



The Cracked Pot Volume 1, Issue 2

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!

I have been overwhelmed and filled with joy from the responses we have gotten from the first issue of the “Cracked Pot.” I had no idea what blessings the newsletter would bring.

We heard from many of you who were eager to share your experiences from your time in Athens. There were responses from people as far back as 1935! Often I go to work and just complete the day to day routine. Then there are random times that I am reminded of the depth of this organization, and I am floored. The newsletter responses have brought on one of those times. Thank you to

all who have responded. I hope to hear from more and more alumni as we continue this newsletter.

This winter WSC has a lot of fun and meaningful things planned. During the



Wednesday night gatherings, we will be studying the book of James, have a visit from Pastor Mary Jo, go to see the

Harlem Globetrotters at OU’s Convo, have a gathering with the Lutheran and Catholic student groups, and participate in a study about God’s love.

In addition to Wednesday nights, the WSC students have planned a winter retreat and work day at Lake Hope State Park, will hold three Midnight Breakfasts, play guitar at O.V.I.S. Stage (Athens FUMC’s evening worship experience), hold an international student meal, begin a new program called “Global Café” and work like crazy to get all the funds needed to participate in the annual spring break mission trip (See the article on page 2).

Wow, after seeing it all written down, I am tired already!

May God continue to bless you throughout this winter season and always.

—Jay Hinton

Kappa Phi

Kappa Phi Christian Women’s Service group has many fun events and service projects planned for winter quarter and the start of our 80th year at Ohio University! In January Phi Chapter is going on a ski retreat at Mad River Mountain and welcoming seven new sisters as they go through Degree of the Light. February will have

the annual Valentine’s Tea to recruit new members, sibs weekend events, and Kappa Phi Sunday. Phi Chapter has dedicated one week every quarter for daily service on top of other regularly scheduled events. Phi works with organizations such as Good Works homeless shelter, My Sister’s Place (domestic

violence prevention and help), Last Chance Corral and Kimes Nursing Home. Please check out our new website for more information— <http://ohiokappaphi.googlepages.com> or please contact the President, Rachel Resides: rachel.resides@gmail.com

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Special points of interest:

- *There will be an alumni drop in during this year’s OU Homecoming. Look for the date in future newsletters.*
- *Midnight Breakfast has nearly 1,500 attendees per year and raises approximately \$700 a year from donations for various charities.*
- *The 50th anniversary of the current Athens First United Methodist Church building will be celebrated on February 3, 2008. The original building was built in 1908 but destroyed by fire in 1955.*



Athens FUMC being rebuilt

WSC International Student Ministry Introduces Xiaoli (Stephan) Wang



Hello! I'm Xiaoli Wang from Hong Kong Baptist University. I'm the new internat'l intern in WSC. I just wanted to share with you all what's happening in our international student ministry.

WSC has been doing quarterly International Free Meals for a long time. The meal is a great opportunity for people from different cultures to meet and share with each other. They get the chance to share and learn how to make food from all over the world. This quarter, we'll have the meal on Jan 25th.

Another big thing is that WSC started a new program this quarter called Global Café. It's a bi-weekly, café style, educational event. As with all the other WSC events, Global Café is an open group. Everyone is welcome. Each time, we plan to introduce a geographic/cultural topic in the first half of the program. The second half is the actual café. People will have the chance to talk to others and share their cultures. Coffee, hot cocoa, tea, and finger snacks will be provided at each event. You might think that Global Café sounds like it takes lots of

work, and we only have few staff. I worried about this when we first got started. But now we have a team of 10 to make this new program possible! I'm just so grateful for this. The first gathering will be on Jan 17th. By the time you read this article, it probably will have already happened. I'll keep you updated about this new program.

All the things that we do are trying to get more people, especially international students, involved in Athens. We want to provide everyone with a warm place to relax, and enrich their experience here.

Spring Break Mission Trip

It's official, WSC is going to Guatemala for spring break with Habitat for Humanity International.

Why Guatemala? Believe me, I have heard that question more than a few times in the past few months.

As you know, one focus of the United Methodist Church is Social Justice. WSC feels getting its missionaries to another country helps them understand other cultures by interacting and working side by side with the locals. They will learn first hand how others live and what poverty in other countries is like. This is a step for peace, one relationship at a time.

Ever since we experienced the challenge of Hurricane Katrina clean up in New Orleans, we have tried to provide a mission experience that is not only physically challenging but also takes one's other senses out of the comfort zone. It is amazing how much spiritual growth can occur when you are out of your comfort zone.

Because it will cost about \$1,800 per participant, WSC

has been undertaking a major fundraising effort. The students have already had several fundraisers here in Athens and have more planned for winter.

Each student is also required to pay \$300 out of pocket and for other pre-trip costs. Many have asked their home church to make a contribution to their trip. However, there will still be more money to raise, and that is where you can come in. We try to make helping as easy and painless as possible. Some ways listed below don't cost you a penny!

If you shop at Kroger you can get a WSC Kroger Fundraising Card from us. It doesn't cost you anything to use and WSC gets a 5% kickback from your purchases. Contact Jay Hinton at the church and he will be glad to get one for you.

Another way WSC can earn a penny every time you search the internet or a percentage of every purchase you make online is through GoodSearch.com. It is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per

search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping site which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to WSC! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting WSC. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Ohio University—Wesley Student Center as the charity you want to support.

There is also a link on the WSC website to our official Habitat for Humanity web page where you can read more about the trip and also give a secure donation if you chose.

