Lantz Center Commissioning Service

“Jesus picked up a towel and tied it around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel” (John 13:4-5).

The towel and basin have long spoken of the service we are to extend to others, as it did once again at the Commissioning Service that took place on Tuesday, April 25, 2006. At this time ten young adults who had been involved in the Lantz Center for Christian Vocations and Formation committed themselves to living Jesus’ instruction to the apostles, “If I washed your feet, I who am Teacher and Lord, then you must wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14-15). These students, who desire to serve others in Jesus’ name, were commissioned for service through prayer and ritual.

During their CVOC 211 course, these students spent time in reflection and wrote a commitment statement that expressed their desire to live a life of service through their vocation. At the commissioning service, each of them proclaimed their commitment before those assembled for the service. After this proclamation, they were anointed by the chaplains and received the Lantz Center medallion as a sign of their commitment to serve Christ in the way they have been called. Following the commissioning, they participated in the footwashing. As their feet were washed by the chaplains, the assembly joined in singing a song that echoed the call to service from the Gospel of John 13. “Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.”

The Commissioning Service was a powerful service that celebrated the commitment of each of these students. The family and friends gathered in McCleary Chapel to support the students served as a reminder that the call to Christian service is not something lived out alone, but is done in the context of Christian community.
Allelon Intentional Christian Community Retreat  By Laura Steed

By your junior year of college, it is not likely that one would have the uneasy feeling of not knowing who his or her roommate is. This is because the student has been on campus for two years and has most likely found someone or some people that can be seen as suitable roommates for the dorm. This year, however, I took a different route. No dorm for me; rather, I felt called to live in a different community, a Christian community. I chose the “Allelon House,” the intentional Christian community on campus.

Therefore, I did not get to pick my roommates; they were chosen by the community director. Yes, I knew the names of the other six members living in the house. However, for some of my housemates, I didn’t know much more than that.

The uneasiness of not knowing everyone didn’t last long, though. The other members of the community and I, along with the director Sr. Jennifer, attended a retreat August 21 and 22. The ultimate purpose of this retreat was to get to know each other and start “building community,” and that’s just what we did! Our time was filled with numerous opportunities for each of us to get to know one another. We sat around a circle and shared childhood memories, played board games, and of course, shared great conversations over meals. In my opinion, however, we grew the closest in the shortest amount of time while completing an intense ropes course. We had to communicate and work together to pass rigorous tests. After the course we could talk, joke, and trust each other like we had known each other for months. But then again, what would you expect if you had to lift and pull someone who was deemed immobile up, into, and out the other side of a cargo net five feet off the ground?

Threshold Freshman Retreat  By Sara Eckstein

For freshman students who participated in Threshold retreat, college began differently than most. Threshold is a Christian retreat that allows incoming freshman to meet and build relationships and to become acquainted with Christian life at UIndy. The other leaders of the retreat and I sought to introduce these students to our faith-filled community, which will serve to foster spiritual growth throughout their college experience.

From the time we finished helping to unload the packed cars on Friday afternoon to the closing Worship service on Sunday, the students were engaged in a range of personal growth and group activities. Laughter resounded through downstairs Schwitzer as we played off-the-wall ice-breakers like Ultra Beast 2006 and the Great Shoe Race. Hearts opened as small groups met to share spiritual struggles and triumphs. Insights were drawn from the spiritual discipline workshops. Whether the practices were familiar, like Bible study and journaling, or unfamiliar, like foot washing and the Labyrinth, it seemed that all students had experiences to contribute or to gain during the sessions. For most participants, the reflective worship service on Saturday afternoon was their first encounter with Taize, a bi-weekly service held on our campus characterized by candlelight, repetitive songs, and a quiet time of prayer. Finally, a trip to downtown Indy on Saturday evening gave the students a chance to socialize and enjoy the city highlights such as the canal and the Indians ballpark.

