



Lilly Calling

THE LILLY GRANT PROGRAM AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE NEWSLETTER | VOL. 2, NO. 2 | DECEMBER 2004

Looking Back... Looking Forward...

For this past year and a half it's been a privilege to work as the intern in the St. Olaf College Pastors' Office, a position funded by the College's Lilly Grant for the exploration of vocation, "Lives of Worth and Service." It has been an experience for which I am profoundly grateful.



My coming to St. Olaf a year and a half ago was actually a return; I had graduated from St. Olaf just four years prior. And, quite frankly, I was a little hesitant to return. Since after St. Olaf I had chosen to attend Luther Seminary (only a hour's drive away), I thought that for my internship I ought to consider only locations far, far away from Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. So when the option came along to spend my internship back at St. Olaf, I figured it was folly even to give it serious consideration. I thought I needed to experience something new—and yet the possibility excited me and I couldn't help but wonder whether it might not be a good fit.

As it turned out I chose to follow those proddings back to St. Olaf, and I'm so glad I did. It's hard for me to imagine having a better internship experience. It has been full of rich learning and meaningful relationships; it has truly been a pleasure to live, work and learn in this place once again. I thank all who have made my time here possible; I thank all who have made it such a delight.

And yet, I still wonder about the wisdom of me coming here. Wouldn't it have been better if I had gone someplace new? Wouldn't I have learned and experienced more in a situation I've never before encountered? Can I really say that I had a rich and rewarding experience here, when so much else lies unexplored? I still ask these questions, but this experience back at St. Olaf has taught me to put less stock in them than before. I write this because I have learned so many things here, and one of those things is this: richness and depth are waiting to be discovered even in places we think we already know. Very truly, even a lifetime cannot exhaust the riches of a particular place and community, just as (I am told) a lifetime of marriage or partnership cannot exhaust the mystery that is another human being.

It is good to be called to a place, just as it is good to be called into relationship with another. It is good to be called into daily work; and this is so even if it's in a place we've seen many times before, and even if it's full of tasks we've done many times before. We need not be called to the most exotic of places, and we need not be called into the most "exciting" kinds of work. The places where we are will do just fine; the tasks set before us will be enough—the people right *here* (wherever *here* may be) are fully deserving of our attention, service and love. Richness and depth, meaning and mystery—they're all *here*.

I hope to hold onto this insight as I leave this place to head back to my classes at Luther Seminary in January. I'll be there for one more year of living and studying in that place and community. After my time there I'll head off to as yet unknown places to live, work and share in community. I might find these places exciting; I might find them dull. They might be new to me; they might be old and familiar. But all along I hope for this: that in every place I live and work I'll see the richness there...and take delight in it.

Thanks for everything.

~ Erik Haaland '00

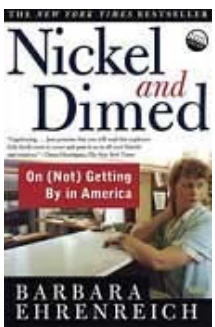
Lilly Grant Program Offers Book Discussion on "Nickel and Dime"

The Lilly Program will be offering another book discussion group for college staff. "Nickel and Dime" by Barbara Ehrenreich has received widespread acclaim for its hard-hitting assessment of how difficult it is to "get by" in America. The Lilly Grant Program is offering 25 copies of this book to staff colleagues who want to participate in the book discussion group sessions.

Our reason in offering this book group is two-fold. The first reason is that in February, Dona Freeman will direct a group of St. Olaf students in the stage production based on Ehrenreich's book. Book discussion group participants will be invited to attend the production as a group. The second reason is that Ehrenreich's work provides a nice way to involve staff in dialogue around the concept of vocation.

The book group will meet on January 12th, 19th and 26th, from 12 - 1 p.m. The Lilly Program Grant will provide lunch. The discussions will be facilitated by Janet Kringen Thompson, Director of Church Relations and Libby Glimsdal, Academic Administrative Assistant, Theatre and Fine Arts.

A limited number of spaces may be available. Please contact Laura Kreider at kreiderl@stolaf.edu for more information.



From the book's cover jacket: "Millions of Americans work full-time, year-round, for poverty-level wages. Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them, inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on six to seven dollars an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to

Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the "lowliest" occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And, one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors. "Nickel and Dime" reveals low-wage America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity—a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Instantly acclaimed for its insight, humor, and passion, this book is changing the way America perceives its working poor."

