

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE INFOCUS

FALL 2018



In This Issue...

To the Ends of the Earth

Best Online Christian College in the Nation!

A Strong Principal for Every School



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So That the World May Believe

By **Rev. Mark Zarling** WLS '80
President, Martin Luther College



What a difference a generation makes! Back in my college days, we lived *sans* ubiquitous cell phones with their "tweeting and texting." Computers occupied whole rooms. Now computers exponentially more powerful reside in small tablets.

Back in my college days, cafeteria food had one main entrée and zero seconds. Now our caf hosts a veritable smorgasbord of entrees, salads, drinks, desserts.

Back in my college days, few were the college students in our worker training system who traveled to foreign countries and experienced foreign cultures. But now! Within a generation a gracious Lord allows numerous opportunities for students to grasp the global reality of the Great Commission.

MLC's teach abroad program allows interested students to spend a year or longer in a foreign country, teaching and witnessing to the love of Christ. Our study abroad program allows students to take immersion trips and semester programs to earn college credits while honing their language and cultural competency skills. Furthermore, over the past five years, we've had students from 14 foreign countries attend MLC. They are living and breathing reminders of Christ's love for people *from every nation, tribe, people, and language*.

Again and again God opens our eyes to see the world abroad and the world in our backyard. Again and again our students are sandpapered for future service with an immediacy of the global urgency. What a difference a generation makes!

May this issue of *InFocus* provide a pause in your busy life to ponder how Jesus has made the Great Commission come into focus all around us. What a thrilling time in travel and technology to reach the world with the unconditional gospel of the living Savior!

In his high priestly prayer recorded in John 17, Christ pours out his heart to the Father, a heart opened to the world, for every human everywhere is a sinner who is the recipient of God's infinite love. He prayed: *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

On our covers: Fans enjoy another football victory at Homecoming 2018.

Correction: In our July 2018 issue, we misspelled the name of **Susan Koeppen** DMLC '58, Bay City, Michigan. Our apologies.

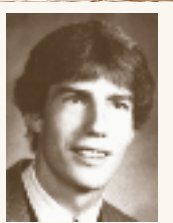
MLC *InFocus* is published by Martin Luther College Mission Advancement Office and is distributed free of charge to students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. Comments are welcomed and should be directed to gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu or Laurie Gauger, MLC *InFocus*, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073.

The mission of MLC is to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



All *InFocus* magazines are online at mlc-wels.edu/publications. If you'd like to receive your magazine electronically ONLY, please let us know. Contact Tami at boardtl@mlc-wels.edu.

The alumni photos at the bottom of the pages are from the anniversary classes of MLC, NWC, and DMLC: '39, '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, and '14. Thanks to Alumni Director Steve Balza DMLC '93, who provided this random selection of alumni.



Randy Loux
NWC 1984
Mazomanie WI



Judy Barckholtz
DMLC 1964
Saginaw MI



Douglas Tomhave
NWC 1994
Brookfield WI



Student Ambassadors Assist Admissions Office

MLC's Student Ambassadors may be some of the busiest kids on campus. They give tours, lend a hand at Focus on Ministry weekends, and assist in the Admissions Office however and whenever necessary.

Back Row: Alyssa Heckendorf (Immanuel-Greenville WI), Micah Biesterfeld (St. John-New Ulm MN), Mike Radue (Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI), TJ Babinec (St. Paul-Onalaska WI), Elliott Butler (St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI). **Front Row:** Allison Grunke (lead ambassador, St. John-Fairfax MN), Leah Plocher (St. Luke-Vassar MI), Halie Flores (Reformation-San Diego), Allison Boggs (tour coordinator, Hope-West Palm Beach FL).

ENROLLMENT

764 Undergraduates on campus

48% Female 52% Male

99% Traditional age students



MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Part-time and full-time students

EDUCATION

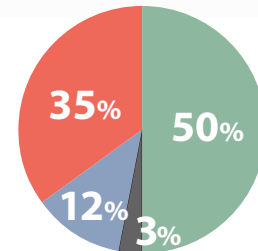
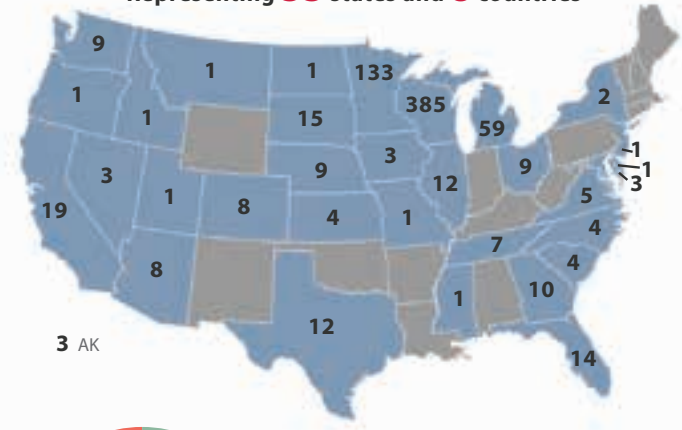
144 First-year
146 Sophomore
123 Junior
105 Senior
38 Fifth-year
8 Other

564 Total

PRESEMINARY

68 2021-22
39 2020-21
47 2019-20
46 2018-19
200 Total

Representing **33** states and **8** countries



Undergrad Students by High School

Area Lutheran High Schools 50%
Prep Schools 35%
Public 12%
Other 3%



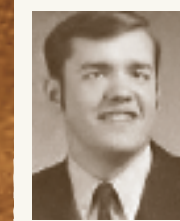
Katrina Buchholz
MLC 2014
Phoenix



Stephen Winterstein
NWC 1989
Monroe MI



Kathleen Gregory
DMLC 1964
Milwaukee



Allen Beyersdorf
NWC 1969
Brookfield WI

here on the

hill

Thank You, Congregational Partners!

The Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP) continues to make a big difference in the lives of our students.

For the 2018-2019 school year, 457 students from 235 congregations received grants from their congregations totaling \$375,430. MLC then matched these grants.

If you'd like to support your congregation members studying at MLC, please apply! Applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted until June 3, 2019.

If you do not have any MLC students in your congregation, you can still participate. You can be the match! Your gift will be used to match other congregations' gifts to MLC for their members.

For more info: mlc-wels.edu/go/cpgp



Emergency Teachers Sent Out

For the second year in a row, six seniors have put their studies on hiatus to fill emergency calls around the country. We thank them for their service, and we see this as a convincing indicator of the great need for more workers.

Crystal Carmichael (Bloomington-Bloomington MN) to St. Croix LA

Cassandra Doering (St. Paul-Lake Mills WI) to St. John-Montello WI

Lisa Lindemann (St. John-Lewiston MN) to King of Kings-Garden Grove CA

Jade St. Germaine (St. Mark-Watertown WI) to East Fork LHS

Lydia Thiesfeldt (Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI) to Apostles-San Jose

Justin Wintone (St. Paul-Onalaska WI) to St. John-Libertyville IL



Supporting the
Needs of our
Students Since 1960

STANDING PROJECTS

Auxiliary Scholarships	\$3,000
Daylight Outreach Opportunities	\$2,500
Student Travel Assistance	\$3,000
Window Treatments for Augustana (3rd year of 4-year commitment)	\$1,250

Visit us at
mlc-wels.edu/ladies-auxiliary
for more project details.

2018 – 2019 PROJECTS

1. Dinnerware for Events	\$1,650
2. Adult CPR Manikins with Feedback Device	\$556
3. Spanish Immersion Program Grant	\$2,000
4. Whiteboards and Shelving Carts	\$1,200
5. Stage Crew Intercom System	\$1,490
6. 4-Passenger Infant Stroller	\$550
7. Celebrating with New Teacher Graduates	\$2,000
8. Wenger Folder Cabinet for Chorale	\$1,275
9. Mud Kitchen	\$2,400
10. Mosaic Art	\$1,500
11. Swivl - C3 and Two Markers	\$1,029



Curt Seefeldt
NWC 1974
Hartford WI



Emily Hunt
MLC 2014
Cary NC



Benjamin Wells
MLC 2009
Plymouth NE



Gloria Lohmiller
DMLC 1974
Henry SD



26th Annual Golf Classic

Ninety-three golfers teed off at noon on June 11 to support Martin Luther College. The winning foursome on the New Ulm Country Club course (*pictured*) were Joey Schugel (formerly of New Ulm Park and Recreation), **Matt Pearson** '97 (MLC professor), Jeff Anderson (SouthPoint Credit Union, New Ulm), and Toby Freier (New Ulm Medical Center).

This community event raised \$31,685 for campus improvements and student scholarships, raising the 26-year total to \$838,134. Thank you to all our friends and supporters in New Ulm!



Find great gifts for the entire family at the MLC Bookstore!

Order online: mlc-wels.edu/bookstore

Order by phone: 507.354.8221 ext.214

Gift Certificates available in any amount!



MLC DAY

MAY 1, 2019

Promote and celebrate ministerial education by hosting an MLC Day in your congregation!

MLC Day is a day to . . .

PRAY for our mission and ministry

SHARE our story

GIVE to support ministerial training

Help us celebrate at MLC too!

Anytime between now and May 1:

- **Photograph** your school, class, or faculty creating an MLC greeting.
- **Videotape** an MLC shout-out, song, or skit.
- **Write** a prayer for our students and staff.
- **Share** all of these with us by email or Facebook!
- **Gather** an offering for your College of Ministry. Your gifts on MLC Day will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, directly supporting MLC students!
- **Find** more ideas at mlcday.com!

On MLC Day, May 1, we'll have a grand unveiling of all the schools' and congregations' prayers, posts, shout-outs, and songs!



David Parsons
MLC 2004
Montrose CO



Anne Schroeder
MLC 1999
Plymouth MI



David Brandt
MLC 2004
St. Louis



Jessica Kronebusch
MLC 2009
San Jose

here on the

hill

Call for Thalassa Submissions

Martin Luther College has now begun accepting submissions for the 13th annual *Thalassa Prize*. This \$1000 prize is awarded to the best photo-and-essay submission from an MLC student or graduate who has served in an international ministry.

PAST WINNERS: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: mlc-wels.edu/thalassa

DEADLINE: April 30, 2019

2018 WINNER: MICAH RICKE

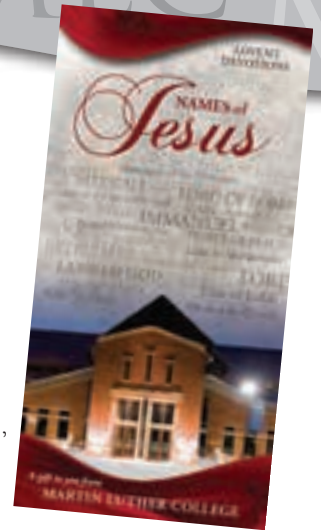
"Auntie Nancy" – Southeast Asia



Names of Jesus Our Newest Devotional for You

Names of Jesus is MLC's newest devotion book created for you. The 25 Advent devotions, one for every day December 1-25, explore the scriptural names of Jesus, reminding us of who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

The booklet will be available after November 15 for ordering and online viewing at mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions. You may also sign up for daily delivery of the devotions to your email inbox.



