

# Academe

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## RECREATION AND SPORTS MINISTRY

The major in recreation and sports ministry prepares the student to plan, direct and initiate church-based or community recreation programs and equips the student to use recreation and sports as a tool for outreach in the community.

The student will take a combination of courses from areas of recreation management, Bible and religion, missions and ministry. In addition, students participate in a seven-month field immersion ministry, called PRIME, or Practical Research and Immersion in Ministry Effectiveness.

The Department of Ministry and Missions seeks to develop in students the commitments and skills necessary to lead others in growing faithfulness to God. The curriculum is designed to integrate biblical truth, evangelical theology, psychology, foundations of individual and group leadership, administration, and programming in a recreational setting and provide the opportunity for service learning.

## MINISTERING THROUGH SPORTS

It takes a great deal of patience and a heart for ministry to coordinate sports leagues, golf lessons, dance classes, garage sales, crafts shows and photography classes for an entire community, but Matt Gerlach thrives on high levels of activity.

After his graduation from Huntington University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in recreation and sports ministry, Matt became the program director for the Huntington City Parks and Recreation Department in Huntington, Ind.

One of the biggest challenges Matt faced was taking over the reigns of a position that had seen impressive leadership over the past five years. Jumping right in, Matt hired 17 staff members to oversee seven parks and organize daily activities. In addition, he had to plan field trips for more than 300 children. Though it was stressful at times, Matt found the experience to be a positive one and credits the joy he finds in his work to the preparation he received from HU and more specifically, his PRIME experience, an internship required of all ministry and missions majors pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree.

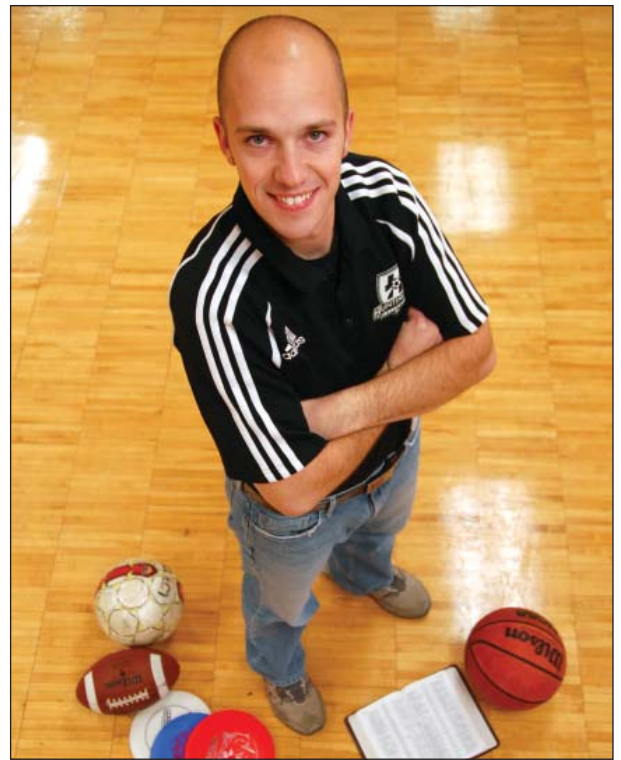
During his PRIME, Matt served at a church in Tennessee for six months as a family life and missions intern. At times, he was responsible for facility management and on-the-field as well as behind-the-scenes programming for events such as dodgeball tournaments, Upward Basketball, Vacation Bible School programs and even a mission trip to Alaska. Receiving hands-on training is what Matt says ultimately prepared him for his current position.

As a member of the university's soccer team, Matt was given the opportunity by Russ Lawson, the men's soccer coach, to lead a camp for children on a soccer team mission trip to Tampa, Fla. From his time working with the soccer team both on and off the field, Matt found some significant character traits being shaped: leadership, hard work, passion and teamwork.

"It was a great chance for me to step out and grow, learning more about my major through a varsity sports mission trip," he says.

In his ministry classes, Matt learned valuable information and developed skills to prepare him for his chosen field.

"As I studied, I built up my understanding of the Bible, Biblical principles and theological understanding," he says.



"At Huntington University, my professors always focused on how to be light in whatever field you were heading into."

"More importantly, I saw how relationships in the church work, immersed myself in learning how to grow personally in Christ as well as how to foster that growth in others."

With ministry classes focusing on "how to bring Christ into a dark world" and living in a world that thrives on competition, Matt found himself spending hours of study coming to understand how Christ can be seen through sports, recreation and competition.

