

BROCK UNIVERSITY ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY

Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy (BUEC) is consistently a very involving ministry because it is the sole spiritual service on campus that emphasizes both good ecumenical and inter-religious relationships. The activities of the Chaplaincy are normally divided into three main categories: justice advocacy, student programming, and public awareness. In each category there are various committee responsibilities, programs, and special events that fill out the year of Chaplaincy.

The Ecumenical Chaplaincy oversaw both in a hands-on and managerial way the opening of a new Muslim Prayer Room and Multi-faith Centre in 2011. And in the spirit of inter-religious cooperation, the Chaplaincy held the following programs: two Market Table Talks on Diwali and Ramadan respectively; four Inter-faith Learning Circle Events on the theme of love in Hinduism, Buddhism, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Christianity; a multi-faith student Faith Fair that focused on spirituality and the environment; and a multi-faith student's end of term B-B-Q.

In addition to programs specifically related to religion and spirituality, the Ecumenical Chaplaincy also organizes in cooperation with sponsoring denominations a bi-monthly student supper called the Toonie Suppers (because a meal is offered for a Toonie). The aim of this program simply is to create connections among students and between students and the Chaplain. The United, Presbyterian, Anglican, and Unitarian churches all cooperate to make this program a success.

Programs and committees related to the categories mentioned above also need to be noted. Justice Advocacy involves the Chaplain on the Justice At Brock (JAB) committee. In conjunction with this committee and with Women's Studies at Brock, there is involvement in the December 6 Memorial Gathering. Classroom lectures also give opportunities to raise the question of justice in the Canadian context. The Chaplain is regularly invited to speak about Canadian religious history and the social gospel in a classroom context. Cooperatively with the International Students Services, the Chaplain also organizes and holds a Student Winter Coat Give-away. Gifts from several local congregations make this event possible.

Student Programs that are offered consistently, in addition to those mentioned above, include a study group that has focused on the historical Jesus (2011) and on the spirituality of Karl Jung (2012). There was also a Chaplaincy Open House to start the fall term 2011. And, in relation to the Ecumenical Chaplaincy, there is a Brock student employed as a Multi-Faith coordinator. Cooperatively, campus events like the Holocaust Memorial are coordinated through the Ecumenical Chaplaincy working with the Multi-faith Coordinator.

In terms of public awareness, the Ecumenical Chaplaincy organizes, oversees, and coordinates the Brock Remembrance Day Ceremonies. This large event involves many participants and attracts hundreds of faculty and staff. On a monthly basis the Chaplain also visits congregations of the United, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Unitarian churches to preach a sermon or participate in services to promote the awareness of the ministry. Occasionally, a congregation is visited during the weekday to either lead or offer resources to a study group. There are also various opportunities to present a lecture or workshop on campus. This year specifically a workshop was offered in the Faculty of Education on Religions of the World.

The ministry of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy is involving because it is flexible in terms of its ability to relate equally well to Christian denominations, other religions of the world, and yet remain open to humanist students who seek spirituality outside of traditional religious boundaries. Each denomination that supports the ministry is represented with integrity, and students come to the Chaplain seeking mentoring from all the denominations that support this ministry. The Ecumenical Chaplaincy has consistently proven to be a valuable ministry not only in terms of representing the supporting denominations on campus but also in terms of being a unique, spiritually based resource in the diverse setting of the university.

*David Galston,
Chaplain*



CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO & WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

A Ministry of the United Church of Canada accountable through the Chaplain's Support and Accountability Committee to Waterloo Presbytery, Hamilton Conference and the National Church through Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At the University of Waterloo Campus Ministry reports directly to the President of the university and is affiliated with the Federation of Students. At Wilfrid Laurier the ministry is accountable to the Dean of Students

Mission Statement:

To make real to students, staff and faculty (a) the love of God for all humans, both individually and collectively, and to all of creation (Christian emphasis) and (b) the necessity for advancing the welfare of others, both individually and collectively (the United Church emphasis)

Healthy Congregations and Presbyteries

Each year for the past 7 years, our Campus Ministry has selected a group of music students to come together and prepare music to take into congregations as the Chaplain's Brass. In this way the worship and program life of congregations within Hamilton and London Conference has been enhanced while the students learn more about the variety and breadth of the United Church as well as other faiths and denominations. As much as Campus Ministry is highlighted with regular reports to Waterloo Presbytery, reaching out with the students in such a tangible fashion and participating fully in worship at the congregational level is mutually beneficial.

