



Scene

Spring 2007 • Pacific Lutheran University

Star Gazing

6 Lutes pursue their
dreams in showbiz

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calendar



January brought several days of snow and cold to campus, but after months of rain, the sunshine was appreciated. Here, the statue of Martin Luther in Red Square is highlighted by snow and the setting winter sun.

MARCH

Through March 23
Faculty Showcase
University Gallery

March 18, 2 p.m.
The Glass Menagerie
Eastvold Auditorium

March 18, 3 p.m.
Two Sides of the Rose
Elizabeth Brown,
lute and guitar
Lagerquist Concert Hall

March 18, 2 p.m.
Nordic Dance Class
Chris Knutzen Hall East

March 19, 7 p.m.
Dale E. Benson Lecture in Business and
Economic History Series
Professor Richard R. John, University of
Illinois at Chicago
Scandinavian Cultural Center

March 20, 8 p.m.
University Symphony
Orchestra with
student soloists
Lagerquist Concert Hall

March 22, 8 p.m.
University Wind Ensemble Concert IV
Lagerquist Concert Hall

APRIL

April 1, 15, 22, 29, 4 p.m.
Nordic Dance Classes
Chris Knutzen Hall East

April 2 – May 4
Bea Geller, photographer
University Gallery

April 3, 6 p.m.
MBA Executive Leadership
Series Ray Heacox '76,
president and general
manager of Belo Seattle
Morken 103

April 3, 8 p.m.
Gina Gillie, guest French horn
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 5, 8 p.m.
Ensembles from Choir of the West
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 10, 8 p.m.
Regency String Quartet
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 12, 5 p.m.
KPLU Art of Jazz
Seattle Asian Art Museum

April 12, 6 p.m.
Artist's Reception: Bea Geller
University Gallery

April 13, 3 p.m.
"Foreign, Direct Investment,
Infrastructure and Globalization:
Theoretical and Empirical Analysis"
Peter Ng'ang'a
Xavier 150

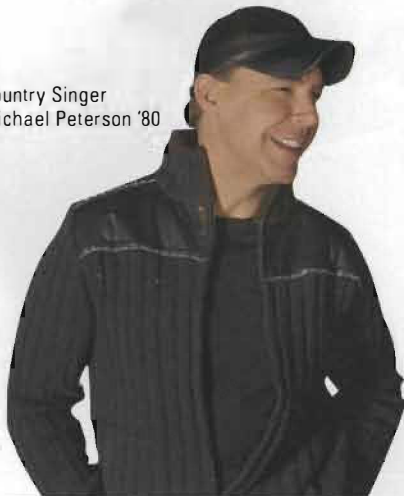
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Star Gazing
Six Lutes pursue their dreams in showbiz

Country Singer
Michael Peterson '80



Though he's treated just like any other swimmer when he's suited up for PLU, 43-year-old Mike Turcott is also a state trooper.

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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
www.plu.edu/scene

PLU OFFICERS
Loren J. Anderson
President

Greg Brewis
*Acting Vice President,
Development and
University Relations*

Patricia O'Connell Killen
Provost

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*Assistant Director for
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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

ADDRESS CHANGES
Please direct any
address changes to
alumni@plu.edu or
800-ALUM-PLU

ON THE COVER
Michael Peterson '80 has
found success as a country
music singer, employing
lessons he learned as a
championship Lute football
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here & now

Sustainability takes root in the dining hall

Committed students are raising the profile of what was once a niche movement – food sustainability – on campus.

Seniors Rachel Esbjornsen and J.P. Kemmick spent the summer researching PLU's food practices, including the origins of food served on campus, the virtues of locally produced food versus organic food, and, ultimately, how food waste is disposed.

The two, along with ASPLU and the

student group Grass Roots Environmental Action Now (GREAN), displayed their findings and kicked off the 2006-07 academic year with the first Organic Local Foods Fair in late September. The fair featured a meal made entirely of food that was produced locally and organically, and provided information about what food sustainability is and how to take action.

Esbjornsen received a Sustainability Fellowship to investigate how to create a culture of sustainability on campus in regard to food. Meanwhile, as the student sustainability intern for Dining

Services, Kemmick's work focused directly on how to reduce food waste through composting.

While Esbjornsen researched how to increase the amount of local and organic food available on campus, Kemmick studied how composting would help reduce food waste in Dining Services. Most of the food being tossed could be composted, he said.

Kemmick said he thinks composting would be an easy change to make because it simply involves placing the organic waste, like vegetables from the salad bar, into a composting bin instead of a trash can.



Julie Kerrigan '07 worked in the dining hall, measuring the amount of food scraps students leave behind on plates when they are finished eating. The effort is designed to reduce the amount of food being wasted.

SHORT SUBJECTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A6

Moving Beyond Trash Talk

Volunteers at Pacific Lutheran University, in Tacoma, Wash., are hard pressed to find a garbage can in faculty and staff offices these days. Nearly half of the 500 employees volunteered to trade in their garbage cans last month for plastic quart-sized containers bearing the words "Can the Can," in an effort to increase recycling and reduce waste.

Owners of the desktop cans are responsible for emptying them into communal trash bins rather than relying on the cleaning staff, says Amy L. Cockerham, a spokeswoman. Most refuse is recycled or composted, and only food-contaminated objects like candy wrappers and paper coffee cups land in the trash. The logic is simple: Cutting down the size of cans cuts down the amount of trash put in them, like gastrointestinal surgery.

David L. Kohler, director of facilities management, who forfeited his own garbage can 11 years ago, says the new program will save \$2,000 annually in garbage-can-liner costs. The goal in the next five years, he says, is for the university to be recycling 85 percent of its waste—well above its 60-percent rate of early October.

Toby R. Beal, the university's Web-content manager, was initially skeptical. "Who's going to come and clean this nasty little can on your desk?" he thought. But after reluctantly trading in his wastebasket, the little green container has started to grow on him. "I might have to get a little Sesame Street Oscar the Grouch to sit next to it," he says. —JANE R. PORTER

University recycling campaign nabs national press

PLU's "Can the Can" campaign was featured in the "Short Subjects" section of The Chronicle of Higher Education, the leading national publication for higher education. The article noted that the campaign was held in an effort to boost PLU's institutional recycling rate from around 65 percent, as it is today, to over 80 percent within five years.

The campaign sought volunteers to trade in their office trash cans for small, 1.5-liter desktop containers. The smaller containers provide far less capacity for garbage, and were intended to serve as a visual and practical reminder that nearly everything that crosses a PLU employee's desk during the day can be recycled.

About half of PLU's 674 full-time employees participated in the campaign.

Women's Center gets new digs

The Women's Center officially opened its doors at its new location in early November – a house situated on 121st Street South behind Ordal and Ingram halls.

The space includes a larger living room with new furniture and a fireplace, and a

separate library and meeting room that will allow visitors to use the Internet. The new location also provides space for two new employees. Last year, the center received a federal grant to expand its programming to include a Men Against Violence project coordinator and a victim's advocate. Jonathan Grove and Jennifer Warwick were hired, but the old center didn't have enough room for both of them.

The new space will allow the Women's Center staff to expand the activities it provides, according to Bobbi Hughes, director of the center. It provides flexibility by allowing two groups to meet at the same time – one in the living room and one in the library.

Students tapped by local paper to cover Gore event

Eleven PLU students joined Cheryl Dell, publisher of Tacoma's daily newspaper, The News Tribune, at the paper's suite in Key Arena for a live



Staff members Bobbi Hughes, Jonathan Grove and Jennifer Warwick moved in to the new Women's Center in November.

presentation of Al Gore's now-famous talk about global warming in late October.

The former vice president told the thousands gathered that saving the world from global warming is a moral issue, not a political one. Gore used a big-screen slide show to demonstrate how the human race is harming the Earth, and how climate change could eventually make the planet unsuitable for human life. The presentation was

www.plu.edu/scene

CATCH THE LATEST

Scene

ONLINE



Online news easy to find.

FIND OUT ABOUT PLU alumni making a living in the entertainment industry, catch up with six freshman profiled back in 2004, now on the cusp of graduation, and read about the Wang Center for International Program's fifth anniversary at Scene Online. www.plu.edu/scene.

here & now

continued

the basis for the movie "An Inconvenient Truth."

In exchange for the tickets, the students were asked to blog on the paper's editorial Web page, and the paper ran a full-length op-ed piece by Amber Morley '07 in its print edition. In it, Morley acknowledged that most of the attendees at the Monday-night event were probably already converts to "the church of climate change concern," but concluded that shoring up support through a pep-rally type event does no harm.



A group of PLU students was invited to blog for Tacoma's daily newspaper following the Gore event.

"The environmental movement needs everyone it can get, but every small action contributes to a change in the system."- Amber Morley '07

"The environmental movement needs everyone it can get, but every small action contributes to a change in the system," Morley wrote. "So for Gore's sermon, perhaps the choir is a gracious audience enough."

Students had to apply to attend the event, and the process resulted in students from a variety of majors, from biology to political science.

The event left many students inspired and searching for how they can personally improve the environment.

"Hopefully you can start a small reaction, which will end in a bigger product," said Jennifer Henrichsen '07.

By Breanne Coats '07

Students go global in January

Students participated in 19 courses in 17 different countries during J-Term 2007, and faculty and students in six courses were selected to blog about their experiences on the PLU Web site.

The students who posted to the blog were asked to respond to four questions regarding stereotypes, values, worldview and daily life. Students' responses to these questions, along with submissions on topics of their choice, photos and comments posted to blog entries by family and friends, can be viewed at <http://study-away.plu.edu>.

The questions were intended to lay the groundwork for the "World

Conversations: Voices from Around the Globe" event on campus in late February. The two-day series of panel discussions, guest speakers, musical performance and food from around the world brought students, faculty and staff together with the Pierce County community to discuss issues of justice, health, sustainability and peace.

"It was exciting to hold an event that provided the opportunity to mine the depths of international experience we have right here on campus," said Neal Sobania, director of the Wang Center for International Programs.

"Our faculty, staff and students are excellent sources on so very many global issues because, to a large extent, they've really been out in the world and know what they are talking about."

bienvenido

KPLU names new general manager



PAUL STANKAVICH has been named the new general manager of KPLU, succeeding Martin Neeb. Neeb recently retired after more than 25 years at the station.

Stankavich, 60, left his post as president and general manager of Alaska Public Media in Anchorage to take the job. In his former post, he oversaw day-to-day operations of the Alaska Public Radio Network, KAKM-TV and KSKA-FM.

"KPLU is one of the nation's premier public radio stations and one which, in my judgment, is the best jazz and information station in the world," Stankavich said. "It is a privilege to join the KPLU team."

Stankavich is no stranger to the Pacific Northwest. Prior to his work in Alaska, he worked in management for Northwest Public Radio and Television (an affiliate of WSU), in Bellingham and at KZAZ in Bellingham. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University.

Neeb, who started working at KPLU in 1981, guided the progression of KPLU-FM from a classical music format to jazz and made it a premier member of National Public Radio, heard by millions from Victoria, B.C., to Astoria, Ore., and around the world online.

Neeb continues to lead a fund-raising campaign for the construction of a new broadcast center on the PLU campus. It will replace the current overcrowded and outdated main KPLU studio facilities – the same facilities the station has been in since it went on the air 40 years ago. For more information on the campaign or to listen to KPLU live on the Internet, visit www.kplu.org.

Watada leaves students with mixed feelings

When Lt. Ehren Watada entered Nordquist Lecture Hall in mid-January, more than 150 students, faculty, staff and community members met him with a mixed reaction – some in open support and others in quiet disapproval.

Watada, who gained national prominence when he refused to deploy to Iraq in June 2006 with his Ft. Lewis, Wash.-based unit, was invited to speak following a screening of the documentary “Sir! No, Sir!” by Students for Peace and the Department of Languages and Literatures.

Watada faced court martial for refusing to deploy with his unit last summer. His refusal was based on his belief that the war is “immoral and illegal,” and his presentation at PLU focused on the similarities he sees between the Iraq War and the Vietnam War.

Students expressed a wide range of opinions on Watada’s refusal to deploy, and the audience included members of Students for Peace alongside ROTC cadets. But the responses did not necessarily break down along predictable lines.

Student Jon Atkins said while Watada has a valid point, he still signed up to be an officer in the Army.

“In my personal opinion, regardless of his views, you sign up for a duty,” Atkins said. “If it’s to pick up garbage, you pick up garbage. If it’s to deliver mail, you deliver the mail, and so on. You don’t decide when not to do your duty.”

The film “Sir! No, Sir!” was made up of interviews with Vietnam veterans and depicted the anti-war movement by soldiers during the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, Watada said, the armed services imploded because “the military policy was morally wrong and illegal.”

Student Tracy Rauk said listening to Watada speak was empowering because of his age – he’s 28 – and his willingness to take a stand for what he believes in, even if that means taking on the U.S. government.

“It’s one thing to see (dissent) on a documentary, and it’s another to see it with your peers,” Rauk said. □

ACCOLADES

EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



PLU faculty and staff, including Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Eva Johnson, were recognized for outstanding work.

Faculty, staff and administrators were honored for their service to the university at the annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 14. **Terry Bennett, Eva Frey Johnson, Nancy Shonk and Ross Winters** received Distinguished Staff and Administrator awards. The university also honored six faculty members for outstanding accomplishments in five areas: teaching, service, research, mentoring and advising. Nominated by their peers, the recipients of this year’s Faculty Excellence Awards were **Craig Fryhle**, chemistry; **Ann Kelleher**, political science; **Sid Olufs**, political science; **Samuel Torvend**, religion; **Clifford Rowe**, communication; and **Fern Zabriskie**, business. For more on each individual, go to <http://news.plu.edu/node/1428>.

VOICE INSTRUCTOR’S RECORDING RECEIVES POSITIVE REVIEW

PLU voice instructor **Jeanne Houston**’s new recording, “The Shining Place,” received a glowing review in the *Journal of Singing*. Houston released the 26-song recording in January 2006.

LATVIA HONORS PLU BUSINESS DEAN EMERITUS



Gundar King, dean emeritus of the PLU School of Business, has been recognized by the nation of Latvia for outstanding civil merit. During a June ceremony in Riga, President Vaira Viķe-Freiberga

conferred on King the Officer Rank of Latvia’s Three Star Order. It is the highest award for service to the Latvian state.

HALVORSON RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Michael Halvorson, assistant professor of history, was awarded a three-month research and travel fellowship at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany for his work on relations between Lutherans and Jews in late-16th century Germany. The highly competitive award will fund work for a forthcoming volume of essays entitled “Defining Community in Early Modern Europe,” edited by Halvorson and Karen Spierling.

STORM NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Marriage and Family Therapy professor **Cheryl Storm** was named Educator of the Year by the Washington Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 2006. She has worked at PLU for over 20 years and is the editor of the “*Journal of Systemic Therapies*.”

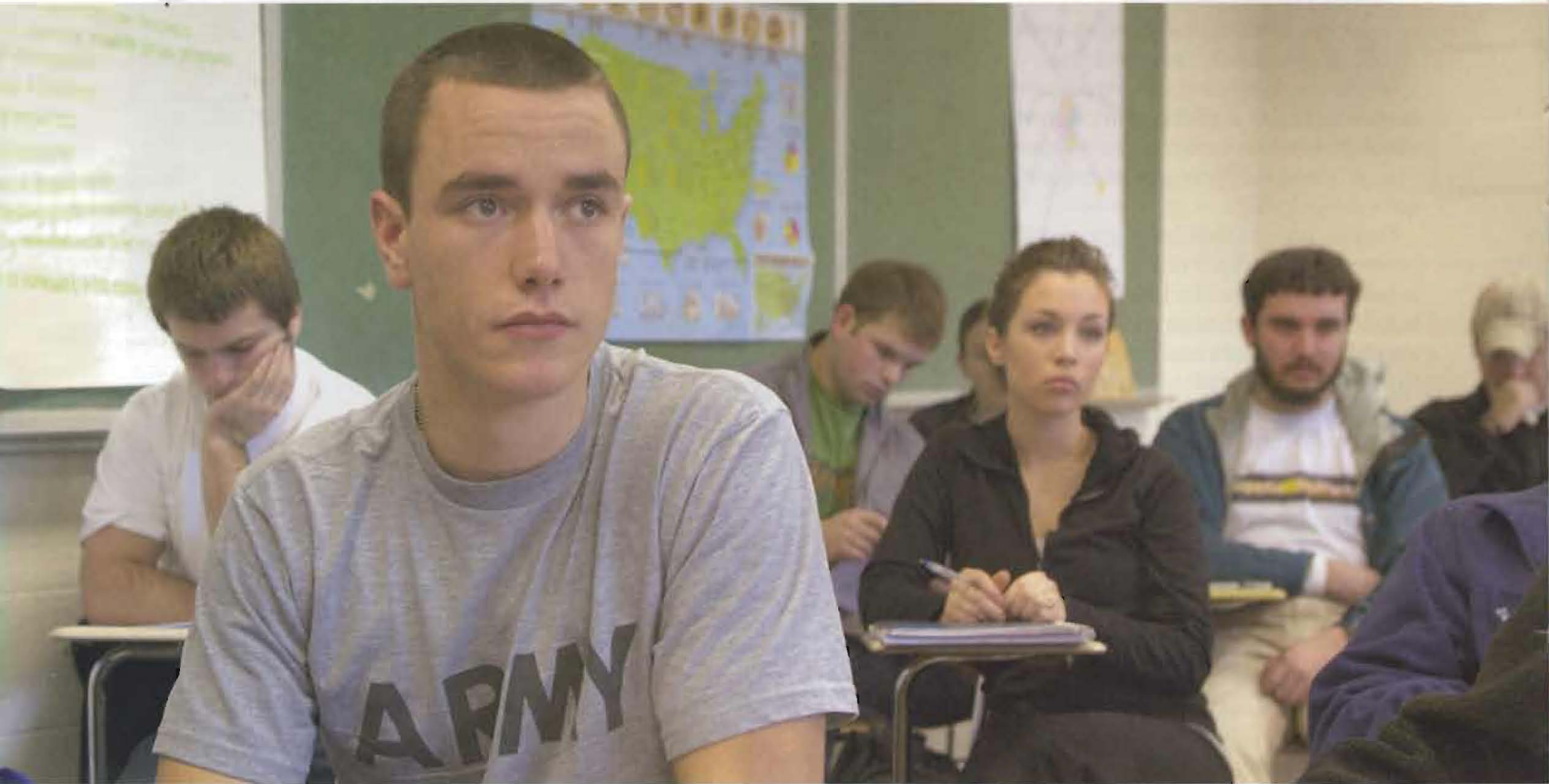
TANG MADE FELLOW OF APS



Physics professor **Kwong-Tin Tang** was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society for “senior theoretical contributions to our understanding of intermolecular forces, which govern the properties of gases, most liquids and insulator solids,” according to the society’s citation.

life of the mind

Academics prepare cadets for thoughtful service



Sophomore philosophy major Marshall Hughes, an ROTC cadet, sits in Pauline Kaurin's military ethics course. Kaurin said having both cadets and non-cadets in class leads to interesting discussions.

