Crossings: A Newsletter of The Crossings Project

Winter 2004

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

Have you ever noticed the symbol of the burning lamp on the large third-floor gable above the Portico of Good Hall? Actually there are two lamps—one facing the other—with a set of leafy vines entwined around these sources of light. There are no extant historical records to explain what—if anything—this imagery was intended to evoke. Still it is curious that for the first six decades of this institution’s history, this would be one of the only symbols of any kind embedded in the architecture of the buildings on the campus of Indiana Central. Of course, the image of the lamp has long been associated with the pursuit of education as well as religious traditions. Torches and lamps draw upon the ancient wisdom of learning as a means to fathom the mysteries of life. This imagery of “enlightenment” also has strong resonances in both the Jewish and Christian traditions, but other faith traditions as well as secular traditions of inquiry have also found the imagery of the lamp to be meaningful. Illumination imagery is displayed in a different way on the university’s current seal, which features a lighted torch as the backdrop for the University’s motto of “Education for Service.”

In a piece that I wrote a few years ago, I suggested some of the ways that we might interpret the two lamps facing each other: as an image of the continuing relationship between church and university--each pursuing its own distinctive mission of “bearing light” to the world— or as way of imaging relationships between students and faculty. More recently, I discovered that during the 1920s, at least some students at this university actually did think about the faculty of this university with that image in view. In fact, one early edition of The Oracle yearbook provides a depiction of students lighting their lamps from the “light” provided by faculty. Students of that era may or may not have connected this with the imagery on Good Hall, but they clearly understood that university faculty and staff were potential sources of wisdom and insight that could be helpful as they imagined themselves going forth into the world to exercise leadership. Today, I think we probably would want to acknowledge that mentoring can work both ways. The conversation between students and faculty is the locus of such mutual encouragement but it is also the case that students can serve as peer mentors. Sometimes parents learn from their children.

What is true on the personal level also offers analogies for the parent-child relationship that exists between the University of Indianapolis and the United Methodist Church. For example, in recent years, the UMC in Indiana has been challenged by the University of Indianapolis about the importance of displaying “ecumenical & interfaith” hospitality. During this same period, faculty and administrative leaders of the University of Indianapolis have been challenged by UMC leaders to create programs that are responsive to the needs of Indiana-area congregations of the United Methodist Church. The conversations that have produced these challenges are sustained from the mutual illumination that occurs when we dare to seek wisdom from one another in the context of wise friendships. Whether the conversations take place in private or in public settings, these are the kinds of mentoring relationships that sustain theological exploration of vocation.
PROJECT UPDATES

Crossing Thresholds: This past fall six more United Methodist Youth Leader Scholars enrolled at the University of Indianapolis (bringing the total number of UMYL Scholars to eleven). Their names are: Hilary Conklin, St. Paul’s UMC, Rushville, IN; Laura Copper, Lincolnville UMC, Wabash, IN; Amber Golden, Westchester UMC, Portland, IN; Nicole Jonas, Southport UMC, Indianapolis, IN; Victoria Korn, St. Mark’s UMC, Bloomington, IN; Danielle Poland, Woodmar UMC, Hammond, IN. . . Meanwhile, ten members of the UINDY faculty are participating in the second EduServ Faculty Seminar this semester. In keeping with the decisions that the Steering Committee made last fall, five of these persons are “newcomers” to the university, i. e., they have been a member of the faculty for eight years or less. Five the members of the seminar are “veterans” who have been teaching at the university since well before 1996.

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<th>Samantha Meigs (CAS)</th>
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<td>Martha Thie (SON)</td>
<td>Bruce Strom (SOB)</td>
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<td>Philip Young Library/CAS</td>
<td>Susan Zapach (SOE)</td>
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<td>John Langdon '84 (CAS)</td>
<td>Beth Kiggins Center for Instruct. Technologies</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Weber '93 (CAS)</td>
<td>Gordon Mendenhall (SOE)</td>
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The focus of this semester’s faculty seminar is a discussion of what it means for the University of Indianapolis to be a university “in the marketplace.” We are using Universities in the Marketplace: The Commercialization of Higher Education written by Derek Bok, the former president of Harvard University. A limited number of copies of Bok’s book are available from The Crossings Project office. If you are interested in reading a copy, please contact Lois Stead to make arrangements to borrow the book . . . Please Note: Later this spring, all full-time university faculty who have not yet participated in one of the EduServ Seminars will be surveyed about times that might be most workable for those faculty who may be interested in participating in the next cycle of faculty seminars. Perry Kea and Karen Iseminger have agreed to serve as conveners for next year’s seminars. Due to the interest that the topic of “Universities in the Marketplace” has stirred, at least one of those seminars will be devoted to that topic. In the meantime, those who are curious about how the second edition of the seminar is going are invited to contact one of the participants listed above.

