

The Office of Interfaith Campus Ministries

The College of Wooster



Annual Report 2011-2012

Convocation Prayer 2011

Story Weaver,

you have collected us from across a small and fragile planet,
bringing us together in this place and time.

For some of us our purpose is unclear —
give to these a space to listen, explore, and discover.

Some declare a bold vision and sense of purpose —
give to these compassion and humility to see their purpose in the lives of others,
friends and enemies alike.

Others see our purpose in simple daily tasks and kindness —
give to these patience, hope, and faith.

For all who gather here and for all members of this community of learners,
whose people span the globe —
give us common purpose for common good.

Enlarge our vision beyond the limitations of our sight —
Including peoples and places whose needs are basic and vistas exotic or terrifying,
Faces strange and scents unrecognizable,
Languages different but history shared,
Laughter joyous but whose sounds startle,
Who love and hurt as we do and whose fears include our faces and imagined world.

Stretch our compassion beyond the limitations of our longing for security and success —
To weep with strangers,
To risk on others' behalf,
To listen to visions that counter our own,
To withhold our hand that others might thrive, and to practice faithful care that the future might flourish.

Gathered from across this small and fragile planet,
help us set aside historic privilege and pain that together we might genuinely seek a common good.

We ask your presence in this beginning and in the endings that it also brings.

We remember those whose stories have shaped us, but who are no longer in our midst. Especially comfort this community in the loss of Kim Tunnicliff and Kenneth Plusquellec.

Shatter our complacency and self-satisfaction – with the acknowledgement of our own institutional structures that render some invisible, silence voices, erasing stories that complicate our peace of mind.

Cast down the defensive walls of ego, which leave us isolated and lonely; unable to access the creative power and vision of a diverse community.

Here in this place, as we begin our year give us the courage to face uncomfortable truths,
the ability to press knowledge into service of civic engagement,
and a deep sense of interdependence with those whose existence we would rather not even acknowledge. Amen.

Staff 2011-2012

Linda Morgan-Clement
*Chaplain & Director of Interfaith
Campus Ministry*

Emily Howard
Assistant Chaplain

Joan Friedman
*Campus Rabbi & Assistant Professor
of History and Religious Studies*

Karen Hahn
Newman Catholic Campus Minister

Julie Longacre and Mike Greer
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Staff

Reverend Dr. Linda Morgan-Clement, Chaplain

From the Chaplain



Dear Readers,

It is with a sense of gratitude and hope that I offer this annual report for your information. The College of Wooster was founded by Presbyterians who had a vision for educating young women and men who “. . . are to mold society and give shape to all its institutions.” I am certain that my ministerial ancestors would not have imagined the kind of challenges that today’s world presents to these future leaders. They would be startled by the advances of technology and stunned by the religious diversity as well as the increasing number of men and women who declare themselves to be ethical atheists or questing agnostics. As a Presbyterian minister called to create an interfaith campus ministry at The College of Wooster, I am delighted to share the work with a dedicated team of staff, students, and faculty who have their own vision for such a time as this.

Yet, despite the years and the very real changes, I believe that there continues to be a core spirit which the founders of the school would recognize. Within this report you will discover the on-going spirit of generosity that bears fruit in community service and engaged interfaith dialogue. You will see students, staff, and faculty bringing together their minds and spirits in the presence of the Academies of Religion, the Theologian-in-Residence, and the Worthy Questions Program. And you will still find dedicated student groups and campus ministers exploring and deepening their understanding and practice of particular religious traditions.

OICM understands its ministry to reach across the campus. In this light, we began a program that we have initially called, “Ruminating at C.O.W.” it was our attempt to have a positive impact on campus climate. The program is a series of three small group dinners, where we invite faculty, hourly and salaried staff to share a meal, a bit about themselves, their unique offerings to the College, and their daily work lives. Our goal has been to explore together ways that we might better connect with one another and support the various offices and departments across the campus. Reviews from guests at the first three sets of dinners were glowing. I am pleased to say that we have now received an institutional grant from the Hewlett Mellon program that will allow us to continue our efforts to create a more aware and just campus climate. Under the new grant we will continue the dinners, offer an innovative, experiential course on “Just Work” and help Wooster students “break the bubble” through a series of field trips into the local community. This three year grant is an exciting new venture for the ministry and several of our partners.