When Pauline Kaurin guest lectures in PLU's Reserve Officer Training Corps' senior military science course, she doesn't discuss individual ethical values. Instead, she addresses the ethics behind combat situations many cadets will likely face after graduation.

Kaurin is a visiting philosophy professor with an academic specialty in military ethics, and she regularly lectures in the ROTC courses.

The ROTC is an elective curriculum that students take along with their required college courses, and the students major in any discipline they choose. Taught by current Army officers, the program includes military science courses that develop leadership skills and teach military tactics, military training exercises at Fort Lewis and regular physical training sessions. Students in the program are referred to as cadets.

More than 80 students are currently involved in PLU's ROTC program. When the cadets graduate, they are commissioned into the Army as second lieutenants, the lowest ranking officer position. They are required to serve eight years in exchange for their degree.

A key concern of cadets is how to differentiate between enemy fighters and civilians on the battlefield, a major issue in both the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, Kaurin said. And if it's unclear who the enemy is, cadets wonder how soldiers protect themselves and do their job while adhering to international and domestic laws governing warfare – especially when the enemy blatantly violates those laws.

Kaurin doesn't have all the answers. "A lot of what I talk to them about is how are you going to figure out these things and how are you going to figure out what to do," Kaurin said.

The academic structure and mission of

PLU gives ROTC cadets the foundation to analyze complex military problems and find answers, she said. The university's general education requirements cover a variety of disciplines that expose cadets to a wide range of perspectives, like philosophy and religion courses that tackle ethics and questions about the deeper meaning of life.

"The broader the education they have, the better equipped they are to deal with people in different situations," Kaurin said.

This becomes especially important overseas, where the success of a mission can hinge on understanding the customs and beliefs of a different culture, Kaurin said. At PLU, all students are exposed to a variety of perspectives, beliefs and cultures, so they are more aware of the nuances and able to respond accordingly.

According to Lt. Col. Gillian Boice, director of the ROTC program at PLU,



Cadet Amy Forza '08, a political science major, chats with fellow students in Red Square last December.

"The PLU education structure, and what it values as far as a lifetime of thoughtful inquiry, but also vocation, global awareness and cultural diversity, that's huge for someone who is going to be in any profession, but especially in the military because our students are going to interact with a lot of people from diverse cultures."

All commissioned Army officers must have a bachelor's degree. It ensures the officers are well-rounded individuals and able to adapt to solve both human and tactical problems, Boice explained.

Cadet Renee McElroy '08 is majoring in political science.

"A well-rounded education is more important now because warfare is more unconventional," McElroy said. "You have to be able to solve problems outside of the box, and with a well-rounded education, you're better able to solve those problems."

PLU's cadets hail from a variety of backgrounds. Some are active duty soldiers and

Iraq war veterans, others are fresh out of high school, and still others are part of a reserve unit. This range of experience can lead to interesting class discussions, especially between cadets and non-cadets.

"As a group, (ROTC cadets) are more focused on current matters and what it means, based on personal experience and their career choice... they know they need to pay attention to world affairs more than others," said political science professor Sid Olufs. Cadets made up one-third of his J-Term course called "Politics of the War in Iraq."

In her "Military Ethics" course, Kaurin has seen the differing perspectives between cadets and non-cadets as well, and the discussions are often fruitful.

"In most classes, I think it tends to be a very creative tension because people who don't have military experience can hear from people who have been there or

who will be there," she said.

On the flip side, ROTC cadets also have the opportunity to hear the perspectives of those outside the military. It's beneficial for the cadets to learn, especially because the military serves the civilian society, Kaurin said.

When cadets are commissioned into the Army as second lieutenants, their duties mirror those of a "mini-CEO," Boice said. In that position, the cadets will be in charge of leading, coordinating and motivating a platoon of 30 soldiers and roughly \$1 million worth of equipment.

"Most college graduates don't step into that role – a leadership role – right away," Boice said.

In general, cadets don't choose a major that will directly relate to their job with the Army, said cadet Michael Harper '07. Harper is pursuing a degree in geosciences but will be

trained as a helicopter pilot when he's commissioned this May.

However, his academic experience at PLU has cultivated his time management and communication skills, which will directly transfer to both his military and civilian careers.

In addition to his ROTC commitments, Harper is juggling an academic course load and personal life. It takes a lot of self-discipline to get everything done because much of his after school time is spent on ROTC-related tasks, he explained.

Harper added that giving class presentations has proved beneficial by honing his research, presentation and communication skills. Refining these skills will make him be a better officer.

"As a lieutenant in charge of 20 to 40 people, you have to coordinate their life issues," he said. "You're the one that stands behind them when they're in trouble, and you're there to pat them on the back when they do well." □

By Megan Haley



RONAN ROONEY, a triple-major in history, religion and psychology, plans to enter graduate school and then return to a small town like Wrangell, Alaska, his hometown. "I learned that I'm better off in a small town," he said.



KRISTINA UFER, who came from just across town to study biology, found that she was most intellectually stimulated in her philosophy classes. She majored in both disciplines, and plans to get her master's in teaching secondary science.



ASHA AJMANI finished her French and biology degrees a semester early – pretty good for someone who, as a freshman, said her majors "changed weekly." From Los Gatos, Calif., she isn't sure what the future holds – but sooner or later, it will probably include graduate school, most likely in medicine.



AARON LEDESMA considered transferring to another school, but he's glad he stuck it out – he will double-major in history and Spanish – and counts his Oaxaca, Mexico, study-away experience as among the best in his life. He plans to go back to his hometown of Brewster, Wash., and teach high school.



J.P. KEMMICK will receive his degree in English writing with the hope of launching a writing career. After graduation, he wants to ride his bike to Mexico – after that, he asks: “Who knows?” Whatever it is, it will likely happen in Portland or Seattle, far from his Billings, Mont., hometown.



DO HAN SONG, from Spanaway, Wash., earned a degree in business administration, something he knew he wanted to do since entering PLU. He graduated a semester early with an emphasis in marketing management, skills he has been using as business sales manager at Best Buy in Puyallup, Wash.

3 years later...

In the Summer 2004 edition of *Scene*, we followed six freshmen students as they progressed through their first year. Nearly three years later, they are now about to graduate – in fact, two of them received their diplomas this past December, after three and a half years of study. We thought we’d check back with them to see what they’ve learned and how they’ve changed, now that they have completed – or nearly completed – their college careers. To read the original story in *Scene*, visit www.plu.edu/scene/issue/2004/summer/features/finding-themselves.html.

A LOT CAN CHANGE IN THREE YEARS. That’s particularly true if, during those three years, you went from being a college freshman to a college graduate. The six students who were profiled as freshmen in the Summer 2004 edition of *Scene* would certainly agree with that.

But despite those changes, there are definite similarities. All six will graduate, or have graduated. Most changed their majors at least once. Most are friends with, but not close to, their freshman-year roommates. Most, but not all, said they participated in an “all-nighter” – although most of those all-nighters had more to do with something other than cramming for an exam or finishing a paper.

All of the students participated in at least one study-away course – all told, the group made it to five of the seven continents (they only missed Africa and Australia). They all found the experience formative, although not for the same reasons. “I spent all my time in Japan thinking about Iraq,” said Ronan Rooney. “I thought about how we were once at war with this country and, still, they treat us so well. I kept wondering if it would ever be that way in Iraq.”

>>

3 years later...

Aaron Ledesma said his opportunity to study for a semester in Oaxaca, Mexico, with Associate Professor of Spanish Tamara Williams, was one of the most pivotal moments in his academic career. For Ledesma – who, as a freshman, considered himself shy and even thought about transferring to another college – it is clear the experience, particularly the people he met and lived with, had an indelible impact on his life. In fact, as we discussed the current political unrest that was taking place in Mexico's southern state, he smiled and said: "I wish I was there now."

Asha Ajmani, who traveled to Antarctica, Chile and Argentina on one trip, and to Martinique for another, sums it up simply: "I wouldn't trade my study abroad experiences for anything."

For the most part, the students were equally involved here on campus.

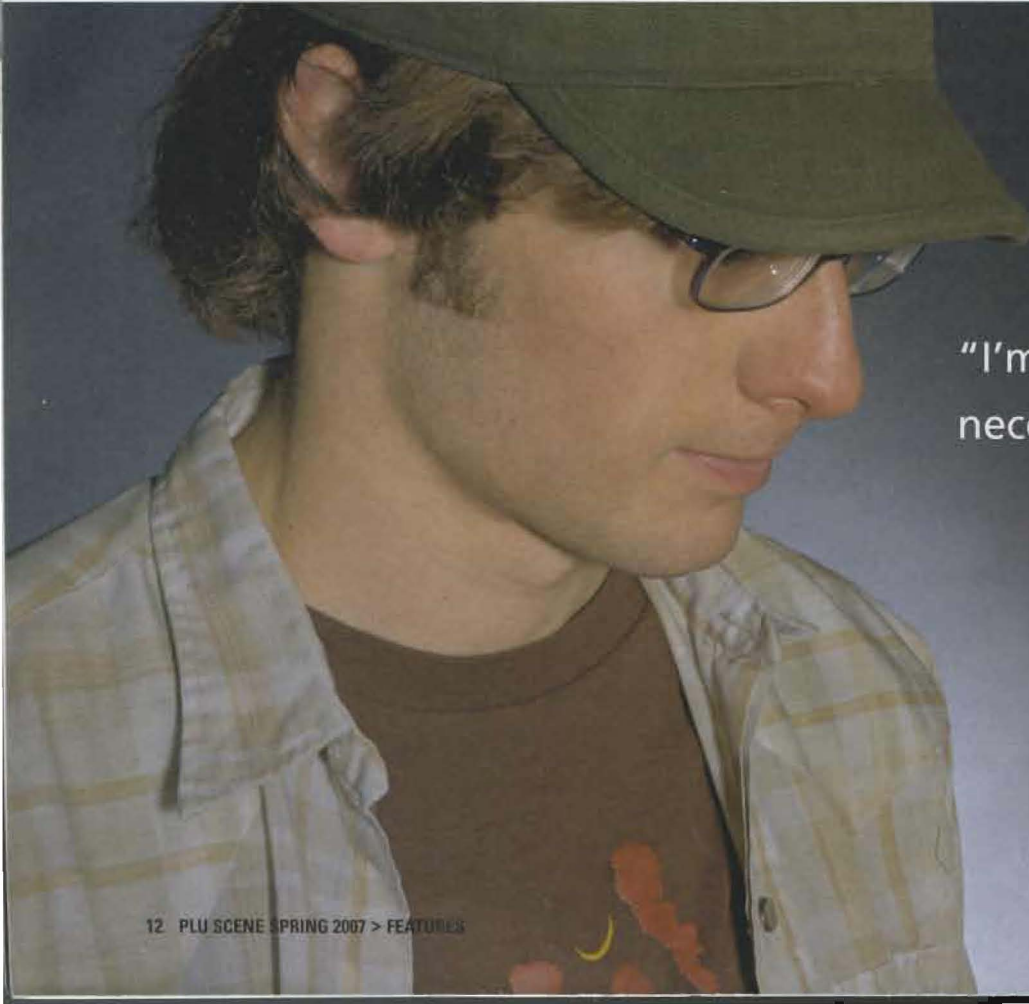
Ajmani, who originally figured she'd be studying at PLU as prep for medical school, found herself following other pursuits, including photography, ultimate Frisbee and French. Kristina Ufer playfully sighs in what might be a "what-was-

I-thinking?" moment as she describes choosing to be a resident assistant – during her senior year. "Sometimes it is hard to relate to the problems of my residents," she said, smiling. "It is hard to relate to the freshman mentality."

But even as she said this, it is clear she does enjoy the experience. She likes the community – she was hall president the previous year in Hinderlie – and that was something she felt she could bring to her current students.

As a freshman, Do Han Song spoke of "being a real estate tycoon," and driving home "to one of my several estates around the country." That enthusiasm – and drive – enabled him to work sometimes as much as 30 hours a week during school. Now, Song thinks he'll ultimately teach college-level business – something he attributes, in part, to many PLU professors who made an impact on him. "I definitely learned at PLU and in life that you have to be proactive to a point," said Song, "but also be reactive to take advantage of opportunities."

J.P. Kemmick was like most students during his freshman year, digging into just about every activity he could find.



"I'm all about college – not necessarily school."

— J.P. KEMMICK



"It took me a long time at PLU to find someone that actually didn't want to go to grad school. This person said to me 'I'm done with school. I'm going to get a job.' In some ways, I envy that so much."

— KRISTINA UFER

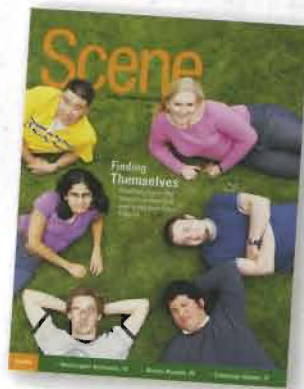
For Kemmick, that hasn't changed. He still plays on his ultimate Frisbee team, wrote for and staffed *Saxifrage*, PLU's literary magazine, and was active with the club Students for Peace. His senior year, he was president of the student environmental club, and for his efforts he spent his days elbow deep in discarded food in the U.C. as part of a "food audit."

"I'm all about the extra-curricular activities." Kemmick paused, and made an important distinction between class-learning and the higher-learning experience in general. "I'm all about college – not necessarily school."

This type of sentiment is similar with the seniors. In many ways, they've progressed through the learning curve of university classes and through the meat grinder of activities, friend-making and dorm life that is an essential part of every student's education. They've progressed beyond the first stage of discovering themselves and, once identified, they have moved on to nourishing that newfound self.

Which is where, at the end of their undergraduate careers, you'd expect them to be – once embracing university life, they are now deconstructing it.

Rooney entered PLU thinking he'd be a psychology major, and saw university life as an opportunity "to take a bite out of everything and see what I like," as he said back then. Now that he has taken those bites, his opinion has changed. "I finally got over being involved in extra-curricular activities," he said.



