

# RESOLUTE

THE PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE | FEBRUARY 2016



**WHAT WAS/IS  
IT LIKE TO BE**

---

**ON CAMPUS?**

Three generations of  
club leaders on identity  
and advocacy | Page 8

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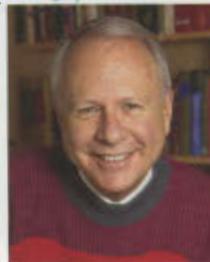
## OPENING NOTE

PLU Archives



Dr. and Mrs. Philip Hauge and their daughter Janet stand in front of the gates to the college in 1926.

## BETWEEN MEMORY AND HOPE



IN A CULTURE such as ours, focused on the present moment and the immediate future, the very thought of considering something from the past can sound downright antiquated. After all, the past is dead and gone, right? “Live in the moment” is today’s mantra.

Well, maybe for some but not for everyone. Indeed, totalitarian regimes are among the first to silence storytellers or force them to revise the community’s memory in order to support their own harmful ideologies.

Perhaps it’s good to keep in mind that the older story might actually be a very subversive memory, a memory that stops you in your tracks, that might call into question what everyone thinks is perfectly normal in the present. It should not surprise, then, that the ancient Hebrew story of the Exodus—of people experiencing liberation from an oppressive society—has sparked reform movements for hundreds of years: the movements to abolish

slavery; to end child labor; to give women access to land, vote, and self-determination; to secure a living wage and decent life for farm workers; to free sexual minorities from dehumanizing stereotypes and discrimination.

The university is one of the few places in American culture where memory is cherished and protected. And that is so because we know the power of an ancient and not-so-ancient story to change the way we view each other and this world. We know that the memory of freedom from stereotype, discrimination, and impoverishment holds the promise of hope. □

Dr. Samuel Torvend

Professor of Religion, PLU Endowed Chair in Lutheran Studies

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Kate Fontana '08 Executive Director at Samdhana-Karana Yoga in Tacoma, Wash.

**ON THE COVER**  
Photo John Froschauer



# BIGNAMES ON CAMPUS

PLU NOT ONLY SENDS LUTES OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT ALSO BRINGS WORLD-CHANGING LEADERS TO PLU.

**MORE ONLINE**

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



## DR. JANICE E. BRUNSTROM-HERNANDEZ '82

The founding director of the Pediatric Neurology Cerebral Palsy Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital delivered the Meant to Live Lecture during Homecoming on Oct. 8.



## DR. DARREN DOCHUK

The Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame delivered the 10th Annual David and Marilyn Knutson Lecture on Oct. 28: "Crude Awakenings: The Faith, Politics and Crises of Oil in America's Century."



## PETER SERKO

On Oct. 27, the writer-performer presented his one-man play, *My Brother Kissed Mark Zuckerberg*, which tells the tale of his younger brother David's life and death from AIDS at age 32.

## IDEbate RWANDA

As part of the group's 2015 U.S. tour, "Voices from the Post-Genocide Generation," four of Rwanda's top young debaters spent two days at PLU in September, immersing themselves in campus life and presenting a moving, enlightening evening of personal storytelling and public debate.

## FEBRUARY

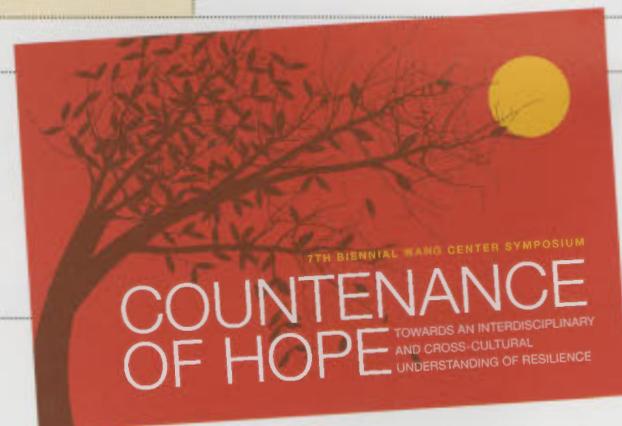
### A GOSPEL EXPERIENCE @ PLU

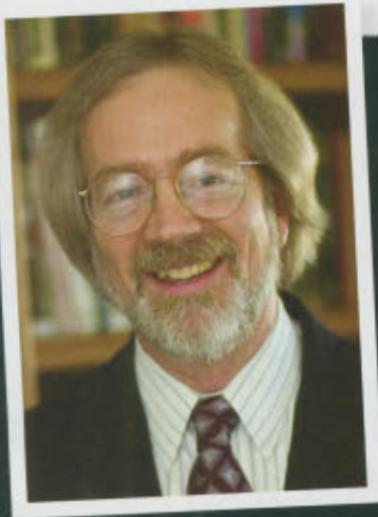
**FEB. 20.** This special concert in celebration of Black History Month features performances by the Pleasant Movement Dance Company, special guest DaNell Daymon & the Greater Works Chorale, and the premiere of PLU's newly founded Gospel Choir.

## COMING SOON

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING, VISIT:

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### ANGELA MEADE '01 and J.A.C. REDFORD

A special one-night-only 125th Anniversary Gala Christmas Concert on Dec. 11 featured the New York-based Metropolitan Opera soprano/PLU alumna, and the prolific Hollywood film composer, who premiered his three-movement work *A Christmas Invitation*, written especially for PLU's world-renowned Choir of the West, University Chorale and University Symphony Orchestra.

The Christmas Concert was broadcast on KCTS 9 and Oregon Public Broadcasting in December. The concert will be distributed by PBS TV stations nationwide during the 2016 holiday season.

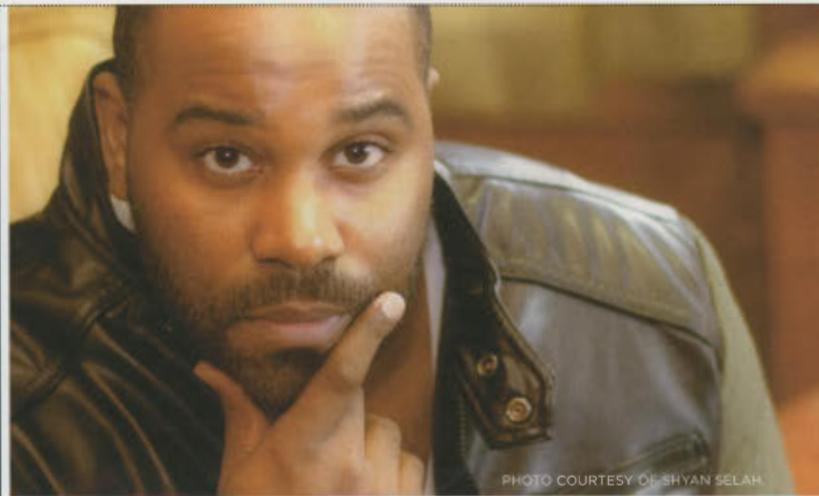


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHYAN SELAH

### SHYAN SELAH AND PAULA BOGGS

In an evening of career exploration and outstanding entertainment, the Seattle music stars were interviewed—and then performed—onstage on Oct. 20 as part of PLU's first MIC (Music Industry Careers) Night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEAN SPADE

### DEAN SPADE

The Seattle University School of Law Professor, a leading scholar and activist in transgender rights, presented a talk titled, "Romantic Notions: Soldiers, Spouses and the Limits of LGBT Equality" on Nov. 3. □

### THE 2016 WANG CENTER SYMPOSIUM

**FEB. 25-26.** The Countenance of Hope: Towards an Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Understanding of Resilience.



### FOOD SYMPOSIUM

**FEB. 26-29.** This symposium on food and the environment will feature keynote speakers, panels, a Pierce County food tour that will visit local innovative production, consumption and waste models, as well as the PLU MediaLab documentary titled "Waste Not."

# DISCOVERY PLU

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF PLU'S FIRST-CLASS FACULTY

## PLU Professor Tees Off on Researching Big-Picture Impacts of U.S. Open

BY ZACH POWERS '10 | RESOLUTE WRITER

SEVEN MONTHS have passed since Jordan Spieth won the 115th annual U.S. Open at Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, Wash. That means much of the excitement has worn off for most in and around the suburban city that's just a stone's throw away from Pacific Lutheran University. But for one economics professor on campus, it's finally getting interesting.

Associate Professor of Economics Martin Wurm and his research partner Neal Johnson, a former PLU Economics faculty member and principal at Tacoma-based Sound Resource Economics, are the social scientists charged by the United States Golf Association (USGA) with determining the economic impact of the U.S. Open on the local, regional and statewide economy.

Wurm—who teaches macroeconomics, money and banking, managerial economics and statistics at PLU—says he was drawn to the project for a variety of reasons.

None of them had anything to do with an interest in golf.

"I'm not a sports fan," he admits. "I've played golf once or twice and I know now about as much about golf as I did before doing the research."

Wurm explains that he was eager to research the project purely because of the numerous, nuanced economic developments created by an event the size of the U.S. Open.

Dr. Martin Wurm at Chambers Bay golf course, host of the 2015 U.S. Open.

### MARCH

#### SANDSTRÖM: 'ST. MATTHEW PASSION'

**MARCH 22-23.** PLU presents the U.S. premiere of Sven-David Sandström's telling of the Passion story, featuring special guest performers.

### APRIL

#### DAY OF VOCATION

**APRIL 5-6.** PLU's Wild Hope committee presents a series of events exploring vocation.

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wild  
hope

## LUTE LIBRARY

## ACCOLADES

"I think it's intellectually interesting to think about the question 'how do you generate income, how do you generate employment and what is the role of a community?'" Wurm says.

"When you do a study like this you basically think about the various ways an event causes economic impact."

Wurm says their research, which won't be released to the public, will help the USGA pitch the event to prospective host communities that, like Pierce County before 2015, have not hosted a major sports event.

"They are trying to get a good sense of what benefits are created locally," Wurm explains. "The USGA is very interested in the economic boost the Open can create for local businesses and the tax revenue it can generate for local governments."

When the study is complete, Wurm will turn his attention to the economic forecast that he and Johnson prepare annually for the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce.

For Wurm, contracts with public sector clients afford him research opportunities beyond those affirmed by academic paradigms.

"These projects with the Chamber and the USGA are quite different both in terms of expectations and time commitment from academic research."

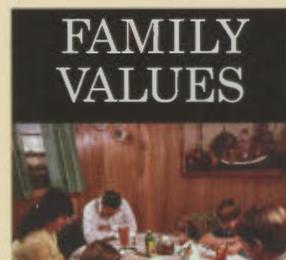
Seemingly passionate about all things macroeconomic, Wurm's research topics vary widely, but a recurring theme appears to be the effect of local developments on larger economies, and vice versa.

"Personally, I don't see much value in theory for theory's sake," Wurm concludes. "The objective is always policy relevance." □



*"Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it."*

Follow PLU Senior Web Designer (and Wild Hope Staff Seminar graduate) **Logan Seelye** on his journey to walk again after a football accident left him paralyzed.



Assistant Professor of Religion **Seth Dowland's** new book, *Family Values and the Rise of the Christian Right* investigates how evangelical leaders and conservative politicians developed a political agenda which thrust "family values" into the nation's consciousness.

**MORE ONLINE**



**Robert Marshall Wells**, Associate Professor of Communication and Director of the Center for Media Studies at PLU, was chosen as a fellow for an entertainment industry seminar in Hollywood. One of only 20 professors from colleges and universities nationwide selected by the Television Academy Foundation, Wells spent a week in November learning about the entertainment industry from some of the top professionals in the business. "I'm thrilled and honored to have been chosen for such a prestigious fellowship," said Wells, the co-founder of MediaLab and founding director of the Center for Media Studies. "Meeting and talking firsthand with entertainment industry executives will help better inform our efforts in media here at PLU."



