

From President Loren Anderson, PLU
9/25/2009

Dear Peter and Grace,

Greetings from PLU!

Today we are winding down week three of a new, exciting, and high energy academic year. In spite of the economy, our enrollment met our expectations, our first year class has a record-tying 716 members, and for that we are especially grateful. MaryAnn and I have, as you would expect, been running as fast as we can, so I apologize for being out of touch for far too long.

I congratulate you for "freeing" your website in China. Hopefully, H1N1 will run its course this year, so that your summer program can get back on track. Karen Phillips, from our board of regents, just send me a wonderful article on your program from the Christian Science Monitor... very powerful and positive publicity. You and Grace continue to make such lasting contributions to our hope for a peaceful world--and the SSLP is just pure genius.

Here at PLU, student and faculty interest in matters global has never been higher. We have 27 students in China this fall. January term enrollments are holding strong right through the recession. The Simon Award has brought so much positive attention to the University. And, just this week, Bill Gates, Sr., spoke on campus about his book, "Showing Up for Life," and publicly praised PLU for our global focus and outreach. Finally, on a personal note, MaryAnn and I are funding an endowment that will support on more Wang Center student-faculty research grant each year.

I know that Neal and his colleagues are hard at work on the next Wang Symposium that comes around in February. We certainly hope that you and Grace can be with us for that event.

Peter and Grace, you need to know that eight years later (it is eight years ago this week that we visited you following 9/11) your investment at PLU has forever changed the focus and the face of the University! We are on track to being a globally focused university--and that would not have happened without your influence and support, and the work of the Wang Center. So each day we give thanks for your vision and your generosity.

We hope and trust that the two of you are doing well and enjoying good early fall days. MaryAnn joins me in sending our love and care.

All the best,
Loren