

knightwatch weekly



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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Student Editor: Nathanael Jensen
Luther Prep – Watertown, WI

First-Years Get First Ministry Experience

We've returned from spring break, refreshed and ready to go. Many MLC first-years have come back more confident in their career choice. That's because they gave ministry a try through our unique Early Field Experience. Through EFE, education majors practice teaching in front of peers and then teach a real lesson to grade-schoolers. Through the Daylight USA program, both education majors and preseminary students volunteer at a congregation, allowing them to face some of their fears right away. And instead of being afraid, most are inspired and can't wait for their future ministries! Here's what three had to say:

Karis Naumann (*LPS*) wasn't sure she wanted to be a teacher when she came to MLC. "My friends really encouraged me to come here, and I thought I'd regret it if I never gave it a chance, so here I am." Because of her uncertainty, she really appreciated EFE. "For my lesson, I taught eighth graders about sonnets. At first I was worried the kids would be big and mean or something, but as soon as they entered the room, all that went away. Teaching them was much less nerve-racking than teaching my peers. As long as I connected with them and was excited about the material, they were too." EFE didn't settle all Karis's doubts, but it was encouraging. "I'm still not sure if teaching is for me, but now I know that I can do it."



Jared Stuebs (*FVL*) transferred to MLC this semester, but he can't say he was looking forward to EFE—because he knew nothing about it until a week before! It's a good thing Jared handles surprises well because he got a taste of how unpredictable little kids can be while teaching science to first graders. "While I was teaching them about static electricity, I explained how you can create sparks by rubbing your hair with a blanket. One girl said to me, 'I've done something like that before. I killed a spider and threw it away.' You just never know what they're going to say, but they have so much contagious energy and enthusiasm. I definitely can see myself teaching younger children someday and loving every second of it!"



Michael Hollmann (*KML*) is not your typical first-year MLC student. Michael graduated from Carroll University in 2012 and then worked for AmeriCorps, providing disaster relief and recovery. But then it dawned on him. "How much cooler would it be to share the good news of Jesus and rescue people from eternal disaster and destruction?" So Michael signed up for MLC's two-year seminary certification program. He got his first chance to experience a pastor's work over spring break as he and three friends helped at Shepherd of the Hills in Las Vegas. "I really enjoyed taking surveys and actually talking to people about Jesus. Although many shut the door, the support from other Christians was really encouraging. I also appreciated seeing how a pastor can faithfully balance his family life and service to the congregation."