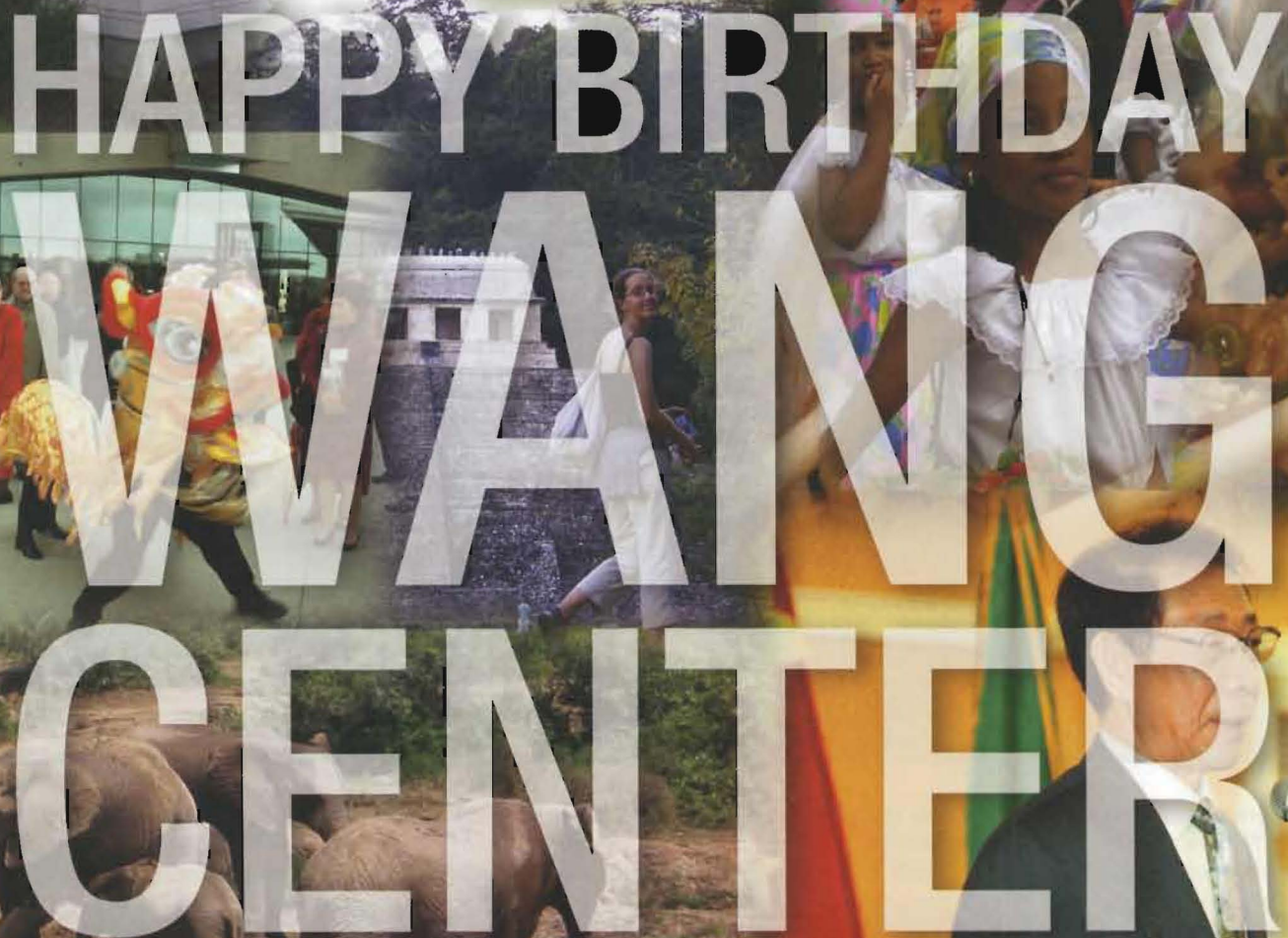
Original feature can be found in the Summer 2004 issue at www.plu.edu/scena/issue/2004/summer/features/finding-themselves.html

Now Rooney is much more interested in pursuing a life of the mind. "Psychology didn't fill the appetite, so I looked into some other disciplines," he said, noting that he plans to triple major in psychology, religion and history. "I love academics. In academics, it isn't important that a question doesn't always get answered – just that *it is asked*. I just like asking the questions."

The desire to pursue graduate education seems to be a common interest. Ajmani, Rooney, Ledesma, Ufer and Song all have plans to enroll at the graduate level. Ufer is somewhat philosophical about that. "It took me a long time at PLU to find someone that actually *didn't* want to go to grad school," she recalled. "This person said to me 'I'm done with school. I'm going to get a job.' In some ways, I envy that so much."

The group is relatively philosophical about their time at PLU, as well. Two of the six said, if they had to do it again, they might have attended a different university. It doesn't seem like regret so much as a grass-is-greener reflex – now that they have lived their lives here and had the requisite good and bad experiences, they've peered beyond the veil of the sometimes sunny characterizations of university life. All seem eager to take the next step, whatever that may be. And despite what's next, all seem grateful for what they received here – particularly the connections they made.

"We got our degree here," adds Ledesma, "but it is the people I'll really remember."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WANG CENTER

BY AMY COCKERHAM

Peter '60 and Grace Wang were the driving force behind the founding of the Wang Center for International Programs.



In the spring of 2001, Peter Wang '60 and his wife, Grace, were already thinking about the deep rifts developing in the world and what they could do to help.

They could not have known that a few months later, the actions of ruthless terrorists would bring these global tensions into sharp relief for the rest of the world, too. The couple had been in talks with PLU development officers, administrators and faculty for months when the morning of September 11 dawned.

Within days, it became clear to Peter and Grace what they would do.

President Loren Anderson, then-Associate Provost Bill Teska and Ed Larson, a longtime development officer, were already planning to visit the Wangs at their Pebble Beach, Calif., home on Sept. 14, 2001. 9/11 forced them to delay the trip for several days as flights were cancelled, then schedules scrambled in the aftermath of the attack.

"We finally got down there 10 days later," Anderson recalled. "We sat down and about

“I feel global understanding is even more important today than five years ago.” —Peter Wang’60

five minutes later Peter said, ‘You told me it would take \$4 million to endow a center for international programs, is that right?’ And I said, ‘Yes, that’s right.’ And he said, ‘Well, we’ve decided to go ahead and do that.’”

In early 2002, the formal announcement of the center was made, and it was open for business by the start of the 2002-03 academic year.

Five years later, the Wangs returned to campus to celebrate the first major anniversary of the center, born of tragedy but now serving as a major force for positive change on campus and around the world.

The Wangs received the annual Peace Builder Award during a luncheon held as part of “World Conversations: Voices from Around the Globe,” an event sponsored by the Wang Center in February. The event featured the scholarship of students and faculty from J-Term and semester-abroad programs as well as special speakers, including former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and author, journalist and photographer Ann Jones.

“No one is more deserving of recognition for their efforts to foster global peace than the Wangs,” Anderson said. “In their own way, they have made a critical impact in the area of global understanding. Showing students the world contributes to a new generation of leaders with perhaps a bit more understanding of and appreciation for cultural differences.”

Peter graduated from PLU with degrees in math and physics, and went on to earn his doctorate in probability theory from Wayne State University. He ended up teaching mathematics and national security affairs at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., and devoted a great deal of time to research for national security. His wife, Grace, holds a doctorate in chemistry.

“I feel global understanding is even more important today than five years ago,” Peter said.

He describes the founding of the Wang Center as coming “just in the nick of time,” as global circumstances and world history flexed on 9/11.

“Our most significant accomplishment as a group, as PLU and the Wang Center, was that we somehow expressed ourselves very well to the rest of the world: ‘We are con-

cerned. We want to find answers,’” he said.

But PLU’s international education program dates to long before the founding of the Wang Center. PLU students were traveling to China – now the fastest-growing destination for U.S. students studying abroad – since the 1970s. So one might wonder why it is important to have a center – a physical location – dedicated to international study.

“I think having a center gives us identity,” Anderson said. “It gives coherence. And in this case, it brings resources to our effort to build a truly distinctive global education program.”

The center has proven to be a catalyst for both expanding and improving PLU’s international programs. Today, the Wang Center for International Programs is manned by an executive director and a staff of five, who in the last two years have placed students on all seven continents at the same time.

And while the seven-continents benchmark is an easy indicator of the breadth of Wang Center programming, it does not begin to do justice to the sheer number of students touched by the center. Consider this: the national rate of overseas study is 3 percent annually; PLU’s rate is 36 percent, and the near-term goal is to reach 50 percent by 2010. Many of them are venturing far beyond the traditional countries for American students, too – away from Western Europe and English-speaking nations to Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

“A lot of parents look at our courses and say ‘This doesn’t look like what study away is. Where are France and Germany?’” said Neal Sobania, executive director of the Wang Center. “But we’re where two-thirds of the world live, in rural, developing nations.

“Once students study in a place like Africa or Latin America, they will never read about something happening in a developing country in the same way again.”

The Wang Center also serves a crucial role in faculty development, providing funds for the development of J-Term and semester-abroad programs, research trips and course development.

“What it really offers is support services for faculty and academic programming,” said Teska, the former associate provost and now a professor of biology. “It provides a nexus of leadership, so that as we move forward into the future, we move within a framework of ideas.”

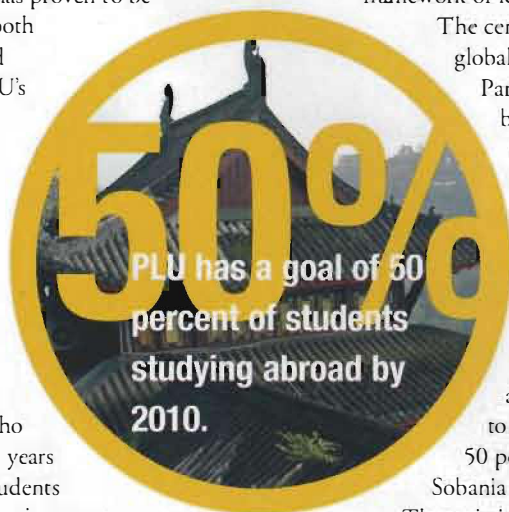
The center also works to bring global perspectives to PLU in Parkland, which Sobania believes is just as important as coordinating international study for students.

“I’m excited by the fact that PLU has a goal of 50 percent of students studying abroad by 2010, but we also have a responsibility to bring the world to the 50 percent who won’t go,” Sobania said.

That mission is fulfilled primarily through a series of public symposia on issues of global concern, including “China: Bridges for a New Century” in April 2003 and “Pathways to Peace: Norway’s Approach to Democracy and Development” in January 2005. February’s “World Conversations” event marked 2007, and in late February 2008, the Wang Center will host a large-scale conference on issues of global health. Details will be forthcoming in future issues of Scene.

Teska said the example Peter Wang has set among alumni is a testament to the best of what a solid undergraduate education can mean for individuals.

“It illustrates how these connections we make with our students are so important,” he said. □





Star Gazing

Six Lutes pursue their
dreams in showbiz

Michael Peterson '80

BY ANDREA CALCAGNO '08

Michael Peterson '80, a standout on PLU's 1980 NAIA Division II championship football team, went on to achieve even greater success after college, hitting it big in the competitive world of country music.

In 1997, Peterson broke through with a self-titled album that yielded five hit singles including, "Drink, Swear, Steal and Lie." Billboard magazine dubbed Peterson the top new artist that year in country music.

Peterson released three more albums before taking a break from recording to spend time at home.

"I'm glad I put my family first, because you can always have another career," says Peterson, who played a November 2006 date at the Puyallup Fairgrounds as part of a comeback tour. >>

Peterson

On the topic of career changes, Peterson speaks from experience. He came to PLU from Richland, Wash., on scholarships in football and music. At six feet, four inches, Peterson's success as a left offensive tackle forced him to put music on the shelf for a while.

After more than a decade of motivational work with teenagers across the United States and Canada, Peterson began exercising his music muscles by delving into singing, songwriting and recording.

Although his PLU sports career is long behind him, Peterson still lives by the advice he and teammates received from former head football coach Frosty Westering, who encouraged student athletes to "make the big time where you are."

Westering's words of wisdom have stuck with Peterson, who says he tries to evalu-

become an electrical engineer didn't pan out either — he found his engineering classes boring.

So when a friend convinced him to take an acting class to fulfill a general university requirement, he opted in — especially when his friend mentioned that acting classes were a good place to meet girls.

There, Comins discovered his passion for acting, and is now entering his fifth season with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, in Ashland, Ore.

"There is something to me that is very rewarding about going out each night and trying to get it right," Comins said of his love for acting.

Comins, who graduated from PLU with his bachelor's degree in art, went to graduate school at the University of Illinois and taught at PLU for a year and a half after getting his master's in 2000. Comins

the show, giving Comins less than 48 hours to ready himself for the stage.

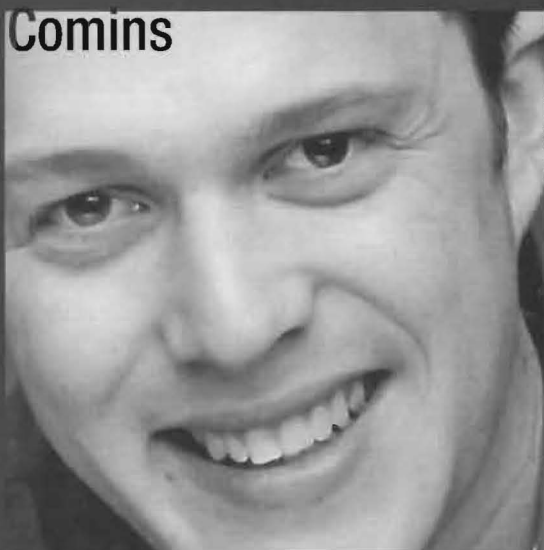
A producer from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival happened to be in the audience one of the nights Comins performed Brutus, and recruited him to work in Ashland, at the nationally renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

As an actor with the festival, Comins works on a year-to-year contract basis. During the season, he works six days a week, each day possibly involving an afternoon performance and an evening rehearsal, or vice versa.

The week is long, but Comins said he feels fortunate to have such a consistent job. "I feel very lucky to be a full-time working actor. I belong to a union with a 95 percent unemployment rate," Comins said.

The actor breaks up his long days with

Comins



“Entertainment is hard to break into. Don't put all your eggs in one basket and know yourself. If you feel the need to go after it, give it a try, and give it all you have got.”

- Marnee Hollis '77

ate his success in an unconventional way. "It's so easy to get sidetracked with the notion that 'making it' is having your name on the marquee and your songs on the chart," said Peterson, who contends it's more important to "measure your significance by something internal."

Danforth Comins '97

BY INGRID STEGEMOELLER '07

When Danforth Comins '97 injured himself at the beginning of his PLU soccer career, his dreams to play intercollegiate soccer came to an abrupt end. His plans to

said he enjoyed teaching, but found it difficult because he wasn't much older than his students.

"I think I got the reputation (for being tough) because I wanted to make sure they accepted my authority," Comins said.

Though he got into the acting business later than most of his peers, Comins said, he has acted all over the country at a variety of theaters and companies, including the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in California and the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

While in Utah, Comins served as an understudy to the actor playing Brutus in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." The actor ruptured his appendix just before

trips to his home to visit his wife, PLU alumna Shannon Park '96, and their two cats.

"Coming home, kissing my wife and rubbing my cat is a highlight," Comins said.

During the off-season, Comins and Park, a child and family therapist, like to travel.

"We'll take a trip to Hawaii or something like that," Comins said. "We try to spend as much time together as we can when it permits."

Marnee Hollis '77

BY SHANNON SCHRECKENGOST '09

As a freshman at PLU, Marnee Hollis '77 sang the lead role in the theater department's production of >>

Star Gazing

"Oklahoma." Now, 30 years later, Hollis is on Broadway.

A Puyallup, Wash., native, Hollis grew up with dreams of teaching music. She immediately began taking music education courses upon entering PLU. At that time, she discovered theater.

"I learned that at PLU, anyone could audition for the theater productions," Hollis said. "I got the lead and that was pretty exciting, so I took some drama classes."

Hollis continued to study music edu-

"Evita." She has also performed off-Broadway and in touring productions of shows like "Menopause, the Musical" and "The Sound of Music."

Hollis found success in the difficult world of entertainment. To current PLU students pursuing a career in entertainment, Hollis offers this advice:

"Entertainment is hard to break into," she said. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket and know yourself. If you feel the need to go after it, give it a try, and give it all you have got."

Craig Kvinsland '92

BY LAURA ZAICHKIN '07

Many theater majors only dream of working with film legends such as Steven Spielberg, William H.

movie directed by a University of Southern California student.

"On the days I wasn't acting, I was learning about the equipment," Kvinsland said. By the time that project ended, he had established contacts that began helping him land film roles.

To date, Kvinsland's most significant role – and what he calls the highlight of his career – was as "Brad the bartender," the obsession of William H. Macy's character in the 1999 Oscar-nominated film, "Magnolia."

As a lighting tech, Kvinsland has worked on high-profile movies such as "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and "Gone in Sixty Seconds."

On one occasion, Kvinsland's careers as an actor and technician collided.

“They say here that overnight success happens in 15 years. I’m actually over the hump.”

- Craig Kvinsland '92



cation but began an additional major in theater. She graduated four years later.

Hollis spent a year in Sweden after graduation. It was during that time she decided to move to New York and try her hand in the entertainment industry. She did so in 1979 and has been there ever since.

"Acting hadn't been a lifelong dream for me, but something in me said that I needed to try," Hollis said. "I had to struggle and find a job, but I did."

Hollis has since performed on Broadway in "My Fair Lady" and in national tours including "The Phantom of the Opera," "My Fair Lady" and

Macy and Sam Raimi.

Craig Kvinsland '92 had those dreams, too. And he's lived them.

However, Kvinsland had to modify his plans since packing up a year after graduation to head for Los Angeles. Since moving, Kvinsland has acted in film, television and commercials.

But rather than acting, Kvinsland has supported himself largely as a lighting technician.

"They say here that overnight success happens in 15 years," Kvinsland said. "I'm actually over the hump."

