

# Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## PUTTING FEET TO FAITH

### SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

The Social Work Department at Huntington University focuses on the foundational values of the social work profession which are justice, service and integrity. The social work program addresses the current needs of individuals, families, groups and communities, allowing students to be globally aware and locally active. A social worker is expected to creatively address the broad range of human conditions and situations in such a way as to improve or restore the capacity of people to function well. It involves a holistic perspective that includes biological, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions. As social work graduates, students can work with individuals, families, groups, communities or organizations in a variety of settings including healthcare, mental health, schools, family and children services, criminal justice, business/industry, communities, governmental agencies, churches, international service organizations, and more.

Each day, Chynna Wright puts feet to her faith in her role as a family specialist for White's Residential & Family Services in Wabash, Ind. The agency's purpose is to "share God's grace with hurting children and families."

A 2007 Huntington University graduate with a Bachelor of Social Work degree, Chynna has a caseload of 13 to 17 children who she visits in foster homes twice a month. She maintains relationships with foster parents, biological parents, Department of Child Services' caseworkers, therapists and other service providers to ensure continuity of care for each child.

"A large part of my job is to be a support for the foster parents," Chynna says. "They are the ones who work with the children on a daily basis, so they need someone to call when they are frustrated, or need a break."

As a student, Chynna interned at White's, and halfway through her experience, the organization offered her a full-time position.

"I think that alone shows that Huntington prepared me very well for this position," she says. "I think the Social Work Department does a great job of balancing book learning with experiential learning. When I began my job, I did not feel uncomfortable. I was familiar with the terminology and felt that I fit in quickly."

The Social Work Department requires 20 hours of experiential learning every semester as well as a junior practicum during January Term and a semester-long senior internship. Chynna shadowed a guidance counselor, worked in a homeless shelter, took part in a group at the Bowen Center, spent a month in Uganda, Africa, and shadowed a case manager at her current place of employment.

"It's hard to sum up all that I learned in these experiences," she says. "If anything, I've learned to take time to look at a situation from every angle before summing up my judgments. I've also learned to be sensitive to communication and lifestyle barriers."

In addition to experiential learning opportunities, Chynna appreciated the chance to cultivate relationships with her peers as well as faculty and staff.

"The small ratio of students to professor was very helpful because I was able to have more focused attention on my needs," she says. "Because HU was small, I developed relationships with a great number of students as well as staff. I appreciated having professors who were interested in getting to know students beyond the classroom. Most of all, I appreciated the friendships I made that have carried on into my adult life."



"I think the Social Work Department does a great job of balancing book learning with experiential learning."

Huntington provided an environment for Chynna to examine her relationship with Christ and to challenge herself spiritually.

"I learned that I have to continue to push myself to seek God's face even when things are going well – not just in the difficult times," she says. "I also learned that Christians hurt from some of the same things that non-Christians hurt from. I learned to be sensitive to believers who have a hard time understanding why God would allow so much pain in their

# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & NOTES



• **Dr. Pat Zezula**, retired professor of physical education, was honored with the Pathfinder Award from the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The award was established to honor members of the Indiana AHPERD and the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport who have and/or continue to advocate, recruit and enhance opportunities for girls and women in sport and sport leadership.

• Feb. 7-8, **Mrs. Jody Davenport**, instructor in physical education, attended the annual gathering of the Higher Education Meeting for Indiana Health & Physical Education Professionals at McCormick's Creek State Park. The purpose of the meeting was to share program ideas, discuss professional issues pertinent to physical education teacher education (PETE) specialists, and to revisit issues relating to PETE standards and student assessment. Also, presentations demonstrating the use of software to augment program and student assessment, student teacher feedback, and monitor undergraduate

development, revealed contemporary methods of technology integration.

• **Dr. Todd Martin**, associate professor of English, was recently informed that his essay, "Ezili and the Subversion of the Holy Virgin in Edwidge Danticat's 'Breath, Eyes, Memory,'" has been accepted for publication in *Literature and Belief*, a journal published by Brigham Young University. He also was asked to participate in an upcoming roundtable at the American Literature Association. The roundtable will focus on teaching E. E. Cummings about whom Martin has published a number of articles; his working title is "Is as an Action Verb: Cummings and the Act of Being."

