

Wooster Advocate

Interfaith Campus Ministries Alumni & Parent Magazine

Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring-Summer 2010



Holding Space for Dialogue

Baccalaureate 2010

Author of Time, stand with us in this moment of change.

As we look to the past, give us a vision of blessing
in breathless moments of trial and difficulty,
in bursts of laughter and new knowledge,
in glittering flashes of triumph,
in yawning chasms of grief and fear,
and in the faces of those who shaped, shared, supported and challenged us during our time here at The College of Wooster.

As we look to our futures, give us vision and wisdom
to see sisters and brothers in the faces of strangers;
to ask what might be - unwilling to settle for what is;
to trust in the transforming power of love;
to reach for the promises of peace and justice;
to dedicate our lives to great and worthy causes;
and to know that we are never alone.

Only yesterday, parents came together from across the globe to entrust their wide-eyed first years to this community called Wooster. Today, those who came together have returned to bless these children - no longer children - as they leave this place that has become a home.

We thank you for all that they have given to this College,
For all they have learned
For changes wrought
For identity wrestled into new clarity
For failures and successes that have crafted character

For the class of 2010 and for transformations that have made them who they are today - We give you thanks.

Compassionate Creator, we pray for our world.

-For victims of violence, war and intolerance, give them peace.
-We pray for the children who need an entire village to raise them and a world to put them first, instead of last.
-For the environment without which life cannot be sustained, turn human hearts and attitudes to sustainable lifestyles.

We pray for all those who are impoverished by communities of alienation - bring forth your justice.
And for those whose possessions control their lives, have mercy on them.

Wind of hope, blow through this place,
Throw wide the cluttered and cramped places in our hearts, minds and spirits
chasing out envy, fear, greed and isolation,
which would rob us of imagination and selfless impulses.

Breathe upon us,
within us
among us
and through us - the breath of life.

Shape us into
makers of peace,
demanders of justice,
bringers of mercy,
celebrations of life.

Be present in all our futures, redeem our past, and give integrity to our present - for we trust that with you,

"All shall be well,

And all shall be well,

And all manner of things shall be well " -

In your gracious time. Amen.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Parents and Friends,

I am pleased to present this issue of the Advocate, which offers an overview of the 2009-2010 year in Interfaith Campus Ministries. As always we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to partner with persons and departments across campus and beyond. Highlights for the year included our shared fast, a visit by Eboo Patel and trainers from the Interfaith Youth Core, continued growth for Worthy Questions, and six off-campus service trips serving 60 different students.

The year was a challenging one as the financial downturn meant that we tried to carry on our mission with three less people than we had at the end of spring 2009. As the Director, I was once again made aware of the commitment and remarkable quality of our staff, both professional and students. I offer a special thanks to Emily Howard who was a senior who stepped up to join our student staff and work as a 5 hours per week office coordinator.

This fall, Emily has joined us as a full time Intern and we welcome her exploration of ministry and significant contributions in many areas of the ministry. We have also welcomed Lydia Rubino as an intern for InterVarsity. Together they bring much needed young adult perspective along with their deep faith commitments. Thank you for your continued interest in the spiritual and religious life at The College of Wooster.



Reverend Linda J. Morgan-Clement, DMin.
Chaplain and Director of Interfaith Campus Ministry
The College of Wooster



2010-2011 Staff

Linda Morgan-Clement,
*Chaplain and Director of
Interfaith Campus Ministry*

Joan Friedman,
*Campus Rabbi & Associate Professor
of Religious Studies & History*

Karen Hahn,
Catholic Campus Minister

Julie Longacre,
Inter Varsity Staff

Emily Howard,
Campus Ministries Intern

Lydia Rubino,
InterVarsity Intern



SHARED FAST



Interfaith Campus Ministries seeks to balance the need for support, growth, and practice within a particular tradition with the imperative to listen, speak, and act within a multifaith community. The shared ministry has evolved to include a number of annual interfaith events and a culture of collaborative outreach and dialogue among our students. The following is one small example of the ways that our students engage one another with the support and resources of the multifaith staff. We offer this article as part of our on-going exploration of what it means to be an interfaith ministry in a multifaith world. ¶¶

Before the observer can see her outstretched hand, the Muslim community gathers for prayers and a meal to begin the day of fasting. This tradition has been observed from the founding of Islam during the month of Ramadan. All over the world, including Wooster Ohio, Muslims observe the lunar month of Ramadan with dawn to dusk fasting. Fasting is also a religious practice in all of the world's religious traditions which has led to its becoming an annual focal point for interfaith meeting and reflection at The College of Wooster.

This year, students from NOOR (the student Muslim Association), Hillel (the Jewish student organization) and several of the Christian groups worked together on the annual shared fast. With the support and guidance of the Campus Rabbi, Dr. Joan Friedman, they spent a Friday fasting together, preparing a meal, and talking together about the spiritual practice of fasting in each of their faith traditions.





