

U

AFTER PLU

Eight recent graduates share how PLU prepared them for the careers they were meant to have. PAGE 8

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How a PLU student ended up meeting the President and First Lady. PAGE 16

PLU students share awesome photos of some of their favorite Northwest places. PAGE 20

ALSO: Current Lutes answer your questions, lead a tour of campus and explain the real value of a PLU degree.



Upcoming Dates

for first-year students

SAT Dates Dates
March 14, May 2, June 6

ACT Dates
April 18, June 13

Lute Life Days
March 6, March 20, March 30,
April 6, April 10, April 20

These personalized program days are a great opportunity for you to visit campus and experience what life is like as a PLU student.

Lute OverKnights

March 12-13
Lute OverKnight #1

April 12-13
Lute OverKnight #2

Admitted students are invited to stay overnight on campus, attend classes and experience the PLU community.

National Candidates Reply Date - May 1

All admitted students should notify PLU of their intention to enroll for Fall 2015 by this date.

www.plu.edu/bealute

Fall 2015 New Student Registration

June 17, 18, 19, 22 & 23

Summer Lute Life Days

July & August
Dates to be announced

For more information on these and other events, visit www.plu.edu/admission.



www.plu.edu/admission

Cover photo courtesy of Andrew Reyna.



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(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)



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GREETINGS FROM PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2015 edition of U magazine! After months of applications, test taking, waiting for letters and everything else that comes with applying to colleges, you finally have made it to spring.

Whether it is athletics, studying abroad, student leadership and involvement or student-faculty research, there are many reasons students just like you choose PLU. We are so excited that PLU is one of your top choices, and we hope this issue of U magazine gives you a glimpse into what life could be like in a few months.

Along with the fun things, this issue also provides some practical tools for you and your family. We know this is the time of year when you are receiving multiple financial aid awards, and it can be confusing to figure out how they all compare. Our "Do the Math" worksheet allows you to compare the costs of the schools to which you are applying. Whether you use the worksheet or call your Admission Counselor, you are not alone in the process of choosing the right investment for your education.

Most importantly: Visit our campus. You can sit in on class, take a tour, stay overnight and eat at our dining facilities (we promise; the food is *really* good!). Visiting us is the best way to experience the PLU community and see whether this is your future home. We make it simple and easy to set up your visit; just go to www.plu.edu/visit or give us a call.

We look forward to seeing you on campus and working with you throughout the year!

Hillary Powell *Joel Veloni*

HILLARY POWELL & JOEL VELONI, ADMISSION COUNSELORS

FAQs

ANNA SIEBER '16

Double Major:

Social Work & English

Minor:

Philosophy

Hometown:

Salem, OR

Interests/Involvement:

Volunteering at Keithley Middle School, Residence Hall Council, PLU Admission Ambassadors, interested and involved in mental-health care

Why did you choose PLU?

I made a pro/con list to decide between PLU and another small private college. In the end, I decided on PLU because it offered me double the money, was more affordable and had more job opportunities because of its proximity to businesses in Tacoma and Seattle. On the first day of Orientation, I walked onto campus and felt so at home—so welcomed—that I knew I could not go anywhere else. That feeling—and the excellence of all of the programs—has made me happy with my decision to attend PLU.

What is it like living on campus?

Living on campus means that you get an automatic friend group: your roommate, your wing and your whole hall. When you are on campus, you get to stay up way past your bedtime, watching "Mean Girls," laughing with your new best friends and attempting to study by having a textbook in your lap. College is also where you get to experience a lot of new perspectives. You get to hear a lot of stories and learn a lot about people and the human condition.

Favorite class?

This is such a hard one to answer, because I have loved so many of my classes, especially in the English department. The one that really stands out was my Global Religion class with Dr. Finitis—Sex & The Bible. It sounds super-scintillating, but it's really about the presentation of gender and sexuality in the Old Testament. Coming from a nonreligious background, the class helped me confront a lot of the issues I've had with the way some organized religions treat gender, and it gave me a better understanding and foundation of language to have meaningful conversations on the topic. The professor and the course content made it exceptional.

What is there to do on the weekends?

Oh, plenty! My favorite thing is to do homework in coffee shops—like Northern Pacific Coffee Company, just down the street. But we're also right by the bus line, so you're just a quick ride from downtown Tacoma if you don't have a car. Going up to Seattle to explore is another favorite. There are also events just about every weekend on campus to keep you busy, too. **U**



(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)

NEWS DIRECT FROM CAMPUS

PLU's Premier Choral Ensemble Keeps Particularly Busy

BY SHUNYING WANG '15

It's an especially busy—and newsy—year for PLU's renowned Choir of the West, including the return of Dr. Richard Nance, Director of Choral Activities and conductor of the choir, who's back from a yearlong sabbatical.

Nance's sabbatical visits inspired more future collaborations for PLU's Music Department, and Nance plans to bring some U.S. premiere concerts to PLU in the near future.

Meanwhile, the Choir of the West has released its new album, *Look Down, Fair Moon*, featuring music the choir performed at the 2013 American Choral Directors Association National Conference and much more.

