

Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

As a biology education major, students receive rigorous training in modern biology while gaining comprehensive experience in a series of courses, field experiences and, of course, student teaching during their senior year. At Huntington, students gain specifically designed skills for biology education majors that give them hands-on, practical experiences every semester. Students complete a three-week, full-day practicum in a multicultural school in Fort Wayne. Students also observe and participate in the actual classroom before they ever begin student teaching. Biology students are continually challenged to develop skills in critical thinking and effective communication. They learn from their fellow students while they participate in labs and other group-learning activities. Professors challenge and inspire students as they carefully integrate a Christian perspective, exploring the "why" behind science that points toward the intelligent design of our Creator.

TEACHING IN CULTURALLY DIVERSE SETTINGS

As a teacher in a predominately African-American school, Michael McKinney appreciates how Huntington prepared him for teaching in culturally diverse settings.

When Michael was a student, he presented outdoor environmental programs at a camp for inner city children. He also taught African-American and Hispanic students in Fort Wayne through a multicultural practicum. These and other experiences provided invaluable lessons that helped Michael land his current job. He now teaches twelfth grade environmental systems at Cedar Hill High School in Cedar Hill, Texas.

Michael was first attracted to Huntington University because of the newly built, 93,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Science Hall. "I loved the campus and the people," he says. Michael graduated from Huntington in 2006. Looking back, he sees that the education he received prepared him well to be a science teacher. "When I am teaching a concept, I have to know it inside and out," he says. "The students will become confused if that is not the case. These kids have some good questions about what they are learning. If not for my science professors, I would not be able to give them answers."

Among his other challenges on the job, Michael tries to motivate his students to learn. "Some of my students do not like science, and they are counting down the days to graduation."

Michael majored in biology education at Huntington, but also studied other sciences to supplement his major. He took several physics and chemistry classes and believes that his overall knowledge of science is better than some of his peers. "Many teachers know the subject they teach but not the other sciences."

The professors at Huntington also helped Michael establish a Christian perspective on science. Michael appreciates that the faculty did not impose their views on him but instead encouraged all students to think for themselves. Elsewhere, Michael says, "faith is strongly discouraged. Everything needs to be explained naturally. There are so many times when I would wonder how anyone could not believe in God when looking at all the design in the world."



"The chapels at Huntington made me think and wrestle with issues that mattered."

Not only did his professors provide a solid education, but they made efforts to befriend Michael. He appreciated the faculty's caring nature more than any other aspect of Huntington University.

"Dr. Burch and Dr. Evans were people I could always talk to no matter what the situation. I can still call them up and talk about what is going on in my life and theirs." Michael adds, "How many students from big schools can say they baby-sat their professors' kids?"

Michael says he also formed close relationships with other students. Extracurricular activities offered Michael many opportunities to meet friends. He was involved with the campus radio station, international education honor society and various intramural sports.

Reflecting on his college experience, Michael says he grew spiritually. "Being in the dorm around other guys who are going through the same things as you is very encouraging. We would have weekly Bible study and prayer time," Michael said. "Guys would keep each other accountable."

Huntington's chapel programs helped Michael integrate faith and learning. "The chapels made me think and wrestle with issues that mattered," he says.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & NOTES



• **Prof. Jim O'Donnell**, associate professor of business and executive-in-residence, has been offered a contract to write a book with Northfield Publishing addressing saving for retirement through the workplace. The book will

be released in late 2008. O'Donnell is the author of "Letters for Lizzie: A Story of Love, Friendship and a Battle for Life" and "Walking with Arthur: Finding God on my Way to New York." In the fall of 2007, the latter was made available in French by Swiss publisher Ourania.

• The Huntington University Concert Choir and Orchestra joined forces with the Community Festival Chorus in the 53rd annual Huntington performance of Handel's "Messiah" on Dec. 2 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. **Dr. George Killian**, assistant professor of music, served as conductor.

• Recipients of the Huntington University Peer Award for the month of December were **Mrs. Margaret Pasko** and **Dr. Terrell Peace**. **Mr. Barry Cochran**, director of campus police, passed the Peer Award to Mrs. Margaret Pasko. Pasko is administrative assistant to the vice

president for student development and has been with the university for 12 years. **Dr. Dwight Brautigam**, professor of history, passed the Peer Award to Dr. Terrell Peace. Peace is professor of education and director of graduate and undergraduate teacher education and has been with HU for nine years.