A native of Gig Harbor, Wash., Kvinsland broke into the entertainment business in 1993 by acting in a small

Kvinsland was working in 2002 as a lighting tech on the film, "The Sweetest Thing," when he was recognized by the director from his role in "Magnolia." Kvinsland soon landed a part in the movie as a waiter.

Kvinsland still auditions for acting jobs. But right now, he's focused on his family life with his wife of six years, Stacy, and their 4-year-old daughter, Annika, and his work as a technician on this summer's sure-fire blockbuster, "Spider Man 3."

"If I was an actor in the movie that would be much better," Kvinsland said. "It's a fantasy land, and it's fun to be a part of."

Todd Perry '92

BY ERIC THOMPSON '07

Todd Sheridan Perry '92, first became fascinated with digital effects when he saw "Star Wars" in 1977, and was hooked on art from an early age.

"I worked on stop-motion movies and little drawings and cartoons in the sides of your textbooks and stuff like that," Perry said.

As a PLU student, Perry knew he wanted a career in digital effects. He just had to figure out how to get there. Although there were only a few art classes that used computers at the time, Perry was able to prepare himself for a successful career by teaching himself how to edit while working at PLU's student-run television station, KCNS, and tailoring his course work to allow him to complete two internships.

Perry received his bachelor's degree in art with an emphasis in two-dimensional media and has since started his own company, the computer-generated imagery, animation and special effects house Max Ink Cafe. His most high-profile project is his work as a 3D technical director for "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." A recent career highlight includes a 2006 Emmy award for his work on the Sci-Fi Channel miniseries "The Triangle."

Perry now floats from company to company as a hired gun, doing everything from video games to television to film, and working in both live action and digital. For Perry, with his wide skill range, there is no one preferred medium.

"The main focus is just telling a story," Perry said. "The actual venue that the story is told in is less important than the story itself."

HEIDI VANDERFORD '98

BY BREANNE COATS '08

Unlike many others in the entertainment business, opera singer Heidi Vanderford '98 says her goal is not to be famous, but rather to feel satisfied with her life.

"It's about me being happy with myself," Vanderford said.

Of course, when you can have both, all the better.

Perry



Todd Perry and his partner at Max Ink Café, Jennifer Champagne, celebrate his 2006 Emmy Award for his work on the Sci-Fi Channel miniseries "The Triangle."

Such is the case for Vanderford, who left her side job as a private music instructor in New York this February to participate in her third performance with Plácido Domingo at the Washington National Opera. She will perform the role of Schwertleite in Richard Wagner's notoriously difficult "Die Walküre."

Since her early years of grade school, Vanderford enjoyed singing. It was not until her senior year in high school that a voice teacher led her into the world of classical music.

Love of music and performing started this mezzo-soprano's career that requires traveling from state to state and sometimes country to country. Vanderford admits this type of lifestyle, which requires her to live out of a suitcase and only stay in the same location for a short time, is stressful.

"I had no idea what I was bargaining for as far as the lifestyle," Vanderford said. "It's very lonely sometimes. It makes you value family and friends."

"A professional singer relies on (her) laptop computer and phone," added Vanderford, of how she keeps in contact with the people she cares about.

While on stage, Vanderford applies the lessons learned as a PLU vocal performance major and member of Choir of the

West, as well as those from Indiana University, where she earned a master's degree in vocal performance. She also uses her PLU communication minor to help her in marketing her product: herself.

While Vanderford admits being on stage is like nothing else, she still contemplates how much longer she will continue down her current path. Vanderford has many future options available — from maintaining her constant travel schedule to finding a permanent job in a European opera company. She may try to start a second career using her communication degree.

However, Vanderford said she is in no rush to plan out her entire life and says she currently cannot pass up the enticing projects her opera career allows her to undertake.

"It's really artistically stimulating," she said of her more prominent projects, like working with the legendary Domingo. "You realize, wow, this is an amazing work life." **S**

Ingrid Stegemoeller '07, Breanne Coats '08, Shannon Schrecengost '09, Eric Thompson '07 and Laura Zaichkin '07 are student journalists with PLU's MediaLab. Read about the work of these student journalists at www.plu.edu/~ml.

attaway lutes

Student, swimmer, trooper: Mike Turcott



Mike Turcott left PLU to become a state trooper in 1985. Two decades later, he returned to complete his degree and is embracing the undergrad experience.

Take on Mike Turcott in the swimming pool and there's a pretty good chance you'll come out ahead. He'll be the first to admit that.

Mess with Turcott on the freeway – that would be Lt. Mike Turcott of the Washington State Patrol, by the way – and you'll find yourself with a citation, maybe even behind bars.

At 6-5, 235 pounds, Turcott is an imposing figure when fulfilling his role as a Washington State Trooper, which he has been since late 1985. The 43-year-old is also an imposing figure as a member of the Pacific Lutheran University men's swimming team.

For Turcott, however, the opportunity to be an intercollegiate swimmer

while finishing his degree is nothing more than answering the question, "What can I do that I haven't yet done?" The first answer: graduate. The second: "If the rules say I can swim, why not?" said Turcott, a one-time summer-league and high school swimmer whose passion for the sport was rekindled in recent years at the master's level.

In 1985, during his junior year at Pacific Lutheran, Turcott turned 21 and decided to leave school to pursue a lifelong goal – to work for the Washington State Patrol. He graduated from the Washington State Patrol Academy in December 1985 and soon started patrolling state highways.

After spending a year working out of

Ritzville in eastern Washington, he transferred to Centralia, and later to Olympia. Finally, after 14 years on the road, he was promoted to sergeant, which meant a move to Kelso. After another three-and-a-half years working at the academy near Shelton, he was again promoted, this time to lieutenant, and now works in the field operations division at the State Patrol headquarters in Olympia.

All the while, the bug to finish his college degree stayed with him, and in 2005 he decided to finish the work necessary to get a degree in sociology with a minor in physical education. He is on pace to graduate in the spring of 2008, 50 years after his mother, Dana Turcott '58, earned her degree from Pacific

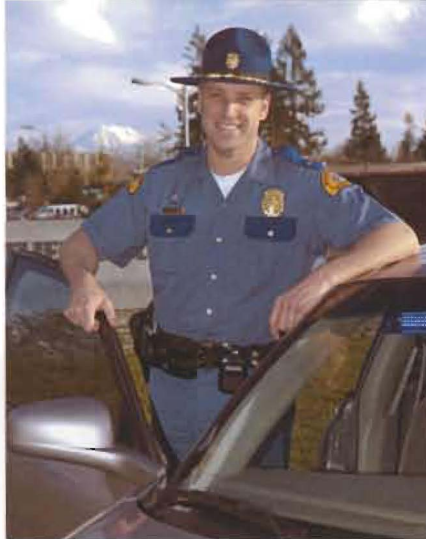
Lutheran College. (His father and two brothers also attended PLU at various times.)

It was while working with PLU swimming coach Jim Johnson on his physical education minor (with an emphasis in aquatics) that Turcott decided to join the swim team.

Turcott and Johnson are the first to admit that Turcott the swimmer doesn't strike fear in the heart of Northwest Conference opponents. In fact, a distance freestyle and individual medley swimmer, he will have a difficult time placing at the conference meet, a feat that would earn him a PLU swimming letter. But he's not in it for the letter.

"What he brings to our team is a true love of swimming, a passion for the sport, and a real positive attitude toward the team," says Johnson. "At PLU, swimming is a team sport, and he embodies that and truly lives it."

With the approval of his State Patrol



Mike Turcott is a state trooper and soon-to-be college graduate.

superiors, Turcott adjusts his schedule to allow for occasional twice-daily swim practices. He sometimes takes patrol duty in order to bank up enough comp hours to allow him to travel with the PLU team to road meets. On the road, there is no pampering the team's elder statesman. "He's no different than any-

body else," said Johnson, noting that Turcott shares a room with three male teammates, as is the normal procedure on road trips.

While Turcott may have been a novelty – how many 43-year-old state troopers are also full-time students and intercollegiate swimmers? – when he first joined the team, Johnson says that the novelty has worn off, and that Turcott is "just another guy on the team." If there was any doubt about that, you can look in the stands at PLU home meets and find his 70-something parents sitting alongside other PLU swim parents, cheering for their son. What is different, however, is that Turcott's 17- and 12-year-old daughters are also there, encouraging their dad.

While they would like to cheer him to a first-place finish, that has yet to happen. Still, Turcott already has won the prize when it comes to answering the question, Why not? S

By Nick Dawson

PLU STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDED MEDAL OF VALOR



Alana Schutt received the Washington state Medal of Valor. Here, she is featured with her state representative, Rep. John Lovick, and Gov. Chris Gregoire.

FOR ALANA SCHUTT, COMING TO THE AID OF THREE FISHERMEN ON MARTHA LAKE THIS SUMMER WAS "AN EASY DECISION."

That decision, on May 26 of last year, led to Schutt saving the lives of the three men whose boat was sinking. Because of her quick and calm response to the situation, Schutt received the Washington state Medal of Valor from Governor Chris Gregoire in a ceremony conducted Jan. 24 in Olympia.

The Governor presents the Medal of Valor "to any person who has saved, or attempted to save, the life of another at the risk of serious injury or death to himself or herself."

Schutt, who at the time had just finished her junior year as a member of the Pacific Lutheran University women's fastpitch softball team, first noticed the men in distress from the backyard of her parent's home in Lynnwood. Initially, she thought they were "goofing off," but soon realized that their boat was taking on water.

As her mother called 911, Schutt took the family's paddleboat out to help, and on the way noticed one of the men struggling in the water some 100 yards from the boat. "He was a big guy, he was pale and in shock. He became my priority," said Schutt, a strong swimmer who is trained in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. She pulled him into her paddleboat and then proceeded to the spot where the other two men clung to the partially submerged boat.

With the aid of one of the men – the only good swimmer among the trio – she pushed her paddleboat and pulled the partially submerged boat (at the insistence of the owner) to the boat launch where emergency responders waited.

While proud of her role in saving the men, Schutt said that going out to help the men was a reasonable and sensible decision. Training helped her think clearly and remain calm through the situation.

"I didn't want it to be this big thing, like what I did was this great deal," said Schutt, speaking of the Medal of Valor. She said what she did doesn't compare to, for instance, people who enter burning buildings to rescue others.

But the three men whose lives she saved would certainly argue that point with her.

alumni news & events

PLU GOLD connects recent alumni



PLU GOLD members Mike Pasley, Heather (Ostrom '02) Pasley, Janelle Nagel '99 and Todd Shively '99 met up at the Columbia Tower in Seattle last July.

Educating for lives of service is what we do at PLU. GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) delivers at least one event annually to help make a difference in the Puget Sound. Service events bring out the volunteers in our GOLD alumni community. If you'd like to continue the tradition of service now that you've been out of school for a while, consider getting involved with PLU's special alumni group.

In February, for instance, GOLD organized a workday to provide some much needed maintenance to the space occupied by MLKBallet. The grassroots ballet company was started by four PLU

alumni to provide dance classes to low-income families in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood. In 2006, GOLD volunteered at Treehouse For Kids in Seattle, a non-profit that serves foster children in the Pacific Northwest.

GOLD also serves its constituents by offering post graduate seminars and fellowship events.

Every year, GOLD presents educational events that provide answers to common dilemmas among grads of this period.

Every year, GOLD presents educational events that provide answers to common dilemmas among grads of this period. Last September, we kicked off the first installment in the GOLD Success Series dealing with the topics of financial planning and buying a first home. The committee is busy making plans for fall 2007 to include an international edition of the series that will highlight alumni who have had overseas experiences after graduation.

GOLD also plans many events for the many recent graduates who are now married and starting families. In 2006, family day at Point Defiance Zoo and

Aquarium in Tacoma brought out alumni and their kids for fun in the sun. In August 2005, GOLD hosted a memorable afternoon at Pacific Science Center in Seattle that included an exclusive tour of the butterfly house and a behind-the-scenes look at the IMAX theater. Watch for more details on another event for the whole family coming this summer.

And for the less domestic among you, GOLD social events at local nightspots are also a fun way to reconnect. This June you can join past colleagues and friends for a collegiate throw back night: happy hour at the Shamrock Tavern in Parkland. Specifics will be posted at www.plualumni.org in April. These events aren't just confined to the Parkland/Tacoma area. In 2006 we hosted events all over the Puget Sound region and as far away as San Francisco. The GOLD committee is interested in feedback and venue ideas for future events of this kind. You can send your suggestions to gold@plu.edu.

Be sure to keep your e-mail address



Andrea Hanson '03, left, and Kristin Van Ness '97, right, got together at a San Francisco connection event in April of 2006.

current so you can receive information about these events. No doubt you have some fresh ideas or may even want to be a part of the rewarding hands-on volunteer work to help make these events happen. Committee chair Susan Andresen '99 would love to hear from you at

gold@plu.edu or you can reach Jacob Himmelman in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations any business day at 253-535-7415. For a complete list of events throughout the year, go to www.plualumni.org.

By Eric Melver '96

SPOTLIGHT

CHRIS INVERSO '01



Chris Inverso, a graduate of 2001, has been an active member of the PLU GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) committee since February 2005.

"My introduction to GOLD occurred at a social event at The Swiss in Tacoma," Inverso said. "I had a blast connecting with people that I hadn't seen for a couple years."

The committee is made up of volunteers who meet throughout the year to plan and execute events and service opportunities geared toward alumni who graduated within the last 10 years. Their involvement with GOLD is a very personal thing.

"When you boil it all down, I am motivated by two key things: serving others and being an expert in the mortgage and real estate industry," Inverso continued. "My involvement in GOLD ties in to my primary desire to serve others and build friendships.

"The bonus for me is that I get to forge relationships with a lot of other people who I may have the opportunity to serve in a work-related capacity in the future."

Recent alumni from PLU represent a broad range of backgrounds and career paths, and creating events and programs that are meaningful to all can be a challenge. After all, in the 10 years after graduation, some alumni are married with children, while others are single; some are staying at home with small children, while others are climbing the career ladder. GOLD attempts to span those gaps by holding certain events geared to subsets of alums within this age range.

Inverso was involved in planning the family event at Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma last summer as well as a couple social events around Puget Sound in the fall. His favorite, though, was the "Success Series" event in September of last year, he said.

The series brings expert alumni back to campus to give a brief seminar on issues of interest to recent grads. For instance, topics include financial planning, real estate investment and paying off college and credit-card debt.

"For those that were in attendance it was an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other Lutes," Inverso said.

"If we continue to reach out to GOLD alumni in a consistent, relevant manner we'll continue to grow steadily in terms of the number of alumni that get involved," he added. "As the momentum of the GOLD alumni group builds, we'll have the opportunity to influence the future of PLU in a profound way. Plus, as we show our support for PLU and for each other we collectively increase the 'value' of our degree."

For more information about the committee and GOLD events, visit the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations' Web site at www.plualumni.org and click on PLU GOLD.

-By Erik Melver '96

alumni news & events

continued

Parents plugged in to PLU online

The office of Alumni and Parent Relations unveiled its new Web site for parents last September, including 60 new pages dedicated to streamlining the experience for current parents.

Immediately after the launch of the new Web site, current parents began receiving an HTML-formatted e-mail newsletter in their inboxes called Parent eNews.

The monthly newsletter provides links for parents to timely or seasonal content that may concern them or their student.

Jackie Ogan is a current Parents Council member and mother to second-year student Sadie Ogan. "I was introduced to the new Web site in the fall, and what a great tool for parents," Ogan said. "I like reading about the things that are happening on campus. It provides information I can share with my daughter."

In November, the Parents Council met

for its fall meeting and was introduced to the new Web site. Suggestions were made for subtle additions and changes, most notably the addition of a link to the yearly academic calendar for a listing of vacations and breaks for students. The academic calendar is now posted under "events" on the Web site thanks to the council's input.



"In many cases, it's not that the information isn't already available somewhere else on the PLU Web site," said Erik Melver, assistant director of programs and services

in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. "But it's nice to be able to gather it all up in one place so parents don't have to go looking for it. The new e-mail newsletter centralizes information relevant to parents so it's easy to access."

Parent eNews continues to be delivered monthly to Lute parents all over the world. Currently, eNews highlights up to five main stories per issue. Most of the content is student service-related, including information on academic assistance, financial aid deadlines, choosing and liv-

ing in a residential hall, and student employment, for example.

"Since we are still in the inaugural year of the eNews we try to report on the most important topics and try not to overwhelm our readers," said Melver, who is the newsletter's editor. "We have plans to expand the reach of our eNewsletter by the end of this academic year to include even more information on a whole range of issues."

According to Melver, there are plans in place to produce a similar monthly e-mail for alumni starting as early as next fall.

"I check out the events section often to see if there are things going on when I am in town, or I give ideas to my daughter to check out," Ogan said. "I think PLU does a good job keeping in touch with parents and this eNewsletter is just another way to do that."

To take a look yourself you can visit PLU's main Web site at www.plu.edu and click on the "Parents" link at the top of the page. If you are the parent of a PLU student and you aren't receiving a monthly Parent eNews e-mail, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations and make sure your e-mail address is up-to-date.