Lastly, Please consider making a donation in the envelope provided. I will be glad when the fundraising is over. It is my least favorite aspect. However, we can't do His work without your support! Thank you for helping the students in their spiritual journeys.

*"As you know,
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United Methodist
Church is Social
Justice."*



WSC students in front of the White House during 2007's spring break mission trip.

Student Spotlight—Shaun Green



I am from Canton, OH. My family is a pretty amazing one. My dad is an incredibly hard

worker who has owned his own successful business for 25 years. My mother runs the books for the business, and handles the financial end of it. I also have a sister,

and her name is Kayla. I am a junior Telecommunications major. I chose to attend OU because of the beauty of the campus, the friendliness of everyone on the campus, and the school's reputation. I found the Wesley Student Center by simply walking in the church on a Friday afternoon looking for Christian fellowship. There was a sign outside the church that said "Christian Fellowship/Men's Bible Study: 1-2 on Friday's" so I walked in. It's

been a good time ever since then.

What keeps me coming back to Wesley Student Center is the sincere devotion and care towards God. There is an atmosphere of family and fellowship of Christians who can relate to struggles and victories or whatever one is experiencing at that point in their life. Also, it's just plain awesome!

I was asked to write about a favorite WSC memory but there are too many favorite memories to even recount. I

don't have one, but just have a bunch. All good times.

The one thing I want you to know about me is that I sincerely care about God, and try to honor him in my life. I'm also "uber-friendly."

WSC Director's note—Shaun is a very funny person. So funny in fact, we have a "Shaunisms" bulletin board where we post the funny and off the wall things he says. He is also one amazing Christian.

Alumni Spotlight—George Griffiths



As a native of Dayton, OH, I enrolled in Ohio University in 1935 on a scholarship when the country was coming out of the Great Depression. Funds were tight and enrollment totaled about 3,000. It was a smaller campus and a smaller Athens, before relocating the Hocking River provided a large lower campus. Cars were fewer, there was little traffic,

and we walked everywhere. On campus there was a men's co-op but no dorm.

For the women there were Howard Hall and Lindley. So, from 1939 to 1940 the Wesley Foundation was a significant part of my life. The organization was relatively new. In lieu of a fraternity, the Wesley Foundation was the focal point of my college social and religious life. There were many activities. We had singing, drama, picnics, etc. It was rewarding to present religious services at nearby communities without a pas-

tor. Our Wesley Foundation minister was Rev. Russell Bayliff. Of many friends, the closest at Wesley Foundation were John Seay, Earl Haller, Ernie Wilson, and Bill Hanlin, all deceased.

I graduated in 1939 with a BS in Commerce and spent another year as Graduate Assistant to the Dean of Men. In 1940 I began employment with the Federal government in Washington, DC. Most of the time was with the Maritime Administration, Dept. of Commerce, plus 1942-43 spent in the US Army. I retired as

Asst. Administrator of Administration.

Years earlier my wife and I began traveling, literally around the world. Included were more than 50 ship cruises. We removed to Arizona in 1978 but our traveling days are now over. Our last trip was in Jan. 2007.

I sincerely hope that today's students find in the Wesley Student Center the same religious and social benefits which I experienced. It can be a Christian anchor for young persons embarking on a challenging phase of life.

** For more stories from George, check the alumni section of the WSC web site.

WSC and Athens FUMC Youth Join Forces

During this quarter's first Midnight Breakfast 13 youth from this year's confirmation class worked at Midnight Breakfast. In addition, WSC and the Youth are planning a "Shrove Tuesday" dinner fundraiser to be held on Feb. 3

after the 10:30 worship service. Both groups are working together to help support each others' mission trips. The Youth are traveling to New Orleans and will be gone the same dates that WSC is in Gua-

temala. Please pray for their safety, effectiveness, and that they keep their hearts open to not only give, but to receive.



2007's Youth New Orleans Work Team



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WSC Intern Has *The Last Word*

As we enter Winter quarter here at OU, I know that this means that it's time to start getting geared up for WSC's annual Spring Break trip. While I'm so excited to be a part of WSC's first international trip (as far as our records state) to Guatemala, I can't help but be modest when people express how proud they are that we have chosen to do this during our spring break. My Dad seemed to be constantly singing my praises to his friends, co-workers, and especially our fellow church members back home over winter break. Ever since I joined the WSC Spring Break '06 team to New Orleans two years ago, he has been a huge supporter of me, the group,

and most importantly, our cause. "If you would have told me a year ago that my daughter would be going to New Orleans for spring break, I would have told you 'Over my dead body,'" he said to a group of church members shortly after my return from spring break two years ago. "Instead of going on a cruise, or going to some beach in Florida, they're doing something good for other people." But for me, a cruise or some beach in Florida was never really an option. Having done a few mission trips with my youth group in high school, I was turned on to the idea of taking time out of a school break to do something good for other people. That didn't

change once I came to college, and the opportunities to help victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and impoverished people in Washington, DC the past two years were ones that I didn't give a second thought to before accepting. This immediate response to go on mission trips is evident in the members of our Spring Break '08 team, all of whom immediately responded with a resounding "YES!" followed by "Well, let me check with my parents, but I REALLY want to go!" For us, it was never a question of "the good thing to do" or "the right thing to do," it was quite simply "the THING to do."

- Laura Coombs



Laura Coombs takes some time out with the WSC mascot "Sylvia" during the 2007 spring break mission trip to Washington D.C.

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.