PEACE
Eternal Making

MLC Christmas Concert

Chapel of the Christ

Friday,
December 1, 7:30 pm

Saturday,
December 2, 4:00 pm

RECORD SUMMER 2018 ENROLLMENT: 875

We're thanking God for a record-setting summer semester enrollment: 875 seats were filled in 85 different courses on campus, online, and on location.

That number includes Spanish immersion students and students who took more than one course. Here, we'd like to highlight the grad studies and continuing ed numbers, which are a tribute to WELS teachers' dedication to their ministries and their Lord:

437 GSCE students enrolled online

328 GSCE students enrolled on location
(30 courses hosted by 20 cities in 10 states)

54 GSCE students enrolled on campus



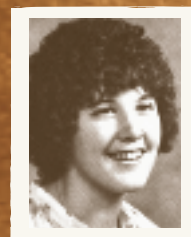
Barry
Fischer
DMLC 1989
Solana Beach CA



Debra
Schilling
DMLC 1984
Akaska SD



Kevin
Lemke
MLC 2004
Weyauwega WI



Barbara
Baumann
DMLC 1979
Grafton NE

College Choir Spring 2019 Tour



The Martin Luther College Choir recently concluded a weekend tour to South Dakota and Iowa. In March they will share God's Word in song in the Upper Midwest. Please plan to attend a concert near you.

Fri, Mar 1	1:45 pm	Kettle Moraine LHS
	7:00 pm	Crown of Life-Hubertus WI
Sat, Mar 2	7:00 pm	St. Paul-Green Bay WI
Sun, Mar 3	11:30 am	Salem-Escanaba MI
Mon, Mar 4	10:00 am	Michigan Lutheran Seminary
	7:00 pm	Divine Grace-Lake Orion MI
Tue, Mar 5	10:00 am	Huron Valley LHS
	7:00 pm	Beautiful Savior-Grove City OH
Wed, Mar 6	7:00 pm	Bethlehem-Carmel IN
Thu, Mar 7	1:00 pm	Michigan LHS
	7:00 pm	St. Paul-South Haven MI
Fri, Mar 8	10:00 am	Illinois LHS
	7:00 pm	Faith-Antioch IL
Sat, Mar 9	7:00 pm	St. John-Wauwatosa WI
Sun, Mar 10	9:15 am	St. Peter-Milwaukee
	11:00 am	
Thu, Mar 21	7:30 pm	St. John-Caledonia MN
Fri, Mar 22	12:45 pm	Northland LHS
	7:00 pm	St. Peter-Schofield WI
Sat, Mar 23	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd-Burnsville MN
Sun, Mar 24	10:00 am	Living Hope-Shakopee MN
	3:00 pm	Martin Luther College

Oh, the Places You'll Go!



We're fairly certain Dr. Seuss wasn't thinking of MLC students when he wrote his 1990 children's book, but with students like fifth-year senior **Zack Scharlemann** (St. Paul-New Ulm MN), the sentiment fits.

As a member of the College Choir and the Wind Symphony, Zack has gone on nine full tours and about a dozen weekend tours. He estimates he's traveled to 25 states plus Canada,

played or sang at 111 schools and congregations, and stayed overnight with 60 host families. The tours have put 25,000 miles on his voice and his percussion equipment.

It's been hard work and great fun—and amazing preparation for his future service as a musician and teacher at your congregation or school one day.



To Voucher or Not to Voucher?

Has your congregation wondered whether you should take advantage of "school choice" dollars?

In *Issues in Lutheran Education*, Principal Rendy Koeppel takes an incisive look at government-funded programs that give parents vouchers or tax credits for school tuition.

"It is a somewhat controversial concept in our Lutheran schools and congregations," Koeppel says. "Leaders have to decide whether they will participate. And why!"

Read about this and other significant Lutheran education topics in *Issues in Lutheran Education* at blogs.mlc-wels.edu.



Ronald Fuerstenau
DMLC 1959
Kenosha WI



Anna Martin
MLC 2004
Muskego WI



Kevin Loersch
DMLC 1984
Howards Grove WI



Ruth Genz
DMLC 1989
Jefferson WI



1



2

What's All the Buzz About?

By **Julia Schibbelhut '21** (St. Paul-Onalaska WI)

A buzz swept the hallways as mysterious boxes were hauled in from LITES (the Luther Interpretive Trail & Environmental Site). Inside each case, frames filled with honeycomb oozed golden honey. The Ecology class, taught by **Professor Greg Diersen '96**, spent their lab period processing the first harvest of MLC honey and marveling at the role of bees in Creation. The MLC grounds keeper Tim Rambow is also the MLC beekeeper. He set up the hives and assisted with the harvest.

"I never expected to have this experience," says **Emmalie Olsen** (Good Shepherd-West Bend WI). "Everyone got really into it. We had so much fun!"

- 1 First, students scraped off the waxy layer that capped the honey-filled cubbies. Pictured from left: **Sofia Spiegelberg** (Trinity-Castries St. Lucia), **Moriah Poehlman** (St. John-Maribel WI), **Emmalie Olsen**, **Noah Arnold** (St. Paul-Oconto Falls WI)
- 2 Next, students spun the frames to force honey out of the combs and collect it in a tub. Pictured: **Nathan Curtis** (Faith-Sharpsburg GA), **Luke Willems** (Bethany-Fort Atkinson WI)
- 3 Finally, students filled honey bear after honey bear with the freshest honey they'd ever tasted. In all, 144 bottles and several extra quart jars comprised this year's harvest. The honey was dispersed among MLC honey fans, and the wax was saved for another science project to come.



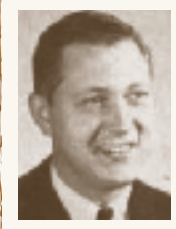
3



Mark Kutz
DMLC 1994
Fort Atkinson WI



Deborah Scheurell
DMLC 1974
Bellevue WA



David Lauber
NWC 1964
Franklin WI



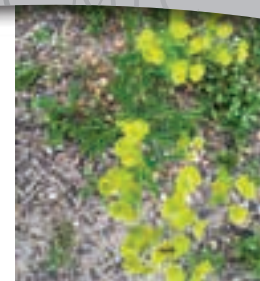
Corrinne Uhlenbrauck
MLC 2009
Fayetteville GA

Luther Interpretive Trail & Environmental Site

Established by a Faculty Initiative Grant requested by **Professor Steve Thiesfeldt** in 2006, Luther Interpretive Trail & Environmental Site (LITES) is a seven-acre plot adjacent to Flandrau State Park that has been patiently developed to serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental science students.

Ongoing improvement of the site includes removing invasive species, reestablishing native prairie flora, creating an interpretive trail with markers noting points of natural interest, building a pavilion/shelter with benches for classes, and beginning the collection of data: vegetation, animal life, soil conditions, temperature and moisture, and so on. MLC Grounds Supervisor Tim Rambow oversees all physical improvements to the property.

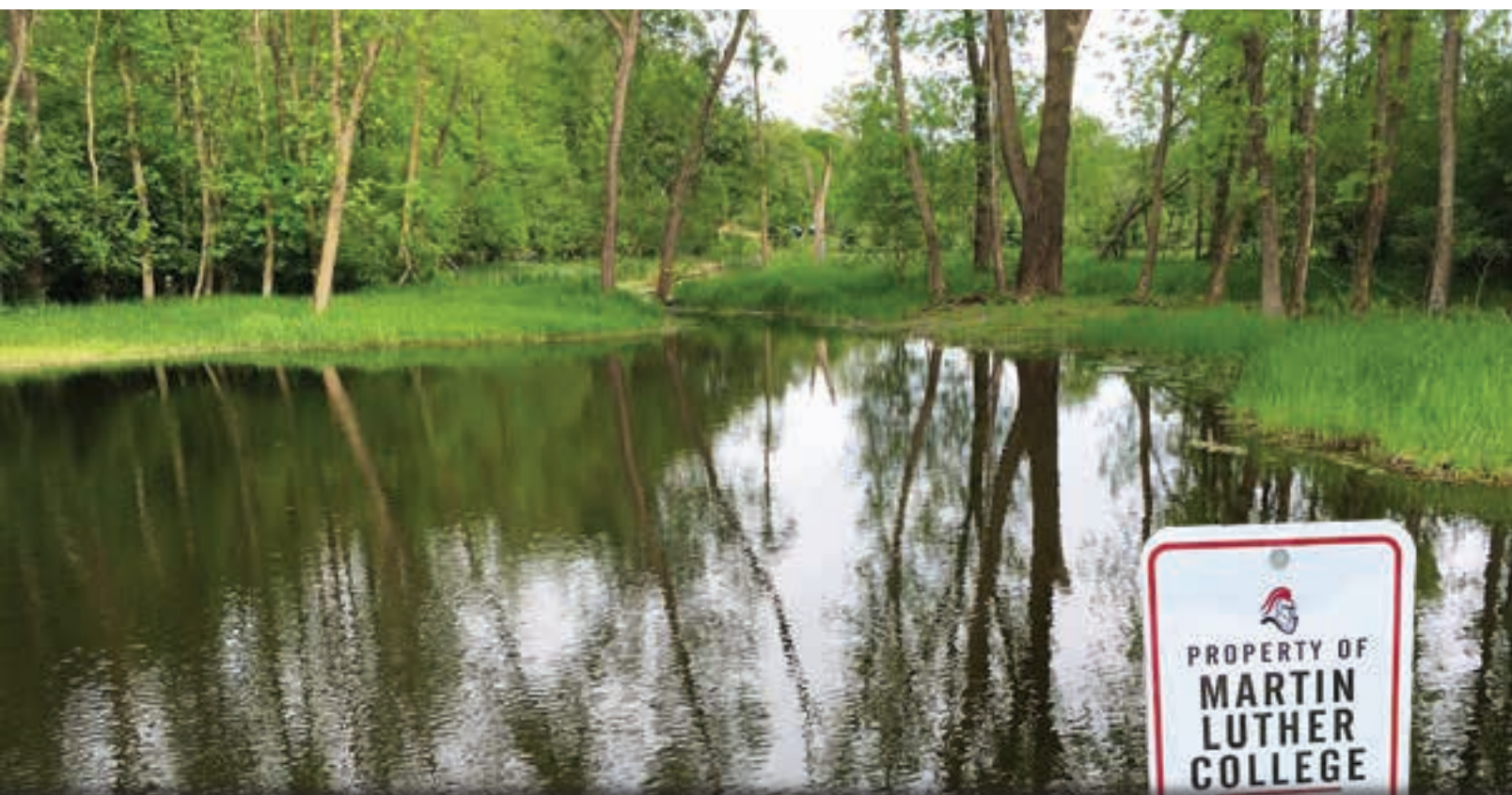
Professor Thiesfeldt envisions that every MLC student will visit LITES at least once during a required science course. Science



education majors might use the site in many different ways. Visitors from elementary and high schools could also participate in outdoor activities on the site.