Pencil Us In

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 13	.....	PLU Chorale Concert, Yakima
April 14	.....	PLU Chorale Concert, Spokane
April 14	.....	PLU GOLD Night on Campus, Dance Ensemble, PLU
April 14/15	.....	Spring Parents Council Meeting, PLU
April 19	.....	PLU GOLD Happy Hour, Seattle
April 21	.....	PLU Jazz Concert & Reception, Astoria
April 22	.....	PLU Jazz Concert & Reception, Olympia
May 5	.....	Spring Donor Banquet, Sheraton Tacoma
May 27	.....	Spring Commencement, Tacoma Dome
April 20	.....	Relay for Life, PLU
May 27	.....	PLU Theatre Cabaret & Reception, PLU

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

Join the
Click!

Do you have a business that you want fellow Lutes to know about?

Are you interested in patronizing the businesses of fellow alumni?

Search the Alumni Online Community yellow pages for listings posted by other alumni or to post your own business.

Registration is free for all PLU graduates. Get started today at www.plualumni.org.

Spring Donor Banquet moves to Sheraton

Due to a major renovation of the University Center scheduled to begin in April, the Spring Donor Banquet will take place at the Bicentennial Pavilion/Sheraton Hotel in downtown Tacoma on Saturday, May 5.

The Spring Donor Banquet is an annual event during which PLU takes a moment to celebrate its many generous donors. Besides good food, it's a chance for donors to get a firsthand reminder of what their contribution to the Annual Fund and university endowment supports: students. From presenters to entertainment, students volunteer to come and say thank you and share – in their own words and through their art – how much the support of others means to them.

This year's banquet will highlight and demonstrate the impact the Pacific Lutheran University community has on the city of Tacoma and the many partnerships we share.

Members of the Q Club, Lute Club, Lifetime Giving Society and Heritage Society are invited to this annual event. For information on the event or to learn how you can receive an invitation, please contact the Office of Development at www.plu.edu/dev or by phone at (800) 826-0035 or (253) 535-7177.

Class Reps need YOU!

Class Representatives serve their classmates and the university by focusing on three goals: future building, fund building and friend building. They specifically target their efforts at members of their graduating class, working to maintain support for the university while keeping in touch with classmates.

These volunteers generously support their alma mater with annual gifts and time, and encourage their classmates to do the same.


You may have received a letter from your class representative encouraging you to make your annual gift – please

do so. It is important for many reasons to show that a large percentage of graduates support the university. For one thing, the annual giving percentage is a key component of the annual U.S. News & World Report ranking of colleges and universities. Foundations and individuals also look at how much support PLU has from within its own community as they evaluate whether to award grants to the university. Class representatives are particularly focused this year on helping to increase the alumni giving percentage.

But it's not all about raising money. As friend raisers, class representatives attend PLU events, communicate with you through a letter each year and help to recruit new students.

They also help to organize and plan reunion events for their homecoming reunion year. Homecoming 2007 is October 12-14 and reunions will be held for the following classes: 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002.

Your class representative wants to hear from you. To share ideas and suggestions, or to help plan your reunion, contact your class representative at 800-ALUM-PLU or alumni@plu.edu.

Turn to the class notes section to read a full list of class representatives, and a listing of classes in need of a class representative. If you're interested in serving in this capacity, contact Laura (Hunter '03) Rose at 253-535-7178 or 800-826-0036 to volunteer. 

Picture Perfect



This group of early-'80s PLU alumni has been taking an annual trip to Ashland, Ore. for decades. In fact, this year marked the 20th anniversary of the group's trek. Pictured in the front row, from left to right: Julia Pomerenk '83, Anne Hafer and her husband, Mike Flodin '83, Nancy (Thiel) Voogd '84, Brett Burris (married to Cyndee Kraiger), and Mike Boozer '84. In the back row, from left to right, are Mark Voogd (married to Nancy), Karen Weathermon '83, Cyndee Kraiger '84, Leslie Edgerton and her husband, Trip Edgerton '84.

Janet (Sugars '81) Erickson and Karin (Rose '82) Bly became National Board Certified teachers recently. As candidates for certification, these two alums worked together with the Northshore cohort group through the University of Washington, where both earned their master's degrees (Janet in '06 and Karin in '96). Janet is currently teaching second- and third-graders at Penny Creek Elementary School in the Everett (Wash.) School District. Karin splits her time teaching a Pacific Northwest history/English block class and working as the literacy coordinator at Monroe High School in the Monroe (Wash.) Public Schools. As seen in the photo, both Janet and Karin are proud to teach, proud of their accomplishment and proud LUTES!



alumni profiles



Sister Angela Hoffman '79, '80 works in the lab at the University of Portland, where she is a biochemistry professor.

Nun finds joy in uncovering God's "secrets and surprises"

Making mud pies as a child wasn't just playtime for Sister Angela Hoffman '79, '80. Her time with mud piqued her lifelong interest in science, which has led to three patents on the cancer-fighting drug paclitaxel, which is known in its commercial form as Taxol®.

"I like science. It's fun," Hoffman said, adding that she enjoys the hands-on nature of her profession. She currently teaches chemistry and biochemistry at University of Portland, where she has worked since 1989.

After graduating from St. Placid High School, a Catholic school in Lacey, Wash., Hoffman joined the Benedictine Sisters at St. Placid Priory, and got her bachelor's degree in education from St. Martin's University. During the next several years, she also obtained a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in science education from PLU. She

received her doctorate in biochemistry from the Oregon Graduate Institute.

Living and working as both a nun and a scientist has never presented her with any major tensions. Hoffman said she likes looking for the "secrets and surprises" that God created in the world.

"Sometimes I don't get enough sleep," Hoffman said of her life with two major roles. She added that sometimes a student will ask her about her religious beliefs to strike up a conversation.

Her work with paclitaxel, and the makings of her first patent, began when a student wanted to do a project involving the paclitaxel molecule and yew trees, the plants that produce the substance. The professor who was supposed to help the student was on sabbatical, so Hoffman volunteered for the job.

Hoffman and the undergraduate student, along with a high school student, cultivated clippings from yew trees and

cleaned them thoroughly with toothbrushes. Then, they put the plant specimens and sterile, liquid plant food into vials about the size of a highlighter pen. At the end of two weeks, they found paclitaxel in the liquid. They continued this work for a semester, and only stopped the experiment because they ran out of time, Hoffman said.



“I like to see students understand something and be able to use it.”

- Sister Angela Hoffman '79, '80

The Lacey native's other two paclitaxel patents also resulted from collaborative research with students.

Hoffman said she enjoys teaching because of the opportunity to help students gain a deep understanding of science.

“I like to see students understand something and be able to use it,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman remains a nun with the Benedictine Sisters, but she lives with the Sisters of St. Mary in Beaverton, Ore.

“It's sort of like a family,” Hoffman said of life with the sisters. “We support each other in whatever it is we are doing.”

When she has time, Hoffman enjoys reading and outdoor activities. But, she said, she has plenty of fun doing her research, too.

“I like to do research. I like to discover things and make up something new that nobody's thought about.”

By Ingrid Stregemoeller '07

Music teacher gives thousands to charity through singing group

When Terry Shaw '99 performed “Beautiful Savior” at the 1997 Christmas Concert, singing with PLU's Choir of the West, he knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life.

“I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is what it is all about,’” Shaw said. “I wanted to make that happen every time I got up on stage. I was hooked on teaching choir from then on.”

Shaw came to PLU in 1997 after two years at Centralia Community College where he was active in the choir program. After a successful audition for a music scholarship at PLU, he decided to attend.

“The reputation of the music program was a big draw,” Shaw said. “I just felt like I needed to be at PLU. I don't know exactly why, but I just had a strange feeling about it.”

Shaw's decision was a good one. In 1998, after only a year at PLU, Shaw founded the Olympia Choral Society. He graduated from PLU a year later with a bachelor's degree in music education.

Since then, Shaw has found great success working with the Olympia Choral Society. More than 2,200 people attended this year's Christmas concert. The society takes donations for charitable



Terry Shaw '99 is the founder of the Olympia Choral Society.

causes instead of asking an admission price, which has translated to almost \$60,000 for charitable causes since the organization was founded.

“The idea came to me in college,” Shaw said. “I couldn't afford to go see concerts at \$25 a shot. It's not like it costs us any money to sing.”

In addition to his success with the Olympia Choral Society, Shaw has twice performed at Carnegie Hall and serves as a music director for a South Puget Sound church. Shaw coaches football and teaches choir at Timberline High School in Lacey, Wash.

By Shannon Schreengost '09

Nurses find meaning in work with injured soldiers

Nursing alum Lt. Wendy Heibel '03 was hard at work with the 79th Medical Group at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland when she overheard a little snippet of a conversation nearby.

“I heard her say ‘PLU,’ and I was like, ‘I know PLU, I went there!’” Across a busy trauma room, Heibel met Capt. Sandra Nestor '93, both of whom spent several months this fall working to stabilize injured soldiers returning from Iraq. Both were astonished to meet a fellow PLU alum so far from Washington state, and in such a different context.

Malcolm Grow Medical Center, where the two women work, is the first stop for injured soldiers returning to the United States from the war zone. When soldiers are wounded in Iraq, they are stabilized and routed back to the United States, often going from the battlefield to Andrews Air Force Base in as little as 48 hours. Once they reach Andrews, people like Heibel and Nestor work to find beds and transfer them to medical facilities near their families.

Both Nestor and Heibel were temporarily deployed to the Aeromedical Staging Flight at Andrews. Nestor's normal job is in the emergency room; Heibel works in the recovery room and ambulatory procedure unit.

“We would literally watch CNN and have an idea what to expect for the next few days at work,” Nestor explained.

Nestor said the temporary deploy-

alumni profiles

continued



Lt. Wendy Heibel '03, left, and Capt. Sandra Nestor '93, right, met while on duty at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The two women are nurses who were helping route soldiers wounded in Iraq to hospitals near their families.

ment to help returning soldiers was more of an operational and logistics challenge than a nursing challenge, but it nonetheless provided some of the most memorable moments of both women's careers.

"When anybody takes the time to say thanks, to me, that's huge," Nestor said. "When someone's sick that's the farthest thing from their mind, especially when someone has maybe lost an arm or a leg."

Heibel agreed. "It is so rewarding," she said. "They can be in a great amount of pain and they're still very polite."

By Amy Cockerham

Vet's colorful past leads to enchanting present

After surviving a kamikaze plane attack, a typhoon, the Normandy Invasion and other challenges World War II threw his way, Kal Leichtman '72 decided it was time to ground his sailing legs. While working at Bremerton's shipyard, this former Navy radioman spent his nights

earning a PLU degree in business administration.

Leichtman says he used his degree "extensively" while working in the shipyard's contract administration, but it was not until three years ago that the 81-year-old veteran was asked to use his financial and computer skills to help Everett's American Legion Post 6 survive a scandalous theft, he said.

The post asked Leichtman to be their adjutant after the last person to hold the job stole approximately \$370,000 from the post.

"All I had was the hard copy of the membership list," Leichtman said. "It

Kal Leichtman '72 in his Everett home, the walls of which are decorated with mementos of a colorful and adventurous life.



was a struggle to learn the ropes."

But he did learn the ropes and has now created new bylaws for the organization and new systems to help make sure everything runs smoothly and "is on the up and up," he said.

Leichtman has also worked to recruit members back into the organization. On his own, he reads the obituaries and sends his condolences to the families of any veterans who have passed away.

However, it is not all work for this self-proclaimed "computer nerd," who says he enjoys using his computer skills to communicate with family and friends. And when the computer is off, he spends time with his wife, Alice.

"My son arranged for me to have a blind date," Leichtman said. "I was reluctant. He egged me on."

Just 20 days after the first date, Leichtman and his blind date, Alice, were married. They celebrated their 15th anniversary in February. [S]

By Breanne Coats '08

Ingrid Stegemoeller '07, Breanne Coats '08 and Shannon Schrecengost '09 are student journalists with PLU's MediaLab. Read about the work of these student journalists at www.plu.edu/~ml.

leadership & service

Two funds help student athletes

Student A is a senior communication major who has been on the dean's list every semester. He's been named a Who's Who Among American College Students twice, and this year was voted Homecoming Ambassador.

He freelanced for The News Tribune in Tacoma and interned with The Olympian, Olympia's daily newspaper. During his time at PLU he has worked as a resident assistant, a reporter for The Mast, a concert usher and a Red Carpet Club host for the admission office.

Student B is a Lute athlete. He's played baseball and tennis while at PLU, and was named to the Academic All-District Team for tennis last year in honor of his athletic and academic talent.

Surprise! Student A and Student B are the same person.

Tyler Ochsner '07 has contributed greatly to PLU over the years. But his time as a student athlete might not have been possible. PLU's status as an NCAA-Division III school means student-athletes cannot receive financial aid purely for sports. That's where scholarships and support from Q Club and Lute Club really come through for students like Ochsner.

Ochsner and his brother, Justin Ochsner '03, are first-generation college graduates. He said his Q Club scholarship is a "big deal" to his family because it gave him a shot to get his bachelor's degree.

"You're giving opportunities to people who wouldn't have them otherwise," he said.

He applied to 10 different schools, but when he visited PLU he knew it was the place for him. Ochsner said PLU was the only campus where people would greet the tour guide by name. "PLU is in a different league. The people are warm, genuine and sincere," he said.

"My Q Club scholarship is a huge part of my financial aid puzzle and it kept me from needing to get another job so I could focus on other activities and academics. I'll forever be grateful to all the people who made that possible," he said.

Ochsner said travel expenses for tennis



Tyler Ochsner '07 is both an excellent student and an athlete who has benefited from the support of Q Club and Lute Club.

trips are almost always paid for through Lute Club gifts. Lute Club also provides equipment for the team and pays the rental cost for practice and tournament space.

Ochsner said his three years as a resident assistant made the biggest impact on his life and those around him.

"I came into college as a follower, being the youngest in my family. Being a (resident assistant) threw me into the leader role. It gave me a chance to be a 'big brother,'" he said.

After graduation this May, Ochsner hopes to become an admission counselor for PLU. "It would allow me to give back to PLU what PLU has given to me," he said. "I can help other students find their way."

Ochsner would also be interested in working for Teach for America, AmeriCorp or World Teach. He said being at PLU made him realize that he wants to have a direct effect on other people's lives.

"I have had ample opportunities outside of the classroom to be a leader and be in a community that values relationships. PLU has molded me and made me understand my own values," he said. □

By Laura (Hunter '03) Rose



Quality education has always been the mission of **Q Club**. Support to Q Club provides assistance to deserving students as they prepare for lives of service. It guarantees that PLU graduates are equipped with the knowledge, skills and ability to think critically, interact with others and understand their role in the global community.

Lute Club contributions assist the athletics department with team travel, recruiting, equipment and other tools necessary to ensure teams sustain a competitive advantage over their rivals. Your investment in Lute Club provides for the development of tomorrow's leaders athletically, academically and socially.

Laura Rose is assistant director for annual giving/Q Club. More information about giving to Q Club and Lute Club is available online at www.plu.edu/deve or by calling the Office of Development at 253-535-7177 or toll-free at 800-826-0035.

alumni class notes

Class Representative positions available: **1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1978, 1980, 1991, 1999**

1931

Mildred Berven Gault taught for two years in Montana, two years in Ilwaco, Wash., one year in Eastern Washington and 30 years in the Clover Park School District in Tacoma. She has spent winters in Yuma, Ariz., and traveled to Europe, Scandinavia, New Zealand and Australia.

1936

Class Representative – Volly (Norby) Grande

1940

Class Representative – Luella Toso Johnson

1941

Jane (Overaa) Avelsdson died Aug. 27. After receiving her degree in education from PLC, she pursued a career in teaching until starting a family with her husband, Ollie. She later worked for the Department of Social and Health Services, from which she retired. She enjoyed flower gardening and feeding wild birds. Jane was a member of Summit Methodist Church and the Spanaway Historical Society. She is survived by her daughter, Judy Cunningham, son, Dick Avelsdson, two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

Sigurd Sigurdson died Dec. 2. He was a Little All-American football player at PLC, an original Baltimore Colt, a marine during World War II, a bowling instructor, a longshoreman and, most important to him, a family man. Sig is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise; his daughter, Rena; his grandsons, Keven and Kyle; and his great-grandchildren, Nolan and Addyson.

1943

Class Representative – Lorna (Rogers) Greer

1944

William Petersen died Aug. 8. After graduation from PLC, he served in the U. S. Navy as a radio technician on the minesweeper *USS Swift*, which was involved in the sweeping of the English Channel for the invasion of Normandy in 1944. When he returned to the states, he began his career with the Boy Scouts of America. He served the organization in Portland, Astoria and Medford, Ore., and in Vancouver, Spokane and Bremerton, Wash. He loved the outdoors and music, especially big band and jazz. During retirement, Bill was a busy volunteer in Medford, serving the Medford Planning

Commission, Senior Services and Ascension Lutheran Church. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mae, eight children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

1945

Class Representative – Annabelle Birkestol

1947

Class Representative – Gerry Lider

1948

Class Representative – Norene (Skilbred) Gulhaugen

1949

Wilbert Ericson visited all five parishes he had served in Japan in March 2006. At his home church, Wilbert conducts the English part of a monthly English/Spanish bilingual service.