"At Huntington University, my professors always focused on how to be a light in whatever field you were heading into," Matt says, "whether it was into the ministry or into the recreation field."

# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & NOTES



• **Prof. Jody Davenport**, instructor in physical education, attended the annual state conference for the Indiana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance on Nov. 12-14. As a newly appointed member of the

Higher Education/Research Council, Davenport was involved in planning sessions for the five upcoming regional meetings to be held during 2009.

• On Oct. 14, **Prof. Tom Brodbeck**, adjunct faculty in the Huntington University Graduate School, presented a seminar to the central Ohio chapter of the American Society for Training and Development titled "Taking Flight." The seminar focused on using the simple activity of building paper airplanes as a tool for training in the areas of team building and conflict resolution. On Oct. 24, Brodbeck presented a seminar on "change leadership" to a group of engineering students at the University of Dayton.

• The quality of **Dr. Tim Smith's** academic research has been officially recognized by his fellow historians. Smith has been successfully elected to the Fellowship of the prestigious Royal

Historical Society. Fellowships are awarded only to those historians who have made "an original contribution to historical scholarship in the form of significant published work," normally a book or several substantial scholarly articles. Smith, assistant professor of history, was elected to the general membership of the Royal Historical Society in 2007. His elevation to the Fellowship was supported by the acclaimed decolonization historian and fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Dr. L.J. Butler. Fellows represent the highest level of membership within the Society and are entitled to use the status title "FRHistS."

• On Nov. 10, **Prof. Barb Michel**, visiting professor of art, took a group of art education majors to the Art Education Association of Indiana's Fall Conference in French Lick, Ind. Students attended sessions on developing art lesson plans, advocating public school art courses, how art is taught in different cultures, and upcoming trends in art education, to name a few. They networked with art educators from around the state as well as attended a special luncheon for college students and met other art education majors.

• **Prof. Sara Ward**, adjunct faculty for the EXCEL Adult Degree Programs, has received the Frank and Katrina Basile Award for

Emerging Playwrights from the Indiana Theatre Association.

• **Dr. Paul E. Michelson**, distinguished professor of history, recently attended the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia, where he presided over a meeting of the Society for Romanian Studies, chaired a panel on "Breaking with the Past? Moldova and the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections," and participated in an SRS roundtable discussion on "Resources for Romanian Studies and Personal Libraries."

• **Dr. G. Blair Dowden**, president, was the featured speaker at a leadership luncheon on Dec. 4 at the Wabash Friends Church. Dowden's presentation, "Building Winning Teams," gave attendees insight into how to tell if their team was effective or dysfunctional and how to build a cohesive and effective team that produces results and also has fun.

• **Prof. Bryan Ballinger**, assistant professor of digital media arts, has three pieces that will be in an illustration exhibit in Sapporo, Japan, at the ODORI Museum this month. The theme of the show is fictional advertising posters.



(left to right) Brad Thurmond, executive director of Ivy Tech Community College Wabash; Dr. Steve Holtrop, HU's associate dean for graduate and adult studies; and Dr. Rick Upchurch, director of Huntington's EXCEL Adult Degree Programs

Huntington University and Ivy Tech Community College have signed an agreement that will streamline the process for students transferring from Ivy Tech's Associate of Science in business administration program to Huntington's Bachelor of Science in business administration program.

The agreement is in effect for courses taken beginning in the fall of 2008.

"Currently, each student's transcript has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis," said Dr. Rick Upchurch, director of Huntington's EXCEL Adult Degree Programs. "With this new agreement, those graduating with an associate degree in business administration from Ivy Tech

## EXCEL, IVY TECH SIGN AGREEMENT *Credit transfer process simplified by partnership*

will have an upfront awareness of how their credits will transfer."

Students may transfer into any of the bachelor's degree programs EXCEL offers including business administration, accounting, human resource management and not-for-profit leadership. However, those enrolling in the business administration program would receive the greatest number of transfer credits due to the similarity of Ivy Tech's business administration program.

"Huntington University is pleased to partner with Ivy Tech in this way," said Dr. Steve Holtrop, associate dean for graduate and adult studies. "I think this arrangement provides a win-win situation, especially for working adults looking to further their education."

"I'm very excited about this opportunity for Ivy Tech Community College students, especially for those at the Wabash campus," said Brad Thurmond, executive director of Ivy Tech Community College Wabash. "With Huntington University's EXCEL program located just a few blocks from our campus, this partnership will allow our business administration students a

high quality and convenient path to a bachelor's degree. I look forward to future collaborations with our friends and partners at Huntington University."