“Ultimately,” he says, “the project will emphasize the wise stewardship of resources entrusted to us by our gracious God. Students will enhance their knowledge of the natural world and learn to appreciate the delicate balance required to sustain life on this planet.”

Professor Dan Fenske has already utilized LITES with his biology students to do tree, bird call, and animal-track identification. He also plans to do a study of the invertebrates in the pond. “And no,” he adds, “there have been no Bigfoot sightings so far.”



James Naumann
NWC 1969
Milwaukee



Christa Zanto
MLC 1999
Eden Prairie MN



Joel Hering
MLC 2014
Rowlett TX



Beverly Clemenson
DMLC 1969
Zumbrota MN

Focus On *Sports*

Football on a Roll

A lot can happen in two years. The MLC football program can attest to that. Two years after a winless 2016 season, the Knights sit in first place in the UMAC with a 5-1 record (4-0 in conference play) and several nationally recognized players.

Following a strong performance in a season-opening loss to Gustavus Adolphus (32-20), the Knights came from behind to win 28-24 at Rockford, thanks to a 68-yard touchdown strike from #4 **Zach Bloomquist** (WISCO / St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI, pictured) to **Josh Arndt** (St. Croix LA / Good Shepherd-Burnsville MN) with under one minute to play.

That win got the ball rolling for the Knights, who opened league play on September 22 with a dominating 63-28 win at Greenville. Bloomquist accounted for five touchdowns (three rushing, two passing) in the win, and was named to the D3football.com Team of the Week for his performance.

The following week, MLC proved it belonged with the best teams in the conference with a 49-21 win over St. Scholastica. The Knights trailed 21-7 in that game in the second quarter, but ripped off 42 unanswered points on the way to their first win over CSS since 2010. This time, it was defensive lineman **Dan Gensmer's** (Michigan Lutheran Seminary / Abiding Love-Cape Coral FL) turn in

the spotlight, as he became the first MLC defensive player in program history to be named to the D3football.com Team of the Week thanks to a three-sack effort.

MLC came out of that game with a target on its chest, and the team needed second-half comebacks the next two weeks to remain unbeaten in league play. The Knights overcame a 21-7 deficit in the fourth quarter at Iowa Wesleyan, with Arndt once again scoring the game-winner on a 74-yard toss from **Joshua Schroeder** (Luther Prep / St. Peter-Modesto CA) on a trick play. The following week, the Knights scored four touchdowns in the second half to secure a 28-12 Homecoming win over Westminster. That victory, the fifth straight, put this team in the books, tied for most consecutive wins in program history.

Through the season's first six weeks, the Knights set new single-game records for total yards (711 at Greenville), passing yards (405 at Greenville), and rushing yards (477 v. St. Scholastica). They lead the UMAC in points (36.0), total yards (461.2), and rushing yards (265.8) per game on offense, while also ranking first in rushing yards allowed (90.2) and interceptions (nine) on defense. Four different players—Arndt, Bloomquist, Gensmer, and **Austin DeNoyer** (Lakeside LHS / St. Paul-Lake Mills WI)—have earned UMAC Player of the Week honors as well.



Karl Brandle
NWC 1954
Saginaw MI



Sarah Zahrt
MLC 1999
Richardson TX



Amanda Traucht
MLC 2004
Rosemount MN



Reuben Kramer
DMLC 1954
Gibbon MN



Lindemann Named All-UMAC

Junior **Alison Lindemann** (*Luther Prep / St. John-Lewiston MN, pictured*) became the first player in MLC women's golf program history to earn All-UMAC honors this fall.

Lindemann earned the honor after taking seventh place at the UMAC Women's Golf Championships with a three-day score of 278 strokes. She started that tournament with a round of 98 in tough conditions, but came right back to tie for the lowest round-two score at the event (87) before closing the tournament with a 93 on the final day.

Lindemann recorded a strong fall season, finishing sixth in the conference with an average score of 92.9 strokes in 11 rounds of competition. She tied for first place at the UMAC Preview event on September 6, and also took home individual medalist honors at the UNW Invite on September 25 with a career-best round of 86.

Biedenbender Named Interim Coach



Women's basketball coach **Dan Gawrisch** '08 will miss the 2018-19 season as he starts work on his PhD in kinesiology at the University of Illinois. Assistant coach **Dave Biedenbender** DMLC '88 (*pictured*) will serve as interim coach.

Biedenbender served as head coach at Minnesota Valley LHS for 15 years, where he earned a 316-99 record, eight conference titles, and four Conference Coach of the Year honors. At MLC he worked with Gawrisch last year as assistant coach. He also serves MLC as an admissions counselor.

Soccer Stops Streak Against St. Scholastica

The men's soccer team stopped a 21-game losing streak (dating back to the 2006 season) against St. Scholastica with a 4-3 win on October 6.

The Knights opened the UMAC season 2-1-2 and needed a win to keep pace in the conference standings, but trailed the Saints 2-1 at the half.

In the second half, MLC got a pair of goals from outside defender **Dan Wessel** (*Minnesota Valley LHS / St. John-New Ulm MN*) and then scored the game-winner on a goal by **Joshua Thiesfeldt** (*Winnebago LA / Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*) in the 82nd minute off a pass from **Hugo Ugalde-Bemer** (*Luther Prep / Good Shepherd-Cedar Rapids IA*). The goal was the first of Thiesfeldt's collegiate career.

Joe Graumann (*Lakeside LHS / Bethany-Fort Atkinson WI*) recorded a pair of assists in the game to continue his torrid pace to open league play. Through the team's first six UMAC contests,

Graumann led the UMAC in points (20) and assists (six), and ranked second in goals (seven).

Sophomore **Joel Koelpin** (*Minnesota Valley LHS / St. John-New Ulm MN*) also had a hot start to the conference season with a pair of game-winning goals against Northwestern and North Central.



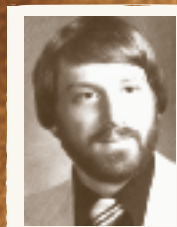
Deborah Kuske
DMLC 1979
Saginaw MI



Edmund Baer
DMLC 1949
Hoven SD



Jennifer Uhlhorn
MLC 2014
Colorado Springs



Mark Birkholz
NWC 1979
Saginaw MI

Focus On *Sports*



Competing at the D3 Level

Junior **Ryan Gurgel** (*Christ Alone-Thiensville WI*) could easily have run cross country at a D1 or D2 university, but this 20-year-old wants to be a pastor, so he chose MLC, a little D3 college in southern Minnesota. Still, being a D3 athlete has distinct advantages—for college and for life. We'll let Ryan explain:

D3 athletics at MLC, while still being very competitive, don't take over your life quite as much as they would in a bigger college. I'm involved in other activities beyond my sport, like College Choir, Forum [drama], and Student Senate.

Athletics at a small college are also very personal. If I have a good race, it's common to hear a professor congratulate me or a fellow student give me some encouragement. At MLC, we're all rooting for each other on a personal level—more so than at a bigger college.

Being in D3 sports at MLC also helps prepare students for ministry. You'll be in better physical shape, which will lead to countless health benefits like stress relief and the ability to work harder for longer. You'll learn to budget your time well. And you'll learn to strive for excellence in all areas of your life. I've personally found my academic performance to be better during sports seasons, because I want to perform well on the field and in the classroom for my fellow teammates.

Ryan's dedication to maxing out his potential—all for the glory of God—has earned him both First Team All-UMAC and All-Region honors.



UMAC Names Knights to All-Decade Team

The Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) is celebrating its 10th season as an NCAA Division III conference. As part of that celebration, the conference introduced its All-Decade Teams, filled with the best players from across the conference in each sport.

This fall, the following five MLC athletes received that honor in their respective sports:



Nathan Loersch '11
Cross Country



Joshua Hansen
Golf



**Rebecca Engelbrecht
Loersch '14**
Volleyball



Matt Rothe '11
Football



Chuqee Fletcher '12
Football

Winter and spring athletes will be named later this year, and *MLC InFocus* will present a larger feature on all the All-Decade Knights in the Summer Year-in-Review issue.

For weekly updates, subscribe to the *MLC SportsPage*, an e-newsletter sent out every Wednesday. You can also follow us on Twitter @mlcknights. And for up-to-the-minute news, check out mlcknights.com.



**David
Peter**
MLC 1999
Manitowoc WI



**Venita
Schrupp**
DMLC 1964
Gaylord MN



**Martin
Spriggs**
NWC 1984
Loomis CA



**Janet
Kindt**
DMLC 1984
Iron Mountain MI

A Summer of Serving Our Savior by Julia Schibbelhut '21 (St. Paul-Onalaska WI)



WI

CAMP PHILLIP: What's your idea of a perfect summer? For 22 students at MLC, there's no place they'd rather be than Camp Phillip—a summer camp in Wautoma, Wisconsin. These camp counselors don't just jam out with kids around the campfire, lead adventures on the ropes course, and perform nightly skits, they also share the gospel with the children in their care—up to 1,200 campers throughout the summer!

"It is such a huge blessing to work directly with kids and with people who are so inspiring and passionate about ministry," says **Kasandra Wagner** (Good Shepherd-Sioux Falls SD). Camp Phillip loves the MLC students in its crew, and MLC loves the real-life ministry experience that these students get at camp.

NY

NEW YORK CITY: Mykenna Schneider

(Faith-Fond du Lac WI, pictured) spent a week this summer at Sure Foundation-Queens NY teaching kids about color, creativity, and Christ.

Mykenna and fellow MLC students **Rachel Goddard** (St. Paul-Saginaw MI) and **Gabe Jacobsen** (Shepherd of the Lakes-Fairmont MN) taught Bible stories and led art activities connected to the stories. "At first, most of the kids wouldn't answer any questions during Bible time," she says, "but by the end of the week, they were raising their hands and sharing the Bible knowledge they had learned. It was so cool to see God's Word at work!"



UA

UKRAINE: "This summer, I had the opportunity to spread Jesus' love to people in Ukraine," says preseminary student **Caleb Christopher** (Faith-Sharpsburg GA, pictured, front left, with his new Ukrainian friends). "This trip was the experience of a lifetime. It changed my outlook on outreach and the power of God's Word." For over a month, Caleb assisted two churches—aiding them in worship services and VBS programs.

"I was able to convey Jesus' love to kids whose language I hardly spoke," Caleb says. "The experience gave me friendships that will last into eternity and taught me that God's love spans cultural and linguistic borders."



WI

ST. JOHN-MARIBEL WI: Moriah Poehlman (St. John-Maribel WI, pictured) and **Donovan Waege** (St. Paul-Tomah WI) got their hands dirty (and their faces too!) while teaching kiddos at St. John-Maribel's summer camp.

"I learned to treasure the kids and how much fun they are," says Moriah. "Seeing their unique personalities made me look forward to my first call and meeting my future students!"



