CAMPUSS CONVERSATIONS
Highlighting news at Union College

December 9, 2008

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

✦ Interested in making a difference in the lives of homeless men, single women and their children, and the sick and forgotten? The John Kerbs Society, comprised of Union Physician Assistant students, is collecting items for the People's City Mission. New or used twin sheets, pillow cases, towels and washcloths are especially needed and will be collected through the end of the semester.

Drop box locations:
• Atrium, outside of the Campus Bookstore
• Ortner center, near the front desk
• Campus Ministries
• College View Church, near the Ministry Gallery

GOLD STARS

✦ Dec. 1, Mark Robison successfully defended his dissertation and will graduate within the month. Congratulations, Dr. Robison.

✦ Debbie Forshee-Sweeney recently completed a masters degree in educational administration from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

✦ The Mid-America Union Conference Office of Education in partnership with the Education Department hosted the annual pizza feed for education majors on Nov. 18. Besides sharing pizzas and cookies with 60 students, the conference education staff of the Mid-America Union and academy principals shared information about the ministry of teaching and the exciting things going on in their particular region.

✦ Congratulations winners of the Wellness Cook Off:
  Main Dish Category  Rice Stuffed Acorn Squash by Rennae Anderson
  Side Dish Category  Curried Kabocha Squash by Vener Cabana
  Soup Category  Refried Bean Soup by Sharon Russell
  Dessert Category  Pecan Pie by Gerry Eddy

✦ Mike Huckabee presented “Leadership Strategies for Effective Patient Care” at the annual Physician Assistant Education Association Education Forum in Savannah, Ga., Oct. 29-Nov. 2.

✦ College Writing I students, in a class taught by Katie Lechler, practiced the transformative power of writing by composing persuasive letters encouraging foreign leaders to release prisoners of conscience for Amnesty International.

✦ Joe Allison attended the annual North American Division Curriculum Committee in Daytona Beach, Fla., Dec. 3-9, 2008. North American Division education leadership, union conference directors, and college deans and chairs met to plan and develop curriculum for Adventist K-12 education in North America.

✦ Thanks to some follow-up administrative calling, we almost made our goal this year during Phonathon. The final total in funds raised for the Union College Fund and other programs on campus was $299,976.03. We appreciate all the students, staff and administrators who made this possible.

Thanks to everyone who helped us make it through each shift by providing delicious snacks for us to enjoy including food coordinators, LuAnn Davis, Angie Peach, Sharon Russell, Linda Skinner and Cherie Smith, as well as those who helped with a shift or two: Ashley Barber, Scott Cushman, Wilma Darcy, Gerry Dodds, Lisa (Bednar) Forbes, Judy Joiner, Terri Lair, Katie Lechler, Kandra Luke, Janya Mekelburg, Stephanie Meyer, Jacque Smith and Sandy Tallman.

A final thanks to Kandra Luke, Andi Vandevere, Cori Piel, Sharon Russell and all the Ortner Center student workers—I couldn’t survive without your pre-and post-calling hard work. A million thanks to each of you!

~Nicole Mebarry

✦ The high point of an English as a Second Language student’s studies is passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), an internationally recognized exam that international students must pass to study in standard college degree programs. In 2007-2008 19 ESL students passed the TOEFL test and advanced to college degree programs, the highest number since the spring of 2004. Current students are preparing for the upcoming test on Dec. 15.

CHECK IT OUT

✦ Dec. 15-17 heralds the semesterly Book Buyback from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at the Campus Bookstore. Exchange textbooks for cash, but please note that not all books can be repurchased.

✦ Give the gift of a Union College hoodie, t-shirt or other apparel during the Campus Store sale running Dec. 15-23. Gift certificates are also available.

Continued on back...
Do you prefer listening to books instead of reading them? If you enjoy audio books, come check out the new Playaway books at the library. The audio books are stored on a small digital audio player and they come with earbuds and an extra battery. There’s no fee to use the Playaways, but the library charges $1.50 to replace missing earbuds upon return. No downloading is required—the book is stored on the device. Come check out a Playaway book at the library today!

Upcoming concerts with revised information:

Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Christmas Vespers Concert
Unionaires and the select group The Twelve will perform a Christmas concert featuring modern arrangements and congregational carols and hymns. Two selections also will feature the Helen Hyatt Middle School Select Choir—College View Church

Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. Sounds of the Season
Union College’s Concert Winds, featuring the jazz band, will perform seasonal favorites that range from traditional to swing. In addition to the 40-member band, the Brass Union ensemble will also perform. —Union College Gymnasium

Dec. 14, 3 p.m. A Celebration of Christmas
The Twelve will join with the First Presbyterian Choir and guest instrumentalists to present selections of both old and new favorites. The Twelve will perform several selections of their own as well as collaborating with the choir and brass. The concert will feature the Hodie of Z. Randall Stroope.
—First Presbyterian Church, 840 S. 17th St.
Tickets: $18 for adults, $15 for seniors (62+), $12 for students

The library is conducting a survey to follow-up on its recently completed program review, with results to be used in strategic planning. The 10-question survey for staff and faculty is located at http://tinyurl.com/68revy

During finals week, Dec. 14-16, the library will be open until 11 p.m. Christmas vacation hours begin Wed. evening, Dec. 17 and will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 4. Christmas break hours are as follows:
Sundays: Closed
Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. till noon

Who doesn’t enjoy a good story? Join LIPS, a fun-loving group of Lincoln storytellers who meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. The next gathering will be Jan. 25 from 7-8 p.m.