Making Your Career and Life Work: Strategies for Unbalanced Times" Friday, Jan. 14 & Friday, Jan. 28

Vocational choices and decisions are part of a lifelong process of human development. While students seek direction as they shape their future lives, adults may come to question their earlier decisions and seek help in discerning their vocation in accordance with their values and making appropriate career adjustments. The drive to balance one's life and to reassess vocational choices often manifests itself during three life stages:

Early career, when people are developing long term career goals

Mid-career or mid-life, when people are balancing increasing job responsibilities with other demands of their lives

Late career, as people are seeking greater fulfillment in their work and personal lives

This 4th annual one-day workshop, designed for faculty and staff, will help you assess your values and priorities, identify your career and life goals and develop an action plan. Offered twice (Jan. 14th and 28th), the workshop includes time for small- and full-group dialogue and individual reflection and action planning. You will identify changes you'd like to make in your life and develop strategies to move forward.

The workshop is led by Patricia Smith, director of career connections in the Center for Experiential Learning, and Gary Anderson, founder and director of Career Liftoff.

The cost for this workshop is \$295. The Lilly Grant Program is offering a limited number of scholarships to attend. Applications for scholarships and registration forms may be found at www.stolaf.edu/cfl. The deadline for scholarship applications is Monday, Dec. 20th. Workshop registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 31st. For more information, please contact The Center for Lifelong Learning at x3066 or visit www.stolaf.edu/cfl.

Summer 2004 Vocational Internship Reflections

The Office of Servant Leadership and Office of Church Relations has developed a program to allow five or six St. Olaf students to live at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and engage in serve internships at area churches. These internships are based on the Lutheran Volunteer Corps model of intentional community, and the internships are at Minneapolis and St. Paul urban area churches that are particularly active in their respective communities. Along with the internship, students work with a mentor from Luther Seminary, Randy Nelson, who helps them gain more from the experience through intentional reflection. This past summer, six St. Olaf students participated in vocational internships with support from the Lilly Program Grant. Read two of their stories below.

David Melby



My summer working at Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, was a complex blessing. Working at Augustana left me simultaneously more confused about my own specific call to vocation and more at peace with my ability to work within a diverse

and rapidly changing community. I soon learned that the daily tasks kept me occupied for only a portion of the day, but in my remaining "freedom," there was always more that could be done. I found out that the work of fellowship and community are not bound by temporal restraints or preconceived boundaries. In working to bring about unity and exploring community and connections between friends, families, and co-workers, I realized that a prime task of my position was simply to dig deep into the ties of the community as God, time, and my own commitments would allow.

Prior to this summer, I assumed that my time in the cities would probably point me in the direction that seemed most fitting and "practical" for my interests and educational background: to go to seminary after graduating from St. Olaf and become a Lutheran pastor for the long-haul. As it turned out, and I can't explain exactly how or why, but early into the summer it was incredibly clear that I'm not supposed to be a pastor. At

"We connected as friends and this bypassed our dissimilarities..."

least not right now, and probably not ever in the "normal" preaching, teaching, and fellowshiping sense. This slow and empowering revelation was not the product of any major catastrophe, embarrassing failure, or any sort of divine revelation. I just slowly realized through conversations and involvement with the Church staff, members, and community, and in my own meditations, that at this point in my life being a pastor would be more of a chosen career path and less of a response to a call from God. Although I'm still far from having anything figured out for certain, I do feel more confident and excited about the gifts God has bestowed upon me.

Seth Heringer



My summer at Redeemer was a life changing summer. Not only did I get to experience a different culture in the inner city, but I also got to learn how a church could have a powerful social ministry that improves the lives of the surrounding community members.

I remember walking into the Peace Palace (a malt shop style building used by Redeemer as a gathering place for local youth) and being overwhelmed by the difference between me and the youth. As they talked with one another, I had trouble understanding what they were saying, partly due to my untrained ear, and partly due to my unfamiliarity with the vernacular and social context.

As they broke out into laughter, I stood there silently, trying to understand the joke.

No matter how hard I tried, the jokes did not make sense to me. Luckily for me, the youth were kind to me that first day and did not form negative opinions of me based on my difficulty in understanding them.

As the summer progressed, I soon found myself ceasing to be aware of the different speech of the youth. Their jokes now made me laugh, letting me know that I was beginning to fit in, yet there were ways that I did not fit in. I still came from a privileged background, I had a strong family core unit, and I attended college at St. Olaf. Whereas in my teenage years my biggest worry was winning my baseball game and trying to be "cool" among my friends, these youth had far bigger issues to deal with. I struggled with finding ways to understand the

issues that they were dealing with – things I had never experienced.

The more time I spent with them, however, the less our differences mattered. We connected as friends and this bypassed our dissimilarities. Because the youth were willing to accept me and allow me into their lives, I still lead a weekly Bible study with them that allows us to continue our friendships.

My time at Redeemer also taught me the power of a local church. Through its education programs, Redeemer offers the youth many opportunities to improve themselves. The Peace Palace provides a structured and supervised environment that gives the youth an attractive place to spend time. While the location is great, the best part is the people. Pastor Kelly and his sister Babette Chatman lead the youth program and give it its energy. Because of their continual involvement, Pastor Kelly and Babette provide consistent mentoring in character,

responsibility, and ethics to the youth. They are able to provide them with the sort of adult relationships that youth need in order to succeed.

