

MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PASTOR ERIC R. ANDRAE, CAMPUS CHAPLAIN

LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP OF PITTSBURGH (LSF) & FIRST TRINITY CHURCH

As you know, our campus ministry is Lutheran – intentionally, and with integrity and authenticity; at the same time, we serve any and all, and seek to do so winsomely in the name of him who is Lord of all. As we serve and connect with other Christians, mutually edifying relationships have been initiated, formed, and sustained. Some of this has been through Pastor Andræ's work with the Beatrice Institute.

Two students Pastor Andræ mentored through their time as Christian Studies Fellows at the Beatrice Institute received the high honor of being named recipients of Barry Scholarships. This award is reserved for graduate students at the University of Oxford. Both women will pursue their studies this coming fall while affiliating with the Canterbury Institute as fellows. Truth, virtue, sincerity, and respect while pursuing knowledge were the focus of the scholarship committee in choosing recipients.

"I met Pastor Andræ through the Beatrice Institute, an ecumenical community of students and faculty in Pittsburgh during my sophomore year at the University of Pittsburgh. Over the next three years, I came to deeply appreciate his supportive friendship and guidance both academically and spiritually. Although we did not share the same faith

I am so grateful for having Pastor Andræ as a mentor during my time in college."
Grace Aquilina

tradition (I am an Anabaptist from the Bruderhof church) our relationship was built on our common ground rather than the differences within our faith traditions. I especially appreciated ongoing conversations we had on topics such as how to participate in classroom discussions that contradict my faith, the role of women in the Church, and the meaning and application of certain texts such as the letters of Paul or Christ's words in Revelation, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock.' My life has now taken me far from Pittsburgh, but the friendship and support I have received from Pastor Andræ has proven important for my life's trajectory far beyond my undergraduate years, and I hope will continue for many years to come." – Sheyann McPherson, Pitt, December 2020 graduate

"I am so grateful for having Pastor Andræ as a mentor during my time in college. He always took my questions and interests seriously, often following up

when he had given them more thought to send me resources, prayers, or hymns that reminded him of me. As a Roman Catholic, I appreciated both his eagerness to help me work through questions within my tradition and his openness about his deep love for Lutheranism. I appreciated his kindness and generosity so much, and I'm so glad to call him a friend." – Grace Aquilina, Duquesne, August 2019 graduate

"My three years as a fellow of the Beatrice Institute have provided me with incredible friendships and mind-stretching discussions that have grown me both as an academic and as a Christian."
Sheyann McPherson

A WORD OF THANKS

**LIZ BEIKMANN, ISM DIRECTOR
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Often one never knows what impact if any you have had on someone. As a teacher, I always hoped I had inspired my students.

In working with international students for the last 24 years I have become acquainted with hundreds of individuals. They were from numerous countries and cultures. Many have become good friends as have their parents, spouses, and children.

Recently, I celebrated a significant birthday and receive numerous cards and notes. Among those came the most amazing one from Prague written by Alex who was at K-State in 2015-16. My husband and I were Alex's host family while he was at K-State.

Alex updated us on his life including photos. It was the last paragraph of his letter that relayed the impact of the ISM ministry and just what our work at St. Luke's and K-State has done.

Alex wrote: *"I would like to thank you and Howard for how you entered my life and made it better. Because throughout the whole journey since my time in Kansas I am always finding inner strength in my memories of spending time in Kansas. It was without a doubt and I would even say forever will be the best year of my life and made me a better human. There is not a day that passes without me recalling some pleasant memory from there and even though I miss it and understand my life is different now it always makes me happy. I am still in contact with a lot of the friends that I made in Manhattan and whenever we meet, we always end up with the entire group just reminiscing how amazing it was in Manhattan. It is really a magical place and I think you were both were a big part of that."*

Thank you, Alex. You made my birthday extra special. May God Bless you.



ALEX HAS BEEN ONE OF MANY STUDENTS MARCIA HAS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH AFTER THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

IMPROVISE AND KEEP GOING

**LIZ BEIKMANN, ISM DIRECTOR
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

This past school year has certainly been different for International Student Ministry. Many if not all exchanges were cancelled by KSU so the students our families were friends with were not allowed to come to KSU. So, most our families took a break from hosting.

Despite no exchanges, there were internationals at KSU working with H.I.S. (Helping International Students) and various ways were improvised to help. They continued the furniture give away in August and also this semester. In August, they made snack bags for students for which St. Luke's participated by donating food.

