

# Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## MASTER OF ARTS IN YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Each course in the program begins with 30 days of online communication, learning activities and fellowship. Three days of intense, meaningful class time follow, giving students and faculty the opportunity to meet, discuss, debate and theorize on relevant topics. The remaining coursework and research activity are facilitated through 60 days of online interaction.

Three curricular themes guide a growing collection of courses that may be selected: Professional Leadership and Expertise (within the field of youth ministry), Theological Faithfulness, and Adolescent Specialization.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to influence the practice of youth ministry by (a) expanding their vision for leadership through youth ministry, (b) unleashing the potential of their own spiritual formation, (c) networking with others in a way that combines integrity and efficacy, (d) contributing to youth ministry's body of knowledge through the dissemination of original research, and (e) coaching others toward ministry faithfulness and effectiveness.

## FLYING HIGHER WITH YML MASTER'S

As a student in the Huntington University Master of Arts program in Youth Ministry Leadership, Ebonie Davis is developing skills and learning information to grow as a youth minister and strengthen the ministry God has given her.

In her search for a graduate degree program, Ebonie, who lives in Maryland, looked for a school that was affordable, accepted veterans' education benefits, held national accreditation and allowed for a flexible learning format. HU's M.A. program in Youth Ministry Leadership more than met her requirements.

Ebonie says that the face-to-face interaction provided by HU gives students and faculty a chance to connect through discussions, lectures and real-life applications.

"We are more than just co-learners," says Ebonie of her fellow students. "We have become a family of youth ministers who, together with our professors, are working to refine our faith."

Ebonie is part of the hybrid learning Master of Arts program provided by HU—a combination of online and in-class courses—and this has allowed her to not only be a full-time wife and mom, but also to be a part-time student with an anticipated graduation date of 2010.

"The hybrid format allows me to be available for my family and my ministry," says Ebonie, "and I still have the face-to-face interaction that I need to facilitate learning. Learning alongside other youth ministers truly has been an experience of 'iron sharpening iron.'"

Ebonie notes that a strength of the HU youth ministry leadership degree program is that it's not just a "how-to" program, but it's about "growing in Christ and how that translates into a way you minister to your students."

Credit for this positive learning experience should be given



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to the faculty, says Ebonie. The majority of the professors in the Master of Arts program still work within a ministry or para-ministry of their own, giving the faculty a practical standpoint from which to teach. Students are challenged to view assignments in light of their current ministries.

"It's clear to us that our professors like us," says Ebonie, "but also that they love God and love teens."

Before entering Huntington's youth ministry leadership degree program, Ebonie had been out of school for a few years, so stepping back into the academic circle was intimidating. HU, however, allows students to try out classes prior to officially entering the program, and Ebonie recommends this to anyone who is interested in going back to school, but feels a bit nervous about it as she did.

"If you're considering a graduate degree in youth ministry leadership at HU, but you're still a little unsure, I would encourage you to take it for a test drive," says Ebonie. "This has been the best thing I could do for my ministry. You won't be disappointed."

# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & NOTES



• **Dr. Stephen Holtrop**, associate dean for graduate and adult studies, traveled to Orlando in November 2008 as part of the planning council of the Christian Adult Higher Education Association. The council works year-round

to prepare for the annual CAHEA conference in July. Christian colleges and universities from around the country send conferees to this annual event. In addition, Holtrop has been appointed to the steering committee for the Center for Research in Adult Learning. This newly formed center is sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities and is housed at Indiana Wesleyan University. The center's mission is to "serve Christian institutions by facilitating and encouraging research which will enhance the quality of Christ-centered adult programs."

• **Dr. Ruth Nalliah**, professor of chemistry, attended an institute hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research titled "Beginning a Research Program in the Natural Sciences at a Predominantly Undergraduate Institution"

Nov. 21-23, 2008, at Calvin College. This newly-formed workshop included sessions from highly successful faculty at small institutions on enhancing the engagement of undergraduate students through research. Attendance at the Institute was funded by the Hammel Research Endowment for the natural and mathematical sciences at Huntington University.

