



The Cracked Pot Volume II, 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

As a fellow alumni, I would like to introduce myself to you and invite you to remain active in the life of Wesley Student Center. My name is R. Keith Rader and I graduated from OU in 1985 in the college of INCO Interpersonal Communications. I attended United Theological Seminary and have been a full time ordained minister serving churches for over 20 years. I began service as the director of the Wesley student Center in August of 2008. As the new director of the Wesley Student Center, I would also like to introduce my family. I have a wife Dedra and a daughter Rebecca. We live in Coolville, Ohio with three cats, a dog, and a snake.

As an alumnus of OU I am familiar with the campus and I have lived within 30 miles of OU all but 12 years of my life. I feel at

home at OU and the students have made me feel at home in WSC. We are continuing a tradition of having a guitar jam session an hour before the regular 7:00 PM devotion and Bible Study session every Wednesday evening.



Our goal for this year's spring break is to return to New Orleans to help with the continuing efforts of UMCOR to rebuild for the thousands who continue to be without a permanent home. We are raising funds to make this trip a reality for March 21 – 29, 2009. If your spring break alternative trip or other mission work made a difference in your life, send a note of encouragement to the cur-

rent students who might be thinking of going but are not sure it is worth it.

It is always good to hear from alumni in this time of discovery. There are so many questions of purpose, majors, life and faith. Please take a moment and share your experience of how your faith made a difference in all of these major decisions in your life.

May God richly bless you on your way as you are a witness to the greatness of God in your daily walk. Go in peace and be a shining example of Christian faith in action.

Kappa Phi

The Kappa Phi Nationals theme this year is EXTREME PRAISE. Phi Chapter has made a conscious effort to include that theme in our daily lives through our service, study, worship and fellowship. Also, this summer at Nationals in Texas, we will be voting on keeping the "Lambie" as our national animal which was an idea presented by past KO sisters at the previous Nationals. We are welcoming five EXTREMELY amazing women into our sisterhood this quarter and look forward to meeting even more women who are on

fire for God throughout the year!

Camp Rotan is just outside of Athens and has become a central point of Phi chapter's service opportunities—even Fall Retreat was held there! We've begun to incorporate each of our pillars into every weekly meeting: worship and study with Chaplain Stephanie; Service opportunities and activities with Service Chairs Deedee and Laura and Fellowship with Amber and Sarah squared.

Outside of chapter,

Phi sisters enjoy hanging out at "Sisterhoods" where a cabinet member is in charge of organizing and planning an event like attending the Circleville Pumpkin Show, rock climbing at The Ping Center, cheering at a home football game as well as many other opportunities.

This is an EXTREMELY exciting time to be a Phi sister—near or far. Our chapter challenges each of its members to live the life that Christ calls us to—a lifestyle of worship and EXTREME PRAISE!!! -Rebecca L. Hug

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Meet Our New International Student Ministry Intern



Hi everyone,

I am the new international intern of Wesley Students Center. My name is Yuanyu Ma, and I go by Sabrina. This is my third year in WSC. After observing Xiaoli and Peifen's work, the former international interns, I decided to take the position as an international intern for WSC this year.

My mission is to let more international students know about Christianity, the First United Methodist Church, and Wesley Student Center. Also, I am trying to promote opportunities for both American students and international students to be involved with each other, which can help Americans to learn more about foreign cultures, and help international students to make more friends.

On October 3, 2008, Wesley Student Center hosted its

quarterly cultural exchange meal. We invited the Korean congregation to the meal. WSC provided some Chinese dishes, desserts and drinks, and the Korean congregation provided some Korean dishes. Although I have participated in preparing the meal many times with former international interns, I did not realize preparation for the meal would be that overwhelming. Keith and I went shopping. I was confused about how much to buy for 40 to 50 people; before the meal, we needed to prepare the dishes, hang the banner, post signs which could direct people come in to the Church, and set up tables. There were over 40 people there at 6:30pm. We prayed together before the meal. Then people began to enjoy the food, and chat with each other. In order to break the ice, we played human bingo together. I think the meal went pretty well. I am really grateful for the people who came and helped us out.

There are some lessons that I learned from this meal. First, I should send invitations a little earlier, and not just through e-mail. Face book would be another good choice. Second, I should delegate cooking jobs to others. It was really difficult for me to cook and host the meeting at the same time. Third, next time I will try to bring more members from WSC to be involved in the activity.

I enjoy being an international intern of WSC. And with God helping me, I will continue to learn what I need to know to be the best intern and person I can be.

Sabrina Ma

Wesley Student Center

International Student Ministry Intern

Campus Ministry

Campus ministry is an important part of the college experience. Students are far from home and family with many new experiences and religious and non religious ideas. The stable faith life from home is now distant and the voice of reason seems muffled and quiet compared to the loud voice of immorality that is so prevalent among many college students. A place to share faith and fellowship with others who believe in Christian morals is necessary to maintain your Christian identity.

At times it may seem that the program is a little laid back and passive, but when you begin to hear the discussions that are inspired by the Bible study and the influences that are battling against the faithful, you see that this passive approach is a fundamental point of maintaining faith among the faithless.

Fellowship and Bible study has been a wonderful place to open the scriptures and begin to explore standards and grace, and the balance of these in our

every day living. This has been a place where the students have leadership responsibilities, where the study is prepared and presented by a student. Study discussion makes it clear that there are many wrong influences in the campus life, yet it is still more desirable to maintain the Christian example.

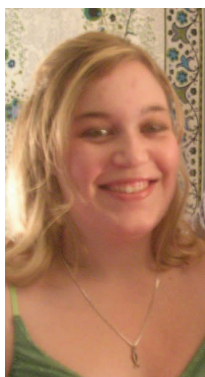
Guitar group is not just a time to learn cords and rhythms. It is a place where songs of faith and praise are played. The commitment to Christian music is one place where Christians can support their faith and be reminded daily that Christ is indeed Lord and Savior.

