

CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF THE CROSSING

JUNE 2004

VOLUME 2, NO. 1

CAMPUS MINISTRY KEEPS IN MIND: THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN' BY DOUG PIERCE

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Theologian Doug Meeks reminds us that the Gospel always has a context. Learning to read our context at a world-class university is part of the challenge and opportunity of campus ministry efforts at The Crossing. We are learning many things about the students we are working with. Some are surprising to us, while others are not so surprising. For example, it remains true that relationships still matter, vocational discernment is still crucial, and faith questions are still swirling. It is equally true that this generation wants to make a difference and relishes hands-on opportunities for this to happen. This explains the popularity of our Habitat for Humanity trips and Quest adventures. What is different is the current culture and the stories and events that have engaged a generation many years removed from my own.

The following article excerpt, printed with permission from the September 3, 2003, *Beloit Daily News*, helps remind me, born as I was in the 1950s, that while many things remain the same, there are striking differences between my generation and those with whom we minister.

Freshmen students entering Beloit College this year have a different view of the world compared to their teachers. Most of them were born in 1985 and to them, gasoline has always been unleaded, three-point shots from "downtown" have always been part of basketball, and stores have always had scanners at the checkout.

These are some of the points made in Beloit College's sixth annual Mindset List. The list helps to slow the onset of "hardening of the references," in the classroom, notes Tom McBride, co-editor of the list and Keefer Professor of the Humanities at Beloit College.

To many freshmen entering Beloit College in 2003:

- Ricky Nelson, Richard Burton, Samantha Smith, Laura Ashley, Orson Wells, Karen Ann Quinlin, Benigno Aquino, and the U. S. Football League have always been dead.
- Iraq has always been a problem.
- "Ctrl \+ Alt \+ Del" is as basic as "ABC."
- Paul Newman has always made salad dressing.
- Bert and Ernie are old enough to be their parents.
- An automatic is a weapon, not a transmission.
- There has always been some association between fried eggs and your brain.
- They have never been able to find the "return" key.
- Datsuns have never been made.
- College athletes have always been a part of the NBA and NFL draft.
- They have always "grazed" for food.
- They have always had a PIN number.
- Banana Republic has always been a store, not a puppet government in Latin America.
- Directory assistance has never been free.
- There has always been Lean Cuisine.
- There have never been dress codes in restaurants.
- They have always been able to make phone calls from planes.
- Yuppies are almost as old as hippies.

In all fairness, it should be understood that students entering college this fall do have a few items on their own list that will separate them from many of their mentors, such as:

- It's all about the "bling, bling."
- Peeps are not a candy, they are your friends.
- They have been "dissing" and "burning" things all their lives.
- They knew how to pop a Poptart and trade a Pog.



PUBLISHER:
ELLEN FAST

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DINNER IS SERVED! (AND WE'RE THANKFUL...)

After every Vespers service, area churches provide a free meal for students. The home-cooked food is a welcome relief from the typical student diet of Ramen noodles and PB&J. The following churches have served meals at The Crossing this past year. Thank you!



MEMBERS OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST YOUTH GROUP WITH YOUTH PASTOR DREW SWANSON.

- BROADHEAD CONGREGATIONAL UCC**
- CROSSROADS UNITED METHODIST**
- DALE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN**
- DIVINE SAVIOR UNITED METHODIST**
- FIRST BAPTIST-MADISON**
- FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC-MADISON**
- FIRST UCC-SAUK CITY**
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST-MADISON**
- LAKE EDGE UCC**
- MIDDLETON COMMUNITY UCC**
- MONONA UNITED METHODIST**
- MONTICELLO ZWINGLI UCC**
- ORCHARD RIDGE UCC**
- SALEM VERONA UCC**



MMM...PANCAKES!

The Saturday before exam week, The Crossing's Board of Directors provided a brunch for students, filling them with pancakes to give them studying energy! Specially shaped pancakes were made upon request, including a Habitat house for Phil Kollmeyer (above). Student leaders and staff were honored during the brunch.

WHAT WOULD JESUS COOK? BY LISA VALENTI-

Stones to bread. Water to wine. The Bible is full of stories about transformations (personal ones too!). So when faces with a freezer of bananas that looked slight like the attack of the killer tomatoes, I asked, what would Jesus cook? The answer: Mary's banana bread!

