

# Campus Ministry Matters

United Ministries in Higher Education - Springfield, Missouri

December 2011

## Christmas Blessings ☺

December 19th was a delightful day. Each year, I can count on a longtime advocate for our Campus Ministry calling to wish me and my family a Merry Christmas. The call came that morning. We did not talk for long but Lorraine's words of friendship, the sound of her smile ☺ and her good cheer made my day. She is a past Carter Award Recipient and loves college students. For almost thirty years, Lorraine has encouraged our Campus Ministry. She is a **blessing!**

Later that day, Jubran, a student living in The Monroe (from Saudi Arabia and Muslim), came by my office. We have become friends (he cooked goat for me earlier in the semester and I visited him in the hospital). He will be here for break studying for the GRE. Like Lorraine, Jubran wished me a Merry Christmas. I was touched by his generosity. Jubran is a **blessing!**



Our common humanity unites us as God calls us to be a blessing to each other.

**Howard**



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from the staff of The Monroe & United Ministries in Higher Education*

# Blessings of the year ...

Our Campus Ministry has enjoyed many blessings in 2011. Here are a few ...



- **Samantha Hogenson** graduated on the 16th. Sam was a great Peer Minister for us her sophomore and junior years. In January, she is off to Florida for an internship with Disney World and then, next fall, she will be attending graduate school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. studying ecotourism. Sam is one of the most thoughtful and conscientious students I have ever known.

- Probably **the best Habitat for Humanity student chapter**



we have ever worked with and advised. This past year this remarkable group of MSU students was recognized as one of the top Habitat Campus Chapters in the United States. Next semester the Chapter will be building homes with two families: Angie and Jordan Pippin; and Thomas & Renatta Pengilly (children Tiara and Jamie).

- **Tyler Hendrix** was the Habitat Chapter President this past year.



He graduated on the 16th with a degree in Construction Management and has a job with Meek's Lumber in Springfield. He also was recently asked to help advise the Springfield Habitat Affiliate. Tyler is a compassionate and wise leader. His hard work and challenge to his fellow students this past year made all the difference. I could not be more proud of him.

- **The Monroe** has dramatically changed how we think about campus



ministry, what it will look like for us in the future and how we will fund what we do. These are good things as we have been required to think more "*outside the box*" and that in-turn has led us into innovative new ways of acting out our mission of greeting the University community with the grace of the Christian gospel. Watch for more news here!

- **Second Lieutenant Jake Ryan.** The 16th was Jake Ryan's



"*Gold Bar Commissioning Ceremony.*" Jake and I traveled similar paths; he recently and me forty years ago. Now Jake is a 2LT in the Army and I am in the midst of 28 years of campus ministry (though it could have easily been the Marines). These shared experiences allowed us great rapport and conversation. He recently brought back my book, The Echo of Greece by Edith Hamilton. Jake knew the value of surrounding himself with mentors and I was lucky to be one for him these past four years. With soldiers like him, we have reason to be thankful.

- **Theta Chi Fraternity** continues to lead the way within the MSU Greek community. The highest form of flattery is mimicry and three other fraternities at MSU have adopted a model similar to ours (I am the Chairperson of their Advisory Board). Consider the awards that these young men earned this past year: Alter Award (highest Theta Chi award, 7th year in a row), MSU Fraternity & Sorority Life Chapter of the Year, Greek Week Winner, the most community service hours and the highest Fraternity grade point average.



- **Liz Stafford** graduated last May and is now the Band Director at Cabool. She is close enough to still participate in our Campus Ministry; now as a Board member. Two weeks ago, Liz was elected the Vice President of the UMHE Board, and another alumni, **Tona Rowett**, was re-elected as President of our Board. I am thankful that we have good leaders like Liz and Tona to serve on our Board of Directors.



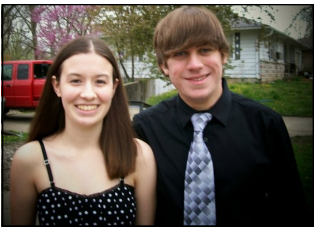
- This is also the time of year when I receive **Christmas cards from many alumni**. Joyfully, I see former students in the faces of their children. It is just crazy how much Kylie looks like her Mom, Sheri; and how much Alexa looks like her Dad, Tim! ♥



- **Louise Blumenstock and Kate Mendenhall** both retire from our Board at the end of this year. Louise served as Secretary and Kate as Assistant Treasurer. Their leadership and faithfulness will be missed.



- **Kate Foster and Sean Hogue** will be married December 30th in Joplin. Kate was a Peer Minister for us for three years and Sean has volunteered countless hours. Both are currently student Board members on the UMHE Board. The Joplin tornado passed directly over Kate's house. She and her family miraculously survived. Kate and Sean will graduate in May and Kate is in the process of choosing a seminary to attend. Sean is a numbers guy and is looking at the insurance industry. We all agree that they are a "match made in heaven."



- **Lobby Volunteers @ The Monroe.** You have moments when you have an idea that works out just right. Thirteen volunteers from six local churches staff the Lobby Desk in The Monroe Monday-Friday 10AM to about 4PM. Their job? **Smile**. This ministry of hospitality is a wonderful part of what we do at The Monroe and has been greatly appreciated by students and our volunteers. If you would be interested in helping (we have three openings) call Marlene in the UMHE office, 865-8711.



# Campus Ministry Matters

United Ministries in Higher Education - Springfield, Missouri December 19, 2011

- **Celebrating 50 years of faithful campus ministry;** an incredible milestone! What a delight it was to honor Julie Kays with this year's Carter Award. From our founding in 1961, by the Rev. Jim Robinson and a visionary Board of Directors, to today, the landscape has changed dramatically, yet, students remain students. I have often said that the only thing that you can safely predict about college students is "**creativity.**" Yet, they search for purpose and meaning just like the rest of us. Thankfully, God embraces our shared quest and greets us with grace; grace known fully in Jesus the Christ.



I hope this gives you a sense of what our campus ministry looks like. We give thanks to God for all of the blessings, large and small, we have received (and passed along) this year. The past twelve months have been eventful and the coming year promises to be just as exciting. **Thankfully,** just like fifty years ago, we are blessed today with a committed and faithful Board of Directors and Staff.

**Please consider a year-end gift.** 



## United Ministries in Higher Education

*"Greeting the university community with the grace of the Christian Gospel."*



**Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please print and send your tax-deductible check to:**

**United Ministries in Higher Education**

1141 East Monroe Springfield, Missouri 65807



Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!**