your Daddy?"), which is working on a third album. Check them out at [www.poorsportmusic.com](http://www.poorsportmusic.com). Angela is a stay-at-home mother. They live in Snoqualmie, Wash.

**Ryan Chandlee** and his wife, Kristin, announce the birth of their daughter, Leah, on March 8. She joins Dylan, 3. They live in Golden Valley, Minn.

**1998**  
**Paul and Carol (Thielen) Alexander** announce the birth of Braiden Matthew on Dec. 12. He joins big brother Cameron, 3. Paul is a licensed massage practitioner at Calcara Family Chiropractic in Olympia, Wash. Carol is a supervising auditor with Fidelity National Financial, Inc. They live in Olympia.



**Liz (Russell) Sawyer** and her husband, Ryan, are pleased to announce the arrival of Ryder William on Jan. 17 at Tacoma General Hospital. He joins brother Brayden, 3. Liz continues to focus on raising her boys and supporting Ryan as he grows his family's auto dealerships. They live in northeast Tacoma.



**Jessica (Hoffman) Resendiz** and her husband, Robert, welcomed Natalie Mae on May 7, 2006. Jessica is a stay-at-home mother and Robert is a policeman in the Navy, stationed in Bremerton. They live in Tacoma.

**1999**  
**Kaj and Janell (Wagenblast) Martin** welcomed their daughter Asha Leanne, born on July 23, 2006, at Tacoma General Hospital. She joins sister Phoebe, 3. Kaj is a pastor at Tacoma's Puget Sound Christian Center, where Janell is an administrative assistant.



**Zachary and Heidi (Johnson) Hiatt** are the proud parents of Cameron Zachary, born on Oct. 27.



**Nikki (Schneider) Fisher**, and her husband, Garrett, welcomed their first child, Alli Nicole, on Feb. 4, Superbowl Sunday. Nikki is a litigation associate for Bingham McCutchen in Boston, and Garrett is a captain in the United States Air Force.

**Corinne (Kenney) Hartley** and her hus-



band, Kevin, welcomed their first child, Cohen Crawford, on Jan. 28. Cori is a middle school science teacher at Centralia (Wash.) Middle School, and Kevin is a blaster for Dyno Nobel.

**2000**



**Cora Reuter and Justin Foster '02** are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Mera Saige, on Oct. 26.

Justin is vice president of professional services at Whatcounts, Inc., in Seattle. Cora is a private violin instructor. They live in Federal Way.



**Nathan and Katherine (Graff) Wolfe** announce the birth of Meredith Lucile on Dec. 15.

Nathan is a project manager at Trico Contracting and Katherine is a social worker with the State of Washington Children's Administration. They live in Mount Vernon, Wash.



**Megan (Swanson) Brown** and her husband, Matt, announce the birth of Colton Michael on Oct. 25. Megan is a stay-at-

home mom, and Matt is a State Farm Insurance agent. They live in La Vernia, Texas.

**Dean Grisham** and his wife, Cathy, announce the birth of their son, Hunter, on Sept. 22. Dean graduated from the Navy nurse anesthesia program with a master's degree in nursing. They live in Jacksonville, N.C.

**2001**



**Chris and Tharen (Michael '00) Inverso** welcomed their daughter, Siri Joy, on April 5, 2006. Chris is a mortgage broker and Tharen is a stay-at-home mother. They live in Tacoma.



**Peter and Renee (Spani '02) White** announce the birth of their son, Brady, on Oct. 26. He joins sister Ellie, 3. They live in Edmonds, Wash.

**Stephanie (Tise) Beagley** and her husband, Michael, welcomed their son, Caiden, on May 10, 2006. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**2002**

**Renee (Ross) Watson** and her husband, Kyle, announce the birth of Spencer David on Aug. 9, 2006. He joins his brother, Keegan, 2. They live in Auburn, Wash.