For the uninitiated, Mary is the cook as the Pilgrim Center (a UCC camp in Green Lake, WI) and has a knack for coming up with great ways to fill the stomach. So we found ourselves, eight or so inexperienced miracle workers, with bowls of frozen bananas, flour, sugar, and chocolate chips (for what doesn't go well with chocolate chips?). With direction from Leah, the help of a microwave,

and Karla's bread pans, the group was able to quickly turn out a couple of batches of bread. The supply of bananas dwindled, and muffins made their way home in pockets, backpacks, and bags. Okay, so it wasn't a miracle, but it certainly was a disappearing act.



Where Faith Meets Life

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ABOUT THE CROSSING

The Crossing seeks to provide a Christian community for the University of Wisconsin-Madison where individuals can explore, understand, and affirm their relationship with God, each other, and the world. Our community is grounded in worship, fed by the study of the scriptures, informed by the disciplines of the university and Christian traditions, maintained by fellowship, and seriously engaged with the problems and possibilities of the world.

- Rev. Doug Pierce, Director
- Rev. Karla Schmidt, Campus Minister
- Rev. Cecil Findley, Campus Minister Emeritus
- Rev. Bill Conover, Special Events Coordinator
- Katie Scanlan, Building Administrator
- Ellen Fast, Communications Coordinator

Are you a past alum of MCM, Wesley, or Wayland? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please send us a card or an email.

THE CROSSING—A PARTNERSHIP OF MADISON CAMPUS MINISTRY, THE WESLEY FOUNDATION, AND WAYLAND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SISTER TALK BY KARLA SCHMIDT

On a beautiful spring day I was privileged to sit down for some “sister talk” with six of our students. We had a delightful time discussing the pros and cons to having a sister at college with you—mostly there are pros (with a few fights over clothes, shared cars, food cards, and what to tell Mom!). What I heard from all six women was how much they valued the opportunity to have this time with their sister. Being involved in the same campus ministry program gave them the opportunity to share mutual friends and to find a time each week when they knew they would be together (at Sunday evening Vespers and meal) despite their crazy schedules during the week.

Let me introduce you to the three sets of sisters who were active in our ministry this past year:

The Delventhal sisters, Naomi and Hannah, come from Black River Falls, WI, and are truly ecumenical (with a Baptist, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Free Methodist background). Naomi is a third-year student studying Botany and Zoology (she loves fish—her plans are to go to grad school to study fish diversity). Hannah is a first-year student who is undecided on her major. Hannah most admires the quality of optimism in her sister Naomi. I saw this quality in Naomi after she almost lost her life when she was hit by a car in the fall and ended up with internal injuries, a lung clot, and a broken leg (broken in four places!). She had to finish her classwork at home as well as undergo several surgeries and then come back to school in the spring on crutches! Naomi has told me that since this near-death experience, she does not sweat the small stuff in life—her attitude has changed, and she is full of gratitude for the gift of every day.

Naomi, who is now crutch free,

admires Hannah for doing things very well that Naomi doesn't do as well (for example, organizing people and cooking). Hannah served as secretary of our student organization this year and will continue the position next year. We are most grateful for this way she gives to The Crossing.

The Kasprzak sisters, Brooke and Brittney come from Sussex, WI, where they are active in the Methodist Church. Brooke graduated this year

appreciates that Brooke introduced her to the people and ministry at The Crossing. We are hoping Brooke gets a job in the Madison area and that we will continue to see her smiling face and gentle presence next year!

The Resch sisters, Karen and Linda, come from Madison. They attend Door Creek Church, grew up Catholic, and have lived in the Wayland Houses for the past five years. (Their father is the accountant for Wayland, which is how they learned about the houses.)

Karen and Linda are twins (not identical, but they look a lot alike), so because I am also a twin (identical), I very much understand their joys and struggles! Twins enjoy sharing friends and activities, but they often struggle with others' not knowing their individual identities and with the desire to be more independent of their sister. Karen is older (by 11 minutes) and graduated this spring with an English major. What she most admires in Linda is that she is organized and patient.

Linda also graduated this spring, with a major in Spanish. She most admires Karen's intelligence and patience. Both of them admit to growing amazingly, especially through their Wayland experience. They came to the university as very shy freshmen and are leaving as active leaders in the Wayland community (who we will miss terribly!). Both are wonderful with children and hope to teach in the future (we hope in Madison so we will be blessed with their joyful presence often).

We have been delighted to have these three sets of sisters involved at The Crossing. What fun they have all been! I told them that the two special joys of attending the same school with your sister is that, in years to come, they will keep up friendships made here—friendships that they share—and they will have wonderful shared memories!



