Campus Conversations
Highlighting news at Union College

December 3, 2007

Campus Highlights

* Over **200 people** signed up for the trial run of the new emergency alert system. The system is designed to send a text message in the event of an emergency to any students or faculty that are signed up. **Circle Lau** was the winner of a $50 Best Buy gift certificate from the first round of testing. A second prize will be given to the winner of a drawing on Dec. 14. To be eligible for the drawing, sign up for the emergency alert system by visiting the Union College home page at www.ucollege.edu.

* Over **60 education students** attended a pizza dinner sponsored by the Mid-America Union Conference on Nov. 12. Education superintendents and academy principals from across the Mid-America Union presented the benefits of teaching in specific areas and answered questions regarding MAU schools. **Joe Allison** also spoke to the group.

* Campus Ministries is looking for outreach projects to take groups of volunteers to for **Something on Sabbath**. If you have any ideas for projects, e-mail **AJ Oetman** at aoetman@gmail.com.

* The **15th annual Parents' Weekend** was a huge success. Over 450 people attended the Get Acquainted Supper on the evening of Nov. 9. “I am so impressed by our committed parents. Some traveled quite a distance to spend time with their children and to learn more about their education,” said **Stephanie Meyer**, organizer of the event since the first in 1993. Parents traveled from states including Montana, Oregon, Delaware, California, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

* **Larson Lifestyle Center’s** Friday holiday hours:
  - Weightroom: 5:45 a.m.-1:30 a.m.
  - Lap swim: 5:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
  - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Gold Stars

* On Nov. 13, **Bethany Parker, Shanell Laursen, Jeaneen Gates, Jenny Ewers and Alissa Armendariz** were guest speakers at a recent Eastern Nebraska Reading Council meeting. Springboarding from the literature for children class, the students presented stories told from the protagonist's point of view.

* We’ve driven the long road of Phonathon and had fun along the way. Union’s Phonathon 2007 was a solid success! A total of $316,986.49 was committed by 2,011 donors **surpassing both the dollar and donor goals**. This success could only be achieved due to the diligence, friendliness and all around professionalism of the phenomenal Phonathon callers this year: **Zipora Araujo, Savannah Bowers, Loret Cherne, Chipo Chibende, Monica Chicas, Sharlene Conopio, Mariela Cosentino, Trina Cress, Erin Flanagan, Kayla Frishman, Rachel Green, Amy Koffler, Gabriel Labatad, Sarah Mackey, Layna Moreira, Janet Osoro, Cori Piel, Jovannah Poor Bear, Jennifer Raimondo, Mychal Rukavina, Ashley Rushlau, Rebeca Salcedo, Caitlin Serns, Renee Simmons, Ashley Tunnel, Debbie Williams, Michael Wombold and Clarissa Woodruff**. Congratulations and many thanks to all of you.

  Thanks to the food coordinators for Phonathon 2007: **Tanya Cochran, Scott Cushman, LuAnn Davis, Angie Peach, Sharon Russell, Linda Skinner, Cherie Smith and Sandy Tallman**. Your delicious treats made the time fly. Thanks also to the people who filled in with yummy food: **Ashley Barber, Cheryl and Larry Crawford, LouAnn Fredregill, Judy Joiner, Cassie and Kyle Martsching and Jacque Smith**.

  ~Nicole Meharry

* Over Midterm break, **26 education students** traveled to **La Vida Mission** in Farmington, N.M. for the fourth annual diversity trip. This trip, led by **Kathy Bollinger** and **Joe Allison**, gives students the opportunity to be immersed in a culture different from their own and provide mission service to La Vida Mission, a self supporting ministry to the Navajo of New Mexico. Thank you to the students and staff who helped provide food and cash donations to the mission.

* The **Unionaires** participated in the **20th annual “Celebration of Thanksgiving” concert** sponsored by Shawnee Mission Medical Center on Nov. 17 in Kansas City, Mo. Featured at the end of the program was CeCe Winans, five-time Grammy Award winner gospel artist. The Unionaires performed with the Kansas City Symphony Brass and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Singers.

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The second annual White Coat Ceremony and Master’s Commitment Service was held on Nov. 8 to honor first and third year physician’s assistant students. Before an audience of 250 family and friends, the third year students were encouraged to finish the final six months of their clinical rotations before graduation. The third year students then presented the “white coat” to each of the first year PA students as a rite of passage signaling their opportunity to now care for patients as a part of their training. David Smith presented a stirring challenge to maintain compassion for the whole person. Union vocal group, the Twelve, provided inspirational music.

Jim McCelland recently traveled to Simi Valley, Calif. to do a Hope Channel interview with Don Schneider, president of the the North American Division of the Adventist Church. The theme of the program centered on Christian education. Jim discussed both his work as an artist and a teacher. The program, “Really Living”, will air in the spring.

Health and Human Performance majors, Shawntae Horst and Anthony Gengenbach were recognized as outstanding students by the Nebraska chapter of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NAHPERD) at their annual gala event on the night of Oct. 27. To receive this recognition, students must be nominated by an official at their school and be involved in volunteer work while attending college. Nancy Petta nominated them as the top HHP students at Union College.

On Dec. 4, chapel will be presented by past and present students from Adventist College Abroad. The program will feature pictures, songs and stories from their time of overseas study. Come to College View Church at 10:30 a.m. to hear about student’s talk about their experiences abroad.

Union College invites the community to celebrate the holiday season with music during the college’s annual choral and band concerts. Admission and parking for both concerts are free.

“The Nativity of St. Luke” by Randall Thompson will feature Union College vocal soloists and choirs on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the College View Church.

The Union College band and other instrumental groups will perform a Christmas concert on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Dr. Frank Restesan is the new director of the Union College band and chamber orchestra. He holds a master’s degree in musical stylistics, music performance and a doctorate in conducting from the University of Arizona. Frank’s past teaching appointments include positions as orchestra director, strings and chamber music instructor at Atlantic Union College, Antillean Adventist University and Walla Walla College. Frank has appeared on prestigious stages around the world including recitals and concerts in Romania, Hungary, Germany, France, Spain, Holland, Puerto Rico and the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York City.

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Who is responsible for starting the Union College basketball program, in what year and under what name?

A: Paul Gnadt in 1986 under the name of the “Basketball Witness Team.”

In what year did Union College open its first indoor swimming pool?

Over the past year, Union has launched blogs for department and select students, and now Union has its first podcast. An audio-based blog, WHAM Radio is sponsored by the Communications Club and features the morning show-like banter of Todd Richardson and Jimmy Phillips. Listen online or subscribe to the feed at blogs.ucollege.edu/whamradio.

Submit information for Campus Conversations or other public relations purposes to news@ucollege.edu or fill out the Campus News Form under “News and Publications” at www.ucollege.edu.

This is the last issue of the semester. Merry Christmas.

Edited by Jimmy Phillips