A Crossings Point-of-View  Michael G. Cartwright, Executive Director

No doubt, there are many differences between an experience of moving and the experience of being moved. The experience of “moving offices” invites one to establish new routines. In some instances, such transitions can actually cause one to re-think assumptions great and small. Since moving from Esch Hall to Schwitzer Center in August 2002, I have had occasion to establish new working relationships. I am grateful to have the opportunity to learn more about how the various “student services” offices work. Crossing over from Esch Hall to Schwitzer Center has been good for me and I hope that in performing my new responsibilities it can be helpful for the university as well. That is one kind of “moving” experience.

My recent installation at the first Dean for Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs was a “moving experience” of a different kind for me. I was touched to have so many colleagues present on such an occasion when the university and the United Methodist Church came together to set me apart to serve in the context of the University’s mission of “education for service.” People who know me in various contexts – family relationships, friendships, covenant discipleship groups, monastic friends, inter-religious dialogues, pastors and religious leaders, faculty colleagues, fellow administrators – all came together to take the time to reflect on what it means for me and for the university as I take on this new set of responsibilities. At one point, I began to wonder what might happen if these folks began to have serious conversations with one another about me!

Actually, I am not that worried about such conversations taking place, because I know that it is a great privilege to have co-workers, colleagues and friends who will help me learn to “wear” this role on behalf of the University community. There is an old saying in the monastic tradition of Christianity that the monk who professes his or her vows and takes on the monk’s cowl will have his or her entire life to grow into that garment. Thanks to all those present for your support as I grow into this new role in the years to come. With your prayers, collegial encouragement – and constructive criticism – in time I hope to grow into being the dean that I have been set apart to be on this university campus.

PROJECT UPDATES

Crossing Thresholds: Searches have been announced for the two positions that will comprise the new “campus ministry team” By the end of the semester, we expect to have completed both of these search processes. . . Twelve faculty are participating in the first edition of the EduServ Faculty Seminar this semester.

Bill Ayres (CAS)        Rebecca Blair (CAS)
Ben Dickerson (CAC)    Linda Edington (SAL)
Kathleen Hacker (CAS)  Karen Iseminger (SON)
Donna Konradi (SON)    David Noble (CAS)
Leslie Oleck (SON)     James Stephens (SOBus)
Nicole Taylor (SPS)    Ed Wall (CELL)
Later this spring, those faculty who have come to the University since 1996 will be invited once again to consider applying for one of the spots in next fall’s EduServ Faculty Seminar #2. In the meantime, those who are curious about how the first edition of the seminar has gone are invited to contact one of the participants listed above.

**Crossing Intersections for Service:** After being considered by a subcommittee of the Crossings Project Steering Committee and the Provost, two EduServ Faculty Mini-Grants were awarded for this semester. 1) James Stephens and Linda Edington were awarded a grant for their proposal for a “Servant Leadership in Action” project that will invite students from the School of Business course on “Leadership” to assist Second Helpings, an agency whose mission it is to convert rescued food into meals and jobs, develop and implement a strategic plan. Not only will this project result in an outcome that will enhance the capacity of this particular agency in Indianapolis, but it will also provide Profs. Stephens and Edington with the opportunity to mentor senior level students in servant leadership training. 2) Karen Iseminger was awarded a grant for a project entitled “Integration of Spiritual Care within the Mission, Philosophy, and Curriculum of the Graduate Nursing Program.” In Iseminger’s words, the purpose of this project is “to promote faculty, student, and, to a lesser extent, community agency exploration of the integration of spiritual care into the mission, philosophy, and curriculum of the graduate nursing program. The exploration will be accomplished via research for a culturally and spiritually sensitive mission that would be enacted in advanced practice nursing education and practice. Once this mission has been created, then it will be integrated into the graduate curriculum . . . [and] . . . educational sessions will be offered to all School of Nursing faculty for consideration of adoption for all the School of Nursing Programs.

**Crossing the Commons:** Dedication of the newly enhanced University Chapel took place on January 22, 2003. On this occasion, students, faculty and staff from throughout the University representing Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious traditions gathered around the “Table of Gathering” to dedicate gifts to be used by different religious communities. . . For those who were unable to attend this event and who are interested in seeing what they missed, there is a videotape of the service that was made by Mr. Brett Jackson ’05. For more information, contact Dr. Janice Kemp at x2106

