



# Tomorrow's Leaders Today

The good news from HELM and higher education institutions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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## Campus ministers help STEP Leadteam understand how to minister more effectively

The work of campus ministry and how the Student Ecumenical Partnership can support that ministry was the focus of March's STEP Leadership Team meeting hosted by University Christian Church in Fort Worth.

Joining STEP were Angela Kaufman and Jeremy Albers from the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life at Texas Christian University and Suzanne Castle-Rolen, associate

See STEP, page 3



The STEP Leadership Team took a break during their March meeting to stroll across the TCU campus. The leadteam is, from left, Chrissy Stonebraker, Tony McMahon, Katie Blaisdell, Meredith Jackson, Brandon Cook, and Noah Gillespie. Unable to attend were Sarah Little, studying overseas, and Danica Lute, who is serving in the Hawai'i National Guard.

## Leadership Fellows Program adds Class of 2012

The HELM Leadership Fellows Program welcomes its largest class in six years with the addition of seven students to the program.

HELM Leadership Fellows are selected based on their leadership potential, church participation, and academic promise. The seven new Leadership Fellows will all be incoming freshmen during the 2008-2009 academic year.

• Tom Calvert-Rosenberger, of Bloomington, Ind., is a member of First Christian Church in Bloomington and plans to attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

• Arrington Foster, of Clinton, Md., is a member of United by Faith Christian Church in Laurel and will study at Texas Christian University.

• Melissa Hall, of Goldsboro, N.C., is a member of First Christian Church in Goldsboro and will attend Barton College in Wilson, N.C..

• Kiersten Hawes, of Horn Lake, Miss., attends Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis and will study at Spelman College in Atlanta.

• Charisse Knorr, of Maryville, Mo., is a member of First Christian Church in Maryville and plans to attend Chapman University in Orange, Calif.

• Allie Lundblad, of Asheville, N.C., is a member of First Christian Church in Asheville and will attend Oberlin College

in Oberlin, Ohio.

• Alan Moore, of Spring Hope, N.C., is a member of St. Paul's Christian Church in Raleigh and plans to attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

"We were able to increase our new student class thanks to an increase in available endowment funds," said HELM President Dennis Landon. "For example, Palm Lake Christian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, received a bequest last year that they directed into their existing endowed fund with HELM. That gift, combined with decades of support from other Disciples, makes this larger class possible.

"Just a few years ago, we could only add five new students a year, and we're so pleased to be able to nurture more emerging leaders. That said, there are still dozens of other students who would benefit from the program if we only had the funds,"

Landon said. "We are continuing to seek partners and identify strategies that will help us offer more opportunities to emerging leaders."

The new Fellows will join a class of 16 returning Leadership Fellows. Together, the fellows are a diverse group. They come from congregations and towns of all sizes and reflect a variety of academic interests and intended professional vocations. Several attend Disciples colleges and universities, but public



CALVERT-ROSENBERGER



FOSTER



HALL



HAWES



KNORR



LUNDBLAD



MOORE

See FELLOWS, page 3

## On campus

### Jarvis Christian College's Jenkins retiring at year's end

Dr. Sebetha Jenkins, who has been at the helm of Jarvis Christian College since 1991, will begin a sabbatical in August and retire at the end of 2008.

"I will miss the ever-changing higher education atmosphere, the beautifully landscaped campus, and the numerous opportunities to influence the lives of my motivated and deserving Jarvis scholars, faculty, and staff," Jenkins said in a statement. "I wish to thank my alumni and the Board of Trustees for their support and encouragement for the past 17 years."

Prior to joining Jarvis Christian College, Dr. Jenkins served as teacher and administrator in higher education in Mississippi and Ohio since 1960. She

completed her undergraduate degree from Jackson State, the masters degree from Delta State, and the doctorate degree from Mississippi State.

Major improvements made at Jarvis during Dr. Jenkins' tenure include: New construction and major renovations at the college; Successful SACS Reaffirmations in 1993 and 2003; increased alumni involvement and giving; service on National Boards including the President's White House Initiative; enhancement of academics, including First Year Experience and academic audits; and a strategic increase in student enrollment.

Jarvis is a Historically Black College related by covenant to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



### Retiring Eureka Christian Church minister speaks at baccalaureate

Even though Rev. Richard Richards retired as senior minister at Eureka Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on May 1, he gave another sermon the next day – at the Eureka College baccalaureate.

Richards' sermon, titled "You're It!", reflected on what makes a rewarding career from the perspective of one who is passing on the mantle of work to the next generation.

Richards was senior minister at Eureka Christian Church for five years. He formerly was a minister at churches in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, and he also worked in campus ministry and the long-term care industry.