John Korsmo died Nov. 15. Before coming to PLC, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After graduating with a degree in business, he started Korsmo Brothers Construction with his brother, Gordon. At one point, all five Korsmo brothers worked in the business, building many churches and schools along the I-5 corridor in Washington state. The business is still thriving as Korsmo Construction, run by his son John, Jr. He was active in his community and belonged to Lakewood Rotary, the Tacoma Elks, the Masons, and the Shriners for many years. He served on the board of the Tacoma Lutheran Home and was president of the Tacoma chapter of the Association of General Contractors. He and his wife of 54 years, Edna, were also active in the Steilacoom Historical Society. Edna preceded him in death. They had three children, **John, Jr. '84** and **Lisa (Kind '84) Korsmo**, Marlene Haines and Avis (Bill) Bailey and ten grandchildren.

Maurice Turnbull died Dec. 11. He received his master's degree in education from Central Washington University and was an admired educator in several school districts, including Union Gap, Yakima and Clover Park in Washington. He retired in 1979 as the principal at Idlewild Elementary School in Lakewood, Wash. Maurice was a member of Lutheran Church of Christ the King in Tacoma and was on the board of King's Manor, an assisted living community in Tacoma. He was an avid golfer, bowler, sports enthusiast and die-hard Seattle Mariners fan. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Steven. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 62 years, Catherine; children Roger, Scott (Meg), Nancy (Russ) McCullough, and Laurie

(Glenn) Tingkang; and nine grandchildren.

1950

Class Representative – Dick Weathermon

Robert Baird died on July 6. He received his master's degree from Purdue University in 1957. He served for 37 years in the military as a commander in the naval aviation division and retired in February 2006 from Nielsen Media Research. Bob was also a member of the Chemical Engineering Society, the U.S. Naval Association and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Englewood, Fla. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Dolores; sons, Andrew and Robb; daughters, Marcia Schuur and Andrea Powner; 14 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

1951

Walter and Jeanette (Foss '54)

Braafladt's 50th wedding anniversary was on Aug. 26, although they celebrated with family and friends in Sedro-Wooley, Wash., on July 2. They met while they were both music majors at PLC and their love of music has continued to be a focal point in their lives. Walter sang in "Sangerfest" at Benaroya Hall in Seattle on June 30.

Robert Meineke died Nov. 14 in Fresno, Calif., with his wife of 54 years, **Louise (Stephenson '52)**, at his side. He graduated from Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma and was ordained in 1955. During his 34 years in the ministry, he organized three churches and served congregations in Arizona, Oregon, California, Nevada and Washington. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and their children, Diane, Lynn, Mary and Robert.

Edward Hildebrand died Nov. 14. He worked in various government positions, including clerk and treasurer of the Greater Juneau (Alaska) Borough and the City and Borough of Juneau. He loved outdoor activities, especially shooting and boating. Involved in many civic organizations, Edward was most proud of his 30-year involvement in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which named him Auxiliariest of the Year in 1988 for Coast Guard Division I. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, **Venetta**; his son, **Steve '77**, and daughter-in-law, **Christine (Baldwin '77)**; his son **Mark** and daughter-in-law **Vanessa**; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was buried with military honors at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Wash.

1952

Thomas Zurfluh died Oct. 31. A World War II Army veteran, he served in Japan and in General MacArthur's Honor Guard. After the war, Tom returned to Tacoma and completed his degree in

education at PLC. He taught in University Place, Wash., for 17 years. During that time, he served as Curtis High School's first basketball coach. He then transferred to the Steilacoom (Wash.) School District, where he worked as a teacher, principal and athletic director until his retirement in 1988. Tom was inducted into the Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame for his amateur softball career. He was an avid gardener, a charter member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and a member of the Tacoma Elks Lodge #174. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Bonnie**; children, **Paul (Glenda)**, **Patricia Fife**, **Thomas (Kelly)**, **Timothy**, **Marianne (John) Russell**, and **David**; and eight grandchildren. His daughter **Sally Hale** and granddaughter **Sandra** preceded him in death.

1953

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

1955

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

William Finkle and his wife, **Helen**, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their three children and seven grandchildren.

James Lokken died Sept. 22. He received a master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1959 and was ordained the same year. His first call was to a three-point parish in Barret, Minn., Our Savior's, Immanuel and Lincoln. In 1964, he moved to South Dakota and served as associate pastor at First Lutheran in Brookings for two years. In New York, he was an assistant editor for Lutheran Forum magazine from 1966-1968. He continued his editing and writing ministry with the Liturgical Conference (Washington, D. C., 1968-1972 and 1976-1978), the information department of the American Bible Society (New York, 1973-1975) and the Lutheran New Yorker (1975-1976). James was called into part-time ministry at St. Francis Lutheran in San Francisco. He retired in 1996. Over the years he was an active supporter of Lutherans Concerned, which he helped establish in 1974.

1956

Class Representative – **Ginny (Grah) Haugen** and **Clarene (Osterli) Johnson**

James and Ramona (Loftus '53)

Charlston took a Chuck Swindoll tour of Israel in May 2006. They live in Vancouver, Wash.

1957

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

Louise (Makay) Tucker lives in Battleground, Wash. She has been working on a third printing of her book of local historical photos and illustrations, originally published in 1984.

1958

Class Representative – Don Cornell

1959

Class Representative – Todd Penson

1960

Class Representative – Marilu (Miller) Person

1961

Class Representative – Ron Lerch

James Kuball died on Aug. 8. After graduating from PLU, he joined the Peace Corps for two years. During different times in his life, he worked for Ford Motor Company and was a teacher and realtor. He and former wife, **Clarie (Syverson)**, had two children, Gregory and David.

1962

Class Representative – Leo Eliason and Dixie (Likkel) Matthias

Timothy Forester, a consulting psychologist, recently retired from 35 years of clinical practice in Eugene, Ore. He was campus minister at San Francisco State University from 1964-70. He then taught on an Indian reservation in Montana for four years before teaching at the University of Oregon in 1976. He opened his private consulting firm in Eugene in 1977, where he consulted for the Veterans Administration and on European Association for Psychotherapy programs in Russia. He is now a metal sculptor specializing in bronze baptismal fonts, a hobby which began in 1968 with his first commission at University Lutheran, a chapel at Stanford University. His work can be viewed at www.forestersculpture.com, or he can be contacted at foresterthymothy@aol.com. He has led a life of political and social activism, involving himself in the Christian peace and justice movement, several non-profit organizations and the Episcopal Church. His wife, Susan, is a registered nurse. Their daughter, Sarah, is pursuing a doctorate in chemistry at the University of California-Davis. He would like to hear from any of his classmates.

1963

Class Representative – Merl and Joan (Maier) Overland

Phyllis (Rhine) Hoover recently retired as professor of English at Glendale (Calif.) Community College. She and her husband, Cameron, enjoy travel and time with their daughter, Shayda, and son, Eric.

Matt Hemming died Oct. 21. He was a

veteran of World War II and served in the United States Air Force for 20 years, retiring from the Keyport (Wash.) Naval Torpedo Station. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Agnes; his daughters, Ann (Mike) Hazel and Martha (Morry) Milsten; and four grandchildren. He loved his Lord, his family, his friends, Montana and the Lutes!

Johanna Geving died Aug. 22. She taught at Larchmont Elementary School in Tacoma. An avid gardener, she developed a nature area and kindergarten flower beds at the school, which were named in her honor. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Melvin, daughter C. Jean McCreary and granddaughter Mary McCreary. Surviving her are daughters Joan Merrill and Anita Wells, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

1965

Class Representative – David Wytko

1966

Class Representative – Frank Johnson

1967

Class Representative – Craig Bjorklund

1969

Jeanne Landdeck-Sisco and her husband, William Sisco, moved from Tucson, Ariz., to beautiful Ocean Shores, Wash. They love seeing old PLU friends and attending PLU concerts and KPLU events. Retirement is the best!

1970

Class Representative – Bill Allen

1971

Class Representative – Joe Hustad, Jr.

Margaret (Laursen) Dennis died Nov. 26. She was a compassionate and nurturing teacher, who specialized in K-12 students with learning disabilities. She instituted the Instructional Support Center at Tacoma Baptist Schools in 1999. A woman of strong faith, she enjoyed singing and playing the violin during worship. She also loved gardening, antique shopping for her 1908 farmhouse, vacationing in Hawaii, her family and life. She is survived by her husband of 31 years, **Patrick '77**, her son Nathaniel and his wife, Christi; her daughter Lydia Erdmann and son-in-law, Stephen; her daughter Hannah; and granddaughter Jillian.

1972

Class Representative – Molly Stuen

Jim Melland is general manager in Grand Forks, N.D., for Sure Foot Corporation, one of the Midwest's leading manufacturers and marketers of footwear accessories, shoe care and apparel to retailers throughout the United States and worldwide.

1973

Class Representative – Karen (Wraalstad) Robbins

1974

Class Representative – Dave Johnson

Lee Kichen retired from the U.S. Army in 1997. He serves as a veterans' service officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Veterans Affairs regional office in St. Petersburg, Fla.

1975

Class Representative – Helen Pohlig

Betty Jorgensen died Nov. 20. After graduating in nursing from PLU, she worked at the University Hospital in Minneapolis, Minn. In 1980, she moved to Olympia, Wash., where she worked for Sound Home Care and led the effort to obtain Medicare certification for its hospice program, one of the first in the state to receive that recognition. After moving to Redmond, Wash., she became a certified hospice nurse for Evergreen Hospice in Kirkland, where she spent ten wonderful years. She was preceded in death by her father, Roy, and brother, Paul. Betty is survived by her mother, Irene; her brother, Bob Jorgensen and his wife, Karin; her nieces, Allison and Katherine; and nephews Matt and Dan.

1976

Class Representative – Gary Powell

1977

Class Representatives – Leigh Erie and Joan (Nelson) Matich

1978

David Fitzpatrick works for Archstone Consulting, a strategy and operations management consulting firm, where he is a principal to the company's West Coast strategy and operations practice. He is responsible for extending strategic service offerings in aerospace, automotive, defense and other high engineering content industries.

1979

Class Representative – Dave and Teresa (Hausken) Sharkey

Tallis Colberg is Alaska's new attorney general. He served two terms on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, and has been a lawyer and active community supporter in Palmer, Alaska.

John Zamberlin is the new head football coach at Idaho State University in Pocatello. John, a former NFL linebacker, was head coach at Central Washington University, where he compiled a 63-41 record and won back-to-back Great Northwest Athletic Conference titles in 2004 and 2005.

1980

Class Representative – Drew Nelson

1981

Class Representative – Dean and Susan (Lee) Phillips

Elsie (Brevik) Bittner is a new funds development manager for Volunteers in Medicine of the Olympics. She raises additional funds for the Volunteers' no-charge primary care medical clinic in Port Angeles, Wash., which serves adults who have no health insurance or no other access to health care. Elsie has more than 20 years experience in social services and elder care.

1982

Class Representative – Paul Collard

1983

Class Representative – Dave Olson

Steve Eilersick finished his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Washington State University in 1983 and has been at Boeing ever since. He also earned a master's degree in physics from the University of Washington. He has three daughters – Erica, a freshman at PLU, Anna, a high school junior, and Erin, an eighth-grader.

1984

Class Representative – Mark Christofferson

Sean Parnell is Alaska's new lieutenant governor. Working with Gov. Sarah Palin, he will work for a safer Alaska by both reducing gang violence in the cities and stemming youth suicide in the villages.

David Sperry has returned to work as a pilot for Hawaiian Airlines after a three-year furlough. During that time, he worked for one year as an Alaskan bush pilot for a small airline out of Fairbanks, Alaska, and for two years as a pilot for America West Airlines in Phoenix. He lives in Renton, Wash., with his wife, Lana, and their son, Tyler, 5, and commutes to Honolulu to fly around the Pacific.

1985

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

Susan (Simpson) Wise is a remote senior pension administrator at Angell Pension Group of Providence, R.I. Her husband, **Tim**, is in his 21st year with the U.S. Postal Service. They have two children, Sarah and Andrew, who are both in high school. Sarah has been accepted for admission at PLU, joining her parents and grandmother, **Lydia Wise '68**, as Lutes. They live in Parkland.

1986

Class Representative – Stacey (Kindred) Hesterly

1987

Class Representative – Darren Hamby

Barth Merrill is the department head of family practice at the Bremerton (Wash.) Naval Hospital. He served for two years as the senior medical officer aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier, *USS John C. Stennis*.

1988

Class Representative – Brenda Ray Scott

M.L. Richard Yip is the director of the new High Throughput Screening Program and an associate research scientist in the Division of Molecular Medicine as well as the Developmental Cancer Therapeutics Program at City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, Calif. He leads the City of Hope's efforts in identifying molecules and natural products that have potential to be developed into cancer therapies.

Jai Tuttle is a veterinarian at Alf Animal Hospital in Port Angeles, Wash., working with both small and large animals.

1989

Class Representative – Lisa (Hussey) Ferraro

Beth Stewart is the head coach of the Kamiak High School girls' soccer team in Mukilteo, Wash.

Diane Kelly married Jay Mayes on Aug. 29, 2005, in Victoria, B.C. Diane is a licensed mental health counselor. They live in Port Townsend, Wash.

Nancy (Andrew) Clark was promoted to adult services coordinator with Anchorage Municipal Libraries. She celebrated 14 years with AML in February. She welcomes e-mails at fmrfictiongoddess@yahoo.com.

1990

Class Representative – Sean Neely

Lesley Pettigrew received a master's degree in international affairs in June from the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California-San Diego. She is the communications coordinator for the Center on Pacific Economies at UCSD. Her husband, Takato Imaizumi, is a biologist. They live in San Diego with their daughter, Elen Pettigrew, 7.

Doug Nelson is a recreation coordinator at The Centre at Norpoint in Tacoma. He has spent the past 12 years organizing fitness and wellness programs at the Northeast Tacoma community center, which is run by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

Kevin Weberg is the principal at Lincoln Elementary School in Ellensburg, Wash.

1991

Vesa Halme MBA '93 married Karin Rinne-Halme on Aug. 19 in Helsinki, Finland. Vesa is a systems specialist with the National Board of Patents and Registration in Helsinki and Karin is an applications designer.

Eric Cultum is the principal at Lutacaga Elementary School in Othello, Wash.

1992

Class Representative – Darcy (Pattee) Andrews

David Jacobson is an assistant principal at South Albany High School in Albany, Ore.

Steve Sporre released his first worship CD, "I'm Ready," which is featured on iTunes. He is also a full-time worship pastor at Church! At Bethany in Beaverton, Ore.

1993

Class Representative – Barbara (Murphy) Hesner



Drew Corrigan has been admitted into the partnership of KPMG LLP, a U.S. audit, tax and advisory firm. Drew, a certified public

accountant, provides audit services to health care clients in the Portland, Ore., area and is recruiting partner-in-charge for the firm's Portland office.

David Ericksen, a deposit relationship manager for U.S. Bank in Eugene, Ore., received designation as a certified treasury professional. U.S. Bank honored David in 1998 with a Top Tier Award and in 2005 with an Annual Pinnacle Award as one of the top treasury management professionals in the company.

1994

Class Representative – Dan Lysne and Catherine (Overland) Hauck

1995

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

Jon Rubey married Jane True on July 1 at Summit View Covenant Church in Beaverton, Ore. Fellow Lutes in the groom's party were **Chris diCugno**, **Kurtis**



Bonar, Jeff Douglass '93, Scott Thompson '94, and Brad Christiansen '96.

Jon and Jane live in Beaverton,

where Jon is a commercial real estate broker for Colliers International (working in the same office as Brad Christiansen) and Jane is the office manager for Mike Silva Evangelism.

1996

Class Representative – Mari (Hoseth) Lysne and Jennifer (Riches) Stegeman

Rita Wilson is a nurse manager in the intensive care and progressive care departments of Allenmore Hospital in Tacoma.

Christine Ann Haffey was promoted to major in the U.S. Army in November. She is working towards a graduate degree at North Dakota State University. On Aug. 27, she was maid of honor for her PLU friend and classmate, **Robin (Meyers) Webster**.

Andrew Nierman is a computer science professor at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

1997

Class Representatives – Andy and Stephanie (Merle) Tomlinson

Christine Nelson is the assistant coach for the Concordia University women's basketball team in Portland, Ore. She coached the girls' volleyball squad at Yelm (Wash.) High School for eight years.

Brad Smedley is the principal at Columbia Ridge Elementary School in Ephrata, Wash.

Mary Forslund is enrolled in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a registered nurse at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Her husband, Drew Williams, is a network administrator at Wasau Paper Corp. Oldest son Nick will graduate high school this year and will start at the University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh in the fall.


1998

Class Representative – Shannon (Herlocker) Stewart

Lisa Patterson is the editor-in-chief of South Sound Home & Garden magazine.

Heidi Stout received a Rainmaker Award from the Daily Journal of Commerce in April 2006. She is a North American marketing manager for Colliers International. She lives in Happy Valley, Ore.

Mark Mariani is a family medicine physician with fellowship training in sports



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GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF QUALITY EDUCATION
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medicine at Multicare Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Center in Tacoma.