**Aaron and Anna (Goodsell) Henderson** welcomed their daughter, Kailey, on Oct. 18, 2005. They live in Langley, Wash.

**2005**



**Teresa (Spaulding) Handy** and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of Aidan Michael on July 15, 2006. Teresa is a stay-at-home mother and Michael is a production worker at Atlas Foundry. They live in Tacoma. [S]

**FOR ALL YOUR OFFICIAL LUTE STUFF!**

*Lute*  
**PLUS WORLD**  
OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE  
luteworld.plu.edu

**Join the Click!** **Alumni Online Community**  
Find friends and colleagues FREE.  
Register at [www.plualumni.org](http://www.plualumni.org)

A PERMANENT FORWARDING EMAIL ADDRESS is provided to all alumni who register with the online community. While the forwarding e-mail address is not an e-mail account, it does redirect mail to the account of the user's choice. For instance, John Smith with a Hotmail account would set up his [JohnSmith@alumni.plu.edu](mailto:JohnSmith@alumni.plu.edu) address to send mail to [JohnSmith@hotmail.com](mailto:JohnSmith@hotmail.com). This forwarding address is helpful in connecting your name to your alma mater in a fun and very functional way. It's especially useful for resumes where you would like to highlight your degree from PLU.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY



ANNOUNCING!  
THE SIXTH ANNUAL  
**LUTE CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Friday, June 22, 2007  
at Oakbrook Golf and Country Club, Lakewood, Wash.



Mark your calendar and join other supporters of PLU Athletics

Registration: 11 a.m. Shogun Start-Scramble: 1 p.m.  
Box Lunch: noon Awards Dinner: 6 p.m.

**YES, I'm interested!** Please send registration form to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Laurie Turner, Athletics, PLU, Tacoma, WA 98447 or email: [turnerll@plu.edu](mailto:turnerll@plu.edu)



# attaway lutes

continued

goal to make this a year to remember.

DiPietro has become the focal point of this group of seniors. His stellar numbers in 2006 – including a 6-3 record and 2.61 ERA – earned him the Northwest Conference Pitcher of the Year award in 2006. He's off to an even better start this season with a 7-1 record and a miniscule 1.62 ERA.

“Joe has a chance to be the most celebrated pitcher in PLU history,” Loomis said of his ace right-hander. “His goal this year is to repeat as conference Pitcher of the Year and to lead us to a Northwest Conference championship.”

DiPietro would be the first to say, however, that his senior mates make his job easier. Senior pitcher Jeff Caley is counted among that first recruiting class, and along with transfer senior Kael Fisher, all work well with catcher Bryce Depew, who splits the catching duties with standout sophomore Brandon Sales.

Second baseman Roger Guzman, shortstop Logan Andrews and third baseman Jared Simon anchor a record-setting infield. Over the last three years the PLU team defense has been ranked in the top 15 in the nation. “They are as solid a group as I have ever had, and they bring to the table great senior leadership,” said Loomis.

The starting outfield consists entirely of seniors, including four-year starters Ryan Thorne and Justin Whitehall. Thorne patrols centerfield with flair and speed, and as a senior is on pace to shatter the single-season stolen base record. Whitehall earned first team all-conference honors as a junior and is one of the team's best hitters in the clutch. One of the two transfer seniors, Tyler Green, set a PLU single-game record with three home runs against British Columbia on Feb. 23.

This year's team has everything needed to win – the bats, plenty of solid pitching arms and plenty of senior experience. While those things are good, traits that set this squad apart from past teams can't be measured – work ethic and mental toughness. “I think toughness is based around experiences, and this senior group has been through a lot,” Loomis said.

One of those experiences came when

the seniors were sophomores and they missed out on a conference championship and regional playoff berth by one game. It was a lesson that, based on the 2007 season, seems to have been well learned.

*By Nick Dawson and Chris Ramirez '08*

## New coach named for women's soccer team

**P**acific Lutheran University hired Tacoma native Lynnette Buffington, as women's soccer head coach.

“We are pleased to have Lynnette join our athletic program,” said Athletic Director Laurie Turner. “She has proven winning experience as a women's soccer coach at the collegiate level, and also brings excellent administrative skills to PLU.”



