



The UCC Campus Ministry at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
presents

The Grapevine

New this semester:

- Movies with Muslim friends!
- Breaking the fast with Muslim brothers and sisters!
- New CUCC parking stripes!
- Multi-Game Madness Premier!
- Student ambassadors visit churches across Illinois!
- Chapel moves downstairs!

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FREE

December 2007

MAD World Mark Johnson Chicago, IL Pre-Veterinary

This MAD (movie and discussion) year brought us a large variety of movies for our enter-



tainment and discussion purposes. They ranged from comedies, to one act plays-made-movies, to social commentaries about Muslim life and the voyage to Mecca. Well, actually that is the list. *Knocked Up*, *The Big Kahuna*, and *Le Grand Voyage* are their names, respectively, and how I will address them.

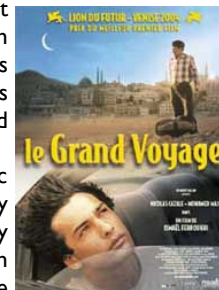
Knocked Up was a comedy that brought out many ideas about love and sex. The discussion for this

was limited due to the group's schedule, which did not permit much, though unique ideas and concepts were brought up. It was also hilariously funny and everyone enjoyed a laugh.

The Big Kahuna is classic for the Campus Ministry MAD list and raises many points about using faith in the business world and the appropriate time to discuss your faith. Measuring a person's "goodness" level is a point touched on and discussed very often in connection with this



movie. The MAD night showing of *Le Grand Voyage* was a very special event in which our doors were opened to another campus ministry group of the Muslim faith. This was quite



critical in understanding a movie plot about a father without a driver's license trying to pilgrimage to Mecca from France. He does not want to fly and so has his son who no longer follows the faith drive

with him across Europe.

The lessons learned through this journey sparked many discussions concerning losing faith, what it means to people, and the consequences of having faith. The discussion was immensely helped by our guests, who shared background information of the rituals and the reasons for many of the actions in the film that people outside Islam would not understand.

Overall, a funny, conversation-sparking, and touching lineup for my last round of MADs (a name I came up with).

Orchard in October Joe Newcomb Rock Island, IL Materials Engineering

We visited Curtis Orchard this fall, an event that was geared toward new freshmen.

Much fun was had by all, between buying bags of apples (and other treats) and running through a maze.

The lion's share of our time went to



wandering through the rows of apple trees and selecting only the finest specimens (and eating a few!).

Then we shared apple donuts and cider, an excellent combination.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience.

Halloween Lock-In: Resurrection! Jen Goheen

Sugar Land, TX
Theater Education

After the success of last year's Friday the 13th Lock-in, the SET team decided to continue this spooky tradition kicking the event off with a screening of the original slasher film, John Carpenter's *Halloween* (1978). Once everyone was thoroughly creeped out by Michael Meyers, his William Shatner mask, and the midi-keyboard theme song we moved on to the 2nd Annual Pumpkin-Carving Contest! Contesters got really creative this year and Karen was able to auction off these beauties to lucky church families (and students who

couldn't bear to part with their masterpieces).

Next, SET member Nichol Chontofalsky led students in a rousing game of Murder. In Murder, students draw playing cards to determine their role. Much like hide-and-go-seek, all players must conceal themselves in the dark while the game leader counts. Once hidden, the murderer seeks his victim who must let out a blood-curdling scream. The game concludes when all players return to base and determine based on a series of accusations and a group vote who murdered the unlucky victim. This game was a lot of fun and quite spooky when hiding under the pews of the darkened sanctuary!

The hit of the night was the "Bobbing for Apples as

bound. Waddling to the bucket, the player then had to bob for an apple and return to their team without breaking their mummy ensemble. To make things fair, each team had to use at least one roll of toilet paper by their last player before



Mummies Competition" in the basement of the church. In this competition, students divided into four teams and each team was handed a giant roll of toilet paper. Two large water buckets filled with floating apples were placed in the center of the room. When the competition began, one player from each team was wrapped in toilet paper until their hands and knees were

being declared the winner. The competition became so heated that a toilet paper war erupted! Luckily there were enough of us present to make the cleaning go quickly and we spent the remainder of the evening playing Halloween picture-telephone, telling scary stories and using the Ouija board. Everyone had a blast, and I'm glad to have been part of this annual event's creation!