TOP ROW: KAREN, LINDA, HANNAH, NAOMI

with a major in Biology and is staying in Madison for at least the immediate future. Brittney is a first-year student majoring in Nursing. Brittney participated in our Questa Rica trip this year and brought much spirit to the trip! What Brittney most admires about her older sister, Brooke, is “her respect for me and her positive influence on people.” Brooke has been a frequent leader of our Vespers service while at The Crossing. Before joining us, she went on a work trip during spring break last year and met other students from The Crossing on the trip. They introduced her to The Crossing, and we have been blessed by her presence.

Brooke feels that Brittney really grew through her trip to Costa Rica and admires her helpfulness: “She always offers to help others out, even when it is out of her way. Also I admire her for her ability to . . . get along with almost anyone.” Brittney

VESPERS: ENHANCED BY ART AND DRAMA TEAMS

The focal point of all the activities at The Crossing is the Sunday evening Vespers service—a relaxed, contemporary worship gathering. The worship incorporates music, drama, art, and traditional messages to reach students of many different backgrounds. (See the next page for a story about the music ministry.)

A wide spectrum of messages was heard this year because, besides Doug Pierce, Karla Schmidt, and Cecil Findley, campus pastors at the Crossing, many guests were invited to share a message. These included journalist Bill Wineke and board members Jim Hook, Dan Yeazel, and Patsy Bjorling. UW professor of educational psychology Bob Enright shared his message of forgiveness as well as his book, *Forgiveness is a Choice*. Jerry and Sis Levens shared their experiences in the troubled Middle East. Marques Bovre, who has often shared his musical talents, came one evening with a theological message. Throughout the year, many others took the part of “message bearer” for an evening, including several students at the Crossing.

During one Vespers service, students Tomek Krzyzostaniak and Matt Ley shared their personal approaches to peace, addressing both internal and external conflict. Tomek had recently returned from a service trip to Sri Lanka. Matt visited Israel for the third time this year, where he attended a peace conference. They gave the worshippers *The Peace Book* by Louise Dia-

mond, which looks at various ways to promote peace in the world on personal, local, and international levels. Each chapter comes with ideas on how individuals can participate.

This year the organization was blessed to have a music, art, and drama directors to help bring new dimensions to The Crossing experience. The Drama Team was led by Kristen Kehl. The team met on Monday nights at The Crossing. The group shared ideas about how to incorporate drama in worship. No acting experience was necessary to participate, just the desire to be a part of the process in some way as this team sought to prepare meaningful messages for Vespers.

Their dramatic gifts were offered during several Vespers services, including original skits and games calling for participation from worshippers. The result was often humorous, but it always enhanced the message of scripture in a meaningful way. Kristen also offered a time after Vespers to play “improve games” about once a month. No experience was necessary, and fun was had by all!

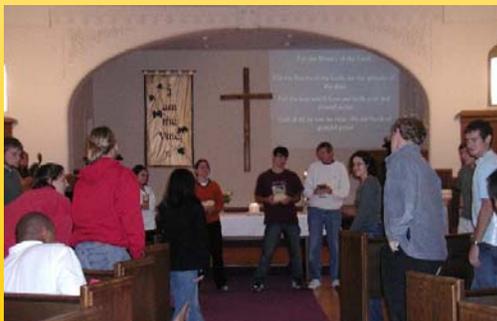
Katie Barder lead the Art Team, which consisted of the artist date, mural painting, and an art fair. The artist date is an informal gathering of students after the Vespers service to relax and talk while completing an art project. The projects are related to spirituality in some way; however,



VESPERS WORSHIPERS AT PICNIC POINT.

conversation flowed where it would, and the artist date was a good time to simply meet with fellow students and talk while making art. Some of the projects were mandalas, friendship bracelets, Christmas cards, tissue flowers, portraits, and personal collages.

Mural painting brought together a consistent group of seven women who worked on a project, whereas the students who took part in the artist dates always changed, depending on who had to go home and study or who was interested in that particular project. The Art Team painted the Art Room in the basement of The Crossing with the theme of finding God in nature. Each wall represents a different season, with a lead artist responsible for her respective wall. The mural turned out beautifully with depth and symbolism. Hopefully this room will be a place for future artist dates, workshops, and also a pleasant space for students to come and create.



COMMUNION DURING VESPERS WORSHIP, MURAL PAINTING, MEMBERS OF THE DRAMA TEAM IN AC-

VESPERS MUSIC: CARRIED ON BY LOVE

Clare Norelle worked with the ever-expanding Music Team, which led Vespers worship most weeks with some of Clare's original songs as well as well-known favorites. Musicians of all abilities were welcome to join the group as they met an hour before church started to practice the day's music.