Gary Greenfield
DMLC 1959
Ward SD



Deborah Struck
DMLC 1994
Round Lake Beach IL



Benjamin Birner
MLC 2014
Lusaka, Zambia



Edwin Schmelzer
NWC 1944
Riga MI



The 2017 Principal Cohort with mentors and CLS staff: (front) Lowell Holtz (mentor), Charles Galecki '15, Nathan Schultz '05, Brett Bengel '07, Justin Krause '09, '18, Kyle Seim '11; (back) Ben Washburn '97 (mentor), Tom Plitzuweit '97, '16 (CLS associate director), Dave Schroeder DMLC '93 (mentor), Jim Rademan DMLC '82 (CLS director), Philip Gustafson '09, '16.

A Strong Principal for Every School

The 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative

Goal: Every WELS school will have a strong principal—with the training and experience needed to manage today's complex educational environment, with adequate time for all duties, and with a compensation rate commensurate with the demands of the call.

Problem: WELS loses 25 principals a year, only six of those to retirement. Others go back to classroom teaching or leave the ministry altogether. Those who leave cite insufficient time, training, and compensation as the main reasons. Those same insufficiencies also hinder recruitment of new principals.

Proposed solution: The 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative was approved by the WELS 2017 Convention (resolution 14-2) to meet all these needs, thereby strengthening schools and increasing student learning.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87, MLC director of graduate studies and continuing education, explains: "The 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative is a plan to stop the attrition and give principals the tools they need to be successful. We want to recruit and fully prepare experienced teachers prior to calling them to principal positions—positions that will provide sufficient administrative time and compensation.

"This is a radical departure from the historical approach to Lutheran school leadership, where we called teachers with little training to the principalship. We even assigned new graduates to teacher-principal positions. With scant training and experience, these graduates, often the most promising teachers, burned out. From 2012-2016, for example, 30% of the 31 principal assignees left ministry completely."

The 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative addresses these concerns with three key components:

1. Only proven teachers with at least three years of experience will be recruited to the principalship.
2. These candidates will be fully trained before being called to a principal position.
3. These candidates can be called only by schools that provide at least the synod-adopted minimums for administrative time and compensation.

The training (#2 above) is a program developed jointly by the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools and Martin Luther College. It involves three years of leadership experiences and the completion of MLC's MS-Educational Administration. Annual cohorts of 15 people will be recruited. Two cohorts have already begun.

Scholarships: Because graduate studies tuition may be an impediment, we're seeking a quarter million dollars in scholarship funding to incentivize experienced teacher leaders to join the principal cohorts.

"The 21st Century Lutheran Principal Initiative creates a new WELS organizational paradigm for leadership recruitment and preparation," says Dr. Meyer. "We ask God to bless our efforts to prepare strong leaders for WELS schools, that we may even more effectively educate our children, nurture our families, and share the good news of life in Jesus Christ."

Interested? Contact Dr. John Meyer at meyerjd@mlc-wels.edu.



Best Online Christian College in the Nation!

SR Education Group just named Martin Luther College's Graduate Studies program the **2018 Best Online Christian College** in the nation!

Using affordability and academic rigor as its criteria, this group evaluated all 328 accredited Christian colleges in the United States that offer at least one fully online program. MLC offers three degrees comprised of eight programs:

- MS-Education (ed tech, special ed, instruction, leadership)
- MS-Educational Administration (principal, early childhood director)
- MA-Theological Studies

Other colleges notching in the top 25 are Hamline University (MN), Augustana University (SD), and Valparaiso University (IN). Check it out at mlc-wels.edu/go/best-online-christian-college.

We are grateful to all WELS congregations and individual donors who support MLC. Your gifts allow us to keep our tuition low and the quality of our professors and programs high.



Hosting Student Teachers— *A Ministry of Hospitality*

It was easy for Ginger Oestreich (*Morning Star-Jackson WI*) to list a dozen reasons why she and her husband, Mark, have hosted MLC student teachers.

"Being able to see what the Lord was doing with these kids and knowing some lucky classroom was going to receive one of them is probably the best reason," she says.

Over the last five years, Mark and Ginger (*pictured, center, with their family*) have hosted nine student teachers, eight women and one man. The college students stay in the bedrooms her older boys used to sleep in, and since she makes suppers every night anyway, the student teachers make an easy addition to the family.

"I like to discuss their day with them at night," she says. "We can sometimes answer questions or listen as they work out difficulties. The result is growing friendships that last a lifetime. We've been invited to weddings. We get pictures of babies. We even receive plain 'how are you doing?' notes. It's like we have a large extended family all over the US."

Professor Paul Tess DMLC '77, MLC director of clinical experiences, is deeply grateful to families like the Oestrichs who host student teachers. "Giving student teachers a comfortable place to stay helps them put forth the best effort in the classroom," he says.

About 100 MLC student teachers need housing every year, primarily near Wisconsin cities with an abundance of WELS schools—like Milwaukee, La Crosse, Watertown, and Appleton—but also near area Lutheran high schools in outlying districts. The teaching semester is 10 weeks, and MLC offers up to \$790 in reimbursement for room and board, although many families donate some or all of that money back to the college.

The only requirements are a private bedroom for sleeping and studying, bathroom access, internet access, a parking spot for their car, and simple meals. Some families are fairly involved in their student teachers' lives, and some are more hands-off, just offering a relaxing place to eat, study, and rest.

Hosting called workers and workers-in-training is a ministry of hospitality with a rich scriptural history. We all remember Lydia, the seller of purple, who said to the apostle Paul very simply, "Come into my house and stay." Professor Tess hopes that even more WELS families will participate in this tradition, joining families like the Oestrichs and saying to MLC student teachers: "Come into our house and stay."

Would you like to learn more about hosting a student teacher in your home? Contact your school principal or Professor Paul Tess at tesspa@mlc-wels.edu.

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Our Lord spoke these words before he ascended to heaven, and the church has been reaching for the ends of the earth ever since.

Historically, the WELS’ reach has been rather short. Our congregations took root mostly in the Midwest. Our first foreign mission was the Apache tribe—within the confines of our own country.

Then we began to reach farther—beyond our own coasts to Zambia and Japan. Today, those first 20th-century missionaries would be amazed at the number of countries we reach, as well as the number of called workers, laypeople, and even students who do the reaching.

God has moved through ‘net and jet—advancements in communication and transportation—to make the world smaller and his kingdom bigger.

MLC’s International Services Office is dedicated to this global reach. In the next few pages, we’ll explore three facets of this office’s ministry at MLC.

- **Teach Abroad:** MLC graduates have opportunity to live and grow in other countries while being engaged in mission work.
- **Study Abroad:** MLC recognizes the benefits of living and studying in another country and encourages students to do so.
- **International Students:** There’s a place at MLC for qualified international students who may want to study for ministry.

We’ll also take a look at faculty ministry abroad and then ask, “Where are they now?” of some former international students.

Note that these pages can’t contain the whole of our global reach, but they give you an idea. Pray for us. Partner with us. Let us walk and witness together . . . in New Ulm and Mequon, and in all the United States, and to the ends of the earth.

*Additional contributors to these pages include **Professor Thomas Hunter** DMLC ’75, director of international services; Megan Kassuelke, international student coordinator; Professor Paul Bases, Spanish instructor; and **Julia Schibbelhut** ’21, student editorial assistant.

Serving Abroad Right Now

About two dozen 2018 graduates are now teaching abroad for a year or more. Some were assigned to congregations, and some opted to teach in conjunction with a WELS mission abroad.

In the last 10 years, 145 graduates have opted for international service in 13 countries and have made their mark on the world—and on people’s hearts with the gospel.

They’ve come back enriched and renewed—with minds and hearts more open to all kinds of people and with spirits even more responsive to a world hungry for the Word.

HOME & WORLD MISSIONS

Santiago Botero (Bogotá, Colombia) to **Metro Los Angeles:** evangelist (one-year assignment)

Tassia-Channel Clement (Corinthe Estate, Gros Islet, St Lucia) to **Grace LS-Grand Anse, Grenada:** teacher mentor

Eric Dorn (Crete IL) to **St John LS-St John’s, Antigua & Barbuda:** gr 3 (one-year assignment)

Aimee Duncan (Mechanicville NY) to **St John LS-St John’s, Antigua & Barbuda:** gr 5 (reassigned second year)

Josiah Nommensen (Cudahy WI) to **Grace LS-Grand Anse, Grenada:** gr TBD (one-year assignment)

Elise Rosenbaum (St Joseph MI) to **St John LS-St John’s, Antigua & Barbuda:** gr 1 (one-year assignment)

The Gospel in VIETNAM

James Schlieper '16 taught English to three levels of children (age 4, 8, and 12) at an ILA English Center in Ho Chi Minh City for 15 months in 2017 and 2018. His teaching overseas was coordinated by Friends of Vietnam, a nonprofit started by members at Peace in Jesus in Boise, Idaho (friendsofvietnam.net).

Although teaching English provides a valuable service, James says his main goal was to share the gospel and assist Vietnamese students who wanted to attend a WELS high school. It was exciting work.

"It's such a blessing to not know exactly what the Lord has planned for me each day," he says, "but to know that he will present me with opportunities to spread the gospel. Last Easter I was able to teach my friend's daughter about Christ's death and resurrection. That was one of the best days of my life."



TEACHING ABROAD

Teaching with Love in LIMA

After two years at MLC, **Hannah Ruehrdanz** (*Jerusalem-Morton Grove IL, pictured*) and **Seth Weide** (*Christ-Big Bend WI*) couldn't wait to enter the public ministry, so they flew to Lima, Peru, to teach English. "Overcoming a language barrier opens a million doors to people you might never have been able to talk to otherwise. I had a million opportunities to share God's love with all my kiddos," says Hannah. "How awesome is that!?"

Seth and Hannah taught at Colegio B-group started by the Berrospid family. "It's just so obvious that God is working through them," says Hannah. "Please pray that the mission here in Peru grows more and more!"

"My time there changed my life," says Seth. "It was incredible experiencing another culture and language while living with a wonderful Christian family. I loved spending time with the kids learning English. They're filled with energy to learn."



This year, sophomore **Alex Dimke** (*Good Shepherd-Cedar Rapids IA*) is teaching in Peru.

INTERNATIONAL SITES CHOSEN BY GRADUATES

Sarah Couture
(Ottawa, Ontario)
to Dominican Republic

Madeline Helwig
(Mequon WI)
to Southeast Asia

Samuel Helwig
(Richfield WI)
to Southeast Asia

Sarah Kell
(Zumbrota MN)
to Southeast Asia

Caleb King
(Lomira WI)
to Chile

Caroline Madson
(Acworth GA)
to Dominican Republic

Erich Osterman
(Milwaukee)
to Southeast Asia

Zachary Satorius
(Annandale VA)
to Peru

Mikala Schmitz
(Fort Atkinson WI)
to Dominican Republic

Morgan Schnose
(Dearborn MI)
to Southeast Asia

Michael Schoenfeld
(Lake Mills WI)
to Southeast Asia

Sarah Schoenfeld
(Fort Atkinson WI)
to Southeast Asia

Laura Schoenherr
(New Ulm MN)
to Southeast Asia

Kylah Schroeder
(Modesto CA)
to Southeast Asia

Ethan Schultz
(Waukesha WI)
to Southeast Asia

Justin Steinke
(San Antonio TX)
to Southeast Asia

Jason Zweifel
(Lake Mills WI)
to Ecuador

TEACHING ABROAD

Chile

Jenny Proeber '07 says God has led her on this Spanish journey from day one. The Mexican family who worked on her family's farm introduced her to the language. Teachers and textbooks imparted the skills, and several study abroad experiences sharpened them. She taught English to Spanish speakers in the Dominican Republic for a year before she graduated from MLC, and then she taught Spanish to English speakers at Great Plains LHS for eight years after she graduated.

