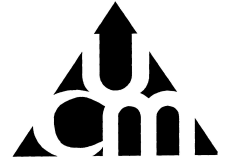


Off Court Street



the newsletter of **ucm: center for spiritual growth & social justice**
at ohio university

● May 2006

UCM Social Justice Awards

Since 1983, UCM's Board of Directors has presented annual Social Justice Awards to local individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding work for social justice within our community. Please join us for a special celebration to honor the recipients on Friday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be open to everyone, with no charge for admission, and will feature a performance by musical guest Matt Peters. Refreshments provided.

2006 SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

WINSOME CHUNNU, a graduate student in Cultural Studies and Assistant Resident Director in the Department of Residence Life, for her active commitment to educating students, faculty and staff about world diversity issues and her advocacy for the understanding of cultures, peoples and issues of social justice. Among her many efforts, she has visited local schools to share her Jamaican heritage and culture with the children of this region. Perhaps most impressive is Winsome's drive to interact with all types of people, actively seeking out ways to draw others into conversation. As a catalyst who brings people from different countries and lifestyles together to share ideas and perspectives, she is a role model for her colleagues and students.

ELLIOT LONG, a graduating senior, for his dedicated work to advance the cause of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and, in particular, transgender people at Ohio University. While many leaders bask in the spotlight, Elliot steps in only when needed. Thanks to his skilled behind-the-scenes organizing, the path followed by transgender people on campus is now easier to navigate. During his time in Athens he has been actively involved in Swarm of Dykes, Open Doors, Federation of United Queers, InterAct and Transitions. Elliot has coordinated awareness events, organized a counter-protest, and brought in speakers to increase the discourse on campus. Most recently, he has encouraged the administration to add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to OU's equal opportunity and harassment policies.

MICAH MITCHELL and **GRETCHEN CATALINE**, both juniors, for their outstanding commitment to the issue of diversity on campus. A term as complex as *diversity* is difficult to define and the increasing use of the word has resulted in a watered-down understanding of the term. In an attempt to cultivate fresh perspectives and prevent the word from becoming a meaningless catchphrase, Micah and Gretchen have worked with faculty, administrators, and their peers to organize what has become the annual Diversity Conference. Last year, the dialog generated by these conferences led to the creation of Unify, a coalition of student organizations that share an interest in and a commitment to promoting diversity. In a very short amount of time, Unify has gained numerous members and has become a well-recognized campus group.

Continued on page 6...

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS CELEBRATION

FRIDAY

✻ **JUNE 2** ✻
5:30 PM

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

**OUR HOST:
REV. BETHANY
FULTON**

**MUSICAL GUEST:
MATT PETERS**

**REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED**

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SPECIAL SECTION:
FINDING EACH OTHER...
FINDING OUR VOICE

UCM CALENDAR:

SUNDAYS...

INTO-WORSHIP - worship service and potluck dinner, every other week, 5:30 pm
WORSHIP SERVICE: May 14 & 28

MONDAYS...

SOUP FOR THE SOUL: ACTIVIST HEAVEN - WHAT DOES YOURS LOOK LIKE?
discussion series continues, May 15 & May 22, noon ➤

WEDNESDAYS...

A GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO ACTIVISM - monthly discussion series, open to all Girlfriends and Guyfriends and everyone in between... 6:00-7:30 pm, UCM Lounge
May 31 • Dana Brown, recently protested at U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay and attended World Social Forum in Venezuela

THURSDAYS...

THURSDAY SUPPER - a weekly free meal open to all, no questions asked, 5:30 pm

MAY 13

FAIR TRADE DAY ➤
Howard Hall site across from Baker Center, 2:00-5:00 pm

JUNE 2

UCM SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS - 5:30 pm at UCM

SEPTEMBER 20

UCM FALL OPEN HOUSE
Join us at the Open House and learn about our fall programs & activities.

NOVEMBER 3

24TH ANNUAL DINNER & BENEFIT AUCTION

– Never fear,
Off Court Street will return
in September...

UCM PROGRAMS:

SOUP FOR THE SOUL: ACTIVIST HEAVEN...

Spring quarter's **Soup for the Soul** lunchtime discussion series, **Activist Heaven - What Does Yours Look Like?** continues with local community activists relating images of an ideal future - a personal "Activist Heaven." Presenters will talk about the motivations and inspirations that energize them and guide their efforts: their faith, their hopes and goals. What does your Activist Heaven look like? Open to all; free light soup lunch.

