Note from the Editor
Hanna Dodd '21

This winter break has found me doing a lot of resting and a lot of preparing. I've rested my brain from the constant trapeze act of wobbling between different stacks of homework, and exchanged that for reading a variety of books of my choosing. I've rested my body from heavy lifting in the weight room as I try to let an injury heal, and yet I've kept active just for the pleasure of it. But within those two areas of resting, I've also been preparing. I've been reading and doing research for my J-term trip to New Zealand, which has included the book *Squashed Possums*. What an adventure this is going to be! And although I haven't been lifting as much, my J-term will be packed full of physical activity, including surfing, rafting, and countless hikes. This break has gotten me away from the mindset that rest has to be stagnant and unproductive. Yes, it has involved a lot more sitting around than when I'm at school, but it has been sitting around with friends and family or a good book. There's been a lot less "doing" this break, but this lack of constant rush has made me so ready for everything ahead. Adventures await me, and my stacks of books and I are ready to face them.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about this month's Parent Newsletter, I encourage you to contact us at parentnewsletter@luther.edu.

Message from Corey Landstrom
Vice President and Dean for Student Life

Each December, student life vice presidents and deans from member institutions of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and the Great Lakes College Association meet in Chicago. Our meeting provides us an opportunity to share and learn from one another...
about key issues we face on our respective campuses. Over the past two years, we have spent an increasing amount of time discussing the current environment regarding student well-being.

One of my colleagues was sharing the environment on his campus—the increased demands for mental health services, the need to build and enhance resilience, and the need to more effectively work upstream with a focus on prevention. When he finished, I shared that he had just described Luther! We all acknowledged that his description was apt for all our campuses. It is helpful to be in community with others who share the same challenges and see similar opportunities and to share and exchange ideas and prospective solutions. Of course, there are no quick or easy solutions. Read more

Parents Council Feature

First-year Parents Council representatives at their Fall 2018 meeting. Left to right: Alfred and Holli Chan, Karen and Dale Homolka, Pat Trewin ’92 and John and Sue Bieno. (Not pictured, Karen Trewin ’92)

Composed of select representatives from each class, the members of Parents Council serve as a resource for all Luther families, and parents are encouraged to reach out to the Council with questions or concerns.

Parents Council meets twice each year, in the fall during Family Weekend and again in the spring. Following each meeting, the members take a turn at writing informational letters to the parents of their child’s class, sharing updates from the meeting as well as encouraging support for Luther.

Dina Barron, a representative for the parents of the class of 2020, shared some of the goals and functions of the Council: "We learn about the administration's specific plans to improve Luther College's facilities, continue to attract a quality student body and faculty, keep tuition increases reasonable, improve security, raise funds through grants and donations, and implement new academic programs."

Another member writes, "Being a part of Parents Council does give us an inside and more detailed knowledge of Luther College, the plans for the future and the opportunity to meet some of the Luther leadership. I feel more connected to the college through being part of the Parents Council. But we also feel that we want to support and give back to Luther. We feel very strongly that Luther provides an outstanding place for young
people to learn and mature and grow in a supportive environment. Luther addresses the whole student and is as concerned with the community as with the learning objectives. That is a very rare thing today."

Visit our website for more information about the Parents Council.

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**Luther News**

**Luther College releases fall 2018 Dean's List**
Luther College's fall 2018 Dean's List includes 739 students; 169 first-years, 137 sophomores, 162 juniors and 272 seniors. [Read more](#)

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'A 50-year retrospective on Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on African American students' presence in higher education'
Roger Pulliam, who witnessed the formation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Scholars Academy at Western Michigan University, will give the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Lecture at Luther College. [Read more](#)

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**Luther Events Calendar**

**J-term Opera Performance**
Tuesday, Jan. 29
7:00 p.m.
Noble Recital Hall, Jenson-Noble Hall of Music
*Event will be live-streamed*

**Women's Basketball vs. Coe College**
Tuesday, Feb. 2
2:00 p.m.
Home
*Event will be live-streamed*

**Spring Semester Opening Convocation**
Thursday, Feb. 7
9:40 a.m.
Center for Faith and Life, Main Hall

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**All Thing$ Financial**

* Work study is taxable income and your student(s) will be issued a W-2 at the end of January 2019. W-2s can be received electronically by having your student(s) log on to their [my.luther.edu](http://my.luther.edu) to authorize Luther College to deliver their electronic forms.
Please remember to file the 2019-20 FAFSA online at https://fafsa.gov/. The FAFSA for 2019-20 became available October 1, 2018. You will use your tax information from 2017 to complete the FAFSA.

Spring semester payments were due on January 10, 2019.

Form 1098-Ts (used for tax filing) are available electronically by selecting this option on my.luther.edu. Any questions regarding bills or Form 1098-T should be directed to Financial Services at (563) 387-1015.

We will be sending reminder emails to students who reported outside agency scholarships to us earlier in the year, if we have not received payment from the agency.

If your student(s) claimed an EXEMPT status in 2018 on the federal or state W-4, they will need to complete a new 2019 W-4 with the Student Employment Office. Reminder emails were sent out late December to your student(s).