In addition to coaching, Buffington will provide administrative oversight of the school's women's and men's soccer programs and assume other duties within the PLU athletic department.

Buffington brings four years of college coaching experience at the NCAA Division III level to PLU. From 2003-06, she served as women's soccer head coach at Villa Julie College in Baltimore, Md. In those four years she improved the winning percentage of the program from .139 to .714, and won two conference championships to lead her 2006 team to the national tournament in its division.

Prior to coaching at Villa Julie, Buffington was the women's soccer head coach at Tacoma Community College, where she compiled a 35-5-4 overall record from 1999-2001. She led the Titans to two Southwest Division championships and three tournament appearances, taking two of the teams to the quarterfinals and one to the semifinals.

Buffington, who graduated from Tacoma's Stadium High School in 1992 and from Gonzaga University in 1996, becomes the fourth coach in the program's history. She replaces Jerrod Fleury, who stepped down last fall after

compiling a 47-43-7 record from 2002-06.

Women's soccer started at Pacific Lutheran in 1981 under the guidance of head coach Colleen Hacker, who led the program to three NAIA national championships (1988, 1989, 1991) in five title-game appearances. [5]

2006 - 07

All-Sports Awards

## Winners

Man of the Year

**Joe DiPietro, baseball**

Major: Business Administration, Marketing

Hometown: Yakima, Wash.

Woman of the Year

**Nicole Petrzelka, tennis**

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Burlington, Wash.

Athlete of the Year

**Kati McGinn, volleyball**

Major: History

Hometown: Puyallup, Wash.

Athlete of the Year

**Andrew Eisentrout, football and basketball**

Major: Biology

Hometown: Olympia, Wash.

Frosty Westering Inspirational Award

**Michael Turcott, swimming**

Major: Sociology

Hometown: Rainier, Wash.

George Fisher Scholar-Athlete Award

**Jenna Hannity, crew**

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Tacoma, Wash.

George Fisher Scholar-Athlete Award

**Kelly Brown, football**

Major: Business

Hometown: Colville, Wash.

Valor Award

**Alana Schutt, softball**

Major: Business

Hometown: Lynnwood, Wash.

Lute Service Award

**Andy Pederson, basketball**

Major: Business, Economics

Hometown: Dallas, Ore.

Team of the Year: **Baseball**

Team GPA Award

**Women's swimming (3.43)**

## here & now

continued

'07 and Jessica Holden '07, who were both nominated to speak by faculty and staff members.

Reich is currently a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He served in three national administrations, most recently under President Bill Clinton. An accomplished author and scholar, Reich spoke at PLU in May 2006 at the dedication of the Morken Center for Learning and Technology.

This year marks the second year that commencement has been held off campus at the Tacoma Dome, allowing students to bring an unlimited number of friends and family to the ceremony. The graduating class of 2007 included 525 undergraduates and 100 graduate students.

### MFA students earn national recognition

**T**wo current students in PLU's Rainier Writing Workshop, the master of fine arts program, recently had their work honored nationally.

The American Library Association named Kathleen Flenniken's first book, "Famous," as one of three "notable books of the year" in poetry. Flenniken's poems were published last year after she won the Prairie Schooner Prize in Poetry in 2005, an honor that included publication of her manuscript.

Her poetry collection focuses on a woman's domestic life and how women find meaning and significance. The collection will be going into a second printing in the near future, which is a rare feat. Poetry tends to lose money for publishers, and they print it simply for "humanitarian reasons," she explained.

"The fact that it's going into a second printing is a big deal," Flenniken said.

Kelli Agodon is the other MFA student who recently received top honors when her poem, "How Killer Blue Irises Spread," placed first in the Atlantic Monthly's national poetry-writing contest for student writers. It will be published in the journal's summer issue.

"It's one of the top five journals you want to get into," Agodon said.