EXCEL offers evening classes tailored to the schedule of most working adults. Classes are held one night per week, one subject at a time. Classes last five to eight weeks and lead to an associate degree in organizational management or bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, human resource management or not-for-profit leadership.

EXCEL offers classes in Huntington, Columbia City and Wabash with courses to be offered in Fort Wayne beginning in February 2009.

For more information about the EXCEL program, log on to [www.hu-excel.com](http://www.hu-excel.com), call (260) 563-2505 or (800) 600-4888.

Ivy Tech Community College is one of the nation's largest singly-accredited statewide community college systems and the state's second largest public post-secondary institution with nearly 120,000 students enrolled annually.

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

**Basketball:** The NAIA Division II 6th-ranked women's basketball team came out looking tentative after suffering its first loss of the season, but the team put together a solid second half to get back in the win column with a 74-63 victory over Grace College on Dec. 6. The win is HU's first in conference play and moves them to 9-1 on the season.

The men's team fought back from a 21-point deficit to make a win within reach against Grace College on Dec. 6. Unfortunately, the Foresters' efforts were not enough, and they fell 92-98, bringing their record to 8-4 on the season.

**Cross Country:** The Foresters were among 32 teams competing for the NAIA National Cross Country title in Kenosha, Wis., on Nov. 22, and HU ran to a 10th place finish with a team score of 308. Senior Nick Johnson paced the Foresters with an eighth place finish in 24:40, improving his personal best time by 29 seconds. His top 10 finish was by far his best showing in three trips to the national event and earned him NAIA All-America honors for the first time in his career.

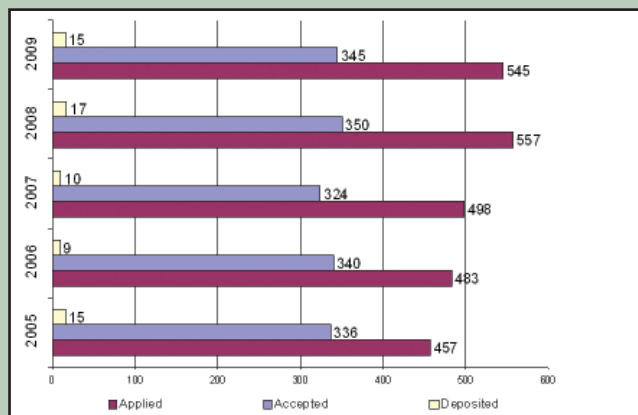
**Volleyball:** In the opening round of the MCC tournament on Nov. 11, the Foresters headed to Upland for a re-match against Taylor University. HU played well against the top-seeded Trojans but eventually fell in four games: 25-22, 25-27, 25-15, 25-18. The loss brought the Foresters season to a close at 16-18.

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



Sophomore guard, Tyler Shively, set a new NAIA Division II national record by hitting 70 consecutive free throws between Jan. 2 and Nov. 25.

## ADMISSIONS UPDATE



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington University for the fall 2009 semester. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years.

## ADVANCEMENT NEWS

Through November, the university has raised \$143,032 toward the University Fund for 2008-2009. This is a decrease from last year's numbers due in large part to the timing of campaign pledges. Areas of note include giving to the Huntington County Grant (which is 13 percent ahead of 2007) and parent unrestricted giving (which is 15 percent ahead of 2007). Overall gift income, through November, is up 82 percent, due primarily to a major estate gift received by the university this fall.

## AROUND CAMPUS...

- Seven music majors attended the Indiana National Association of Teachers of Singing competition at Indiana State University on Nov. 1. **Wesley Williams, Brandon Riggle, Jacob Keefer, Ashlyn Brady, Breana Balliet, Cami Wanner and Sarah Yanovitch** all participated in the competition with vocalists from colleges and universities across the state. Yanovitch placed first in the freshman women's category and subsequently performed in the winners recital at the end of the day. Winners in each of the 23 classifications received a certificate and monetary award.

- Huntington University's chapter of the international art fraternity Kappa Pi contributed to "Faces of Hunger—Bowls of Change" by making ceramic bowls that were used at a fundraiser dinner and then auctioned off on Nov. 19. Kappa Pi crafted a total of 110 bowls. All proceeds were donated to Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc.

- Huntington University sophomore **Ross Kilgore** has been named an outstanding first-generation college student by the Independent Colleges of Indiana. Made possible by a grant to the ICI from the Lilly Endowment Inc., "Realizing the Dream" recognizes the triumphs of first-generation college students in their first year of college. The student honorees are Indiana high school graduates who demonstrated

superior academic performance during their freshman year and exhibited leadership in campus or community activities. A \$2,000 grant will be mailed to the institution to be deposited into the student's account and applied toward the cost of his/her education.

