Project Impact 2011: Thirty years of students learning the joy of service

More than 750 Union College students, employees and friends gathered under the clock tower on the cool, sunny morning of September 8 to kick off the 30th anniversary Project Impact, Union College's annual community service day. Nebraska Senator Tony Fulton was on hand to read a special proclamation by the state legislature, as was Pastor Ted Wilson, president of Seventh-day Adventist world church, who also gave an evening talk at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Originally dubbed “Project BRUSH” (Beautifying Residences Using Student Help) in 1981, students used the annual service day to paint more than 100 homes in 10 years. Thirty years later, Project Impact provides a day off from classes so student can experience the joy of service by helping the agencies that serve the Lincoln community all year long. Read more

PA Program announces first Primary Care Service Scholarship recipients

Union announced the first five recipients of the Primary Care Services Scholarship on Thursday, Sept. 15, at a ceremony in the new classroom in the basement of Union College library.

In 2010, Union received a $792,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services as part of the Expansion of PA Training program, allowing it to award $22,000 to five new PA students over the next four years and to expand the program from 25 to 30 spots in each class. Each scholarship is renewable one time, totaling $44,000.

One of only 28 PA programs in the country to receive the grant, “our program stood out for its clear track record with the underserved,” said Mike Huckabee, Union's PA program director. “Our curriculum is designed to give opportunities to work in locations that lack proper healthcare.”

Parents Weekend

The Union College family would like to invite you to a special Parents Weekend scheduled for September 30-October 2, 2011. It was on September 30, 1891, that classes began for the first time at Union College. Come help us celebrate 120 years of higher education! The weekend kicks off with a festive complimentary picnic which will include a Ground Blessing ceremony for the new science and mathematics complex set to begin construction in spring 2012. For information on weekend activities, please contact Stephanie Meyer at 402.486.2537 or register online

Union renews teacher education program accreditation

For nearly 50 years, the Union College education program has sought the highest standard of teaching excellence through accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, or NCATE. Last school year, NCATE renewed Union’s accreditation, giving the education program a top score.

“We are very excited,” said Dr. Joe Allison, former chair of the Division of Human Development and now education superintendent for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. “Union received a perfect result, which only occurs in ten percent of colleges or universities each year.” Allison served as the division chair from 2002 to 2010 and through two NCATE accreditation
visits.

The distinction we received acknowledges that Union College provides quality education to nurture future educators to make a difference in the lives of young people,” said Dr. Denise White, newly appointed chair of the Division of Human Development. “We have a great team who worked hard to prepare for this and I am honored to join their ranks. Read More
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Project Impact 2011: Thirty years of students learning the joy of service
Ryan Teller, director of public relations

When Tyler Bissell’s team finished their assigned tasks at the Folsom Children’s Zoo, they went looking for more work at a residence where another team was still cleaning up a yard.

But the group noticed shoulder-high grass and weeds in front of a house across the street, so they quickly commandeered three lawn mowers and two weed whackers and set to work.

“The family who lived there just had a baby,” explained Bissell, a sophomore international rescue and relief major. “The other little kids had been begging their father to mow so they could play on their swing set. The surprised man thanked us over and over, and the kids did, too. The smiles on their faces made it all worth while.”

With a record 72 sites served by Project Impact this year, many students embraced the opportunity to do more.

More than 750 Union College students, employees and friends gathered under the clock tower on the cool, sunny morning of September 8 to kick off the 30th anniversary Project Impact, Union College’s annual community service day. Nebraska Senator Tony Fulton was on hand to read a special proclamation by the state legislature, as was Pastor Ted Wilson, president of Seventh-day Adventist world church, who also gave an evening talk at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Originally dubbed "Project BRUSH" (Beautifying Residences Using Student Help) in 1981, students used the annual service day to paint more than 100 homes in 10 years. Thirty years later, Project Impact provides a day off from classes so student can experience the joy of service by helping the agencies that serve the Lincoln community all year long.