Clare is a Madison musician who has traveled the world and has produced two kids' CDs. This spring, Clare recorded the CD "Carried on by Love" with the support of The Crossing, the Music Team, and Matthew Sanborn, an energetic producer/musician. The project involved late hours, tiring recording sessions, but most of all, a fun and gratifying experience. It culminated with a CD release concert on May 7 during which other Madison-area musicians joined Clare in showing the audience what her music is all about: spirit, love, and fun. The following lyrics are from the title track:



Carried on by Love

in my darkest night
if I turn my gaze just right
I can see your shining light
carried on by love
and when I don't know where to be
I let your memory move in me
and like a wave upon the sea
I'm carried on by love

**and many waves together
will form a mighty tide
to sweep across the ocean
deep and wide
carried on by love**

and all the good I found in you
I want for other people, too
it's the hope
that guides me through
carried on by love
'til with the ones
who've gone before
we move towards a distant shore
with a force that will restore
carried on by love

and many waves together...

and the broken ones will sing
and the deserts bloom in spring
with the power of everything
that's carried on by love
then prison walls will tumble down
mansions crumble to the ground
as the waves of hearts unbound
are carried on by love



**and for the homeless
there's a home
and for the hungry
food is grown
and so the seeds of peace
are sown
and we're carried on
carried on by love**

and there before me, all along
it's your memory
that holds me strong
as I surrender to the song
that's carried on by love

**and many waves together...
carried on by love...**

Visit The Crossing's Web site
for more information about Clare's
CD: www.crossingministries.org.



**CLARE WITH CROSSING
MUSICIANS**



LEAH, ANA, SARA

THE CROSSING MUSICIANS



MIKE



KIRK



BRIAN, LINDA, KAREN, SARA, ANA,

**MARQUES BOVRE OCCASION-
ALLY RETURNS AS A GUEST MU-
SICIAN. MARQUES WAS OUR
FIRST CROSSING MUSICIAN AND**



FLORIDA, HERE WE COME . . . AGAIN! BY PHIL KOLLMAYER

Five years ago, while planning the first annual Blitz Build in Palatka, Florida, Putnam County's Habitat for Humanity asked, "Why would anyone want to take a week out of their time to come help our little underdeveloped town in the middle of nowhere?" Apparently they had not experienced winter in Wisconsin. A better question is why wouldn't volunteers want to travel to sunny Florida to experience great hospitality and build a couple of houses on the side? Madison's abundance of Habitat for Humanity volunteers responded well to Palatka's initial request for labor and has continued to send a full crew each year. When I first organized a group of four of us from The Crossing to join the Madison contingent, we were nervous and not sure what to expect. We were treated so well and the work was so rewarding it was hard to decide if we gave more than we received. Three years later, we are still giving but on a larger scale.

Participation in the trip by Crossing members grew from 4 in 2002 to 17 in 2004. On Wednesday, January 7, our large group departed for the warm beaches of Daytona. Twenty-four hours, one jammed-open window, and way too many bathroom breaks later, our four vehicles stumbled upon the sunny beaches of Florida. We left Madison as an unfamiliar group of students, but by the time we pulled into our hotel in Daytona, we all had learned many things we wanted to know about our group members, and maybe even a few things we didn't. Our first three days in Florida were spent swimming, building sand castles, and getting to know each other well enough to be able to work together and cooperate enough to construct two houses.

A few days before we left, I received a phone call from Dan Shephard, the head

foreman for the Blitz Build, asking me to be the housing supervisor for one of these two houses. This meant I was responsible for ensuring that one of the cement slabs awaiting us on arrival had an externally complete, correctly built house on it by the time we finished on Saturday. This was my third year building, but that does not exactly qualify me as an expert. Although it often seemed miraculous to me, we made progress in constructing the houses. Our crew, along with about a dozen Palatka volunteers, was ahead of schedule and was already getting ready to shingle the roofs by Thursday. We kept working steadily until about noon on Saturday, when we completed our houses and then had to leave behind the sunny warmth of Florida.

After this great week, we were grateful for all of the tasty meals provided by the churches, and I was especially grateful for the help Dan Shephard and Don Peterman had given me to make sure the house I supervised would still be standing next year when we return. Meeting and working with the future owners of these houses, people who really are in need, was also very rewarding. It helped us break out of our sometimes sheltered lives as students in Madison, where our perspective can be limited to those who are blessed with plentiful opportunities and resources, and made us realize that by giving our time and talents we can make a big difference in someone's life.



VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND FUN STUFF!

