



United Methodist Connections

A newsletter for United Methodists at the University of Indianapolis



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Threshold Retreat for First-Year Students at UIndy
August 20-22, 2010

For a calendar of McCleary Chapel Ministries events visit <http://ministries.uindy.edu/u/chapel.phps>

Sierra Leone Team:

Alex Bahney
Lang Brownlee
Amanda Carter
Allison Casteel
Ashtin Hoverman
Mary Ritke
Robin Scott
Lindsey Sewell
Sarah Tuntland
Mark Wolfe

Through this e-newsletter, the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs at UIndy highlights the activities and achievements of faculty, staff and students affiliated with the United Methodist Church. This e-newsletter will be published three times a year in October, February, and June. If you have items that you would like to share please contact Cindy Tyree at 317-788-2106 or ctyree@uindy.edu.

2010 Spring Term Service Pilgrimage to Sierra Leone



Eight UIndy students and two faculty members traveled to Koidu, Sierra Leone, to work with *Operation Classroom* in construction of a five-classroom building for UMC Boys' Secondary School. The Christian service pilgrimage began May 2 with a one-day excursion in central London. After a night at *Operation Classroom* guesthouse in Freetown, the team toured UMC medical facilities in Kissy, and then made the 210 mile in-country journey to Koidu. The team returned to Indianapolis on May 20.

The UIndy team worked with an African construction team on the 'Indiana Building' (named in 1989 but never completed before the decade-long rebel war) to finish up the concrete lintels for the building's veranda, treated lumber against termite infestation, helped with 'block and mortar' gables for the building, cleared then packed ball stone, sand and poured concrete for the flooring in classrooms. The building will be dedicated this fall when the UMC celebrates the centennial presence of Methodism in the Kono District of Sierra Leone, of which Koidu is a part. Bishop John Yambasu of Sierra Leone and *Operation Classroom's* Rev. Joe Wagner will take part in the ceremony this October.

Our student team included UM students Amanda Carter '14 (Spiceland UMC) and Mark Wolfe '14 (Acton UMC), as well as Rev. Lang Brownlee, university chaplain. "The service pilgrimage experience was one that deepened our understanding of the real needs of our world as well as allowing us to be with the Christian community church in a developing country," says Rev. Brownlee.



For more information
on Interfaith Youth
Core visit
<http://www.ifyc.org/>

Mark Wolfe Named Interfaith Youth Core Fellow



Mark Wolfe '14 (Acton UMC, Central District) has been selected to be an Interfaith Youth Core Fellow for the 2009-2010 academic year. The IFYC Fellows Alliance is the premier interfaith leadership training program in the nation. On the IFYC website, the Fellows program is described this way. "The Interfaith Youth Core Fellows Alliance identifies, trains and mentors a select group of America's finest college students to advance interfaith cooperation and build religious

pluralism on their college campuses and beyond." The one-year program begins at the start of the 2010 academic year and ends in May 2011. Fellows receive an annual stipend of \$2,500 and an additional \$500 to cover on-campus programming costs.

Mark is one of 20 students from throughout the United States that were selected for this leadership development opportunity. Mark's work at UIndy will be supervised by Chaplain Lang Brownlee and Chaplain Jeremiah Gibbs who in turn will be developing an agenda for interfaith engagement as part of a new initiative of the EIP Office in response to the call for enhancing student engagement in the University's Strategic Plan. In the wake of Eboo Patel's visit to UIndy (Nov. 2009), Mark and a group of four other UIndy students had already initiated the creation of an "Interfaith Forum" at the University of Indianapolis. We are pleased that Mark is now going to have the opportunity to build on this initiative while working with other students from across the United States.

Do you know your history? American Methodists were among the earliest to advocate setting standards for accreditation of colleges and universities. In fact, when it was created in the 1890s the University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church was actually the first voluntary accrediting association for institutions of higher education.

UIndy reaffirmed as church-related by the University Senate

The United Methodist Church has reaffirmed its relationship with the University of Indianapolis by approving UIndy in February for "continued listing, without qualification, as a United Methodist-related academic institution."

Every 10 years, the church conducts a peer review and site visit to ensure that an institution meets its four criteria for affiliation: institutional integrity, well-structured programs, sound financial management, and clearly defined church relationships. Academic accreditation is no longer the focus of these reviews because regional accrediting bodies handle that function. Since 1947, this institution has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information on UMSA, contact Samantha Searls at searls@uindy.edu.

United Methodist Student Association (UMSA)



The United Methodist Student Association (UMSA) has been very active in its second year of existence. Samantha Searls '13 (left) president of UMSA, reports that there are currently seven active members who participated in several volunteer projects around campus this year to spread the love of Christ.

UMSA was one of the first groups on campus to raise money for the earthquake relief in Haiti. “Hearts for Haiti” raised \$470.92 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

“Dirty Laundry Week” helped to spread awareness of domestic violence. UMSA set up a clothesline display outside the chapel and students could take a t-shirt from the clothesline, write their experience on it anonymously, and hang it back on the line. Other students stopped by to pray for the “dirty laundry” to be “cleaned” by God.

During breast cancer awareness week on campus UMSA raised \$75 for Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Students could get a pink hairspray stripe in their hair for a quarter or for a dollar they could spray their whole head.