• **Mrs. Jody Davenport**, instructor in physical education, and six Huntington University students gave a presentation at the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance state conference on creating adapted activities for special populations. The title of the presentation was "Lifetime Activities are for Everyone – Including Me." **Professor Connie Updike**, assistant professor of recreation management, wrote the presentation.

• The Workforce Development Division of the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce recently presented Huntington University with a Gold Award. The award is given to companies and individuals who contributed \$10,000 or more to the workforce efforts of the chamber of commerce during the fiscal year. **Dr. G. Blair Dowden**, president of Huntington University, accepted the recognition at a breakfast on Dec. 6. The Workforce Development Division of

the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce fosters collaboration between businesses and education, encourages workforce skill development and enhancement, promotes graduate retention, assists with the planning and execution of a job expo and career fair, provides linkages to economic development, and advocates for businesses.

• On Nov. 19, Huntington University's RichLyn Library hosted **Dr. Timothy Smith**, assistant professor of history, for the fall "Focus on Excellence" colloquium. Smith presented his new book titled "Britain and the Origins of the Vietnam War: UK Policy in Indo-China, 1943-50." A question-and-answer session followed his lecture.

• **Dr. Arthur Howard**, athletic director at Huntington University from 1937-44, recently visited India, where he was honored for teaching students physical education and coaching track and field in the country. Howard, who founded the National Institute of Sports in Patiala, India, in 1960, was honored during a ceremony at the institute. He spoke to physical education teachers about the institute's history and his experiences in teaching physical education courses at the institute.

Huntington University Department of Social Work



Senior social work major Elizabeth Karst (right) reviews materials with Holly Saunders, executive director of the Huntington County Council on Aging. Karst is from Anaheim, Calif.

The Department of Social Work at Huntington University focuses on the foundational values of the social work profession which are justice, service and integrity. Students who enjoy problem-solving and have many areas of interest may be a good fit for this major. The social work program addresses the current needs of individuals, families, groups and communities, allowing students to be globally aware and locally active.

PROJECTS ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

Social work majors learn skills, help Huntington County

Senior social work majors at Huntington University completed two major projects during the fall semester as a part of their experiential learning in macro social work.

Each student was assigned to a not-for-profit agency and prepared a grant for the agency. The grants are funded by the local company, Ecolab, as a part of its community benefits program. Students were assigned to the Huntington County Council on Aging, Huntington County Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, and the Huntington County Free Clinic. The timing for these grants worked ideally with the fall semester schedule. The grant proposals are made available in early September with a submission date of mid- to late October. Award decisions are made by late November so students are able to review the results as well.

"Writing and preparing grant applications is a major focus for social workers who go into macro practice at the administrative and supervisory level, so this 'hands-on' training is extremely beneficial," said Carla MacDonald, assistant professor of social work. "Alumni of HU's social work program already have used the skills gained in their current positions."

"This hands-on training is extremely beneficial. Alumni of HU's social work program already have used the skills gained in their current positions."

-- Carla MacDonald, assistant professor of social work

The second project for the senior class involved participation in a community needs assessment for the Huntington County Council on Aging. A long-term project for the council recently was started to thoroughly assess the needs of various neighborhoods in the city of Huntington. The focus is on community development, targeting not only the aging population but all members of a neighborhood recognizing that all citizens eventually will move into the targeted age group.

Upon completion of the work for the project, members of the class met with Holly Saunders, executive director of the Huntington County Council on Aging, to share the results of their initial work completed on the survey.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Men's Basketball

After trailing most of the first half, the Trojans of Taylor University (14-4, 3-1) took control of the game in the second and held off a late Forester charge to upset NAIA 12th-ranked Huntington University (12-5, 2-2) 68-65 on Jan. 5. The Foresters used a 7-0 spurt midway through the first period to turn a 9-9 tie into a 16-9 advantage at the 10:42 mark. HU took its biggest lead of the game at 21-13 on a driving lay-up by Tyler Shively with 7:38 to go in the half. Taylor then put together an 8-0 run to knot the score at 21 with just under six minutes to play, and the half finished dead even at 28-28. HU's Doug Sheckler took game-high honors with 26 points in the contest. He was joined in double figures by Luke Smith with 15.



