



Lilly Calling

THE LILLY GRANT PROGRAM AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE NEWSLETTER | VOL. 2, No. 3 | MAY 2005

Reflections from the Lilly Vocational Scholar

Professor Bruce Dalgaard, Executive Director of CEL and of St. Olaf's Lilly Grant, asked me to write a brief report for the Newsletter about my experience as Lilly Vocational Scholar, 2003-2005. This position was one of many initiatives made possible by the grant St. Olaf was awarded by the Religion and American Life wing of the Lilly Endowment. As Lilly Scholar my teaching load was reduced from six to four courses per year, for each of the two years I have held this position. The purpose of the released time was to enable me to "prepare publishable scholarship on the theological consideration of vocation" and to "contribute intellectual leadership to faculty development activities organized by the program".



During my tenure as Lilly Scholar, my book *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life* was published by Eerdmans Publishing Company. I have also been working on an anthology of primary sources on vocation with Marcia Bunge, Professor at Valparaiso College. In addition to these publications I have published an interview about my vocation book at the Lilly website, <http://www.ptev.org> (click "special features," and then "interviews"), aired a radio interview with Mars Hill Audio that was also published in their CD journal, published a book review, and refereed several vocation-related articles submitted to journals in the field of religion. In addition, I have given over 20 public addresses relating to vocation, about half of them at St. Olaf College and half by invitation to other colleges and at national meetings.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as St. Olaf College's first Lilly Vocational Scholar. It has given me an opportunity to discuss vocation with students, staff, and colleagues. As a member of the Advisory Committee for implementing the Lilly Grant, my position has also brought me into contact with a diverse group of students, staff, and faculty colleagues. It has been both a challenge and an honor to work with them as we attempt to bring the theme of vocation to bear on every major aspect of the St. Olaf community.

~ Doug Schuurman

2005 Lilly Summer Vocational Interns

The Lilly Program Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2005 Lilly Summer Vocational Internships.

These internships are based on the Lutheran Volunteer Corps model of intentional community. The students will live together at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and intern at Twin Cities area churches that are particularly active in their respective communities. At Luther Seminary the students will be under the guidance of Randy Nelson, Director of Contextual Education at the Seminary. Students will register for St. Olaf summer internship credits and have faculty advisors. The 2005 interns and their congregational placements are:



Megan Remtema '07, at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran, Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis. Located in south Minneapolis, Calvary is situated at the crossroads of four urban neighborhoods. Its primary

focus is on the Summer Urban Arts Academy, a neighborhood outreach program run by the congregation that offers academic, arts, and religious programming to 40 urban youth, grades 1-6. The intern will lead and assist with administrative tasks, help recruit students, and sample various aspects of urban ministry. Under the banner of "In the City for Good", Calvary is committed to community service and outreach.



Thomas Rusert '06, at Galilee Evangelical Lutheran, Roseville. An ELCA congregation in the St. Paul Area Synod, Galilee was organized in 1960 and currently the congregation

includes 128 households and 256 members. The majority of the congregation is between 35-65 years of age and comes from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. The summer intern will work to implement plans for G.L.O.W. (Galilee Live on Wednesday – music program for children), Vacation Bible School and Hands Across the Street (community needs response program).

Elizabeth Pearce '06, at Christ Lutheran On Capitol Hill, St. Paul. An urban congregation located across the street from both the state capitol and one of the poorest neighborhoods in St. Paul. Over half of Christ Lutheran's baptized members are Cambodian/Cambodian American, Eritrean/Eritrean American or from various African countries. The gospel is read each week in Khmer, Tigrinya and English. The summer intern will work with developing a summer youth program.



Elizabeth Decker at Redeemer Lutheran, Glenwood Avenue North, Minneapolis. A Beacon of Hope in the Harrison Neighborhood, Redeemer is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods of north

Minneapolis. Redeemer has built a low-income housing and retail complex, operates Kids Café and the Peace Palace to serve the needs of the neighborhood, especially the children. The St. Olaf intern will work with a diverse team of committed young adults in a variety of circumstances. Emphasis would be on working with children and youth. Both St. Olaf interns who have previously served at Redeemer continued their relationships with the church congregation even after the internship was over.