“Project Impact is a great way to make new friends and get better acquainted with old friends,” said Andrew Stevens, a junior math education major, as he painted playground equipment at a local elementary school with Demion Dublin and Charles Tamay. “It's a bonding experience and you create a special bond with everyone you’ve helped out. You feel good and have fun at the same time.”

“You see all these little kids out here watching us and smiling.” Dublin, an elementary education major, agreed. “It can't get better than this, honestly.”

Vanessa Chavez, a junior health sciences major, helped create a gravel path and put up a fence at a shelter for teenage mothers. “I just think about the young mothers,” she explained. “If I were in that position or if I knew someone in that position, I would want some help like this. I think about how it will benefit them.”

Pastor Wilson spent the day weeding yards and setting fences. “I believe I was most impacted by the numbers of young people working together on a project,” he said. “We cleaned up some yards today, and when you have a number of people who focus on what they are supposed to do, it's amazing how fast the job...
gets done. I think that's a great analogy for how the church works. The eye is not the foot and the hand is not the ear. When we all work together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Lord can accomplish an enormous amount through us."

Each year, more than 80 percent of the campus family participates in Project Impact, an event planned, coordinated and executed by students. Since its inception, an estimated 18,300 volunteers have impacted Lincoln with more than 115,000 hours of voluntary labor. According to available research, Project Impact is the longest running collegiate service day with the highest percentage of campus participants in the nation.

“I was amazed by how many people helped with all the planning and made Project Impact a success,” said Anna Coridan, a junior nursing major who coordinated the event along with Bernice Tumangkeng and Jayme Anderson. “It helped me, as a leader, to better understand the importance of team building and not taking too much on myself. An event like this would have never happened without the help of a great group of students.”

“This demonstrates to leaders in the church that they can trust young people to organize things and don’t have to micromanage everything,” said Wilson after observing the student leaders in action. “The Lord has given them tremendous intellect and creativity. Give them the broad strokes and let them run with it.”

Union College took time at the evening meeting to honor those who helped establish the original Project Brush. Dr. Dean Hubbard, president of Union College in 1981, received an award for his part in launching Project BRUSH. He and his wife, Aleta, took the idea with them to Northwest Missouri State University where he served as president for 25 years, where Project BRUSH also continues. Union also honored Pastor Rich Carlson, Union College's vice president of spiritual life for providing consistent support to student leaders through the last 30 years.

“I couldn't ask for a better place to work,” said Carlson. “The fact that we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of Project Impact is a testament to the quality of our students at Union College who lead out and participate each year.”

Watch news coverage from Lincoln's CBS affiliate, KOLN channel 10. (http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Union_College_Closes_Classes_for_Community_Service_129477643.html)

(Union_College_Closes_Classes_for_Community_Service_129477643.html)
PA Program announces first Primary Care Service Scholarship recipients

For physician assistant students like Barrett Waldrep, a veteran combat medic for the United States Army, a $22,000 scholarship will truly help him accomplish his childhood dream.

“My desire to become a PA can be traced to my upbringing in rural north Florida where medical coverage was sparse,” Waldrep said.

After witnessing the death of his grandparents and stepmother due to lifestyle related illnesses, Waldrep decided to enroll in Union College’s Master of Physician Assistant Studies program because he wanted to dedicate his life to prevention education and medical care.

Union announced the first five recipients of the Primary Care Services Scholarship on Thursday, Sept. 15, at a ceremony in the new classroom in the basement of Union College library.

In 2010, Union received a $792,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Expansion of PA Training program, allowing it to award $22,000 to five new PA students over the next four years and to expand the program from 25 to 30 spots in each class. Each scholarship is renewable one time, totaling $44,000.

One of only 28 PA programs in the country to receive the grant, “our program stood out for its clear track record with the underserved,” said Mike Huckabee, Union's PA program director. “Our curriculum is designed to give opportunities to work in locations that lack proper healthcare.”