In November, **Samuel Torvend**, university chair in Lutheran studies, spoke on the "Forgotten Luther" at a national conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the German Embassy to the United States and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Torvend addressed Luther's frequently "forgotten" critique of emerging global capitalism and predatory banking practices. His chapter, "Common property for all who are needy: Eucharistic practice in the midst of economic injustice," was published in Volume 3 of *Politics and Economics of Liberation* (Munster: LIT Verlag, 2015).

**MORE ONLINE**

## 2016 TEDX TACOMA

**APRIL 22.** PLU is sponsoring this high-profile Earth day event featuring talks with community members and PLU students and faculty on the theme of a Healthy Future.

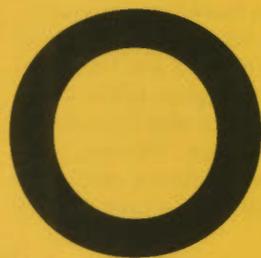
## ALUMNI DAY OF SERVICE

**APRIL 30.** "All Lute alumni are encouraged to get involved in their communities on April 30. There are many ways to serve the community, including serving a meal at a local soup kitchen, pick up trash at a local park and more! #PLULivesofService"



**TEDx** Tacoma

# WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE TO BE ON CAMPUS?



n June 26, 2015, PLU posted a rainbow Rose Window on social media to show solidarity and support for the Supreme

Court decision affirming that same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry. There was an overwhelming response from alumni, many voicing support, while some expressed surprise, and even shock.

As Dr. Samuel Torvend states in the opening note of this issue, “we know the power of an ancient and not-so-ancient story to change the way we view each other and this world. We know that the memory of freedom from stereotype, discrimination, and impoverishment holds the promise of hope.”

Universities are complex microcosms of a complex society. From the very beginnings of university life in the 11th century, campuses have been places of change, diversity and disagreement. Indeed this tension has often been a driving force of the changes in higher education.

In this article, 13 great student leaders and alumni share how identity and activism has changed throughout the decades at PLU. With these questions and answers, we strive to connect narratives that mark changes in both our campus culture and the larger culture that surrounds us.



**SHELONDRA HARRIS '17**  
BLACK STUDENT UNION

# WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE TO BE **BLACK** ON CAMPUS?

## FEATURING

BRUCE DRIVER '78  
BANTU (Black Alliance  
Thru Unity)

CORNELIUS POPE '99  
B.L.A.C.K.@PLU (Black  
Leaders Actively  
Communicating  
Knowledge at PLU)

RODRESHIA DUNBAR '01  
B.L.A.C.K.@PLU

KANISHA KEAL '10  
Black Student Union

IDAISHE ZHOU '11  
Black Student Union

SHELONDRA HARRIS '17  
Black Student Union

## WHAT WAS/IS THE PLU CLIMATE?

**BRUCE DRIVER '78:** It was the '70s, after Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement. It felt mellow and kinda peaceful overall.

**CORNELIUS POPE '99:** Although there wasn't an air of exclusion, there was no conscious effort to be inclusive.

**IDAISHE ZHOU '11:** When Obama was elected a few months into the school year, people were excited. It also started conversations about a post-racial period because if a black man could be elected president, that was evidence that race did not matter. Because of that, some people questioned why there was a need for a Black Student Union.

**SHELONDRA HARRIS '17:** The PLU culture is exclusively inclusive. Being one of the few marginalized groups on campus, my experience as a black individual is not celebrated or appreciated by the university on an institutional level. This is evident by the lack of Black faculty members, programs and courses on African-American studies and the overall student demographic makeup.

## WHY WAS/IS THE GROUP NEEDED?

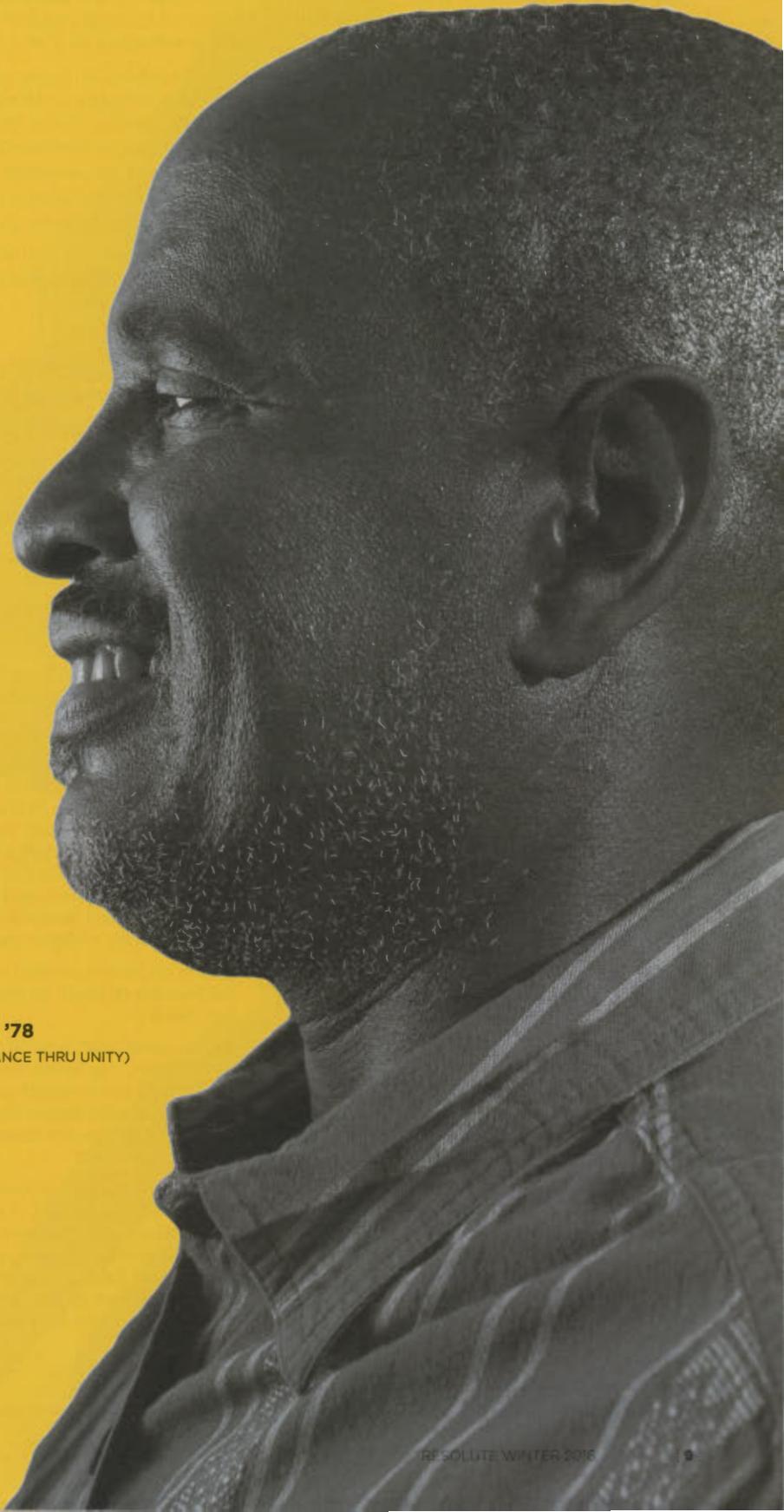
**BRUCE DRIVER '78:** BANTU was a chance for the black students to get together and to get to know each other. There weren't that many black students on campus, more if you counted those who commuted and lived off campus. I remember that there was one Hispanic student who made it to the meetings.

**RODRESHIA DUNBAR '01:** PLU had diversity but it was all over and spread out. It made it hard to get to know each other and it made it hard to find. B.L.A.C.K.@PLU was born out of the need to create community. This became PLU to me. It was my home away from home.

**KANISHA KEAL '10:** Although at the time the group started there was a significant increase in black students, the main reason I wanted to contribute and create the Black Student Union

## BRUCE DRIVER '78

BANTU (BLACK ALLIANCE THRU UNITY)



## WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE CONTINUED

was because on campus you would encounter a lot of students who were white who doubted your merit. You were either an Achiever's Scholar or the university was filling some sort of quota.

SHALONDRA HARRIS '17: Black Student Union formed (again) in order to unite Black students and other ethnicities through organization of events that emphasize the history, culture, existence and influence of such individuals. BSU is a space for my race.

## WHAT WERE/ARE SOME OF THE CLUB'S CHALLENGES?

BRUCE DRIVER '78: Trying to have the meetings and consistently have people come to the meetings.

RODRESHIA DUNBAR '01: I don't think we had challenges in the beginning. There was so much excitement that there didn't seem to be any. The challenge I saw was keeping the momentum going.

KANISHA KEAL '10: Some challenges we faced were people who didn't feel there needed to be a BSU or encountering the usual, "If there was a White Student Union, it would be racist" argument. Again, people were in a post-racial fog.

SHALONDRA HARRIS '17: A unique challenge is being responsible to take action in response to racial injustices. This is where the growth of allies, advocates and accomplices becomes significant.

## WHAT WERE/ARE SOME OF THE CLUB'S VICTORIES?

BRUCE DRIVER '78: Working with the Minority Affairs Office, we were able to bring different speakers to campus a few times. I remember, for instance, that we brought Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. I remember that she signed my yearbook. Occasionally, when I go back through there, I'll see her autograph and little inscription.

CORNELIUS POPE '99: To name a few, there were numerous abstract reading sessions, Women's History, Black History, and Hispanic-American History events; special guest visits (we hosted a visit by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, writer, academic and radio host); rallies and support of gay rights; support of efforts to defeat Initiative 200 (Legislation to repeal affirmative action); B.L.A.C.K.@ PLU sponsored and hosted a visit by the Rev. Jesse Jackson to the Tacoma area, which was a huge success.

IDAISHE ZHOU '11: I like to believe we managed to create a safe place for black students on campus. The club was also a really welcoming space and we had allies of all races who were active in the group. Through work with the Diversity Center, Women's Center and other diversity/social justice groups, we created an environment of open dialogue on campus where people could unlearn, learn and relearn important concepts and ideas regarding our campus life and the world as a whole.

KANISHA KEAL '10: Some victories included being able to hold a symposium that discussed politics, family and religion in the African-American community, hosting a viewing of the documentary *Souls of Black Girls*, both of which were attended by PLU students and the broader community.

SHALONDRA HARRIS '17: Last year, Black Student Union was awarded Social Justice Program of the Year!

## HOW DID YOUR PLU EXPERIENCE SERVE TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR LIFE AHEAD?

CORNELIUS POPE '99: Attending PLU was one of the greatest experiences in my life! Life lessons learned from my experiences at PLU

have served to make me a better father, person and U.S. Army leader in that I feel I make a conscious effort to be aware of others and take into consideration others' plight.

RODRESHIA DUNBAR '01: B.L.A.C.K.@ PLU was my first leadership experience. It gave me confidence to do more. ... It prepared me for my future.

IDAISHE ZHOU '11: PLU taught me the importance of critical thinking and asking big questions in the midst of large issues that seem insurmountable. These skills have been invaluable when collaborating with others, especially people who have values and beliefs that vary from my own.

KANISHA KEAL '10: I'd say that BSU experience prepared me for the real world. You'll encounter many different people with different views and learning to reconcile them in order to accomplish goals is important work. The group also helped me to discover my worth and what I have to offer to society in general. I'm not just a number filling some sort of quota and I'll never be made to feel that way again.

SHALONDRA HARRIS '17: My PLU experience is thickening my skin, preparing me for life ahead.

