2013 GACAC Service Award goes to World Altering Medicine co-founder

SARA MASTERS, Assistant Director for Church Relations, Center for Servant Leadership

The recipient of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations and Alumni 2013 Service Award is Dr. Daniel Dewey ’93 of Maple Plain, Minnesota. Gustavus President Jack Ohle presented the award to Dewey on November 18, 2013, during Daily Sabbath.

Dr. Dewey is recognized for his vision and leadership in co-founding World Altering Medicine, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical care for needy patients in resource-poor areas of the developing world.

After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1993, Dewey began a two-year term of service in the United States Peace Corps. During his time in the Peace Corps, he was deeply affected by the circumstances of those living in poverty and became determined to develop skills that could be utilized to better the conditions of those living in the world’s developing areas. Especially concerned about the health care conditions of the poor, he entered medical school at the University of Minnesota, where he focused his training on family medicine and participated in many medical mission trips where he further honed his interest in international medicine. Dewey was part of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative in Africa for nearly two years. During this time in Africa, he primarily provided HIV care in Uganda and Swaziland, but also traveled and worked in Mozambique, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, and Malawi. Upon returning to the United States, he completed a fellowship in emergency medicine in Tennessee and then returned to his native Minnesota, where he is in full-time emergency medicine practice with Health Partners.

World Altering Medicine was founded in 2006 with a primary focus on providing medical resources to Africa. Current projects work to strengthen oxygen systems in pediatric wards in Malawi, provide emergency financial assistance to needy patients in Swaziland, Uganda, and Malawi, and send volunteer health care professionals to poorly resourced hospitals in the developing world.

Since November, World Altering Medicine has hired a new program manager who will be stationed in Kabudula, Malawi, helping manage the programs on the ground. A new Peace Corps volunteer will start there in April. They continue to utilize a two-pronged community empowerment approach focusing on education and health care. In addition, Dewey says that they have been solidifying their partnerships...
From the director

PASTOR GRADY ST. DENNIS, Director for Church Relations

“Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’” Luke 18:16–17

Warm greetings to you from the Center for Servant Leadership at Gustavus Adolphus College! We rejoice in the many ways we are partners in ministry with you. The bond of faith in Jesus Christ and the desire to love and care for children and young adults has always been something we share in common with one another in our mission efforts. It has been my observation that when we have had the opportunities to interact with one another we have found these times to be ones of mutual encouragement and new learning. From spending time this year with congregation youth boards reflecting upon strengths development inventories, to hosting hundreds and hundreds of youth retreating on campus with their congregations, there have been many wonderful opportunities to engage each other. We are blessed by these relationships.

In this issue of The Spire we highlight what will be yet another excellent opportunity for a shared learning event in the upcoming Gustavus Faith Conference on April 26, 2014. The focus of the conference will be upon the Lutheran commitments to children, youth, and families. As with each conference, we look forward to the festive time together and many practical take-home ideas and inspirations for our congregations and community youth development efforts.

The Church and College connection is a relational treasure for each of us to enjoy. So, whether it is at the conference in April or through other educational offerings or retreats, I hope you will make it a priority this year to take advantage of the resources available through the Center for Servant Leadership and the Gustavus Association of Congregations. May the Lord strengthen our relationship this year that together we might do even more to strengthen the tie of faith in Jesus Christ that binds us and give us a renewed imagination on how best to love and grow the children and young adults entrusted to our care.

Connected in faith: Endowing the director for Church Relations position

The director and staff of Church Relations serve as a critical link in building and nurturing relationships between people and between congregations and the College. For this reason, the Association of Congregations has launched a new effort to endow the position of the director for Church Relations. The endowment recognizes the value of this role, as a blessing to both the College and to congregations.

A donation to the Director for Church Relations Endowment Fund is a gift that lasts beyond a lifetime. Every gift counts—by putting our gifts together we can establish and grow the endowment, helping secure the future of Church Relations at Gustavus Adolphus College.

For those who contribute to this endowment, it’s a chance to affirm a value: in this context, the value of the Church-College partnership and the value of engaging in conversations about faith as part of the liberal arts experience.

For more information on the Director for Church Relations Endowment Fund and how to make a gift, please contact Grady St. Dennis at stdennis@gustavus.edu, 507-933-7661; or Jim Rothschiller at jrothsch@gustavus.edu, 952-686-8255.
MEET KARI LOUWAGIE ’16, CHURCH RELATIONS INTERN

Kari Louwagie of Cottonwood, Minn., joins the staff of Church Relations as an intern for the spring semester. A junior at Gustavus this year, she will take a leadership role in planning and hosting the Student Leadership Day on April 26, 2014.