In 2015, she moved to Chile to teach English, and in 2017, she founded her own language school, Grace Educational Center, in Linares. She has about 30 students of all ages. People come to the center to learn a language that will make them more employable in Linares, an area with one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. But what they learn goes far beyond language.

"It's a place where people can come to learn English, but above all," she says, "a place where I can build connections in the community and share the powerful news of God's undeserved love for us."

She also started an "English Corner," free intermediate and advanced conversation classes at a local café on Wednesdays.

And she studies the Bible with friends and connects them with *Iglesia Luterana*, an ELS mission in Linares. Volunteers like **Caleb King** '18 (see article on page 19) help teach the English classes and read the Bible with new friends.

Chile is a predominantly Christian country, with most people knowing Jesus and identifying with either the Catholic or the Evangelical churches. "Not everyone, however, has had the chance to know what Jesus is truly all about: grace," Jenny says. "Hence, the name of my school, Grace Educational Center. The name itself is a chance to let people know about the beauty and power of God's undeserved love."

"Recently both Caleb and I were able to witness to a student as he struggles with a dear family member's last days of life. His grandma is a believer, while he struggles with organized religion. What a blessing to be able to reassure him that if she believes in Jesus as her Savior, then she is going to be dancing in heaven eternally—and without her oxygen machine!"

"And then there's Julio, a retired teacher who wanted to use his extra time to do something he always wanted: learn English. Julio was also caretaker for his very ill wife. A few months after starting English classes, his wife's health declined and she passed away. The next week he came to class with tears in his eyes and confusion in his heart. 'I'm both very sad and relieved. Is that ok?' During the next few classes, we were able to talk about his



Our Message to High School Students

Living and serving Jesus abroad is no longer some exotic adventure reserved for just a few. Opportunities abound for service and ministry overseas!

In addition to the international sites where our new graduates have begun service, God has opened the door to other countries as well. Some of these mission sites have been flourishing for decades. Some are just opening up! For example . . .

- WELS is providing training to leaders of the Hmong Fellowship Church in **Vietnam**, a church with 100,000 souls? In fact, the communist government has invited WELS to build a theological training facility in Hanoi.
- We just sent two missionaries to begin working in **Ecuador**? More than 60,000 Ecuadorian Facebook users follow *Academia Cristo*, learning about Jesus online.

TEACHING ABROAD

La Aventura Sudamericana

life, death, and of course Jesus' promises to us—and above all, *hope*. I could tell that Julio was lonely, so I told him I wanted to introduce him to my church family. He started coming rather regularly to church services and has shown interest in taking Bible classes. Praise God for all the blessings and grace he continues to show Julio!"

The Holy Spirit continues to work through the Word shared at Grace Educational Center. And Jenny isn't sure just what the future holds, but she's excited for it. "I've had so many plans in my life, and God always goes around changing them on me! I of course have lots of dreams of what I would like to accomplish through Grace Educational Center—like offering other languages or workshops—but I've learned to be content with enjoying the present and all the blessings God continues to pour out on his work here in Linares."



Immersion Experiences for MLC Students at Grace Educational Center:

In June and July, **Adrianna Sayles** (*Good Shepherd-Burton MI, pictured*), an MLC junior, studied Spanish with a Chilean teacher at Jenny's center and stayed with a Chilean host family.

Jenny hopes that Profe Paul Bases, MLC's Spanish professor, will encourage more MLC students to come to Chile to study and teach, learn and grow. She hopes that the experience will change their lives, as it has hers. "Spanish language learning and traveling abroad has made such an impact on my life. It has shaped me and guided me into the ministry God has given me today!"

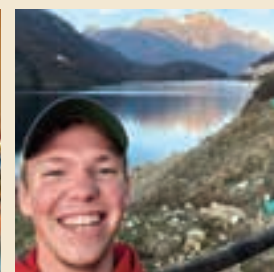
Caleb King '18 (*St. John-Lomira WI*) admits he started taking Spanish at Winnebago Lutheran Academy simply because his favorite soccer team was Real Madrid. As a preseminary student at MLC, he continued with Spanish to fulfill his nonbiblical language requirement.

Today he's a few months into *La Aventura Sudamericana*, his South American Adventure: a year in Linares, Chile, where he teaches English with Jenny Proeber at Grace Educational Center (*pictured below left*), assists with worship at *La Iglesia Luterana*, and reads the Bible with new friends and fellow Christians.

"I know this time away will be an amazing time for personal growth as a Spanish speaker, as an independent person, as someone with a severe case of wanderlust, and as a future minister of the gospel to God's people of every tribe and language," he says. "Already, one of my students has asked that I talk about the Bible and God with him in English! It's been an incredible blessing and opportunity to witness to him!"

Next fall Caleb will matriculate at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for his final four years of training before becoming a WELS pastor.

What a journey! From Lomira, Wisconsin, to Linares, Chile—and maybe someday to your congregation. Read Caleb's blog at laaventurasudamericana.wordpress.com.



- More than 1,000 children in **Pakistan** are learning about Jesus in 16 different Sunday schools?
- Gentle Shepherd Lutheran School in Guntur, **India**, educates 220 children?
- The 11 WELS missionaries in **Africa** serve 276 congregations?

- There are more! The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference consists of 32 confessional Lutheran church bodies all over the globe.

The world is calling! "Come over to Macedonia and help us! Come over to Brazil and Thailand and Malawi and Indonesia and other countries all over the globe and help us!"

Might you be the one to answer that call?



STUDY ABROAD

Martin Luther College's International Services Office and various professors help students coordinate long- and short-term study abroad trips that can change their lives and their future ministries. In the 2017-2018 school year, 73 students studied abroad, almost double the number of just two years earlier. Here are a few of their stories.

Ireland



Abby Enstad '21 (*St. Paul-New Ulm MN, pictured*) studied in Galway, Ireland, the spring semester of 2018. She remembers the bike ride along the coast of Galway Bay, the live street music, and the beef and stout pie.

"It was the best challenge I've ever given myself," she said. "I gained confidence in my ability to handle and even thrive in new situations.

And I learned that the gospel goes so far beyond the reaches of the WELS. I encourage every college student to study abroad and experience the world."

Find Abby's blog, and several others as well, at blogs.mlc-wels.edu.

Germany



"Studying abroad was easily one of the best decisions of my college years," said **Collin Wenzel '18**, who studied in Germany the spring of 2017. "Attending a university in Berlin gave me the opportunity to study the exciting history of 20th-century Europe from a professor who lived in it, to study classical music in a continent so rich in the arts, and to learn the German language by being immersed in it every day."

Now a first-year student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Collin says his European experience went far beyond historical and cultural education. "Putting yourself in a foreign city will give you the practice of connecting with people of different cultures and backgrounds every time you turn the corner. This invaluable ministry experience prepares you to take God's Word 'to every nation, tribe, language, and people' (Rev. 14:6)."

Italy



Eleven students stood in awe at the foot of the Colosseum, peered into the canals of Venice, and tried world-famous pizza and gelato. An MLC-organized trip brought the Knights to Florence, Venice, and Rome while earning them a college credit.

"I've taken Latin for years, so I've been hoping to travel here for a long time," says **Brea Biebert** (*Shepherd of the Hills-Inver Grove Heights MN, pictured*). "It was life-changing and so much better than I expected!"

Jamaica

Many MLC students join students from Bethany Lutheran College and Wisconsin Lutheran College on a Christmas flight to balmy Jamaica for a marine ecology course. This



every-other-year trip takes them to a lab in Discovery Bay, where they snorkel through coral reefs to study the octopus, barracuda, jellyfish, eel, and stingray.

"It was incredible seeing so many different creatures living in the same ecosystem," says **Madison Ott** (*Faith-Sussex WI, pictured*).

Spanish Language Immersion

Several students have completed Mandarin immersion studies in China in recent years, and a large number have signed a Spanish-only pledge and flown to South American countries like Argentina and Ecuador for five weeks of language classes and culture exploration. When they return, their Spanish skills are drastically improved, and they have a deeper appreciation for other cultures.



Nicole Wood '18 and **Josh Brands** (*Christ the King-Palm Coast FL*) learned how to tango in Buenos Aires (*pictured*).

"The music, architecture, food, language, and people brewed a culture that was beautiful and authentic," said Nicole. "My trip blessed me with friends, perspectives, experiences, and a growth in the Spanish language unlike any other."

"Being immersed added a whole new level to learning Spanish that I will never forget," said Josh.

Not Just for Undergrads

Last summer Barb Olsen (Senora Olsen to her Spanish students at Kettle Moraine LHS) studied in Buenos Aires with MLC immersion students. Barb's husband, Tim, came a couple weeks later to make this a 25th anniversary vacation (*Barb and Tim pictured in the Plaza de Mayo*).



Barb studied with the students and their instructor, Julian, in the mornings and then took city excursions in the afternoons. She stayed at an apartment with a gracious Argentinian couple, and—when Tim arrived—at a vintage hotel in the city.

Dancing the tango, visiting gaucho ranches, enjoying the pizza, traveling to Uruguay and the waterfalls of Iguazu National Park, and having weekly devotions—in Spanish, of course—made for a great trip. Barb said, "Celebrating our anniversary and enjoying Argentine culture together was beyond phenomenal!"

Emily (Hughes) Seeber '14 had taken an immersion trip after her sophomore year at MLC, but last summer she decided to go again—this time with her husband, Justin, and their one-year-old daughter, Isabelle (*pictured*).

Emily says Ecuador didn't have car seats and aisles of baby food like the US, but "what it did have was friendly, kind people." Izzy came to love their host family and the teachers at Vida Verde—and enjoyed all the sights and sounds of Ecuador.



After three weeks, it was back to Milwaukee where Emily teaches upper grade English at Salem LS, but she says, "Ecuador will always have a special place in our hearts," and they speak Spanish at home with Izzy every day.

Whether you're a Spanish teacher or just an interested learner, you can participate in the Spanish immersion trips. Contact Professor Paul Bases at basespa@mlc-wels.edu.

Watch for more stories about MLC's global reach, including study abroad and teaching abroad, in the Spring 2019 issue of *MLC InFocus*.



International Students

Twelve international students from five different countries are enrolled this year at MLC. We'd like you to meet one of them:



Jiacheng (Nicholas) Liu

Senior, Secondary Physics Ed & Secondary Math Ed

Jiacheng (Nicholas) Liu

(St. Martin-Watertown SD) is a native of Shanghai. He graduated from Great Plains LHS in 2015. How

did he know about GPLHS back in China?