Also of note from the choir:

- At the 2014 Christmas Concerts, the Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra presented the world premiere of Northwest composer Robert Kyr's *Christmas Oratorio*.
- In May 2015, the Choir of the West will embark on an international tour to Stockholm, Copenhagen, Wittenberg (Germany), Prague and Linz (Austria).
- The Choir of the West has been invited to perform as the featured choir for the National Collegiate Choral Organization at its national conference in Portland, OR, in November 2015.
- And in March 2016, the choir will be part of the premiere of Sven-David Sandström's *St. Matthew Passion* at PLU.



(Photo: John Struzenberg '16)

Daffodil Royalty Blossoms at PLU

BY TAYLOR LUNKA '15

The queen and four princesses from the 2014 Pierce County Royal Daffodil Court are all new Lutes this year—which means almost a quarter of the 24-member court chose Pacific Lutheran University.

It also means at least one ready-made set of familiar faces as Queen Marissa Modeztowicz and Princesses KayLee Weist, Ji Larson, Nina Thach and Kaetlynn Brown adjust to their first year on campus.

And while they all have almost-matching sashes and tiaras, their reasons for choosing PLU are as individual as they are.

Larson settled on PLU after a trip to China, where she met an English-speaking alumna.

"Ever since then I had been dead-set on PLU," said Larson, who plans to major in Chinese Studies.

Weist, a Nursing major, said she wanted to be a Lute to "impact the community I'm currently serving in."

All five already have made a big impact as part of the Royal Daffodil Court, made up of high-school seniors from around Pierce County who develop public-speaking skills, self-confidence and poise through their interactions with the community. The court is part of the Daffodil Festival, which has been a Pierce County tradition for more than eight decades. The festival's mission is to better communities through leadership training and education opportunities, and its legendary parades travel through four communities each year.



(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)

The Power of Words—and Outdoor Exposure

PLU's powerful My Language, My Choice campaign ("Words can hurt. Understand your impact. Take responsibility."), which started with posters in the Diversity Center and ended up on giant billboards all around Puget Sound, is also taking the Internet by storm. Photos posted on Tumblr of the billboard subjects with their actual billboards have received more than 55,000 notes and reblogs so far.

(www.pacificlutheranuniversity.tumblr.com/).



125 DRIVE TO 125 RALLIES CAMPUS AS IT TALLIES WINS

BY SANDY DENEAU DUNHAM, U EDITOR



(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)

IN HONOR OF Pacific Lutheran University's 125th anniversary, PLU Athletics launched a Drive to 125 initiative in Fall 2014—an effort to reach 125 wins across all sports during the 2014-15 academic year.

"Buy-in has been great from all coaches and all teams," said PLU Associate Athletic Director Jen Thomas. "The athletes all know where we are (on the tally); they ask, 'Does this victory count?'"

All team victories—for all of PLU's 19 varsity athletic programs—count in a big way ... and very visibly. Three big Drive to 125 boards around campus are updated every Monday with the current win count. Limited-time-only commemorative Drive to 125 gear is available at the Garfield Book Company, and student-athletes spread the word by wearing specially designed and distinctive Drive to 125 shirts.

"I've heard other students asking the student-athletes what the shirt means, and the athletes explain it, so that's big," Thomas said.

"Drive to 125 upholds our division

message and our school message," said Amy Wooten '15, a member of PLU's women's volleyball team. "We've found it motivating, but it's also turned into kind of an inner-school competition. Division III is so competitive, and now at PLU we're a community all working toward the same goal."

The season hadn't even started yet for Jessica Hunter '16, who's on the rowing team, but she already was looking ahead to the Drive to 125 prize.

"It's a great motivation for our spring season," she said. "We see the numbers go up, and we're excited to contribute."

Just at the midpoint—of the academic year and of Drive to 125—Thomas said Lutes were ahead of pace, and she felt pretty good about reaching a campus-wide goal worthy of a 125th anniversary.

But not until everyone's had a chance to contribute.

"We will do a celebration," Thomas said. "As soon as we hit 125, when we will have had participation from all the teams." U



(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)

AFTER PLU

The PLU Experience is different than most college experiences: At PLU, everyone is deeply committed to helping you find your calling (we call that “vocation”) and to lead a life that really matters.

You’ll be prepared to excel by building excellent intellectual skills and by connecting with opportunities to realize your potential and find meaning and purpose in your work. In short, you’ll be way ahead of the pack once you graduate.

PLU students can choose from over 40 majors, which are split into academic divisions—Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, the School of Arts & Communication, the School of Business, the School of Education & Kinesiology, the School of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Programs.

We’d like you to meet some recent PLU graduates—one from each academic division—who share their success stories and how PLU helped them find their true vocation.

Explore all our majors at www.plu.edu/majors.

KELLY NAGAN, CLASS OF 2008

DEGREE: B.A. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
HOMETOWN: SEATTLE, WA

THESE DAYS:

Nagan teaches in the Clover Park School District in Lakewood, WA.