UNICEF SALES Lisa Valenti-Hein coordinated UNICEF sales of cards and gifts through the office located on the first floor of The Crossing. Her dedication working with area churches helped bring in about \$20,000 in sales for UNICEF.

newly de-leafed lawns. We raised over \$400 and even earned ourselves a few freshly baked cookies.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Students hopped in the van of First Baptist church to join them in caroling for shut-ins and nursing homes one chilly December evening (below).

RAKING LEAVES FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Several Crossing students spent a Saturday in October raking leaves in exchange for generous donations to UW-Madison HFH from the owners of the



PRAIRIE RESTORATION AT DONALD PARK

A Saturday afternoon in the spring was spent burning the prairie at Donald Park, a new 450-acre Dane County park with which The Crossing Student Organization has established a connection doing restoration and trail work.

POLAR PLUNGE

Freezin' for a Reason. It's about making connections with people. It's about jumping into Lake Monona to raise money for the Special Olympics! The Crossing Student Organization joined with members of the Lutheran Campus Center to take the "leap of faith."

STUDENT ORGANIZATION

OFFICE CLEAN-UP In March, students shared breakfast at The Crossing before getting to work cleaning out old furniture and organizing a space for their new office!

BOWLING WITH INTER-FAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Students visited the neighboring IHN and escorted a group of the current residents (mostly children) to a bowling outing at Union South in Feb-



DINNER AND A MOVIE AT THE CROSSING

Once a month, students gathered on Friday evening, ready to start the weekend with ordering dinner and watching the month's film

selection. A few favorites are listed below, ranging from light-hearted comedies to heart-wrenching dramas based on true stories. A discussion time followed.

SMOKE SIGNALS RAKA

KEEPING THE FAITH

BA-

STUDENT ORGANIZATION BY TRAVIS TENNESSEN

The Crossing Student Organization provides an opportunity for students to grow together in faith and service. Sounds great, right? But what does that mean? The Crossing is a coalition of individuals and groups connected through a network of cooperation and support. The hub of that network is The Crossing Student Organization. As our campus ministry has grown in the last three years, several students at The Crossing have organized groups that promote peace, social justice, environmental protection, thoughtful dialogue about faith issues and current events, and other causes. The student organization acts as an umbrella for all the groups, coordinating event planning and distributing information about upcoming events.

These efforts help maximize the success of each event and help make the groups mutually enhancing.

The broad spectrum of activities and causes promoted by students at The Crossing reflects our shared vision for how to exact change in the world, supporting the passions of each individual—whether it be promoting peace in the Middle East, building homes for families in need, or restoring Dane County prairies—and helping each student to share his or her talents and energy with other students and the world. As new students arrive and others graduate, the specific interests and activities promoted by students at The Crossing are sure to



STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

change, but the passion for invoking positive change in our hearts and in the world will be passed along.

DESTINATION: COSTA RICA BY DUSTIN KINCAID

In September 27, 2003, 13 unique individuals from The Crossing embarked on an exciting journey. With open minds, we aspired to fuse Christian spirituality with nature and, accordingly, view the natural world through this lens. To accomplish such a task, the group invited several members from the community and the university during the months prior to the journey to share their unique perspectives and expertise on topics ranging from biodiversity in a cloud forest to eco-spirituality.

A key element of the journey was the trip (known as “Questa Rica”) to Monteverde, Costa Rica, during spring break this year. In Costa Rica, we would immerse ourselves in a new culture while volunteering our time at the Cloud Forest School (Centro de Educacion Creativa), an alternative school that stresses environmental awareness in all aspects of its curriculum.

The diversity of the Questa Ricans’ backgrounds and aspirations was as vital to the journey as the airplane that carried us to Costa Rica. With interests ranging from environmental studies to electrical engineering, each member’s perspective enhanced the dynamic of our group the way each unique color fuses together, creating the beautiful brilliance that is in essence a rainbow. Throughout the months prior to the departure for Costa Rica, our group grew as we challenged ourselves and each other personally, theologically, and environmentally. With each new perspective and bit of knowledge, our minds filled with questions and our fingers itched with desire as we awaited the touch of the moist soil of the Cloud Forest.

While in Monteverde, each group member stayed with a local family

whose children attended the Cloud Forest School. This element of the trip was perhaps the most influential and at times the most trying. For some, communication created a barrier, and for others, the differences in cultures at times seemed overwhelming. Nonetheless, the family members offered a unique window into the community and culture of Costa Rica. Personally, I spent many evenings with my host mother discussing her perceptions of our world and sharing with each other the diversity of our cultures. With every discussion, we began to eliminate the ignorance that often separates people in this diverse, but ultimately small, world. In hindsight, the spirit

of Costa Rica is not solely the lush vegetation, but the warm and passionate hearts of the people. The simplicity and generally slower pace of their lives have affected us all.

