

# Huntington College ACADEME

Celebrating Academic Leadership and Christian Scholarship



## O'Donnell to publish *Letters for Lizzie*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 15-17  
*Alice in Wonderland*

APRIL 22-23  
*Board of Trustees*

APRIL 26-28  
*Accreditation Visit*

MAY 7  
*Final Day of Classes*

MAY 10-13  
*Semester Exams*

MAY 15  
*Commencement*

Jim O'Donnell is ten years removed from a successful, high-profile business world and ten years removed from health and wealth, so to speak. Jim and his wife, Lizzie, had a faith in God that was big enough to risk everything familiar to them as they left behind money, friends and nearness to family. They moved from Boston's financial district to the Huntington College campus in 1993. For this Huntington College business professor, the past decade has been a journey of bumpy roads and, at times like Jacob, a desperate wrestling with God. Through patience and grief, Jim has become a vessel for God, not only to his family, but to each student who sits through his classes and takes his demanding exams. He teaches Christian ethics and how they apply to society's future business leaders – a far cry from his old work in the dog-eat-dog world of high finance. He is also trying to teach his wider family, friends and loved ones the importance of trust and reliance on God – even as he has learned to stare down the impending death of the most important human being in his life.

When Jim interviewed for the position at Huntington College, he remembers a dinner engagement with a few faculty members that left a lasting impression. "It wasn't any one thing; it was just an accumulation of watching these people and listening to them," he says. "There was such an honesty and humility emanating from them. I was deeply

touched and realized that I wanted to be more like them."

In January of 1995, just a few months after the O'Donnell's moved to Indiana, the family received the horrific news that Lizzie had terminal breast cancer. Jim began to write letters to friends back East, who, in some cases, thought Jim had been crazy to give up what he had back there. Those raw and honest letters were his attempt to begin a prayer network for Lizzie.

During the first nine months, Lizzie underwent two disfiguring surgeries and seven high-dosage chemotherapy treatments, and everything seemed to go well. Then in September, she came down with flu-like symptoms. A chest

x-ray revealed a new terminal diagnosis. Lizzie now had heart failure from the chemotherapy, and since she had battled cancer so recently, she was not a good candidate for a heart transplant.

*"I'm grateful for the people on this campus who stuck with me, who I could go out to lunch with and 'un-burden.'"*

Lizzie did eventually get a heart transplant for research purposes only. Miraculously, she's still enjoying life today and uses the time she's been given in volunteer service, making a difference in many lives.

Throughout their ordeal, Jim and Lizzie found themselves within a community of deeply daring people – the same kind of people that he was so impressed with during his first interview. Still seemingly a stranger to these new colleagues, Jim found friendships and kindness from people who wanted to share his burden.

"Going through 18 straight months of pure, nonstop crisis was not easy. I was exhausted," Jim remembers. "I'm grateful for the people on this campus who stuck with me, who I could go out to lunch with and 'un-burden.'"

There is a quilt hanging in the O'Donnell house that is a wonderful reminder of the love they have received from Huntington. A woman from their Sunday School class organized several loving women to make her a quilt. The quilter knew that time was of the essence, so she had members of the class each make a square so it could be done in enough time for Lizzie to enjoy.

"That quilt is a very visible reminder of the hope that we have. It is a reminder to us today that we have not been abandoned," Jim says.

After a decade at Huntington College, Jim will release his first book, *Letters for Lizzie*. It is composed of the 13 letters written to "friends back East." In the finished book, each of the 13 original letters is preceded by a brief reflection on thoughts and emotions not included in the original letter. Published by Moody Press, *Letters for Lizzie* will be released at the beginning of May.

*For the complete story or to order a copy of the book, visit [www.huntington.edu/hcnews/0304/lettersforlizzie.htm](http://www.huntington.edu/hcnews/0304/lettersforlizzie.htm).*



With the loving quilt hanging in their home, Lizzie and Jim O'Donnell enjoy each day they have together.