HOW DID STUDYING AT PLU HELP PREPARE YOU TO BE AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER?

The Education professors at PLU hold you to a very high standard. They are constantly pushing you and challenging you—they want you to be the real thinkers and innovators that students need. The professors make sure your Education degree prepares you for the many challenges you will have to juggle as a teacher—classroom management, planning, professional development, interventions, inquiry learning ... and the list goes on! I have always loved teaching and loved

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & KINESIOLOGY

kids, but PLU gave me the skills and the knowledge to become a great teacher and part of a professional community.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

The kids! The kids are the best part of my day—their excitement for learning, their amazement at newly acquired skills, their constant need to be challenged, the love they have for everything at this young age is absolutely magical! I think kindergarten is a special age—a year when they really figure out who they are and what they like and how to do things and what they will stand up for. They become an independent person in the world, and I love to be the one who supports them as they find out just how much they can do!

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I try to stay focused on the kids and what they need. There are many demands on teachers these days between evaluations, expectations from the district and state and testing—but the most important part is always going to be the kids. The kids become a part of you, and keeping them on track and pushing them to reach their best becomes your daily motivation.

www.plu.edu/education-kinesiology



SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

ANDREW REYNA, CLASS OF 2011

DEGREE: B.S. IN BIOLOGY
HOMETOWN: SALEM, OR

THESE DAYS:

Reyna is a medical student at Oregon Health & Sciences University School of Medicine in Portland.

WHAT SORT OF MEDICAL DOCTOR DO YOU PLAN TO BECOME, AND WHY?

I chose to go into family medicine because of the opportunity to care for anyone, regardless of age, for nearly any issue. As a family doctor, I can maximize my impact within the community and touch as many lives as possible. Ultimately, family medicine provides an opportunity for me to combine my passion for service and my talents in order to meet one of the world's greatest needs in primary medical care.

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT MEDICAL SCHOOL?

One particularly enjoyable piece of medical school is having the ability and time as a student to sit down with patients and learn about them beyond their diagnoses. It truly is a gift to work in an environment where there is the opportunity to meet so many diverse people, make connections and have the chance to make a positive impact on their life during times of hardship. Another enjoyable aspect of medical school is being surrounded by other equally passionate medical students always looking to engage the community in meaningful ways through various clubs, organizations or volunteer groups.

HOW DID STUDYING BIOLOGY AT PLU HELP PREPARE YOU FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Sitting among other medical students from Ivy League schools or "big-name" universities was at first a little intimidating, but I soon realized that my undergraduate education was in many ways superior to that of my peers. At PLU, not only were the courses intellectually challenging, but the courses were exclusively taught by faculty (instead of TAs), who were also easily accessible and approachable. The combination of a variety in course options, rigorous coursework and a supportive faculty strongly prepared me for immediate success in my medical education.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

The biggest factor motivating me is the desire to make a difference within my community. For me, that means providing primary healthcare for underserved patients who are in need of care and not currently able to access it for a variety of reasons. My ultimate goal is to positively impact the quality of life of my patients by working collaboratively with them to optimize their health.

www.plu.edu/nsci

(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)



DAN ROSALES, CLASS OF 2007

HOMETOWN:
ANACORTES, WA
DEGREE: BUSINESS
(MARKETING
CONCENTRATION)

THESE DAYS:

Rosales is a financial planner for Northwestern Mutual in Tacoma and vice president of the Business Network Alumni Association board, an eight-member group of business professionals that connects current students with PLU Business alumni through four annual core events.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

HOW DID YOUR MAJOR AT PLU HELP YOU SUCCEED AT YOUR CAREER?

What I like about the PLU byproduct is that a smaller university is really good at helping students build and develop relationships. If you're able to build relationships, you're going to go really far. And the PLU mission—community, integrity—is big in the business world.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR INCOMING PLU STUDENTS?

Get involved. "I just always liked being involved," said Rosales, who played offensive lineman on the Lutes football team. "PLU gave a lot to me. I'm from Anacortes and still local—after PLU, people tend to leave the South Sound—but I also work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters here, so I stay involved with that and with PLU."

www.plu.edu/busa

Marissa Meyer returned to PLU in February 2014 to celebrate the launch of "Cress," book three of the "Lunar Chronicles" series.

(Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)



MARISSA MEYER, CLASS OF 2004

MAJOR: B.A. IN CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLISHING
HOMETOWN: TACOMA, WA

THESE DAYS:

The New York Times bestselling novelist is the author of the Lunar Chronicles trilogy of widely acclaimed books, *Cinder*, *Scarlet* and *Cress*, which all have been optioned to become movies.

HOW DID YOUR MAJOR AT PLU HELP YOU SUCCEED AT YOUR CAREER?

My time at PLU, where I earned a Bachelor's in Creative Writing, provided me with two invaluable skills. First, the ability to take criticism on my writing without taking it personally, and to use that feedback to improve both the story and my abilities as a writer.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ASPIRING WRITERS?

