

The College of Wooster Lilly Project for the Exploration of Vocation

www.wooster.edu/lilly/

The Lilly Project provides opportunities for the entire College community to reflect upon questions of vocational meaning and values. The Project is designed to raise issues of vocation in order to challenge us together to see a vision of who God has created us to be. Wooster has designed its Lilly Project to include **Curricular Initiatives**, **Field Experiences**, and **Co-Curricular Initiatives** that will revitalize the exploration of vocation on our campus and in the wider community. The Project provides our students, faculty, and staff with vision, vocabulary, physical space, leadership, and communities of reflection that support spiritual and vocational transformation and commitment. Upon the Lilly Project's successful completion, individuals and communities involved will have been challenged to transform their individual and collective spiritual lives and envision what is possible for them beyond what currently exists.

Curricular Initiatives focus on expanding the vision and vocabulary of vocational exploration within the College's curriculum, and include two programs: Course Development and Service Learning. **Course Development** brings the exploration of vocation into the classroom, while **Service Learning** further incorporates the experience/reflection model into Wooster's curriculum.

Field Experiences, closely tied to Curricular Initiatives, move students out of the classroom into settings and experiences that integrate faith, work, and service and create opportunities for shared reflection. This section consists of three programs: Seminary Semester, Medical Internship, and Re-Entry Retreat. **Seminary Semester** is an off-campus study program providing systematic theological reflection through supervised seminary course work and service experience in the community. All students are welcome, including those students who are considering ordained ministry. **Medical and Legal Humanitarian Internships** are summer programs designed for students who are pursuing occupations centered on medical or legal ethics and care issues. Interns collaborate with the Directors of Wooster's Pre-Health and Pre-Law Advising Programs (Dr. Thomas Tierney and Dr. Henry Kreuzman) and the Director of Career Services (Lisa Kastor) to select domestic or international humanitarian medical or legal aid agencies with which to work.

Co-Curricular Initiatives invite students from all religious backgrounds (as well as those who have yet to explore the faith dimension in their lives) to broaden their understanding of the possibilities that accompany true vocation. This initiative consists of three programs: Congregational Partnerships, Azimuth, and Worthy Questions. **Congregational Partnerships** assists students and established local congregations in developing a year-long relationship that supports their mutual engagement with vocational discernment. This program is designed primarily for Wooster students who have a background in congregational life but are not currently active in a religious institution, and seeks to match them with area congregations that feel called to reach out to young adults in the community. **Azimuth** offers students a summer of focused discovery within the United States, as they explore through service the integration of a deep individual passion with a deep community need. **Worthy Questions** is a program developed by the Office of Interfaith Campus Ministry for students, faculty, and staff interested in questions of spiritual meaning and vocational discernment. This mentoring program draws in Wooster alumni and members of the local community. **Reintegration Program** provides students who are readjusting to life on campus after spending time abroad with opportunities to

read theology, and reflect on their off-campus experience and how it has changed their view of themselves and their world.

Additional Co-Curricular programs within the Lilly Project include biennial, nature-oriented **Faculty/Staff Retreats** that invite faculty and staff to explore ideas of authenticity and meaning within their own vocations, **Major Speakers** who will share their own concept of call with the larger campus community, the awarding of **Mini-Grants** to support groups on campus who wish to design their own vocation-related initiatives, and the creation of meeting and office **Space** for the Project. The Lilly house welcomes all who wish to engage in individual and group reflection. Its library, housing books on spirituality, vocation, ethics, and values, is shared with the Office of Campus Ministries and the Office of Career Services. **Staff** for the Lilly Project includes the Director (Dr. Dianna Kardulias), Assistant Director (Susan Hawkins-Wilding), Administrative Assistant (Joyce Howard), and Associate Campus Minister (The Reverend K. P. Hong). They are assisted by a Steering Committee comprised of administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Many lives will be enhanced as a result of the Lilly Project. **Students** at various stages in their spiritual and career journeys will meet with opportunities that many individuals never experience – opportunities to join in seminary life, work for an humanitarian medical aid agency, explore their passions while helping a community in need, explore the theological nature of vocation with a local religious congregation, spend time with fellow students discussing “worthy questions,” and taking a course enhanced by Service Learning or the visit of an inspirational speaker. These experiences help students make enlightened decisions and commitments, and prepare them for a lifetime of meaningful work and service. **Faculty** also at various stages in their spiritual and career journeys will be invited to develop courses and service learning components that focus on the exploration of vocation. They will also have the opportunity to explore their own exploration of the theological nature of vocation and its importance in their individual lives through Faculty/Staff Retreats, and may choose to put this experience into practice with the support of Lilly Project Mini-Grants. They will mentor and assist students through Worthy Questions, Azimuth, and the Field Experience programs. **Staff** will be encouraged to attend faculty/staff retreats and apply for Lilly Project Mini-Grants to assist in their own vocational journeys. They will also be invited to mentor students as part of Worthy Questions and attend inspirational addresses presented by Major Speakers. **Alumni** will be asked to explore their own vocational journeys as mentors for Worthy Questions, speakers for retreats, or as contacts for the Lilly Project’s Internships and Azimuth program. **Local pastors and congregations** will be able to explore their church’s understanding of vocation and the impact it has on their own individual lives. By participating in Congregational Partnerships, they will have an opportunity to expand their ministry to youth and young adults, act as mentors to students from the College, and discover their own responses to God’s call. **Local, national, and international seminaries, medical agencies, social service organizations and communities** will be touched by the Lilly Project through their interaction with Wooster’s students. By serving as the students’ communities of reflection, and by providing opportunities for off-campus service and learning, these institutions will add a meaningful dimension to our students’ experiences. In turn, these institutions will have opportunities to reflect upon their own vocational journeys.