

October 2005 ASPLU Regents Report

Just prior to school starting, PLU student leaders of Residential Life, RHA, ASPLU, Sojourner Advocates, YLI Leadership Fellows, Diversity Advocates, Campus Ministry Interns, Orientation Coordinators and Wellness Team Leaders, went on a leadership retreat to Camp Arnold, marking the largest collaborative student leadership retreat of its kind that PLU has had. The synergy and energy witnessed at the retreat was unlike that which many of us had ever felt before, and it was truly outstanding.

Following the retreat and training, orientation kicked off with all the first-year students coming to campus, in pursuit of a PLU education. The first day of orientation went smoothly, which is generally a tell-tale sign of the remaining days of the event. It was, and the orientation program has received high marks from all the first-year students ASPLU leaders have spoken with.

In addition to the promising start of the school year, ASPLU has been gearing up for the days and months to come. With the renovations made to both The Cave and IMPACT, ASPLU has already witnessed more foot traffic in both areas than we've had in the last three years. The Cave, for instance, has not had a night with fewer than 50 students since it opened on September 2nd. A special thanks goes out to Vice President's Tonn and Majovski, as well as Facilities Management for making the health code renovations required by the Pierce County Health Department possible.

In addition to great success thus far with ASPLU auxiliary functions (Outdoor Recreation, The Cave, and IMPACT), we have started focusing much-needed energy on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. With the creation of the Hurricane Relief Task Force, a core group of student leaders from around campus, we've been fundraising money to be split equally and donated to the American Red Cross and ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. As of September 13, 2005, we've raised over \$3500, which we feel is great being that we first began fundraising on September 1. In addition, ASPLU is looking into future programs for the relief effort like clothing drives and organizing a non-academic service trip during J-term. Discussions will continue on all future programs surrounding the relief effort.

The ASPLU Senate has many new faces which is promising in many ways. They have so much energy, vision, and all came into the organization with an action-oriented personality...yes, they definitely walk the walk. One of our senators has played a huge role in making sure the international flags of all students and faculty visiting, here and abroad, were hung again in the University Center. Another senator is working on instituting a student-led bicycle safety program, orchestrating helmet-fittings and safety seminars for students, as well as providing information on cost-savings associated with bicycle commuting relative to driving a vehicle. These are just a few of the many examples of what the senate has been spending their time and resources on.

The school year has started off strong and successful for ASPLU, and there is no indication that we won't become even more successful as the year progresses. As long as we carry the voice of the students in all we do, assist in providing the vision that serves the greatest good to the students and the institution, and act in accordance with the desires of the student body, I am confident we are fulfilling our purpose as a student government.

Willie Painter
ASPLU President

Mark Oliver
ASPLU Vice President