"This is one of the most common questions I have been asked. I knew nothing about that school. I came here as a foreign exchange student, which meant that I could not pick where I went. I was a little scared because I knew it was a Lutheran school, and I knew nothing about God.

"At GPL, I had my first religion class and got my first Bible. God showed me my sin and my Savior, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit started my faith. I was baptized on March 10, 2014, and confirmed on May 25, 2014.

"Now here I am, a senior at Martin Luther College, training to be a called worker. As an international student, I think more about the outreach mission all around the world—for China, with 1.3 billion people, most not knowing their Savior."

International Graduates- Where Are They Now?



Cecilia Díaz '12

I was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, and my family belonged to the Lutheran church there.

I chose MLC after a group of MLC Spanish students visited Colombia in 2007 to get to know our church and school. I met some MLC professors as well, and they told me about the option to attend. I decided to take a leap of faith and do it. I graduated in the spring of 2012.

I'm currently teaching at Reformation Lutheran School in San Diego. I love it here! The city is beautiful, and by the grace of God, our school is growing a lot. I even went back to school to get my master's degree.

MLC gave me the knowledge and the confidence I needed to do my job well. It also fueled my relationship with Jesus.

I love to be able to bring Jesus into the lives of people from all over the world. I believe God is using not only my education but also my background as an international student to reach more people for his kingdom.



YoungKwang (Frank) Kim '16

I was born and raised in Suwon, South Korea, until I was 14. I was a Presbyterian until I met Pastor Young Ha Kim. After I met Pastor Kim, I became a Lutheran (ELS) and came to Great Plains LHS.

I had never heard of MLC until my junior year at GPLHS. I was always interested in becoming a teacher. However, I never expected to become a teacher at a Lutheran school in the United States. When I heard about MLC, I thought it would be a great school for me. I could be trained under God's words with my friends in Christ.

I am currently teaching at Huron Valley LHS in Westland, Michigan. I teach math, from Algebra 1 to Calculus, and I coach the junior varsity basketball team. I also coached baseball and soccer the last two years.

When I was in South Korea, I never expected to be teaching at HVL. I was a young boy who did not know anything. However, God has guided me with his words and people. God held my hands and trained me as a teacher—a teacher who teaches math but also God's words. God had planned everything.



Second-Generation Americans at MLC

The late 19th-century classrooms of our predecessor institutions, Northwestern College and Dr. Martin Luther College, were full of second- and third-generation Americans. These students' parents and grandparents had emigrated primarily from one country: Germany. More than a century later, many WELS schools are seeing an upswing in second-gen Americans again—not from Germany, but from Laos, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela—almost every corner of the globe. We'd like you to meet two of them: Buok and Sam, second-generation Americans who are excited to one day serve in the pastoral ministry.



Buok Chuol '21

Sophomore, Preseminary Studies

"I just really love people," says **Buok Chuol** (*Good Shepherd-Omaha NE*). "And there's a great need for darker-skinned people in the ministry, so I decided to come to MLC."

Buok was born in the USA, but his family emigrated here from South Sudan in 1997, eventually finding a home and a church in Omaha, Nebraska.

Buok's dad, Peter Bur, had been a pastor in South Sudan—leading a congregation within the Nuer tribe and staying true to God's Word. "When we came to the US, we were looking for a church that matched our faith," Buok says. "We came across the WELS, and we loved that it was Bible-based and that God was always first."

After some training, Pastor Peter Bur was ordained as a WELS pastor. Now he serves at the church that first welcomed them. Buok has seen how God has blessed his father's ministry at Good Shepherd, and that led him to pursue pastoral training too.



Sam Lor '18

First-year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

"I was born here, but my parents were born in Laos," says **Sam Lor '18**. "My father is Hmong, and my mother is Mien. After the Vietnam War, they fled Laos and grew up in a refugee camp in Thailand until they received passage to the United States."

My father is now a pastor serving in Kansas City, and three of my uncles are also WELS pastors."

Sam didn't attend MLC immediately. He began college at the University of Kansas, hoping to study medicine. After a semester, he realized that science was neither his strength nor his passion.

"A year later I enrolled at MLC. In response to God's forgiveness, I found I could do nothing but serve him through the new life he's given me through his death on the cross. I'm now at the seminary, and I hope to serve the Lord as a pastor wherever God may send me."



FACULTY AND STAFF TEACHING ABROAD

Professor Douglas Lange WLS '77 (physical education) taught “The Babylonian Exilic History of Judah” in June at the Maor Theological College and Seminary in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. During the evening, he taught the same course online to about 20 students of Ethiopian descent living 4,000 miles south, in Cape Town, South Africa. The Ethiopian church and seminary were received into fellowship with WELS at the 2017 synod convention.

Ethiopia



Professor Douglas Lange and his class at Maor Theological College and Seminary in Bishoftu, Ethiopia.



Professor Lange (left) preached during the Sunday morning service, and **Dr. Kebede Yigezu** (right) translated his words into Amharic. Dr. Yigezu is president of both the seminary and the church body.

Finland

Dr. Keith Wessel WLS '91 (Greek) traveled to Pörkenäs, Finland, in July on behalf of the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations. He met with leaders of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Finland (*Suomen Luterilainen Tunnustuskirkko*) and presented “Serving Widows, Serving Women” at the church’s annual retreat.



Dr. Keith Wessel and Pastor Juhani Viitala, head bishop of the confessional Lutheran church in Finland.

Southeast Asia

Director of Women’s Services **Angela Scharf** '99 accompanied three MLC students on a short-term teaching trip to Southeast Asia in May. The team led an English camp for adults.

“I learned an insane amount in a short period of time,” said **Luke Meihack** (*Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*). “The mission field is very ripe, and there’s no limit to how far we can spread the gospel.”



Luke Meihack, **Ms. Scharf**, **Elissa Koch** (*Beautiful Savior-Summerville SC*), and **Kaitlyn Solofra** (*CrossWalk-Laveen AZ*).



*one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism*

John R. Isch

New History Nears Publication



Watch for the publication of this engaging and historically significant account of Dr. Martin Luther College from 1984 to 1995. In *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*, Professor Emeritus John R. Isch, PhD, relates the fascinating history of the 11 “lost” years leading up to the amalgamation of Dr. Martin Luther College of New Ulm, Minnesota, and Northwestern College of Watertown, Wisconsin.

“Old Main Steeple” by Professor Emeritus Lance Hartzell.

Excerpt from the Preface:

When Morton Schroeder wrote the preface to his *A Time to Remember*, he began with Old Main. Old Main is a good start. It stands looking over the Minnesota River valley, two miles from the other side and 250 feet down to the river. When it was built in 1884, it didn't really have a name; it was the College. When other buildings went up, it briefly got the name Annex, but it was the Main. As it grew older, just like people, it got the name “Old Main,” which is what it is called today.

On a sunny morning Old Main has a glow about it that can be seen everywhere in New Ulm. Old Main was a landmark for Dr. Martin Luther College (DMLC), for the town, and for thousands of graduates and hundreds of instructors. Sometimes it is good to begin a history of a school with a building because, as Winston Churchill observed, “We shape our buildings, but afterwards, our buildings shape us.”

Old Main is still here, shaping us, but Dr. Martin Luther College no longer exists. The college ended at midnight, June 30, 1995. That was 11 years after Schroeder wrote his book and after the celebration of the centennial of Dr. Martin Luther College.

Those 11 years seemed lost. The Archives Committee of Martin Luther College, the new college, thought these years should be found. The current administration of Martin Luther College agreed that this lacuna should be filled. Thus, this book is an 11-year history, something quite rare in histories of institutions. It could be called the *Undecim* of Dr. Martin Luther College or Dr. Martin Luther College XI, but those titles would result in long, tedious academic explanations. The best title comes from the last president of Dr. Martin Luther College, Dr. John Lawrenz: *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*. You will have to read the book to understand the title.

The 11 years described herein are interesting of themselves in several dimensions. There was an “amalgamation,” a good word for metals and science things, but rarely applied to a human institution. Two colleges—their boards, their instructors, their students, and their support staff—worked very hard at closing their schools in an orderly manner. That focused effort by colleges is quite rare. Intelligent, thoughtful, compassionate, committed people disagreed on the reason and the means for amalgamation. That passionate discussion without rancor is also rare today. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod that owned, financed, and governed the two schools sincerely sought and was committed to solutions to a number of difficult issues of the two schools. That is rare also. Two colleges, which had noble, interesting, and instructive histories, carried their culture, their history, and their purpose into the school that came out of the amalgamation. That is rare. However, the rarest of all was that the amalgamation actually succeeded. God's grace and guidance brought that about, and the outcome was truly a miracle.

But this history stops at midnight, June 30, 1995, so you, the reader, cannot see how well that miracle worked. For that, you should visit the college, talk with students, talk with staff, talk with alumni, talk with faculty, and be sure to talk with Old Main.

Focus On Alumni

By Director of Alumni Relations Steve Balza DMLC '93



We welcomed the MLCAA Board for Homecoming and thanked them for their work!

Front Row: Kate Krieger '10, Debbie Dietrich DMLC '85, Sarah Zahrt '99, Karl Schauland '08, Jaymie De Frain '09, Kasandra Wagner '21, John Nolte DMLC '68. **Back Row:** Tonya Wolff DMLC '94, Dan Albrecht '10, Phil Hunter '11, Steve Balza DMLC '93, Jason Oakland '00, Adam Reinhard '03, Ben Priebe '03, Phil Waldschmidt '18, Abe Degner '05. **Not pictured:** Joel Russow '06, Nathan Zastrow '08, Kelly Diersen DMLC '95.



Statue & Scholarship Campaign

The *Fishers of Men* statue and scholarship campaign is a third of the way through its three-year term.

The intent is to present a gift to MLC in thanks to God for 25 years of blessings on our alma mater (1995-2020). The gift will consist of two parts: an endowed scholarship and a

symbolically significant statue of Jesus holding a net and inviting us to come, follow, and fish for people.

To date, over \$40,000 has been given by generous hearts. Watch for a mailed appeal coming soon, and please consider supporting this worthy anniversary project!

"Fisher of Men"® is the copyrighted and trademarked creation of Christian artist Max Greiner, Jr., of Kerrville TX © maxgreinerart.com

Promote MLC in Your Congregation!

Now, more than ever, we need our alumni to be ambassadors and recruiters for MLC and the public ministry—like Arizona Lutheran Academy staffers (pictured) **Jen (Wempner) Bode** '96 and **Becky (Schulz) Jaehnig** DMLC '78.

Please continue to pray for us, as we know you do, and also check out mlc-wels.edu/go/promote-mlc, where you'll see lots of ways for you to promote us and us to serve you!



Schedule an MLC Sunday



Request Musical Groups



Request a Speaker



Request Materials



Congregational Partner Grant Program



Adopt a Mission Project

Welcome, Class Reunions!

Five groups totaling more than 250 attendees came to campus to celebrate, reminisce, and reunite in the past few months.

Are you part of a class celebrating a milestone year in 2019? Looking to bring your team, cast, or friend group together on campus? We'd love to have you here on the hill. Contact the Alumni Office for assistance in facilitating your event.