Keep at it, and take time to develop your voice and learn story arc and structure. Be patient, give it time. Make sure you're writing the best thing you're capable of writing. Find trusted critics. And finally, believe in yourself, and your dreams.

www.plu.edu/humanities

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

**KATIE HUNT, CLASS OF 2011
TRANSFER STUDENT**

DEGREE: ANTHROPOLOGY/CLASSICAL STUDIES
HOMETOWN: ANCHORAGE, AK

THESE DAYS:

Hunt, who contracted and recovered from ovarian cancer at PLU, is a trailblazer in the emerging field of paleopathology, the study of disease, health, trauma and diet in human biology in ancient societies. She and three physical-anthropology friends created the Paleo-Oncology Research Organization, and Hunt also was selected as one of 21 worldwide TED2014 Fellows—which officially qualifies her as a “world-changing innovator.”

HOW DID YOUR MAJOR AT PLU HELP YOU SUCCEED AT YOUR CAREER?

“PLU has been so phenomenal through so much—beginnings, endings and hardships in between.” She also cites PLU’s unique culture of collaboration, in the classroom and out. “That’s another huge benefit I got from PLU. Learning how to learn is so important.”

WHAT’S YOUR BEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR INCOMING PLU STUDENTS?

Pay very close attention to what inspires you and gives you energy—not takes away your energy—and pursue an avenue related to that. You’ll always be on a path you’re happy about.

www.plu.edu/social-sciences

Katie Hunt '11 speaks to a global audience at the TED2014 conference in Vancouver, B.C. (Photo courtesy of TED2014)



SCHOOL OF ARTS & COMMUNICATION

MICAH HAVEN, CLASS OF 2009

DEGREE: B.A. IN MUSIC EDUCATION
HOMETOWN: EAST WENATCHEE, WA

THESE DAYS:

Haven is the director of bands at Meeker Middle School in Northeast Tacoma, where he teaches 260 students at the elementary and middle-school levels, along with a before-school jazz band. He was recently named a semifinalist for the 2015 Grammy Music Education Award, which recognizes someone who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrates a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.

HOW DID YOUR MAJOR AT PLU HELP SUCCEED AT YOUR CAREER?

My experience at PLU taught me to care for the successes of everyone around me. On any given day, (more than 200) young minds walk through my door, and my hope is they learn from the lessons I learned at PLU. ... My hope is to create a classroom that has so many of the good qualities that are deeply rooted in PLU.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I want my students to grow as people and think outside of themselves. I hope they take what they do in music to help our school, their community and the world.

www.plu.edu/soac



(Photo courtesy of Henry Tieu)

HENRY TIEU, CLASS OF 2014
 HOMETOWN: SOC TRANG, VIETNAM
 DEGREE: B.S. IN NURSING

THESE DAYS:
 Tieu works as a registered nurse in the St. Joseph Medical Center Cardiac ICU unit in Tacoma.

HOW DID STUDYING NURSING AT PLU HELP PREPARE YOU TO WORK IN AN ICU JUST A FEW MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION?

The PLU School of Nursing has taught me many great things about being a competent nurse. However, if I have to pick one, I would have to say “self-reflection.” I still remember that after each day of clinical, we sat down with our clinical instructor and talked about what we had learned, what we had done and what we wished we could have done differently. Self-reflection allows me to explore my strengths and weaknesses, thus challenging me and empowering me to become the best version of myself. Self-reflection has become a part of my nursing routines every day at work. In other words, the PLU School of Nursing has helped me become a competent nurse who values safe and quality care.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR WORK?

Nursing for me is not just a job; it's a career. I enjoy my career because I get to be with other people and do what I can to help when they are at the most vulnerable moments in their lives. I get to see my patients walk out of the hospital and go home with their families. I also get to see my patients share their last laugh or last tears with their loved ones. No matter what the outcomes are, I am honored to be a part of their struggles and triumphs. I look at nursing as an opportunity to grow as a person, to contribute to something or someone other than myself and to empower others to become the best version of themselves.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I'm motivated by the life lessons I've learned from my patients. Working in the ICU has allowed me to see that good health is a blessing and that anything can happen. I've learned to live in the moment and to never take anything for granted. Nursing has become a part of my life and now my identity.

www.plu.edu/nursing

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

ANNA MCCRACKEN, CLASS OF 2014
 DEGREE: GLOBAL STUDIES & ANTHROPOLOGY
 HOMETOWN: SPANAWAY, WA

THESE DAYS:
 McCracken, PLU's Spring 2014 student Commencement speaker, is serving a year-long placement at the Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland—one of only 12 volunteers selected worldwide, and the first from PLU. Formed in 1965 by the Rev. Dr. Ray Davey and his students, Corrymeela is a community focused on reconciliation, encounter, relationship-building and hope.