I have enjoyed reading the responses and memories of alumni who have responded to our request for input about the “religious dimension” of the College in the twenty-first century. We are in the process of digesting the many responses and preparing an issue of the Advocate that reports what you have said to us. A small ad-hoc group of trustees is also engaged in this process. I am grateful to serve Wooster in this moment of history. I thank you for your interest and continued support and care for the interfaith ministry and the people we serve.

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

Cover photo:

Blessing mugs hang in the UnderOver kitchen. These are created by a local potter for Overholt and its residents. The word *blessing* is written on each in Chinese, Hebrew, English, and Hindi.



2011–2012 Events Highlights

OICM Special Events 2011-2012

- Asian American Feminist Theology – (Wooster-in-Thailand)
- Baccalaureate 2012
- Busy Person Retreat
- Carols in the Bleachers
- Catholic Worker Fall Break Trip
- Covenant Network PC(USA) Conference
- Earth Day festival
- Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service
- Tijuana service trip
- Fall and Spring Academies of Religion
- Wooster Unplugged
- Fall and Spring Leadership Summits
- West Virginia Service Trip
- School of The Americas Protest Trip
- Gulf Coast Reconstruction Trip
- Ruminating at C.O.W. Dinners
- Campus Seder
- Theologian in Residence—Dr. Kwok Pui Lan



Pictured above:

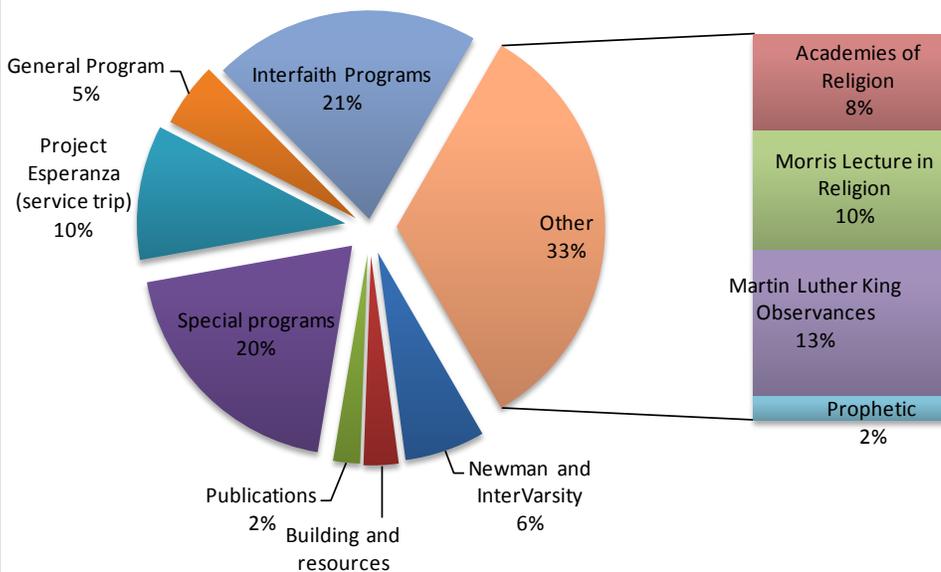
Wooster Christian Fellowship hosts the annual Carols in the Bleachers.

ASIA club attends dinner with visiting Theologian Kwok Pui-Lan.

Interfaith Campus Ministries programs are supported by the Morris Endowment for Religion and Society. This chart shows major program areas for which the Endowment is used. Several of these areas are coordinated in collaboration with other departments on campus, including the Academy of Religion, Multicultural Affairs, Religious Studies Department, and the Center for Diversity and Global Engagement.

