

From the President

(An encouragement to all who teach)



Recruit and teach with a “fields are ripe” mentality, not a “fill the vacancy” mentality is Initiative 1.8 of the strategic plan “Equipped to Do God’s Will” adopted by the MLC Governing Board in early 2017.

Current unfilled demands, however, seem to shout a “fill the vacancy” mentality. That is no surprise. As of this writing, we have seen substantial unfilled requests for candidates the past three years running. Too few graduates limit mission congregation plants, mission growth opportunities in our schools, and work overseas.

The Great Commission remains a glorious both/and. We are called to share the gospel both at home and abroad. Even if the vacancy rate would subside and our American WELS churches would all be staffed with gospel servants, fields around the world would remain ripe for harvest.

Please pray for a heart captivated by the lost around us and around the world. Please pray and encourage and recruit another generation to say, “Here am I, send me.”

Enrollment Increase for 2017-18

Our official opening enrollment for 2017-2018 is 756 students on campus, an increase from last year’s opening number of 742. Areas of study break down as follows: education-559; preseminary-177; staff ministry-7; other-11. Enrollment of preseminary students improves slightly, with larger enrollments in the ranks for underclassmen.

We are grateful for continued recruitment efforts from all parents and pastors, as well as our area Lutheran high schools and prep schools. Please continue to urge gifted young men and women to consider serving in the public ministry.

New Faces on Campus

Martin Luther College welcomes many new faces to our campus this year. Some fill new positions, some are serving in our Early Childhood Learning Center, and some fill the positions of recently retired professors. We welcome these new faculty and staff members who were installed in our opening service on August 21.



(top – bottom, L-R): Prof. Galen Holzhueter (admissions counselor), Prof. Jonathan Laabs (professor of music), Prof. Tyson Zarnstorff (professor of math), Dr. Kari Muenta (professor of social sciences), Prof. Timothy Grundmeier (professor of history and assistant soccer coach), Paul Spaude (tutor assignment), Angela Scharf (director of women’s services), Catherine Biedenbender (early childhood lead teacher), Prof. Rachel Feld (director of academic computing), and Prof. Rachel Fredrich (professor of mathematics).

Graduate Studies/Continuing Ed Statistics

Here are some of the blessings we experienced in 2016-2017:

Total individuals served: 995
Summer seat-count enrollment: 752

Current graduate students: 125

MS - Education: Instruction-34, Leadership-26,
Special Ed-15, Ed Tech-22

MS - Educational Administration: Principal-14, ECE Director-9
Principal cohort-5

MLC’s graduate programs are designed for those who want to make a positive difference in their churches, schools, and communities.

Student Reflections

In 2011 Denise Ball traded in her spreadsheets and business suits for tennis shoes, crayons, and Bible story time. And MLC's Early Childhood Educator courses have made that transition a success.

Denise, a member at Calvary-Dallas, had leveraged her degree in computer science and business from Texas A&M Commerce into a corporate job in Dallas. After her department closed, God opened a different door: to a preschool classroom at Calvary.

Her divine call required her to get her CDA (Child Development Associate) credential. She jumped in immediately, taking one course per semester from MLC while she taught. "I couldn't believe the range of choices at MLC," she says.

"Every course has been meaningful. The topics are current, including nutrition, observing play, assessment, early literacy, and reaching out to diverse families.

"I've learned how to be flexible, how to communicate more effectively, how to be an intentional educator."



New Strategic Plan for 2017-2023

Equipped to Do God's Will: A Strategic Plan for Martin Luther College (2017-2023) recognizes God's amazing activity in our midst. The WELS College of Ministry keeps ears and hearts open to the needs of the visible church it serves, while remaining fixed on our clear purpose: to train even more gospel servants to seize the ever-growing opportunities to go and tell.

This strategic plan focuses on many partnerships in view of such opportunities. This plan also recognizes the need to support and strengthen our infrastructure, both physical space and human resources.

We move forward carefully, without ever jeopardizing our dedicated mission. View the strategic plan at mlc-wels.edu/strategic-plan



International Opportunities at MLC

Daylight International: MLC students and recent graduates are serving in a variety of capacities in Antigua, Peru, St. Lucia, Vietnam, and Southeast Asia, ranging from early childhood centers to colleges to language schools, but all their efforts are tied directly to their unique training as servants in ministry.

Immersion trips: This year's Spanish immersion was in Argentina.

Studying abroad: About 50 students participated in short-term and one-semester study-abroad experience in 2016-17. This year three students are studying in Germany first semester, and one student will study in Ireland second semester. In addition, some education majors will complete their Early Field Experience in classrooms in Antigua, Germany, or St. Lucia.

International students: We have 16 international students on campus this year; they represent Antigua, Canada, China, Pakistan, South Korea, and St. Lucia.

Professors teaching overseas: Over the 2017 summer months, six MLC professors served in international locations: Prof. Bases in Argentina, Prof. Danell in Germany, Prof. Lange in Ethiopia, Prof. Olson in India, Prof. Schwartz in Mexico, and Prof. Wiechman in Antigua.

During the 2017-18 school year, Pres. Zarling will teach a short course in China, and Profs. Dierson and Fenske will teach a short course in Jamaica.