

Alumni/ae Council: *Culture of Encouragement* Task Force Proposal

May 4, 2005

Goals:

- To develop and nurture a relationship between alumni/ae and future alumni/ae
- To develop and nurture pride and devotion to Luther Seminary
- To encourage future alumni/ae to develop lifelong skills in identifying future leaders and financial stewardship

Strategy:

- The alumni/ae council will host *pre-union* events with students each year
- The alumni/ae council will identify key alumni/ae leaders in each synod who will connect with Luther Seminary students assigned to their synod.
- The alumni/ae council will encourage the development of plans for first year reunions.

PRE-UNION EVENTS

Pre-union: Checking in (JUNIORS)

Goals:

- To follow-up on the energy and excitement generated during First Week
- To communicate the wide variety of support that surrounds them as students
- To discern potential unmet needs and facilitate network systems for resources as possible.

Strategy:

- Host a dinner for students and their families in mid-October
- The brief program will include a short presentation by a middler student, an alum, a faculty member and a key donor. Each message will communicate respective ways the student is supported. (we stand with you and cheer you on)

Pre-union: Reaching Out (MIDDLELERS)

Goals:

- To equip students to go out into their internship roles with eyes to identify future leaders and promote financial support (through adopt a seminarian program and ACT)
- To communicate the fact that identifying leaders and providing and soliciting financial support is a lifelong responsibility
- To affirm their excitement about the opportunity to now go out and actually do what they have been training to do

Strategy:

- Host a dinner on campus at the May council meeting for students
- Program to include presentations by key staff people

Pre-union: Continuing Connections (SENIORS)

Goals:

- To communicate support for graduates as colleagues and help to energize their call to ministry as needed
- To listen carefully to their stories of seminary experiences
- To listen for any possible concerns about first call, placements, family, etc. and provide resources and networking opportunities as possible
- To extend warm hospitality and celebration on behalf of their accomplishments
- Promote the development of plans for first year reunion

Strategy:

- Host a dinner off campus

- Program should promote fun and fellowship with minimal formality
- A council member will be seated at each table and be equipped to generate conversations that will solicit the opportunity to glean specific information (like what the students attitude is about the seminary, what his or her experience was like, if there are particular areas of concern or need, etc.)
- Ask for volunteers to plan first year reunion and solicit ideas for the event

SENIOR / ALUM SYNOD CONNECTIONS

Alumni/ae leaders will be identified in each synod by Mary Steeber. These leaders will be asked to call those students assigned to their synod within 5 days of “the draft”. The call will include a welcome to the synod, invitation of questions and/or concerns as well as contact information for future reference.

FIRST YEAR REUNION

The council will encourage the senior class to organize and promote attendance at the first year class reunion.