During the week, we spent our days volunteering at the Cloud Forest School. We worked closely with the land manager and other volunteers on restoration and various landscaping tasks in the “backyard” of the school. The forest, purchased by the Nature Conservancy, is being conserved and restored by the school, as they use it to inspire and educate the students, in hopes that they will be admirable stewards of the land in the future.

As we dirtied our hands by planting seeds and trees, we reconnected ourselves with the earth and realized the need to conserve the environment. In the grand scheme of things, the tasks seem almost insignificant, but in reality, it is these small efforts done by ordinary people that create hope for a brighter tomorrow. While hiking through the breathtaking forest in the gentle mist that frequented the mountains, we were reminded as we took in the incredible diversity just how creative and at times flamboyant God is.

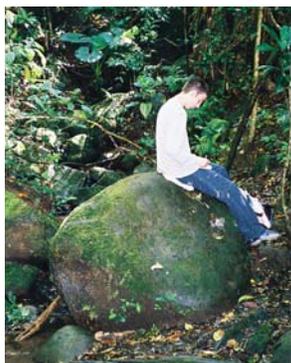


PERSPECTIVES FROM QUESTA RICA

Greens of a thousand shades, the shout of praise from the mouth of a **howler monkey**,
 the pitter-patter of **rain drops** on leaves of the cloud forest, the creaking of **frogs**,
 the scent of **life-giving water** in the air, the promise of a **rainbow** in the misty sky,

All these experiences spoke to me of the promise of life that God has given us through nature and Christ.—Sara Hillegas

The brook babbles as the small droplets of the morning mist kiss my neck and limbs. The silent buzz of insects and the breeze caressing the vegetation create the most soothing and tranquil sound. The smell, like none other—so fresh, so alive, it overwhelms my body and soothes my soul. I want to take that smell with me forever. The colors are one hundred shades of green, each unique and intense, and so incredible. I am humbled and awed by nature, this place, and the people.



I am so thankful for this experience, for the people who believed in our mission, for the plane and the technology that have made it possible for us to be here, for the effort and coordination from our group leaders, for the 13 individuals who are so open minded, intellectual, and passionate, for the members of the CEC community who have welcomed us to their school and have helped to support and strengthen the mission of this Cloud Forest School, for the mountains that have leaped from the ground whose elevation has made the Cloud

Forest possible, for my host family, their strength, generosity, energy for life, and love, for the food I have experienced, for the sunsets in the mountains over the Pacific Ocean, for the children who bring hope to my life, to their creativity and infectious smiles, for the guides on the tours and their willingness to share the gifts and miracles of the forests, for this beauty and resource in front of me that God has created and the love he has instilled in the people of this trip and of this country, and for nature in its most simple form.

There is so much diversity in these lands, both biological and sociological, and so much love and compassion that is born from these forests. It would be a shame not to conserve these lands for education, culture, aesthetics, and a resource that is its own creation. I do not look on the sorrows of the past, but to the hope of change in the future. I want to carry this place with me forever and to share its inspiring message with those that I encounter. There is hope in the children in our world and I want to spread the word. To this brook—wash free the sorrows and wrongs of yesterday and flow with your clean waters to the brighter future of tomorrow. Carry with you the message of pureness that is you and all that can be around us.

Thank you.—Dustin Kincaid

There, a quieter calm had pervaded the atmosphere: rather than loud machinery, chirping insects and cawing birds filled my ears; instead of grey man-made materials surrounding my person, green filled my eyes.
 —Kate Flick

I know now that I must allow the natural world to speak directly to me through its sights and sounds. Only then might I hope to know how to speak its language, and to be able to speak and write effectively on its behalf.—Travis Tennesen

Working on the restoration projects with the Cloud Forest school in Monteverde inspired me to keep fighting for environmental and social justice. Surrounded by the beauty of the plants and animals and the delicate balance in that ecosystem, I felt encouraged to continue doing what I can to not only protect the Cloud Forest, but continue to look for ways to conserve the gifts we have from God in Wisconsin.—Brianna Sundal

As I interacted with my host family, I observed the generous, inconsequential love they offered each other and me and realized the most important lesson from the whole trip: we are all similar people in a geographically different world.—Jenny Beissinger

In Costa Rica, Nature and God seemed to fuse into one for me. I experienced God in the intricate and delicate flowers and the bright butterflies. It felt good to work on the land and get my hands dirty.—Katie Border

SOAW-MADISON

The School of Americas Watch–Madison chapter began shortly after a trip to Fort Benning, Georgia, with students from UW–Madison and Edgewood College and Madison community members. Students Katie Barder and Tomek Krzyzostaniak, with Reverend Cecil Findley and his wife, Helen (right), participated from The Crossing.