# Faculty/Staff News & Notes



John Mignone and Lance Clark accepted an award from the Indiana Association of United Ways.

**Mignone**, 2003 Huntington County Campaign Chair, oversaw production of the video. Senior **Jonathan Bordeaux** played a key role in the success of the film, helping to shoot and edit video footage.

The Huntington College Peer Award has been passed on to two new individuals for the month of April. March recipients, **Dr. Lance Clark**, assistant professor of communication, and **Mrs. Denise Brauchla**, Learning Center secretary and Loew-Brenn faculty secretary, passed their awards along to **Mr. Ken Hopper**, assistant professor of art, and **Mrs. Sarah Harvey**, registrar.

The United Way of Huntington County 2003 Campaign Video produced by Huntington College was recently awarded first place at the Indiana Association of United Ways State Leaders Conference.

**Dr. Lance Clark**, assistant professor of communication at Huntington College, and **Mr. John**

**Mr. James O'Donnell**, professor of business and economics and executive-in-residence, will be the featured speaker at the Fort Wayne Business Expo 2004 breakfast on May 13.

**Dr. Kevin Miller**, assistant professor of communication, presented an academic paper, "Beyond Unions? The Future of Workplace Democracy," at the Central States Communication Association.

**Dr. Todd Martin**, assistant professor of English, has been elected the Midwest Regent for Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. In this role, he will represent the chapters of the Midwest region on the national board of the society and will be responsible for building cohesion among the chapters, as well as providing support for struggling chapters.

**Dr. John Sanders**, research professor of philosophy and religion, recently presented a lecture on open theism at a colloquium at Indiana Wesleyan University. He was also a keynote speaker at the Conference on Mormon Philosophy and Theology at Utah Valley State College. He presented his paper, "The Problem of Evil: The Logic-of-Love Defense versus Mormon Theodicy."

**Dr. Del Doughty**, associate professor of English, read his forthcoming collection of haiku entitled *Flow* at

a regional meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature. He is also writing an introduction to a new edition of James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, as well as presenting his paper, "In Orthodox Samaritan Fashion": James Joyce and the Myth of Redemptive Violence," at the South Central Modern Language Association in New Orleans.

**Dr. Paul Michelson**, distinguished professor of history, recently presented a paper at the Frances White Ewbank Colloquium at Taylor University. His paper was entitled "Of Urban Blockheads and Trousered Apes: C.S. Lewis and the Challenge of Education." The paper has been published in *Inklings Forever*, Vol. 4 (2004), pp. 106-113.

**Mr. Mike Burnett**, assistant professor of theatre, recently participated in the Christian in Theatre Arts (CITA) North Region Conference. He sat on a panel discussion for technical theatre and presented a workshop on acting titled, "Improv for Actors: Using improv techniques to improve acting, develop characters and scenes for use in worship settings." Burnett was also selected to attend the CCCU Theatre Disciplinary Workshop in July, 2004.

To subscribe to the weekly *Campus Bulletin* for complete up-to-date happenings and news at Huntington College, e-mail [bdoyle@huntington.edu](mailto:bdoyle@huntington.edu).



Who says actors are the only versatile players of the stage?

Kathy Thorn, a junior theatre technology and design major from Columbus, Ohio, has done just about every behind-the-scenes job available.

During her three years at HC, Kathy has been involved in each HC theatre production, including stage managing three major performances: *Pirates of Penzance*, *Oklahoma!* and *Into the Woods*.

She is also the lighting designer for HC's upcoming production of *Alice in Wonderland*, which will run April 15-17. As if she wasn't busy enough, this semester she is the costume shop foreman, overseeing every piece and detail that goes into building a show.

"It's a lot of organization," says Kathy. "I need to make sure that everybody does the right things to build each show."

Kathy's skills were well-defined during an internship opportunity in the summer of 2003. That summer, she logged many long hours serving as production assistant at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

"I worked from noon to midnight six days a week," Kathy says. "Rehearsals were from one to five o'clock and six to 11 o'clock, but I had to be there an hour early and stay an

hour later."