UnderOver, OICM's kitchen, was one of two places where students gathered to prepare the evening's feast. As dusk approached, students who had fasted for the day arrived in lively groups, curious about what the evening would bring. Several staff and faculty also joined the group of more than 30 who came together for the unusual celebration.

A panel of Muslim students spoke about the ways that they celebrate Ramadan at home. Wooster's Muslim community is largely from North Africa and Pakistan and India. Even given the handful of countries and cultures that they represent, their personal stories offered a picture of the diversity within Islamic tradition. The combined narrative of early rising, family recipes, and renewed awareness of charity, faith, and community reminded all who gathered of the familiar human bond that is often built and sustained by religious practice and ritual.

At the appointed time, Rabbi Joan invited the assembly to join her and the Jewish students in Shabbat ritual and song. The sharp odor of matches lingered following the lighting of the Shabbat candles. Raising her clear voice, Rabbi Joan led the singing of ancient words, "*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu l'had'lik neir Shabbat. (Amein)*

Following the Sabbath rituals, the Muslim students washed their hands, and gathered for prayer in the ritual ending of the day's fast. Then the gathered community broke the fast with laughter and good food.

We still have much to learn from one another and about the planning, preparation, and sensitivity that must be involved in these shared events. Yet the good will and the growing interest in deepening awareness of one another's religious life motivate us to continue together on this interfaith journey. We are hopeful that the common threads as well as essential differences that we discover will deepen our capacity to effectively navigate a multifaith world in ways that glean the best of our religious resources. ∫∫

2009-2010 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Ramadan Breakfast
Shared Fast
Fall Academy of Religion
Interfaith Camping Retreat
Evening Prayer - Liturgy of the Hours
Family Weekend Mass and Reception
Presbyterian Reception
Nouwen Reading Group
Advent Worship
Busy Student Lent Retreat
Spring Academy of Religion
Theologian-in-Residence, Eboo Patel
Interfaith leaders gathering
Interfaith Youth Core Workshop
Multifaith Baccalaureate



2010-2011 WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

Interfaith Mondays

Tuesdays

Bible Study
Soup & Bread
Torah Study
Worthy Questions
FCA Group Meeting
Peace by Peace

Wednesdays

Zen Meditation
Catholic Student's Dinner

Thursdays

WCF Large Group
FCA Bible Study

Fridays

Liturgy Writing
Muslim Prayer
Hillel Gathering

Sundays

Sunday@6
Koinonia Dinner
Wooster Volunteer Network



USAGE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

During the 2009-2010 school year, the three Sacred Spaces and Overholt House, card swipes access reports yield the following:

- Andrews Sacred Space - 800
- Compton Sacred Space - 315
- Luce Sacred Space - 300
- Overholt House (Upstairs and Downstairs) - 1050

This reports the number of times the building was accessed and entered. Unfortunately we cannot know exactly how many people entered under each swipe, so our individual usage amounts for each space are likely to be higher than indicated by the access data. Though slightly lower than last year's numbers, they are not significantly different and continue to show steady usage.

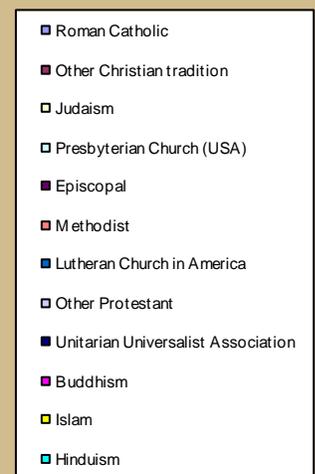
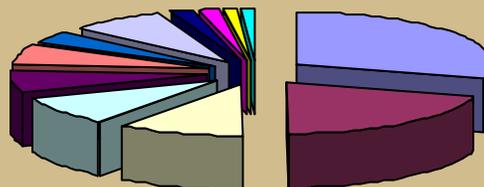
Religious Preference of Active Students 2009 - 2010

This data represents the 315 students who were in our active religious database for Interfaith Campus Ministries during 2009–2010. It does not include the students with whom we have occasional contact or the over 300 students who are active in the Wooster Volunteer



This chart represents 259 members of the incoming class. Note that the general rule that we have more Roman Catholic students than any single Protestant or main line tradition, but fewer Roman Catholic students than combined Protestant or main line students, continues. Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim students populations remain relatively small. Our incoming Jewish population is slightly larger (2) than the Presbyterian group.

Self Reported Religious Preference Class of 2014





Phone: 330.263.2602

Fax: 330.263.2534

E-mail: ministries@wooster.edu

OICM Mission Statement:

Given that a rigorous and dynamic liberal education includes spiritual development, Interfaith Campus Ministries fosters religious, spiritual, ethical, and moral growth for students, staff, and faculty at The College. As a community of communities and as seekers after meaning, we wrestle individually and communally with questions of ultimacy. Interfaith Campus Ministries supports and encourages the development of character and commitment required to be agents of just and peaceful transformation in the world.