Note from the editor
Emma Deignan '18

I recently had the privilege of participating in my first art show here at Luther. The show is titled Ultra Mega Mega and is composed of all the artwork from this semester’s studio art classes. It’s a night where students get to show their peers and mentors all the hard work they’ve put into their art, but beyond that, it’s a night of fun, creativity, and vulnerability. I felt vulnerable because I put a piece of myself on display that night. I had put countless hours into my drawings and photographs. My art meant a lot to me because it illustrated a part of me that I couldn’t put into words but that could be put into art. Nonetheless my art, and all the art for that matter, was celebrated. The community at the Center for the Arts strives for excellence (and produces excellence) but celebrates all. It has pushed me to become a better artist in the best way possible: with encouragement and an expectation that I can do it.

I also recently participated in my third Christmas at Luther. As usual, this year’s production did not disappoint. The music was beautiful, the audience was supportive, and the camaraderie amongst all musicians was so special. C@L is something I’ll never forget. Please note that this years performance was recorded by Luther and will be available online - don’t miss out!

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about this month’s Parent Newsletter, I encourage you to contact us at parentnewsletter@luther.edu.
I like to include student voices in my monthly piece for this newsletter. I hope that conveying to you as parents what students may be experiencing, thinking, or doing provides insight into the on-campus experience. Sometimes I am able to provide a direct student voice and at other times their voices come indirectly through my lens as vice president and dean for student life. This month I have a special treat: the voices of several students offering insights and perspectives on one of Luther’s truly magical moments—“Christmas at Luther.”

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**Luther News**

**For the first time, 'Christmas at Luther' performances to be broadcast online and via regional public radio**

In a musical celebration of joy, community, and holiday traditions, Luther College presented the 2016 production of "Christmas at Luther: Out of Darkness, Light!" Dec. 1-4. For the first time in the 35-year history of "Christmas at Luther," the college will offer a streamed version of the performance Dec. 16-Jan. 1, 2017.

**Luther receives recognition from the Association of American Colleges & Universities for the Paideia program**

“Paideia is the ancient Greek word for ‘education.’ The word implies both formal and informal learning, as well as the culture that is generated when such learning is held in common.” This statement appears in the first-year *Paideia 111 Reader* all students receive when they arrive at Luther College, a private liberal arts institution with 2,400 undergraduate students located in Decorah, Iowa. It expresses the philosophical underpinning of the core academic program; the name “Paideia” is Luther’s recognition “that life in community depends on centuries of shared wisdom.”

**Spotlight On:**

**Orchesis**

Orchesis is a student-led dance group at Luther College advised by faculty member Jane Hawley. Using Professor Hawley’s curriculum, the group allows students the opportunity to continue dancing in a college setting. Not limited to one style of dance, Orchesis aims to encompass and promote a variety of dance backgrounds. Choreography for all dances is created by students.

**Luther Events Calendar**

**Women and Men's Swimming and Diving - Loras College**

Saturday, January 7, 2016
All Thing$ Financial

- Remind your student to check with any outside agency scholarships that we have not yet received payment from. Have them check when spring payment will be made.
- Please remember to file the 2017-18 FAFSA online at https://fafsa.ed.gov/. The FAFSA for 2017-18 was available starting October 1, 2016.
- Spring semester bills were mailed in December. Payments are due by January 10, 2017. Any questions regarding bills or Form 1098-T should be directed to Financial Services at (563) 387-1015.
- Remind your student to log on to their my.luther.edu to authorize Luther College to deliver their W-2 and 1098T electronically. This makes quicker access to these documents.
- If your student(s) claimed an EXEMPT status in 2016 on the federal or state W-4, they will need to complete a new 2017 W-4 with the Student Employment Office. Reminder emails will be sent to students in January.