Kathy appreciated working for the Festival because it allowed her to test her faith in the secular world of theatre, a faith she has been strengthening while at HC.

"If I want to work in theatre, I'm going to be exposed to the secular world," Kathy says. "But if I know what I believe, I can be a better witness, and Huntington College has helped prepare me for such experiences."

Before attending HC, Kathy was accepted at DePauw University as one of four stage manager applicants admitted each year but decided to attend HC because of its strong Christian base and theatre department's openness to do shows "outside the Christian mindset."

McNair Wilson, guest director of *Alice in Wonderland*, has also been impressed with the quality theatre program at HC. Wilson's ties to Huntington College date back to the 1970's. In 1999, he was invited to be the guest director of *Tartuffe*. He was again asked come to HC as guest director for the 2003-04 academic year and accepted based on his previous experience at HC, which he describes as "great."

"Huntington College does more plays than institutions twice its size," McNair says. "They are much more ambitious than big-time colleges."

To reserve tickets for *Alice in Wonderland*, April 15-17, contact the Merillat Centre Box Office at (260) 359-4261.

## FOCUS ON...

### Kathy Thorn: Behind-the-Scenes

# Sports Highlights

**Men's Basketball:** Three Foresters received postseason awards. Senior Ryan Thwait's was named third-team All-American and an All-American Scholar Athlete. Senior Derek Yoder was named honorable mention All-American and an All-American Scholar Athlete. Adam Bontreger was named an All-American Scholar Athlete.

**Baseball:** The Foresters are currently 11-13 overall and are third in the MCC with an 8-4 conference record. Junior Brian Porter was named MCC Player of the Week on March 22.

**Golf:** The Foresters are currently 15-18-2 overall, 6-1 in the MCC with a recent second-place finish at the Marian MCC Tournament. Senior Micah Beckwith was the individual medalist of the tournament with a career-low 71.

**Softball:** The Foresters are currently 6-16 overall, 3-7 in the MCC. Freshman Julie Repogle has shown strength in the pitching circle, as Kaley Fode has led the Foresters at the bat.

**Men's & Women's Tennis:** The men's tennis team recently defeated Defiance College, 5-4, to bring its record to an even 2-2 this spring. The women's team recently defeated Anderson University, 6-3, and currently post a spring 2-0 record.

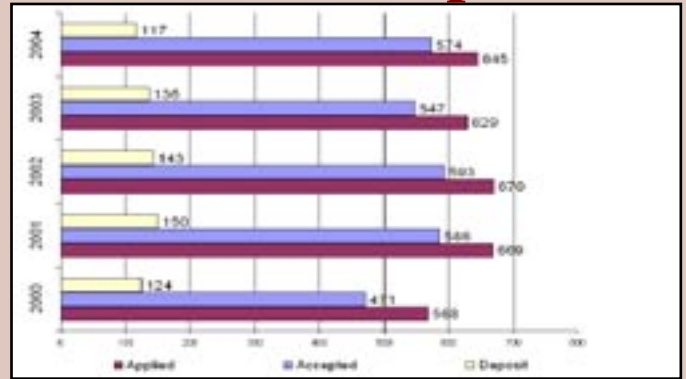
**Men's & Women's Track & Field:** The Foresters opened the outdoor season in late March at Wheaton College and have since competed at the Mt. Laurel Relays in Sewanee, Tenn., and hosted a dual meet against Bethel College. Early highlights for the men's team have been mid-distance runner Cody Hannie, hurdler Jonathan Doyle and steeplechaser David St. Louis. For the women senior Nicole Jacob and freshman Brittany Fillman have sparked decent team performances.

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



Senior Ben Eggleston's victory at #1 singles sealed the win for the Foresters at Defiance College.