HOW DID YOUR MAJOR AT PLU HELP YOU SUCCEED AT YOUR CAREER?
 I learned at PLU to be comfortable feeling uncomfortable. You're not going to be successful if it's easy; you're constantly struggling. If you are doing your best and impacting the life of one person, you're not feeling comfortable and complacent.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR AN INCOMING PLU STUDENT?
 The people here are so invested in each other and in making a positive difference in the community. (Your experience won't) be only about getting a degree but about the entire experience—about all the things along the way and really finding purpose. It is a constant journey. **U**

Anna McCracken '14 speaks at PLU's Commencement in May.
 (Photo: John Froschauer/PLU)





HOW I MET THE OBAMAS

BY HELEN "NELLIE" MORAN '14

WHEN BARACK OBAMA was elected president, I was inspired by his commitment to engaging with the youth of our nation. As my interest in politics has grown throughout the succeeding six years, I am continually thankful for his energy and call for young people to be involved in politics. What I never expected, though, was that one day, I would have the opportunity to thank him in person.

As my interest in politics developed, I took every opportunity to gain experience in the field. From volunteering on campaigns and voter registration drives, to interning in the U.S. Senate, I began to build as many connections as possible within the realm of politics. My first summer spent interning in D.C., PLU's President, Dr. Krise, even connected me with Joyce Barr, the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Administration, who is an alumna of PLU. (Yes, that's one of the perks of attending a small school like PLU—the president will help you network).

The connections I made that summer led me to apply for an internship at the Democratic National Committee (DNC). When I was accepted into the internship program, I was excited about the potential experience I would gain but unsure of exactly what type of work I would be doing. Was I going to be shredding paper, drudging through Excel spreadsheets and making daily coffee runs? I sincerely hoped not. I had no idea I was about to begin one of the most incredible summers of my life.

During the second week of my internship, I was taken under the wing of an experienced staff member who took it upon herself to make sure I had a valuable experience at the DNC. I began to learn the ins and outs of political fundraising and was asked to assist staff with various events throughout the summer. The first luncheon I assisted with had a particularly special guest: First Lady Michelle Obama. When a staff member unexpectedly pulled me aside and told me I was going to be able to meet her, my heart dropped. What was I going to say? Minutes later, before I could gather my thoughts, I found myself enveloped in the toned arms of the First Lady. I assure you, it was the most memorable hug of my life.

About a week later, I became part of a small team tasked with organizing a reception with President Obama in Seattle. From corresponding with sup-



porters of the party, to organizing event security with the U.S. Secret Service, my internship proved to be an extremely hands-on experience. I ended up being fortunate enough to work the reception, and my supervisor notified me in advance that I would be able to meet the president. Thankfully, this time I was able to plan out what I wanted to say. Barack Obama had been a role model of mine for years, and after my introduction, I said, "Mr. President, I have to tell you, you're really the reason I'm interested in politics, and it's truly an honor to meet you," to which he smiled, laughed and said, "Well, that's great to hear! Thank you for all of your hard work at the DNC."

To this day, it seems surreal that I was able to meet two of my biggest role models within the span of six weeks, but doing so gave me the energy and excitement to continue pursuing my dreams of working in politics, and to inspire other young adults to be actively engaged participants in their government. **U**



Nellie Moran, Class of 2015, is an Economics major at PLU from Hamilton, Montana. Last fall, she was one of only 10 college students in the U.S. selected as part of the National Student Advisory Council and named one of "10 Campus Women to Watch Out For."



Taylor Whatley '15 works with PLU Music Professor Greg Youtz. (Photo: John Struzenberg '16)

Student Composition: From a Professor's Office to a Seattle Stage

BY VALERY JORGENSEN '15

SEATTLE'S RENOWNED Lake Union Civic Orchestra (LUCO) opened its 20th anniversary season with pieces by Mozart, de Falla, Respighi—and Whatley.

That's Taylor Whatley '15, a Music Composition major at Pacific Lutheran University. And his original composition, *Fanfare Giocoso*, premiered at Town Hall Seattle in October as the opening number of LUCO's first concert of 2014-15.

Whatley was one of three winners of LUCO's Fanfares competition, which was designed to provide outstanding young composers with an opportunity to create a piece for a full symphony orchestra and have it performed. (He also won \$500 and had his prize presented onstage at the concert.)

Whatley said his former Composition professor, Greg Youtz, advised him to enter the competition, which was open to college students throughout Washington.

At PLU, Whatley is principal bass in the University Symphony Orchestra and spends the bulk of his time practicing, writing and performing classical pieces. As a student of composition, he has participated in composers forums, represented the department in the National Association of Schools of Music concerts and has had works published in the student arts publication *Saxifrage*. After graduation, Whatley plans to pursue graduate studies in composition.

Clearly, music has profound meaning to Whatley.

"It represents all the things we experience and feel in life," Whatley said.

Whatley chose orchestra over band in middle school and started playing the double bass in sixth grade. Whatley said there was only one other double bass player in the orchestra when he started at PLU. Which is kind of why he chose it in the first place.

"As a kid, it was, 'This looks the most unique, so it is going to make me stand out,'" Whatley said.

Whatley also plays piano to accompany his compositions.

He began composing in high school but didn't take his first lesson until PLU.

"Before it was an impassioned hobby," Whatley said. "It was important coming here because I knew I could take lessons in the area I was most passionate about."