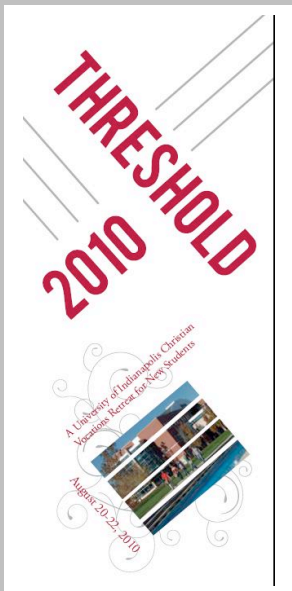
Three members of UMSA, Samantha Searls, Ian Laue and Leanna Zimmerman, along with their advisor, Rev. Lang Brownlee, attended “Jesus’ Story: Empowering Disciples” student forum at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia May 27-30.

Threshold, Freshmen Christian Retreat August 20-22

“Where, oh death, is your victory? Where, oh death, is your sting? (I Cor. 15:55). We live in a world that is marked by competition. Build the strongest army. Earn the most money. Jesus’ world was little different, but his response was radical and revolutionary. When others fought, Jesus submitted to the cross. But Jesus’ story doesn’t end with the cross, for three days later he was raised. How can we live our lives out of the new reality? *Love wins.*” “Love wins” is the theme for this year’s Threshold Retreat.

Threshold Retreat is a two-day residential experience on campus for incoming Christian freshmen students. It begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday at noon before Welcome Week. According to Nate Brock, United Methodist sophomore, “During Threshold I was able to see how the ministries on campus worked. I was also able to make some of my closest friends during that week, which I will be thankful for forever.”

Threshold is limited to 38 students. For a copy of the Threshold Registration Form visit http://vocations.uindy.edu/threshold_bro.pdf.



Lantz Center Commissioning Service April 21, 2010

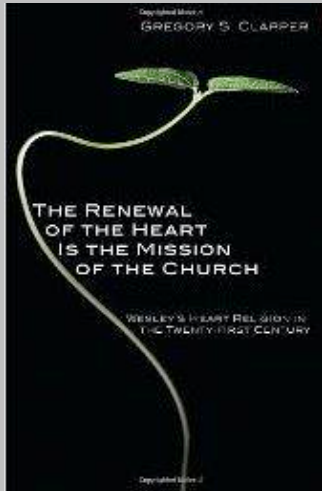
The Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation offers a curriculum that takes students deeper and deeper into the Christian journey of vocational exploration and formation. The first year CVOC students are given the opportunity for vocational exploration and to become familiar with practices of Christian spiritual formation. During the second year, students begin integrating the practices they have learned into everyday life as they live their “Rule of Live.”

Students write a commitment statement at the end of their two-year journey that includes remarks about what they believe God has called them to do, an acknowledgement that the service one seeks to undertake will be performed in the company of a particular Christian community and their willingness to be guided by that community as well as an expression of thanksgiving for those who have helped on their vocational journey thus far. These commitment statements are read during the students’ senior year at the annual commissioning service.

Eight students were commissioned for a life time of Christian service during this year’s Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation Commissioning Service. Rev. Jeremiah Gibbs, chaplain and Director of the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation and Rev. Lang Brownlee, chaplain, presented Lauren Bailey, Julie Bates, James Bryant, Ryan Brock, Benton Cartledge, Jessica Cloud, Jane Marshall, and Michelle Stephens, with the Lantz Center medallion. (Photos by Stacey Turner.)



News and Notes



Dr. Greg Clapper, professor of philosophy & religion, has published a new book *The Renewal of the Heart is the Mission of the Church: Wesley's Heart Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. "For years Gregory Clapper has given himself mind, heart, and soul to understanding and unpacking Wesley's vision of heart religion. We have here the fruit of that work in all its beauty and density. In addition he rounds it off with a fine exploration of the significance of Wesley's heart religion for preaching, counseling, and evangelism. This is a fine achievement that deserves to be read throughout the length and breadth of the Church."-William J. Abraham, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

The national United Methodist Church commissioned Dr. Clapper to write a website article on Wesleyan Spirituality that they have placed on their national Continuing Education web site. The article is called: "Putting Legs on Your Longings: John Wesley's Vision of Spirituality." To read the article visit http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.lsKSL3POLvF/b.4127811/k.3A59/Recommended_Readings_for_Continuing_Education.htm

Dr. Michael Cartwright wrote the Foreword for the book *Concern for Education: Essays on Christian Higher Education, 1958-1966* edited by Virgil Vogt (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2009). This volume includes two previously unpublished essays by John Howard Yoder.

On Feb. 20, UIndy once again hosted the Lenten Prayer Breakfast for UM congregations in the newly christened "Central District." On that occasion, Dean Michael Cartwright invited persons in attendance to "Learn New Maps for Telling the Old Old Story."

On March 26, Michael Cartwright convened the first meeting of the Institutional Relations Team (IRT) of the Indiana Annual Conference UMC. This group of 21 institutions (hospitals, children's homes, universities, etc) that have relationships to the Indiana Conference UMC will meet twice a year for mutual support as well as to identify avenues for collaboration that will aid the annual conference in carrying out its mission in the state of Indiana. The IRT also will be rotating the responsibility for staffing the hospitality tent at the upcoming session of the annual conference.

In April, Dean Cartwright served as the outside evaluator of the Religion Program at the University of Evansville.