

# Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## SERVING THE CHILDREN OF 9/11

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

#### FEATURES

As a physical education major at Huntington University, students gain a great deal of hands-on experience in local classrooms, and they will have many opportunities to engage in fitness-related public service. Options include completing a practicum experience at an agency such as the YMCA, working at a fitness center, or acting as a counselor at a summer camp.

The program prepares students for career success in physical education and health instruction. Courses in first aid, nutrition, psychology and instructional methods are required as well as certifications in first aid and CPR (or EMT certification). The University also offers a pre-athletic training program for students interested in pursuing entry-level athletic training graduate programs.

If a student is a future elementary or secondary teacher, the physical education track will direct that student through kinesiological coursework and teacher certification, preparing students for professional success in the public or private school setting.

Dustin Ecker spent seven weeks this summer working at a sports camp for rich kids in Massachusetts.

It was a good experience for the 19-year-old Huntington University sophomore. The work was fun, the people were great, and the weather was good.

But the eight days that followed the camp may have changed Ecker's life forever. He volunteered to stay and work as a counselor at America's Camp, a camp for children ages 6-16 who lost a parent or both parents in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"It was emotionally overwhelming," Ecker said. "I've never met kids like that. They were kind, loving, unselfish and extremely affectionate. You could tell they appreciate life and those around them.

"You think the kids are there to learn from you, but in reality you learn so much from them," he said.

Ecker, a physical education major, was a tennis counselor and bunk counselor, which means he stayed in a small cabin with 10 children.

They played sports. They did arts and crafts. They sang. They talked. And they laughed.

"It's not a camp for grieving. It's a place where kids go out and have a blast," Ecker said.

The camp has grown each year since its inception in 2002, said camp director Andy Cole. Seventy-nine children attended the first camp, more than 100 the second. This year there were 264 young people.

"They enjoy it because they all share having gone through a profound and public loss," Cole said. "They are all in the same boat, but none of them stands out here. They don't feel like everyone is looking at them."

Cole said the camp is about friendships.

"The kids make tremendous friendships, friendships for life," he said. "It's the same for the staff. They are there for the kids. It's amazing to be in an atmosphere where everyone working on something is on board 100 percent."



"This experience will make me a better teacher, a better coach and a better person."

Ecker said during one art session the kids were asked to create something in memory of their parents.

One painting showed a bouquet of colorful flowers. In the midst was neatly printed, "I Miss You Daddy."

Another painting was of a fireman's helmet with "Daddy's Little Girl" written across the front.

"I took pictures of the art work, and I think I've looked at them every day since I was at camp," Ecker said. "There's no way I wouldn't be back next year."

Today Ecker wears a short length of yellow twine around his wrist. It is a small piece of a much larger rope, portions of which are worn by other kids who attended the camp.

"It's a daily reminder of America's Camp, of each other, of the friendships we built and memories of the time we spent together," Ecker said.

"This experience will make me a better teacher, a better coach and a better person," he said.

*This article was reprinted with permission from the Palladium-Item and reporter Bill Engle.*

# CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES



Dr. Mary Ruthi, professor of sociology, co-lead of a team of freshmen volunteering at Kids Campus.

• Taking part in the Volunteer Plunge has become a rite of initiation for new students at Huntington University. For the past 13 years, the University's new students have participated in the Joe Mertz Center Volunteer Plunge. This year, 19 teams of freshmen and transfer students along with faculty, staff and student leaders volunteered at various places in the Huntington community.

• For the 12th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Huntington University as one of the nation's best comprehensive colleges in the Midwest. The magazine's 2007 guide to *America's Best Colleges* listed Huntington as 16th among 107 institutions in the

Midwest Comprehensive Colleges category. To rank schools, U.S. News first organizes colleges and universities by category and then ranks them within each group.

• Huntington University welcomed four new faculty members for the 2006 fall semester. Dr. Robert Lynn began as assistant professor of music while Mr. Matthew Ruiz accepted a position as instructor in exercise science. Prof. William E. VanDoodewaard joined the Department of History for a one-year appointment as visiting professor of history. The Department of Bible and Religion welcomed Dr. Edwin Woodruff Tait as assistant professor of Bible and religion.

• In honor of Constitution Day on Sept. 17, Huntington University will present a dialogue among HU students and local and regional experts on the subject of national security and civil liberties, two ideals enshrined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The discussion, titled "Security and Freedom: A Constitution Day Conversation," will be held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 15 in the Longaker Recital Hall of the Merillat Centre for the Arts. Panelists will

include Lena N. Snethen, Esq., associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana; Robert Vane, communications director of the Indiana Republican Party; and Amy Richison, chief deputy prosecuting attorney for the Office of the Prosecutor of Huntington County.