Effective Leadership

Within the educational setting, leadership is about making opportunities for student leadership. Giving opportunities for leadership is a primary goal of our Campus Ministry. Over the past 4 years we have brought a group of seniors (many from our United Church connections) together twice each week to learn how to play musical instruments. The leadership for this group comes from University students chosen and nurtured by our Campus Minister.

Our Campus Minister plays a central role in the annual Music Is For Life Conference at the University largely led by students he personally selects and guides. Regular Chaplain's Retreat days at "the farm" were well received. This spring, a group of indigenous students and their elder worked with the chaplain in creating a sweat lodge and ceremony. Several events are sponsored each year with campus groups who share similar passions to those of the United Church, notably, the Rainbow Club, Amnesty International and Habitat for Humanity. These are largely student led with support and guidance offered by our Campus Ministry. Our Campus Minister serves on a volunteer basis as Chaplain for the KW Naval Association.

Faithful Public Witness

The continuing connection between Campus Ministry and Habitat for Humanity reaches far beyond the university as 20 students travelled during reading week to the southern US to help build homes. Our Campus Ministry was instrumental in establishing the Campus Chapters of Habitat for Humanity. We also held an event to highlight the very difficult situation with Human Trafficking. A weekly open discussion group "Fermented Faith" held at Wilf's draws everyone from 1st year to graduate students together to consider the issues of their lives and the university in the context of our Christian Faith. Our book club worked through 2 books this year. The books were a great launching point for some good theological dialogue. This group has attracted mainly graduate students and some faculty.

Strengthening Partnerships

Our United Church Campus Ministry is truly ecumenical and inter-faith. Working closely with the Rabbi, Orthodox Priest and Roman Catholic Chaplain brings about many challenging opportunities when it comes to joint programming. We have also been at the leading edge of bringing together students for multi-faith dialogue

each term for many years. In a sense, we also partner with the poor of Kitchener-Waterloo with our Urban Plunge program where students job-shadow a street-person and connect with those who have lost all hope in themselves and in their ability and potential to determine their own future.

In addition, our Campus Minister has been active with the International Student Community for many years and continues to be active in finding housing where international students are integrated with other Canadian students associated with campus ministry.

Many of the students our Campus Minister works with are the passionate students who are certainly not closing their eyes and hearts to the cries of the poor. Something within them demands a response. They are also seeking a framework for understanding the “something within” which is what we know as God. These students are not limiting their response to God’s call. How can we limit our response to them?

Paul Ellingham, our United Church Campus Minister is open to people of all faiths and cultures. He regularly participates in the annual world religion conference at the University of Waterloo and speaks on multi-faith panels representing Christianity. Each year he develops programs that will help people deepen their compassion out of the recognition of the oneness of all – that we are all one global family; that all deserve the same level of justice.

God’s mission continues to call for our ongoing participation in Campus Ministry across this nation. In doing all we can to help “the least of these” realize their dignity in the fullness of God’s love we need to be present in the journey toward God with the young leaders of tomorrow – today’s university students.

We must continue to help our young adults understand why as people living in such a wealthy nation we must join others in challenging the unjust economic structures that maintain poverty.

The University is a place of leadership formation, cultural innovation, and worldview dissemination, and the Church has always invested in its life and future.

If the Church fails to enter into a mission relationship with the educated, it will fail to touch the nerve of life in Canada. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Hamilton Conference Priorities:

Healthy Congregations and Presbyteries – a healthy church must constantly be walking the talk with young adults – no better place than the university

Effective Leadership- Campus Ministry is daily about development of the minds and souls of tomorrow’s leaders – individually and in small group events

Faithful Public Witness – ministering in the public university context is a privilege and remarkable opportunity – it is new church development in action

Strengthening Partnerships – as a profoundly ecumenical and interfaith ministry in partnership with students, staff, faculty, international partners and 5 other campus ministers, Campus Ministry is a mosaic of partnerships

The Campus Ministry Committee

ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRY – UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

ECM Campus Minister – Rev. Marty Molengraaf

ECM Mission :

- To offer Christian support, encouragement and spiritual counseling to individuals and groups as requested.
- To give students who may not identify with a specific church or faith group an opportunity to express questions about their own spirituality, sense of the sacred or experiences of the Divine.
- To ensure that faith has a place and a voice on campus.
- To enable students to explore the idea that higher learning and faith can and so exist side by side.