Pamela Sersen '06, at Our Savior's Lutheran, Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis. Located in the Phillips Neighborhood is 20% Liberian immigrants, with a rich mixture of ages. Along with a vital congregational

ministry, Our Saviour's is immersed in serving the neighborhood through its ministry to homeless people, providing housing for approximately 65 people each night, and through its English as a Second Language program. The intern will be involved in Summer Work Program (for youth ages 10-13), summer music camp, Bible camp, worship, and many other opportunities.



Jacob Erickson '06, at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Snelling Avenue, St. Paul. Located in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul, has nearby low-income housing where 54 dialects are spoken. The St.

Olaf intern will be a member of the church staff and learn about the broad variety of ministries within this congregation. Opportunities to work in children and youth ministry include canoe trips and Vacation Bible School coordination, as well as aspects of pastoral ministry will be part of the summer experience.

Special thanks goes to Janet Thompson, Director of Church Relations, who worked diligently with these congregations to help provide outstanding learning and service opportunities for our students.

Interest in this program has expanded each year of the Lilly grant. There were numerous wonderful students who applied but could not be accommodated this year. Please congratulate the students who were selected.

2005 Lilly International Summer Service Learning Program Recipients

The Lilly Program Committee is pleased to announce the selections for the Summer 2005 Lilly International Summer Service Learning program. The Program Committee is able to fund the three applications received for this summer.

Matt Richey (Mathematics) and **Anne Walter** (Biology) will take a group of students to Chen'nai, India to work with the InterChurch Service Agency. Matt will direct several students in the upgrading of the ICSA's computer training program for disabled students. Several other students will work with Anne on one of the health/human services projects coordinated through ICSA.

Paul Niemesto (Music) will lead a group of students to work as volunteers in Lutheran congregations of Ingria/Karelia, near St. Petersburg, Russia. Students will be involved in English language instruction, computer technology instruction, and physical improvements to the congregations' buildings.

Ted Johnson (Biology) will take a group of students to Cusco, Peru. The St. Olaf students will work in conjunction with Children's Surgery International (the organization involved in "Project Smile"), providing assistance in surgical and other medical care administered to children in a regional hospital. St. Olaf alumnus Doug Tate, a pediatrician in Apple Valley, is also participating in the project.

When you have the opportunity, please congratulate our colleagues. They will spend time this spring and summer helping our students in their vocational discernment journey and will provide valuable support for three very important service initiatives.

Your Deep Gladness, the World's Deep Need - A Student Retreat

On April 9th 40+ students from St. Olaf and Carleton joined together for a two and a half hour workshop titled "Your Deep Gladness, the World's Deep Need" facilitated by nationally known author, lecturer, educational consultant, and activist Parker J. Palmer.

Palmer launched the event with a vocational discussion on living authentically. Participants read and analyzed several poems, including "The Woodcarver" (from *The Way of Chuang Tzu*, ed. and trans. by Thomas Merton) which served as a vehicle for examining one's Students then engaged in a collective dialogue where they shared their intellectual and personal reflections with the group. Student response to the retreat was overwhelmingly positive.

Several of Palmer's books and other vocational resources are available in the CEL library. Books can be checked out anytime M-F between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Palmer is author of six books, including Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation (2000), and The Active Life: Wisdom for Work Creativity and Caring (1990). Palmer's writing has earned numerous awards and citations and has been translated into several languages. His work has been cited in major voices in the media including the New York Times, National Public Radio and The Chronicle of Higher Education. He travels extensively as a speaker, facilitator and workshop and retreat leader. A native of Chicago and graduate of Carleton College and the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a doctorate in sociology, Palmer serves as a senior associate of the American Association of Higher Education, a senior advisor to the Fetzer Institute and the founder of Courage to Teach, for K-12 teachers nationwide.

Career and Life Balance Retreat

On January 28, 2005 twenty individuals participated in the Career and Life Balance Retreat titled "Making Your Career and Life Work: Strategies for Unbalanced Times". The workshop included time for small- and full-group dialogue and individual reflection and action planning. The workshop was led by Pat Smith, St. Olaf College director of career connections, and Gary Anderson, founder and director of Career Liftoff.