• The Ambassador Team of the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce has named Huntington University as its September Business of the Month. Huntington University offers an accelerated program to earn the Bachelor or Associate of Science degree with a major in organizational management through its EXCEL Program for Adults. Many classes are offered at the Columbia City campus.

• The Huntington University Theatre Company will present "Waiting for Godot" on Sept. 14, 15 and 16. Show times will be 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 14 and 15, and 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 16. All presentations will be featured in the Studio Theatre of the Merillat Centre for the Arts. Ticket prices are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and students, \$9 for Huntington University faculty and staff, \$6 for children 13 and younger, and \$5 for HU students.



## Nursing program notes

- The University intends to launch the nursing program in the fall of 2007, pending State Board approval.
- The Pierces will help the University develop the program through the spring semester.
- The nursing program will be housed in the 93,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Science Hall.
- Huntington University faculty approved adding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree after two years of formal study.

## DR. PAT PIERCE NAMED INTERIM CHAIR

*Couple to assist with development of nursing program*

Huntington University has named Dr. Pat Pierce as interim chair of the Department of Nursing. Pierce's husband, Dr. Ed Pierce, also has been retained to assist her with the development of the new academic program.

"The Pierces bring a wealth of knowledge as they have both been involved with teaching and administration in nursing and medical schools," said Dr. Norris Friesen, vice president and dean of the University. "We are grateful they have agreed to work with us."

Pat Pierce recently retired from her position at Indiana University-South Bend where she served as assistant professor of nursing and director of graduate education. When Ed Pierce retired he was serving at Gannon University in Erie, Pa., as associate provost for research and sponsored programs.

The Pierces will help the University initiate the processes for a baccalaureate nursing program that meets the accreditation standards of the Indiana State Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. This includes, in part, developing a nursing curriculum, arranging for clinical facilities, assisting in the recruitment of a department chair and faculty, and assisting in the development of the lab.

"The challenge of the opportunity was very enticing as is the opportunity to develop some of my own ideas about nursing education," Pat Pierce said.

In addition to her work at IU-South Bend, Pat Pierce has taught at the University of Massachusetts at Worcester, Widener University in Chester, Pa.; University of Delaware in Newark, Del.; and Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

She earned her Doctor of Nursing Science and Master of Science in Nursing degrees from Indiana University in Indianapolis, Ind., and her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of New Hampshire.

"There is very little more important than assisting people from a holistic frame of reference," she said.

With an extensive administrative background in health sciences, Ed Pierce will help develop the infrastructure and supportive services for the nursing program. He will focus his efforts on accreditation requirements having to do with patient safety and helping the University develop appropriate resources, policies and procedures.

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Volleyball:** The Forester volleyball team finished first at the seventh annual Defiance College Invitational Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 8-9. Junior Stephanie Stearns from New Castle, Ind., was named the Mid-Central Conference Libero of the Week for the week ending Sept. 10.

**Cross Country:** The men's and women's cross country teams both finished second at the Hokum Karem at Goshen College on Sept. 2. Freshman Joseph Njeri came in 13th out of 45 runners at the Indiana Open on Sept. 9.

**Soccer:** Junior Joel Sanders of Fort Wayne, Ind., was named the Mid-Central Conference Player of the Week for the week ending Sept. 3. At press time, the men's team had a record of 3-2, and the women's team had a record of 2-3.

**Golf:** Sophomore Ryan Bonner of Liberty Center, Ohio, led the golf team to a fourth place tie at the two-day Indiana Wesleyan Fall Invitational on Sept. 8-9. Bonner shot an opening round 78 and followed that up with a 71 on Saturday for a two-day total of 149, four strokes behind medalist Stephen Ford of Marian.

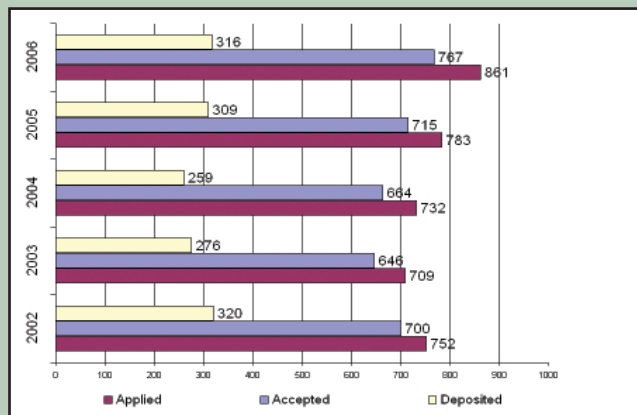
**Tennis:** At press time, the women's tennis squad opened its season with a 2-2 record, and the men had posted a 0-3 early record. The tennis teams' next match is against Taylor University at home on Sept. 14 at 3:30 p.m.