How do we do we accomplish our mission?

This ministry deals with university students who are in a state of self discovery. At this time in their lives they have either made a commitment to Christianity, rejected religion completely or are interested in exploring spirituality from different perspectives. In order to reach this vast majority of students on campus, our approach has been to create a movement of Ubuntu. Ubuntu comes to us from the aboriginal peoples of South Africa and it means inter-relatedness, interdependence, a radically compassionate community and a profound commitment to the well being of all. Ubuntu celebrates diversity in the midst of community. Ubuntu enables us to be more human, more tolerant, more understanding, more compassionate, more accepting. For many it is also the beginning of a discussion about spirituality and about the sacred.

ECM Campus Ubuntu is about building bridges, creating community and developing relationships among students in the university setting. It provides an opportunity to engage students in a meaningful way that promotes healthy relationships, effective leadership and a strong sense of connectedness one to the other.

Campus Recognition: Paul Gilmor Award – Marty Molengraaf received the Paul Gilmor award in March 2012. This award is given to a staff or faculty member who significantly improved the life of students on campus. This award represented “affirmation” of our approach to facilitate student engagement in a faith dialogue.

Activities and Events of the Past 8 months. A few highlights:

Campus Christian Conversation Group – every other Thursday we talk about celebrations and concerns of students in the Christian faith journey from an inclusive point of view.

Christian Theology on Tap – together with the local Atheos group on campus we have introduced this activity which we occur twice a month on Thursday evening. This past semester we had one meeting at the pub on campus. It was a great evening.

Ask Big Questions Initiative – this year we launched the idea including the formation of an ASK BIG QUESTIONS web page, twitter account and blog. The idea is to create an opportunity for students to engage in conversations about the big questions of life in a safe and accepting way. It is aimed at creating a stronger sense of social society and acceptance of one another. This coming year we are working with the Jewish Hillel group joining into the International Ask Big Questions initiative.

Peace Week Flash Mob – using the video “We want peace” by Emmanuel Jal we had 50 students dancing in the Branion Plaza in front of a huge video wall as another 250 students watched. The call was to live in peace with one another and to embrace each other recognizing that we all need each other. Voices of peace by students and staff were added to the end of the video.

Student mentorship – we offer an honorarium to students to support the activities of campus Ubuntu and to promote Ubuntu on campus. These student leaders have responded extremely well, one of them winning a volunteer award at the Student Life Banquet.

Aboriginal students – Aboriginal students on campus are a particular focus for ECM. Project planning meetings focused on community needs have been held with student representatives.

Multi-faith Leadership - Provided leadership to the multi-faith team on campus. This team includes representatives from ECM, Christian Reform, Hindu, Islam and Jewish faiths

Ubuntu Photo booth – pictures of students taken in costumes provided with the instructions to celebrate their own identity in the context of community and relationships. This enabled us to talk to over 400 students about Ubuntu, diversity and embracing who we are.

Ubuntu Feast – a feast feeding 100 students during orientation week celebrating foods from around the world and celebrating food traditions – again talking about the joy of diversity and the importance of embracing each other in our differences

Introducing Ubuntu at Philopolis, a philosophy fair at the University of Guelph. We had presentations about Ubuntu from an aboriginal perspective, a business perspective, a philosophical perspective and a spiritual perspective. It was well received and resulted in an excellent article in the *Ontarion* – the U of Guelph newspaper.

Weekly Ubuntu student meetings – six to ten students meet regularly to talk about Ubuntu from a variety of perspectives, to share experiences of Ubuntu together and to plan ways to create this movement of Ubuntu on campus

Great Ubuntu cookie Hunt – during Campus Royal cookies were hidden throughout McNally House. Children went on a cookie hunt and then gathered to solve a puzzle which enabled us to celebrate that just like there are many kinds of cookies and they are all good, so are they many kinds of people, cultures and faith traditions and they are all good.