## STUDENTS PUSH US TO WALK THE TALK

BETH KRAIG, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Joining the PLU community in 1989 as a visiting assistant professor in the History Department, I could see many signs of change already in place. Like any institution, PLU reflected the voices and experiences and dreams of those individuals whose lives intersected with the campus. The students who joined PLU in the late 1980s and 1990s were especially important visionaries, bringing with them the strong belief that the activists of the 1960s and 1970s had set the stage for more action, more fairness and much more dialogue. Student leaders in the 1990s (and then the 2000s) jumped onto that stage with great energy and a powerful desire to push PLU into a higher gear when it came to the pursuit of justice.

Above all, these students made very healthy contributions to our community's willingness to track its own shortcomings and reduce the gap between our "talk" and our "walk."

As the renowned activist, scholar and theologian Cornel West argued (also in the early 1990s), we must work hard to discern our own hypocrisies if we want to pursue justice and bring about productive change. Locate and challenge the weaknesses, embrace the likelihood that things could be much better than they are, and call out loudly the difference between a rhetoric of inclusiveness and a reality of subtle to blatant exclusion.

I have been fortunate enough to collaborate with a number of the student leaders of vital groups like B.L.A.C.K.@PLU, Harmony, Puentes and their subsequent incarnations. I've learned that student leaders can do a lot, but alumni leaders also have tremendous power and can join current student activists as valuable allies and advocates. Each group of new students brings new ideas and helps us truly see that we can (and we must) do better. If you are a new (or older) alum, please do what you can to ensure that we keep pushing the pace of change at PLU.

# WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE TO BE *Queer* ON CAMPUS?

## FEATURING

EVA FREY '95  
Stonewall / ASPLU  
Director of Diversity

BRIAN BANNON '97  
Harmony

CHRISTINE HILLER-  
CLARIDGE '07  
Harmony

LUCAS KULHANEK-  
ARENAS '14  
Queer Ally Student Union

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON '16  
Queer Ally Student Union

## WHAT WAS/IS THE PLU CLIMATE/CULTURE?

BRIAN BANNON '97: To my knowledge, I think I was probably the first openly gay male student at PLU. Beth Kraig and Tom Campbell were the first openly gay faculty. It wasn't a dangerous environment, but as a gay student you wouldn't perceive PLU as a super embracing environment. I had a couple of guys who gave me a hard time and called me some pretty unsavory names on campus. One spat on me. There was an editor on the school paper who was producing a lot of anti-gay rhetoric. She was very anti-gay and wrote a lot about it.

CHRISTINE HILLER-CLARIDGE '07: I transferred from a school where there was so much backlash to any attempt at gaining equality for the LGBTQA group. I knew there were people on the PLU campus who did not agree with same-sex relationships or gender expression, but it was never thrown in my face. I believe that did not happen because of how PLU encourages diversity and respectful understanding for differences. Progress was needed at PLU for Harmony, but it wasn't going to come with a train waving a big old rainbow flag and demanding change or improvement. It came with conversation, visibility and respect for others.

LUCAS KULHANEK-ARENAS '14: The gay rights movement at this point mostly focused on transgender equality, suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth, and marriage equality, which were hot topics at the university. Many students at PLU non-verbally supported the LGBTQ community, but what we needed most in 2010 were active and vocal supporters of the movement. More than anything, we needed straight allies to support us through the final push to achieve marriage equality in Washington state.

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON '16  
QUEER ALLY STUDENT UNION



## WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE CONTINUED

ALEX CLAYTON '16: PLU's climate is primarily one of acceptance and diversity. I feel that students are more willing to put their opinions out there or fight for a cause, and due to the small nature of the school people are able to reach a large percentage of the student body fairly easily. PLU is always striving for a culture of care, and while there is always work to be done, I feel PLU is doing a great job so far.

## WHY DID THE ORGANIZATION FORM AND WHY IS THE GROUP NEEDED?

BRIAN BANNON '97: Harmony wasn't strictly for GLBT folks; it was for everyone interested in equality and issues of being a humane campus. I remember I would get these anonymous letters from kids who would struggle with their sexuality. They were looking for someone or a place to talk about it.

CHRISTINE HILLER-CLARIDGE '07: Clubs and organizations are always needed. They provided a safe haven for those who were struggling. While society has progressed into being more accepting of diverse groups or minority populations, the individual may be struggling with an internal battle or horrible environment at home or the workplace.

LUCAS KULHANEK-ARENAS '14: During my second year and after I was elected co-commissioner, all of our members decided that we needed to rebrand Harmony. We needed to become more relevant within culture and to become more visible in the PLU community during a time of high LGBTQ suicide rates (It Gets Better Project), to be more inclusive of other non-conforming sexual and gender identities, and to lead the final push for marriage equality in the state of Washington.

ALEX CLAYTON '16: PLU wasn't always so LGBTQ+ friendly, and when the club started as Harmony in the '90s there was a lot of work to be done. We have the wonderful Beth Kraig to thank for so much of the progress that has been made since then.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CLUB'S CHALLENGES?

EVA FREY '95: Political activism, especially around issues related to sexual orientation, was relatively new to many PLU students. It was one of the few student clubs where, at the time while open to all students, membership

## SPRING 2016 COURSES

Here is a selection of Spring 2016 classes and experiences across disciplines where the topics of race, culture, and social inequities being studied:

- Foundation courses taught by world-class faculty in Sociology, Social Work, Anthropology, History, Communication & Theatre and other academic departments.
- WRIT 101: Social Justice and the Criminal Justice System
- EDUC 205: Multicultural Perspectives in the Classroom
- ENGL 217: Topics in Literature: Race and Reparation in Multiethnic American Literature
- PHIL 227: Philosophy and Race

- NURS 365: Culturally Congruent Health Care
- POLS 287: Special Topics: Race & Ethnic Politics
- HISP 301: Hispanic Voices for Social Change
- IHON 328: Social Justice: Personal Inquiry and Global Investigations
- GLST 387: Indigenous Tacoma
- ENVT387: A Spring Break Experience: Civil Rights & Environmental Justice

For community members who are not students in the spring, we will invite you to continue learning about these issues with us through a variety of on-campus (and livestream) events.

Look for them on our Facebook and on the PLU calendar: [plu.edu/calendar](http://plu.edu/calendar)

meant that people would judge your sexual orientation identity and had potential to impact friendships/perceptions, etc. As a member of the straight community I was called to share my privilege and advocate for others.

CHRISTINE HILLER-CLARIDGE '07: I do not recall any significant challenges during my few years at PLU. I know we pushed the envelope by beginning Drag Shows, expanding programs that dealt with gender identity/expression and continuing brown bag discussions. With any club, attendance and membership are always areas to improve on. That was one of our goals: How do we get more people to get involved?! How do we get more people to participate in discussion?

LUCAS KULHANEK-ARENAS '14: Some of the challenges that emerged included a continuing difficulty to maintain a strong presence on campus.

ALEX CLAYTON '16: One of the great challenges is simply organizing people and getting them excited enough about the cause to meet once a week and attend events.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CLUB'S VICTORIES?

EVA FREY '95: PLU was an active partner with Hands Off Washington and the Tacoma chapter. PLU had a longstanding reputation in the Tacoma community related to race organizations, and through the initial efforts of Stonewall, PLU students extended that reputation to include issues of sexual orientation. And ultimately, Stonewall was merged into the student club, Harmony.

CHRISTINE HILLER-CLARIDGE '07: Getting new programs up and running, like the Drag Show. Getting people excited about sexuality in a healthy manner. Doing Q&A's to share individual stories of discrimination to educate people.

ALEX CLAYTON '16: One of the club's main victories is simply that it exists, honestly. I'm so amazed and so thankful that I live in a

time when LGBTQ+ and ally groups are not only tolerated, but also encouraged.

## HOW DID YOUR PLU EXPERIENCE SERVE TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR LIFE AHEAD?

EVA FREY '95: PLU taught me how to think critically, and through courses in Core II, I learned theories related to civil rights, diversity and power/privilege. The by-product of my education was the ability to act with courage and care. As I serve as an educator committed to the philosophy that everyone can learn, unlearn, relearn—the ability to integrate the values of PLU's mission into my meaning-making framework serves me each day.

BRIAN BANNON '97: The environment wasn't hostile in terms of being unsafe but it was definitely an environment where students were expressing their anti-gay views. It was also real opportunity for students and faculty to begin grappling those questions as a campus. Because of people like Beth (Kraig) and Tom (Campbell) setting the tone, it made it more comfortable for other students to come out. I learned so much about leadership and voice.

CHRISTINE HILLER-CLARIDGE '07: The most valuable lesson I learned at PLU and use every day and try to instill in my students is: You don't have to agree with someone's opinion/thoughts or respect their opinion, but you need to respect that they HAVE an opinion and can think for themselves.

LUCAS KULHANEK-ARENAS '14: Before going to PLU, being a gay Christian was a contradiction. After going to PLU, I learned that being gay and a Christian enriches the experience of both identities.

ALEX CLAYTON '16: The best thing I ever learned at PLU is that I don't have to pretend to be someone I'm not to get people to like and listen to me.

# WHAT WAS/IS IT LIKE TO BE Latin@ ON CAMPUS?

## FEATURING

EMILY DAVIDSON '98  
Puentes

XOCHILT COCA '13  
Latin@s Unidos

### What was the PLU climate at the time?

EMILY DAVIDSON '98: I would need to do some digging into the archives, but I think students of color were 5 percent to 8 percent of the student body at the time, maybe less. Across the nation, it was the era of "multiculturalism" and "sensitivity trainings," but it felt like a lot of people at PLU hadn't received the memo. At the Multiethnic Resource Center, where I worked as the "Hispanic" Peer Advisor (we were just starting to use the term "Latino/a"), I remember vividly that the list of students who identified as "Hispanic" or "Spanish" fit onto one page. I have very fond memories of hanging out at the Multiethnic Resource Center. The students that went there were a very small, tight-knit group of students of color and a few allies, who depended heavily on the guidance, mentoring and course offerings of faculty leaders like Tamara Williams, Arturo Biblarz, Beth Kraig, Tom Campbell, Lisa Marcus and John Moritsugu. These faculty members were tireless advocates for diversity and change at PLU.

XOCHILT COCA '13: At the time, Samar Henriquez '13 and I stepped onto the PLU campus, there was no student organization that represented our Latina identities. In fact there had not been a Latin@ student organization on campus in almost eight years.

### Why did the organization form/why was the group needed?

EMILY DAVIDSON '98: A couple of amazing students in the Spanish program, Anne Marie Sorenson and Mary Abraham (may she rest in power!), were really interested in starting a Spanish language club. I was interested in starting a Latino/a student organization that was more inclusive than a traditional M.E.Ch.A. club (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán). A new profesora,

Tamara Williams (yay for junior faculty enthusiasm!), introduced the three of us and Puentes, which means "bridges" in Spanish, was born. Puentes was the combination of a Spanish language club and a Latino/a student organization—a well-intentioned collaboration with many pros and cons.

XOCHILT COCA '13: We decided to form the student organization Latin@s Unidos in order to promote cultural awareness and social justice issues surrounding Latin@ communities. We also wanted to create a space where Latin@ students could feel a sense of belonging on a predominantly white campus. We started off with six members whom we met through the Diversity Center. We had big dreams for

our organization to take our members to pro-immigration rallies, facilitate meaningful conversation on culture and identity, and to dismiss stereotypes that we encountered on campus (i.e., "You speak Spanish so you must be Mexican," or assuming we weren't born in the U.S. because of our appearance).

### WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CLUB'S CHALLENGES?

EMILY DAVIDSON '98: Where do I begin? First off—hello?! Not all Latinos speak Spanish! Whoops. The pressure was on for those of us who felt inadequate about our skills in our heritage language. Imagine:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

XOCHILT COCA '13  
LATIN@S UNIDOS



# { THE CALL }

BY + THE REV. JOHN ROSENBERG, INTERIM CAMPUS PASTOR  
+ DR. JOANNA ROYCE-DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE  
+ THE REV. RICHARD JAECH, BISHOP, SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNOD  
+ THE REV. MELANIE WALLSCHLAEGER, DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION,  
SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNOD

## TIMELINE FOR UNIVERSITY CONGREGATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY CALL PROCESS

### MAY 2015

Campus Ministry Review team appointed by PLU in partnership with the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA (May).

First phase of stakeholder conversations takes place with students, faculty, staff, administrators, area clergy, parents, alumni and friends of the university.

### JULY 2015

Interim university pastor appointed through May of 2016 and begins work in responding to first draft of review recommendations.

### SEPTEMBER 2015

Second phase of stakeholder conversations takes place at faculty Fall Conference and in formal stakeholder gatherings. An online survey of student spiritual and religious life garners more than 900 responses from students.

Campus Ministry Council (CMC)—the student/faculty group responsible for spiritual and religious life on PLU campus—reforms, elects chair and begins bringing CMC Constitution up to date.

### DECEMBER 2015

Campus Ministry Review complete and CMC begins consultative oversight over prioritization and implementation of review recommendations.

CMC appoints Nominating Committee per its constitution (similar to a Call Committee in a local congregation).

### JANUARY 2016

University pastor job description is developed based on the recommendations from the Campus Ministry Review and related vision for the role of Campus Ministry.

University pastor position posted and nominations for University Pastor received through the Office of the Bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA.

### FEBRUARY 2016

Synod conducts initial screening and presents Nominating Committee with names of five to seven qualified candidates.



PLU embraces its middle name—its Lutheran heritage and higher education values that engage students, faculty and staff from all faith and religious backgrounds (or no religious affiliation) in meaningful and authentic ways.

The university exists at the intersection of spiritual diversity and change in the Pacific Northwest, an area known as an exciting spiritual frontier and simultaneously, in contrast, known as the “none zone.”

PLU continues to build on that foundation, being genuinely hospitable to all as it reshapes its Campus Ministry program during this 2015-16 academic year.

Last spring, the university, in partnership with the Southwestern Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the church body with which PLU is affiliated), began the first comprehensive review of Campus Ministry in more than 20 years. The ministry review strives to strengthen and deepen Campus Ministry in every way possible.

The first part of the review created dialogue with members of the multifaith community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, family members, alumni and area clergy from the ELCA and ecumenical partners.

These conversations unearthed common themes, forming a set of preliminary recommendations to craft a job description for Interim Campus Pastor John Rosenberg (who serves through May 2016) and the 2015-16 work of the Campus Ministry Council. The CMC is made up of faculty, students and administrators (including President Tom Krise and Vice President for Student Life Joanna Royce-Davis) who oversee spiritual and religious life on campus. The CMC serves an important role in selecting and calling a long-term campus pastor.

**Traditional expectations of the campus pastor include:**

- Providing leadership for worship life and serving as pastor of University Congregation,
- Providing pastoral care for members of the university community,
- Participating in the ceremonial life of the university.

**While these roles for the pastor remain central, new expectations (based on the review team’s recommendations) include:**

- Developing a cadre of ecumenical and interfaith partner chaplains who can assist in providing pastoral care for PLU’s diverse, multifaith community.
- Expanding, with these partners, the range of available opportunities to engage spirituality and worship.
- Developing partnerships with faculty and staff to provide learning opportunities around questions of identity, vocation, diversity, justice, sustainability and other topics relevant to PLU’s mission of educating students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care.

These words ring clear in the review team’s vision for Campus Ministry moving forward: relationship, partnership, collegiality, collaboration, participation, celebration and service.

A second part of the ministry review in the fall drew from conversations with stakeholders and an online survey of students, pinpointing campus-wide spiritual practices and needs.

The results of the two-part review will guide the selection and call of a new campus pastor and help shape the future of Campus Ministry at PLU.

The history of Campus Ministry at PLU is filled with stories of faithful and creative pastors and a program that successfully negotiated a variety of transitions throughout its 60-year history. While each pastor brought different gifts to new and dynamic situations, they all had one thing in common: a conviction that God accompanies us along the journey of faith. It’s exciting to think about what God has in store for Campus Ministry at PLU. Stay tuned! 📺

**MARCH 2016**

Nominating Committee selects candidates for interviews and hosts interview opportunities for stakeholder engagement with candidates.

VP for student life and Interim university pastor respond to Campus Ministry review staffing recommendation by drafting a job description for a coordinator position in the CM office.

**APRIL 2016**

Interviews for University Pastor continue.

Nominating Committee presents the names of three finalists to the university president and vice president for student life, who make a consensus selection of the university pastor.

**MAY 2016**

Southwestern Washington Synod Council issues call.

Progress update on review recommendations is shared with stakeholders.

**AUGUST 2016**

New university pastor begins duties at PLU.

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

New university pastor installed by Bishop Jaech.

Second progress update on review recommendations is shared with stakeholders.

# PLU BOYS IN THE BOAT

EVERY SUMMER, PLU men's basketball coach Steve Dickerson assigns his team a book to read—usually something sports-related and always one that provides a literary lesson that instills the power of collective responsibility and embracing the grind. If there is a history lesson woven into the book, it's a slam-dunk pick for Dickerson.

This year his team read *The Boys in the Boat*, an award-winning book by Daniel James Brown that tells the story of an underdog U.S. Men's Olympic rowing team from the University of Washington whose hard work and determination helped team members capture gold and worldwide admiration during Hitler's 1936 Berlin Games.

After his team read the book, Dickerson took this year's reading assignment to another level. Instead of simply giving his team a quiz on what they had read, Dickerson teamed up with PLU women's rowing coach Andy Foltz to bring the book to life by getting the basketball team on the water. The collaboration created a ripple effect far beyond the waves that formed that morning the players' blades cut through American Lake—especially for senior basketball player Bryce Miller.



Men's basketball team training with women's rowing team.

Miller proudly sported a 1980s PLU women's crew jacket, the bottom of which grazed his bellybutton thanks to his 6-foot-6-inch frame. Inside the jacket was the name Connie Eliason, Miller's mom. Miller had been by her side when she beat breast cancer when he was 5. Then, when he was 8, leukemia took his mother away. Connie was 37 when she died, a beloved



elementary school principal, wife, daughter and mother of two. Now on this cold October morning, her son says he felt like she was there.

"I know she was smiling down on me like she always did," Miller said. "But I won't lie to you, when I first got in the boat I was worried about staying dry but then when we finally got our swing I thought, 'I would do anything to be rowing with her.'"

Miller's parents met decades ago at Washington High School in Tacoma. His dad, Mark Miller (who currently serves on PLU's Board of Regents), played basketball and football at PLU from 1984-1988 and his mom graduated from PLU in 1986. Getting up early in the morning for crew perked Connie up more than the strongest cup of coffee ever could, said Bryce's grandmother, Camille Eliason, who's now also reading *The Boys in the Boat*.

"She was just tickled, even though her hands looked like hamburger, she would still be up at 4:30 at American Lake and loved every minute of it," Eliason said. It takes drive and discipline to be a rower. It's taxing mentally and physically. Eliason sees her daughter's drive in both Bryce and his younger sister, Marissa, who is a sophomore at PLU and also on the softball team.



Bryce Miller (far right) wears his mother's crew jacket to practice on American Lake.

Coach Foltz says rowing teaches resilience, toughness and a drive to be part of something bigger. He believes everyone can learn something from the sport—from kids on the court to employees in the boardroom.

NEXT PAGE



***“Every time you put that blade into the water you have to make the decision that you are going to push yourself.”***

---

“You have to work together. If you’re not all on the same page, the boat won’t move forward,” Foltz said. “That’s the truth. You get out in the middle of the lake, and if you are struggling to move together, you have to fix it. Because if you don’t, you’re not going to get back to the dock.”

Before the basketball team took to the water, the women helped familiarize them with the equipment, and they all carried it from the boathouse to the dock. They talked about safety. They also practiced strokes on rowing machines first. The screens on the workout machines showed how fast they were going.

“I said, ‘guys, what you’re pulling now is about what we do when we’re resting,’” Foltz said. The women train about 19 weeks during the academic year. The rest of the time they work out on their own—the rowing machines are where they push their bodies. They showed the men how to row with a purpose, incorporating their legs, backs and cores into every move, along with their arms.

“Every time you put that blade into the water you have to make the decision that you are going to push yourself,” Foltz said, adding that when you are on the water there are no breaks while paddling.



Coach Andy Foltz gives direction from the lead boat.

Miller said the entire experience was both intense and amazing—and it gave him a better understanding of his mom. If he rows again, he’ll also have pain relievers ready. “I was sore!” he says.

The timing of this particular assignment could not have been more serendipitous. As Miller was reading the book this



summer, his dad and his stepmom, Chelle, were getting ready to move into their new house. That's when Miller saw the box with the words "PLU memorabilia" on it and found his mom's crew jacket at the bottom. "When I tried it on, my sister and dad got a laugh," Miller said.

When he learned the team was going out on the boat, he knew he had to wear it. The jacket's arms were "surprisingly comfortable," he said. As dawn turned to day, the old-school jacket got quite a bit of attention and a lot of questions.

"I had no idea that his mom rowed at PLU. Life has a funny way of taking all kinds of twists and turns," Dickerson said. "That was one of the cool parts about this whole story. That he was able to get in the boat and wear his mom's jacket, it just worked out above and beyond anything I had thought."

Miller and his entire team now have a new appreciation for the women's rowing team, and Coach Dickerson's assignment continues to unfold in other ways, too.

Legend has it that the boat used by the inspirational subjects of *The Boys in the Boat* was on loan to PLU for many years, and used on American Lake until it was returned in the 1990s, Dickerson said. Coaches are starting to call to learn more



Hauling the boat in from practice.

about this cross-training/book reading assignment and are considering doing something similar. The women's rowing team is supporting the men's basketball team and vice versa.

And by happenstance, with every flip of a page and row of an oar, the bond between mother and son and team strengthened. Those ripples now have turned into full circles. ☐





PHOTO COURTESY OF JP AVILA AND CHAD HALL.

# This is Design School

Professor, former student explore design in podcast discussions.

BY CHRIS ALBERT

If there is one thing to learn from the *This is Design School* podcast, it's to not let fear paralyze a burgeoning career.

"Everyone we talk to always had to take a big leap to get where they wanted to be," said Chad P. Hall '10, one of the co-creators of the podcast. "They took a leap of confidence."

Having just wrapped up their second season, Hall and Jp Avila, associate professor of Art & Design at PLU, have approached the podcast as a way to talk about design with designers at the beginning of their careers.

In the podcast, Avila and Hall discuss the career paths designers travel, how they got into design and their thoughts on the field.

"It's being able to have these conversations in this unique setting. It gives you a freedom to have deep conversations," Hall said. "It allows you to ask questions you've never felt you had the permission to ask before."

Plenty of podcasts engage people who are at the top of their profession, but what gets lost is their journeys. Hall and Avila try to retrace those journeys with guests ranging from seasoned professionals in more traditional graphic design roles, to designers who are user experience experts in website design, to those who teach about the world of design.

The discussions find their way beyond their guests' journeys and intertwine with topics including graphic design in the print and digital world, sustainability practices and overall principles. The hosts and guests explore design with the knowledge that it is so much more than just understanding visuals: Design is figuring out how a visual narrative works in print and digital mediums, how that functions, and the experience the consumer has with the design.

In season one, the two would ask their guests whom they should interview next. To their surprise, each person they asked was eager to join them and from there the network of guests ballooned.

Nearly two years ago, the podcast idea took root when Avila met with Hall for one of their monthly lunches. Hall was a student of Avila's and the two had stayed in touch, while Hall pursued his master's in design at the University of Washington.