My time at Redeemer was a wonderful learning experience for me. I learned how to better adapt at living in another culture, how great an impact passionate church leaders can have on the surrounding community, and how I would someday like to minister to people from underprivileged backgrounds.

Summer Vocational Internship details are available at www.stolaf.edu/lillyprogram/student/outreach.html. Applications for Summer 2005 will be available early February. Interviews and notification of acceptance will take place in mid-March. For more information, please contact Laura Kreider at kreiderl@stolaf.edu.

Lilly and Service-Learning Resource Center



The Lilly Vocational Scholar for the 2004-05 academic year is Professor of Religion Doug Schuurman. (Doug was also selected for the 2003-

04 academic year.) Schuurman published *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings In Life*. The book encompasses the realms of religion, faith, and self. It provides reflection as well as aspirations to alleviate secular and sacred division in order to fill our lives with worth and service.

A new multimedia resource center has been established in the CEL that offers books and multimedia resources that relate to vocation, as emphasized through the Lilly Program. Some books of interest may be:

- ~ *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings In Life*
- ~ *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*
- ~ *Soul of a Citizen*
- ~ *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*
- ~ *The Power of Purpose*
- ~ *Finding Your Voice*
- ~ *Learning Journeys*
- ~ *Insights on Leadership*
- ~ *Let Your Life Speak*

These titles, along with a variety of many other resources, are in the CEL (Old Main Annex 3) and available for staff, faculty, and students to check out during office hours of 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F. Please stop by and see what is available for your holiday reading!

Lilly Vocational Scholar Call for Applications for 2005-06

Lilly Grant Program funds provide a faculty member with a two-course release to be the Lilly Vocational Scholar during each of the five academic years of the Lilly grant. Academic year '05-06 is the third year of the grant period. The release time enables the Lilly Vocational Scholar to conduct research and produce scholarly work related to the theological consideration of vocations and to provide intellectual leadership for faculty development activities associated with the Lilly program, "Lives of Worth and Service". Designation as Lilly Vocational Scholar is applied June 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006.

All tenured and tenure-track faculty members are eligible. The selection committee expects to see evidence of a strong record of publication. Selection as Lilly Vocational Scholar in any year of the grant cycle does not preclude an individual from applying for a second appointment.

Expectations

Prepare publishable scholarship on the theological consideration of vocations.

Contribute intellectual leadership to faculty development activities organized by the Lilly program, including but not limited to the Vocational Seminars, and to Lilly Vocational Retreats and alumni/student dialogues.

Serve as a resource for the Lilly Program. This means consulting with the Lilly Program Director on ways to advance the goals of the Lilly Grant Program.

Provide updates on research and writing to the Lilly Program Committee.

Submit copies of all published work to the Committee and agree to make the work available through the Lilly website.

The Lilly Program Committee requests an "intent to apply" to be submitted by December 10, 2004 to Bruce Dalgaard at dalgaard@stolaf.edu. The complete application is due February 11, 2005. Members of the Lilly Program Committee, along with two additional faculty approved by the Dean, will review applications and announce the selection of the Lilly Vocational Scholar by Monday, March 1, 2005. More details and the full application are available at www.stolaf.edu/lillyprogram/faculty/proposals.html.

Upcoming Vocational Retreat for Students: Exploring Self and Vocation

January 18, 2005

4 - 7:30 p.m. ~ Larson James House

Exploring Self and Vocation

A retreat is available for students who feel a strong sense of vocation (or purpose and meaning) but are not able to connect that back to a specific career or major. It is especially appropriate for students who are undecided, undeclared or exploring broadly the different majors and careers.

Student Vocational Retreats are designed to help students reflect on issues of "vocation;" not just a consideration of one's career, but of his or her unique place of service and fulfillment in the world. Activities may include reflection on and defining one's interests, gifts and talents, and values. The retreat will provide many opportunities for small group discussion and will be facilitated by members of the staff from the Career Connections Office in the Center for Experiential Learning. For more information, please contact Laura Kreider at kreiderl@stolaf.edu.



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Lilly Program Grant, Lives of Worth and Service
Center for Experiential Learning

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In December of 2002, St. Olaf College received a grant of nearly two million dollars from the Lilly Endowment's Program on the Theological Exploration of Vocation. This grant supports a five-year program at St. Olaf, *Lives of Worth and Service*.

St. Olaf is built on the conviction that life is more than a livelihood, and orients all that it does toward fostering the development of the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. *Lives of Worth and Service* furthers this tradition by creating an intentional, campus-wide approach to consideration of the meaning of "vocation" and the discernment of each individual's vocation.

**For more information on the Lilly Grant Program, please visit,
www.stolaf.edu/lillyprogram/**