Occasionally the endowment also allows for special activities or purchases. In 2012 we were able to purchase a new stage component for McGaw that will be used each year for the Baccalaureate service.

Morris Endowment for Religion and Society 2011-12



Service and Social Justice

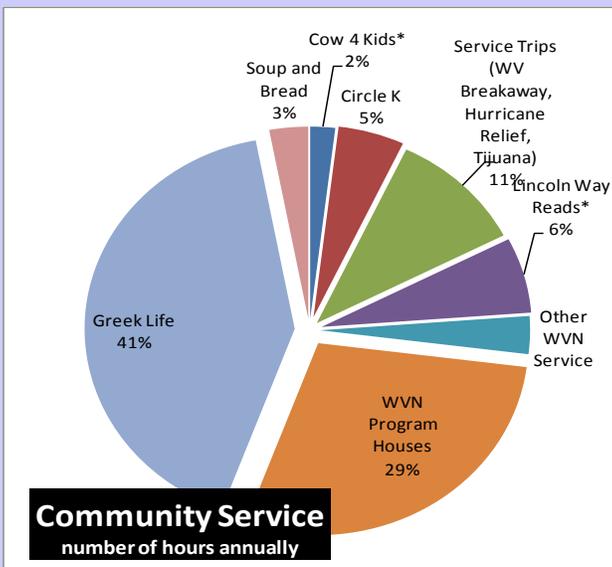


Wooster students rake leaves for campus neighbors on Rake-a-Difference Day.

“I feel 200 times more invested here. There is often such a disconnect between the College and town – and usually a pretty negative one at that. I take joy in being a positive and humble face of the College to the town. And honestly, it’s grown my heart to be bigger overall.”

- Anonymous WVN House Resident

Wooster students provide over 14,000 hours of community service each year.



Wooster students on Break-Away Service Trip in West Virginia.

Service and Social Justice Programs and Organizations 2011-2012

- ‡ Service Program Houses ‡
- Poverty Outreach House ‡ Peace by Peace ‡
- Soup & Bread ‡ Wooster Volunteer Network ‡
- ‡ COW for Kids ‡ Circle K ‡
- Off-Campus Service Trips

The opportunity to explore and value one’s role in an interdependent community is an essential part of a Wooster liberal arts education. As students use their time, energy, and talents to give to others, they discover new neighbors and mentors, learn new skills, and develop the moral character, ethical leadership, and compassionate heart that will last for a meaningful life’s work after Wooster. For many in our community, service and social justice values come from their religious and spiritual communities. Wherever students locate the source of these values, OICM welcomes all to participate, learn, and lead.

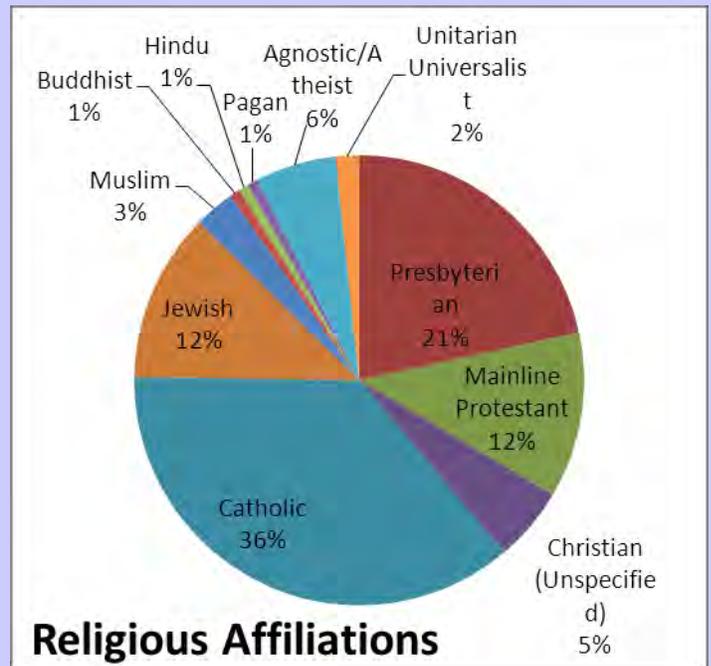
Spiritual and Religious Life



As pictured above, worship services and sacred spaces on campus allow for students to pray and reflect.