- **Mondays, noon - 1:00 pm, downstairs at UCM.**

May 15: Alyssa Jerzyk, Planned Parenthood of SE Ohio

May 22: Keith Wasserman, Good Works

FAIR TRADE DAY

On **Saturday, May 13**, UCM will co-sponsor a festival to celebrate International Fair Trade Day, from **2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Howard Hall site across from Baker Center**. The event will feature music by Jake Householder and Adam Remnant of Southeast Engine and local fair trade vendors including Bali Karma, Village Bakery and Cafe, Donkey Coffee & Espresso, Pangaea Tea, Athens Own/Dawn Chorus Coffee, Good Works' 10,000 Villages "Good Gifts," and more.

Information about local and international fair trade efforts will be available, along with "Make Trade Fair" T-shirts, other products for sale, and free samples. Speakers on a variety of issues, include Bob O'Neil, on the growth of fair trade in Athens, and Sara Baker and Chris Pyle, on faith and fair trade.

A GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO ACTIVISM

Join us for an in-depth interview with **Dana Brown** when **A Girlfriend's Guide to Activism** wraps up on **Wednesday, May 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the UCM lounge**. Dana is the Director of the Committee on US/Latin American Relations (CUSLAR) in Ithaca, NY, an organization dedicated to education and activism for justice and peace in the Americas. She has lived, worked, and studied in Mexico, Guatemala, and Chile and, next year, will begin a Masters in Peace Studies in Argentina. She's a member of the Advisory Board for the Ithaca Peace Center and has been active in the economic justice movement for 8 years.

Last December, Dana traveled to Cuba with a group of 25 Catholic Workers to demand an end to torture at the US Naval Base on Guantanamo Bay. More recently, she visited Ithaca's Sister Community in Colombia, where she hopes to continue her work against destructive US policy in the region and develop cooperative projects that foster peace and sustainability. In January 2006, she attended the World Social Forum in Venezuela. The World Social Forum is an annual meeting held to examine and promote alternatives to neo-liberal models and strategies of globalization that favor corporations over people.

As always, Athens' answer to Teri Gross, Dr. Susan Burgess (Political Science and Women's Studies), will interview our guest and facilitate a lively question-and-answer session.

REPORT BACK: A GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE IN APRIL

We enjoyed our Girlfriend's Guide conversation on April 26 with **Dr. Prisca Nemapare**, former OU faculty member and founder and executive director of the Zienzele Foundation.



Dr. Nemapare's personal story is one of great courage in the face of many obstacles. She left her home country, Zimbabwe, in the 1960s to pursue education in the US, but her work with disadvantaged young mothers in Michigan made her anxious to return to Zimbabwe to fight poverty and suffering there. The mother of three children, she eventually achieved her PhD and taught at Ohio University in the 1980s

before she finally returned to Zimbabwe. There she founded the Zienzele Foundation to support AIDS orphans and their caregivers.

With a goal of fostering economic self-sufficiency, Zienzele pays the school fees for approximately 700 orphans who would otherwise not be able to stay in school. It provides training in basket making, gardening, small animal husbandry, health and hygiene, and counseling in dealing with the constant deaths of loved ones. Despite the very difficult political and economic conditions in the country, Zienzele courageously persists in accomplishing its work. For more information see <http://www.zienzele.org>.

ZIENZELE FOUNDATION: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Purchase baskets to support payment of school fees.
- Make a donation to the Sewing Project* - needs are fabric, knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn, especially the string-like yarn for crocheting.
- Donate to the scholarship fund enabling young women to attend secondary school.
- "Adopt" a child-headed household. \$300 per year will provide clothing, food staples, and school supplies.
- Donate to help establish the "Zienzele House." This is in support of their goal to establish a residence to house volunteers and eventually to become a vocational training center where orphans, unable to continue in school, can learn a useful, income-producing skill.
- Become a Friend of Zienzele and contribute \$100 per year for five years.

**Donations to the Sewing Project can be delivered to Mary Anne Flourney, 6675 Baker Road, Athens, before May 31. They will be shipped to South Africa where the Foundation Director will retrieve them and drive them into Zimbabwe.*

All contributions to Zienzele are tax-deductible, as Zienzele is incorporated as a 501C3 charitable foundation in the state of Vermont. All contributions should be made out to Zienzele Foundation and mailed to Mary Anne Flourney, 6675 Baker Road, Athens, OH 45701. She is a member of the Board of Directors. For further information, e-mail flourney@ohio.edu

AREA EVENTS:

MONDAYS...