Goals for the Coming Year

1. To continue to promote Ubuntu on campus as a movement celebrating diversity and enabling meaningful faith conversations;
2. To increase attendance at the Christian Conversations over Coffee;
3. To expand the Ask Big Questions initiative;
4. To further develop a strong student leadership team for campus Ubuntu;
5. To create a week-long event in September called “Introducing Ubuntu” – activities all day long, including a lunchtime speaker series and culminating in a larger event on Friday evening;
6. To enhance United, Presbyterian and Anglican community church involvement with University of Guelph students.

Dr. C.J. Swanton
Chair, Ecumenical Campus Ministry
University of Guelph

FIVE OAKS EDUCATION AND RETREAT CENTRE

The church is challenged in adapting to these changing times. All of us are asking, how can the church respond? Five Oaks helps participants address that question. In 2011 Bruce Sanguin and Ann Evans led a workshop on the nature of **leadership** in an emergent culture and Andrew Root proposed a new identity for church as a place for the formation of real community. That is experienced in Five Oaks' programs. Youth, adults and children with a breadth of church and leadership experience and with none find belonging and the sacred.

To equip **congregations to be healthy** and to develop **effective lay leadership**, new programs are being developed. *Hand in Hand: Equipping Congregations for Pastoral Care* was launched this fall and you will be hearing about other initiatives. Keep abreast of the latest programs and activities through the website www.fiveoaks.on.ca and newsletter (on the website or sign up to receive by email).

Five Oaks extends the public witness and care of the church with:

- Retreats for marginalized women and men where they are safe
- Day Camps inclusive of children with physical, emotional and financial challenges
- Circles for Aboriginal people

In September, the Frances Sandy Theological Centre was amalgamated to become part of the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, relocating to Manitoba. Their leaving is a loss not only of revenue, but also of our onsite aboriginal ministries partner. Native People's Retreat will be continuing, and the house they vacated has been repainted and refurnished and, for now, provides additional beds and space for groups and programs.

With these older buildings, maintaining and upgrading is a constant need. A decade ago, bedrooms in the main building were upgraded by UCW groups and by congregations who offered the money to redo one or two or more. I'd love to hear from groups in congregations who would offer that again. In particular need are a couple of bathrooms in the main building!

In Hamilton Conference we are privileged to have ready access to one of the United Church's Education and Retreat Centres. Take advantage of that proximity! Come for an evening program or for longer. Bring a group from your congregation for a tour. Drop by to enjoy a walk on the labyrinth or in the woods (check in at the office first).

Come and see for yourself what Five Oaks has to offer!

Respectfully submitted,

Pegi J. Ridout
Director

McMASTER CAMPUS MINISTRIES COUNCIL

The McMaster Campus Ministries Council is a group of students, staff, faculty and denominational representatives who serve God and the McMaster University community through worship, pastoral care, participating in the intellectual life of the university, fostering ecumenical cooperation and responding to campus needs. For 40 years, the Council has provided a strong model of partnership between the Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches, in addition to working closely with the Roman Catholic and Christian Reformed campus ministers who share office space in the McMaster Chaplaincy Centre. Leadership is exercised by the Ecumenical Chaplain who provides spiritual care, counseling and support of students, but also by current and former Council members who are instrumental in providing a large variety of programs.

Like other campus ministries in Ontario, the MCMC experienced the loss of the Anglican grant in April 2011 that represented 19% of the annual budget in 2010. The approaching loss of funding from Hamilton Conference, which represents 13% of the budget, has made fundraising a priority. A second event to honour the 40th Anniversary has been planned for April 25, 2012. A complete list of past members and donors was gathered to receive the invitations. A powerpoint presentation highlighting events from the past 40 years has been assembled for the anniversary event. Former students will speak and an appeal will be made.

In spite of the financial crisis, programming was extensive. We network and partner with many groups, including: the Anti-Violence Network, the Soul Food Fair Planning Team and the McMaster Community Poverty Initiative (MCPI). These cooperative programs dovetail with the weekly Social Justice Group, seasonal worship and the regular work of pastoral care and mentoring. Networking is essential for doing ministry, not only to maximize resources, but also to spark creativity. One of the best examples this past year was the creation of the pilot for Discovery Program. The program to provide a university level course for adult learners who experienced barriers to post-secondary education was championed by the MCPI Executive, which the Chaplain co-chairs. A great deal of time was spent in gathering resources from community and university partners. “Voicing Hamilton”, the eight-week course taught by Daniel Coleman, provided a unique educational and social opportunity for 20 adult learners. Jeannette Eby, an active member of the MCPI served as the coordinator of the program, and along with four Arts and Science students met weekly with the students.

