



Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry

June 2010

Officers:

Rev. Enoch Hendry
President

Rev. Leigh Martin
Vice President

Rev. Thad Haygood
*Chairman
Campus Ministry*

Dr. David Seyle
*Chairman
Colleges & Universities*

TBA
*Chairman
Development*

Rev. Susan Allen Grady
*Chairman
Finance Committee*

P O Box 1529
Carrollton, GA 30112
770.854.7283
E-mail:
gahied@bellsouth.net

Check us out on the
World Wide Web:
gahied.com

A Road Trip

As I turned into the parking lot of the Glenn Memorial UMC Youth Building, it was like going back 25 years. I was once a student involved in campus ministry at Emory University. This was familiar, hallowed ground. Now I'm a campus minister, traveling with a trio of students from Georgia—Jimmie McDonald, Kristi Painter and Anna Peterson—to Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, to attend Student Forum 2010. Thanks to the able driving of Joseph McBrayer, current UM campus minister at Emory, we arrived safely in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.



Student Forum is a little like general conference for college students. There is creative, spirited worship, workshops on current concerns and events, legislative voting, and a big celebration of campus ministry. The key is the student leadership. Students are elected, one from each jurisdiction and several at-large, at each Student Forum to be on the national steering committee. This steering committee works with a team of campus ministers and staff from the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry to design and host the annual Student Forum.

The purpose of Student Forum is to bring together the concerns, energy, passion and call of young adults in the church.

What happens at Student Forum does not stay at Student Forum! Student Forum is all about taking it back to the local campus ministry, sharing ideas from other ministries and helping students to connect with a larger vision for their role in the church. They are leaders now and for the future, and Student Forum helps students claim their responsibilities as Christian leaders. They learn from one another about the many creative and responsive ways that students are making a difference in the name of Jesus Christ on their campus and in their community.



One of the more innovative ministries happens at The Barn at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkins. Every Thursday they open up a "club" where students can dance and have fun (no alcohol, of course). Theme nights include a country western night and a Thriller night. More than 300 students participate in the ministries of The Barn. A group

of students gave an excellent presentation about their ministry to the campus ministers.



This year our Georgia "delegation" was small but dedicated. Our hope is that next year more students will attend and learn how they can have a voice in The United Methodist Church. While each annual conference elects official delegates, any student involved in United Methodist campus ministry may attend Student Forum. Watch for more information about the Southeastern Jurisdiction Student Movement Conference coming up in December, 2010, at Lake Junaluska, NC.



Submitted by Rev. Karen Kagi-yama, University West Georgia WF Director, North Georgia GWSM Advisor

Another Year

After many years of attending Annual Conference (and, now, two each year!), I have come to enjoy them and to receive God's blessings from each. I have learned that it *does* help to pay attention to what is being presented or discussed! In each report or presentation, we are witnessing ways in which God is using the particular gifts of many people to grow His kingdom. And that is exciting news! Even when

God's work doesn't sound spectacular, we can rest in the comfort of its consistency and the perseverance of faithful people serving in many places. Even though I sometimes come home concerned or disturbed about a discussion that has ensued or an action that has been taken, I believe that in it all God is at work and, as long as we offer ourselves to be faithful as the Body of Christ, God will continue to work

through our efforts. Our Annual Conferences celebrate that fact of faith and set us out on another year to listen and respond to God's vision of redeeming the souls and circumstances of every college student we meet in our schools and ministries throughout Georgia. What a privilege!



Reinhardt College Becomes Reinhardt University

On June 1, Reinhardt College took on a new name—Reinhardt University. The transition was inevitable because of the institution's growth in degree offerings, expanded program locations and enhanced learning facilities.

"The change of name to Reinhardt University accurately reflects the comprehensive institution of learning that Reinhardt has become," said Dr. J. Thomas Isherwood, president. "With forty majors, an expanding list of graduate programs, outreach to four locations in north Georgia beyond our Waleska main campus, and an array of on-line learning opportunities, 'University' better describes who we are."

After fall classes begin, Reinhardt will host a festive event to highlight the name change. "We are excited about this change," said Marsh S. White, executive director of marketing and communications. "We see it as a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, friends and community. We have great news to share, and during the upcoming year, and beyond, we will have ne opportunities to tell others what Reinhardt University has to offer."

Marsha Snow, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Reinhardt University



Celebrating a significant moment in history for Reinhardt, President Dr. J. Thomas Isherwood (in front of sign) and new student orientation leaders (from left) Charity Neese, Jeremy Ragan, Jackie Baker, Stephen Karafa, Rachel Ragan and Tyler Smith stand proud with one of the Reinhardt University banners that flank the front gates at the main entrance of the university.

Did you know....

...there is a Southeastern Jurisdiction **Student Movement Conference** December 17-19, at Lake Junaluska, NC? Check out lakejunaluska.com/student-movement/ for more information!

...the **Commission on Higher Education Office** awarded two \$200 scholarships at our Annual Conference sessions? Michael

Montgomery, attending Georgia College and State University won at the South Georgia Annual Conference and Tyson Bray, attending University of Georgia, won at the North Georgia Conference Session.

...**Chris Shoemaker** is the new chaplain at Andrew College? Chris and his wife will also serve

Cuthbert First UMC. You can bring greetings to Chris at brother-Shoe@zebra.net.



Georgia Campus Ministers to Gather in Bowdon in July

Each year our Georgia campus ministers and Wesley Foundation directors gather in Bowdon, Georgia for a time of fellowship, fun and renewal.

This year's gathering will be July 7—9. The theme will be He Restores My Soul, Psalm 23:1-3. This year's event will include study, prayer and a fun night of bowling in

Newnan led by the executive director of the Commission on Higher Education, Rev. Cindy Autry.

Macon Wesley Foundations has a new Director

D. W. Merricks II has a degree in business management and in 2009 campus minister for the University of Mississippi Wesley Foundation in Oxford, Miss. since 2006. He graduated from Asbury College in 2002 with

Mississippi. They have two children: Isaiah, three and Ezra, 18-months. His wife Corrie is a Ph.D. candidate in English (Southern Literature) from the University of



Commission on Higher Education Reports to North Georgia Conference

"God is doing extraordinary things through our colleges and Wesley Foundations," said Cindy Autry, director of the Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The Commission had great representation at Conference to share the story of United Methodist ministries on campus. Amber Johnson, representing the Black College Fund and a student from Paine

College, extended thanks and appreciation to the delegates of the North Georgia Conference for their support of the Black College Fund. However, she did urge the Conference pay "100% of their Black College Apportionment". Kaylen Short, a student from LaGrange College shared of his "extraordinary" experiences as a student attending LaGrange College. Justin Ely

highlighted his calling to ministry through his participation with the Wesley Foundation at the University of Georgia. Leigh Martin, Campus Minister at Reinhardt University, asked members of the North Georgia local churches to help in two ways: to tell the story of their local church are coming and to tell your student about the United Methodist

Higher Education and Campus Ministry opportunities. The report concluded with a one minute video highlighting our seven United Methodist colleges, two seminaries, and 13 Wesley ministries on state campus within the North Georgia Conference.



Rev. Leigh Martin, vice president Commission on Higher Education, addresses the North Georgia Annual Conference (above). At left, Rev. Cindy Autry asks delegates to stand if they ever attended a United Methodist institution or participated in a Wesley Foundation.