During a re-enactment of Jesus’ encounter with the Woman at the Well on Friday evening, we heard of His offer of life-giving water, the gift of God’s grace, to all who will receive it. The prayer service the following morning by the pond reminded us that water symbolizes our common baptism in Jesus Christ. These complimenting themes of unity in the Body of Christ and the grace that binds us together seemed to pervade the atmosphere throughout the retreat. Students from many denominational and cultural backgrounds blended to form a family of believers. By closing on Sunday, it was evident that each of the thirty-nine participants in this years’ Threshold retreat have the potential to enrich God’s vision for our campus with their unique talents and passions.
“Greyhound Adventures” is a program of the Phase III Vocations Project administered by the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs at UIndy that provides financial support to full-time undergraduate students interested in exploring careers and callings and helping to further realize the University's tradition of “Education for Service.”

¡Hola! Me llamo Sara. ¡Encantada! These are the first words, along with a kiss on each check, with which I greeted my host family upon arriving in Spain July 1. For the next two weeks, I was to live with this family and one other, spending the daytimes volunteering at an English Camp. It proved to be an experience of growth in many areas of my life, including deepening my understanding of the Spanish culture and language, building relationships with people of a different culture, and learning to rely on God daily for love and endurance.

While the English Camp was located in one of the newest cities in Spain, Tres Cantos, I still had the opportunity to see some of the most historical and naturally beautiful sites. During a visit to Segovia, I toured a 14th-century Moorish castle, enjoyed a traditional meal of suckling pig, and touched with my own hands the stones that construct a 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct. I also traveled to Madrid, the capital city located at the very center of Spain. It was here that I stood at the gates of El Palacio Real, the palace of the King and Queen and gazed with awe at the vaulted ceilings and intricate carvings of the Royal cathedral. Finally, my host family treated me to a scenic view of Spain as we hiked the trails in the Las Manzanares park. I admired the mountains of granite boulders and distantly gazed on the free-roaming bulls, a trademark of Spanish culture. The sight-seeing gave me a flavor for Spanish geography and history, but it was by living and interacting with the people that I began to gain a true appreciation for the culture.

More than being well-fed and comfortably housed, my host families invited me to feel like a member of their families during my stay. I joined the children at the pool in the afternoons to play games and helped to prepare evening meals. We went for ice cream, took bike rides, and shared lengthy conversations about cultural differences and spirituality. I enjoyed conversing with the children in Spanish and receiving frequent hugs from Pablo, an autistic boy. One night, as I was tucking in young Inez for bed, she whispered something I will never forget. She said, “Te quiero,” which means “I love you.” It was by constantly receiving this love that in turn gave me the strength to continue pouring out my love on the children in the English Camp each day.

In Jesus’ teaching about harvesting the crop, which refers to those who choose to follow Him, He reminds the disciples that “one sows and another reaps.”(John 4:36) The mission of the English Camp is built on this principle. We sought to provide the Spaniards with a valuable service, offering their children a fun alternative to learning English, while at the same time sowing seeds of Christ’s love in their hearts. We taught through an interactive curriculum, repetition, and creative activities. Each day the children participated in sports, crafts, lesson, and song time. The smiles and sounds of laughter were testament to the children’s enjoyment. As the children grew more and more attached to the volunteers, the parents often questioned us, “What is different about you all?” They recognized the light of Christ in us. We were beginning to not only cross language barriers, but to tear down walls of disillusionment with Christianity. We showed the Spaniards how a true disciple of Christ lives: “[loving] the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind…and [loving] your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37)

Thank you again to all the members of the Steering Committee of the Crossings Project who offered me the Greyhound Adventures Grant! I am so grateful for this grant which allowed me to participate in such an enriching experience.
Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs Office welcomes office manager