- High school and college students experienced a Community Action Poverty Simulation presented by the Huntington University Student Activities Board and the Department of Social Work. On Nov. 12, six high school students and 50 university students participated in the simulation. In addition, 16 community members worked at tables or helped facilitate the event. Participants were assigned a persona to act out during the simulation – such as an 8-year-old female student or a senior citizen on Social Security – and then went through the steps of daily life for that person.

- Huntington University Student Senate sponsored "Christmas in the Forest: A Huntington University Celebration" on Dec. 1. The event was open to students, faculty, staff and the community and involved a lighting ceremony, devotional, carol singing and refreshments. Hot drinks and cookies were provided by Sodexo and the university's Office of Alumni Relations.

- The Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service

recently sponsored the Urban Plunge, a mission trip for 14 Huntington University students. Advisors included the **Rev. Bob Henry**, assistant director of campus ministries, and his wife, Sue. The team drove to Chicago on Nov. 14 and stayed two nights at Emmaus Ministries. Saturday was spent working with Su Casa, a home for displaced Latino families, on outdoor projects in the community such as raking leaves, mulching and cleaning up the area. The group attended Living Water Community Church in downtown Chicago on Sunday.



Freshman Jordan Peterson, a psychology major from Fond Du Lac, Wis., rakes leaves at Su Casa.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			10 Semester Exams	11 Semester Exams	12	13 W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
14 "Holiday Pops"/ 2:30 pm	15	16 W Basketball/7 pm (H)	17	18 M Basketball/7 pm (H)	19	20
21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 M Basketball/3 pm (H)
28	29	30 W Basketball/2 pm (A) M Basketball/7 pm (H)	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 W Basketball/1 pm (H) M Basketball/3 pm (A)
4	5 J-Term Classes Begin	6 M Basketball/7 pm (A)	7 W Basketball/7 pm (H)	8	9	10 W Basketball/1 pm (A) M Basketball/3 pm (H)
11	12	13 M Basketball/7 pm (A)	14 Foundation Breakfast/ 7:45 am W Basketball/7 pm (H)	<i>For a detailed calendar of campus events, visit <a href="http://my.huntington.edu">http://my.huntington.edu</a>.</i>		

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

A couple weeks ago, I was asked to speak at the Divine Hours chapel series. The scripture lesson for the day was taken from Ephesians 5:15-17: "Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don't be vague but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord."

To live a responsible life demands intentionality. Rick Warren in his popular book, "The Purpose Driven Life," reminds us that "knowing your purpose focuses your life. Knowing your purpose concentrates your effort and energy on what's important. Without a clear purpose, we keep changing directions, jobs, relationships, churches, etc., hoping each change will settle the confusion or fill the emptiness in our hearts." Without intentionality, we keep thinking that, "this time it will be different." But without effort, focus and direction, nothing changes. Warren further states that, "knowing your purpose motivates your life. Purpose always produces passion."

Living with a sense of responsibility also requires that we try to make good choices.

Viktor Frankl in his book, "Man's Search for Meaning," describes his experiences as a WWII concentration camp inmate at Auschwitz. He faced dreadful conditions in the camp. Suffering and death were everywhere. Yet even amid the horrors, Frankl realized that he could still choose to become a beast or a blessing. Frankl concluded "that the meaning of life was to be found in every moment of living; life never ceases to have meaning, even in suffering and death." It is so easy to blame our surroundings or our luck or our economy. But Frankl realized that the more we focus on the spiritual, the eternal, the more hope one finds, and with that hope comes the will to live. And to live with grace and integrity.

At this time of the year, it is fitting to remind ourselves of what we have, as Christians, in Christ. Still, it's hard to ignore those inner voices that remind us over and over again of our limitations or of the hopelessness of trying again. But God tells us, "I love you and want you to live a life that is full and rewarding." We need to listen to that voice; we need to follow its call upon our lives, "Get rid of your old self which is being destroyed by its deceitful desires. You must put on the new self, which is created in God's



Dr. Norris Friesen  
Vice President and Dean of Huntington University

likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

For the Christian, maybe the only way to deal with an unfair world is to live in such a way that the words of Jesus become evident in everything you do and say.

This Christmas season, I hope you will take time to ponder the choices each of us has to make a difference, to live a life pleasing to God and that honors the gifts He has invested in each of us.