Rides were provided from students from Kansas City and Manhattan airports this semester, snack bags were given out, and to-go dinners were prepared in place of the usual welcome dinner. Again, St. Luke's participated in helping to provide food for the snack bags. A

A number of St. Luke's families participating in this ministry have reported getting Christmas greetings from former students, photos of family and friends and even phone calls. It is good to know that the friendships created with these connections continue for years.

THE FIVE-MINUTE GOSPEL

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER, SLIPPERY ROCK
AUGUSTA R. MENNELL, CAMPUS MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Does a warm, friendly welcome make a difference in becoming a successful campus ministry? All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center has found that it does.

All Saints member Linda Domanski has been an example for everyone in our congregation by how she has made college students feel so welcome with her warm greetings. As far back as 1984 she and many other members were hard at work landscaping the hillside in front of the church. As she worked she darted away and then quickly returned to work. She explained that she had just shared a friendly hello to a college student who was walking across the parking lot. She had shared, as she put it, the “five-minute gospel” with him. She had shown the student that he was welcome to All Saints.

Linda and her husband recently moved to live closer to their youngest son and family in Maryland near DC. All Saints misses them terribly. We especially miss the friendly way she makes college students as well as all others feel very welcome.

The proof is in the pudding. On Christmas Day we received a phone call from Japan from a former student who had come to study at Slippery Rock University. This call is a testimony to what Christians who are friendly can do.

The student who called Christmas Day is Sam (not his real name) from Pakistan, whose family is Muslim. Sam loved being in Slippery Rock where his sweet attitude earned him many friends. He attended our Korean student meals when he could make time. He accepted our invitations to attend Sunday worship, where we

sat close to him to explain to him the service. Although we might believe that a Muslim might not be interested in friendly invitations, he was. It was pure joy when he attended two worship services. Everyone was glad to meet him. He enjoyed the service very much, especially the hymns. He wished he could be in Slippery Rock so that he could worship again. He especially loved the hymn “Immortal, invisible God only wise” (802).

Sam went on to study for a masters degree in Japan. He loves the Japanese language and would like to live there. But this is not the end of the story. All Saints Fellowship stayed in touch with Sam letting him know that we would pray for his sick sister at his request and for him after he had suffered a bad bike fall. We told him about two dear Japanese students who had attended SRU and urged him to contact them. He did so and has become friends with them.

On Christmas Day Sam called to say Merry Christmas and to tell us he’d be listening to the Christmas story online in Japanese. How did this happen? Kenzaburo, a Japanese student who attended SRU and who had been baptized at All Saints, has a mother, father, sister, and nephew in Japan. Sam accepted our encouragement to visit Kenzaburo’s family. They had a great time eating together in their home. The relationship flourishes. Kenzaburo’s sister Michiko is a Christian. She is the one who offered to send him her church’s Christmas presentation as he is in Osaka and she



is in Kyoto. Sam’s voice was filled with joy as he told us he’d be listening to the Christmas story.

The point of this story is that friendliness opened the door to friendship so campus ministry could eventually share the names of people like Michiko with Sam.

Even though we may believe that God cannot break through to Muslims, or Japanese, or Americans, He can and does. Linda Domanski’s approach is right. It is one All Saints extends to students. It is one we all can use. Being friendly helps all students to realize they can trust what we share with them. We have a great and wise God who helps us tell His story.

NEW YEAR, NEW SEMESTER, NEW CLASSES

**DAN WINTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU**

We are looking forward to a new semester at Michigan State University and new classes here at the Friendship House MSU. All our classes remain virtual. We continue with a cross section of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes as well as a cross section of various Bible Studies for our international community.

We have added a couple new offerings to our weekly virtual calendar. First, is two hours (an hour each on Monday and Friday) of what we call our virtual "Living Room". Designed to be an informal gathering place (like our very own living room) where our community can gather for social conversation and community building. Secondly, we added a class teaching American Sign Language (ASL) that promotes ESL while learning ASL.

We have an international family with deaf and hard of hearing children, so this has been a blessing to them, as well as a great learning tool for others.

In our virtual world we continue to be creative with building a stronger connection to a wider audience. We are carrying out and planning more social engagements with our international community. For example, for Valentine's Day, we had volunteers from a supporting congregation provide themed gift bags for adults and children. We provided 20 adult bags and 28 individual children bags to our families.