My journey in life has brought me to the University of Indianapolis more than once. I first came to Indiana Central University as a freshman in 1975 and then again as a staff member in 1999. As a senior in a small high school in Hope, Indiana, I had not made plans to attend college. My father had passed away when I was 12 years old, and I knew the cost of college was too much to ask of my mother. But a close friend of mine from Ohio called me and told me she was going to visit Indiana Central University to look at their nursing program. I decided to ride along. Little did I know I would be the one who ended up attending Indiana Central! After receiving an associate’s degree in Legal Secretarial Science, I married Brian Tyree. We have a son, Charles ’05, and a daughter, Tiffany ’07. In September of 1999, I was hired at the University of Indianapolis as a staff member. After a few months on the job, I decided to go back to school to get a bachelor’s degree. In May of 2003, I graduated with a bachelor’s in Liberal Studies and have begun to take classes in the master’s degree program in Gerontology through the Center for Aging and Community. When the position of Office Manager of Ecumenical and Interfaith Programs and the Phase III Vocations Project was advertised, I read it, but I was perfectly happy in the position I was working in. However, I think God had other plans for me because that job kept reappearing to me, and I decided to listen to the call. Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. When I listen, He opens up such wonderful experiences for me. I am so excited to have the opportunity to serve Him through my office management skills!

Phase III has gone high-tech!

Want to know what is happening with vocations during the 2006–2007 academic year? To find out more information about Phase III, visit http://vocations.uindy.edu/phase 3.

In an effort to provide accurate and updated information, all materials pertaining to the Phase III project will be posted online. This will allow faculty, staff, and students the ability to stay updated on the latest endeavors of the project. The Web site will provide you valuable information about the four facets of Phase III Project: Christian Vocations, Student Leadership Development, Faculty and Staff Development, and Community/Church Partnerships.

In addition to providing information on the Phase III project, the Web site provides links to all programs associated with the Eccumenical and Interfaith Office, including the Eccumenical and Interfaith Programs site, Christian Ministries, and The Crossing Project.

Look for bookmarks around campus that say “What’s Happening with Vocations at UlIndy?” This will spark your memory to check out the Web site!
After many successful endeavors, The Crossings Project has come to an end. What happens now? Phase III, that is! In order to continue the programs of exploration and vocation that have been established, the Phase III Vocation project is being implemented at UIndy. A $500,000 grant in funding from the Lilly Endowment along with matching funds from the University will help the programs to continue. Phase III will involve four core groups of exploration and vocation (see below).

The executive committee has adopted the phrase “What’s Happening with Vocations at UIndy?” This phrase will be used on publications to advertise the link to what is taking place on campus. There are many opportunities for involvement. Within the Christian Vocations Programs, students will have the opportunity for scholarships, retreats, and internships. Within the context of Student Leadership Development, students will have the opportunity to apply for Greyhound Adventure Grants, attend leadership programs, and have programs provided through Career Services for exploration and personal development. Faculty and staff members will have the opportunity for book discussions, EduServe Faculty Seminars, retreats, and mentoring training and opportunities. It is indeed an exciting time for the Phase III Vocations project! We hope you will take advantage of the many ways in which you can explore your own vocation. —Kory Vitangeli, Phase III Executive Committee

**Project Executive Committee**
Michael Cartwright, Project Director & Dean, Ecumenical & Interfaith Programs
Paul Gabonay, Director of Career Services
Sr. Jennifer Horner, University Co-Chaplain and Director of Lantz Center
Cindy Tyree, Project Office Manager
Kory Vitangeli, Dean of Students

---

**The Phase III Vocation Project—what does it all mean?**

The Crossings Project concluded its work on June 30, 2006. “Phase III” began operation on July 1, 2006, and continues selected Crossings programs through June 30, 2009. The Phase III Vocation Project is organized into three sets of campus-based initiatives and one set of partnerships with churches and community agencies.