• **Dr. Pat Zezula**, retired professor of physical education, was given the Legacy Award at the 2008 state convention of the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance on Nov. 12-14, 2008. The Legacy Award is designed to recognize persons who have given long and distinguished service to the association and who have left a legacy, a benchmark or a standard in professional service, scholarship and leadership.

• **Dr. Linda Urschel**, professor of English, presented papers at two conferences in October. The first conference was the Popular Culture Association of the South in Louisville, Ky., from Oct. 8-10, 2008. Urschel presented her paper, "Throw a Blanket over Her: Gender and Dress on Christian College Campuses." The second

conference was sponsored by the Indiana College English Association and was held at Vincennes University on Oct. 24, 2008. She presented her paper, "Bad Boy of the Bayou: James Lee Burke's Tragic Hero." In October 2009, Huntington University will host the annual ICEA conference.

• **The Rev. Tom Brodbeck**, adjunct faculty in the Huntington University Graduate School, recently gave two presentations to the Assurant Specialty Group in Atlanta, Ga. One was titled "Leading Change in a Multi-Disciplinary Environment," and the other was "Dealing with Difficult People."

• **Drs. Tom Bergler and Karen Jones** attended the bi-annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, England, on Jan. 3-6. Representatives were present from 15 countries. Jones was re-elected to the executive board for another four-year term, and Bergler presented a paper, "Developing Youth Ministry Leaders Who Can Help the Church Grow Up."



(left to right) Danielle Ronges, Katie Sprunger, Lissa Shipman, Pat Horoho, Stephanie Ihnen, Cara Thomas, Stacie Cheek and Mack Miller

Research conducted by seven Huntington University social work students has led to the possibility of a new community assistance program.

In the summer of 2008, Carla MacDonald, assistant professor of social work, met with Pat Horoho, executive director of the United Way of Huntington County, and asked for project ideas for a course she teaches, Social Work Practice III. One of the components of the class is a community-based project that includes anything from assessments to grant writing to community development.

Horoho suggested and the students agreed to conduct a study about establishing an Earned

## STUDENT RESEARCH LEADS TO GRANT *EITC program may be implemented in Huntington*

Income Tax Credits program for low income families in Huntington County. EITC assists low-income workers by reducing their income tax liability. The program provides a refundable credit allotted to an individual or family's income once it falls below a certain level.

"The students saved the United Way \$20,000," Horoho said. "If we had hired a firm, the study probably wouldn't have been as good, and it would have cost significantly more."

The students began working on the study at the beginning of the fall 2008 semester. They conducted research and interviewed local social service representatives and EITC experts in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Evansville and South Bend.

After the students interviewed John Niederman, president of Pathfinder Services, Inc., he became interested in their project and found a \$25,000 grant to fund the implementation of an EITC program in Huntington County.

"The students were inspired by their meeting with John because they realized the possibility of their study leading to the actual implementation

of a service such as this for our community," MacDonald said.

The students presented their findings to 10 social service agency and local government representatives on Dec. 3, 2008.

"EITC needs to be in every town in every county," said Katie Sprunger, a senior social work major from Berne, Ind. "If I live in Adams County for the rest of my life, this project has made me want to start an EITC program there."

Other students involved in the project include senior social work majors Stacie Cheek and Cara Thomas of Franklin, Ind.; Stephanie Ihnen and Danielle Ronges of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Mack Miller of Huntington; and Lissa Shipman of Parker, Col.

Following the students' presentation, social service agency and local government representatives met to discuss what organizations could take responsibility for implementing an EITC program in Huntington County.

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Basketball:** In an early battle for first place in the Mid-Central College Conference, it was the NAIA Division II 8th-ranked women's basketball team who held off a feisty Bethel Pilot squad for the 57-53 victory on Jan. 7. With the win, the Foresters move to 12-3 on the season and 3-1 in the conference.

Lauren Davenport paced the Foresters with 17 points in the contest. Courtney Beerbower recorded her third consecutive double-double with 12 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

On Jan. 31, the women's basketball team will host a "Pink Out" to raise awareness about breast cancer and raise support for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. For details about the event, log on to [www.huntington.edu/athletics](http://www.huntington.edu/athletics).