PEACE VIGIL - 11:30-12:30,
Athens County Courthouse

PEOPLE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE - bi-weekly meeting,
4:30 - 6:00 pm, at UCM

OUT & ABOUT: THE COMING OUT GROUP -share & learn in a safe & confidential space, 7:00-9:00 pm, South Pole, garage level of Nelson Commons; contact Mickey Hart, LGBT Programs Center, 593-0239, hartm@ohio.edu

WEDNESDAYS...

ATHENS FRIENDS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS [AFIS] COFFEE HOUR - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm,
Voight Hall Lobby,
Contact: Jane Palmer,
597-1567, palmerj@ohio.edu

OPEN DOORS - weekly meeting (while OU is in session), open to all,
8:00-10:00 pm, at UCM

APJN PEACE & JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

TURTLES CAN FLY:

Friday, May 19,

7:00 pm, Bentley 124

This first feature film from Iraq is set in a small Kurdish town after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

JOHN Q:

Wednesday, May 24,

7:00 pm, Bentley 140

Denzel Washington as a father fighting insurance and healthcare providers in a desperate struggle to save his son's life.

Contact: Christie Truly,
592-2608 or

apjn@frognet.net

Sponsored by Appalachian Peace & Justice Network and Students for Peace & Justice, with SAC funding.



INTERN REFLECTION: CALL TO ARMS!
ADRIENNE CONLEY, PRACTICUM INTERN

This quarter I have had the wonderful opportunity to do a practicum with UCM. I did my undergraduate coursework at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. During my four years at Heidelberg, I was able to participate in events sponsored by United Campus Ministry. I had the chance to go on an Alternative Spring Break Trip to the Mexico/United States border to witness and understand both US and Mexico policy. I also went to the School of the Americas protest in Georgia. These two events stood out to me as the most important educational and emotional experiences of my entire life.

I reflect on these experiences often while I am at UCM in Athens. I am currently a graduate student in College Student Personnel. UCM is doing a wonderful job in helping the Athens community and I am so grateful that I can play a small role in this. However, I am still interested in gaining more student interest and participation. After all, our name is UCM: Center for Spiritual Growth & Social Justice -- students on the Ohio University campus embody this spirit. Many students on this campus are progressive and we need to support each other.

At the UCM conference held on April 29, Ron Buford carried the message that we as progressives need to formulate a consistent message. He reflected that when driving down the highway he could spot a billboard designed

INTERN REFLECTION: SUP DUDE?
JOE BUZZELLI, THURSDAY SUPPER INTERN

I have had a great year working here at UCM; I really love working at Thursday Supper and, plus, I get a break from the dorm food once a week. I can harp on and on about how much I love doing the supper but what really makes UCM such a great place is the people. Not only the staff, but the Board and people who are associated with UCM events, too. UCM is a community, it brings Athenians and students together in a way that few places on campus do.

I believe that community is something that is lacking in our world today. It is difficult to find a group of people who care about each other, regardless of race, religion, political belief, or sexual orientation. The world does not want to discuss new ideas and ways of thinking. No one talks about love, friendship, honesty, or courage anymore, it's mostly just robotic responses. "What's up, Dude?" followed by "Nothing, you?"

Once I wrote a speech about this plan I had to

by progressives. This billboard in particular had many messages and designs—absolute chaos! He laughed and speculated that a group of progressives must have gotten together to form consensus and used everyone's ideas in the implementation of this design. I think our message at UCM is clear: proudly progressive, creatively spiritual, and intentionally inclusive.

I was asked to submit an article for this publication about what I have been doing at UCM. Instead I am submitting an article about what I would *like* to be doing at UCM. I want students to attend UCM programs, volunteer not only at Thursday Supper, but others areas in the community, and to engage others in progressive thought and discussion in the cafeterias and residence halls. UCM has furnished the groundwork and as a progressive, I always see room for progress.

Consider this a call to arms! Please pass along our advertisements and newsletters to students to get the word out. If you have any fresh ideas on new programs that address student concerns for spiritual growth and social justice, I would love to hear from you—not only for my own research needs, but to help meet the needs of our Ohio University students. Please feel free to pass along your comments and ideas to me through e-mail, ac336104@ohio.edu. I look forward to hearing how you want to make a difference.

get everyone saying, "What's up, Dude?" I thought it would be a way for people to start meeting and seeing what each other were all about. But now I see that the "Sup Dude Plan," as I liked to call it, was a horrible idea. It just gave people an excuse to feel as though they were talking. Does anyone else find it funny that 90% of the time, when someone asks "What's up, Dude?" or "What's going on?" the response is "Nothing?"