MLA 1978



DMLHS 1953



MLA 1972



DMLHS 1956



DMLC 1968

Meet the Presidents

Dr. Martin Luther College President Lloyd Huebner (1980-1993)

President Lloyd Huebner (b. 1925) trained for the pastoral ministry in WELS ministerial schools, graduating in 1951. His early parish ministry in Akaska SD (1951-1954) and Wood Lake MN

(1955-1958) groomed his aptitude for friendly, spiritual encouragement. This led to a more demanding call to establish a new Christian high school, Lakeside Lutheran, for the rural areas about Lake Mills, Wisconsin (1958-1966).

In 1966 Huebner entered his college career as the DMLC dean of students. Accepting the presidency in 1980, he was already intimate with college leadership. But new circumstances quickly arose. DMLC reached its enrollment peak in Huebner's early years, and this very success brought a declining need for teacher graduates, which led inevitably to alarmingly small student enrollments.

Huebner answered this and the various other needs of the college with his many gifts. His natural bent for personal neatness and order led him to remove unneeded service buildings and shunt vehicle traffic to the very edges of campus, creating the lovely central mall with its beautiful foliage and its friendly walking and talking spaces.

On the academic side, Huebner, with Academic Dean Arthur Schulz, encouraged curriculum study, faculty development, and regional college certification. The 80s also brought a new challenge, the computer; Huebner quickly moved to support faculty and student computer literacy and usage. Meanwhile, WELS requests to expand the educational mission of DMLC demanded presidential study and action. With his faculty he introduced the now popular secondary education majors (formerly, the Secondary Teacher Education Program) and initiated the bold consideration of the Staff Ministry Program, which began in 1993.

Huebner's pastoral manner through all this activity is well seen in the *Excelsior* dedicated to him in 1993 and titled "A Lord and His Castle." He wrote: "Our Lord often used the weak things . . . to accomplish His purpose. In fact, Jesus, the Almighty Son of God, came to earth not as a proud king, but as a servant. He was born not in a costly and ornate castle, but in a manger. However, his manger bed and his painful and shameful death by crucifixion do not dim his greatness but become our glorious throne before which we reverently kneel. Through his humble birth and wondrous work of redemption, our gracious king has made us members of His royal family and heirs to eternal life, our heavenly castle."

To faculty and students alike, President Huebner always remained a pastor as well as administrator.

Written by Professor Emeritus Darwin Raddatz WLS '59



Northwestern College

1865-1869 Adam Martin
1869-1870 Lewis O. Thompson
1871-1919 Dr. August F. Ernst
1919-1959 Erwin E. Kowalke
1959-1987 Carleton Toppe
1987-1993 Robert J. Voss
1993-1995 John Braun



Dr. Martin Luther College

1884-1885 Christian J. Albrecht
1885-1893 Otto Hoyer
1893-1908 John Schaller
1908-1918 Adolph Ackermann
1918-1920 Johannes P. Meyer
1920-1936 Edmund Bliefernicht
1936-1966 Carl Schweppe
1966-1980 Conrad Frey
1980-1993
Lloyd O. Huebner
1993-1995 John Lawrenz



Martin Luther College

1995-2007 Theodore Olsen
2007-present Mark Zarling

Remembering the 2018 Luther Lands Tour

A special thanks to all the participants and guides who helped make the 2018 MLC Alumni Luther Lands Tour a magnificent experience with many meaningful memories!



Two Opportunities to Tour in 2019

Because both the 2017 and 2018 tours quickly sold out their 90+ seats, we decided to plan two tours for 2019—double the opportunity for MLC alumni and friends to enjoy affordable and educational travel experiences!



I LOVE NEW YORK

June 15-29, 2019

- 3 nights in New York City
- 3 nights in Lake Placid
- 3 nights in the Finger Lakes
- 3 nights in Niagara Falls

Highlights include NYC tours, Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Museum and Memorial, West Point, 1000 Islands/Boldt Castle, Erie Canal, Corning Glass, Maid of the Mist, and much more.



SHOW ME MISSOURI

November 2-9, 2019

- 2 nights in St. Louis
- 3 nights in Branson
- 2 nights in Kansas City

Highlights include City tours, Gateway Arch, Sight & Sound Theatre, College of the Ozarks/Keeter Center, WW1 Museum, and much more.

For more details, go to mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours.

Brochures will be available in late November, and registration will open in December. As always, MLC alumni tours are open to all WELS members and feature daily devotions, WELS worship, and expert insights from MLC professors and staff.

Contact us at alumni@mlc-wels.edu to be added to the interest/mailling list.



PEACE

Eternal Making

This Child, now weak in infancy,
our *confidence* and *joy* shall be,
the power of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

At Martin Luther College,
we're training men and women
to *declare* and *share* the *peace of Christ*
to the ends of the earth.



Current Priorities

MLC's mission—to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet WELS ministry needs—is the driving force behind every program, every learning and service opportunity.

Your gift is vital to sustaining this work.



Student Financial Aid

MLC provides financial assistance to more than 90% of our students.

Your gift will help make sure no student ever has to say, "I wanted to serve the Lord in the public ministry, but I couldn't afford the cost of college."



Campus Enhancements

MLC's living and learning environment is the scaffolding of ministry training.

Your gift will help us maintain and enhance the integrity and functionality of every feature and facility of this city on a hill.

We ask for your prayers and support.

Give online at mlc-wels.edu/donate

“Equipping Christian Witnesses”

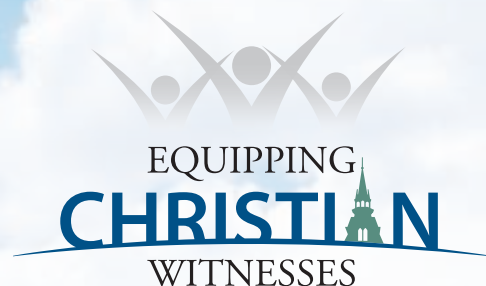
A Silver Anniversary Campaign

With the permission of WELS Conference of Presidents, we will conduct a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the 2020 silver anniversary of MLC. The title, “Equipping Christian Witnesses,” reflects not only the mission of our institution—to train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs—but also the pillars of this campaign:

- **Recruitment:** Pray for more pastors, teachers, and staff ministers, and purposefully identify and encourage young Christians who could serve in these roles.
- **Financial aid:** Support the Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP), through which MLC matches congregations’ gifts for their enrolled students, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per student every year.
- **Facilities:** Repair and augment campus spaces for ministry training: academics, student life, athletics, and the arts.

“Equipping Christian Witnesses” is a celebration of God’s goodness—not only for 25 years of MLC ministry, but also for more than 150 years of the unconditional gospel in our midst.

Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with rigor countless Christian witnesses . . . to increase our financial support of our students . . . and to provide the necessary facilities to equip our students for their future ministries. Please watch for details in the coming months.



Gifts From an IRA Makes Tax-Wise Sense

By Kate Tohal, MLC resource development counselor

A Minnesota District donor has been generously giving to Martin Luther College directly from her IRA, supporting the college she loves and reducing her tax burden as well.

Once a student and an organ instructor at DMLC, she knows how important it is to support the college that trains the much-needed teachers and pastors for our WELS schools and congregations. “How blessed the WELS is to have MLC,” she says, “a college that provides our students with such an excellent Christian education, whether they eventually become pastors, teachers, or lay people. A special thanks to all the dedicated faculty and staff members. Obviously it takes a lot of money to support the operation of a quality school.”

She and her husband have been giving gifts to MLC for some time, even before they were eligible to use their IRAs. When they turned 70½, she simply checked with her investment firm and asked them to send the gifts from her IRA directly to MLC, thereby reducing the tax they pay and supporting the MLC students who are preparing for gospel ministry.

The charitable IRA rollover allows donors age 70½ or older to make transfers from a traditional IRA directly to a qualified public charity, such as Martin Luther College. The gift can count toward your required minimum distribution, and you can avoid paying taxes on it. The maximum annual contribution amount is \$100,000 per person or \$200,000 per couple.

If you’d like to know more about a charitable IRA rollover, please contact us.



Kate Tohal
Resource Development Counselor
507.354.8221
tohalkj@mlc-wels.edu



Rev. Michael Otterstatter
VP for Mission Advancement
507.354.8221
ottersmj@mlc-wels.edu

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Professor Ben Clemons '03 (dean of education and staff ministry; director, Urban Ministry Program) presented "Class and Culture" at the Minnesota District Lutheran Teachers' Conference in October.



Professor Rachel Feld '06 (director, Academic Computing and Online Learning) guest-hosted the September edtech-themed episodes of the *WELSTech* podcast. She also presented "Creative Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom" at the Minnesota District Lutheran Teachers' Conference in October.

Professor Joel Fredrich WLS '81 (Latin, Greek, and theology) presented "Luther's Restoration and Defense of the Biblical Teaching of the Lord's Supper" to pastors at the Wisconsin-Chippewa River Valley Joint Conference at Redeemer-Rice Lake WI in October.

Laurie Gauger-Hested DMLC '87 (writer/editor) was commissioned by WELS to write the text for the hymn "We Are Sent by the Lord" for the 2018 Mission & Ministry Sunday in October. WELS musician Sarah Lambrecht was commissioned to write the music.

Dr. Timothy Grundmeier '07 (history) chaired a panel entitled "Intellectual History" at the Northern Great Plains History Conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in September. He also presented "Free from 'Romish Error': Anti-Catholicism, Republicanism, and Lutheran Identity in Antebellum America" at the Lutheran Historical Conference at California Lutheran University in October. Grundmeier serves on the board of the Lutheran Historical Conference.

Professor Thomas Hunter DMLC '75 (director, International Services) accepted a position on the Friends of Vietnam Board of Directors. He presented "MLC's International Services" with two MLC international students at the OWLS Convention in October. And he earned certification as a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), which certifies him to use the IDI, interpret its results, and discuss strategies to improve intercultural development.

Linda Kramer (director, Library Services), along with Kris Wiley, former director of the New Ulm Public Library, presented "Two Libraries, One Community: Public and Academic Libraries

Working Together" at the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium in Duluth, Minnesota, in June.



Professor Jonathan Laabs '08 (music) was chosen to attend the Chorus America Conducting Academy at California State University, Fullerton, as a Conducting Fellow in July. One of only 12 conductors selected nationwide, he was coached in masterclass and performance settings by a nationally renowned faculty while conducting a professional chorus and orchestra.

Dr. John Meyer DMLC '87 (director, Graduate Studies and Continuing Education) presented "Making the Most of Catechism Instruction" at the Mankato and Minnesota River Valley pastors' retreat in Marine on St. Croix on September 9-11. The 8½ hours of sectionals were entitled "Maximizing Learning," "Engaging the Middle Schooler's Brain," and "Reinforcement and Assessment."

Dr. Kari Muent '99 (social sciences) presented "Engaging All Students: Inclusive Practices and the Social Studies Curriculum" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in Milwaukee in October. She also presented "Making Social Studies Inclusive for All Students with Disabilities" at the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS) National Convention in Chicago in November. At that conference, she also participated in a roundtable discussion: "Teaching Social Studies Methods: Conversations Among Colleagues."

