

*Remembering Gratefully—What FLV Has Taught Me*

For a long time now I have felt that the Program of Faith, Learning and Vocation is one of the best things to happen to St. Norbert College. After having completed ten years serving as the faculty & staff coordinator of the program, it may be time to explain why. I am convinced that the program has not only enriched and challenged everyone who has participated in it, but has also made St. Norbert College a better institution. Why has it made such a difference? What would we have lost if the FLV program had never existed?

First, FLV gave us language and concepts that allowed us to reenvision both who we are and what we do at the College in new and promising ways. I remember the very first summer retreat seminar on vocation. I was worried that it might be a failure of good intentions. What if we came together and no one was willing to share? What if we talked about vocation and everyone seemed more baffled than illumined, more bored than intrigued? But none of that happened. I was immediately struck by the energy in the group. People were primed to talk about vocation. They were eager to think of themselves as called and to picture their various responsibilities as callings. Not only did the language appeal to them, but it opened up a deeper meaning and purpose to everything they did, including their roles at the College. There was something about the idea of vocation that stirred our imaginations and spoke to our hearts. Too, to probe the meaning of vocation was an invitation to go deeper; to leave the superficial behind in order to discern what it might mean for us, both personally and institutionally, to live with authenticity.

That may be because vocation summons us to think about ourselves differently. The antithesis of self-promotion, vocation testifies that we live by a rhythm of receiving and giving. We've been blessed in order to share, graced in order to give. There is something immensely freeing about this because it reminds us that our identity—as well as our security—is found in living for others. Vocation teaches that we flourish in expending ourselves on behalf of missions and projects and purposes that call us out of ourselves and demand of us a generosity and courage and faithfulness that can be both exhilarating and frightening. A call is a summons to live magnanimously, a summons to achieve greatness by faithfully attending to the ordinary responsibilities of our lives. This is why anyone who recognizes and responds to their callings, despite whatever hardships they may entail, will be no stranger to joy.

Second, the FLV program gathered people from across the campus to pursue something good, and that is no small achievement. People who participated in the summer retreat seminars, the study groups on vocation, or the book discussions often commented that the FLV programs created a community on campus, a kind of fellowship of friends. That is not surprising. *Communio* occurs when people invest in shared projects and activities that are truly worthwhile. Callings are intrinsically constructive endeavors. No one has a vocation to diminish or deride, to divide and polarize. Part of the appeal of the FLV programs is that each of them focused on ways we could contribute to one another's well-being, particularly our students. Callings are about increasing goodness, about living in ways that continue God's creative and redemptive work in the world.

Finally, being part of FLV these past ten years has taught me that institutions have callings as well. As the only Norbertine college in the world, St. Norbert College has a splendidly unique vocation. We have a story that has been entrusted to us. Like any calling, an institutional vocation is both *gift* and *task*. The gift is the mission that has been bequeathed to us. The task is to be the *communio* that keeps the story alive by living it faithfully, joyfully, and with integrity.

Callings. They reveal the deepest and most promising aspects of ourselves. Journeys guaranteed to bless, stretch, and surprise, it's no wonder that they never fail to captivate and fascinate.

## **ALIVE Team Mission Statement**

As a diverse group of students representing various class years, Christian traditions, and spiritual perspectives – the ALIVE Team peer ministers work within the residence halls to:

- **Build community on campus and within the local area**
- **Provide places to consider questions of meaning and calling**
- **Support students in exploring their faith and spirituality**

## **Meet the 2010-11**



### **Bergstrom Hall**

Bryanna Gauger – Hall Coordinator  
Sarah Haggerty – Apprentice  
Garrett Leitermann – Apprentice

### **Burke Hall**

Megan Scapin – Hall Coordinator  
Janelle Krummen – Apprentice  
Chaz Topacio – Apprentice

### **Mad/Lor Hall**

Emily Disselhorst – Hall Coordinator  
Bryan Lauer – Apprentice  
Lindsey Osgood – Apprentice

### **Sensenbrenner Hall**

Katlyn Cashman – Hall Coordinator  
Katie Jensen - Apprentice  
Elizabeth Van Sistine – Apprentice

### **Upper Class Halls**

Alisa Christensen – Hall Coordinator  
Kevin Gonring – Hall Coordinator  
Katie Sixel – Hall Coordinator

### **Team Coordinator**

Kevin Funk



## Grants Available

The Program of Faith, Learning & Vocation has funds available to support initiatives aimed at helping members of the college community explore vocation and related topics. We recognize that sometimes the only barrier to making a great idea a reality is financial support. We are pleased to support relevant application of vocation concepts and questions in a variety of areas of campus. If you think you have an idea that would benefit from grant support, we encourage you to apply! In the past, this funding has supported a variety of efforts including:

- Text acquisition as tenured or tenure-track faculty revised courses to incorporate a vocation perspective
- A reading and discussion group for students employed by St. Norbert College Parish
- A faculty reading group for women in the Division on Natural Sciences
- An evening retreat for students studying English, planned and facilitated by faculty from the discipline
- A day-long retreat for students engaged in Greek Life

Please note these grant funds do not support travel to off-campus meetings or conferences.

To learn more and to access the on-line application, go to: <http://www.snc.edu/vocation/development/grants/>.

## **SUPPORTING THE WIDER CONVERSATION AROUND VOCATION**

**AS 88 SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY WRAP UP THEIR "LILLY VOCATION GRANTS," (THOSE SUPPORTED BY THE LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.'S PROGRAMS FOR THE THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF VOCATION), IT IS APPARENT THAT THE WORK OF BRINGING A VOCATION PERSPECTIVE TO UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION MOVES FORWARD. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING THE WORK OF OUR PROGRAM OF FAITH, LEARNING & VOCATION, ST. NORBERT COLLEGE IS SUPPORTING THE WIDER VOCATION CONVERSATION IN THREE NOTABLE WAYS:**

- **PAUL WADELL, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY, IS THE ONLY THEOLOGIAN ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGE'S NETWORK FOR VOCATION IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION (NETVUE).**
- **REBECCA WELCH AND JULIE MASSEY PRESENTED THE WORKSHOP "CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATION" AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AT CATHOLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ASACCU) IN JULY 2010.**
- **FAITH, LEARNING & VOCATION IS PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED A GRANT FROM NETVUE TO UNDERWRITE A REGIONAL GATHERING WHICH WILL BE HOSTED AT ST. NORBERT COLLEGE IN NOVEMBER. THE GATHERING WILL EXPLORE "MODELS OF EXCELLENCE IN VOCATION MENTORING" AND IS BEING ORGANIZED BY A PLANNING TEAM THAT INCLUDES COLLEAGUES FROM DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE, JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, AND MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY.**



## Save the Dates!

Retreat Seminar 1 will be held May 24-26, 2011.  
Look for registration announcements early next semester.

### ***Intersections***

is an occasional newsletter published by the Program of Faith, Learning, & Vocation.  
The editor invites your comments, suggestions, and contributions.

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