As the, relatively new, Executive Director for the Friendship House MSU, I am continually amazed at the

community we have. A bit sad when individuals and families leave the area to return home or on to their next life stop in this world but also with a sense of joy with the positive impact we have made. And then the celebration when we have new members join our world, not only internationals but new English speaking partners filled by the Spirit to make a positive impact in someone's life.

In this role I have newfound respect for this quote from Gordon B. Hinckley, "Being humble means recognizing that we are not on earth to see how IMPORTANT we can become, but to see how much DIFFERENCE we can make in the lives of others."

ALMA CONFERENCE

**ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN MISSION AGENCIES (ALMA)
SHARES THREE NEW MISSION VIDEOS**

ALMA is holding its annual conference for mission agencies this year on Thursday, April 15 from 10 AM – noon, Central Time. While this virtual conference targets mission agencies and mission-involved congregations and focuses on best mission practices, it is open to anyone interested in God's mission.

In addition to the April 15th "1 Day...1Mission" virtual conference for ALMA leaders we are providing video sessions and discussion guides focused on the topics of "justice," "persecution," and "the role of the Spirit" in God's mission to encourage mission reflection, dialog, and action.

These sessions will be recorded and usable at any time after April 1, 2021 for mission agency teams, congregational use, Bible classes, women's mission groups, college mission clubs, circuit "Winkels," and so on. Please see below for more information and click on the following link to receive the link for one or more of these sessions or to attend the ALMA Conference: <https://forms.gle/9e7KFq3WkMJA1FwT8>

Dr. John Nunes, President of Concordia College New York – "The Justice Side of the Mission Coin" – In this session, Dr. Nunes will share what God's Word and Christian history tells us about how JUSTICE fits into God's mission mandate for His church and all baptized Christians.

Dr. Leo Sanchez, Director of the Hispanic Institute at Concordia Seminary St Louis – "The Holy Spirit and God's Mission" – In this session, Dr. Sanchez will unpack what scripture tells us about the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering and guiding God's people to accomplish God's mission.

Lensa Gudina – "How Persecution Helped Create the World's Largest Lutheran Church" - Lensa Gudina, daughter of the founders of the Makane Yesus Church, will tell the story of her parents who were tortured, imprisoned and martyred for their faith by the communist government of Ethiopia. This amazing story will demonstrate how God used this time of persecution to help establish His church, Makane Yesus, the largest Lutheran church body in the world today! It will also help us explore what it means to bear the cross of Christ in our world today.

2021 INTERNSHIPS

KATE COLE,
ISM, INC. BOARD SECRETARY AND HIRING COMMITTEE

Attention LCMS College
Students or Grads!

Are you looking to explore the international world of mission or business as you seek to serve your Lord? ISM, Inc. has the perfect match for you – an international student ministry internship program designed for those considering God's call for their life. You will be immersed in an international student ministry community, with no passport or plane ticket required!

Our internship begins Aug.15th, 2021 with an orientation for newly arrived international students from around the world. You will be working at two campus ministry sites. One site to learn, train and grow, and the other site to put into practice your communication and leadership skills and help establish an ISM that will transcend cultural barriers while sharing God's Good News.

To learn more, or to fill out an application, go to our website at: <https://www.isminc.org/internships.html>

ISM, INC. BOARD

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ISM, INC. BOARD MEMBER

The ISM, Inc. Board is currently accepting nominations to fill one expiring position, starting in July 2021.

Our Board of Directors are a working board with areas assigned to each member to fulfill the mission of the organization. Members serve for three years and can be reappointed for a second term.

As followers of Jesus, we believe sharing the Gospel is primary to our mission. We value ministry among international students, scholars and their families on college and university campuses. We affirm ministry leaders and are committed to providing ongoing resources and training. Prayer supporters are indispensable partners in our ministry. We are committed to increasing ISM awareness, prayer support, financial gifts and ministry sites.

For more information or to nominate someone, please contact, Board President, Paul Hoemann, at jpaa14@gmail.com.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We've been hearing amazing ways that people are connecting through the COVID-19 crisis. Please send in your articles, pictures and especially your prayer requests.

Please send your submissions for the MAY/JUN issue by email. Deadline is April 1, 2021

- See our privacy policy on our website
- Send your submission as a Word document and images as separate files.
- Please include your name, your role, and the ministry and/or campus you serve.



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isminc@isminc.org