The challenge of how to get to the next step in a design career sparked the conversation. Hall, who is living through those early stages, saw how the early practice allowed people to do exciting, innovative work.

Avila had been at a faculty event exploring how new technology can be a learning opportunity. The idea of doing a podcast excited him. While Avila had some slight hesitation, Hall's enthusiasm won out.

"He said, 'Let's do this,'" Avila said.

The duo plan each interview from 30 minutes to an hour and release the discussions throughout the academic year from September to May.

Their guests have shared pieces of advice. They talk about not being afraid, taking big leaps, and not worrying about qualifications and skills when taking that chance.

In a podcast from season one, (user experience) designer Paige Pauli shares how she found the field. She didn't enter college with the intention to become

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a designer. She started in neuroscience, but as her academic career continued she discovered a true love for art.

"Looking back on my whole life there are all these stepping-stones that I didn't piece together until I finally arrived," she said during the podcast.

Upon graduation, a health issue caused her to take a job as an office assistant so she could obtain health insurance, but that desire to design never left. She enrolled in classes to learn how to write code for websites and slowly built up her skills and experience. During her experiences designing websites for small businesses, she discovered how she loved applying her visual and coding skills to build out the blueprint for how someone interacts with software or web applications.

"I often say that design is a glue to hold the user to the data," Avila said. "It's a designer's job to help you find and make that connection."

"Did we prepare you to be ready for the job? To be adaptable? To be ready to move to the next level?" Avila asks of how well he's taught his students. "I think design education has become such a vital component of how we communicate."

Hall had come to PLU intending to be an English teacher, but several conversations with Avila changed his path toward Communication. "He asked me what I liked doing," Hall said. "He asked me what I thought design was."

After responding, Avila said, "You're telling me you like to make pretty things."

"I knew when he was saying that, it was the right answer and the wrong answer," Hall said. "It is making pretty things, but it is also being very intentional. I fell in love with it because it was so gray. It wasn't black and white."

The podcast brings some of these voices to light and the discussion relates to what Avila sees in the classroom. "I think a lot of times students think, 'I have these great ideas, but I don't have any way of doing it,'" Avila said.

The podcast allows Avila and Hall to get an idea out there about the journey of design and how it applies to the world.

"As a designer you learn the principles," Hall said. "Students kind of get frustrated because they are learning the basic elements of design, but once you get out into the world the principles of design apply to everything: experiences, interactions and products."

And now, as they get ready to plan their third season, they hope to take the conversation even further—not just talking to upcoming designers, but putting together themed shows with specific topics.

"Sometimes there are leaps that don't seem like leaps until you think back upon it," Hall said. □



## SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FINDS ITS WAY TO A YOGA PRACTICE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL IN NEED

**P**LU alumna Kate Fontana '08 believes that yoga should be affordable and accessible to people of all incomes and abilities.

Fontana, executive director of Samdhana-Karana Yoga in Tacoma, has helped grow the nonprofit studio, whose mission is also to provide "trauma aware" yoga as a healing service to a diverse community and to those who may not be able to afford or even have awareness of yoga's benefits.

Samdhana-Karana provides a free, weekly class and "allows everyone to have consistent access to some form of a healing practice," the Yakima native says, adding that "helping others is part of my healing."

Change and activism marked Fontana's time at PLU. She started college with ambitions of studying physics and astronomy and working for NASA, but classes in women's and gender studies and religion—her eventual degree—won her heart and soul.

Her campus résumé shows Fontana was deeply engaged at PLU: a President's Scholar; co-founder of Students for Peace, a multifaceted group formed to address peace and social justice issues at a local and international level; co-founder

of The Community Garden on campus to promote food security; and religious relations director for ASPLU.

She spent considerable energy on advocacy work involving gender and sexuality issues. But after years of activism in college, Fontana found herself feeling empty and needing to heal internal wounds.

During her junior year, Fontana grappled with a significant decision. She had decided to come out. "I came out as queer and I had struggled with depression," which hit hard that year, Fontana says, describing herself at the time as "compartmentalized."

"I had my academic self, and social justice self, and religious self that I kept really secret, and this person I had become when I went home. I had all these versions of myself and that was really hard," she says. "I spent a lot of time at PLU trying to fix external problems. A lot of doing, but not a whole lot of being. When that stopped working, I focused on myself."

Yoga was one of the practices that she embraced to calm the inner turmoil.

"It's a way for individuals to touch back into their own



IT'S A WAY FOR INDIVIDUALS TO TOUCH BACK INTO  
THEIR OWN SPIRIT AND OWN HUMANITY

spirit and own humanity," Fontana says. "We are far more able to connect to others from that place of dignity and far more able to listen for what unifies us rather than differentiates us. The bigger theme is remembering we are one."

Vania Kent-Harber co-founded the studio with Pamela Higley. Both found yoga to be instrumental in healing from trauma in their lives.

Kent-Harber, who now serves as the organization's board president, recalls meeting Fontana shortly after the studio opened in 2010.

"She came to one of my classes and approached me, expressing her support of our work and asking how she might get involved," Kent-Harber says. "The timing was quite perfect as I had just found out that my partner's job was going to be taking us overseas for three years—at the time I was the managing director of the studio—and I needed to hire someone to take over."

"I must admit that as much as I liked and admired her when I first met her, I did not realize what a gem we were getting in her," Kent-Harber says. "Kate is unfailingly kind and lives at a level of vulnerability and openness that is not common."

Yoga convert and student Gregory Alderete, 59, vouches for Fontana and the studio.

"My first encounter there ... the vibe was amazing," Alderete says. "It was just this peaceful, welcoming, kind and compassionate environment. You feel it like a warm blanket the moment you walk in there."

Alderete, who began attending with his wife some 18 months ago, credits Fontana and yoga with helping him handle considerable stresses from his 25-year U.S. Army career that included tours in war zones such as the first Persian Gulf War, Somalia and Bosnia.

Alderete, a retired lieutenant colonel, deals with the effects of post-traumatic stress syndrome, including the "horrific" nature of the fighting in Mogadishu, but has found joy in the ways of yoga—and with Fontana as leader.

"She lights up all the students," he says. "She radiates across the room."

NEXT PAGE



Fontana speaks with authenticity and thoughtfulness and searches for deeper meaning in her answers. She credits PLU with giving her the tools to ask and explore all questions.

And she is back on campus teaching a one-credit physical education class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For students thinking about a career in nonprofit leadership, Fontana has practical advice: "Take an accounting class!" she says, noting her duties as executive director range from financial reports to studio management and all business needs in between.

She's managing without the business background, though. The studio has more than 3,000 members on the mailing list and has partnered to provide yoga to community organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project and the Nativity House of Tacoma, which houses the chronically homeless.

Fontana—who loves hiking outdoors, being by the ocean, and "to dance and play Scrabble"—has found her own peace as a "place where I can rest without being in conflict with anything that is."

"It is a state of mind and being that releases the need for things to be any different than they are," she says. "That is the feeling—the space we are trying to create here." □





## An alumna's simple kit helps save lives for refugee women in labor

BY B.J. BARTLETT

**Y**vonne Røskeland '98 saw the unsanitary, chaotic conditions pregnant refugees in labor endure during a 2003 trip to Afghanistan.

The desperate images motivated her to develop a simple concept to help pregnant women who have virtually no access to health care: a sparse kit of clean birthing basics that could save the lives of mothers and children.

Røskeland, whose extended family has a deep connection with Pacific Lutheran University and supports her efforts, was born in South Africa to Norwegian parents and subsequently lived in Sudan, Spain and Norway. When she arrived at PLU in 1994, she had already lived the concept of global citizenship and knew from an early age that her life's work would be in health care.

Røskeland founded World Birth Aid in 2010. The nonprofit organization coordinates and distributes the birthing kits in areas of the globe where maternal mortality and infant mortality are highest.

The kit, packed in a small plastic bag, consists of a bar of soap, a clean pad, a razor blade, two sterile umbilical cord clamps and illustrated instructions.

"I first witnessed the unhygienic and humiliating conditions women face during birth while working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Kabul," Røskeland, 41, said in an email interview. The time was shortly after the U.S. invasion and the hospital had received major improvements, but the labor and delivery unit consisted of one room with five beds.

"Every 24 hours between 60 and 75 women would deliver," she said. "As you can imagine, it was a chaotic scene where medical hygiene was completely non-existent."

Since 2003, Røskeland, a certified midwife, has traveled to refugee camps and settlements to help women give birth: Afghanistan, Haiti, the Kenya/Somalia border, Nepal, where clean, skilled hands are sometimes a luxury, not always a caregiver requirement.



"Our birth kits are not a solution to women's health around the world in regions torn by crisis, conflict and poverty, but our kits provide a tangible benefit to the women who receive them," said Røskeland.

According to the World Birth Aid website, "Worldwide infant mortality rates mirror the maternal mortality rates as the vast majority of infant deaths also occur in the same regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Infection following delivery remains a leading cause of death among both mothers and newborns."

The kits are assembled and shipped from a medical supply facility in the United States. Partner organizations operating in the communities World Birth Aid hopes to serve receive and distribute the kits, Røskeland said.

Since the organization's beginnings, the all-volunteer group has produced and delivered approximately 18,000 birth kits, she said. Kits have been distributed in the countries named above and in Congo, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

*continued on page 31*

Our birth kits are not a solution to women's health around the world in regions torn by crisis, conflict and poverty, but our kits provide a tangible benefit to the women who receive them.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**BLACK & GOLD**  
**NEVER GETS OLD**  
PLU HOMEcoming 2015



## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB. 28 - ANCHORAGE CONNECTION EVENT

MARCH 6 - PORTLAND CONNECTION EVENT

MARCH 13 - SACRAMENTO CONNECTION EVENT

APRIL 30 PLU ALUMNI DAY OF SERVICE

MAY 13 - 16 DIVERSITY CENTER ALUMNI WEEKEND

## LUTERECRUIT

As President Tom Krise has said, the world needs more PLU, and the Office of Admission and Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations are seeking your help to identify the next set of Lutes who will contribute to the world.

Prospective Lutes are all around you. They could be seated next to you in church, delivering the paper to your door or having Thanksgiving dinner in your home.

Please take a moment to send us the names of potential PLU students by completing the online Lute Recruit form.

Last year we received 45 Lute Recruit forms and this year we're hoping you can help us reach 100! We're not looking for just high school seniors —you can send us names of any high schooler you know who would make a great Lute.

Once you submit the Lute Recruit form, the Office of Admission will reach out to those students.

Alumni and parents are often our best resources and strongest advocates as we search for the next class of PLU students. Thank you for your support and for exemplifying the benefits of a PLU education.

Submit a Lute at [www.plu.edu/luterecruit](http://www.plu.edu/luterecruit)

## HOMECOMING

From the inspiring Meant to Live Lecture by Dr. Janice Brunstrom-Hernandez '83, to the Alumni Awards Ceremony and PLU at 125 Wine Walk, Homecoming 2015 was a great success! Relive the fun and check out all of the photo galleries from the weekend online. [www.plu.edu/resolute](http://www.plu.edu/resolute)

## SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2016: OCT. 14-16

Everyone is invited to come back to campus to celebrate your ties to the Lute family. All of the exciting details are still being worked out, but Choir of the West alumni should plan on being at homecoming to celebrate 90 years of COW!

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We are looking for decade captains for the Choir of the West reunion. If you would like to help rally your choir friends to come back and sing with you during homecoming let us know at [alumni@plu.edu!](mailto:alumni@plu.edu)

## ALUMNI PROFILES ONLINE

FOR THESE AND MORE, VISIT [www.plu.edu/resolute](http://www.plu.edu/resolute)



METROPOLITAN OPERA TENOR

Noah Baetge '08



40 UNDER FORTY ONE OF FIVE PLU ALUMS

Zach Powers '10

# LegacyLutes

Each fall we welcome new students to our campus. The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations extends a special welcome to our Legacy Lutes – those students whose parent(s) attended PLU. We recognize this extra special commitment to their alma mater and are thrilled to have their sons and daughters carry on their legacy. Please note that only the parents who attended PLU are listed below.