After battling through 15 lead changes and four ties, it was the NAIA No. 2-ranked Bethel College Pilots that put together a late burst to propel them past the men's basketball team, 78-68, on Jan. 6. The Foresters (12-6, 1-3) were up one at 53-52 midway through the second half when the Pilots (18-1, 4-1) made a 15-2 run over a four-minute span that put them in command as they headed down the stretch.

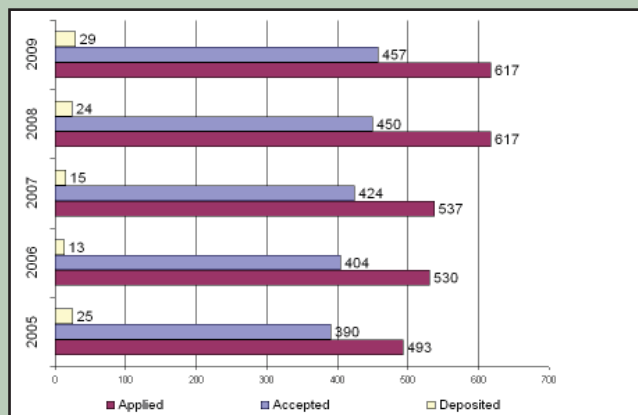
Kyle Benge paced the Foresters with 23 points, and Kevin Kyle chipped in a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

For news and up-to-date results of Forester Athletics, visit [www.huntington.edu/athletics](http://www.huntington.edu/athletics).



Junior Courtney Beerbower earned Athlete of the Week honors for her outstanding efforts during four games over the holiday break.

## ADMISSIONS UPDATE



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington University for the fall 2009 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 certainly encouraging given the fragile state of various sectors of the economy. 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 2009 begins, the Advancement Office wishes to thank everyone who partnered with Huntington University during 2008.

## AROUND CAMPUS...

- Huntington University will host an Inauguration Day prayer service for our nation and President-elect Barack Obama from 4-4:30 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Longaker Recital Hall of the Merillat Centre for the Arts. This event is not a celebration of one political party or another but simply a response to the biblical expectation of praying for national leaders. Brief comments also will be shared about the historicity of the recent election. If participants choose to do so, they may sign a large copy of the written prayer, which will be mailed to President Obama's office in Washington, D.C., along with a short letter of explanation. The prayer is being written by **the Rev. Bob Henry**, assistant director of campus ministries, and **Jesse Brown**, assistant dean of student development, using sections of Scripture, "The Book of Common Prayer" and denominational prayer collection resources.

- On Jan. 22, the Huntington University Center for Leadership will sponsor a Leadership Luncheon open to business and community leaders. The luncheon will feature Scott Makin, and his presentation will be "Becoming a Leader People Want to Follow." Makin is an executive leadership consultant who will teach attendees interpersonal skills to create a team that is motivated, more productive and better able to find ways around obstacles. The event will be held in the upper level of Habecker Dining Commons from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20, and it includes lunch.

To register, call (800) 600-4888 or e-mail [leadership@huntington.edu](mailto:leadership@huntington.edu). For more information, log on to [www.huntington.edu/leadership](http://www.huntington.edu/leadership).

- All 21 Huntington University students from **Dr. Wayne Priest's** Applied Research Methods course have had their research projects published in the online Undergraduate Research Journal of the Human Sciences. The students, who worked in teams of three, have seven papers in the journal's seventh volume at [www.kon.org/urc/urc\\_research\\_journal7.html](http://www.kon.org/urc/urc_research_journal7.html). The students also presented their research projects at the 21st annual Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference on April 19, 2008, at Albion College in Albion, Mich.

- Huntington University raised \$495 in gift cards for the faculty, staff and students of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif., through a donation drive. The gift card drive was organized by the university's Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service in response to the fires that devastated the Westmont campus and area of Santa Barbara.

