



The Cracked Pot Volume 1, Issue 1

Wesley Student Center — Athens, Ohio

The *Cracked Pot* encourages us all to realize that we are connected through the good works of others, even through the imperfections that we all have. What lies within and seeps out of the *Cracked Pot* will help us all to grow the flowers along the path of life.



A Note from the Director

Greetings from the Wesley Student Center at Ohio University!

For several years there has been talk amongst the Wesley Student Center Staff to reignite an informative newsletter about our ministry. Because the ministry is so alive, active and participatory (a.k.a. time consuming), the newsletter has just remained on the wish list. Well, I am proud to say the project has made it to the “get-it-done” list, and, as a result, you are reading the first issue.

The goals of this letter are simple. We hope to:

1. inform you of where God is working and moving with the WSC students.

2. inform alumni about alumni happenings and people.

3. inform youth ministers of WSC’s activities in hopes that they will promote WSC to their participants who plan



to attend OU.

4. inform you of the ministry’s prayer concerns and other needs.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to read this and send me your thoughts. What did you like? What would you like to see more of? If you are an alum, I hope you will take a minute to share some memories and,

if possible, photos with us. If you know any potential OU students, please share this letter or our website address with them.

Lastly, please pray for this ministry that we may continue to holistically support young adults who are at the stage of exploring life’s many offerings.

May God’s blessings be upon you.

Jay Hinton
Director WSC

P.S. Thanks to WSC alum Michelle Belna for the newsletter name.

Roach and Browne Scholarships Awarded

This year WSC has two scholarships that will be officially awarded before fall quarter begins. The Frank and Ella Roach Scholarship has been around for many years while this is the first year that we will be awarding the Browne Scholarship. The scholarship was

established by Kathi Browne in 2007 in honor of her brother-in-law, Steve Browne and his brother Mark who both attended Ohio University.

Congratulations to Ben Brewer (Roach Scholarship), who is involved with WSC

and AEX, and to Rebecca Hug (Browne Scholarship), who is involved with WSC and Kappa Phi, for being selected by the Committee for Higher Education and Campus Ministry as the recipients of these two awards!

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September 2007

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Special points of interest:

- *Pey-Fen Chiu, who was the WSC International Intern since fall ‘03, finished her Master’s in August. We’ll miss you, Pey!*
- *Congratulations to Michelle (Shively) Shaw and Evan Shaw who were married on August 11, 2007. Michelle was the WSC intern from 2003-2006. She and Evan met at WSC.*

Midnight Breakfast



Allison cooks up sausage at Midnight Breakfast

Midnight Breakfast is an event unique to WSC. It has been around for 10 or more years (unfortunately we don't have the beginning date on record).

Each 2nd Friday of the month the Wesley students and Kappa Phi ladies combine to provide a free breakfast from midnight till two in the morning .

The event gives the students a chance to serve their

fellow students with no expectation of something in return. It also allows them to show that being a Christian in college does not mean fun is off limits!

Each month WSC provides karaoke, live music, or music played over the sound system while the attendees inhale the grub.

The attendees are mostly OU students who are enticed in off the street from flyers

they received and the smell of pancakes, eggs, and sausage.

Each month the attendance averages over 200 people. Donations are expected, and, on average, amount to around \$800 per academic year. These donations help pay for supplies and go to local and national charities.

"...a student wrote about an experience they had that day..."

Spring Break Mission Trip

During Spring Break this year, fourteen representatives of the Wesley Student Center of Ohio University (five of which were international students) and the Chair of the Committee for Higher Education and Campus Ministry of the Athens FUMC congregation went to Washington D.C. We traveled seven hours by van to the Washington Seminar Center. The Center arranged four days of service work which included working in a soup kitchen and at an or-

ganization that provides help to senior adults.

There was also time built in to see many of the sites and museums on the National Mall. The group also toured the national cathedral.

As with last year, each day, a student wrote about an experience they had that day and it was emailed to the church. The students' experiential reflections and photographs were posted on WSC's website each day for all to read.

These posts are still available for you to read on our website.

This year WSC is in the process of planning and fundraising for a 2008 Spring Break trip to Guatemala with Habitat for Humanity.

AEX Men's Group

Each January, the AEX Men's Group takes to the woods for their annual retreat at Lake Hope State Park. This retreat is a combination of good food, a movie based bible study, and service work at the park.

The group stays in a cabin and uses it for their base

while in the park. The movie the guys watched and then discussed (using a movie based bible study book) was Bruce Almighty. The movie stars Jim Carey. That should give you an idea of how corny it is. However there are many situations that create for very good Bible related discussion.