And now he credits his instructors—specifically Youtz and Clement Reid—with helping him grow into the composer he is today.

Youtz has encouraged Whatley since their first lesson.

"It was the first time I had lessons with him, and he said I was doing it well," Whatley said. "I never had anyone tell me my compositions were good before." **U**





PLU STUDENTS SHARE SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE PACIFIC NORTHWEST PLACES



MASON LAKE AND KENDALL KATWALK

MADELEINE BREKKE

Year: Senior

Hometown: Oslo, Norway

Major: Psychology



The best part of the Pacific Northwest is all the opportunities to explore the mountains and lakes in the area; these are from Outdoor Recreation hikes to Mason Lake (left) and Kendall Katwalk (above).

NORTHWEST IS BEST



SEATTLE CENTURYLINK FIELD

NELLIE MORAN

Year: Senior

Hometown: Hamilton, Montana

Major: Economics and French double major



I'd never been to a professional soccer game before coming to PLU. Now, each year, my friends and I try to make it to at least one game, because we have such a good time! The Seattle Sounders are a great team, and it's always fun to cheer them on with the sometimes-rowdy crowd! Plus, CenturyLink is home to the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks!

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

SAM VAN ROON

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: San Diego, CA

Major: Business or Communication



TACOMA WATERFRONT

ISABELLAH VON TRAPP

Year: Junior

Hometown: Salem, OR

Major: Geosciences

I really like that area near the waterfront because it's absolutely beautiful and in such close proximity to other cool things. Hello Cupcake, The Harmon and Indochine are a few of my nearby favorites. There is nothing better than grabbing a cupcake and taking a stroll across the Chihuly glass bridge while being able to enjoy the view of the waterfront on a nice, sunny day.



The recently renovated Tacoma Art Museum boasts multiple large galleries of all styles. Whether modern, abstract, sculpture or glass, the museum truly has something for everyone—even public workshops in which you can create your own art! A 10-minute bus ride from campus, the Art Museum is the perfect place to forget your own work and appreciate that of others.



LONG BEACH WASHINGTON

SHUNYING WANG

Year: Senior

Hometown: Hainan, China

Major: Communication/Journalism



The most relaxing activity of a beach vacation at Long Beach, WA, is horseback riding, accompanied by good friends and a sweet dog.



PINNACLE PEAK MOUNT RAINIER

RACHEL REAVES

Year: Junior

Hometown: Missoula, MT

Major: Communication



This is me climbing Pinnacle Peak in Mount Rainier National Forest. I really enjoy the great hikes surrounding Mount Rainier. When I need some time away from campus, Mount Rainier is not too far away. This hike up Pinnacle Peak was put on by the Outdoor Recreation club. It was a challenge, but the view was totally worth it!



NORTHWEST IS BEST

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN & LAKE SERENE

SHANNON DUFFY

Year: Sophomore
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Major: Business (Marketing)



Skiing at Crystal Mountain is just an hour and a half away and so worth the drive. I went up and taught my roommate from Texas how to ski, and we had such a blast! After the lifts closed, we played in the snow for at least another hour with snowball fights, building snowmen and making snow angels. A fabulous day in a winter wonderland.

This Outdoor Rec hike to Lake Serene was so gorgeous, which we were not expecting, since 7 miles down below was so foggy. But just as we arrived at the lake, the fog cleared and left us with the beautiful lake and a spectacular picnic location.



CAPITOL STATE FOREST NISQUALLY RIVER

EMILY STEELQUIST

Year: Junior
Hometown: Blaine, WA
Major: Biology



I was in the Natural History of Vertebrates biology course, which takes field trips every week to capture and catalog local species of vertebrates. The picture of me with a salamander, as well as the picture of the pond, was taken at Capitol State Forest, just west of Olympia. It's a Northwestern Salamander, which we captured along with many other species of salamanders and newts.

The other photo shows Dani Ignacio, left, and me in waders at the Nisqually River, when we caught and examined small species of sculpin, lamprey and salmon. Our trips to all of the different survey sites were, collectively, the best because we got the chance to see the unique collection of vertebrate life that also calls the Northwest home. So in addition to hiking around gorgeous parks and wildlife reserves, we were able to turn some rocks to discover a bunch of awesome Northwestern critters I ordinarily would have passed right by! U



DO THE MATH

WORKSHEET

Once you've made it to the final stages of the college search and most of the pieces have fallen into place, it's time to work through the financial aid process. Sometimes the financial aid forms, acronyms and deadlines can be confusing. To help you through this process, we've created this worksheet so you can compare financial aid offers and true out-of-pocket expenses for each college you're considering.

	CHOICE 1	CHOICE 2	CHOICE 3
SCHOOL NAME	Pacific Lutheran University		
TUITION & FEES	\$37,950		
ROOM & MEALS	\$10,330		
TOTAL	\$48,280		
MINUS TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	-	-	-
MINUS TOTAL LOANS	-	-	-
TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES			

COMPARE YOUR TOTAL OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Once you've calculated the actual costs, you may be surprised that a school you thought was out of financial reach is, in fact, **affordable**.