Breaking the Fast Colie Huppertz

Glen Ellyn, IL
Biology

For one of our multicultural events this semester, we visited with our Muslim friends at the local mosque. We went during Ramadan, the Muslim month that involves showing devotion to God in several ways, including fasting from sunrise to sunset every day of the month.

The word hijab also carries the broader meaning of privacy, modesty, and morality.

After the women in our group struggled to put on a hijab (the headscarf many Muslim women choose to wear), we arrived at the mosque and chatted with some Muslim students and joined them for the traditional fast-breaking snack of dates. Then we observed their evening prayer (one of the five daily prayers of Islam).

After enjoying an excellent meal prepared by several of the mosque members, we all

enjoyed a great discussion with several Muslims who were U of I students, and, as we all learned, similar to us in a lot of ways.



Student-Led Well Worth Effort Margie Mathewson Athens, IL
Bioengineering

From the outside, our student-led service seems simple and stress free. Convince someone to throw together a sermon, find a few greeters, and show up to the church on time on Sunday morning. No sweat. At least, that's what I thought when I agreed to put it together for this fall semester. I had no idea what actually goes into the making of a moving and well-put-together service.

The things that make Student Led memorable are the panicked 2 am phone calls to figure out if the "call to

worship" is actually the same thing as the "responsive affirmation," the hunt for those last few greeters, the realization that the doxology may not be printed out in the bulletin (which, as we all know, leads to complete chaos as everyone sings whichever version they like best), and those few tense minutes on Sunday morning when we wonder if everyone is actually going to be there to do their part.

Somehow, though, when 10:15 rolls around, everything just falls

into place. This semester's student-led was as good as any I've seen, due in no small part to the very creative writing of our fellow UCF'ers, including Tex with his rather controversial sermon intro. It takes guts to stand in front of this congregation and announce that you voted for Bush and your tuition is paid for by Texas oil...



Campus Ministry Takes On CUCC Mike Allen Angola, NY
Grad—Ecology

UCF'ers joined with members of Community UCC to beautify the church twice this semester. On November 3rd, fifteen Campus Ministry students volunteered at the Fall Work Day and took on the task of cleaning and restriping the CUCC parking lot. The task was much larger than we thought! With nearly 50 parking spots, broken glass

everywhere and a fresh leaf fall, we spent most of the morning clearing so that the

striper and spray painters could get to the fun part. We shared lots of good food and good laughs with our fellow CUCC'ers.

On November 30, we joined with Peggy and Roger Wade to "Paint the Sanctuary Green" in the CUCC sanctuary. Twenty of us "assembly-lined" the Christmas tree from the tower of the church down into the sanctuary. We hung wreaths, banners and

garlands, and then fluffed the tree (necessary when it's stuck in a box in pieces!) Margie and Caroline and company were meticulous about getting the garland in the front of the sanctuary to look right (little did they know that it had to be removed two days later!) We finished by hanging the Christmas trees, lighting the tree and decorating yummy sugar cookies. Thanks to Peggy and Roger for sharing this fun with us!



A-Maze-ing Fun at the Reindeer Ranch Adam Hughes Lindenhurst, IL
Mathematics

This year we continued a fine Campus Ministry tradition which has been with us since the days of yore (well not that long): the trip to Hardy's Reindeer Ranch. There we split into teams and competed fiercely for the right to say we won, nay...that we SURVIVED the corn maize (pun intended). After what seemed like weeks of intense competition filled with blood, sweat, tears, etc., and more than one instance of jump-out-and-scare-



someone (my personal favorite) one team emerged triumphant above all the others who had entered the terrifying spider-themed maze.

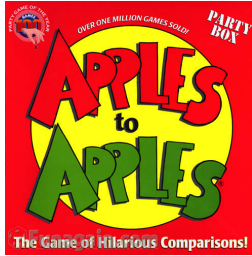
We gathered everything from the Orkin man to Spiderman on our hole punches, and I must say it was intense. Afterward we all relaxed in the spirit of good sportsmanship and met Daisy, the baby reindeer with one antler, thus effectively healing the devastating psychological blow my team's victory had dealt them. Another year, another set of good times.