• On Feb. 28, chemistry students Jayson Clore, Thaddeus Hubley, Taesoo Kim, and Levi Wilson toured the research labs of HU chemistry alumni Jeremy Burkett ('06), Abby Gaier ('07), Victoria Hall ('05), and Kelly Hotopp ('06) at Purdue University, as a field trip for **Dr. Ruth Nalliah's** Instrumental Analysis class. Topics of discussion varied from adhesives made by mussels to laser technology to photodynamic therapy research. The group also brought back a 40-year collection of the *Journal of the American*

*Chemical Society* donated by Dr. Marc Loudon, Cwalina Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Purdue. Alumna Victoria Hall ('05) spearheaded the effort to procure the donated journal collection, which will be partly housed in the Science Hall and in the RichLyn Library.

• **Dr. Rick Upchurch** has been appointed director of Huntington University's EXCEL Program for Adults. Upchurch most recently served as the associate vice president for adult and online education at Ohio Christian University in Circleville, Ohio. He held this position for more than nine years and recently won the Administrator of the Year award at OCU.

• **Mr. Troy Irick**, vice president for advancement, served as a panelist at the Chief Institutional Advancement Officers annual conference organized by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities on Feb. 28-March 1. Irick's panel was titled "Managing the Advancement Staff," and it was moderated by Bill Bigham, vice president for advancement at Roberts Wesleyan College. The panel also included vice presidents from Cedarville University and Greenville College.

## President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll



"College students are tackling the toughest problems in America, demonstrating their compassion, commitment, and creativity by serving as mentors, tutors, health workers and even engineers," said Liz Seale, chief operating officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "They represent a renewed spirit of civic engagement fostered by outstanding leadership on caring campuses."

## HUNTINGTON MAKES THE GRADE *University recognized by honor roll for second year*

For the second consecutive year, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll has recognized Huntington University for its support of "innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs."

The Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service organizes much of Huntington University's service efforts. Founded in 1992, the JMC is a student-directed organization that mobilizes the campus community for Christian service. The organization aims to involve students in the local community, instill a lifelong commitment to service and promote the idea that one person can make a difference.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, students, faculty and staff volunteered for more than 12,397.5 hours, serving more than 50 families, organizations and programs.

"Huntington University is committed to providing students, faculty and staff many opportunities to serve in the community of Huntington, throughout the United States and abroad," said Martha Smith, staff advisor for the Joe Mertz Center. "It is incredible to watch our campus community demonstrate Christ's love in many ways, from tutoring a child to raking a neighbor's leaves

to helping those who lost everything in a hurricane. Serving others is an important part of our mission."

Launched in 2006, the President's Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support innovative, effective and exemplary community service programs. Honorees were selected based on a series of factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers service-learning courses.

The honor roll is jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, through its Learn and Serve America program, and the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA Freedom Corps, Campus Compact, and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

In all, 528 schools were listed on the honor roll for their community service activities during the 2006-2007 academic year. For more information about the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, log on to [www.learnandserve.gov/about/programs/higher\\_ed\\_honorroll.asp](http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/programs/higher_ed_honorroll.asp).

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Basketball

In semifinal action of the MCC Tournament on March 1, the third-seeded men's team went down in defeat 81-64 to second-seeded Grace College.

The women's team gave NAIA Division II 5th-ranked Bethel College all it could handle for 33 minutes, but the senior-laden team Pilot squad got the leadership it needed down the stretch to bring HU's season to a close with a 70-55 loss in the semifinals of the MCC Tournament on Feb. 29.



Men's track freshman Tobias Sauter was named Athlete of the Week for March 3-9. He placed fourth in the 5000 meter run at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships.

## Track & Field

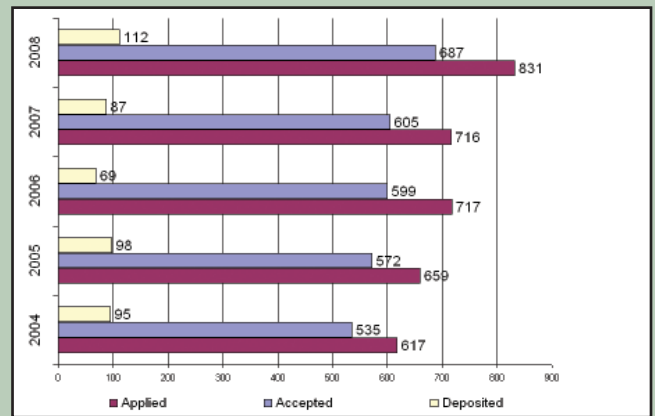
Huntington University freshman Tobias Sauter earned NAIA All-America honors with his fourth place finish in the 5000 meter run at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships. Six other Foresters participated in the National Championships and gained valuable experience competing against the NAIA's top athletes.