Crossing Intersections for Service: Another three EduServ Faculty Mini-Grants were awarded in November for projects that are being carried out this semester. 1) Jim Ream, Christy Beckman and Jeffrey Barnes were awarded a grant for their proposal to assist with costs for a weekend workshop that will bring Christian congregations and artists together to pursue Christian drama opportunities as well as to help pay costs for the creation of a website for the Theatre Non Nobis venture. 2) Chaplain Lang Brownlee and Chaplain Jennifer Horner were awarded a mini-grant for a project that is attempting to revitalize Chapel worship at the University on Sunday evenings by offering Taize worship services. Adrian Kolbo and Dr. Rebecca Sorley are also participating in the project. Kolbo plays the keyboard each Sunday evening and leads practice sessions every Wednesday afternoon, while Dr. Sorley is helping with the evaluation of the project. 3) Ellen Miller was awarded a $3,000 grant for her proposal to take a group of Physical Therapy Graduate students on a Service Learning trip during Spring Break. . . On Jan. 19 and Feb. 12, the Steering Committee of the Crossings Project hosted luncheons for interested faculty to hear about the work of four recent grantees. More than twenty faculty attended the two luncheons. Some of these colleagues are actively considering the possibility of putting together their own proposals for possible EduServ funding. . . The next deadline for applications is Monday, March 15, 2004.
**Crossing the Commons:** As we continue to explore the legacy of “Education for Service” at UINDY, a group of faculty and alumni of the University are working together to collect narratives about persons associated with the university who have displayed service in a variety of ways. With the support of *The Crossings Project*, Dr. James Fuller has written 22 narratives based on oral history interviews and research that he carried out during the past year. Dr. Rebecca Blair ’80 wrote eight narratives about current faculty and staff of the university. Last fall, Michael Cartwright formed an advisory committee to provide input about how to work with the collection of narratives that we are accumulating. Plans currently include the creation of an archive of narratives that will be available on the web-site as well as the production of printed resources that will be designed for use with first year students at the University of Indianapolis. Later this spring, we expect to publish the “premier issue” of this magazine style book about the many ways that “Education for Service” has been embodied in past and present . . . Since the University Chapel was formally dedicated in January 2003, work has continued on enhancements of this space and its furnishings. Recently, Pete Schmutte finished installing new sound equipment in the chapel that will make it possible for this space to be used more effectively for various worship gatherings. Over spring break, Ken Piepenbrink plans to install the new fountain that he has constructed out of materials that originally were used in the composition of the altar in the old chapel. . . . As the last few “enhancements” of the University Chapel are completed, we are discovering new ways to use this space for worship. For example, last fall, the University Chaplains initiated the practice of “evening prayer” (M,T,W,R) at 4:40 p. m. Students gather for a time of reflection during which a passage of scripture is read, a hymn is sung, and one or more of the Psalms are read responsively before closing with a time of intercessory prayer and praying the Song of Mary or “Magnificat” following the ancient pattern of prayer. . . . As noted above (see news about recent EduServ Mini-Grants), Taize worship is now held in the University Chapel on Sunday evenings. For more information about Taize and the international youth culture out of which this way of worship has grown, see the enclosed brochure or feel free to attend the services that are held every Sunday at 6 p. m. We also a videotape about the Taize community for those interested in borrowing it to watch.

**Crossing into Community Partnerships:** Last fall, Michael Cartwright was invited to write an article for the *Hoosier United Methodists Together* magazine on the topic of “Offering Hospitality Under the Cross & Flame” for the November-December issue of that magazine, which was devoted to Indiana-area United Methodist ministries in higher education. Although Cartwright’s article offered an overview of campus ministries and Christian vocations programs at all three United Methodist-related ministries in the state of Indiana (DePauw U., U. Evansville, and U Indy), the University of Indianapolis was prominently featured in several articles, including a story about Cheryl Larson and the parish nursing program at the University of Indianapolis. Based on the feedback that we have heard to date, the contributions made by various faculty at the University of Indianapolis have been well-received by United Methodist leaders in Indiana. . . Once again, the University of Indianapolis is providing funding for Christian Vocations retreats for high school age youth from the North and South Indiana Conferences of the United Methodist Church. The Bishops Convocation for Youth took place on February 18th at Epworth Forest Campground near Syracuse, IN . . . The third and last gathering of the “St. Brigid of Kildare Methodist-Benedictine Consultation” will take place in Collegeville, MN from March 11 to 13th. On that occasion, Michael Cartwright will make a presentation about the General Rules of the People Called Methodists as a “rule of life.” Sr. Jennifer Horner and Michael Cartwright are two of the eight persons who have participated in this consultation that has explored vocational issues in the context of monastic spirituality. The first set of “occasional papers” drawn from the work of the seminar will be available later this spring.
New Resources Available: Late last fall, we made available a set of brochures that depict the beauty and grade of the University Chapel in the context of explaining the ways in which faculty, staff, and students of this university aspire to offer one another hospitality. Michael Cartwright completed a booklet entitled “United Brethren Memories in the University Heights Neighborhood.” This is the first in a new series of resources that will be published by the Crossings Project under the title of *Echoes of the Past in Conversations of the Present*. Each booklet will attempt to explain terminology that is part of everyday life at the University of Indianapolis, but which may not be intelligible to various members of the University community. Booklet #1 provides biographical sketches for the nine United Brethren in Christ bishops for whom the streets of the University Heights neighborhood were named. This booklet and previously published resources of the Crossings Project will soon be available as a link on The Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs website where you will have ready access to application forms for mini-grants as well as information about the initiatives, outcomes, and programs of *The Crossings Project*. You will also find back-issues of the Crossings Newsletter and links to the website of the Programs for Theological Exploration of Vocation, a resource for the use of the 88 institutions that have received funding from the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment, Inc. Please let us know ways that the website can be improved for your use.

The Crossings Calendar:

3/11-3/13/04 Final Gathering of the St. Brigid of Kildare Methodist-Benedictine Consultation, Collegeville, MN

3/15/04 Fourth round of Proposals for EduServ Faculty Mini-Grants are due (to be submitted to Provost Freeman with copies to Michael G. Cartwright)

3/25/04 Undergraduate Christian Ministries Internship applications due for Fall 2004

4/16/04 United Methodist Youth Leader Scholar Banquet

4/22/04 Dedication of the New Fountain for the University Chapel

5/14/04 Crossings Project Steering Committee Year-End Review

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