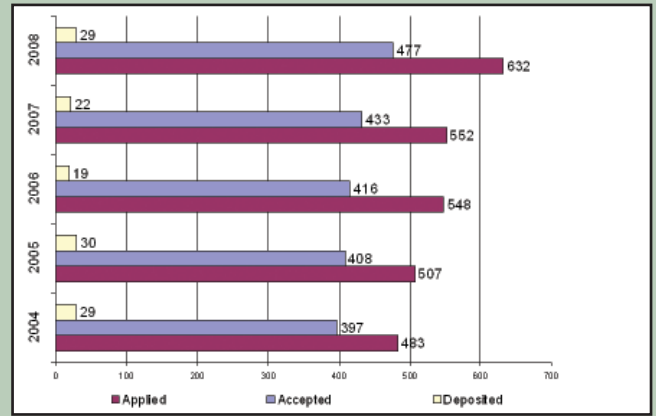
Men's basketball junior Kyle Bengé earned Athlete of the Week honors for two consecutive weeks in December for his outstanding performances. Bengé, an elementary/special education major from Plymouth, Ind. (Plymouth High School), helped lead Huntington to a 2-0 week by averaging a team-high 19.5 points and 5.5 assists in the Foresters' two games.

Women's Basketball

A lackluster defensive effort led to the Foresters' demise as they fell 75-57 to Taylor University on Jan. 5. Courtney Beerbower led three Foresters in double figures with 21 points. Brittney Bateman added 13 and Jenna Donaldson finished with 10. The loss drops the women to 9-7 on the season and 1-3 in the MCC.

For news and up-to-date results of Forester Athletics, visit www.huntington.edu/athletics.

ADMISSIONS UPDATE



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington University for the fall 2008 semester. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years.

ADVANCEMENT NEWS

December contributions are being processed, but gift receipts prior to Christmas break are very encouraging with unrestricted giving in the first half of the month running ahead of December 2006. A number of donors have responded to requests for both restricted and unrestricted giving to the university during the last month of the calendar year. As 2008 begins, the Advancement Office wishes to thank everyone who partnered with Huntington University during 2007.

AROUND CAMPUS...

• **Prof. Jim O'Donnell** will present "The Sub-prime Mess, Falling Dollar and Sky High Oil – Does 2008 Even Have a Future?," his 2007 economic review and 2008 economic forecast, to two other organizations this month in addition to the Huntington University Foundation.

Sponsored by Huntington University, the Wells County event will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 10 at the Arts, Commerce & Visitors Centre, 211 W. Water St., Bluffton. The cost for the breakfast is \$8. RSVP to the Wells County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development at (260) 824-0510. The Decatur event will begin at noon on Jan. 14 at the Woodcrest Campus Center, 1300 Mercer Ave. RSVP by noon on Jan. 11 to the Decatur Chamber of Commerce at (260) 724-2604. O'Donnell also presented his forecast to the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 8. O'Donnell was an executive with a national mutual fund company prior to his current role as associate professor of business and executive-in-residence at Huntington University.

• The Huntington University Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant from the Huntington County Community Foundation to cover a portion of the curriculum costs for the proposed Center for Leadership Studies and a \$15,000 grant from the Wells County Foundation to fund

start-up costs for the center. The Center for Leadership Studies will develop and produce curriculum for leadership development. The curriculum will have two separate orientations: faith-based and values-based.

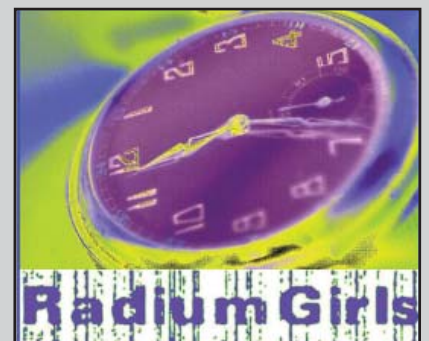
The center will maintain a list of approved trainers of the leadership curriculum. To receive approval, the trainers will need to complete the initial train-the-trainer sessions led by the author of the curriculum. The curriculum is being developed by Dr. Tim Elmore of Growing Leaders, Inc., based in Duluth, Ga. There will be, at least semi-annually, a leadership event within the region sponsored by the center. One event will be faith-based and one event values-based.