### Craddock discusses relationship between church and higher education

Disciples in North Carolina joined the Barton College community on April 29, as the College honored the institution's historical ties with its founding church during the 2008 Founder's Week celebration. The featured speaker was renowned Disciples professor, preacher, and author Fred Craddock, who examined the relationship of the church and higher education.

"Whatever gap there is, whatever distance there is between the church and the academy is not in the nature of the case. It's simply the church in two different postures: the church at worship and the church at study. Same people; and in the early, beginning days, under the same leadership."

Craddock sought to remind the listeners that churches and schools once operated together. As an example, Craddock mentioned the Jewish synagogue's role in education: "It was a school, it was a synagogue, it was a worship place, it was a school. It was a school, it was a worship place, it was all the same. 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your mind,' they said. 'Use your mind! Use your mind! Use your mind!'"

Craddock said, "Eventually the school was separated, in terms of building and geography, from the church."

The idea of the church at study is not popular today, he said. "The church at worship we can handle; the church at work, we're doing better; but the church at study is not an image that's comfortable anymore," Craddock said.

In bridging the gap between church and academy, Crad-



dock believes that, from the church's side, a study of Jesus as a teacher would help a student prepare for college, to prepare for the difference between a church's "hermeneutic of assent" and the academic world's "hermeneutic of suspicion."

For the academy's part in bridging the gap, Craddock feels students should be encouraged to express what they believe. "We're in such a time of disconnect and discontinuity and pluralism and multicultural activity that it is very easy, it's very easy for us to get away with total silence about our beliefs and call it being ecumenical. 'I erase myself; and, therefore, I fit in everywhere.' The point is I'm making no contribution to anybody."

Second, "the opportunity and the encouragement for a student to get involved in the town, in the community, in the city where the school is located" is another

way he believes the academy can help.

Third, he advocated a "strong chaplain service for the students, especially the students who fall victim to their own contradictions, fall victim to the depression that comes from seeing some distance between my head and my heart, for the students who make bad decisions and they accumulate to a suicidal level."

In closing, Craddock said he hopes young people preparing to begin their college careers understand that "starting over is not only possible, but encouraged. That's in the best of all possible worlds, and I think that's where we are today at Barton College."

(Story and photo provided by Barton College)

## STEP

minister for campus ministries at University Christian Church. In a two-hour conversation, they discussed how campus ministry works, from the creation of different, non-traditional worship styles that appeal to a broad range of students to the significant time spent in pastoral counseling.

"It was great to have the opportunity to speak with local campus ministry leaders and hear firsthand about the work that is being done on the campus through a local church, the school chaplain's office, and the DOC-focused campus ministry," said Meredith Jackson, a STEP Leadership Team member. "The leaders do not allow their individual foci to interfere with their work as a group toward a common goal – reaching out to as many students as possible."

Having an entirely new group of students every four or five years creates a need for fresh ideas to keep the ministry from becoming stale, Kaufman said. Campus Chaos, which provides a central source for new campus ministry ideas, is proving to be a useful resource.

"The dialogue we started in Fort Worth needs to continue with campus ministers across the country," said HELM's Dennis Landon. "We learned a lot from those conversations that will help us think about STEP's role in campus ministry. It's hard to be a ministry to students because students are always changing contact information or their involvement in campus ministry. But if we can connect with the campus ministers who see students every day, perhaps there is a way we can be more effective there."

The STEP Leadership Team also planned activities for this summer's youth events. Five of the eight STEP Team members will attend the Disciples' ICYF (the International Christian Youth Fellowship) or its United Church of Christ counterpart. At ICYF, STEP is sponsoring a workshop on vocation that will be presented by Charisse Gillett, director of the Lilly Project on vocation at Transylvania University.

## FELLOWS

institutions and private institutions affiliated with other denominations are represented as well. The ethnic diversity of Disciples is reflected as well; more than 25 percent of the program's participants are non-Anglo. All this diversity gives Fellows a new way to look at the church they have grown up in, the church they will serve.

A selection committee comprised of HELM staff and individual Disciples from across the church evaluated applications without knowing the applicants' identities.

The Leadership Fellows Program helps students explore and strengthen their leadership potential through:

- **Covenants:** Students design their own covenant with HELM describing how they plan to work on developing their leadership abilities. Fellows work

in cooperation with a campus chaplain, director of church relations, ecumenical campus minister or another appropriate official to develop leadership experiences. Many participate in planning and leading campus ministry programs or similar activities, while others lead youth groups in local congregations or engage in outreach programs.

- **Leadership conference:** Fellows also attend annual leadership conferences, generally held the first weekend of November, where they learn from Disciples leaders, pastors, and each other while building bonds to support each other as their leadership skills grow.