Agodon didn't expect to win. Two years ago, she missed the contest's submission deadline, and last year, she submitted a poem that the magazine rejected. She learned of her first place finish this year in a letter.

"When I got the letter, it was on really nice stationary, and I thought, 'It's so high class of them to reject me with such nice stationary,'" she said.

After realizing she'd placed first, Agodon said she was both shocked and honored. She said the best part is that her poem will actually be published in the journal, which winning the contest doesn't necessarily guarantee.


Agodon began her writing career at the University of Washington and planned to write fiction. However, after a class with poet Linda Bierds, she switched her attention to poetry.

"I think, for me, I was just really impressed with what poetry could do in

such a small space," she said. "You take a bigger thought and make it smaller and more precise. It's a lot more challenging than fiction because you use fewer words."

Both Flenniken and Agodon are part of the pilot class of the Rainier Writing Workshop and will graduate this August. The MFA curriculum includes mentorships with nationally known writers and editors, and both women have spent the last year working with their mentors on a creative thesis.

"It's made a huge difference to have one person for the year devoted to you, to my interests and my projects," Agodon said. "By working closely with one person, they understand your projects and your writing, so their comments tend to be better for your work."

For more information about the Rainier Writing Workshop, visit [www.plu.edu/mfa](http://www.plu.edu/mfa). 



### Friendly rivalry helps raise money for research

**S**tudent organizers of the second annual Relay for Life event at PLU capitalized on a powerful motivator on the way to raising more than \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society: the Lutes' rivalry with the University of Puget Sound.

It was all in good fun, according to PLU co-chair Elizabeth Lamb-Ferro, who along with student Tova Emry, two Puget Sound co-chairs and a cozy committee of 64, planned and organized the joint fund-raising event.

"We feel funding cancer research is a cause bigger than individual universities, and we thought that teaming up would get more energy and enthusiasm behind the cause," Lamb-Ferro said.

Sixty PLU teams registered to participate, representing more than 600 PLU students, faculty and staff. UPS registered 28 teams, representing 189 members of their campus community.

The Relay for Life is an annual event held in communities and at universities in spring and early summer to honor cancer victims, raise money for cancer research and build community awareness of cancer-related issues.

The event originated at Puget Sound in 1985, when a Tacoma doctor walked around the Loggers' track for 24 hours straight to raise money for cancer research.

PLU held its first Relay for Life event in 2006, and raised \$42,000. The school was named the Top Rookie Relay in the Great West Division and received the Top 10 Per Capita Award at the national level.

Lamb-Ferro is the 2007 Miss Spokane, and will be competing for the Miss Washington title in July. She chose the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life as her pageant "platform."

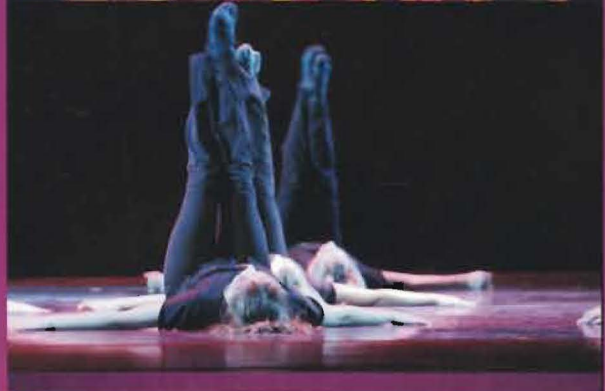


## the arts

# Dance 2007

PLU'S ANNUAL DANCE EVENT, this year called Dance 2007, was held April 13 and 14 in Eastvold Auditorium. The program featured dances in a wide range of styles, from jazz and tap to modern and lyrical. Tara Holliday '95 directed the performance and coordinated the work of 14 choreographers – most of them students – and more than 60 performers. Photos by Chris Hunt '07.





# perspective

continued from back cover

professor Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, who took a fatal bullet as he blocked the door to his classroom, keeping the shooter out and allowing students a chance to escape through the windows.)