In addition, a leadership resource library will be established and housed at Huntington University and other collaborative colleges and universities. The library will consist of leadership books, essays, periodicals and multi-media materials.

• Playwright Dolores W. Gregory will visit Huntington University on Jan. 18-20 to attend rehearsals of her play, "Radium Girls," the university's first stage production of the spring semester. Gregory also will present workshops and talk-back sessions for students. Dolores Gregory writes comedies and dramas that draw

on her working-class roots. Often set in rural America, her plays explore the disconnect between the dream and reality of the American blue-collar experience. Her plays frequently present an unseen offstage character as well as the economic and political forces that shape the individuals on stage.

Her work has been presented throughout the United States and abroad including productions in Singapore, London, Madrid and Lima. In addition to writing plays, Gregory has worked as a theater critic—most recently for The Washington Post—and as a teaching artist. She makes her home outside Washington, D.C., with her husband, Paul, a bluegrass musician. For more information, access her Web site: www.dwgregory.com.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9 M Basketball/7 pm (H)	10	11	12 W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
13	14	15	16 M Basketball/5 pm (A) W Basketball/7 pm (H)	17	18	19 W Basketball/1 pm (H) M Basketball/3 pm (A)
20	21	22	23 J-Term Classes End M Basketball/7 pm (H) W Basketball/7 pm (A)	24 Inter-Term Break Board of Trustees	25 Inter-Term Break Board of Trustees	26 Inter-Term Break Board of Trustees W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
27 Inter-Term Break New Student Orientation Residence Halls Open	28 Spring Semester Classes Begin	29	30 M Basketball/7 pm (A) W Basketball/7 pm (H)	31	1 Bible Study/11 am	2 W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
3	4	5	6 M Basketball/7 pm (A) W Basketball/7 pm (H)	7	8 Bible Study/11 am Honors Convocation/ 11 am	9
10	11	12 Service Emphasis Week (01/12-01/15)	13 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am M Basketball/7 pm (A) W Basketball/7 pm (H)	<i>For a detailed calendar of campus events, visit http://my.huntington.edu.</i>		

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy New Year!

Here on campus, we have just returned from a wonderful Christmas holiday. In the past several weeks, there have been many opportunities to celebrate the joys of the season. We have gathered together as a campus community for special concerts, meals, fellowship and worship. Students, faculty, and staff have also taken some time away from campus for rest and relaxation and to reconnect with friends and family.

Christmas is a time for giving. As we exchanged gifts with loved ones this Christmas, I was reminded of the many gifts we, as a campus community, have received from those who love Huntington University. I am very grateful for the thousands of alumni and friends around the world who give generously to support our work in Christ-centered higher education.

In recent weeks, we have received many gifts – from the sacrificial \$15 online gift made by a young graduate, to the \$200 or \$400 sent by Hoosier families eligible for an Indiana tax credit, to the quarter-million dollar check we received from a private foundation. Each of these

gifts, regardless of size, represents a significant commitment to Huntington University and a deep love for our Christian mission in higher education. I am very thankful for the generous support of so many individuals who care passionately for the University and its students.

Yes, Christmas is a time for giving. Most of all, Christmas is a time for remembering the greatest Gift of all, the Christ-child born in Bethlehem. God reached down in love and gave the most sacrificial gift—His Son, Jesus Christ.

The tenderness of the nativity took on new meaning for Chris and me this year as we celebrated the birth of a new granddaughter, Mallory Corinne Dowden. Our son, Beau, and his wife, Karen, blessed us with this very special gift on Monday, December 31. Mallory came into the world 21 inches long and weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces.

As I considered the miracle of Mallory's birth, I again was struck with a renewed realization of what God did for us when He sent His only Child to be born in a manger. The King of the universe took on the frailties of human flesh to become



Dr. G. Blair Dowden
President of Huntington University

Savior of the world. Could any greater gift be given?

As we begin 2008 together, I pray that you too will have a fresh understanding of meaning of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Christmas may now be over, but Christ remains. May you experience the love of God wrapped up in that greatest gift of all time.