- **Summer internships:** HELM works with Leadership Fellows to identify internships that will expose students to the wide variety of ways Disciples minister.

## Fort Worth's University Christian Church claims Campus Chaos III title

For students involved with the campus ministry at University Christian Church, iPods are more than entertainment. They might be doing Bible study.

"Shooter Jennings and Depeche Mode for Church" won the third championship in Campus Chaos, the contest that shares campus ministry ideas. Students meet for lunch and music on Wednesdays and discuss songs commonly heard on the radio from musicians such as U2 and Evanescence.

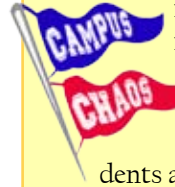
Justin Floyd, author of the winning entry, told *DisciplesWorld* magazine that students analyze the theological messages in songs and relate those meanings to their lives as college students and Christians.

"I decided to submit this entry because I love what 'lunch bunch' is and what it has done for me," said Floyd, "It has actually changed the way I listen to songs. I focus so much more on the lyrics and I listen for the deeper meaning in them."

In his entry Floyd wrote about studying songs, finding the deeper meaning in the lyrics, and translating that into original works of art.

UCC's championship also marks the first effort by a campus ministry to recruit voters for its effort. "This year we were determined to win... We voted as often as we could and came out on top," Floyd told *DisciplesWorld*.

All 2008 entries were compiled into a PDF document on the STEP web site as a resource for campus ministries, young adult and youth groups looking for ways to attract crowds and find new ways to get students involved.



- **Grant:** Fellows receive a \$2,000 grant at the beginning of each school year for educational use.

- **Intangibles:** Students maintain regular contact with HELM staff and other denominational leaders via e-mail and denominational meetings.

To be eligible for the fellowship, students must be high school seniors or community college students planning to enter a regionally accredited American college or university as a full-time student, participate in a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation, and express a commitment to serve the church as a clergy or lay leader and to participate in the leadership development activities required by the HELM Leadership Fellows Program. Applications for 2009-2010 academic year will be available in November.

## Chapman University's Farmer named T.A. Abbott Award recipient

Chapman University religious studies professor Ronald Farmer is the recipient of the 2008 T.A. Abbott Award for Faculty Excellence given by the Board of Directors of Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The award is the most prestigious recognition given by the church to members of the faculties of the 14 colleges and universities affiliated with the church.

The T.A. Abbott Award recipient is affirmed by his or her institution as a professor who inspires students toward excellence, who continues to grow and learn in his or her academic discipline, who manifests a personal faith and whose underlying educational philosophy, regardless of academic discipline, is wholeness of person.

The HELM Board of Directors named Farmer the award's 25<sup>th</sup> recipient at its board meeting in April. Farmer will be presented with the award at a future ceremony at the Chapman campus in Orange, California. He also will receive \$1,000 to be used for expanding his library, developing new courses or continuing education and research.

A native of Guymon, Okla., Farmer earned his bachelor's degree at Oklahoma Panhandle State University and his M.Div. and Ph.D. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to coming to Chapman in 1997, Farmer taught

at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Missouri-Columbia. His teaching specialties include the New Testament, Koine Greek, Hermeneutics, and Process Philosophy/Theology. During his 11 years at Chapman, Farmer has served as the Dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel as well as a member of the Institutional Review Board and a task force for drafting a Code of Ethics for the university.

Farmer is a member of Orangethorpe Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fullerton.

The T.A. Abbott Award was established 25 years ago through a gift to HELM from the descendants of the Reverend T. A. Abbott, a student and later a trustee at Christian University (now Culver-Stockton College).

In the 1880s and early 1890s, Abbott pastored local congregations in Missouri, and from 1886 to 1910 he was the corresponding secretary of the Missouri Christian Missionary Society. He died in 1914.

Nominees for the T.A. Abbott Award must be full-time teaching faculty at Disciples-related institutions of higher education. Criteria for selection include quality of teaching, personal example and commitment to the integration of Christian faith and learning.

Farmer is the first Chapman University faculty member to receive the award.



FARMER

## Leadership Fellow creates Disciples college and university guide

Starting your college search? Looking for a school that reflects your Christian values and dedication? The Disciples of Christ have lots of colleges across the United States offering various programs, sizes and costs. Now it's easy to see side-by-side comparisons of our colleges with the newly created "D.o.C. Campus Guide Brochure."

The brochure was created by HELM Leadership Fellow Alexis Westerhausen with the goal of raising Disciples enrollment at Disciples colleges and universities. A biochemistry major heading into her second year at Culver-Stockton College, Westerhausen created the brochure to help congregations promote the benefits of Disciples undergraduate institutions to their youth.

