On Campus This Summer

One of the things I always look forward to about summer is better parking on campus and a more relaxed time to hang out with students who are working or attending summer sessions. Weekly bible studies, picnics, hikes and campouts are great opportunities to connect with summer students. What are your summer campus ministry plans? How will God use you this summer? Opportunities are endless if we are open to the moving of God’s Spirit. Let's challenge each other to find new ways for sharing God's love on campus during the summer session.

Pastor Ron Pickell
ACF Coordinator

News and Events

ACF INSTITUTE 2013 :: This years ACF I, unfortunately, has been cancelled because of the few registrations. We are already planning for ACF INSTITUTE 2014 and will provide dates and location as soon as we can confirm. Until then, please check out ACF INSTITUTE in preparation for next years training.

Growing Leaders National Leaders Forum :: June 23 & 24, Atlanta, GA. Join us for two days in June where we will share innovative ideas for engaging students and getting results. This forum is for campus leaders, educators, employers, youth directors, managers and pastors - any decision-maker in organizations working with young people. For more info go to: Leaders.

Collegiate Project Mission Trip :: July 3-16, Dominican Republic. Join service oriented young adults for a mission trip. This is a project led by college students and designed especially for college and

"Be alert, be present. I am about to do something brand-new." Isaiah 43:19 (Message Bible)
university students, ages 18-24. Service coordinators will include construction, children's ministry, and community outreach. For more info go to: Maranatha (Sponsored by Maranatha Volunteers International).

Impact South Africa :: July 1-13, 2013, Pretoria, South Africa. Impact South Africa is sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist's Youth/Young Adult Department as a world conference on youth and community services (WCYCS). (July 1-5) will focus on community service projects and Youth Congress to follow (July 8-13). Join us in South Africa bringing together world leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist church to focus on community service needs and harnessing the resources of our youth. For more information go to: Impact South Africa.

Campus Catalyst Australia :: August 9-25. Along with the planned 2013 ACF INSTITUTE Campus Ministry training here in the NAD, the first Campus Catalyst weekend training will be held in Australia August 9-25. Campus Catalyst is designed as an introduction to ministry on non-Adventist college and university campuses to orient college student leaders, campus ministry staff and local churches in launching and developing ministries for their campuses. The dates and location for this broad sweep of campus ministry orientation will include: Weekend 1 (9-11) University of Queensland, Brisbane; Weekend 2 (16-19) Murdoch University, Perth, Weekend 3 (23 - 25) UTS/UNSW, Sydney. There will also be some interaction with students and campus leaders respectively during the week between the weekend sites in New Castle and Melbourne. For more information about hosting a Campus Catalyst weekend introduction to campus ministry for your area go to: Campus Catalyst.

Young Adult Project :: August 1-12, Dominican Republic. This mission trip opportunity is designed for the ages of 18-35 and will focus on construction, community service, new connections, and spiritual opportunities. Join this energetic group August 1-12, 2013 in the Dominican Republic. For more info go to: Maranatha (Sponsored by Maranatha Volunteers International).

Campus Catalyst - Hawaii :: September 13-15, 2013, intro to campus ministry training will be provided in Hawaii at camp Waianae, Oahu. For more information about Campus Catalyst training go to: ARC.

Cruise With A Mission :: September 15-22, 2013, AL. For more Info go to: CRUISE.

Resources

Figuring Out What To Do With Your Life :: Graduation is the goal we are all working for in college, but it can also be one of the scariest times in our life when we are not sure of the next step. Check out these helpful suggestions by Shannon J. Harmon in the October issue of Relevant magazine on sorting through the challenges of finding

http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=7ae0ea6be9ab5c680763331f&id=55dedf0c5f&c=498f83e24f[6/3/2013 3:20:13 PM]
your professional purpose in - and beyond college. Check it out at: LIFE.

I Shall Stand Resource On College Sex and Dating :: Check out I Shall Stand for books and resources on sex, abstinence and dating in the college scene. Go to: I Shall Stand for more info.