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



Seniors Emily Holliday (51) and Molly Andrews will be key to the cross country team's success. The next meet is Sept. 18 at Indiana State University.

## ADMISSIONS UPDATE



Huntington University has a record enrollment of 1,084 for the fall semester of the 2006-2007 school year and achieved a 10 percent increase in its freshman class. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years. These numbers do not represent the final new student head count for the fall semester.

## ADVANCEMENT NEWS

A new planned giving section is now up and running on the Huntington University Web site. Items included on this site, found at [www.huntington.edu/advancement](http://www.huntington.edu/advancement), are estate planning tips, financial news updates, the latest on stocks and bonds, interest rates and current market quotes, gift planning illustrations, personalized web presentations detailing the income and tax benefits of gift planning, and an opportunity to sign up and receive an e-newsletter.

# HOMECOMING SCHEDULE



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
**9 a.m.**  
 Huntington University Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit, *Wilson Art Gallery*

**11 a.m.**  
 Alpha Chi Induction and Luncheon (invitation only)

**5:15 p.m.**  
 Dinner through the line, *Habecker Dining Commons*

**9 a.m.**  
 Huntington University Bookstore opens  
 Huntington University Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit, *Wilson Art Gallery*  
 Parents' Association Brunch (RSVP only)



**10 a.m.**  
 Powder Puff Football, *Front Campus*

"Discovering Your Past," Genealogy Discussion by Joan Keefer, *Science Hall*

Men's Tennis vs. Franklin College, *MCPER*

Women's Tennis vs. Franklin College, *MCPER*

**Noon**  
 Women's Soccer vs. Marian College, *MCPER*

**1 p.m.**  
 1st Annual Student/Alumni Frisbee Golf Tournament, *Registration at the Dock*

**1:30 pm**  
 Departmental Reunion, Division of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, *Science Hall*

Lincoln Log Building Competition, *Baker/Roush Hall Lounge*

**2 p.m.**  
 "Shakespeare!" (HU Theatre Company), *The Dock (or Studio Theatre if inclement weather)*

Men's Soccer vs. Taylor University, *MCPER*

**5 p.m.**  
 Alumni Family Dinner and Awards, *Habecker Dining Commons*

**5:30 p.m.**  
 Alumni Baseball Scrimmage, *Forest Glen Park*

**7 & 9:30 p.m.**  
 Davis Hall Follies, *Zurcher Auditorium*



**6 p.m.**  
 Homecoming Coronation, *HUB*

**7 p.m.**  
 Volleyball vs. Taylor-Fort Wayne, *MCPER*

**7:30 p.m.**  
 Preservation Hall Jazz Band, *Zurcher Auditorium*

**9 p.m.**  
 Coffeehouse hosted by the Dowdens, *HUB*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**  
**8 a.m.**  
 Klopfenstein Classic Golf Outing benefiting Forester Baseball, *Norwood Golf Course*

5-K Run/Walk sponsored by Alpha Gamma Pi, *MCPER*

**10:30 a.m.**  
 E. DeWitt Baker Cross Country Invitational, *HU CC Course (corner of Stults & Gragg)*

**11 a.m.**  
 Five-year Class Reunions ('46', '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01), *Habecker Dining Commons*