First-Ever Multi-Game Madness! Mark Goodwin

Sugar Land, TX
Mechanical Engineering

Many of us are familiar with games like Catchphrase, Pictionary, Apples to Apples, Sardines and Jenga, but none had ever played all at one time until November 2nd. Mediated by Cory Hinz, the Campus Ministry held a night of "multi-game madness." This involved us being split into teams and competing against one



another for the ultimate prize – a construction paper medal (plus bragging rights and an inflated

ego). We began by rotating the Jenga blocks between the groups while playing Apples to Apples. Next, each team split into two groups to play either Pictionary or Catchphrase. Then we played a massive game of Sardines (think hide-and-seek, where the seekers then hide with the person they find). Finally we played an original game similar to horseshoes using a cone as the target and several random objects as the horseshoes. Cory tallied the points, and the winner was...WAIT! It



was a tie!

Being the competitive Christians that we are, we couldn't call the entire night



a tie. The tiebreaker was a staring contest between the two tied teams' leaders, the lovely Jesse Kappel and me. Let me just say that when the Campus Ministry gets together to play lots of fun games together there are two certainties: everyone will have fun and my team will win.



Tower Hill in Fall Color Jesse Kappel

Palatine, IL
Biology

Fall retreat this year was once again spent in the wonderful A-frames at Tower Hill, Michigan. The weekend started off with some relaxation time at the beach and some card games while we awaited the arrival of the entire group. The weekend was then spent in group/personal worship and in fun games and activities. We made timelines of the major events in our lives; these were then shared in our small groups. We also wrote letters to God,



sang songs, and had group meditation times with lit candles.

My favorite was getting to share and hear about everyone's inspirations; these could be stories, items, or music of a person, animal, place, or anything really that brings personal inspiration. These are then shared with the entire group

intermediately throughout the weekend. Some games and activities were planned that included modeling others into statues. Free time was spent at the gorgeous dunes, playing card games, and taking turns preparing meals for the group. A special night trip to the beach to look at the stars was also a highlight of the weekend.

Overall, fall retreat is always a wonderful weekend that helps everyone free their mind of stress from school and spend time with God. Also, fall retreat is a bonding time to get to know new faces and catch up with the faces that were left over the summer.

Giving Thanks Together Robyn Reuter

Skokie, IL
Chemistry

As Robert Caspar Lintner said, "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day," and this year's annual Thanksgiving feast holds true to that statement. As the first of everyone's probably multiple Thanksgiving dinners, our feast gave start to the festive holiday season filled with good food and great friends. Festive costumes brightened the occasion, including such unique choices as a turkey costume, a cornucopia head-dress, and a Christmas lobster.

UCF alumna Sarah Potts provided the first necessity of any Thanksgiving meal – the turkey – while the other feast goes provided further Thanksgiving dinner essentials. We enjoyed several traditional Thanksgiving dishes made by members in the group, including stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casse-

role, chocolate chip pumpkin muffins, and Carl's pumpkin gooey butter cake. This year's Thanksgiving feast was a great success. Thanks to everyone who came!



Hot Eats and Cold Feet Nigel Knop Champaign, IL Undecided

Many members of the Campus Ministry enjoyed a little time out of their hectic school work, band practices, and jobs when we went camping in Indiana at Shades State Park during October. Friday night was spent eating some delicious hot dogs and s'mores, while gathered closely around a campfire for warmth. Searching for warmth became a habit, especially Friday night in our tents. Saturday was started with Cory and me making pancakes for everyone. Later on we took a several mile hike through the forest, taking in some beautiful scenery.

Shortly thereafter, many of the students headed back to campus, but four stayed for a second night (Caroline, Cory, Margie, and me). Karen's family also joined us on Satur-

day. That afternoon we hung out until – uh-oh! – I forgot to bring the fresh vegetables for dinner! So Margie and I took off for the

and it added some excitement to the weekend.