Templeton Science and Religion Series :: Includes a series of nine short books concerning the sciences, humanities and religion. These books were commissioned to open intellectual doors and create discussion for readers of all backgrounds concerning the discussion of science and faith. Each expert begins with a background of their field of study with a view to the religious dimension returning to a wide variety of critical viewpoints. To learn more about these valuable resources discussing the integration of science and faith go to: Templeton.

ACFLINK.ORG Web Site :: ACFLINK.ORG is the best way for staying connected with Adventist ministry on non-Adventist college and university campuses. Another great connecting point is: ACF on Facebook at ACF North America.

Campus Ministry Quick Start Guide :: Check out the new Quick Start Guide for campus ministry at AdventSource. Quick Start guides are now downloadable from the ARC Campus Ministry Resources Web Site by going to: ARC.

Veritas Forum :: The Veritas Riff Podcast continues to provide relevant, insightful commentary on today's most pressing issues. Check out one of the latest in the series of campus talks on "Why Health Care Reform Needs Spiritual Reform" by Dr. Ray Barfield of Duke University. Check it out at Veritas.

Good Reads

Campus Ministry In A Post Modern Culture
At last! A book that interprets the challenges of campus ministry through a distinctly missional lens. This is an intensely practical and theologically substantial orientation on what it means to do college ministry. Alan Hirsch, Author of The Forgotten Ways, Untamed, and Right Here, Right Now. Check it out at: AMAZON

Journey Bible Study
"Come and see", Jesus said, when asked where he hung out by some of the earliest of his disciples. Journey is an invitation to join these first followers of Jesus as they embark on a personal discovery of Jesus mission and message. Journey is also a great resource for Friday night college large groups, weekly small group meetings and comes with a complete leaders guide for leading and teaching. Journey will soon be available on the AdventSource web site. Look for it in the collegiate section.
By shannon j. harmon

How to sort through the challenges of finding your professional purpose in—and beyond—college.

There I was, less than 48 hours post college graduation, back at my parents' house, sleeping in my childhood bedroom. The room seemed so much more confining all those years later. I settled in for what promised to be a long year. I wish someone would have warned me that graduating from college would not automatically lead to career clarity. I thought that snazzy college degree would lead to instant professional direction and gratification. As I started searching for jobs and planning my escape, it dawned on me that I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up. My English degree failed to prepare me for any distinct career path. I felt I was at a dead end.

So, what does any confused English major looking for a little job security do? Why, enroll in some graduate program, of course. I packed up my belongings, and I enrolled in law school. Fast-forward several years and many frustrating career moments later, and I began to question what God was up to.

What do you do when confusion seems all-consuming? How do you navigate this uncertain path and ultimately reach a place of peace and direction? What do you do next when you've already switched your major three times and you're leaning towards making another jump? And what happens when your college career is winding down and you're not quite sure what comes next? Let me share a few lessons I have learned kicking and screaming along the
way.

Clarity Never Comes Instantly

I recall wishing and praying often that God would just show me what direction to take, and then I expected a sort of “presto” moment where God unfolded everything instantly before my eyes. Fast-forward eight-plus years, and I can tell you that although the path is much clearer, God still has not revealed the entire picture to me. In fact, I think He never will. In my know-it-all way, I would probably take it and ruin it, so He only shares the bits and pieces needed to accomplish the tasks at hand.

What do you do next when you've already switched your major three times and you're leaning towards making another jump?

Enjoy the Journey

I look back on my early post-college years of handwringing about what I should do in my career, and it is a wonder I didn’t drive myself absolutely crazy. Since change doesn’t come instantly for most people, then what do you do in the interim? There are a few things you can do to make the confusing journey more enjoyable. First, accept these ups and downs as a natural part of life. You are not the only one to experience them. Life is a series of starts and stops, and recognizing that allows us to better ride the waves when they come. And trust me, they will come. Find pleasure in the process of searching for more clarity. As you gain new skills and obtain mastery over old ones, see it as one more step forward on your path. An A+ on a test isn't just a good grade added onto your transcript—it's proof you mastered a new skill, and you'll be able to utilize it in the future. I know it may sound corny, but it is less about where you ultimately end up and more about what you do on the road to your destination. Stay positive and know that regardless of how long it takes, God is really up to some pretty awesome stuff in this life and the one to come.