Interfaith Campus Ministries seeks to minister to a diverse campus population. Many college students are hungry for a spiritual life, but do not wish to affiliate with a particular denomination or religious tradition. As an Interfaith Ministry, our programs and services are available and cater to students who have a deep faith grounding, to those who are seekers, and to others who may reject any label or religious tradition.

The pie chart shows the religious affiliations of students who have chosen to share their religious tradition with us. The ratios shown on the chart are slightly more diverse than the general student population. You will note that the College of Wooster continues to attract mostly Christians as represented in the national population.



Religious and Spiritual life Programs and Organizations 2011-2012

- Bible Study † Book discussion †
- Breaking Bread † Campus Impact † Interfaith Dinners
- † Hillel (Jewish Community) † Interfaith Scholars † Living the Questions
- † Newman Catholic Community † Noor (Muslim Community) † Progressive Spirit
- † Sisters in Spirit † Taize Worship † Wooster Christian Fellowship †
- Worthy Questions † Zen Meditation

Baccalaureate 2012

From the Student Baccalaureate Planning Team

Jesse Berkowitz, Anarrubenia Capellin Ortega, Hannah Haas, Maria Millan, Robert West and Hanna Yousuf

“As we go through life, formative experiences come in the shape of places, people, things, times, and feelings. Each will change us and prepare us to adapt to an ever-changing context. They re-emerge throughout our lives, reminding us of where we’ve been and where we’re going; helping us to see ourselves and others in the world around us in a new light. We gather here to recall the college experiences that have changed, formed, and shaped us, knowing that they will re-emerge throughout our lives.”

Master of time,

We stand on the threshold of change, looking backwards with gratitude and forward with hope .

Gratitude

- for those who have taught us about friendships that go beyond laughter to commitment and silent presence when life is challenging;

- for teachers and mentors who have shared their passion for learning and for critical inquiry.

- for the many campus staff who take the time to know us by name and to keep our community beautiful as well as functional

- for parents and family who have encouraged, cheered, and urged us to find ourselves and do our best

- and for alumni and trustees whose care for this place and generosity have given to us the place and the culture that has nourished us toward this celebration.

We look forward with hope for ourselves and the world.

Bless the graduates who dream of a better world

- give them the courage to follow dreams of better life for strangers across this globe and in their neighborhoods;

- give them constraint when reaching too far harms themselves, others, or the planet;

- give them companions who challenge and encourage with compassion and care;

- and give them good work to do and rest at the end of the day

Bless those who remain, committed to the mission of this place

- give to us kindness, gentleness, and patience – that we might guide wisely

- give to us the courage to embody what our intellect tells us is right and just

- give to us hope, which dares to imagine new ways of being community with one another and with the world.

- let us be farsighted and great-hearted with the bountiful resources that you have given into our keeping.

Keeper of dreams and author of love,

Life and death, joy and sorrow, kindness and cruelty happen in this place. As we recall our hours and our days – our successes and our failings, have mercy on us. Shape us into the persons that we were meant to be – chastise our petty, fearful, jealous selves and bless our yearning, become living, that is truth, courage, love, and hope in action.

For this hour, let us attend to you, acknowledging the Sacred in our midst. Amen.

Reverend Dr. Linda J. Morgan-Clement, DMin.
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OICM Mission Statement:

Interfaith Campus Ministries fosters religious, spiritual, ethical, and moral growth for students, staff, and faculty at The College of Wooster. 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.

