

## OxFam Teaches Students Valuable Lessons on World Hunger Crisis

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Students were inspired to help end world hunger after OxFam's Hunger Banquet. OxFam is a College of St. Scholastica club focused on educating the community on poverty issues and how to work towards a brighter future. The banquet gave students a more accurate perspective of the current hunger crisis around the globe.

As attendees arrived, they were placed in either lower, middle, or upper class. The lower class group sat on the floor while the middle class sat on chairs and upper class sat at a decorated table.

OxFam then shared information on issues of poverty and world hunger. They shared that 2.1 billion people live in poverty, and these people often do not have adequate access to food despite the abundance of food among the upper class.

When dinner was served, students got a first hand experience of the pressing issues of world hunger. The lower class group had to walk upstairs and down the hall to get dirty water as their meal. Middle class attendees served themselves beans and rice, and upper class attendees were served a complete and balanced meal.

While students had their dinner, there was a tension in the room due to the clear injustice between the classes. The upper class group watched as the lower class group had hardly anything to eat, and the lower class group saw the upper class enjoy an abundance of food.

As the meal came to a close, OxFam asked students what they learned and asked the upper class why they did not share their food. Students responded that they were worried it was not allowed, but this demonstrated how the upper class acts in the real world. Although the upper class has more resources than they could need, they do not often share those resources with the poor.

OxFam made a huge impact on how these students view issues related to poverty. As the event came to a close, OxFam shared how students can get involved in helping end world hunger through their organization. This event successfully informed students and inspired them to make a difference in their community and communities around the world.

## Veterans Honored Through Musical Salute

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The College of St. Scholastica (CSS) Concert Band collaborated with the M-Sixteen Ensemble from the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bulls" Band to present a concert in honor of veterans.

The concert featured a variety of tunes, including folk songs and patriotic pieces with American heritage. The history of each piece was displayed on a screen behind the musicians as the songs were played.

Veterans and members of the CSS and Duluth communities were among the many guests at the concert. CSS Concert Band director Dr. Michael Buck welcomed the crowd and took a moment to recognize all of the veterans in the audience. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude for their service to our country.

The Concert Band opened up



The CSS Concert Band and M-Sixteen Ensemble come together for the final song, "Rolling Thunder", under the direction of SGT Skalbeck. Script Photo/Bailey Johnson

with a beautiful arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner" as members of the audience stood and sang along. For the first half of the concert, they continued to play several more pieces, including the upbeat and energetic "Gavorkna Fanfare" and the gorgeous, popular hymn "Amazing Grace".

As the band played "Salute to the Armed Forces," SGT Casey Skalbeck came on stage

and addressed the veterans among the audience. While the band played, he announced their appropriate service branch; those who had served in the United States Army, U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard stood and received applause during the appropriate song.

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## Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers Brought to Life

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"Let's Rock and Roll" were the words of the night as Todd Eckart, lead singer of the Todd Eckart band, played covers of Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers. The band truly embraced the spirit of the event, even changing outfits during the intermission to better reflect the stylistic differences between the two bands.

The concert sold out the Mitchell auditorium, and the audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy the atmosphere of the

event. There were intune singalongs, hand clapping, and a young couple even got up to swing dance to Buddy Holly's "Peggy Sue."

The band had clearly prepared for the event, and handled the differing styles of Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers with apparent ease. The musicians played well off of each other and any phasing was quickly corrected and only noticeable to musicians or die hard fans in the audience.

Those in attendance left with a euphoric feeling after hearing the oldies so perfectly brought to life.

The songs were divided up with lengthy sections of information, especially during the section dedicated to Buddy Holly, since Holly's songs are generally under two minutes long. While the information was sound, Eckart often played to the older crowd, assuming that many of the people in attendance knew the history of the bands or the names of the songs being played.

Eckart has been on the Duluth music scene since 1982 when he fell in love with the oldies. His bass guitarist and vocal harmonist George Ellsworth, who awed the audience with

a vocal solo during the Buddy Holly set, is a self taught musician who has recently expanded his interests to film. Jimi Cooper, the lead guitarist of the Eckart band, graduated from the UMD Jazz Studies program and currently teaches at UMD. Matthew Groom was on drums for the night; he is a freelance musician who has worked with many bands as well as local colleges and the Duluth Playhouse.

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The Todd Eckart band, dressed in the fashion of Buddy Holly, amuses the audience with oldies. Script photo/ Heidi Voigt.

## Tower Hall Fails to Meet Accessibility Requirements: Why Changes Need to Be Made

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CSS has long known that the Duluth campus does not meet federal standards for accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Although students have lobbied for changes for the last half decade, little to no progress has been made.

Students with mobility issues are unable to access Student Health Services on the ground floor of Somers Hall as the ramp to that wing of the dorms is too steep and cannot be moved due to the structure of the building. The sidewalks leading to the back apartments are often unmanageable for students with low mobility. Classes such as art which are held on the fifth floor has no access beyond a steep set of stairs.

In recent months, elevators have been added to the growing list of changes to make campus more accessible. There are two rather slow elevators in Tower Hall and only one in the Science Building.

Elevators have become very crowded with students which can prohibit students with mobility disabilities from arriving promptly at class.

Melissa Watschke, director of the Center for Equal Access, said the elevators are of concern to her department.

"There are two very slow elevators in Tower Hall," Watschke added that the main issues on campus are due to the infrastructure of the buildings rather than lack of compliance to the ADA.

Watschke also touched on the idea of hidden disabilities and how this can affect students.

"Students may perceive someone to be able-bodied, but they are not. The issue is hidden disabilities. It is intimidating for some students to ask others to move so they can fit on the elevator, or get anywhere they need to go."

Sophomore biology major Kaylee Newlander echoed these sentiments. She said, "I have a lot of GI issues that make me unable to climb four flights of stairs. I have occasionally felt judged for taking the elevator because even though I knew that it was okay, I knew that other students thought I was just lazy."

At eight in the morning, a lengthy climb up a flight of stairs may seem daunting.

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