Midnight Breakfast is a strange way to support Christian fellowship, and yet it is a wonderful display of Christianity at its best. First of all, the meal meets a need of the community at no cost. Secondly, the teams who prepare the meal have an opportunity to work together for a common goal in Christian harmony, and believe

me when I say that these volunteers are showing commitment, love, and harmony in their efforts to provide this meal. Finally, the donations collected go to support a local charity. That is Christ likeness at it's finest.

Events retreats mission trips and even individuals gathering to share life on campus helps to keep the Christian believer in constant reminder of the fact that there are Christian beliefs that are worth maintaining in the midst of college life. Please support your college students in their efforts to be Christians in a world where Christianity is the minority belief system. We covet your prayers and support. May God continue to bless our efforts.

Keith Rader, WSC Director



Student Spotlight—Katie Schmidt

Hello! My name is Katie Schmidt. I have a wonderful family, one older sibling named Jessica

who is in Georgia working at an Outdoor Education Center near the Appalachian Trail, and a black lab named Molly. I am from Massillon, OH which is near the Akron/Canton area. I went to Jackson High school, came to Athens for college, and have been in love with it ever

since. There was just something about OU's beautiful campus that made me want to come here for my college education. I am a senior studying Long Term Healthcare Administration and Health Services Administration with a minor in Music.

I was looking for Christian groups at OU and came across the Wesley Student Center. I already went to First United Methodist, and I always wondered what it was like. The first time I went I was immediately welcomed by the director, Jay Hinton, who made me feel very accepted and loved. It was easy to be myself and I can say I've met many people who I've

become friends with that make me smile when I'm down.

There was one time when a bunch of us went to West Virginia to go on a white water rafting trip. I had never been white water rafting, so I had no idea what was in store for me. We got to have camp fires, and it just reminded of me being at camp again when I was younger. It was great to be able to say that I conquered level 5 rapids with the help of WSC and Kappa Phi, which I'm also involved in here on campus. I even got to swim a rapid and jump out from a rock into the freezing cold water. Wesley

Student Center is my refresher when stress becomes very apparent in my life; I know that God is there, guiding me through my week, especially with the help of the Wesley Student Center. It's my home away from home. It's filled with people that can comfort me when I am down and celebrate with me when I am happy. They are my strength and support. I am so thankful that I have found a group so welcoming and loving like the Wesley Student Center.



Alumni Spotlight—Michelle Belna

For those of you who have never met me, I was involved with WSC from 2003-2006. After college, I moved to the Baltimore/DC region and have been working in market research for a small company, specializing in healthcare research.

My most memorable moments with WSC were our spring break trips, especially the work we did in New Orleans directly after Hurricane Katrina. I remember tearing out a ceiling with Michael Wisecup and having a shower of cockroaches fall on both our heads. I also vividly remember one occasion where

Evan Shaw and I attempted to karaoke during Midnight Breakfast, only to embarrass ourselves along with my roommate/his girlfriend (now wife), Michelle (Shively) Shaw. WSC was a group of individuals that I consider to be my best friends, both then and now. I have stayed in contact with nearly everyone and intend to for a long time. Athens then was a lot like I imagine it to be now; a very relaxed and safe haven from the world.

Some of my favorite college memories took place in the First United Methodist church, the Donkey, College Green and in Peden Stadium. I was a member of the Marching 110, and I could always count on my fellow WSCers to be in the stands, watching and cheering during our performances.

My involvement with WSC made an incredible impact on my life. It allowed

me to see the good we are capable of doing for others, and how simple acts of kindness can go such a long way. By giving up just a week of my life (and not even that, considering the friendships I strengthened and the memories I made), I changed the lives of some people forever.

Aside from the spring break trips, WSC also was able to help people locally, whether it was by raising awareness for the homeless (aka sleeping in front of the church on a cold night in a big maze of cardboard boxes) or sorting clothes that were donated (aka trying on every piece of clothing that looked somewhat interesting).

My advice to current or future WSCers is to be involved as you can and go on as many adventures/trips as possible. You never know whose lives you will be helping or how you are helping yourself until you look back on it later. Just remember one

thing: if someone brings a CD with "Sweet Home Alabama" on a road trip, do not let them in the van!



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WSC Intern Has *The Last Word*

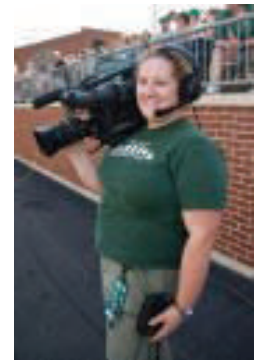
As the end of my fourth year (and college career) in Athens moves steadily closer, I realize that I've been doing a lot of reminiscing about my time here. I might pass a person on the street and remember working with them on a class project my sophomore year, or see the looming buildings of The Ridges and remember the time just last spring that a few friends and I snuck up to some of the supposedly haunted buildings one night. I might have the bright lights of Peden stadium shining in my eyes and remember all the times I stood in the stands (or press box working for the Videowall) and cheered

on the Bobcats (and one time not so long ago that I ran all over the stadium with a 20-pound video camera on my shoulder in the pouring sleet).

However, I think my memories of the good times I've had with WSC outshine all others. Whether it's remembering the bonding that happens every year on the spring break trip, the songs that we tried to learn and laughed at during Open Guitar Group, or just a funny story that someone told during Wednesday night fellowship, these are the memories and friends that I will defi-

nately remember long after I leave Athens.

-Laura Coombs, WSC Student Intern



Here's Laura holding her 20 pound video camera at Peden Stadium.

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.