Participants were divided into groups based upon similar life situations and worked collaboratively as a group for the duration of the day. Prior to the retreat, participants were asked to complete the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) to assess their giftedness; each received a detailed report of their type. In addition to review of the MBTI results, the workshop included assessment of one's vocation, and development and presentation of action plans. Read what participants stated about their experiences:

When asked what difference this retreat made in the short-term:

"How to deal more effectively with co-workers, friends and family."

"Reminded me of some things I already had identified and spurred me to creative planning."

When asked what difference this retreat made in the long-term:

"Development of future career that will meet the need of my artistic expression"

"Raised lots of personal questions which I have been avoiding."

If you are interested in participating in future Career and Life Balance Retreats, visit www.stolaf.edu/cll for announcements of the next workshop or call (800) 726-6523 to get on the mailing list.

What is vocation?

"Therefore I advise no one to enter any religious order or the priesthood. I indeed, I advise everyone against it — unless he is forearmed with this knowledge and understands that the works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they may be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the works of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks, but that all works are measured before God by faith alone."

— From Martin Luther's *Babylonian Captivity*

What is vocation? To Lutherans, vocation is the place where one's talents and the needs of the world cross, framing all of life in the perspective of God's purposes and agency in the world. One's "job" is not merely a place to make money; it is primarily a place to serve larger communities.

All fields of work — boss, worker, spouse, parent, child, friend and citizen — are "callings" through which people respond to the call to live lives of love and service. Through opportunities for faculty, staff, alumni and students, St. Olaf aims to incorporate the intentional reflection on vocation into the life of the college.



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.

Lilly Resource Center

A vocational resource center has been established in the CEL that offers resources for student, faculty and staff and that relate to vocation, as emphasized through the Lilly Grant Program.

Some books of interest may be:

- ~ *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings In Life*; Doug Schuurman
- ~ *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*; Sharon Daloz Parks
- ~ *Soul of a Citizen*; Paul Rogat Loeb
- ~ *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*; Stephen Covey
- ~ *Exploring Leadership*; Komives, Lucas and McMahon
- ~ *Common Fire*; Daloz; Keen and Parks
- ~ *Answering Your Call*; John Schuster
- ~ *Crossing the Unknown Sea*; David Whyte
- ~ *Let Your Life Speak*; Parker Palmer

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

Summer 2005 Lilly Bible Camp Stipend Recipients

Recognizing that working as a bible/church camp counselor can be a powerful opportunity for personal growth, service to others and discernment of one's career. St. Olaf's Lilly Program is offering stipends for students working in these positions over the summer. Lilly Program funds will provide stipends to 16 students to supplement bible camp salaries. In exchange, the students will be asked to attend a reflection session in the fall, submit a 500-word reflection piece and help to promote the opportunity at the Summer Job Camp Fair next academic year. The Lilly Program Committee is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Bible Camp Stipends:

Rachel Bjorhus '07, Pathways Lutheran Bible Camp, MN

Katherine Fischer '08, Camp Lutherwood, OR

Tyler Hauger '08, Camp of the Cross, ND

Kelsey Holec '06, Bethel Horizons, WI

Eric Huseeth '07, Luther Heights, ID

Emily Koester '08, Rainbow Trail, CO

Jacob Leibold '07, Camp Wapo – Lake Wapogasset, WI

Maren Loftness '06, Green Lake Bible Camp, MN

Rob Martin '06, Luther Park Bible Camp, WI

Sarah Meyer '08, Carol Joy Holling, NE

Emily Moen '06, Luther Park Bible Camp, WI

Katherine Olson '06, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, MT

Marie Olson '07, Outlaw Ranch, SD

Nan Onkka '08, Wilderness Canoe Base, MN

Jennifer Tulman '07, Camp EWALU, IA

Hannah Wallisch '07, Waypost on Mission Lake, WI

If you see these students, please congratulate them on their award and wish them well with their summer endeavors!



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/