## Baseball

The Foresters traveled to Tennessee on Feb. 23 to begin their spring season. They were shut out 4-0 in their opener by Missouri Baptist University and then dropped a doubleheader to Union University 8-5 and 9-8 in 13 innings.

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

## ADMISSIONS UPDATE



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington University for the fall 2008 semester. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years.

## ADVANCEMENT NEWS

The annual Spring Phonathon for student scholarships wrapped up Feb. 26 with more than 30 students involved. More than 2,600 alumni and friends were contacted with nearly 50 percent responding with a pledge or a willingness to consider a gift. Also, more than 10 percent of those making pledges were either new donors or lapsed donors – those folks who have not made a gift in more than two years. To date, nearly \$80,000 has been committed to the phonathon, with all gifts going to student scholarships.

## AROUND CAMPUS...

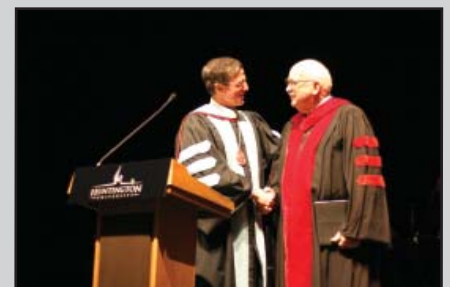
- The Northeast Indiana Alumni Directors Consortium is hosting its annual Easter Basket Drive through March 17. Baskets collected from area colleges and universities, including Huntington University, will be donated to the Stop Child Abuse and Neglect organization. SCAN, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through direct service, education, coordination and advocacy. The organization serves 13 counties in northern Indiana, including Huntington County. Businesses or members of the community may contribute Easter baskets filled with commercially-wrapped candy items (nothing homemade), toys, books, games, etc. Filled baskets should be wrapped in cellophane bags. Donations of individual items also would be appreciated. Baskets and items to fill baskets may be brought to the office of **Mrs. Margaret Roush**, director of alumni relations, on or before March 17. Roush's office is located on the second floor of the Administration Annex building on the campus of Huntington University. For more information, contact Roush at 359-4097 or **Mrs. Linda Taylor** at 359-4047.

- Huntington University's student missions organization, Global Vision, sponsored Global Opportunities Week on Feb. 26-28. The featured speaker was **Dr. Dave Livermore**, the executive director of the Global Learning Center at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. In addition,

Livermore is co-founder of Intersect, a ministry that provides leadership training and consulting to emerging leaders in ministries around the world. Livermore is widely published on youth ministry, missions and issues of contextualizing the gospel. His most recent book, "Serving with Eyes Wide Open," was awarded the 2006 Mission Book of the Year from Outreach Magazine. Livermore serves as an adjunct faculty member for the Master of Arts program in youth ministry leadership in Huntington University's Graduate School of Christian Ministries.

- Huntington University will host a Visiting Executive Seminar on March 28 at 8:45 a.m. in the Habecker Dining Commons. The seminar brings together business leaders and Huntington University business students to discuss important issues in today's business world. Led by **Prof. Jim O'Donnell**, associate professor of business and executive-in-residence, and **Dr. G. Blair Dowden**, president of the university, this seminar will focus on the subprime lending crisis. Attendees will examine two articles with differing viewpoints. Participants are invited to stay for a lunch and fellowship time following the program. Attendance is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. To RSVP by March 20, contact **Miss Melissa Cole** at [mcole@huntington.edu](mailto:mcole@huntington.edu) or (260) 359-4069. For more, log on to [www.huntington.edu/ves](http://www.huntington.edu/ves).