Alicia (Manley) Lawver is a communications specialist with the City of Tacoma. She recently spent time as the assistant local editor for the Kitsap Sun in Bremerton, Wash. She also wrote and edited a book of marriage proposal stories titled "Popping the Question, Seattle Style," published by Emerson Robbins of the Seattle area engagement ring chain, E.E. Robbins. Alicia lives in Tacoma with her husband, **Nathaniel**, and their children, Abby, Eddie and Annora.

1999



Erika Vestad married Quinten Bowman Dec. 2 in Yakima, Wash. Erika is a fourth grade teacher and Quinten is an intellectual property attorney. They live in Yakima.

Brian Norman has just been named co-director of the women's studies program at Idaho State University, where he has been an assistant professor of English since 2004. His first scholarly monograph, "Addressing Division: The American Protest Essay and National Belonging," is forthcoming from the State University of New York Press in fall 2007.

2000

Class Representative – Ashley Orr

Aubrey Seffernick is an associate in the business department of Miller Nash LLP. Before joining the firm, she served as an extern for the Honorable Thomas S. Zilly, U.S. District Court, in Seattle. She also worked as a legal assistant for the King County Bar Association's Housing Justice Project. Aubrey earned her law degree summa cum laude from Seattle University.

Brandon and Britta (Hobbs '01) Vrosh continue to live happily in Vancouver, Wash. Brandon is enjoying his position as sales manager for Shire Pharmaceuticals. Britta teaches choir at Covington Middle School and is director of choral music at Trinity Lutheran Church.



Bianca Lübeck married Wolfgang Gouterney Oct. 7 in Münster, Germany.



Katherine Maloney completed her doctorate in chemistry at Cornell University. She is conducting postdoctoral

research in the field of marine natural products chemistry at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego.



Jordan Boley married **Danielle Schepman '04** on Feb. 5, 2005.

They live in Tacoma. Jordan is an assistant manager for IKON office solutions, and Danielle is the choir director at Life Christian Academy in Tacoma.

2001

Class Representative – Keith Pranghofer

Ashley Wilson married Jarad Reddekopp on Sept. 16. Ashley is a preschool instructor at Utah School for the Deaf in Salt Lake City and Jarad is a student. They live in Midvale, Utah.

Emily Cook is director of sales and marketing for King Oscar Hotels & Convention Centers in Tacoma.



Brianna Mogan married Stephen Payne July 8, 2005, in Tacoma. PLU alumni in the wedding included **Matt and Camille (Mesmer '00) Vancil**.

Carter Smithhart married **Lisanna Seim '02** on July 29 in a small, surprise wedding at Gasworks Park in Seattle. PLU alumni in attendance included **Alan and Mary (Koch '02) Davies, Mike Wendt, Brandon Bowman '02, Desiree Henderson '02** and **Nick Dare '02**. Carter is an embedded software engineer for Boeing.

Katherine Koch married Ryan Knight April 29, 2006, in Fresno, Calif. Among the bridesmaids were **Debbie Koch '99** and **Stacie (Lintvedt) Hanson**. Katherine is a special education teacher at Washington Colony Elementary School in Fresno.



Teralyn Colbert married Steven Gabriel Aug. 12 on the beach in Lincoln City, Ore. The wedding party included fellow Lute

Stacy Coulson. Teralyn received her master's degree in social work from California State University in May 2006. Steve graduated from Willamette University in 2000 and received his master's degree in computer science from Indiana University in 2004. Teralyn is a social worker for Vitas Healthcare Corporation and Steven is the lead computer programmer at Sennari in Los Angeles. They live in Long Beach, Calif.

Kristen Roddel married Thomas Steinle Aug. 5 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana, Calif. **Julie (Renne) Miller** was a bridesmaid and her husband, **Gabe Miller**, attended. Thomas' sister, **Katy (Steinle) Fernandez '00, '01** also attended. Kristen is a counselor in the Garden Grove Unified School District and Thomas is a high school teacher. They live in Santa Ana.

Ann Hogberg married Charles Johnson Oct. 20 in North Mankato, Minn. She is the assistant director for stewardship

and donor recognition at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn. Charles works in social services.

2002

Class Representatives – Nicholas Gorne and Brian Riehs

Tiffany Stone married Timothy Cook on Dec. 17, 2005, in Ketchikan, Alaska. She manages the Wells Fargo Bank in Wrangell, Alaska. In September, she participated in the Young Professional Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

1941
Jane (Overaa) Avelsdson on Aug. 27
Sig Sigurdson on Dec. 2

1944
William Petersen on Aug. 8

1949
Maurice Turnbull on Dec. 11
John Korsmo on Nov. 15

1950
Robert Baird on July 6

1951
Robert Meineke on Nov. 14
Edward Hildebrand on Nov. 14

1952
Thomas Zurfluh on Oct. 31

1955
James Lokken on Sept. 22

1956
Frantzel Corman on Sept. 20

1961
James Kuball on Aug. 8

1963
Johanna Geving on Aug. 22
Matt Henning on Oct. 21

1971
Margaret (Laursen) Dennis on Nov. 26

1975
Betty Jorgensen on Dec. 17

Faculty and Staff

Ken Bjorkheim died on Nov. 15. He joined the dining services staff as a cook in August 1995, and, due to an illness, went on medical leave in July 2006. While at PLU, he was promoted to lead cook. Ken thrived on pleasing his customers and took care in preparing breakfast and lunch for more than a thousand students, staff and visitors each day. He enjoyed lifting the spirits of his peers and enthusiastically repeated the phrase

"you're doing a fine job" to co-workers and student employees throughout the day. According to his peers, his energy and zest for life were contagious and he could turn anyone's bad day into a good one with a smile and a wink. Ken is survived by his wife, **Khampan Nueng Millerup**, who is a PLU dining room attendant.

Lawrence Gold died Dec. 1. He joined the PLU faculty in 1984 and retired in 2006. He suffered a stroke in 2002 following minor heart surgery, and remained on medical and other leaves until his formal retirement last May. Lawry was a gifted and popular teacher, who continued visiting and team teaching even after he began his medical leave. He was very active in PLU's Center for Teaching and Learning, with a keen interest in "relational pedagogy." His teaching took him beyond the art department, and included team teaching with a number of colleagues in the international core. His interest in global education led to the development of two successful study away programs in Scotland and Australia. Lawry was an extremely gifted artist, whose work bridged design, sculpture and painting. His work has been shown in various museums and galleries in the area. Surviving him are his wife, **Lisa Queen '00 MAE**, and a brother.

Dorothy Moira Mansell, dean emerita of the School of Nursing, died Nov. 7. She came to PLU during a national decline in nursing programs. She ensured PLU program stability and oversaw the move of the School of Nursing from Ingram to Ramstad. Under her leadership, the Continuing Nursing Education program was accredited by the American Nurses Association, and the Master of Science in Nursing degree at PLU was conceptualized. Upon retirement, Moira moved to Arizona and traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad. Four years ago, she moved to Oregon, where she lived until her death.

What's new with you?

> Please fill out as much information below as possible, including city of residence and work. Feel free to use another piece of paper, but please limit your submission to 100 words. Photos are welcome, but only one photo will be used, and on a space available basis. Notes will be edited for content. Photos must be prints or high quality jpegs. Please, no reproductions or copies from other publications. **Deadline for the next issue of Scene is March 21, 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"/>
SIBLING(S) 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; **Internet:** www.plualumni.org. Please limit to 100 words.

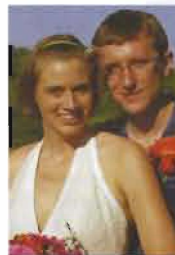
Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska nominated her for this honor.

Branden Durst was elected to the Idaho State House of Representatives on Nov. 7. He married his wife, Jaime, on July 2 at Fair Harbor Marina in Grapeview, Wash., and has two sons, Nicholas, 4, and Broden, 2.



Mike Petorak married **Lisa Sims** on Aug. 26 at Lakewood Gardens Estate in Lakewood, Wash. They honeymooned in Egypt and Greece. They were included in

the book "Popping the Question, Seattle Style" (p. 94, "Magic Fountain") by Emerson Robbins. Lisa is a management analyst for a local city government and Mike is a team lead on an inpatient electronic medical record project at Multicare in Tacoma. They live in Spanaway, Wash.



G. Mark Griffith married **Heather Russell** on Aug. 4 in Bellevue, Iowa. **Ethan Hulme** served as best man and **Nick Sontag** and **Andrew Griffith** were groomsmen. **Rebecca**

Summerer, **Tiffany Russell**, and **Stephanie Morrison** were bridesmaids. Mark is in his final year at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and is seeking ordination in the ELCA. Heather works in the Wartburg Library.

2003

Class Representative – **Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman**

Judie Martin is an SAP human resource consultant with Axon Global in New York. Axon is a global SAP business transformation consultancy that designs, implements and supports solutions using SAP as their strategic enterprise platform. She lives in Darien, Conn.

Susan Carnine married **Robert Hecker** on Sept. 2 in Tumwater, Wash. Alumni in the wedding party included **Molly (Baugh) Rothlisberger** and **Aaron Henderson '02**. In attendance were **Andy Starnard**, **Betsy Bichsel**, **Tim Rothlisberger '02**, **Johannes '02** and **Stacy (Marshall '02) von Alvensleben**, **Eric Hessler '04**, **Emily Brown '04**, and **Tammy Lynn Schaps '04**. Susan will complete medical school at the University of Washington this spring and is applying for a residency in internal medicine. Robert is an EMT and emergency room technician and will apply to paramedic school in the fall.

Frances Skeete owns Washington Laundromat LLC. She works at Microsoft as an immigration paralegal.

Kyle Mach completed his law degree magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with a certificate in business and public policy from the Wharton School. He has since joined the litigation group of the New York City law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore LLP. In August he will take a one-year leave to serve as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Ronald Gould, a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Kyle lives in New York City.

2004

Class Representative – **Tammy Lynn Schaps**

John Dodge teaches and directs bands at a middle school in Florence, Ore.



Jessica Prest married **Lawrance "Eddie" Smiddy** on July 31 in Thessaloniki, Greece. In attendance were **Promise (Warren) Tachtvrenidou** and her husband,

Kosta Tachtvrenidis '02. Jessica is a student and works at Starbucks. Eddie is a radiologic technologist at Group Health Cooperative. They live in Bellevue, Wash.

Aaron Dennis finished an internship for UNESCO (United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization) in Beijing, China, in December. He spent January assisting Greg Guldin with his class in contemporary Chinese cultures and is now an adjunct scholar of an anthropological research center at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China.

Michael Henson is studying in a master's program in strategic leadership toward sustainability at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden. This brand new, one-of-a-kind program brings together sustainability colleagues from all over the world to share tools and visions for a sustainable society. He is completing his thesis on sustainability in higher education and plans to work in that field after completing the program in 2007.

Genevieve O'Keath married **Aaron Bekkerus** on Sept. 10 in Seattle. Genevieve works for Washington Mutual and Aaron is a project manager. They live in Des Moines, Wash.

Leeju Saechang, an international marketing coordinator for Brown & Haley, was named employee of the month in November.

James McCullough married Ivy Jill Lacadin on Oct. 28 in Bellingham, Wash. James has a sales position with Lyndale Glass in Bellingham.

Shella Biallas has served the Peace Corps in a Mayan village of 300 people in Belize since June, advising small business projects and teaching technology and business at the primary school. She is working in the Masters International Program, which enables her to earn a master's degree through a combination of classes and her Peace Corps experience. She spent last year working on a master's in public administration at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle. After she completes her commitment to Peace Corps in August 2008, she will return to Seattle to finish work on her degree, which will be based on her experience in Belize.

2005

Class Representative – Micheal Steele

Mary Bartlett is a staff accountant in the general practice group of Peterson Sullivan PLLC in Seattle.

Heather Niemi completed her master's degree in education with teacher certification in August. She teaches sixth grade at Southworth Elementary School in Yelm, Wash. She lives in Roy.

Andrew Palmquist is a first-year graduate student at the University of Maryland, working towards a doctorate in modern European history.

Jeanine Dryver married **Joseph Griek** Aug. 6, 2005, at the Cutting Garden in Sequim, Wash. Alumni in the wedding included **Jacob Henderson, Garrett Luetgen, Rosie Daniel, Cadie Dornath, Julie Smith, Sean Smith '04, and Forrest Griek '00, '02.** After the wedding, they moved to the Yupik Eskimo village of Kotlik, Alaska, where they were school-teachers. They now live in Fairbanks where Joe is pursuing a master's degree in guidance counseling at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Jeanine is teaching sixth grade.

2006

Class Representative – Jenna Steffenson

Future Lutes

1985



Tim Rundquist and his wife, Heather, announce the birth of their daughter Fiona on July 13. She joins Rosemary, 6, and Benjamin, 2. Tim has published his fourth

book, "Otter Tail Review, Volume Two," a collection of regional literature from rural Minnesota. Tim is also the author of two novels, "50,000 Watts of Jazz from Fargo" and "How Heavy Is the Mountain," as well as the first "Otter Tail Review" anthology. They live in Fergus Falls, Minn., where Tim is an attorney and legal editor, and Heather works for Lake Region Healthcare Corporation.

1986



Kirsten Tønning is proud to announce the birth of her son and future Lute, Per-Christian Tønning Choe, on Feb. 26, 2006. Kirsten was a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines for 18 years and is now a nanny, which allows her to spend a lot of time enjoying motherhood!



Marie Gettel-Gilmartin and her husband, Michael Gettel-Gilmartin, announce the birth of Nicholas David on Sept. 4. He joins Christopher, 10, and Kieran, 3. Marie is the Northwest regional publications manager for CH2M Hill.

1989



Dan Cheek and his wife, Suzanne Razaq, announce the birth of Zara Grace on Aug. 12. Dan is a director with a real estate brokerage firm in Columbia, Md. Suzanne is a stay-at-home mom.

1991



Julie (Zuydhoek) Nicholas and her husband, Paul, announce the birth of their son, Alexander James, on June 2. He joins his brother, Joshua, 2. Julie is a study coordinator and research nurse with the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle. Paul is a chief engineer with Clise Properties. They live in Ballard.



Angela (Saylor) Rutherford and her husband, Jace, announce the birth of their son Austin Lee. He joins broth-

ers Jacob, 5, Cole, 3, and Tyson, 2. Angie stays at home with the four boys, and Jace works for Bakers Life and Casualty as a unit sales manager.



Sven Nilsen and his wife, Michelle, announce the birth of Aislinn Grace on Aug. 7. They live in Lynden, Wash.

1993



Jeff and Stephanie (Lund '95) Miller announce the birth of their son, Jacob, on Nov. 20. Jeff is a vice principal at Northstar Elementary School and Stephanie is an environmental planner for Parametrix. They live in Puyallup, Wash.



Nicole (Fernald) Hatch and her husband, Kurt, announce the birth of Faeryn Renee on Sept. 26. She joins big sister Amandari Elizabeth. Nicole is a stay-at-home mom, while Kurt is an elementary school principal in University Place, Wash. They live in Puyallup, Wash.

1994



Bjorn Larsen announces the birth of his son Philip Berdin on Nov. 5. He joins Christian, 3.

Ryan and Leisl (Floor) Brown announce the birth of their fourth child, Quinn Derek, on April 10, 2006. He joins Collin, 5, Annalisa, 3, and Larson, 2. Ryan is a sales manager with Alliance Packaging. Liesl is staying home to take care of the kids. They live in Sammamish, Wash.

1997

Aaron and Julie (Hankel '96) Christian announce the birth of their son, Evan Atticus, on July 17. Aaron is the head women's basketball coach at Concordia University in Portland, Ore. Julie is taking the year off from teaching English at Hockinson High School to stay home with Evan.



Valerie (Wawrzycki) McKean and her husband, Kevin, welcomed a beautiful baby girl on Nov. 21,

2005. Her name is Lillian Rose, but they call her Lily. Valerie works part time at Visions Espresso. Kevin is a firefighter with the city of Bellevue. They live in West Seattle.

1998



John and Erika (Hedeem '99) Aiken welcomed Samuel Joseph on Nov. 8, 2005. John is a biology teacher and head wrestling coach at Auburn High School. Erika is taking the year off from teaching second grade to be home with Sam.

1999



Robert Peebles and his wife, Sarah, announce the birth of Elizabeth Grace on June 8. Robert is a financial consultant with D.A.

Davidson & Co. They live in Wenatchee, Wash.

Morten Evensen and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of daughter Sophia on Nov. 18. They live in New York City.



David and Dakota (Iverson '00) Krueger announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Elizabeth, on Sept. 5. They live in Issaquah, Wash.

2000

Jennifer (Richards) Kerr and her husband, Avery, welcomed their son, Brandon, on Oct. 21, 2005. Jennifer is a registered nurse at Tuality Community Hospital in Hillsboro, Ore., and Avery is a sergeant in the Oregon National Guard. They live in Cornelius, Ore.



Matt Crouthamel and his wife, Brenda, announce the birth of their son, Josiah, in May 2006. They live in Seattle, where Matt is a surgical resident at the University of Washington.