# Admissions Update



The chart above summarizes the number of prospective students who have applied and been accepted to Huntington College for the fall 2004 semester. The bars represent year-to-date comparisons over the past five years.

# Advancement News

The College recently received a \$750,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to establish an Enterprise Resource Center (ERC) under Lilly's "Initiative to Promote Opportunity Through Educational Collaborations." Ned Kiser, vice president for advancement, led the process to develop this grant proposal and will be integrally involved in the implementation of the ERC. With Kiser's new responsibility, Troy Irick has been promoted to the position of Assistant Vice President for Advancement and will retain the title of Director of Community Relations.

# Around Campus.....

- The national office of the Conference on Faith and History (CFH) will be located at Huntington College, effective June 1, 2004. **Dr. Paul Michelson**, distinguished professor of history, will serve as national secretary of the CFH. **Dr. Dwight Brautigam**, professor of history, will be the CFH national treasurer and administrator. **Dr. Jeffrey Webb**, assistant professor of history, will be managing editor of the newsletter.

- Several members of the theatre department will work in professional theatres during the summer. **Mr. Mike Burnett**, assistant professor of theatre, will return to the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival in Louisville as the production manager. Joining him will be theatre design and technology majors **Zarin Barnes**, carpentry intern; **Kylie Edmonds**, properties intern; and **Ashleigh Lewis**, costumes intern. Theatre-performance major **Dan Olson** will work at Heritage Repertory Theatre in Charlottesville, Va., as an ensemble member in *Ragtime* from May 30-July 3. From July 20-August 8, Olson will be at the Ft. Salem Theatre in Salem, N.Y., performing in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

- At the Alpha Chi Region V Convention, **Rachel Tinon** won the Region V undergraduate scholarship while **Emily Burkholder** was runner-up. **Ben Eggleston** was runner-up for the Region V graduate fellowship, and **Lori Merkle** was elected as the Region V student representative to the Alpha Chi National Council. At the meeting, HC's Indiana Beta Chapter was recognized as

a Star Chapter. The chapter is one of six of Alpha Chi's 300-plus chapters that has won the award every year since its inception nine years ago.

- The Huntington College music department will host the Concerto Winners Concert on Friday, April 23. HC students **Leah Coon** (piano), **Drew Wutke** (piano) and **Julie Porter** (soprano), along with community home-school students **Alicia Pyle** (piano) and **Aaron and Rachel Mossburg** (violin), will perform with the HC Orchestra, conducted by **Mr. Benjamin Kendall**.

- The Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service will offer the final blood drive of the school year on April 27, in the upper level of the Dining Commons.

- At the 14th Annual Student Art Exhibit, art student **Jennifer Longhurst** won the Wilson Purchase Award for her wood-cut piece, "French Village." Best of Show was awarded to **Scott Cooper** for his oil painting, "Railroad Engineer." **Rachel Rhine** won first place overall with her photo, "Grasp of Light," while **Nicole Woods** won second place overall with a ceramic tile

sculpture, "Keratinized Clay." **Lynsi Griffin** was awarded third place overall for her photo, "Security." Other students earning Outstanding Achievement in various divisions included **Erin Hudson**, **James Geyer**, **Brian Reynolds**, **Caleb Porter**, **Luke Hopper**, **Greg Wardwell**, **Nuria Bagley**, **Travis Spangler**, **Christy Harris**, **Kristi Thompson**, and **Jarrold Bennett**.

For all Huntington College campus news, visit the HC news web site at [www.huntington.edu/hcnews](http://www.huntington.edu/hcnews).



Sophomore Jeff Ott spent Spring Break with a Huntington College Habitat for Humanity missions team in Jacksonville, Fla.