- The prayer chapel in Huntington University's new residence hall will bear a well-known name on campus and in the community. The chapel will be called the Paul R. Fetters Chapel after **Dr. Paul Fetters**, scholar, theologian and pastor. In selecting the name, the Huntington University Board of Trustees acknowledged that Fetters has "devoted his life to the service of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and to Huntington University." The Huntington University Board of Trustees adopted the resolution naming the chapel Jan. 26. **President G. Blair Dowden** shared the news with the campus community Feb. 15 at the annual Honors Convocation. "It is my privilege to recognize a colleague who epitomizes Christ-centeredness in his scholarship, his teaching, his ministry and his personal life," Dowden said.



Dr. G. Blair Dowden, president, congratulates Dr. Paul Fetters.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			12 All-Area Music Student Recital I/4 pm Baseball/1 pm (A)	13	14 Mid-Semester Softball/3 pm (H)	15 Huntington County EXPO Track & Field/11 am (A) Baseball/Softball/1 pm
16 Huntington County EXPO	17 Spring Recess Baseball/10 am (A) Softball/5 & 7 pm (A)	18 Spring Recess Baseball/10 am (A) Softball/11 am & 1 pm (A)	19 Spring Recess	20 Spring Recess Baseball/10 am (A) Softball/1 & 5 pm (A)	21 Good Friday Spring Recess Baseball/2 pm (A)	22 Baseball/10 am (A) Softball/1 pm (H)
23 Easter Sunday	24 Easter Monday: No Classes	25 Baseball/4 pm (H)	26	27 Baseball/1 pm (A) Softball/3 pm (H) Faculty Recital: Joni Killian/7:30 pm	28 Denver & the Mile High Orchestra/7:30 pm	29 M Tennis/9 am (A) Baseball/1 pm (H) Softball/1 pm (A) Track & Field/TBA (A)
30	31	1 Baseball/1 pm (A)	2	3 Softball/3 pm (H) Baseball/4 pm (A)	4 Longaker Honors Recital/7:30 pm Golf/noon (A)	5 Golf/8:30 am (A) W Tennis/9:30 am (A) Track & Field/11 am (A) Baseball/Softball/1 pm
6	7 W Tennis/4 pm (H)	8 Baseball/1 pm (A) Softball/3 pm (A)	9 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am All-Area Music Student Recital II/4 pm	<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

Last week, we held a very important event on campus: the Presidential Symposium on Christ-Centered Higher Education. We cancelled classes and closed offices so that the entire university community could gather together for an intensive day of reflection and renewal.

We were privileged to hear from outstanding scholars from across the country. Each explored a different aspect of what it means for a university like Huntington to be centered on Christ. Dr. Mark Noll of the University of Notre Dame, whom *TIME Magazine* called one of America's most influential evangelicals, gave a challenging address on "Developing the Christian Mind." My friend, Dr. Duane Litfin, president of Wheaton College, described the importance of systematically weaving the Christian faith into all aspects of the university – from the curriculum to athletics to student activities to administrative decision-making. Dr. Stan Gaede, former president of Westmont College and current scholar-in-residence at Gordon College, shared very personal stories about his own faith journey and his transformation from "slug" (his word) to student and scholar. Dr. Don Opitz, a sociologist from Geneva College, challenged students to "lean into learning" – that is, to abandon a passive stance in college, but instead to use their knowledge and

abilities to make a significant difference.

Several neighbors and friends from the local community were able to join us for one or more sessions last week. If you would like to hear any of these presentations, simply visit our Web site at [www.huntington.edu/christcentered](http://www.huntington.edu/christcentered).

The Symposium was an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate Christ-centered education. I often say to prospective parents and students that the reason that they should seriously consider Huntington University is not for the chapel, or the Bible studies, or the opportunities to have Christian roommates and friends. While these "Christian atmosphere" elements are an important part of the Huntington educational experience, a student can find some of them through Christian organizations such as Inter-Varsity or Campus Crusade. The reason they should attend Huntington is for what happens in the classroom: a Christian professor teaching his or her subject matter from a Christian viewpoint and helping students to begin the process of developing a Christian worldview.

This is very different from offering an essentially secular education with a little Christianity tacked on. Our academic programs don't just present



Dr. G. Blair Dowden  
President of Huntington University

students with a mountain of unrelated facts or utilitarian skills. Rather, we help students find connections between all the subjects studied and the truth of Christ. Here at Huntington, students can find meaning and purpose.

Faith in Christ is the source of Huntington University's distinctive academic strength as an institution of higher learning. The conversations on campus this year, leading up to and following the Symposium, will help us foster and preserve that distinctive.