2001



Nichole (Hammond) and Brian '98 Berkenhoff announce the birth of Madelyn



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Grace on Sept. 7. She joins her big sister, Sophia, 2. They live in Snohomish, Wash.



Brad Powell and his wife, Elizabeth, announce the birth of their daughter, Milica, on Feb. 17, 2006. They live in

Pueblo, Colo., where Brad is the rector of St. Michael's Orthodox Church.



Monica (Drew) Kubicz and her husband, William, announce the birth of Logan Alexander on Oct. 2. He joins his proud big brother, Will, 3. They live in

Germany, where William is a sergeant in the U.S. Army.



Katrina (Richardson) Butler and her husband, Scott, welcomed their daughter, Alexis Joy, on Feb. 17, 2006. She was

nine weeks premature and weighed only 2 pounds, 11 ounces, but is now completely healthy. Her godparents are Erika (Richardson) Valdiva '97 and her husband, Luis.

2005

Wajiha Mahboob and her husband, Farrukh Nizar, welcomed Nishat Ali Nizar on Jan. 1, 2006. **S**



NPR News and All That Jazz

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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.
Box Lunch: noon

Shotgun Start-Scramble: 1 p.m.
Awards Dinner: 6 p.m.

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

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Return to Laurie Turner, Athletics, PLU, Tacoma, WA 98447 or email: turnerl@plu.edu



the arts

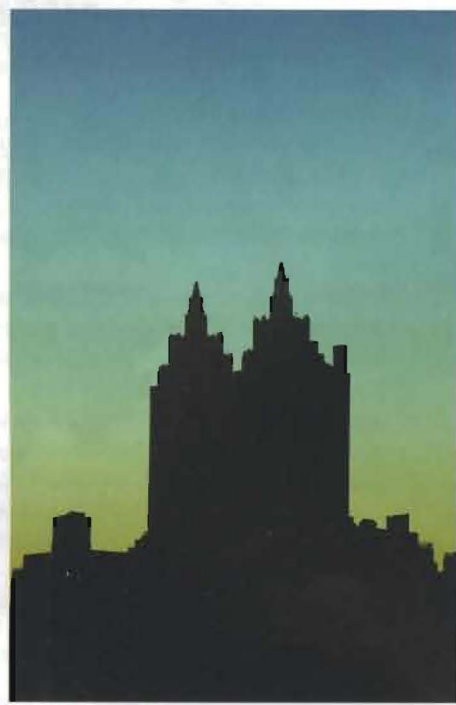
Study Away Gallery



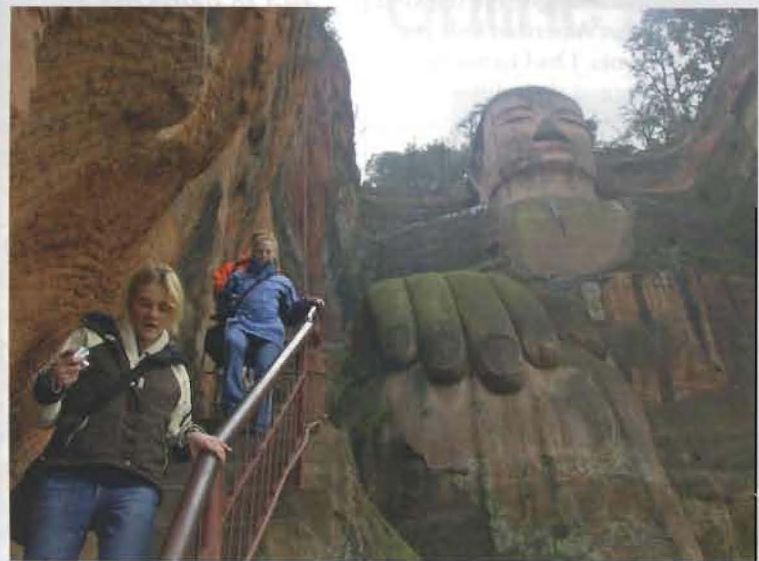
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE: Students in Professor of English Barbara Temple-Thurston's course "Communities Promoting Peace: The Schools, the Arts, the Church, and the Courts in South Africa" visited the Cape of Good Hope during their month of study in South Africa. Photo by David Rebar



LONG ARMS: Chelsey Elliot '07 and Ashlee Parnell '09 were among the students who traveled to Australia for "Media in Australia," a communications course focusing on the differences between Australian and American media. Here, Parnell snaps their photo as the sun sets at South Melbourne Beach near Melbourne. Photo by Roxanne Cooke '07



SKYLINE: Jason Comerford '09 took this photo of the New York skyline while in New York with Associate Professor of Art Bea Geller's "Photography in New York City" course. The photo was taken from Central Park on January 9.

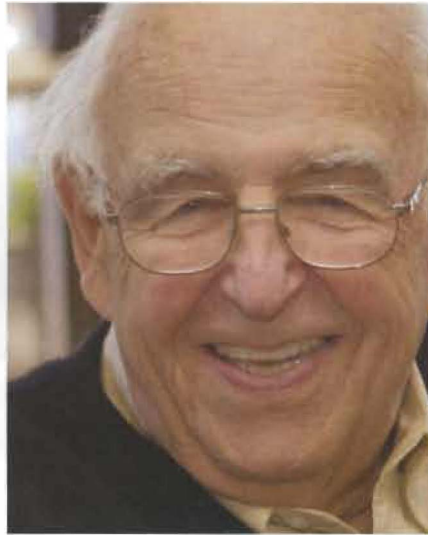


GIANT BUDDHA: Students (from front to back) Kelly King '09, Laura Boye '08 and Seth Storby '08 climbed carefully down the stairs in the shadow of the world's tallest Buddha at the city of Leshan in Sichuan Province, China on Jan. 19. The monument was built in the 8th century A.D. and took 90 years to complete. The students were participants in Professor of Music Greg Youtz' course, "Art and Music in China." Photo by Greg Youtz

About 30 years ago, when I was first asked to speak in Dr. Christopher Browning's PLU class on my childhood remembrances of living in Nazi Germany, I strongly suspected it would be nothing more than an excuse or a cover-up. Why did I feel that way? That had been my experience when I returned to Germany in 1953-1954 as a draftee court interpreter in the U.S. Army. The majority of the judges and civil servants were all ex-Nazis who were serving out their time until retirement. They still ran the country into the 1970s, and their views had changed very little. After auditing Dr. Browning's class, I began to appreciate what it means to be a true historian and scholar. Never had I heard this period, which my parents and I had experienced, more accurately described than by Dr. Browning and later by Dr. Robert Erickson. It was at a Lutheran university, and I was astounded.

When 6 million people are murdered, it is too large a number to comprehend. To an individual like me, still a young man, it just meant grandpa, grandma, aunts, uncles, classmates and friends. This experience had a devastating effect on my parents, who were forced to leave their home, friends and relatives, robbed of their total material possessions, and not able to give me the kind of guidance other American kids got from their parents. I had to become an adult to understand their different reality. After all, it occurred in the 20th century in Germany, the cradle of the Lutheran church.

As I was growing up, I always wondered who would tell this story truthfully, without shifting the blame to the Merchant of Venice or the Treaty of Versailles or the betrayal of Jesus by the Jews or the capitalists or the Communists or the university intellectuals or the clergy or the homosexuals. The blame rested with Germany, which became a dysfunctional society of technical, barbarian geniuses who were totally void of humanities and who did not understand their own Christian heritage, in which Jewish people played a major role. The Germans were unable to accept responsibility for their own mad ambitions.



PLU is a place where faith and reason meet, and where young minds are molded to make the world a better place. PLU does not teach you how to make money. At PLU, you learn to serve your fellow human beings and to value life and faith.

PLU is a place where faith and reason meet, and where young minds are molded to make the world a better place. PLU does not teach you how to make money. At PLU, you learn to serve your fellow human beings and to value life and faith. When Don Morken '60 helped fund the Raphael Lemkin award to help students write essays on genocide, I wanted to bring members of my own Jewish community to see that at PLU, history is not taught by revisionists but by objective historians.

In our Jewish tradition, there is a Hebrew saying called "Tikum Olom," and it means that it is the job of every Jewish person to repair the world. In the late afternoon of my life, I have come to conclude that there is so much repair work to be done that we can't do it alone, but we must do it together.

Christians and Jews both believe in the same creator, but technology has advanced further and more rapidly than civilization has been able to absorb.

In the last decade, of all people who came closest to bringing peace to the Middle East, it was the Norwegians with the Oslo Accords. That is why I write these words. For me to have the opportunity to serve three terms on the board of regents has given me a profound respect for this university. My wife and I will continue to be involved, because we understand that what we do today will have far-reaching positive consequences for future generations. I would like to thank President Anderson for the opportunity to serve. The resources my wife and I have donated are nowhere equal to the friendships that I have made and the lessons I have learned. □

As the first person of the Jewish faith to serve on PLU's Board of Regents (1995-2005), Kurt Mayer was instrumental in the development of the university's Holocaust Studies Program, which deals with the two major Christian religions' responsibility in the Holocaust. Through his involvement with the Raphael Lemkin Awards, he has been important in encouraging regular attendance among the Jewish community at this annual event.

Kurt moved to Tacoma in 1957 and established the first volume home-building company in the area. He later founded Mayer Built Homes, Inc., which specializes in subsidized and affordable housing. The company eventually expanded to Boise, Idaho and Denver, and is now operated by his son, Joseph. He has been involved in numerous civic boards, including the Pierce County Planning Commission, Parkland/Spanaway Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and the Martin Luther King Housing Development Association.

His wife, Pam, volunteered for more than 20 years, supporting PLU arts and building the School of Fine Arts board. Both Kurt and Pam are members of the Eastvold Leadership Committee. In 2006, Kurt and Pam were recognized with a Special Recognition Award during the annual Alumni Awards ceremony.

calendar

continued from inside front cover

April 13, 14; 8 p.m.

Dance 2007
Eastvold Auditorium

April 17, 7:30 p.m.

"The New Testament and Homosexuality"
The Rev. Dr. John H. Elliott
Nordquist Lecture Hall

April 17, 8 p.m.

Visiting Writer Series
Tess Gallagher
Chris Knutzen Hall East

April 18, 8 p.m.

Keyboard Students' Recital
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 19, 8 p.m.

University Chorale Homecoming Concert
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 20 – 21

PLU Relay For Life
American Cancer Society Fundraiser
University Track

April 22, 3 p.m.

Jennifer Rhyne, flute, and Patricia Wooster, harp
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 23, 6 p.m.

MBA Executive Leadership Series
Laurette Koellner, president of Boeing
International
Morken 103

April 24, 8 p.m.

Student Piano Ensembles
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 26, 8 p.m.

Concert of New Music from
the Sichuan China Conservatory
of Music and PLU
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 27, 8 p.m.

Jazz Ensembles Homecoming Concert
Chris Knutzen Hall

April 28, 5 p.m.

Hawaii Club Luau 2007
Olson Gym

April 28, 8 p.m.

University Singers'
Homecoming Concert

Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 29, 3 p.m.

Richard D. Moe Organ
Recital Series
Rick Erickson, guest organist
Lagerquist Concert Hall

April 29, 7 p.m.

Mu Phi Epsilon Concert
Lagerquist Concert Hall

MAY

May 1, 8 p.m.

Choir of the West Pre-Tour Concert
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 2, 8 p.m.

University Concert Band and
Men's Chorus
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 3, 8 p.m.

String Kaleidoscope
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 4, 3 p.m.

Sölvinden Flute Ensemble
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 4 – 5

PLU Natural Sciences
Academic Festival
Morken Center

May 6, 3 p.m.

Student Wind and Brass Recital
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 6, 4 p.m.

Nordic Dance Classes
Chris Knutzen Hall East

May 8, 8 p.m.

University Symphony Orchestra Concert IV
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 10, 5 p.m.

KPLU Art of Jazz
Seattle Asian Art Museum

May 10, 6 p.m.

MBA Executive Leadership Series
Scott Barnum, president and
CEO, Pyramid Breweries Inc.
Morken 105

May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19; 8 p.m.

Cabaret

Eastvold Auditorium

May 11, 8 p.m.

Composers' Forum
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 12, 3 p.m.

Student Guitar Ensemble
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 12 – 25

Spring Graduates' Senior Exhibition
University Gallery

May 12, 6 p.m.

Artists' Reception: Senior Exhibition
University Gallery

May 12, 8 p.m.

American Masterpieces
A Choral Union Concert
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 15, 8 p.m.

University Wind Ensemble Concert V
Lagerquist Concert Hall

May 20, 2 p.m.

Cabaret
Eastvold Auditorium

May 27, 2:30 p.m.

Commencement
Tacoma Dome [S](#)

Online Also

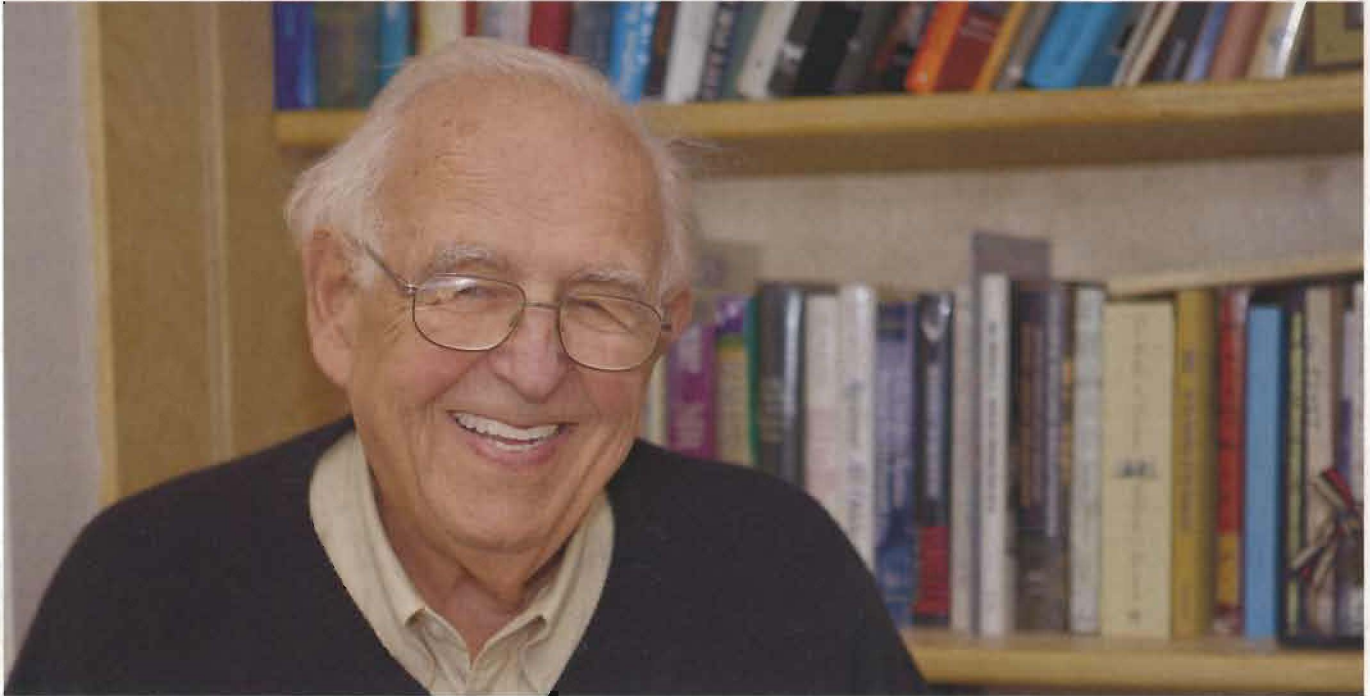


Scene

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perspective

Lessons of the Holocaust



Kurt Mayer served on the PLU Board of Regents for 10 years (1995-2005) and was instrumental in the development of the Holocaust Studies Program.

By Kurt Mayer

For each of us, our life's journey is different, often due to luck and happenstance. But we also make choices when we are young and unsure of ourselves, and some would say they were made by divine providence. As I look back on my own journey, I feel fortunate to have had influential mentors. Those mentors were my teachers, my wife, my children and friends, including friends I have made at PLU over the last 30 years. There have also been strangers who have changed the course of my life, often through only a single meeting.

In 1945, I was privileged to hear Martin Niemoller, the first German permitted to

travel in the United States after World War II, speak in San Francisco. Niemoller was a former U-Boat commander who, after World War I, decided to become a Lutheran pastor. He openly opposed Hitler from the pulpit of the most influential Lutheran church in Berlin, for which he spent years in a concentration camp. After his lecture, I went up to speak to him. The one thing that still stands out from that conversation was his story about sharing a cell at the Dachau concentration camp with a Catholic priest and discovering how much they had in common.

This was quite amazing, considering the history of Europe and a 30-year war that, in actuality, lasted almost 300 years. The Thirty-Years War was, at least in part, a religious war among Catholics, Lutherans and Calvinists. The blame for this war always depended on who was telling the story, but each had a different interpretation. In many ways, it is no different today when we listen to the British historian Julius Irving, or the current president of Iran, denying the Holocaust.

continued on page 38

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