That is why you have to do the math.



PLU has an option that allows you to **split your out-of-pocket expenses** for the year into 10 **interest-free** monthly payments.

ADD UP THE COSTS FOR A FULL YEAR

Calculate your total tuition, fees, room and meal costs at each of the schools to which you have been admitted.

SUBTRACT ALL OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

These include scholarships and grants you've received from schools, federal and state grants, and outside scholarships.

DECIDE ON YOUR LOANS

Student loans can be useful tools to help you go to the college that fits you best. Now subtract your loan amounts from the total bill.

MANAGE YOUR COSTS

Once you've subtracted your scholarships, grants and loans from your total cost, you'll know your out-of-pocket costs for the year. You can decide to pay the bill each semester, or you may choose to make monthly payments throughout the year.

WHY PLU?

We've covered costs, affordability and math, but what about value? **Value is what you get for your money.** In the college setting, there are big differences among schools. What value do you get from a PLU education?

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

93%

93% of the class of 2013 was either employed or accepted into grad school **within 6 months of graduation.**

You are twice as likely to graduate in four years from PLU than from a state school.

GREAT FACULTY & SMALL CLASSES

All PLU classes are taught by professors. Over 80% of professors have a Ph.D. or the highest degree possible in their fields.



STUDENT FACULTY RESEARCH

Work in the lab or field with your professors on research or creative projects. (Most undergraduate students at other universities don't have those opportunities.)

A GLOBAL FOCUS

Nearly 50% of PLU students study away, compared to 3% nationally.



PLU was the first American university to have Study Away classes **on all seven continents** at the same time.

A PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION

Going to a Lutheran university means you are getting a world-class education. It also means you'll be challenged to think beyond "the job."

As a PLU student, you'll not only examine the world around you, but also your place in it.



Michael Cargill

Senior
Major: Biology & Chemistry
Hometown: Longview, WA

What was your experience with financial aid at PLU?

Being a first-generation college student, I was fully convinced that small colleges were not a financial option. My family and I had absolutely no idea how to navigate the finances of private colleges. But when I got my merit award upon acceptance, PLU quickly became a viable option. Student Services and the Financial Aid office have since been a consistent resource to me and my family. Dollar for dollar, I firmly believe I am getting more out of my money than I would had I defaulted to a state school.

What has been most valuable about your PLU education?

An academic community. When I talk about my academics at PLU, I never mean just the classroom. The PLU academic community is intricately woven into the campus. Thoughtful inquiry is a lifestyle, and I am challenged to learn inside the classroom as much as I am around campus. My identity as a student has been enhanced by campus events and discussions I have with my professors on a daily basis. I have been greatly mentored and challenged by my professors, who have shaped me into a lifelong learner.

Fall 2015

is coming right up, but no matter where you are in the PLU application process, it's not too late to become a Lute. PLU has rolling admission, so even if you haven't applied yet, there's still time. (And, if you have been accepted to PLU but have not yet made your enrollment deposit, we encourage you to do so.) As you consider your choice, remember that each year 3,300 students discover their own reasons PLU is the right place for them. All told, it's a question of value, and you, no doubt, will discover your own. Here, three current PLU students share their positive experiences with the financial value of PLU—and the kind that's harder to put a number on, but just as important.



Denae McGaha

Junior
Major: Communications
Hometown: Oak Harbor, WA

What was your experience with financial aid at PLU?

I was relieved at how easy it was. If you were eligible for a scholarship, or to apply for a scholarship, you were notified. In the end, PLU was a shoe-in. I received a Harstad Founder's Scholarship, and though I had another big scholarship from a state school, PLU ended up costing the same as a state school.

What has been most valuable about your PLU education?

Global education. I've always been globally minded, but because I've had a chance to study away (I spent a semester in London, and I'm going to apply to Study Away for a semester in Denmark next year) and to take classes with the international students at PLU, now I have friends and connections around the world. I've also realized that those things that may seem too big or difficult really aren't. For example, the Wang Center for Global Education on campus really helped me figure out my Study Away, and I'm learning another language.



Photo by Colby Kingele



Chloe Cook

Senior (Transfer)
Major: Business Marketing

What was your experience with financial aid at PLU?

I come from an average-income family, so I didn't expect to get a lot of financial aid, but I actually got enough from PLU to make it work and even live on campus my first year here. I got a Provost Transfer Scholarship, which brought the cost down a lot, and I also made the decision to take out some student loans. The loans at first were a scary thought, but it's a way to build credit, it's an important investment and it's been completely worth it. When I transferred here, I also knew I would be able to finish at PLU in two years, which meant I'd be done with college in four years, and that was really important to me.

What has been most valuable about your PLU education?

Professors, small class sizes and genuine connections. I love talking to my professors and know all of them personally. I've made connections with them and know I can go to them at any time with questions; this is probably the most important thing to me in my education. The connections extend beyond professors and classroom; through my student job and involvement, I've found lifelong friends who truly care. I really feel at home here. **U**



Stuen Residence Hall

MY NAME IS Audrey Deiss, and I am a sophomore at PLU. I'm originally from Portland, OR, and this year I'm a resident of Stuen Hall.