**I. Christian Vocations Programs**
- Threshold Retreat
- United Methodist Youth Leader scholarships (up to 5 students in each cohort; 20 students total)
- CVOC courses & service learning
- CVOC retreats
- CVOC pilgrimages (Taizé, etc.)
- CVOC internships (with some supplemental stipends available)
- Sophomore Stretch Retreat
- Senior Springboard Retreat
- Allelon House Intentional Christian Community

**II. Student Leadership Development**
- “Greyhound Adventures” Grants to students for vocation exploration opportunities
- Student leadership programs
- Career services vocation exploration and personal development opportunities
- Adventures in Service to Humanity opportunities (Career Services)

**III. Faculty & Staff Vocations**
- Vocation exploration book discussion groups
- EduServ Faculty Seminars to explore the University’s mission
- EduServ Mini-Retreats for Staff to explore the University’s mission
- CVOC mentor training events
- CVOC mentoring opportunities
- Vocation exploration and spiritual renewal opportunities *

**IV. Church & Community Partnerships**
- “Wesleyan Connexion Project” (Indiana-area UMC will offer a summer intensive for studies in Wesleyan tradition at UIndy for pastors in training)
- Vocations retreat for high school youth
- African-American Spirituality and Civil Rights Pilgrimages (Annual Gathering of Sages)
- Short-term collaborations with local congregations and agencies to create additional vocation exploration and service opportunities as needed.

* Please note: Unlike the Crossings grant, the Phase III Vocations grant does not provide mini-grants for vocation projects and activities initiated by faculty and staff.
Twice a year, the Project Executive Committee (PEC) will be meeting with a group of people representing the various constituencies, collaborations and partnerships of the Phase III. While many of these persons will be faculty, staff, and students of the University of Indianapolis, there will also be several persons who represent community partnerships.

The purpose of this “Vocations Forum” will be to hear reports on the work of the program directors as well as to discuss concerns regarding our overall efforts to extend and sustain theological exploration of vocations programming on this campus. Because we have a wider circle of participation in these programs, we are blessed to have a very talented company of people who are participants in the programs that have been created for faculty, staff, and students.

Since this Lilly Endowment funded project also has the purpose of assisting the United Methodist Church in Indiana as it cultivates a “culture of call” in United Methodist congregations, this group will also include a few representatives of some of our collaborations with church and community groups.

Each meeting will focus on one set of programs. For example, at the meeting scheduled for Dec. 4, 2006, the PEC will invite feedback about the way we are approaching student leadership development and Christian Vocations mentoring. The probable focus of the May 7, 2007, meeting will be faculty and staff vocation exploration and mentoring opportunities offered through the Phase III Vocations Project.

The members of the PHASE III Vocations Forum are:

- Ms. Brenda Bassi ’90, Student Affairs
- Ms. Christie Beckmann ’98, Office of Conference and Scheduling
- Rev. Dr. Lang Brownlee, University Co-Chaplain (UM) & Director of Youth Ministry
- Ms. Colleen Corder, Administrative Assistant, Institutional Advancement Office
- Mr. Kevin Corn, Instructor in Religion, Member of Ecumenical & Interfaith Council
- Rev. Linda Dolby, Mulberry United Methodist Church, South Indiana Conference
- Dr. Jonathan Evans, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Dr. Perry Kea, Chair, Philosophy & Religion Department
- Rev. Dr. Andy Kinsey, Pastor of Vincennes Community UMC, South Indiana Conference
- Mr. Tim Kirschenheiter ’07, Philosophy major, Catholic Campus Ministry
- Ms. Fengyi Kuo, Occupational Therapy, Ecumenical & Interfaith Council
- Ms. Lela Mixon, Office of Career Services
- Ms. Toni Peabody, Social Work
- Mr. Drew Philips, One Accord Campus Ministry, Student Christian Ministry Council
- Mr. Eric Raider ’04, Student Activities Coordinator, Catholic Campus Ministries
- Mr. Jim Ream, Chairperson, Theatre Department
- Ms. Laura Steed ’08, Youth Ministry Major, Allelon House CVOC Community
- Dr. Nicole Taylor, Assistant Professor of Psychology, UIndy faculty representative, Lilly Fellows Network
- Ms. Marylynne Winslow ’99, Admissions, United Methodist layperson, South Indiana Conference