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PLU SYMPOSIUM PATHWAYS TO PEACE EXPLORES NORWAY'S APPROACH TO DEMOCRACY IN JANUARY

TACOMA, Wash. – The Wang Center for International Programs at Pacific Lutheran University will present the second in its biennial series of public symposia on issues critical to intercultural understanding and world peace in January.

Pathways to Peace: Norway's Approach to Democracy and Development will be Jan. 12-14 at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center in downtown Tacoma and on the PLU campus. The symposium will explore the Norwegian approach to achieving world peace through conflict resolution, economic development and relieving global poverty.

The Norway symposium, which is the first major U.S. event marking the centennial of Norway's independence, is designed to further PLU's efforts to educate for a just, healthy, sustainable and peaceful world.

Symposium participants will join scholars, business and government leaders and policy experts in conversation and study about topics including Norway's highly effective behind-the-scenes peace brokering efforts in areas such as the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Sudan. They will also consider the leadership roles Norway has played in the United Nations and NATO and discuss ensuring the conditions for peace.

Keynote and plenary speakers will include Knut Vollebæk, Norwegian ambassador to the U.S.; Svein Ludvigsen, Norwegian minister of fisheries; Tom Vraalsen, United Nations envoy to Sudan and former Norwegian ambassador to the United States; George Russell, chairman of the Threshold Group and chairman emeritus of Russell Investment Company; and Leonard N. Iipumba, the Namibian Ambassador to the United States.

In addition to a gala banquet and celebration of the centennial of Norway's independence as a modern democracy, other events at the upcoming symposium include performances by Hedmark University College Choir, PLU's Choir of the West, African entertainment and a premiere organ composition by university organist emeritus David Dahl. Various exhibits representing Norwegian and Namibian visual arts will be displayed.

This is the Wang Center's second major symposium. China: Bridges for a New Century drew more than 700 participants from the Asian, business and academic communities in April 2003.

Registration for all students is free. Symposium registration for others outside the PLU community is \$50, and meals may be purchased in addition.

For more information and for online symposium registration visit www.plu.edu/wangcenter, e-mail wangctr@plu.edu or call 253-535-7577.

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