Campus Conversations
Highlighting news at Union College

Campus Highlights

♦ On Sunday, May 13, Union College awarded 199 associate, baccalaureate and for the first time, master’s degrees during the annual commencement ceremony in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church. The service recognized 20 graduates from December 2006, 119 May graduates and 46 prospective August graduates for a total of 185 graduates. Among this group, 13 students received two degrees and one student received three degrees. Six of the graduating seniors are Union Scholars, which involves advanced coursework and a research project.

♦ Union College’s commitment to service was featured in the May issue of Adventist World magazine. Highlighting stories of students’ experiences with service at Union, the article includes interviews with college employees, alumni and students. It quotes President David Smith as saying, “Being surrounded by young people who value giving and serving has taught me so much. Union students set an example that challenges me.”

♦ Two communicators from Union College were recognized during the International Association of business Communicators (IABC) awards luncheon. Marcia Ashcraft, May 2007 graduate with a degree in marketing, received an IABC Student Bronze Quill Certificate of Merit for her work on a press kit for Jerry Cahill’s Cystic Fibrosis Podcast at the minnow PROJECT. Marcia’s internship experience will be featured in the next issue of CORDmagazine. Jacque Smith, director of public relations, received the Bronze Quill Award for the Project Impact 25 media kit. The entry for this project received the only perfect score for projects from the Lincoln and Omaha IABC chapters.

♦ Get syllabi copies at a 20% discount at Inko’s Syllabi Sale through June 22. Syllabi may be dropped off at Inko’s, or submitted through the Inko’s section of the Campus Services page on the Union College Web site.

♦ Humanities professors Chris Blake and Tanya Cochran represented Union at the Nebraska Peacemaker’s Retreat held on May 20 in Mahoney Park. Peace and justice representatives from UNL, UNO, Creighton, and other area schools met to share strategies on how to get Amnesty International and peace and justice clubs on campuses to work together.

They reported on the status of Union’s Peace and Social Justice club, a young group that concentrates mostly on education through films and discussion, and the local Amnesty International chapter which meets on Union’s campus. This 25-35 member group meets weekly to write urgent action letters and hosts presentations, conventions, and convocations to generate interest in peace and justice themes.

♦ Rachel Turner, May 2007 graduate, is highlighted in the Advertising Federation of Lincoln’s May Student Member Spotlight. The interview with her can be viewed at www.afedlincoln.org under the News heading.

♦ The eighth annual Heart Walk hosted by Union College raised $1,000 to help support research and awareness efforts to combat cardiovascular disease. More than 215 walkers strolled around Union’s campus including more than 100 Union College employees, grades 1-4 from Helen Hyatt and other community guests. Thank you to the many walkers and fund raising volunteers who helped make the most of the beautiful day. Special thanks to Debbie Forshee-Sweeney, Union’s top Heart Walk fundraiser who collected nearly $300 for the American Heart Association.

You Are Invited

♦ The annual Union College trip to a Lincoln Saltdogs baseball game and fireworks display is July 2 at 7:05 p.m. Each year, the Alumni Association invites faculty, staff, students and local alumni to attend a special Saltdogs game. “We get good seats together near the front,” said Janya Mekelburg, alumni association director. “It’s a lot of fun!” Tickets can be obtained in advance from the Advancement office for $7. Please contact Janya at extension 2032 or jamekelb@ucollege.edu for details.

McClelland Art Gallery

♦ Stop by the art gallery to view the portraiture of Gerard Brennen, 2007 graduate. His drawings, paintings and photographs will be on display through June 24. Terrill Berth will present his paintings and drawings June 25-July 29.

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KUDOS

♦ Last semester, Marsha Bartulec organized the Office Managers Development Group, which is made up of the campus secretaries. The group meets once a month to share and learn from each other. The members are hoping to one day attend a conference specific to the interests of office managers and assistants. The group recently elected officers:
  • President—Marsha Bartulec
  • President-Elect—Paula Carlson
  • Secretary—Sherri Gregory

According to Ashley Barber, the members jokingly refer to Sherri Gregory, the Office Managers Development Group’s secretary, as “Supreme Ruler”, because they know that the secretary of any group knows everything.

♦ The 30th annual Lincoln Marathon and Half-Marathon was held under cloudy skies on Sunday, May 6. Among many alumni and former staff to participate, Union employees Eugene Clausen, Bruce Forbes, Stan Hardt, and DeForest Nesmith completed the half-marathon. Their finishing times for the 13.1-mile race were:
  • Eugene Clausen—1:56:08
  • Bruce Forbes—2:08:24
  • Stan Hardt—2:09:37
  • DeForest Nesmith—2:09:04

♦ The 2007 American Belgian Tervuren Club National Specialty Show, held in Sioux City, was chaired by Union adjunct teacher Jill Morstad. The American Belgian Tervuren, according to the American Kennel Club, is “a herding dog and versatile worker.” In addition to her involvement with the club, Morstad is a respected dog trainer and president of Prairie Skies, a local dog training consulting firm; she has been professionally training dogs since 1985.

♦ Frank Martinez left Lincoln with one more thing to remember him by. According to the Lincoln Journal-Star, Martinez had a hole-in-one on the Number 12 hole of Woodland Hills Golf Course on May 15. He used a 6-iron and one stroke to master the 155-yard hole.

♦ Jacque Smith, director of public relations, is a 2007 recipient of the Lincoln Business Journal 40 Under 40 Award. She was recognized as an outstanding business professional during an awards breakfast on June 1 at the Cornhusker. This is the second year a Union College employee has been a 40 Under 40 Award winner; Lisa Forbes, accounting professor, was a 2006 recipient.

♦ During the final weeks of the semester, several departments began recycling projects. Office managers Leah Schaber of international rescue and relief, Ashley Barber of humanities and Ben Yancer of the Teaching Learning Center have each started small recycling centers in their departments. What began as individual staff members concerned for the environment has spread to impact the rest of campus. Schaber’s recycling efforts in IRR led the department to send a campus-wide e-mail announcing their efforts to collect drink bottles and cans; several students who had been collecting recycling in their rooms dropped off bags of recyclables when they left to go home. “We feel that this is a part of being stewards for God,” Schaber said. “Once every couple of weeks when I take the containers to the recycling center down the street, I feel great knowing that we are doing our part.” The TLC and humanities now accept paper, glass, plastic and aluminum for recycling.

CAMPUS TRIVIA QUESTION

Last Issue

♦ Q: What was the original name for CORD magazine in 1937?

A: The first Union College alumni publication was called the Union College Alumnus.

New Question

Q: How many stairs are in the Dick Building? Bonus: Approximately how many calories are burned by climbing them?

WEB TIP

♦ Now is the perfect time to start preparing to augment classes with Moodle. This tool is a great way to make supplemental materials available to students without making copies, as well have take-home tests, quizzes and study guides graded automatically and entered into the grade book. To learn how to use Moodle, go to bill.ucollege.edu, click on Faculty Conversations and select the Moodle Training course; sign in to Moodle using your e-mail username and password.

Share in the conversation.
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