# Campus Calendar

# April/May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			14 Advising HC Foundation Breakfast/7:45 AM HC Music/4:30 PM	15 Advising TEPAC Breakfast/8 AM Alice in Wonderland/ 7:30 PM	16 Advising PACE Meeting/9 AM Alice in Wonderland/ 7:30 PM	17 Spring Work Day/ 8 AM Alice in Wonderland/ 2 PM & 7:30 PM
18	19 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM Focus on Excellence/ 7 PM	20 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM	21 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM Math Competition/ 10 AM	22 Board of Trustees CLEP-DANTES/8 AM HC Art exhibit/9 AM Concerto Winners Concert/7:30 PM	23 Board of Trustees CLEP-DANTES/8 AM	24
25 Dona Nobis Pacem Concert/5 PM	26 Accreditation Visit	27 Accreditation Visit HC Jazz Band/7:30 PM	28 Accreditation Visit	29 JMC Banquet/6 PM One-Act Play Festival/ 7:30 PM	30 One-Act Play Festival/ 7:30 PM	1 HC Art/6 PM One-Act Play Festival/ 7:30 PM
2	3 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM	4 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM Education student- teacher meeting/4 PM Forester Night/7 PM	5 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM HC Music/4:30 PM	6 CLEP-DANTES/8 AM Student-teacher banquet/6 PM	7 Final Day of Classes CLEP-DANTES/8 AM	8
9	10 Semester Exams	11 Semester Exams Faculty/Staff Apprecia- tion Dinner/6 PM	12 Semester Exams HC Foundation Breakfast/7:45 AM	<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

Most college students look forward to Spring Break as a time of rest and relaxation, and perhaps some fun in the sun. But instead of heading to the beach last month, many Huntington College students rolled up their sleeves to help those in need. Five teams of HC students, faculty and staff participated in meaningful Christian service opportunities in New York, Florida, Jamaica, Brazil and Kosovo.

According to a March 20 story in the *Indianapolis Star*, such service-oriented "alternative" Spring Break trips are on the rise among college and university students. The article reported that 16 Ball State students, 29 Butler students, 50 Indiana University students and 80 Huntington College students volunteered over Spring Break. I am pleased that Huntington College undergraduates are choosing to participate in Christian service in such high numbers.

Twenty-five Huntington College students returned to Jacksonville, Florida, to work alongside other Habitat for Humanity volunteers in the construction and renovation of affordable homes. The organization's local chapter, Habijax, is working to build over 200 homes a year to help end sub-standard housing conditions in the Jacksonville area by the year 2021.

Another group of students joined Martha Smith, assistant dean of students, for a week of work in New York City.

Seeking to serve the "lost and least of these," our students worked with the poor and homeless, offering prayer, Bibles, clothing and food.

Bill Fisher, Nicole Fain and Jodi Fiedler, of the Campus Ministries Department, led ten students to Iguaca Falls, Brazil. The team presented a Christian camp for Brazilian youth. Through sports, worship and drama, the Huntington College students shared the love of Christ. The tearful goodbyes at the airport testified to the lasting impact this visit will have on dozens of Brazilian young people.

Eight students and Joanne Miller, director of HC's Joe Mertz Center for Volunteer Service, arrived in Kosovo for a week of service projects on the eve of the worst rioting and violence the war-torn country has seen in the past five years. The team kept their cool, however, and completed all scheduled projects for a church-planting group of Albanian and American Christians. Despite rumors of airport closings and other difficulties, the group left Kosovo as scheduled, without incident.

Eighteen HC students joined Dean Norris Friesen on his tenth Spring Break trip to the Caribbean. But instead of lounging in a tropical paradise, they stayed in a church basement and hostel on the island's poor eastern side, with no air conditioning, no running water and no indoor



**Dr. G. Blair Dowden**  
Huntington College President

toilets. Our team cheerfully endured the tough working conditions to paint and repair Happy Grove High School and conduct evangelistic outreach events. "The idea is for [our students] to do something different, meaningful, faith-related -- something that would get them out of their comfort zone and challenge them," Friesen told the *Indianapolis Star*.

Different. Meaningful. Faith-related. Challenging. These words very accurately describe, not only our Spring Break service projects, but also the entire range of learning opportunities available to Huntington College students.