**Crossing into Community Partnerships:** The Trialogue Scripture Study Group that Perry Kea and Michael Cartwright convened last fall in partnership with the congregation of Beth-el Zedeck synagogue and Nur-Allah Islamic Center concluded in December with a gathering held at Masjid al-Fajr on Cold Springs Road. A “report” about this experience will be published shortly in the *Journal of the Society for Scriptural Reasoning* alongside several other Jewish-Christian-Muslim conversations about Jonah texts. . . Michael Cartwright has convened a group of interested persons from the University of Indianapolis and the Southside of Indianapolis to work on a proposed event for the upcoming Spirit & Place Festival 2003. The tentative title for this set of events focusing on the historic religious and ethnic communities “south of Washington Street” is “Remembering and Reconciling on the Southside of Indianapolis.” Kevin Corn and Elizabeth Weber are also participating in this planning process that has involved various individuals, congregations, neighborhood associations, and civic groups. . . Michael Cartwright and Kevin Corn met with Todd Watson to discuss the first of the Crossings Conferences to be co-sponsored by the Writers Center of Indiana. More details about that conference will be forthcoming as speakers are secured. . .
Crossings Consultations: One of the most unusual features of *The Crossings Project* is the consultation that will bring selected United Methodist leaders and selected Benedictine monastic leaders together to talk about mutual concerns arising from the increasing phenomenon of Protestant clergy and laity who are attracted to monastic spiritual practices. The first St. Brigid of Kildare Methodist-Benedictine Consultation will be held April 3-5 in St. Joseph, MN. Members of this consultation include:

- Ron Anderson, Christian Theological Seminary
- Dar Berkenpas, pastor, Colorado area of the United Methodist Church
- Michael G. Cartwright, University of Indianapolis
- Jerry Haas, Academy for Spiritual Formation, Upper Room, Nashville, TN
- Sr. Jennifer Horner O.S.B., Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, IN
- Fr. W. Paul Jones, Assumption Abbey, MO
- Fr. Timothy Kelly, St. John’s Abbey, Collegeville, MN
- Mary Ewing Stamps, founder of St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery.

The second session of this consultation will take place on Sept. 14-17, 2003 at St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery, St. Joseph, MN. A final gathering will take place at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo, MN July 26-30, 2004.

New Resources Available: On the occasion of the installation of Michael G. Cartwright as Dean for Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs, the Crossings Project published a programmatic piece entitled “*Giving and Receiving Hospitality: Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs at the University of Indianapolis.*” In addition, two other new resources are now available. Copies of the booklet version of Jerry Israel’s Convocation Address “*Above All and Through All*” were sent to the presidents of the 84 United Methodist-related (four–year) colleges and universities and are available to interested members of the University community upon request. *Crossings Project Booklet #1* “The University of Indianapolis and Its Legacy of Service: 1902-2002” by Professor Emeritus of History Fred Hill. Michael G. Cartwright is working on a second booklet to be entitled: “*A Lost and Found Narrative of Education for Service: Women in Ministry: 1902-2002*” that will be published in April as *Crossings Booklet #2*. As they become available, copies are available free upon request from *The Crossings Project* Office in SC 203 or call x2106.

Information about the Forthcoming Web page: Over spring break, the staff of The Crossings Project will be working to put together the information for the website for the Crossings Project. By early April, we hope that information about all eight sets of initiatives will be available online as well as archived newsletters, project updates and application forms for the EduServ Faculty mini-grants program, the Vocare faculty and staff development funds, etc. In addition, there will be separate web pages for the Office for Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs as well as links with the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations, the Office of University Christian Ministries, etc.

Coming Attractions! As noted above, there will be a “second edition” of the EduServ Faculty Seminar offered in next fall. All fulltime faculty hired since 1996 are eligible to apply for this opportunity. Letters of invitation will be sent out later in March, but in the meantime, you might want to mark your calendar to attend the information session on April 8th . . .
The Crossings Calendar:

3/17/03   Second round of Proposals for EduServ Faculty Mini-Grants are due to be submitted to Provost Freeman

3/25/03   (12-2 p.m.) Youth Ministry Training Program Book Discussion

4/8/03    (4:30 p. m.) Open Meeting for Persons interested in applying for one of the twelve spaces in EduServ Faculty Seminar #2 to be offered in Fall of 2003

4/15/03   (4:30 p. m.) Open Meeting to discuss “Lessons Learned” Opportunities

4/22/03   (12-2 p.m.) Youth Ministry Training Program Book Discussion

5/15/03   Steering Committee Meeting, review and assessment of Crossings Initiatives

9/26/03   Advisory Board Meeting to review the first year of The Crossings Project

9/27/03   Youth Ministry Convocation will be hosted by the U of I in collaboration with Christian Theological Seminary.

10/31/03  Third round of Proposals for EduServ Faculty Mini-Grants are due to be submitted to Provost Freeman

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