The School of Americas (renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in 2001) trains soldiers to “promote democracy” using military means. The school has trained notorious Latin American dictators, such as Manuel Noriega, who have killed and tortured many people. The annual November protest outside the gates of Fort Benning is attended by priests, anarchists, and the young and old. Though the backgrounds of the protesters vary greatly, they are bound by a pledge of nonviolence and a memory of all the victims in Latin America.

The first day of protest is

marked by speakers and musicians. The mood is festive as people reaffirm the values and ideals they represent. The next day, the victims are remembered in a vigil. Ten thousand people, many silent and reflective, carry crosses with the

names of victims of the School of Americas graduates. People march to the gates of the fort and create a memorial on the fence with the crosses and other memorabilia people choose to leave (a number of military uniforms were left this year). Singers on the stage chant the names of the known victims, and after each name, the procession responds in Spanish, *presente* (he/she is present). The crowd is somber but proud, for those who might have been forgotten are remembered.

The protest’s cause is nonpartisan. We can all recognize that the school should be closed. Once home in Madison, we wanted to do more, so we began the SOAW–Madison chapter. Our

School of Americas Watch (SOAW)–Madison

is a nonviolent, nonpartisan group whose main goal is to close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation through the following means:

- participating in the annual march on the Fort Benning Military Base
- promoting peaceful participation in the annual march by enlisting participants and by seeking funds to help underwrite their expenses
- educating ourselves and the public about peace and justice issues in relation to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation
- lobbying our congressional representatives to take action to close the school, specifically by participating in the annual SOAW Lobby Days in Washington, D.C.

goal is to fill an entire bus with UW–Madison students to go to the protest next year, so please join us.

POSTQUEST: CONTINUED INTEREST IN RESOLVING CONFLICT (IN

In response to last year’s Quest trip to the Middle East, Crossing students participated in several follow-up events to learn more about life and people in that part of the world.

INTERFAITH POTLUCK A potluck meal and fellowship were shared among students from The Crossing, Kavanah (a progressive Jew-

ish group associated with the Hillel Center), and the Muslim Students Association. After the meal, students representing each group gave a brief presentation of their religious and/or cultural traditions. Students witnessed a Muslim prayer ritual, heard about “Christianity in a Nutshell” and the hymn “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love,” and enjoyed Jewish music and prayers.

STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE PILGRIMS OF IBILLIN is a group of UW students and alumni who support the work of Father Elias Chacour and the schools he has founded for Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and Druze students in Ibillin, Israel. The goals of the group are to educate about the situation in the Middle East from a spiritual, political, and socioeconomic perspective; fundraise

WAYLAND: UNIQUE HOUSING OPTION CELEBRATES DIVERSITY OF CHRISTIAN EXPRESSION

BY KARLA SCHMIDT

Nestled in the heart of the UW–Madison Campus in two old, Victorian-style houses lives a group of students who value Christian growth and community as part of their university experience. They are known as The Wayland Christian Community. These young people are bright, humorous, compassionate, delightful, questioning, energetic, committed, and eager to grow in faith, providing me with a joyful learning experience as the Wayland minister for the past two years.

Diversity is celebrated at Wayland. This past academic year, we had 27 residents (freshmen to graduate) from the United States, China, Ecuador, Colombia, Argentina, Korea, and India. Their Christianity is even more diverse (Methodist, Reformed, Lutheran, non-denominational, Syrian Christian, Catholic, Chinese Christian, Episcopal, Geneva Campus Church, Blackhawk Evangelical Free, High Point Church). All of this diversity makes for fascinating discussions, great culinary delights, lifelong friendships, fun times, and much growth. Residents often tell me that they grow because of their time at Wayland.

Students who live at Wayland apply for the opportunity. If accepted, they share in community evening meals, attend two retreats, participate weekly in at least one Christian study option (Bible study, Crossing Vespers, book study), perform one house job, and enjoy community life, including fun and service activities.

Some of the comments made by residents this past year best illustrate what living at Wayland is all about:

“If I [hadn’t] lived here, I may have become quite arid in my Christianity, swept up into a busy schedule and all. Wayland reminds me what I am really here for and keeps me close to the Christian mission of my duties.”