The PA students work with underserved people in a variety of ways, including at a monthly foot clinic at the Matt Talbot Community Kitchen and clinical rotations at People’s City Mission and in rural medical facilities.

Waldrep reflects these same values of service. “I want my life's work to be a tribute to God and those who have influenced me in my spiritual, academic and medical ventures,” he said.

Four other students—Jacob Ayuen, Kathryn Rabe, Lauren Kelly, and John Kilstrom—also received the scholarships for the 2011-12 school year.

The PA program also awarded the first PA Humanitarian Award Scholarship to Megan Leveranz, a second-year PA student from South Dakota. The award was funded by two alumni and is given to a student who shows an exceptional desire to serve others.

“This is part of our Christian calling,” Huckabee said. “Our program attracts students truly interested in living a compassionate life.”
Thursday, July 21, 2011

Union renews teacher education program accreditation

Victoria Tobing, student writer

For nearly 50 years, the Union College education program has sought the highest standard of teaching excellence through accreditation from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, or NCATE. Last school year, NCATE renewed Union's accreditation, giving the education program a top score.

“We are very excited,” said Dr. Joe Allison, former chair of the Division of Human Development and now education superintendent for the Iowa-Missouri Conference. “Union received a perfect result, which only occurs in ten percent of colleges or universities each year.” Allison served as the division chair from 2002 to 2010 and through two NCATE accreditation visits.

“The distinction we received acknowledges that Union College provides quality education to nurture future educators to make a difference in the lives of young people,” said Dr. Denise White, newly appointed chair of the Division of Human Development. “We have a great team who worked hard to prepare for this and I am honored to join their ranks.”

Recognized as a certifying agency for teacher education programs by both the U.S. Department of Education and the state of Nebraska, NCATE accredits nearly 800 schools in the United States. Accreditation is a rigorous process, and only four Adventist teacher education programs have achieved NCATE standards.

“In today’s world where quality teacher preparation is a major concern in the nation, to graduate from a nationally accredited teacher preparation program means more than simply taking professional courses toward a teacher certification,” said Y. J. Moses, professor of education. “It means getting a wide variety of field experiences beginning freshmen year and culminating with a semester-long student teaching assignment under the guidance of qualified cooperating teachers. Without the NCATE accreditation, we will not be able to publicly claim this accomplishment.”

Many of those teaching experiences are made possible by George Stone Elementary, Union College’s unique on-campus lab school, which provides education students many opportunities to teach and observe in a small, multi-grade environment starting their freshmen year (see story [http://www.ucollege.edu/news/2011/05/12/teaching-teachers] ).

“No other school in our system has such a valuable tool,” Allison explained. “Adventist schools from across the country and internationally seek to hire our graduates because they are well prepared to teach in both multi-grade and single grade classrooms.”

Because many states align teacher licensure requirements with the high standards set by NCATE, Union graduates find it easier obtain a license in most states. “Union's NCATE accreditation only solidified in my mind the fact that I would receive the best education possible and become the best teacher I can be,” said Elisa Wright, a junior elementary education major from Ohio. “NCATE is a national accreditation, which means that I my education will prepare me to work in any teaching environment.”

To be accredited, an institution must meet the council’s six standards, most of which are focused on the performance of the teacher candidates, both in the classroom and on paper.

Extensive documentation by students, faculty and administrators identify areas of strength and weakness and help education professors continually improve the program. “Without the data and documentation coming from students we could not have done it,” said Moses. Always an ongoing process, collecting data for the next NCATE visit in 2017 has already begun.

Union College is also fully accredited by other accrediting agencies, both in subject areas and as a whole: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc.; North America Department of Education; and Mid-America Union
Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Department of Education. Because the state’s requirements are based on NCATE standards, Union is also fully accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education.

To learn more about the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, visit [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org) or check out Union College’s [teacher education program](http://www.ucollege.edu/education).