I decided to live in Stuen so I could be a part of the Social Action and Leadership (SAL) living and learning community. The SAL community is a wing in Stuen whose residents are committed to exploring social issues and working toward engagement as global citizens. Living in the SAL community has been a truly amazing experience. We had a retreat in the fall, when we created a mission statement, and we're working on a scene to submit for the Tunnel of Oppression, an all-campus interactive event around different social-justice issues. We also host SAL talks, which are discussions of social issues that are open to the



entire Stuen and PLU community.

I also served as the Social Justice Director for the Stuen Residence Hall Council (RHC) this fall, and absolutely loved it. It was so fun to be involved with planning events for my hall, and helping to raise awareness of social-justice issues hall-wide.

Stuen reopened this year after being closed last year for renovations, which makes living there even better. One of my personal favorite features is the heated bathroom floors, which make early morning showers so much more enjoyable. I also really like the card-access doors, because I can use my Lute card for everything and don't have to worry about losing a room key!

For our campus-wide event, Stuen's RHC put on a barbecue and open-mic event, "BBQ'en with Stuen." I performed with my roommate Mollie, and over 100 people from across campus came and played games, listened to performances and ate BBQ! It was so much fun and really showcased the enthusiasm of the Stuen community to the rest of PLU. I'm so proud to be a Stuen resident! U

Fun Stuff About Stuen

- It's the smallest residence hall on campus—and you know good things come in small packages!
- Stuen Hall just reopened after renovations that include:
 - Card access on new room doors—no more room keys!
 - New movable desks and chairs in each room.
 - Improved lighting and energy efficiency.
 - Fresh paint and new flooring throughout.



100 RESIDENTS

3 FLOORS

BAY WINDOWS



VISIT US

MEET YOUR TOUR GUIDES

QUENESSA LONG, CLASS OF 2018

Hometown: Lakewood, WA

Major: Anthropology and Political Science double major

Activities: I'm involved in Black Student Union and any events in the Diversity Center, and I'm manager for the softball team.

TONO SABLAN, CLASS OF 2018

Hometown: Tacoma, WA

Major: Sociology major and Non-Profit Leadership minor

Activities: I am a member of PLU's BSU (Black Student Union) and actively involved with the Emerging Leaders Scholar Series. I also currently serve on the City of Tacoma's Human Services Commission, and I am employed at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation as the Spark Grant Liaison.



Tono Sablan, left, and Quenessa Long.



DIVERSITY CENTER

The D Center is a cool place where we can go to kick it and relax but also have conversations about social-justice topics and issues. All are welcome at the D Center, and we invite you to come!



OLD MAIN MARKET

OMM is where we go to grab a quick pick-me-up in between classes to get us through the day. If you're feeling the midnight munchies, come to OMM for a sweet treat!

COME TO PLU!

Set up a visit: Go to www.plu.edu/visit, or call us at 1-800-274-6758. (Even if you aren't able to plan ahead, you still are welcome to drop by anytime!)

You'll also find online a list of preferred hotels, and directions to and from campus.

Photo Credits: Jorge Molinero, Tyler Dodles, Kieran Kim-Nurpu



TONO'S RESIDENCE HALL

It's been an open-door policy here at Tono's Ordal residence-hall room, the spot for friends and anyone who wants to wander in! Residence halls are the best way to get social with people you get to see every day.



STUEN FRONT DESK

You can find a front-desk worker at any of the residence halls here at PLU. You can expect to be greeted with a friendly hello every time you walk in!



THE PLU POOL

This is the PLU Pool, where we enjoy watching the swim teams compete! It is a great place to stay warm while enjoying the water.



ADMISSION OFFICE

This is where it all began. We would have been lost on our journey to PLU if it weren't for the hard-working and dedicated employees of the PLU Office of Admission. Our friendly Admission staff invites us to drop in any time to say hi!



KAREN HILLE PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

KHP is where we go to see some of PLU's amazing arts performances and lecture series. It's also a nice spot to enjoy Chapel time and feel at peace with yourself after a hard final.



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

PLU OFFICE OF ADMISSION, Tacoma, Washington, 98447-0003

Address change: If you do not wish to receive U, or wish to change your mailing address, please notify the PLU Office of Admission. You can reach us by phone at 800-274-6758, by fax at 253-536-5136 or by email at admission@plu.edu. PLU.UMG.0215

STUDY AWAY



Study Away—and Come Home a Winner!

More than 50 percent of PLU students Study Away as part of their college experience, earning PLU credit and using financial aid and scholarships while they explore the community and the world. And each year, the Wang Center for Global Education holds a photo contest with awesome prizes for returning students. This photo of El Calafate, Argentina, by Jessica Dexter, won second place in the Lutes Away category. Learn more about Study Away—and everything that goes with it—at plu.edu/studyaway. #lutesaway