Forgive Yourself

Sometimes when I look back over the past decade of my life, I have to laugh a bit. I started college as an English major with a pre-med focus. I finished college as an English major who wanted to work in the nonprofit sector. I entered law school and dabbled in public interest before pursuing a brief stint at a large firm. I was utterly confused and unsettled, and then I was mad at myself for not being able to solve this problem. If I could tell my former self anything, I would tell her to give herself a break. When I think back on all the fits and starts, I am still amazed I did not drive myself absolutely crazy. I simply could not
accept that I could not find an answer to my restlessness. Now, I can laugh at all of my
needless worrying and fretting and know that God was truly up to something wonderful in
the midst of it all. Accept that you are confused, and give yourself permission to be
confused. Don’t beat yourself up about it. Know that over time, you will become less
confused and the right path will begin to unfold itself.

Maintain Momentum

It is so easy to get mired in the day-to-day routine of life and forget to actively move
forward in meaningful ways both personally and professionally. Yet forward movement is
essential to uncovering your ultimate path. Until clarity comes, use the time to grow your
skill set. Seek out more education opportunities that can help refine your skills. This will
provide you opportunities to delve deeper into the areas you’re interested in and help
determine if you are in the right field. Second, make it a practice to attend several
networking functions each month. Use this as an opportunity to meet people in your major
and your potential dream fields. The goal is to keep moving forward, keep trying new things
and exploring your chosen path. That is the only way you will begin to move forward in a
productive way.

Use Fear to Your Advantage

Fear is a natural response to uncertainty of any kind, and in many ways, it protects you. But
fear can lead to paralysis and end up stifling the very momentum you need to make
progress and move closer to realizing some of your professional goals. Notice I didn’t say
ignore fear. I think that is impossible. Instead, use it to your advantage. Take that added
adrenaline and apply it to something purposeful like exploring your various options.

Refusing to give in to fear and allowing it to stifle your interests and passions is a necessity
in order to make it out of college with your passions intact, and your focus clear.

I remember being fearful of making a mistake and being hesitant to try anything new
because of that fear. I recall being fearful of choosing an impractical career path. I recall a
well-meaning family member blurting out, “How are you going to feed yourself?” after I
announced I would major in Art History and English and become a professor. As an
18-year-old about to start college, that one statement altered the course of my professional
life. I spent years in school taking “sensible” pre-med courses instead of courses that fueled
my passion for reading and writing. If you knew me, you would be laughing right now; I am
a creative, entrepreneurial type and not cut out at all for the medical profession. In fact, my
first time seeing a patient receive a shot made me dizzy, and I almost passed out. That was
probably clue number one.

Refusing to give in to fear and allowing it to stifle your interests and passions is a necessity in order to make it out of college with your passions intact, and your focus clear.

The Outcome

Several years and many prayers later, God slowly started to reveal pieces of His awesome plans for me. Interestingly, I am far from the cookie-cutter career I was always trying to fit into. God is taking my talents and abilities and using them to craft a professional path uniquely me. I don’t have all the pieces in place yet, but I find that with each day I stay the course, I am closer to my desired end point. More importantly, I have dispensed with the “are we there yet?” sort of mentality, and I am learning to relish in the day-to-day highs and lows of the process. I allow myself to fully feel the elation of landing a new account and the frustration of getting a dial tone as I make my hundredth cold call. Just know that your plan is being revealed in the day-to-day.

So, relax. You may not be where you want to be right now, but God knew you would be right where you are. Accept His divine plan, and know that in the midst of it all He is up to some awesome things. The end result will be a better, more satisfied you.