More than 60 percent of Gustavus students participate in internships while they are enrolled at the College. Internships are intended to give upperclassmen new perspectives on possibilities for the professional world following their undergraduate experience. These are meant to be intriguing, challenging, and instructional. Interns contribute in meaningful ways in hands-on experiences that cannot be learned in the classroom.

Louwagie, a religion major, developed her passion for ministry growing up in Cottonwood, Minn. She frequently served as assisting minister, a part of youth groups, and served on her church’s Music and Worship Committee. At Gustavus she is involved in band, choir, and Mosaic as well as being a chapel apprentice. Her plan is to go to seminary after graduation.

Regarding outcomes for this internship experience, she says, “This internship will help me achieve my future goals by allowing me to job-shadow people who work in different areas in ministry. In doing this, I will be able to more clearly discern which area of ministry I want to go into. I will also get to learn how to plan church-related events, which is an important part of ministry.”

ANNUAL FAITH CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

Worship | 10:45 a.m. | Christ Chapel | The Rev. Timothy Coltvet
Keynote Speaker | 11:30 a.m. | Christ Chapel | Dr. Marcia J. Bunge
Afternoon Panel Discussion | 1:45 p.m. | Christ Chapel

Panels include: Maureen Warren, chief family services officer for Lutheran Social Service; Daniel Lee, vice president of external relations, Lutheran World Relief; the Rev. Timothy Coltvet, Luther Seminary; and Tim Schmidt, managing partner, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Open to the public. Cost is free but please register at www.gustavus.edu/faithconference. Sponsored by the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations, the Gustavus Center for Servant Leadership, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Road to the Reformation: Deepening Our Lutheran Theological Roots

Annual Faith Conference
April 26, 2014
Free and open to the public.
Please register at www.gustavus.edu/faithconference.
Join us at Gustavus Adolphus College this spring to be a part of another in-depth mini-course series. Both as individuals and as a nation, we face a range of economic challenges. As a way to think more deeply about relationships between the Christian faith and current economic realities, the sessions in this series explore the following questions:

• What does the Bible specifically say about financial responsibility and economic justice? What are some of the central biblical texts that speak to contemporary questions about money, wealth, and justice to the poor? What wisdom does the Bible offer us in today’s hard times?
• During the Reformation, when the economic landscape was rapidly changing and capitalism was emerging, what did Martin Luther and other reformers say about economic justice? How did they respond to the needs of the poor, unjust economic structures, and rising interest rates? How might their ideas and strategies help Christians today reflect on their personal finances and our country’s economic policies?

In addition to the keynote speakers, conference attendees will have the opportunity to attend two of the breakout sessions led by the following individuals:

• Grayce Belvedere-Young (founder & CEO of Lily Pad Consulting)
• Karen Cowart (director of community and public affairs, BP)
• Mary Brainerd (president & CEO, Health Partners)
• Nikki Sorum (divisional vice president, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans)
• Patricia Mitchell (president & CEO, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts)

This conference is organized by Gustavus Women In Leadership, a student/alumnae program that seeks to help the women of Gustavus in their academic, professional, and personal leadership development. Gustavus students Ellen Krueger ’14 and Elizabeth Johnson ’14 are co-chairs of the conference.

For more information about the Gustavus Women In Leadership Conference, visit the conference’s website at gustavus.edu/leadership/women/2014conference.php.
How can Gustavus resources help your congregation in 2014? We have a wealth of resources available to our Association member congregations, and we want to serve you! Sally Bottin, council president of Zion Lutheran Church in Lake Crystal, recently took advantage of our pulpit supply resource. “Through the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC) we have access to multiple services, resources and opportunities which add a dimension to our church,” says Bottin. “We have been in the call process during the last 11 months and have used the resource of pulpit supply on several occasions making our time of transition much smoother.”

Being a part of the Association has many benefits. According to Pastor Wayne Peterson, of St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Lake Crystal, recently took advantage of our pulpit supply resource. “Through the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC) we have access to multiple services, resources and opportunities which add a dimension to our church,” says Bottin. “We have been in the call process during the last 11 months and have used the resource of pulpit supply on several occasions making our time of transition much smoother.”

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Resources available for members of the Gustavus Association of Congregations

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BECOME A MEMBER!
Is your ELCA congregation not a member of the Association of Congregations but interested in joining? Contact the Center for Servant Leadership–Church Relations.

Center for Servant Leadership, Church Relations
507-933-7001 | Toll-free 800-726-6194 | gustavus.edu/churchrelations
Office Hours 8 a.m.–4:45 p.m. M–F (unavailable during Chapel 10–10:30 a.m.)

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