



LDA
Lutheran Deaconess Association

Pi Delta Chi News

(Pi Delta Chi: the deaconess student organization)

Fall 2010

Special points of interest:

- Footsteps
- Valparaiso Deac students
- Could God be calling YOU?
- Oh, those VU Deacs!
- All are welcome
- Picture yourself here

Who is inside THIS issue?

Kat Borchers
 Jes McCallum
 Katlin Croft
 Kelsie Tieman
 Katie Mattmiller
 Johnna Venuto
 Beth Richter
 Angela Logan
 Shannon Speaker
 Robin Zoellner

Footsteps



Deaconesses follow the footsteps of Christ to wash the feet of a weary world.

Footwashing is a great symbol for diaconal ministry. Last Spring, deac students washed feet — literally — at the Chapel's Maundy Thursday worship service.

They washed again at the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Last spring, they used their clean feet to dance, along with 40 friends on campus.

Watch your step. They may be looking for your feet.

Valparaiso deaconess students

Six deaconess students now attend VU. They are completing a minor in theology, but specializing in another subject as they prepare to make a loving impact on God's world. Kat Borchers wants to use her Spanish, French, and Creole to serve with Haitian refugees in Florida. Johnna Venuto hopes to take her Spanish and business skills to Chile. Kelsie Tieman is debating between grad school for MSW or leaping into an internship. Jessica McCallum, now in Namibia, is aiming at environmental education. Katie Croft is a youth and family minister, through and through. Katie Mattmiller has the heart of a woman's advocate, working with the SAAFE office this year.

Recent grads are moving forward. Beth Richter, VU 2010, is completing her internship as a Lutheran school teacher in Wisconsin. Shannon Speaker, VU 2009, earned her MSW, now training as a chaplain, and looking forward to internship in the spring. Robin Zoellner, VU 2009, will take her chaplain training in the spring, and hopes for internship in 2011. Angela Logan, VU 2009, finished her intern year caring for differently-abled adults at the Share Foundation, and is ready for consecration. She'll step into the "big pin" through an official Rite of Consecration in the coming year.

Could God be calling YOU to become a deaconess?

- If you can imagine yourself serving people in the name of Jesus...
- If you have a sense that God is calling you to a deeper relationship...
- If people keep pointing out your gifts for ministry...
- If you like to study theology and practice ministry...
- If you want to be part of a praying and serving community of Lutheran women who support each other while caring for others...
- If social action appeals to you...

Then YOU might be a deaconess!

⇒ Contact Diane.Marten@valpo.edu

⇒ 219-464-6925

Valpo Deacs: what are they up to?



Kat Borchers

Kat is majoring in International Services, learning several languages, adding servant skills to her resume, and loves the deaconess community. She's quite an athlete who gets banged up regularly. She's a risk-taker.



Jessica McCallum

Jes is stretching her world view in Namibia during F '10. The people she is meeting teach her what it means to be culturally diverse. She's looking forward to assisting with ministry at the Chapel and to finishing her training to be an advocate for the care of creation.



Katlin Croft

Katie is actually trying out her major in Youth and Family Ministry by serving as a youth director in Michigan City. She simply loves summer camp, kids, and teenagers. We love her back.

Kelsie is a Social Work major who is working with at risk teenagers. Her interviewing skills make her well-equipped to listen, problem-solve, and support others.

Kelsie Tieman



Oh, those
VU Deacs!

Katie Mattmiller

Katie cares for people. She's an RA who organizes "coloring nights" for her girls. She's the president of the SAAFE Advocacy group. And she is a creative writer. Her International Services major will prepare her to care for people around the world.



Johnna Venuto

Johnna is an Business Management major with a passion for all things fun, silly, and mind-expanding. She spent the summer in Chile, learning to love the poor, and can't wait to get back there as a deac intern. Johnna says that service is sharing life with somebody; it can happen anytime and anyplace, and it is Awesome.

VU deac grads complete year-long paid internships!



Beth Richter, VU '10

Beth seemed to have no trouble finding a teaching job in a location she wanted. Her deaconess internship is to create a safe and supportive learning environment where children can grow and learn. Beth's school principal agrees that teaching can be a ministry. The principal is also a VU grad.

Oh, those
VU Deacs!

Angela Logan, VU '09

She finished her intern year with SHARE Foundation, an intentional Christian community that cares for people with developmental disabilities. Angela planned budgets, cooked meals, did laundry, and worked the farm alongside the villagers. This intentional community met daily for a common meal and prayer.



Shannon Speaker, VU '09

She responded to God's call to be a deaconess mid-way through her senior year at Valpo. By June, she headed for Denver to continue her ministry training AND to earn an MSW. Now a chaplain-in-training, Shannon is gaining skills for her internship.

Robin Zoellner, VU '09

She's finishing her last theo class this fall, and preparing for an internship. She's a history major who writes well! Ask Robin about the history of the LDA!



Check out the LDA's website for much more information:
www.theLDA.org — look under "Become a Deac"

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TheLDA.org

We're on the web!
<http://www.theLDA.org>

Did you ever wonder what
"Pi Delta Chi" stands for?
Each is the first letter of a
Greek word:
P *Pistus* = faith
D *Diakonia* = service
C *Chi* = Christ
The deaconess motto is
"Faith and Service in
Christ." (Get it?)



LDA
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"A deaconess is..."

a Lutheran woman, formed in community, educated in Lutheran theology, consecrated to serve people in church and society."

Lutheran deaconesses serve in a variety of settings. We serve God's people and support each other in a community of faith and prayer. It's a way of life, and it's our calling.

Could God be calling YOU? Want to hear more about us? Or, are you ready for an application? Applicants must have junior standing before attending an orientation seminar. Begin either during spring break, or late August. Contact Diane.Marten@valpo.edu



All are welcome:

Wednesday Worship

Eucharist and Breakfast, 7 AM, at the Deaconess Center. Worship and discussion — come on over!

Fundraisers — Coming soon

Deac students invest \$450 in application fees. That can be high for college students. Pi Delta Chi organizes parties and events to help cover application costs for next year's students. Thanks to Porter County Thrivent for supplemental funds last year, the students raised enough money for four applicants — next year, maybe that could be you!

Meet a Deac Student

Dinner and conversation will be waiting for you at the Deac Center. Deaconesses are sprinkled around Valparaiso. Let us know when you are ready to meet Lisa, Diane, Kristin, Heather, Jane, Ann, Bonnie, Diana, Louise, Bettye, Becky...

Advent Soup and Reflections

Mon. – Thurs., Dec. 6-9, 2010, 5:30 – 6:30 PM, at the Deaconess Center. May these quiet meals and conversations bring peace and energy for the weeks ahead.

Picture YOURSELF here!

Not all students attend VU.

Our 25+ students are scattered across the continent. Some study at Valparaiso University, but some take classes closer to home.

Applicants have completed at least two years of college before they begin formation.

Students range in age from 20 to 60. They may be single or married, mothers or grandmothers. They might work in congregations or agencies as they consider how "servanthood" is lived out. Each student brings unique talents to formation. But



the heart is the same – a heart for faith and service in Christ.

Students work with the LDA to develop an individualized learning plan, including theology, practical ministry, prayer, and relationships.

"Community" is key for us. We join 450 LDA deaconesses around the world to pray and serve, to teach and to learn from each other.

And how about YOU!

If you can picture yourself in servant ministry, contact Diane.Marten@valpo.edu, or call 219-464-6925.