"Disciples colleges and universities hold the key to success for Disciples youth," Westerhausen says. "Our colleges are top-notch, and our youth should be made more aware of our schools. I hope this brochure will help youth find their perfect college match."

The brochure features information

about all 17 universities and colleges associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), including enrollment, tuition, room and board costs, ACT/SAT requirements, available scholarships, interesting facts and a map locating each school.



WESTERHAUSEN

The brochure can be downloaded from the HELM website and printed as much as needed. "I'd love to see it in the hands of every Disciple youth, parent, grandparent, minister and youth leader," Westerhausen said.

A fifth-generation Disciple, Westerhausen has a dual church membership with her home church, First Christian Church of Virden, Ill., where she serves as a deacon, choir member, worship leader, and substitute pianist, and as a student member of the First Christian Church of Canton, Mo.

The guide was part of Westerhausen's leadership development covenant, the first covenant that resulted in a church-wide publication. The guide has been publicized in the Disciples News Service and on *DisciplesWorld* magazine's web site.

## HELM out and about this summer

Summer is the travel season, but not all trips are vacations. HELM will be working this summer all over the country.

Four events highlight HELM's summer calendar:

- Hispanic and Bilingual National Assembly, July 10-13 in Haughton Heights, N.J.;
- International Christian Youth Fellowship, July 24-27 at Chapman University, in Orange, Calif.;
- The Biennial Session of the National Convocation, July 25-28 in Memphis, Tenn.; and
- The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples Convocation, August 6-9 in Stony Point, N.Y.

We've also started planning for the next General Assembly, July 29-August 2, 2009, in Indianapolis.

Links to all of these events are available at [www.helmdisciples.org/helm/calendar.htm](http://www.helmdisciples.org/helm/calendar.htm). Stop by and say hi!

In 2007 the Disciples Mission Fund, the church's central funding program, provided just over one-third of HELM's financial support. Despite this continued decline, \$723,808 was available to help nurture men and women, clergy and lay, for leadership in the church and the broader community. The commitment and generosity of individuals provide increasingly significant resources for HELM's work and are in large part responsible for our finishing 2007 in the black.

HELM's receipts do not include denominational support for colleges, universities, or theological institutions; those funds go directly to the schools without passing through HELM. While both HELM and educational institutions benefit from the Disciples Mission Fund, they draw from different special offerings: HELM shares the Easter Special Offering with other general ministries, and the Thanksgiving Special Offering benefits only Disciples educational institutions.

## Where HELM's money goes

### **Programs: 77%**

All our leader development ministries, including serving as a liaison with the church's educational institutions.

**\$557,489**



### **Fund-raising: 4%**

The costs of inviting individual Disciples to support our ministry.

**\$32,255**

### **Management: 19%**

The behind-the-scenes work and resources that make our ministry possible.

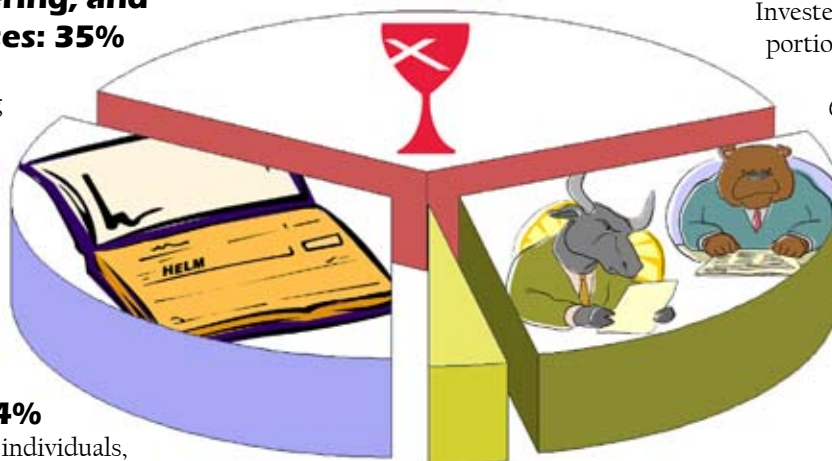
**\$134,064**

## Where HELM's money comes from

### **Disciples Mission Fund, Easter Special Offering, and other church sources: 35%**

This revenue is from the denomination-wide funding system that supports all general ministries, regional ministries, and higher education institutions.

**\$259,305**



### **Contributions: 34%**

Donations and gifts from individuals, families, foundations and other organizations are an important part of our budget.

**\$248,094**

### **Investment income: 28%**

Invested funds provide a significant portion of our funding. Designated funds, which generate about 60 percent of our investment revenue, are for specific purposes such as scholarships and grant programs.

**\$210,662**

### **Sundry income: 3%**

Fees, interest, and other miscellaneous sources.

**\$24,165**