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|   **Director of Gift Planning at P.L.U.Kaarin Praxel Austin** |

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| Our guest speaker was **Kaarin Praxel Austin**, a Director of Gift Planning at Pacific Lutheran University. She was a recipient of scholarships in her student days, and a current fundraiser of scholarship dollars, so she knows first-hand how important scholarship money is to students trying to change their lives through education. Kaarin is a PLU alum and a former PLU Admission Counselor; also a great lover of Norway. She grew up as many American-Scandinavian Lutherans do, learning to love the traditions of her ancestors. She then studied abroad in Norway while at PLU, and found herself in a truly life changing experience. PLU was founded in 1890 by Norwegian immigrants to be the important educational center of the Pacific Northwest. We are still very proud of our historical connections to Norway, and the connections are still strong. His Majesty King Harald V visited campus last spring, and we were honored to have him as our commencement speaker. And I’ll tell you, even for the students who are not Norwegian (and there are a lot of those now), that was a very big deal. Having royalty on campus was very exciting for all students, faculty, and staff… and the entire community, really. The King was presented with an honorary degree at that time… an honor his wife the queen already had! He joked that he and his wife were finally equals… at least on the PLU campus.  The Scandinavian Cultural Center is still very active on campus. It is dedicated to increasing and sharing knowledge of Scandinavian history and culture with the wider community of the Tacoma and Puget Sound area.  Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection - The Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection is a depository of historical materials relating to immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.  Of course, the main source of continued connection is the exchange of students between PLU and Norway. PLU continues to be an internationally focused university. Currently around 50% of PLU students study away during their time at PLU. To put that in perspective, the national average is around 3%.  We were the first American University to have students studying on all 7 continents simultaneously. The rarest of those 7 continents to get to is Antarctica. Our students go to Antarctica every other year… for English credit! So we tell prospective students they can do everything from explore glaciers to ride yaks. Of course, with this group I would like to focus on two of what we call our “Gateway Programs.” Gateway programs are those programs directly run by PLU. This means all PLU financial aid applies, so all students have to pay for is a small portion of their flight. There are 8 gateway programs – Oaxaca, Mexico; Trinidad and Tobago; Chengdu, China; Oxford, England; Windhoek, Namibia; Oslo, Norway; Telemark, Norway; and Tacoma. This year, 2 PLU students studied in Oslo, and 5 PLU students studied in Telemark. 2 Global Peace Scholars go to Oslo over the summer. The two gateway programs in Norway each have a different academic focus. In Oslo, students study Peace and Conflict Studies. This is a version of the life changing program I participated in 11 years ago. In Telemark, students study Scandinavian Studies, International Tourism & Sustainable Development, Alpine Ecology & Environmental Management, or Business Administration. If it works, I would like to share a brief video about the Telemark programs, produced by students. Finally, we are proud that we are continuously a home away from home for a number of international students, many of whom are Norwegian. There are roughly 70 Norwegian students at PLU currently. We welcome new international students every semester. By funding scholarships, we help students like Christine succeed. By funding scholarships, we change lives. Thank you for everything you do to support PLU, and for everything you do to help students go to college. **Oslo – Fall - Political Science, Global Studies, Peace & Conflict |** Explore Peace and Conflict Studies and Norway’s successful implementation globally with respect to aid for developing countries and conflict resolution. Courses are taught in English. Program Highlights:  Fall Semester program (mid-August to mid-December) * Coursework taught in English
* Nobel Peace Prize announced during program
* Live in politically and peacefully active Capital City

 **Telemark – Fall, Spring, or Full Year****Scandinavian Studies, Norwegian, Business, Biology, Environmental Studies, Gen Ed |** The Telemark University College offers Scandinavian Studies, International Tourism & Sustainable Development, Business, and Alpine Ecology & Environmental Management. Language courses available at all levels; no previous language required. Program Highlights * Fall (mid-August to mid-December), Spring (early January to mid-June) or Full Year
* Norwegian language study at all levels
* Content coursework available in English & Norwegian
* No previous language required

  **REMINDER ABOUT OUR NEXT MEETING**The final meeting before our summer break  **May 12th** Speaker:  Kim Neselquist, speaking about the upcoming elections Elections will also be held at the May 12 meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted including candidates for Secretary. For this position only, admission to the dinner meeting is waived. If you would like to serve as Corporate Secretary or nominate someone else, please contact one of the following committee members: Victoria Sangrey Hunter: v.sangrey@comcast.netGriffin Manchester: griffinmanchester@gmail.comOzzie Kvithammer: ozziekvithammer@gmail.com Newly elected officers and trustees will be installed and their term of office starts with the September 8 meeting. **DINNER FOR MAY 12th**:  Kumla with fried bacon on top, salted lamb, Norwegian sausage, mashed potatoes, garden salad.HAPPY HOUR  5:45pm    DINNER   6pmMembers   $25 (f you pre-register)                   $30 for drop in members                   $30 for guests or non-paid members                   $10 for students (with valid ID)Kris TemplinVice-PresidentNorwegian Commercial Club/Seattle |

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