**11:30 a.m.**  
 All School Lunch, *Habecker Dining Commons*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			13 W Soccer/4 pm (A) Volleyball/7 pm (H)	14 M/W Tennis/ 3:30 pm (H) HU Theatre/7:30 pm	15 HU Theatre/ 9:30 am & 7:30 pm Cross Country/ 3:30 pm (A) Volleyball/3:30 pm (A) M Soccer/5:30 pm (A)	16 Volleyball/9 am (A) M/W Tennis/10 am (A) W Soccer/noon (H) HU Theatre/ 2 pm & 7:30 pm M Soccer/2:30 pm (A)
17	18 CLEP/DANTES/8 am	19 CLEP/DANTES/8 am Golf/11 am (A) M/W Tennis/3 pm (A) W Soccer/7 pm (A)	20 CLEP/DANTES/8 am M Tennis/3:30 pm (A) Volleyball/7 pm (A)	21 CLEP/DANTES/8 am Golf/11 am (A) W Tennis/3:30 pm (A) HU Music Faculty Recital/7:30 pm	22 CLEP/DANTES/8 am Fresh Faces/7:30 pm Volleyball/TBA (A)	23 M Soccer/2:30 pm (H) W Soccer/7 pm (A) Guerilla Theatre/9 pm Volleyball/TBA (A)
24	25 Golf/9 am (A)	26 M/W Tennis/3 pm (H) M Soccer/3:30 pm (H)	27 W Soccer/5:15 pm (A) Volleyball/7 pm (H)	28 Forum Theatre Project/7:30 am	29 All-Campus, Off- Campus Retreat/TBA Golf/noon (H) W Soccer/4 pm (H) Volleyball/TBA (A)	30 All-Campus, Off- Campus Retreat/TBA Cross Country/ 9:30 am (A) M/W Tennis/11 am (A) M Soccer/3:30 pm (A) Volleyball/TBA (A)
1	2 Golf/8 am (A)	3 Golf/8 am (A) W Soccer/4 pm (H) M/W Tennis/4 pm (H)	4 All-Area Recital I/4 pm M Soccer/4 pm (H) W Tennis/4 pm (H)	5	6 <b>HOMECOMING</b> (See schedule on page three.)	7 <b>HOMECOMING</b> (See schedule on page three.)
8	9	10 Band Invitational/ 7 pm M Soccer/7 pm (A)	11 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am High School Math Competition/10 am W Soccer/4 pm (H) Volleyball/7 pm (A)	<i>For a detailed calendar of campus events, visit <a href="http://www.huntington.edu/calendar">www.huntington.edu/calendar</a>.</i>		

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The school year is off to a great start. It is wonderful to have students back on campus. Their excitement and enthusiasm are contagious. God has truly blessed our campus with outstanding students, and it is a privilege to be involved in their lives.

Perhaps you saw the headlines about our growing student body in the newspaper this week. Huntington University has set a new record for fall enrollment. Our total enrollment now stands at 1,084, the largest number of students we have had in our 109-year history. The incoming class of new traditional undergraduate students is also the largest on record. The number of freshmen is 10 percent higher than last year and breaks the previous record set in 2002. This fall, students have come to Huntington University from 30 states across America and from 16 other countries – evidence of the far-reaching appeal of our distinctive academic programs.

News about our enrollment is just one indicator of Huntington University's forward momentum. Also this month, we have made good progress toward bringing nursing education to Huntington. Drs. Pat and Ed Pierce have joined the Huntington University team on a part-time basis to help build the BSN degree program. (See related article, page two). Former assistant professor of nursing and director of graduate education at Indiana University-South Bend, Dr. Pat Pierce brings a wealth of experience to her role as interim director of our nursing program. Her husband, Dr. Ed Pierce, is formerly the associate dean of the School of Health and

Rehabilitation at Indiana University-Purdue University – Indianapolis. Together, the Pierces will assist us in building a baccalaureate nursing program that meets the accreditation standards of the Indiana State Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. They will help finalize a nursing curriculum, arrange for clinical facilities, recruit a permanent department chair and additional faculty, design nursing labs, and manage other related responsibilities.

With our increase to nearly 1,100 students this fall and our new nursing program on the horizon, there is a strong sense of forward momentum and change all across campus. It has been observed, "Change is inevitable; progress is not." Huntington University is not only changing, but also making real progress toward its goals. We are changing in ways that will make HU a stronger institution of higher learning. We do not change simply to change. Rather we seek to change in ways that make us more effective at pursuing our mission to "educate men and women to impact our world for Christ."

This is the focus of our faculty and staff – a passion for our mission in Christian higher education. We are motivated by a deep desire to teach our students to examine the great issues of society from a Christian perspective and prepare them to make a difference in our world. We want to nurture their growth and development and provide them with the intellectual and social tools that they will need to impact their chosen professions



Dr. G. Blair Dowden  
President of Huntington University

positively and to serve others effectively. We fervently desire our graduates to be capable, effective ambassadors for Christ.

As we grow and change, I am encouraged by the passionate commitment of our faculty and staff to our mission in Christian higher education. I also am encouraged by the common sense of purpose shared by so many of our donors and friends. Working together, we will ensure that Huntington University not only changes, but makes positive progress in advancing Christ-centered higher education and educating its graduates to change the world.