- Huntington University's Tumbling and Gymnastics class teamed up with Kids Kampus for the fall 2008 semester to teach children fundamental motor skills through kinesthetic learning for 10 weeks. HU students were responsible for creating various activities for the

children. These activities had to be integrated into five developmental areas, including hanging/climbing, jumping/landing, flexibility, rotation skills and balance. The activities for each section had to incorporate muscle strength, physical fitness, rhythm, learning games and curriculum integration. Before the children came to class on Thursday mornings, the HU students practiced each other's activities to ensure that they were safe, fun and practical for the children.



Elizabeth DeHaan, a sophomore physical education major from Lowell, Mich., assists Layla Harmon off the balance beam.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			14 W Basketball/7 pm (H)	15	16	17 W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
18	19	20 M Basketball/7 pm (A)	21 Final Day of J-Term W Basketball/7 pm (H)	22 Board of Trustees Winter Meeting	23 Board of Trustees Winter Meeting	24 Board of Trustees Winter Meeting
25 New Student Orientation	26 Spring Semester Classes Begin	27 M Basketball/7 pm (A)	28 Faculty/Staff Worship Service W Basketball/7 pm (H)	29	30	31 W Basketball/1 pm (H) ("Pink Out")  M Basketball/3 pm (A)
1	2	3 M Basketball/7 pm (H)	4 W Basketball/7 pm (A)	5 "Harvey"/7:30 pm	6 Honors Convocation/ 11 am "Harvey"/7:30 pm	7 HU Tailgate Party/ 1:30 pm "Harvey"/2 & 7:30 pm M Basketball/3 pm (H)
8	9	10 M Basketball/7 pm (A)	11 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am W Basketball/1 pm (H)	<i>For a detailed calendar of campus events, visit <a href="http://my.huntington.edu">http://my.huntington.edu</a>.</i>		

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A few months ago, Huntington University welcomed Dr. David Anderson to campus as a special guest speaker in our Forester Lecture Series. Dr. Anderson is the author of "Gracism: The Art of Inclusion." In his lecture, he shared an ancient African proverb:

When I saw you from afar, I thought  
you were a monster.  
When you got closer, I thought  
you were just an animal.  
When you got closer, I recognized  
that you are a human.  
When we were face to face, I realized  
that you are my brother.

This proverb set the tone for many discussions on campus this year regarding race, ethnicity, and the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. A high point of the conversation came as Huntington University hosted the 2008 Conference on Christianity, Culture and Diversity in America. More than 200 academic delegates from across the country came to campus to consider important questions about race, ethnicity, gender and culture—all from a Christian worldview.

The timing of the conference seemed providential, coming just days after the historic election of the first African-American President of the United States.

Barak Obama's historic achievement can be appreciated by all Americans, whatever their politics, skin color, ethnicity, religion or gender.

As a people, we have come a long way in our national understanding of diversity. Diversity and opportunity are not issues just for Democrats, Republicans or Independents. These are concerns for all Americans.

We have seen remarkable change in this country. In one generation, we have moved away from a society that openly practiced racial segregation to electing our first African-American president. There have been other changes in recent years—indicators of greater opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds:

- Colin Powell served with distinction as the first African-American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and later, became the first African-American to be appointed as Secretary of State.
- Alberto Gonzales was the first Hispanic appointed as Attorney General of the United States.
- Condoleezza Rice was the first African-American woman to serve as Secretary of State.
- Bobby Jindal, the nation's youngest governor, is also the first elected Indian-American governor in United States history, and the first non-white to be elected governor of Louisiana since Reconstruction.

As a nation, we have made great progress in embracing, appreciating, and applauding persons of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.



Dr. G. Blair Dowden  
President of Huntington University

Throughout my lifetime, it often has been Christian voices that have urged the nation to change.

How fitting it is, therefore, for Huntington University to host a national conference on diversity and faith. As Christians and as scholars, we are called to tackle vital social issues and problems from the faith-informed framework of a biblical worldview.

The election of Barak Obama seems certain to change forever the American conversation about race and ethnicity. I am proud that Huntington University, as a Christ-centered institution, is fully engaged in this vital national discussion.