Saturday evening we ate a delicious meal that was prepared by yours truly – mmmm. We sang happy birthday to Margie because she had just turned 21, and then headed to bed, but we didn't exactly sleep. For about two hours we acted like five year olds again and had a huge tickle fight. Let me just say that was the most fun I've had in a long time. Yay for being immature once in a while!

Sunday we packed up camp and headed home but ended up lost on the way back. We managed to find our way home anyways: another adventure. All together that October weekend was a great time to just get away from the craziness of life, enjoy the company of good friends, and see the beauty of nature.



nearest town, about twenty miles away. We were able to find a small grocery store and get the vegetables/ingredients we needed. Nonetheless it was an adventure

Visiting Our Neighbors Carl Duffield Thomasboro, IL Biology

This year one of the Friday night events of the group was a visit to the Champaign County Nursing Home. It was an opportunity to spend time with some of the residents who may not always have the opportunity to see their family on a regular basis, as well as hear some fantastic stories from the residents. One of the best parts about the visit was that each person or group of people found someone to talk to just by wandering and visit-

ing with residents in the halls or knocking on room doors and being invited in.

At least an hour passed while talking with different residents about things ranging from time spent in China to daily visits from a husband to see his wife and eat dinner with her. I'm sure I speak for most when I say that our time spent there

went by very, very fast. I feel that I can also speak for all of us at the nursing home that night when I say we all took

away different but very powerful and moving stories and experiences, and for most of us a new friend.





UCC Campus Ministry
Community United Church of Christ
805 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820
217-344-5091
ucc.campus.ministry@gmail.com
www.community-ucc.org/ucf

Spring 2007 SET Roster

Karen Bush
Nichol Chontofalsky
Carl Duffield
Jen Goheen
Cory Hinz*
Margie Mathewson

*Grapevine Editor-in-Chief

The Grapevine

Karen's Korner

As I write this letter the snow is gently falling outside our family room window, which is aglow with brightly colored Christmas lights. A crackling fire and Skipper's snoring make a sweet music in the peace of the night when the house is asleep and I am thinking of all of you.

I think of our alumni who came over my office threshold in their teens and the new first days of college life. Each of you now is out there in the night in your own home. Some of you with life partners and children; some of you in the midst of climbing the mountain range of professional career building; others are leaders in a local church. From what I hear from you all of you are giving back in your community and to creation in some way and I am very proud.

I think of our campus ministry friends who believe in the presence of the church in the middle of the lives of college students- students who are at the cross roads of so much for their lives. These are the individuals who are a huge part of making this ministry possible – with your interest, your care, your prayers and your gifts and I am very grateful.

This has been such an inspiring and fulfilling semester. I hope you get a strong sense of that from reading the stories of our wonderful students.

As our numbers of active students continues to steadily climb and as our depth and breadth of programming continues we count on the financial support of you, our alumni and friends more than ever.

Early in 2008 you will receive a pledge card and return envelope in your mailbox. You will have several choices of where your gift can go including helping to pay for our general budget and/or build our endowment, which under-girds everything. You will also find a page for you to write and tell us your news for our about-to-be-born alumni friends Web page.

Our growth is amazing and our need is great, but our faith in you is complete.

I look forward to opening my mailbox at church and finding an envelop from you with your news about you and with your tangible way of helping this ministry move forward into the future as we take good care of today.

May the peace of God be with you always,
And know that you are loved,

Karen

Reverend Karen Bush
Campus Minister/Campus Ministry Director

CAMPUS MINISTRY ALUMNI

Mark your calendars now for our UCC Campus Ministry Alumni Retreat to be held

Friday through Sunday May 2, 3 and 4th!!!!

Registration info is coming soon. I hope to see you there! Family and partners welcome!

Who are we? We are a ministry of the Illinois Conference United Church of Christ. As a progressive Christian organization, we embrace all who wish to participate in a Campus Ministry, regardless of personal circumstance. We love to spend time together in fellowship, worship, service and outreach. There are chances to gather nearly every day of the week, with each activity offering an opportunity to nurture friendships and grow spiritually.

UCC Campus Ministry Mission Statement:

The purpose of the UCC Campus Ministry is to explore faith, perform social service, and experience fellowship in the spirit of God's love.