Justin Allison  
Marti Allison '92

Sophia Alvestad  
Lisa (Christensen) Alvestad '92

John Baker  
Cary (Sheekley) Baker '78

Kara Barkman  
Eric Barkman '01 and Kirsten (Pedersen)  
Barkman '90

Megan Barnes  
Douglas Barnes '85 and Melanie (Holladay)  
Barnes '82

Carson Barnett  
Chad Barnett '94 and Carolyn (Garrison)  
Barnett '92

Connor Bates  
Jay Bates '89 and Krista (Aronson) Bates '90

Mark Burch  
Andrew Burch '88 and Jill (Watson) Burch '88

MacGregor Butler  
Pollyann (Brynestad) Butler '86

Sonja Christensen  
Barry Christensen '84

Josephine Courtney  
Ross Courtney '94

Jackson Curtis  
Robert Curtis '90 and Victoria (Moström)  
Curtis '90

Amari Davis  
Genita Rose Davis '87

Adam De Broeck  
James De Broeck '91 and Heidi (Schmalenberger)  
De Broeck '93

Kristi Floyd  
Diane (Drugge) Floyd '74

Brett Gaulke  
Tad Gaulke '91 and Joanne Gaulke '93

Samuel Gilkison  
Judy Gilkison '81

Christopher Gettel-Gilmartin  
Marie Gettel-Gilmartin '86

Danielle Hanna  
Gayle (Kirkland) Hanna '80

Kathryn Hatlen  
Mark Hatlen '82 and Mary (Zitzewitz) Hatlen '84

Faith Heimlich  
Mark Heimlich '78 and Meridee Heimlich '78

Bradley Hodkinson  
Lina (Korsmo) Hodkinson '99

Anna Hurd  
Michael Hurd '83 and Carlene (Lukin) Hurd '83

Elijah Hurt  
Brock Hurt '92

Erin Hutchison  
Amy (Johnson) Hutchison '90

Janice Huynh  
Anna Huynh '92

Kalen Keim  
Michael Keim '86 and Sari (Tollefson) Keim '87

Finn Kelln  
Kristen (Wold) Kelln '86

Elsa Kienberger  
Stephan Kienberger '81 and Kirsten (Pender)  
Kienberger '83

Alex Klussmann  
Kurt Klussmann '84

Laura Lampson  
Kirsten (Pedersen) Lampson '87

Julie Landes  
Bonnie (Wassall) Landes '93

Tyler Lydic  
Christina Gregg '95

Madeline Mandt  
Mark Mandt '82

Britt McCracken  
Benjamin McCracken '78 and Ellen (Govig)  
McCracken '78

Giles McIntire  
Kelly (Finnegan) McIntire '90

Olga Mogen  
Randall Mogen '82

Jessica Morrison  
Kristine (Coen) Morrison '85

Hannah Nagy  
Dennis Nagy '91

Matthew Ogard  
Erik Ogard '88 and Diane (Doerksen) Ogard '88

Robert O'Quinn  
Emily (Keys) O'Quinn '00

Annika Pederson  
Bradley Pederson '83

Anna-Marie Pence  
Robert Pence '02 and Sara (Stratton) Pence '02

Hannah Peterson  
Brenda Satrum '88

Tanner Premo  
Rochelle (Holt) Premo '94

Christian Riddall  
Ted Riddall '95 and Jennifer (Iverson) Riddall  
'94

Natalie Robinson  
David Robinson '72

Elan Safford  
Ricky Safford '86 and Kristina (Lytle) Safford  
'85

Delaney Salter  
Deena (Kennedy) Salter '90

Emily Shane  
Alison (Whitney) Shane '90

Alexander Smith  
Linda (Vincent) Smith '87

Eldon Sorensen  
Elaine (McDaniel) Sorensen '83

Rebecca Sorensen  
Philip Sorensen '82

Natalie Stephenson  
Nancy (Pershall) Stephenson '79

Joseph Stilnovich  
Jennifer (Duda) Stilnovich '89

Tristan Swenson  
Erick Swenson '91 and Cara (Cossairt)  
Swenson '92

Emily Thompson  
Jeffrey Thompson '00 and Karen (Casey)  
Thompson '95

Nalika Virachi-Smith  
Mimi Virachi '14

Nicholas Wagner  
Timothy Wagner '89 and Kristi (Helton)  
Wagner '91

Madeline Wentz  
Lizbeth (Van Slageren) Wentz '87

Eric West  
Alan West '90

Michael and Stephen Whitley  
Judy (Leschensky) Whitley '90

Ethan Wiederspan  
Peter Wiederspan '87 and Cheryl (Norby)  
Wiederspan '84

Joshua Wiersma  
Dan Wiersma '90 and Erika (Lund)  
Wiersma '92

Kenneth Williams  
Elizabeth Williams '91

Collin Yadon  
Laura Yadon '11

LEADER IN  
EDUCATION

Forrest Griek '00, '02

CREATING AN  
ART EMPIRE

Ann Kullberg '79

PASSIONATE  
ABOUT JUSTICE

THOMAS KIM '15

# CLASSNOTES

SUBMIT YOURS HERE: [www.plu.edu/resolute](http://www.plu.edu/resolute)

## Class Representatives positions available: 1966, 1982, 1975, 1979 and 1998

Pre-1936, 1937-1939, 1940-1944, 1946, and 1949  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**1936**  
Class Representative - **Volly (Norby) Grande**

**Gertrude (Stenberg) Anderson Haase '36**  
died July 8.

**1938**  
**Eugenia (Spence) Kvinsland '38** died Oct. 24.

**1945**  
Class Representative - **Annabelle Birkestol**

**1947**  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**Agnes (Roleder) Palmer '47** died June 29.

**1948**  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**Virginia (Isvick) Johnson '48** died Oct. 3.

**1950**  
Class Representative - **Dick Weathermon**

**Wilhelm Christensen '50** died May 25.  
**Walter Masters '50** died Aug. 29.  
**Ruth (Lebeck) Moore '50** died Aug. 18.

**1951**  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**John Bowron '51** died Sept. 10.  
**Henry Erickson '51** died Sept. 1.

**1952**  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**Thelma (Staswick) Costle '52** died Sept. 20.

**1953**  
Class Representative - **Naomi (Roe) Nothstein**

**1954**  
Golden Club Class Representative Committee

**Elmore Duncan '54** died Sept. 22.

**1955**  
Class Representative - **Phyllis (Grahm) Pejso**

**Beverly (Tranum) Knutzen '55** and **Richard Knutzen '55** attended the marvelous class of 1955 60th reunion at Homecoming 2015. Alumni came just for the reunion and from as far away as New York. They want to do it again in 2020.

**1956**  
Class Representatives- **Glnny (Grahm) Haugen** and **Clarene (Osteril) Johnson**

**1957**  
Class Representative - **Ed Larson**

**1958**  
Class Representative - **Don Cornell**

**John Kvamme '58** died Oct. 21.

**1959**  
Class Representative - **Camille (Emerson) Eliason**

**Roy Williams '59** died Sept. 2.

**1960**  
Golden Club Class Representative  
Committee

**James Freisheim Sr. '60** died Aug. 2.  
**Terence Helseth '60** died Aug. 24.

**1961**  
Class Representative - **Ron Lerch**

**Joan (Park) Kaplin '61** died Aug. 17.

**1962**  
Class Representatives - **Leo Eliason** and  
**John Hanson**

**William Brooks '62** died Aug. 15.

**1963**  
Class Representatives - **Merle and Joan (Maier) Overland**



**Gloria (Reinertson) Koll '63** announces the publication of her novel *Skipping Stones*, an immigration story. Gloria lives with her husband, **William Koll '63**, on Whidbey Island, Wash. [www.gloriakoll.com](http://www.gloriakoll.com)

**1964**  
Class Representatives - **Jon and Jean (Riggers) Malmn**

**1965**  
Class Representative - **Rhoda Pappajohn**

**Terry Brown '65** died July 9.  
**Lyla (Burtman) Saretske '65** died March 12.

**1966**  
Class Representative - vacant

**Dennis Hardtke '66** died Aug. 13.

**1967**  
Class Representative - **Craig Bjorklund**

**1968**  
Class Representatives - **Jim and Georgia (Stirn) Girvan**

**Philip Formo '68** this past summer visited the places in Norway important to the life of his grandfather, Andreas Helland. Formo's book, *Papa, A Life Remembered*, published by Amazon in 2013, tells the life of Andreas Helland, a clergyman, professor and an early supporter of the Lutheran Free Church.

**1969**  
Class Representatives - **Bill Ranta** and  
**Patsy (Davies) and David B. Johnson**

**1970**  
Class Representative - **Bill Allen**

**1971**  
Class Representative - **Paul D. Johnson**

**Richard Larson '71** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

**1972**  
Class Representative - **Molly Stuen**

**Patricia (Halvorson) Froshaug '72** died Sept. 19.

**Christie Kaaland '72**, accepted a position as associate editor of *Teacher Librarian: The Journal for School Library Professionals*, a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal. While assuming this editor position, Christie will also remain on full faculty at Antioch University Seattle. Christie also published *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recover in the School Library: Creating a Safe Haven* (ABC-CLIO, 2015), this year, a book for professional educators.

**Felix Massala '72** died Sept. 9.

**1973**  
Class Representative - **Karen (Wraalstad) Robbins**

**1974**  
Class Representative - **David E. Johnson**

**1975**  
Class Representative - vacant

**Roger Lipera '75** recently retired from the University at Albany Library where he was a training specialist for the past 14 years. He retains his web design and consulting business in Albany, N.Y.

**Paul W. Twedt '75** was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Washington State Music Teachers 2015 state conference. Since joining the Tacoma chapter in 1984, Paul has established and chaired the chapter's "Orchestral Recital Series" and the "Joy of Piano Trios Festival," both annual events of the past 20 years. Each spring he enters over 40 students in Tacoma chapter adjudications. Since 2003, he has also been on the consignment music faculty at Tacoma's Annie Wright School.

**1976**  
Class Representative - **Gary Powell**

**Edna Anne Dale-Whitten '76** died Oct. 7.

**1977**  
Class Representative - **Joan (Nelson) Mattich**

**Michael Bass '77** died Jan. 1, 2015.  
**James Dollarhide '77** died Sept. 4.



**Randall S. Fowler '77** celebrated his 60th birthday this year by retiring from Rocky Mountain Emergency Physicians, which he helped found almost 25 years ago. He commemorated the milestone by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania in September. He is excited for life's next adventures, which he shares with his wife of 34 years, Keri Lu. Randy feels blessed by God's love and mercy. He looks back at his time at PLU and is thankful for a terrific education and opportunity to get to know some awesome people over the years.

**Douglas Wilson '77** died Sept. 7.

**1978**  
Class Representative - **Pete Mattich**

**1979**  
Class Representative - vacant

**1980**  
Class Representative - **John Bley**

**1981**  
Class Representatives - **Dean and Susan (Lee) Phillips**



**Bob Michaels '81** has created The Tacoma Eldercare Channel ([www.ectacoma.com](http://www.ectacoma.com)), a video-guided web directory and online magazine dedicated to making

local senior care easier to understand and as transparent as possible for families who need it to be just that! Bob's work with Smith Alling, P.S. as an elder law and estate planning attorney inspired him to create The Tacoma Eldercare Channel. He credits PLU with instilling in him his sense of civic responsibility.