## Evolutionary Considerations

Instances of costly investment are observed in humans and many other social animals, so it is reasonable to speculate that such behavior has an evolutionary basis. But our ancestors would have been unable to transmit genes for high-cost giving to subsequent generations unless certain safeguards were in place. Our theory assumes that the most important of these safeguards is a condition we call “fitness interdependence”—the extent to which individuals have a stake in each other’s survival and reproductive success. Fitness interdependence makes altruists resistant to exploitation by the people they help.

We think that a bias to form social bonds with fitness-interdependent others constituted the evolutionary solution to adaptive problems posed by high-cost altruism. What is the justification for our argument? First, there is considerable evidence to suggest that social bonds in humans and other social species evoke emotional states that can motivate giving. Second, by definition, bonds are relatively durable, but perceptions of fitness interdependence may be fleeting, as when a growing child seems to need her parents less and less with increasing age and maturity. Yet, from an evolutionary perspective, it may be important for the parent to continue investing in the child in order to ensure her survival and reproductive success and, ultimately, the transmission of the parent’s genes to subsequent generations.

## Psychologic I Consider tions

Like others, we view the social bond as a connection between individuals that is relatively stable over time and across contexts. For each individual in a close relationship, the bond is a highly organized and dynamic memory structure that consists of stored thoughts and feelings about the other person, and about the

relationship itself. Activation of the bond triggers events, such as release of the hormone oxytocin, that function to suppress emotions that promote self-interest, and stimulate feelings and thoughts that facilitate altruistic behavior.

## Evidence for Selective Investment Theory

There are behavioral and neurophysiological data, from both nonhuman and human species, that are consistent with the central tenets of selective investment theory. And findings from recent survey and experimental research we have conducted with students at PLU and at the University of Michigan are consistent with the causal scenario implied by selective investment theory: that interdependence leads to bond formation, and properties of bonds (e.g., empathy) supply motivation to behave altruistically.

Perhaps some of the most compelling human anecdotal data come from observations of soldiers during wartime. For example, in one study, the most frequent response given by U.S. soldiers in Iraq when asked why they risk their lives in combat was “for my buddies.” As one soldier put it, “as far as myself, sir, I take my squad mates’ lives more important than my own.” And another soldier clearly recognized the importance of interdependence: “That person [fellow soldier] means more to you than anybody. You will die if he dies. That is why I think we protect each other in any situation.”

## Conclusions

To our knowledge, selective investment theory is the first theory to highlight the social bond as a regulatory mechanism that evolved to override self-interest and motivate high-cost altruism. Indeed, our theory recasts the functional significance of social bonds, offering a striking contrast to traditional self-interest accounts of close relationships. These traditional accounts argue that we form and maintain bonds with others solely because of the benefits we receive from relationship partners (e.g., help, security, self-esteem, status), and view giving as a cost that must be offset by those benefits if the

relationship is to survive. But through the lens of selective investment theory, the fabric of close relationships appears different. Giving, even sacrifice, is a prominent feature of healthy, enduring relationships with interdependent others.

## Remarks

*It was a privilege and a delight to be able to collaborate with my daughter Stephanie on this project; it was also a lot of work. But the effort paid off last year when our formal written presentation of selective investment theory was published in a leading peer-reviewed journal, *Psychological Inquiry*. It is gratifying to learn that some leading relationship scientists and philosophers have already begun to incorporate our ideas into their own work. And it is satisfying to know that some of the questions raised by our theory have provided opportunities for psychology students at PLU and Michigan to become actively involved in the conduct of cutting-edge research, and to develop and hone research skills that may be important in their future endeavors. [5]*

Psychology professor Mike Brown has taught a variety of courses during his 25-year career at PLU, including evolutionary psychology, developmental psychology and statistics and research methods. In the past two years, he has co-authored with Stephanie Brown four articles published in refereed journals (*Behavioral and Brain Sciences* and *Psychological Inquiry*), a book chapter in Stephen Post’s 2007 edited volume, “Altruism and health: Perspectives from empirical research” (Oxford University Press), and several presentations at national and regional scientific conferences. Several PLU psychology students have either co-presented with Brown, or generated capstone projects of their own related to selective investment theory.