Dr. Mark Paustian WLS '88 (English and Hebrew) presented "The Divine Call" at Bloomington Lutheran-MN in October. He also wrote a series of articles on Old Testament storytelling for the *Four Branches Review*, an online newsletter of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

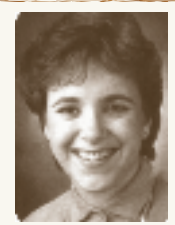
Professor Jonathan Roux DMLC '94 (education) presented the daylong workshop "Listening and Speaking in the Classroom" at the Southwest Minnesota Reading Council Workshop in Windom MN in August. He presented "Teaching Religion 2.0: Revisiting a Classic" and "Teaching Hymnology" at the Dakota/Montana/Nebraska District Teachers' Conference in October. He presented "The Grammar Puzzle," "Chapter Books for Middle and Upper Grades," and "New Picture Books to Explore" at the Minnesota District Lutheran Teachers' Conference in October. Finally, he presented "New Picture Books to Explore" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October.



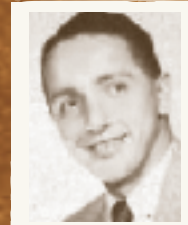
William Schwanke
NWC 1989
Milton WI



Pete Kiecker
NWC 1979
Fairfax MN



Katherine Behnke
DMLC 1989
Kewaskum WI



Edward Werner
NWC 1959
La Crosse WI

Professor Jon Schaefer '02 (director, WELS New Teacher Induction) presented "Supportive Leadership Teams" and "Setting the Standard for Student Learning" at the Michigan District Teachers' Conference in October.



Professor David Scharf WLS '05 (theology) saw publication of his book, *Our Father: Harnessing the Power of the Lord's Prayer* by Time of Grace-Milwaukee. He also presented "Luther and Paul: Paradigms of Shepherd Leadership" at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Symposium in September. He presented the keynote address "Boldly Lutheran Conversations" at the Minnesota

District Lutheran Teachers' Conference in October. As a consultant for WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling, he led an 8-hour Bible study and self-assessment exercise at Good Shepherd-South Attleboro MA in November. Finally, he and his wife, **Beth nee Koelpin** '00, presented "The Christian Family: Have Roots, Will Grow" at St. John-Redwood Falls MN in November.

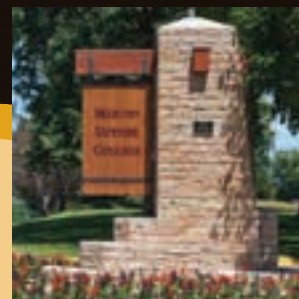
Professor Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85 (VP for administration) presented "Topical Lessons and Bible Study 5-8" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October.

Professor Lori Unke '84 (admissions counselor) presented "Staying Positive in an Increasingly Negative World" to almost 1,000 teenagers at the International Youth Rally in Bowling Green KY in June.

Professor Emeritus Wayne Wagner DMLC '72 (music) was one of 12 artists invited to play an organ recital at Trinity-Rochester MN as part of their Downtown Organ Recital Series last summer. He also taught three "field trip" classes for the New Ulm Community and Seniors Together Learning Environment (CASTLE), traveling to three different churches to demonstrate pipe organs built between 1894 and 1908 by the Vogelpohl company of New Ulm.

Dr. Keith Wessel WLS '91 (Greek) gave a three-hour presentation on early Christian charity at the South Central District Convention in Dallas in June.

Dr. Cindy Whaley DMLC '76 (education) presented "Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies with Accommodations, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum, Materials, and Instruction" at the Minnesota District Lutheran Teachers' Conference in October. She also presented "How the Brain Learns Mathematics" at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference in October.



Working Together to Train Future Pastors

MLC's preseminary faculty met in May with the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary faculty, as well as **Philip Hirsch** WLS '86, Nebraska District president, and **Jonathan Hein** WLS '97, director of WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling—to discuss our coordinated efforts to train pastors for WELS ministries.

Held every three years, this meeting allows faculty members to discuss curriculum, recruitment and retention, and other relevant topics. The primary focus this year was MLC's program review of the preseminary Bachelor of Arts degree program.

"The review provided an opportunity to examine thoroughly how we prepare young men for enrollment at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary," said **Professor James Danell** WLS '90, chair of the program review committee, "and to ask others how we might do it better."

Working Together to Train All Called Workers



The faculties of MLC, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), and the two WELS prep schools—Luther Preparatory School and Michigan Lutheran Seminary—met June 1-2 on the campus of WLS to communicate, coordinate, and thank God for the blessings of our worker training system.

Assessment issues were the major topic of the two-day conference. The faculties also broke out into divisional groups to discuss issues specific to their disciplines.

Thirty-five percent of MLC's student body of 764 is comprised of graduates from the synod's two preparatory schools.



Eugene DeVries
MLC 1999
Ontario CA



Linda Seeklander
DMLC 1979
Hazelton ND



David Worgull
NWC 1949
Milwaukee



Mark Fischer
NWC 1974
Brookfield WI

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

New Faculty



Darrell Berg

Professor of education and art

Born and raised in Ann Arbor MI, Darrell graduated from Manitowoc LHS and from DMLC (1988). He taught at East Fork LHS, Gethsemane-Milwaukee, Christ-Milwaukee, Peace-Livonia MI, St. Luke-Vassar MI, a public school academy, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, where he taught piano, geometry, and pre-algebra. He is married to **Rebecca nee Klockziem DMLC '84**.



Kelli Green

Professor of special education

Growing up in Phoenix and Tulsa OK, Kelli graduated from Liberty High School and DMLC (1992). She served at Christ-North St. Paul and in special education in the public schools of Prior Lake MN and Burnsville MN. She has an MA-Ed for Learning Disabilities and Emotional Behavioral Disorders from St. Mary's University, and she served on the Minnesota Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders for eight years. She has three sons: Jonathan (18), Joshua (16), and Jacob (13).



Paul Koester

Instructor & dormitory supervisor

Growing up in West Allis WI, Paul graduated from Luther Prep, MLC, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (2018). He spent his vicar year at Water of Life-Las Vegas. He is married to Erica nee Spiegelberg, and they have a son, William (1).



Emily Rider

Admissions counselor

Growing up, Emily lived in West Des Moines IA, Tacoma WA, Howards Grove WI, and Las Vegas. She's a graduate of Manitowoc LHS and MLC (2018), where she majored in secondary mathematics education. She's married to **Jesse Rider '19**, who's finishing his final semester as a student at MLC.



Catherine St. John

Lead preschool teacher

Growing up in Farmington MI, Catherine is a graduate of Huron Valley LHS and MLC (2013), where she double-majored in early childhood and elementary education. For the past five years, she has served at St. John-Mukwonago WI as preschool teacher and director.



Nicolas Schmoller

Professor of theology and foreign language

Growing up in Watertown WI, Nick graduated from Luther Prep, MLC, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (2010). He served as vicar at Christ Our Savior-Columbia TN, as admissions counselor at MLC, and at the new mission start, Lamb of God-Lafayette IN. He is married to **Katherine nee Valleskey '06**, and they have three children: Mia (8), Poppy (5), and Roman (3).



Ross Stelljes

Professor of theology

Born and raised in New Ulm MN, Ross graduated from Martin Luther Preparatory School, Northwestern College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (1989). He served as vicar at St. Paul-Litchfield MN, tutor at Northwestern College, pastor at the dual parish of Immanuel-La Crescent MN and Zion-Hokah MN, pastor at the new mission start, Living Savior-Littleton CO, and admissions counselor at MLC. He is married to Laura nee Fastenau, and they have four children: Daniel (24, married to Claire nee Wiechman), Sarah (20), **Levi** (19, an MLC sophomore), and Johanna (17).



Alan Uher

Professor of education and student teacher supervisor

Growing up in Caledonia WI, Alan graduated from Shoreland LHS and DMLC (1987). He served at St. Martin-Watertown SD and Mount Calvary-Waukesha WI. He has an MS-Elementary Classroom Teaching from Northern State University-Aberdeen SD. He is married to **Jennifer nee Eggert DMLC '90**, and they have three children: Eric (23), Bethany (20), and **Kristin** (18, an MLC first-year).



Michael Kopitzke
MLC 2009
Wind Lake WI



Ronald Schleef
DMLC 1974
Watertown WI



Dorothy Warskow
DMLC 1969
Tucson



Lyle Sonntag
NWC 1964
Two Rivers WI

2018-2019 Martin Luther College Governing Board



Back: Timothy Petermann, Steven Rosenbaum DMLC '86 (secretary), Andrew Van Weele '04, Michael Krueger, Michael Woldt WLS '81 (chair), Paul Prange WLS '88 (Ministerial Education administrator), Mark Zarling WLS '80 (MLC president), Randy Matter, Joe Archer DMLC '78. **Front:** Geoffrey Kieta WLS '93, Mark Wessel WLS '86, Daniel Leyrer WLS '89, Michael Seifert WLS '03 (vice chair), David Uhlhorn '99, Michael Valteau, Dale Krause, Michael Lindemann WLS '91, Dennis Klatt WLS '88 (Minnesota District president).

The MLC Governing Board met September 27-28, 2018, on campus. They participated in Bible study, heard reports, discussed multiple topics, and acted on the following issues:

- **Calls:** Approved the calling of one teacher candidate to serve as physical education professor and coach.
- **Costs:** Approved undergraduate tuition, room & board increases of 3% for 2019-20. Concurrently approved a 5% increase in institutional financial aid. Per-credit cost for continuing education and graduate students will remain unchanged.
- **Athletic Facilities:** Granted permission to MLC Administrative Council to continue a feasibility study of a partnership with New Ulm Department of Recreation for the building of a multipurpose permanent structure at the MLC Athletic Complex.
- **Facility Preservation:** Approved the setting aside of monies for asset preservation, specifically related to Centennial Hall and Old Main, in surplus of unrestricted funds. Also approved a request to the Synodical Council for a grant from the Financial Stabilization Fund for the remaining costs of MLC's unfunded Centennial Hall projects in FY20.

- **Asset Policy:** Approved the revised Unrestricted Net Asset Policy dated September 28, 2018, which includes provisions for ownership of movable equipment and library books and increases the Economic Stabilization Fund minimum to 10% of the current operating budget.

Scott Schmudlach DMLC '85
Vice President for Administration



WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBER

Geoffrey Kieta WLS '93, is pastor at Peace-Livonia MI.

"This gives me a chance to serve the church at large," he says. "I've always been very interested in being a part of our synod's efforts at higher education." As he looks ahead to MLC's future, he says, "The need for pastors and teachers and principals is so great, every qualified candidate should get the chance to serve the Lord."



Bethel Hahm
DMLC 1994
White Rock NM



James Skorzewski
NWC 1994
Clare MI



Ruth Schwichtenberg
MLC 2009
Jordan MN



Larry Raether
DMLC 1969
Lake Mills WI



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