The morning of the 2nd day involved more food and lots of trail maintenance on the official AEX adopted trail.



AEX guys pose at the sign recognizing them at their adopted

Student Spotlight—Rebecca Hug



My name is Rebecca Hug and I am originally from Lancaster, OH. I love extreme

sports (rock climbing, kayaking, etc.); I would rather sit on a porch in South Carolina sipping sweetened tea and strumming my guitar than do anything else. My mother teaches high school students in pre-professional

health and recreation and my father is a training officer for the Lorain Correctional Institute. I chose to attend Ohio University because my mother attended this school for undergraduate work and I guess I was either too lazy or too excited to look further into my collegiate location. So, I am a junior majoring in Exercise Physiology with the aspiration of becoming involved in international missions with a focus in health education.

Upon arrival at OU, I quickly linked into the Athens FUMC cluster. I pledged to

Kappa Phi in my freshman year and was invited to attend WSC meetings as well as participate in the spring mission trip my sophomore year while working at a Midnight Breakfast.

I continue to return to WSC because it is not often that you are given the opportunity to be in a group that is down-to-earth, non-judgmental and truly Christian based. WSC provides a safe-haven and a rockin' fun time (from our band to our discussions- we are always laughing).

A favorite memory of my

time with WSC? Well...This one time...we were trying to flamingo my teacher's yard and well...ask Laura for the rest!!!

One thing I would like people to know about me is I hope for the best, I pray for the impossible and I live in each moment as if hoping and praying would not be enough.

Alumni Spotlight—Steve Browne

I was in the AEX chapter from 1982 to 1986. I was the President my Sophomore – Senior years. I was also in Wesley Choir from 1982 to 1984.

I have been in Human Resources since graduating in 1986 in various roles. I am currently the Director of Human Resources for LaRosa's, Inc. – a regional pizzeria chain.

What was it like to be in Athens then? Athens was in a state of transition in the early 80's. After coming out of the

turbulent 60's and 70's, Athens was transforming to more of an academic setting. Athens has always provided a creative, open and welcoming environment as a town.

What I remember most about my time with WSC was the great relationship we had with the family of Athens 1st UMC. All of us had “adopted” parents from the church that we could be a part of while we were at school. You could go to their homes for food, laundry

or just family time. The other thing I remember was the great relationship between AEX and Kappa Phi. The men and women of both chapters were fantastic people.

Did my involvement with the ministry have life-lasting impacts? Yes, absolutely. Being a Christian at OU was a time in my life when I was challenged with my beliefs and how to live them in the “world.” Having WSC/WF as an anchor to be with other

Christians showed me the value of small groups, of accountability and of growing in your faith. I continue to be a Lay Speaker in the UMC WSC/WF gave me the opportunity to lay several layers to my faith.

Alumni Sought

WSC is in the process of updating its alumni data base. If you are an alumni of the Wesley Student Center or Wesley Foundation or know someone who is we would like to have the most current e-mail and US Mail address. Please send the information to Jay Hinton at

wscdir@firstumcathens.org or 2 South College St. Athens, OH 45701.

You can also reach him by phone at 740-593-3977x16.



Jill Foreman from Ohio U. introduces Dr. Martin Luther King at the Quadrennial MSM Conference January 1965.



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WSC Intern Has *The Last Word*

Fall 2007

Well everyone, Fall Quarter is here, and that means that WSC is gearing up for another exciting year! I am writing this one day after our first meeting of the year, and all I can tell you is that I am so thrilled to have seen so many new and returning faces at this meeting. I began to get energized for this meeting during summer break, when I actually had a dream one night (no joke!) that the student lounge of First UMC was overflowing with new students who had come to see what WSC was all about. While we weren't quite

"overflowing" last night, we did manage to fill just about every seat in the room.

But, as many of you know, the trick isn't getting them to come, it's getting them to stay ("Field of Dreams," anyone?). So I started thinking about what got me to stay when I was one of those new faces two years ago. I loved the open, non-judging atmosphere of the group, and the setting really reminded me of the youth group I had left at home. The people were all friendly and welcoming, and as I told our new students, it was the first place in Athens that I really

felt at home. So this year, I hope to do what my predecessors did for me, and build a home-away-from-home and a family-away-from-home for all of our new students.



Laura Coombs gives her traditional "thumbs up".

The Mission of the Wesley Student Center is to provide opportunities for college students to establish and nurture relationships with Christ and one another through discovery of His teachings, outreach to others, and worship.