# calendar

continued from inside front cover

## July 26, 7 p.m.

Jazz Under the Stars  
Emerald City Jazz Orchestra  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

## July 27-29

Centrum Jazz Port Townsend  
Fort Worden State Park  
Sponsored by KPLU

## AUGUST

### August 2, 7 p.m.

Jazz Under the Stars  
Trombanga  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

### August 3-5

Anacortes Arts Festival  
Sponsored by KPLU

### August 9, 5 p.m.

KPLU Art of Jazz  
Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra  
Seattle Art Museum

### August 9, 7 p.m.

Jazz Under the Stars  
Seattle vibraphonist  
Ben Thomas  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

### August 15, 11:30 a.m.

Blueberry Fruit Festival  
A cappella group The Coats  
Red Square

### August 16, 7 p.m.

Jazz Under the Stars  
Native Blue  
Mary Baker Russell Amphitheater, PLU

### August 25, 7:05 p.m.

PLU night at the Tacoma Rainiers  
Cheney Stadium  
Tacoma

### August 31-September 3


Anacortes Jazz Festival  
Curtis Wharf, Anacortes  
Sponsored by KPLU

## SEPTEMBER

### September 10, 6:30 p.m.

Lecture by Peter Singer  
Chris Knutzen Hall  
University Center

### September 13, 5 p.m.

KPLU Art of Jazz  
Seattle Art Museum 



Online  
Also  
Scene Read it online at  
www.plu.edu/scene

# NPR News and All That Jazz



## KPLU's

# "Summer of Jazz"

celebrates events in the community



Hear jazz 24 hours  
a day at  
[www.kplu.org](http://www.kplu.org)



Original paintings by Nancy Peacock, [nancy.peacock@myway.com](mailto:nancy.peacock@myway.com)

# perspective

## Ties that bind: From selfish genes to selfless behavior



Psychology professor R. Michael Brown co-authored a paper on "selective investment theory" that was published in *Psychological Inquiry*, a leading peer-reviewed journal, on the evolutionary basis of certain forms of altruism.

*By R. Michael Brown*

**A**ltruism—giving to others at a cost to oneself—is seen as a central problem for evolution theory, recognized as such by Charles Darwin. How can a behavior that advances the survival and reproduction of others, at the expense of one's own, be favored by natural selection? And, at a psychological level, what drives an individual to set short-term selfish (survival) interests aside and allocate valuable resources to others?

Recently, my daughter, Stephanie Brown, and I formulated a scientific theory—selective investment theory—that addresses these questions. Stephanie, intrigued by evolution since grade-school

days, developed the foundation for the theory in the mid-1990s, while she was still a graduate student in social psychology at Arizona State University. I got involved a couple of years later, as she was transitioning from her role as a student to life as a research psychologist at the University of Michigan.

The particular form of altruism our theory attempts to explain is what we call costly investment, examples of which include parenting, allocating valuable resources to a spouse or partner, caring for a sick or injured family member or friend, and protecting comrades in times of conflict or war. These

examples are so familiar to us that we may see no reason to question their evolutionary origin, or how they are accomplished on a day-to-day basis. But the costs they and other forms of altruism impose on the caregiver or protector can be substantial. Allocating resources to others takes time and energy, risks exploitation and, on occasion, places the giver's survival in jeopardy. (Recall the nightmarish events this past April at Virginia Tech, when the student death toll might have gone even higher had it not been for heroic efforts like those of

*continued on page 42*

**PLU Scene, Tacoma, Washington 98447-0003**

**Address change:** If this copy of Scene is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations with his or her new mailing address. You can reach us by phone at 253-535-7415, or 1-800-ALUM-PLU, fax us at 253-535-8555 or e-mail [alumni@plu.edu](mailto:alumni@plu.edu) with the new information. Thanks!