**1982**  
Class Representative - vacant

**Susan Caulkins '82** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

**1983**  
Class Representative - **Dave Olson**

**1984**  
Class Representative - **Mark Christofferson**

**Debra (Absher) Adams '84** died July 10.

**1985**  
Class Representatives - **Janet (Olden) Regge** and **Carolyn (Plocharsky) Stelling**

**Jonette (Lucky) Blakney '85** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

**1986**  
Class Representative - **David Carlson**

**1987**  
Class Representatives - **John Carr** and **Lisa Ottoson**

## 1988

Class Representative - **Brenda Ray Scott**

**Mark Miller '88** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

**Laurie Soine '88** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

## 1989

Class Representative - **Brendan Rorem**



**Mary (Walker) DeMuth '89** released her 30th traditionally published book entitled *The Day I Met Jesus* (Baker Publishing House 2015). Her next book releases

spring of 2016 and is entitled *Worth Living: How God's Wild Love for You Changes Everything*.

**Whitney (Minas) Keyes '89** was just appointed to the National Women's Business Council where she will help advise the president, Congress and the Small Business Administration on issues impacting women in business.

**Kurt Larson '89** died Sept. 18.

## 1990

Class Representative - **Erik Benson**

**Bonnie Kurlle '90** died July 9.



**Matt Wilde '90** was promoted from deputy general counsel to general counsel for Boise State University in October 2015. Matt and his wife, Amanda, a private firm attorney, have three children—a daughter, Avery (11), and twin sons, Maddox and Mitchell (6). They reside in Boise, Idaho.

## 1991

Class Representative - **Jim Morrell**

**Scott Rapp '91** is founder of Adventure Maps Co. This catalog of 20 waterproof, tear-resistant, full-color topographic maps, with more on the way, covers trails from Oregon and Washington to Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Lake Tahoe in California. Adventure Maps are unique in that a lot of the information is provided by insiders for both the maps and for the updates that come out every one to three years. The Adventure Maps Co. donates a portion of its sales back to the user groups to use for maintenance. (Henry Miller, Statesman Journal)

**Erick Swenson '91**, after nine years serving as sous chef and official beer geek for PLU's own dining and culinary services, has begun a new adventure teaching culinary arts at Foss High School in Tacoma, Wash.

## 1992

Class Representative - **Rebecca Benson**



**Brian Aust '92** has been a practicing immigration attorney for 15 years. He spent a week in July volunteering with the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project at the Southern Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas, working with women from Central America who were in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These women are seeking asylum and other relief under our immigration laws. A vast network of attorneys and human rights activists are trying to persuade the federal government to end family detention, but in the meantime, the women and children held there require legal representation and the CARA Pro Bono Project is helping in that way. The work

of the team was featured in Los Angeles Times articles. More information at [www.caraprobono.org](http://www.caraprobono.org)

## 1993

Class Representative - **Barbara (Murphy) Hesner**

## 1994

Class Representatives - **Catherine (Overland) Hauck** and **Dan Lysne**



**Marni (Johnson) Drechsel '94**, volleyball coach at Cedar Park Christian in Bothell, Wash., beat 1-in-10 odds of surviving a cardiac arrest, which occurred during a Sept.

24 match. Fewer than three weeks later, she was back coaching her third-ranked team and says she has a new perspective on life.

## 1995

Class Representative - **Janet (Huss) Nelson**

## 1996

Class Representatives - **Steve and Kimberly (Nadon) Leifsen**

**Barbara Lindblad '96** died July 19

## 1997

Class Representatives - **Andy and Stephanie (Merle) Tomlinson**

## 1998

Class Representative - **vacant**

**Debra Adix '98** died Sept. 1.



**Mike Safford Jr. '98** was named the NAIA-Sports Information Directors Association Ike Pearson Award winner for 2015. Safford, a student worker in the PLU sports

information office from 1995-98, is the 40th inductee into the NAIA SID "Hall of Fame" since its inception in 1977 and will be honored at the CoSIDA National Convention next June in Dallas. He is in his 15th year as SID at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho, and was recently named to the NAIA-SIDA Board of Directors.

## 1999

Class Representative - **David Potts**

**Kristin (Serkland) Anstett '99** and **Scott Anstett '00** have moved to China where Kristin is teaching at Shanghai American School and Scott is working on all things art related.

**Matt Iseri '99** recently joined the PLU Board of Regents.

## 2000

Class Representative - **Brian Vertrees**

## 2001

Class Representative - **Brianne (McQuail) Vertrees**



**Rosemary Reed '01** believes your major does not always determine what your profession will be. The skills acquired from the liberal arts education experience

do shape your perspective and ultimately influence your character. She hopes to bring more awareness to those Iron Lutes who continue to serve, are wounded warriors or paid the ultimate sacrifice. A lot has changed in the military over the past 15 years since she was commissioned. She did

not always get the support from others when she chose to serve, but she can tell you that men and women are making a difference, all over the world, and often it does not get noticed. So let the dialogue begin.

**Barbara Pixton '01** was honored in June as one of two Rangvald Kvelstad Teachers of the Year, which is based on nominations from the North Kitsap community. She is now the assistant principal at Orchard Heights Elementary School in Port Orchard, Wash.

**Julie (Johnson) White '01** accepted a full-time graphic design position working with the very talented in-house creative department at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates in June 2015.

## 2002

Class Representatives - **Nicholas Gorne** and **Brian Riehs**

**Everett Barr-Hertel '02** graduated from Portland State University with his master's in school counseling in June and was an early hire by Portland Public Schools, where he is loving his job counseling at Atkinson Elementary!

## 2003

Class Representative - **Elisabeth (Pynn) Himmelman**

## 2004

Class Representative - **Tammy Lynn Schaps**



**Nova (Schauss) Ferguson '04** married Dan Ferguson on July 25 in Tacoma, Wash. **Kjirsten (Kennedy) Eisentrout '07** and **Harmony (Haveman) Weinberg '05** were both

in the wedding party, with many more Lutes in attendance. Nova works in sales and client relations as a winery ambassador at Willamette Valley Vineyards, and Dan is the director of student activities and Greek life at Linfield College. They have made their home in McMinnville, Ore.

## 2005

Class Representative - **Micheal Steele**

**Tiffany Doorn '05**, former Miss Washington 2006, is still sharing her compassion and love with the world. Tiffany has traveled to South Africa, Haiti and other parts of the world to live with those in need. Her latest endeavor for God's Littlest Angels took her to an orphanage, where she delivered supplies to the children, lived with them for a month and tended to them one by one.

**Michael Doyle '05**, U.S. Military Academy graduate, psychiatrist and experienced hospital administrator joined Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on July 1 as vice president of medical affairs.

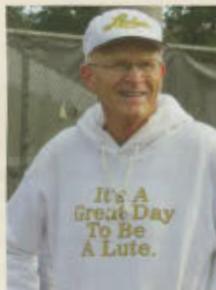
**Anthony Valadez '05**, real estate agent and chef, is the owner of Little Jerry's in Tacoma, a restaurant inspired by his favorite show, *Seinfeld*. A kitschy little hole-in-the-wall, Little Jerry's is one of Tacoma's hidden gems. Attracting visitors near and far, Anthony says the diner has been a popular destination for "Seinfeld"-fanatics and hungry restaurant-goers alike. (Margo Greenman, South Sound Talk)

## 2006

Class Representative - **Jenna (Steffenson) Serr**

# IN MEMORIAM

BY TYLER SCOTT '10



Hall of Fame tennis coach Mike Benson - the man who coined the phrase "It's a GREAT day to be a Lute!" - passed away Nov. 17. He was 68.

Benson coached the PLU men's tennis program for 30 years, winning at least a share of 24 Northwest Conference championships and appearing in 20 NAIA National Tournaments during that stretch. He compiled a 400-196 record, and he added 90 wins during six seasons as head coach of the Lute women's team. That on-court success, however, was secondary to the impact he had off the court.

"Mike was a guy who didn't coach the X's and O's as much as he coached the person, and that really at the

end of the day is what made him successful," said former women's tennis coach Rusty Carlson, who played for Benson in the 1980s. "You knew he cared about you. A lot of that translated into wins, but that's not because that's what he was after. He was after your character and your heart."

Benson was born March 12, 1947, in Miles City, Mont. He grew up in LaGrande, Ore., Yakima and Spokane. He came to PLU in 1965 as a men's tennis player and helped win the 1967 district doubles championship. Benson took over the program in 1970, and his team first won a conference title in 1972, which sparked a string of 14 titles in 15 seasons. The Lutes did not lose a conference match from 1974 through 1985, winning 60 consecutive matches. His team would repeat that feat by not losing a match between 1992 and 1998.

"He was always more excited about the success of other people than himself," said Craig Hamilton, fellow PLU Hall of Fame tennis player and coach. "He was very authentic. He was real. He loved to win, but he was a gracious winner and a gracious loser. And he was also a wonderful, Godly husband, father and grandfather."

Full obituaries online: [www.plu.edu/resolute](http://www.plu.edu/resolute)

**Matthew Larimore '06** died Oct. 14.



**Lindsay (Tozier) Storby '06** married **Seth Storby '07** on Sept. 12 at St. Andrew's House in Union, Wash. Lutes in the wedding party were **Ruthy (Eap) Green '06**, **Elizabeth (Hoffman) Pogreba '06**, **Julie Johnston '99**, **Meredith (Marsh) De Lira '06**, **Justin Diercks '09** and **Ian Tozier '12**.

## 2007

Class Representatives - **John McClimans** and **Kaarin Praxel Austin**



**Jessica (Solberg) Anderson '07** was chosen as the 2016 Montana Teacher of the Year by the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

Along with this award, she was chosen as one of five 2015 Montana state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, as well as a 2015 PBS Lead Digital Innovator (top 30 in the nation). She teaches earth science, chemistry and physics at Powell County High School in Deer Lodge, Mont.



**Kaarin Praxel Austin '07** and **Andrew Austin '06** were married on May 9 in Spokane, Wash. Lutes in the wedding party included **Kristin (Hollingbery) Rue '97**, **Jessica Holden '07**, **Tove Tupper '08**, **Rose (Stanek) Norbe '08** and **Tom Duncan '05**.

In addition to the wedding party, there were over 40 Lutes in attendance! Kaarin and Andrew reside in Tacoma, Wash.

**Anna Grimm '07** married Jeremiah Madden on Sept. 5 in Las Vegas. Lutes in the wedding party were **Jenny (Grimm) Alston '09**, **Kristi (Clough) Herriott '07** and **Beth (Zimmerman) Grolbert '07**.

## 2008

Class Representatives - **Christy Olsen Field** and **Courtney Stringer**

**Justin Gregson '08** was hired in July as a Federal Way Police Department lateral police officer with two years of law enforcement experience as a Washington state trooper. He earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Pacific Lutheran University and he has honorably served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 2003 through 2011.

**David Johnston '08** died Oct. 3.

**Kari Liebert '08** graduated summer 2015 from University of St. Thomas with a master of arts in music education.

## 2009

Class Representative - **Amy Spieker**



**Sandra (Freborg) Harron '09** and **Andrew Harron '08** were married in July in a ceremony outside of Gold Bar, Wash. **Tabitha (Hall) Plotke '08** was in the wedding party.

Sandra and Andrew currently live and work in the Philadelphia area.