“I have enjoyed being in the company of Christian friends. I appreciate all the luxuries that come with living here like DSL, cable TV, and the meals. The meals are a great way to enjoy Christian fellowship. I feel like I have become a better Christian since living here . . . the Bible studies have helped me to understand what it means to be a Christian and helped in understanding God’s plan for me.”

Wayland is a ministry of the American Baptist Churches in Wisconsin. Its Board of Directors (some of whom lived at Wayland when they were students) is passionate about the ministry of

Wayland. They enjoy getting to know the residents. This year we say goodbye to many who have been with us for a while. One, Tom Baskin, was with us for a record seven years during his graduate school experience. While we are sad to say goodbye, we also celebrate their futures. Meanwhile, we are looking forward to next year. With twelve rooms still open, I am wondering who will be led by the Holy Spirit to live at Wayland. If you know of someone attending UW–Madison next year (or future years), please give them our Web site information (www.waylandcommunity.org).



LEFT: CURRENTWAYLAND RESIDENTS; MIDDLE & RIGHT: WYNN AND LORE DAVIES, WHO MET AND MARRIED WHILE AT WAYLAND, CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON JUNE 3 AT FIRST BAPTIST

to furnish and supply an elementary classroom at the Mar Elias Educational Institutions; and organize and participate in student exchanges. Pictured below are student leaders of the Pilgrims of Ibillin chapter at UW with



Jerry Levin (center), who, with his wife, Sis, were hosted by The Crossing in October and spoke in area churches and high schools about peacemaking in the Middle East.

REFUSENIK In January 2002, a group of 50 Israeli reserve officers and combat soldiers drafted a letter that became known as the Combatant’s Letter. This group of active reserve combatants has grown to include nearly 600 signatories (known as Refuseniks) from across the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). They call them-

selves Courage to Refuse (CTR) for refusing to serve militarily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the interest of peace, Israel’s security, Israel’s moral character, and the human rights of millions of Palestinians. Almost half of CTR has been court martialled and jailed for periods of up to 35 days as a result of their refusal to serve in an unjust occupation. Muli Linder, a medical doctor, was an officer in IDF’s Medicine Corps when he became the 67th Refusenik to sign the letter. He spoke at The Crossing regarding the costs of war and peace in Israel.

KARLA'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Every week, campus minister Karla Schmidt sends out a weekly message to over 700 students who have expressed interest in The Crossing, whose names were sent by their home churches when they were incoming freshmen, or who are regular, involved members. This ministry is made possible by the computer skills of Tom D'Alessio (Coordinator of Communications and Technical Services) and Linda Firestone (Computer Support Specialist) of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church. Karla's messages contain an inspirational quote or Bible passage as well as a list of regular and special events for each week. As with the selected message and responses below, she is often reminded that her message is read and appreciated by more people than she realizes.



KARLA'S MESSAGE:

This week has been extremely busy and stressful for me – and I know it is the same for many of you as you face final papers and exams, summer transitions, decisions (and maybe even graduation). In the midst of my stress yesterday, a student said to me “Breathe Karla, Trust God!” I am so grateful for his reminder (thank you George) that breathing consciously is also a prayer, a way to connect back with our Creator who breathes us into life (Genesis 2:7) and gifts us with the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-22). Breathing gives us strength to handle the stress we have!!! So it is good to slow down, breathe and trust . . . as we move forward with what we have to do. I hope we can all find this balance. I know when I do, my life is touched by grace in amazing ways! Blessings, Karla Schmidt, Campus Minister

RESPONSES:

“Although I don’t attend your services, I enjoy receiving your emails weekly. It provides me a break from all the stresses in school and allows for my mind to clear. Thanks and God Bless.”

“I just wanted to thank you. I get your weekly message and always enjoy reading it. Although I’m not currently in Madison (I am studying abroad in Spain), it’s nice to know about what’s going on at home. . . . Thanks for your reminder to breathe and trust, I need it!”

“I’m so glad to be part of this mailing list. This email especially has been very reassuring to me . . . Its been two years since I was at Wisconsin, still miss it greatly. I’m now working and coping with stress of the working life and trying not to get caught up in the rat race... doing alright... take care and keep those emails coming!”

HEARTFELT THANKS TO

FOUNDATIONS AND DENOMINATIONS

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 WI Conference United Church of Christ (Council on Higher Education, Southwest Association)
 The Wesley Foundation of WI, Inc.–Madison
 WI Conference United Methodist Church (Board of Higher Education & Student Ministry)

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