The Discovery Program has found a permanent home within the Arts and Science Faculty, and will begin with a repeat of the Voicing Hamilton Course in fall 2012. While the Discovery Program required a significant time commitment, we were able to offer about 70 students the experience of eating a typical food bank diet in October, and an educational immersion experience for 25 native studies students from a local high school in March. Jeff Wingard, coordinator for the MCPI, has been essential to building a strong link to the community and in coordinating several research presentations. Tom Cooper, chair of the Hamilton Roundtable, Don Wells, chair of Labour Studies and Carol met with the Roger Couldry VP administration, and Mark Haley, VP Human Resources to discuss the goal of McMaster becoming a “living wage” institution. There is a spirit of cooperation and a desire for McMaster to follow the lead of the Hamilton City Council to become a living wage employer. The living wage for Hamilton is \$14.95, inclusive of benefits.

The Social Justice student group benefited from the participation of Jacob Mattinson, a Divinity student doing his placement with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy. Jacob helped the group to articulate a mission statement in order to apply for recognition as an MSU Club for fall 2012. MSU Club status will mean access to funds for delivering programs. Justice topics were varied and personal, particularly our concerns for the deportation of Lucene Charles, a member of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, whose appeal was

ultimately denied. The death of 10 Peruvian migrant workers in February 2012 prompted the group to learn about the disparity in labour practices for migrant workers. A Night of Solidarity with Migrant Workers and Families was the group's response to the tragedy along with a donation drive at the campus bookstore and copy centre. With sponsorship from OPIRG, OLAS (Organization of Latin American Students), and the Phoenix Restaurant we shared an evening of music and briefings about current labour conditions. The campaign raised \$1,451 for the families. The Social Justice group concluded the year with a "Hungry for Change" dinner with Diversity Services. Clothing and canned goods were collected for Living Rock Ministries.

A series of meetings with representatives of eight Christian groups resulted in a Christmas Coffee House on December 5th. About 200 students enjoyed music and great food on the last day of class. A smaller group gathered during the Week of Prayer for a speaker and to pray for requests that had been collected at a table in the Student Centre.

The Interfaith Issues Working Group (which Carol facilitates) invited Richard Chambers, from the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Toronto. His talk continued to inspire us over the year as we contemplated our lack of multi-faith prayer space and the difficulty for students to keep kosher on campus. A "Cookies 'n Conversation" discussion on food issues prompted a list of concerns that will be shared by Carol and Vilma Rossi (Human Rights Office) with Albert Ng, Director of Hospitality Services. The group has successfully obtained a grant from the Student Life Enhancement Fund to develop a multi-faith website that will include houses of worship, specific resources, holidays, and information about accommodation. Until this website is created, the Chaplaincy Centre website will include a drop-down tab with information about Synagogues and rabbinic resources. Michelle Poirier from the HRES Office will complete this work.

The Daughters of Abraham Dialogue Group met several times, but never found a time that was inclusive of all members. Trust deepened to the point that the group chose to read, *I Shall Not Hate*, by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish. This challenging book provided an entry point for a difficult discussion about politics, loss and suffering. Two members who have been active since the group formed will graduate. We will seek to attract new members and will plan an initial meeting prior to the Jewish holidays in September.

Goals for the coming year include:

1. Development of the Social Justice group, which, if given club status will be called Advocacy and Action for Social Justice. Carol will meet with the new executive to outline programs for the fall and seek ways to attract more students.
2. In partnership with OPIRG, campus groups and Hamilton Conference, we will host author Alanna Mitchell in late September at McMaster. The aim is to foster lasting engagement in the issue of climate change and the environment.
3. Hiring of a student to research and develop the multi-faith website. Vilma Rossi of the Human Rights Office and Carol will serve as supervisors for the student.
4. Work to secure the financial viability of the MCMC by attracting new monthly donors and grant writing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Wood, Chaplain