**Erin Hollowell '09** was announced as executive director of Alaska's statewide organization, 49 Writers. In its fifth year, 49 Writers supports the artistic development of writers, fosters a statewide writing

community and builds an audience for literature throughout Alaska. (*JuneauEmpire.com*)



**Matt Palmquist '09** is an interpretive ranger at Silver Falls State Park tasked with leading school groups, families and visitors from around the world through

Oregon's largest state park - sometimes in multiple languages. Matt speaks German fluently and also studied Spanish and Norwegian at PLU. (Zach Urness, Statesman Journal)

## 2010

Class Representative - **Jillian Foss**

**Kaitlyn Morrell '10** married Aaron Willis at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Ore., on July 25. Lutes in the bridal party included bridesmaid **Adrienne (Fletcher) Shields '10** and officiant **Alexander Domine '12**. Lute musicians **Michael Clark '13** and **MacKenzie (Trail) Ross '10** performed. Kaitlyn and Aaron live in Tualatin, Ore., with their greyhound, Cedric. Kaitlyn is the manager of support services at Legacy Health and Aaron is a school psychologist with North Clackamas School District.



**Alex (Kaulen) Stillman '10** married Bryce Stillman on April 11 at First Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Wash. **Brittany (Reed) Menday '10**, **Eric Griebenow '11** and **Katie Ford '11** were in the wedding party.

## 2011

Class Representatives - **Caroline Olsen Smith**, **Adam Story** and **Lydney Tveit Burge**

**Maurice Eckstein '11** is communities and volunteer relations manager for Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C.

## 2012

Class Representatives - **Kelvin Adams** and **Caitlyn Jackson**

## 2013

Class Representatives - **Taylor Astel** and **Anna Milliren**



**Rebecca (Hines) Jorgensen '13** married **Lars Jorgensen '11** on Aug. 15 in Wenatchee, Wash. Lutes in the wedding party included man of honor **Jordan Beck '12**, groomsman **Mark Rud '12**, groomsman **Ryan Ecklund '10**, woman of honor **Elizabeth Steele '14**, bridesmaid **Annette Kasprzak '13**, bridesmaid **Renee Bedard '13**, bridesman **Joshua Parmenter '15** and bridesman **Kraig Partridge '14**.

## 2014

Class Representatives - **Katie Curtis**, **Tommy Flanagan** and **Anna McCracken**

**Christie Keifer '14** began a career at University of Washington Tacoma as a professional blogger.

**Brittne Lunniss '14** is wrapping up the final year of her master of arts in the applied sociology program at University of Massachusetts Boston. She has had the privilege of teaching sociology 101 while at UMass—a class that inspired her to become a sociology major while at PLU! While in Boston, she contributed



to federally funded research regarding youth gang violence in Greater Boston. She was able to work hands-on with local police departments as well as the Metro Mayor's Coalition. Brittne specializes in criminology and plans to enter a career in law enforcement.



**Sarah (Gumpert) Lynam '14** married **Robert Lynam '12** on Dec. 20, 2014, in Issaquah, Wash. **Brittany Petersen '14**, **Emily Walsh '14** and **Cameron Lamarche '12** were in the wedding party.



**Joy Murphy '14** is a student at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.



**Pamela (Barrington) Nutt '14** married **James Nutt** on Sept. 12 in Stevenson, Wash. **Brittany (Reed) Menday '10** was in the wedding party.

## 2015

Class Representatives - **Andrew Larsen** and **Nicole Jordan**

**Kelsey Johnson '15** took a new position as a quality assurance technician at Brown and Haley, the makers of Almond Roca. This position allows use of her biology degree, chemistry minor, as well as affords her the opportunity to learn how to make fine chocolate and candy confections! It is a sweet look at food safety using science!

## FUTURE LUTES

### 1995



**Kenda-Ruth (Norris) Stumpf '95** and **Chuck Stumpf '94** announce the adoption of their three children. Blayze Thomas Stumpf has been in their care since August 2013

when he was 10 weeks; his adoption was finalized Nov. 22 on National Adoption Day. Bio-siblings Jeremiah Joseph and Serenity Sue arrived 7 weeks after Blayze in October 2013 when Jeremiah was 10 days old and Serenity was 16 months; their adoption was finalized on May 29.

### 1996

**Eddie Espinosa '96**, his wife, Ann, and 2-year-old son, Evan, welcomed Anderson Espinosa into the world on Sept. 27. Eddie's position with the American Alpine Club also expands from managing club activities and supporting volunteers in the Northwest to include the rest of the Western states. The American Alpine Club is a national non-profit that supports all climbers through advocacy, member benefits and events.

### 2000



**Forrest Griek '00** and **Jennie (Bow) Griek '02** welcomed the birth of son Anders Max Griek on April 27, 2014.

### 2001



**Todd Schoen '01** and Tami Schoen welcomed the birth of their daughter, Anne Sjuree Olive Schoen, on Feb. 14, 2015. She was 6 pounds, 5 ounces and 20 inches long. She was delivered by cesarean section at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center in Seattle. Todd has been working at Russell Investments for the past five years. Tami is a dental hygienist in the Medical Dental Building. They reside in North Seattle.

### 2002



**Melissa (Wollan) Francis '02** and her husband, Tyler Francis, are proud to announce the birth of William John Francis, who joined big sister Lily on May 20. They currently live in Newport News, Va., where Melissa is completing her eighth year in the U.S. Air Force medical corps as an OB/GYN physician.

### 2003



**Laura (Hunter) Rose '03, '11** and **Jon Rose '04** welcomed daughter Eleanor Emma Rose on Oct. 28. Eleanor joins big sister, Clara.

### 2005



**Molly (Marten) Hill '05** and her husband, Dustin Hill, welcomed daughter Pepper Ann Hill on April 14. In August, Molly was named one of Business Examiner's "40 Under Forty" for 2015, for her work with Summit Financial Group.

### 2006



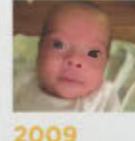
**Adrienne (Yoder) Brenner '06** and her husband, Jonathan Brenner, welcomed their daughter, Nora Yoder Brenner, into the world on June 17. Nora joins her big brother, Wesley.

### 2007



**Tiffanie (Clark) Davis '07** and her husband, Keith Davis, welcomed son Sawyer Fox Davis, on Aug. 8.

### 2008



**Jillian (Russell) Hulings '08** and **Nathan Hulings '09** welcomed son Theodore Alan Hulings on May 22.

### 2009



**Missy (Waldron) Byrne '09** and **Michael Byrne '09** welcomed the birth of their son, Aidan Michael Byrne, on Aug. 4.



**Julie (Paulson) Pero '09** and Troy Pero welcomed their second daughter, Kelsey Ann Pero, on July 4. She joins big sister, Claire Vivien Pero.

### 2011



**Alicia Coragiulo '11** and Christopher Adkins welcomed daughter Erin Lynn Coragiulo Adkins on May 23. □

you're a non-Spanish-speaking Latino/a, and a well-intentioned non-Latino/a classmate, with mad Spanish skills, wants to chat it up with you. You feel ashamed. Second, the dominant paradigm on the West Coast for Latino/a student organizations at the time was M.E.Ch.A. Not all of them, but at the time, many of these groups were very machista, homophobic and not open to non-Chicano/as and non-Spanish-speaking Latino/as. We struggled to be inclusive of a wide array of Latino/a identities, a model rejected by our own communities when we went to statewide conferences. Finally, the interests of the Spanish club model did not always align with the needs of Latino/a students in the group, who were dealing with racism or feelings of invisibility on campus, identity-development issues, and the larger political struggles of the era.

XOCHILT COCA '13: Some of the challenges we faced as an organization included learning the fine line between performing as a means to promote and celebrate the cultures of Latin@s and being tokenized for entertainment purposes. Although we enjoyed performing for the PLU community for various events we also experienced moments where we felt like we were being used as tokens to show how "diverse" the campus was to PLU families. That was emotionally painful. It made us feel like our performances wouldn't be taken for their cultural importance for us, but for how exciting or how fun it was to watch.

#### WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CLUB'S VICTORIES?

EMILY DAVIDSON '98: There were many small victories—awesome lectures and guest speakers, a huge Salsa party with a live orchestra, Spanish conversation tables—but I think our greatest victory was when we created an alliance with other clubs on campus: The Diversity Coalition. This was an early attempt at intersectional solidarity at a time when "multiculturalism" was not fully embracing our LGBT community. We got into many heated and necessary arguments. We were unapologetically in-your-face.

#### An alumna's simple kit continued from page 25

In addition Røskeland has given trainings in emergency obstetric methods and her organization has distributed medication in Liberia and Sierra Leone to assist women with postpartum bleeding.

Røskeland credited her "rigorous education" in Biology at PLU for preparing her well for graduate school and her career as a nurse practitioner. She also found a lasting bond to a family of Lutes.

"Yvonne was actually an advisee of my father, Professor Jerrold Lerum," who retired from his Biology position in 2013 after 40 years of teaching on the PLU campus, Kari Lerum '98 said in an email interview. "My dad loves to tell the story of Yvonne sitting in his office and seeing a photo of our family including my brother, and asking, 'Who is that?'"

"That" turned out to be Karl Lerum '98. The couple, who both competed on the Lute track team, married in 2003 and have an 8-year-old son, Lukas Røskeland Lerum. They settled in Seattle though frequently have traveled internationally.

Shari Dworkin, a World Birth Aid board member and Kari Lerum's partner, said Røskeland's energy and dedication are "remarkable."

"Through my research on HIV/AIDS prevention and care, I could see that what she was targeting was very unique," said Dworkin, who is a professor of medical sociology and associate dean for academic affairs in the University of California San Francisco School of Nursing. "She's really ambitious. Every time I see her,

I'll never forget our first Diversity Week when we hoisted gay pride flags all over campus! It was so cool.

XOCHILT COCA '13: Even with the challenges we faced to dismiss stereotypes and fight to be recognized as leaders on campus, we had great successes. By our senior year Latinos Unidos had grown to 20 strong members who not only felt like family but were also a team of extraordinary student leaders committed to issues of social justice and advocacy. We attended the May Day Pro-Immigration march in Seattle, made connections with off campus organizations, created the annual event Rumba to celebrate the many cultures of Latin@s, and were a well-known student organization.

GO ONLINE FOR MORE NARRATIVES FROM  
THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER CLUB AND  
THE FEMINIST STUDENT UNION.

#### HOW DID YOUR PLU EXPERIENCE SERVE TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR LIFE AHEAD?

EMILY DAVIDSON '98: At PLU, I started to discover who I was as a light-skinned, multiracial, sort-of-bilingual Latina. Tamara Williams' *Latino Experiences* course introduced me to Chicano/Latino/a literatures, igniting a fire inside me that continues to burn. In a tough-love conversation with Lisa Marcus, I remember her telling me that if we—the students—wanted to see more people of color in higher education, we would just have to become professors. Here I am.

XOCHILT COCA '13: I am extremely proud to say I was a part of Latinos Unidos. I formed lifetime bonds with friends I made within the organization and they have become a part of my family. The experiences and leadership skills I gained during my time at PLU prepared me to "bring it" in my life ahead.

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there is another large shipment of birth kits sitting on a ship. She's involved with everything – the logistics, from off a pier, and onto a pier."

While Røskeland has delivered babies in difficult conditions for more than a decade, face-to-face meetings with the mothers who need and use her kits are rare.

She recalled one such meeting while working along the Kenya-Somalia border outside the Dadaab Refugee camp.

"She had delivered her child alone, on the ground, inside of a dirt-floored hut," Røskeland said, adding that it was obvious that the new mother had used the kit successfully.

Dworkin said that in these areas of great strife, "women are harmed the most. Yvonne's idea was a simple, homemade solution that empowered a woman and her family in her own home to help a woman to give birth. A simple intervention in an area that is challenging to reach." □

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**VETERANS RETURNING TO COLLEGE** The end of WWII caused a boom in enrollment. The student body went from from 287 to 509 in the 1945-46 academic year, nearly half of Lutes had veteran status. Today, PLU is proud to partner with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to offer a number of full-tuition and Yellow Ribbon Scholarships to qualified veterans or their dependents.

Find out more: [www.plu.edu/military](http://www.plu.edu/military)