Nothing. Why is nothing ever going on anymore? I see things happening all the time; I'm always busy, yet when I am asked "Sup Dude?" I say "Nothing." When did it happen that our lives became so boring that we don't even want to talk about them anymore?

Well, here at UCM, I feel people are talking *and* listening. When they ask, "What's up, Dude?" they really want to know and I really want to tell them. UCM has taught me to start asking "What's up, Dude?" and actually taking time to listen. I hope you're willing to tell me.

Goodbye to our Sarah...

I have written a poem to best describe my feelings about leaving UCM (recently poetry has been the medium with which I can express myself - for example, the New Orleans trip) and graduating this year from the Honors Tutorial College in the School of Theater here at Ohio University. It's been an amazing three years. I could explain every program I've run, or every success/failure I've had at UCM, but the feelings encased in this poem sum up my time at UCM better than any list or catalogue could. I've changed a lot in the past three years and UCM has changed a lot, too. But UCM has remained, for me, a supportive and loving family that I will really miss when I move away from Athens.

BECAUSE OF UCM by Sarah Michelson, Spiritual Growth Intern

*I collaborated, celebrated, danced and sung with you.
I discussed and hugged and laughed and spun with you.
I became the person that I want to be*

Because of you.

*We strived
For justice and peace
For inclusion
For community and immunity
From the wrongs of our world.
We achieved and relieved the suffering of others
When they could not recover
From the wrongs of our world.
I could do this*

Because of you.

*We didn't work
We created
We inspired
We connected
We rejected the stale taste of unquestioning faith
We lifted them up, the ones who could not lift by themselves
And grasped their hands
And held them tight in ours
I could do this*

Because of you.

*Why does it feel like I'm leaving a family?
Why does it feel like it won't be the same?
Why does it feel like hurt?
Like stinging metal butterflies in my body?*

*Why do I now have the strength that I need to succeed
In the world that I have in front of me?
Why do I know how deep my core goes,
And how bright the light is inside of me?*

Because of you.

*Thank you Melissa, Evan, Jennifer, Joe, Sam, Lindsey, Cherelle,
Angelina, Jan, Nnecka, Geetha, Chris, Marcia, Clarissa, Susan,
and all of UCM. I couldn't do it without you.*

[We'll miss you, Sarah, but we know you're going to shine like the sun.]



UCM STAFF: 2004, 2005, 2006

To Serve the Spirit

by *Evan Young, UCM Spiritual Director*

With this last OCS column of the year, I thought I'd reflect on my first academic year here at UCM—you know, process the experience a little bit, look forward to next year a little bit, that kind of thing.

That's what I thought I'd do. But with two weeks left in my seminary career (!), and most of my semester's assignments still waiting to get done (!!), there's something I need more. And with the frantic pace of this academic year many of you live in, and with the frantic pace of our lives in general, maybe you need it too.

*"spend all your time waiting
for that second chance
for a break that would make it okay
there's always one reason
to feel not good enough
and it's hard at the end of the day
I need some distraction
oh beautiful release
memory seeps from my veins
let me be empty
and weightless and maybe
I'll find some peace tonight*

*in the arms of an angel
fly away from here
from this dark cold hotel room
and the endlessness that you fear
you are pulled from the wreckage
of your silent reverie
you're in the arms of the angel
may you find some comfort there"*

The April 30 INTO-Worship service, which happened two days ago at this writing (and which was ably led by relief pastor Bethany Fulton in what can only be described as an act of mercy), focused on peace, and comfort, and where those things come from when we don't have them and need them most. The passage above is from a song we used in that service, by Sarah McLachlan.

It's that feeling that catches you unawares—that moment when your headlong rush into the next moment just stops, and you find yourself fully inhabiting this moment. Some people foster these moments through prayer, or through meditation, or through some activity familiar enough that it frees the mind to simply be. Lately for me they come as little gifts, because I've convinced myself I don't have the time, energy, or focus for the spiritual discipline that could bring them about more intentionally. Some people, I think, don't experience them at all.

McLachlan's angel offers that comfort, those encircling arms that soothe the trembling of your spirit and rock you in the knowledge that what gave you birth will give you life and keep you whole. I hope that, in whatever form it takes—whether prayer, or meditation, or loss of yourself in the work of your hands or in a haunting melody—your angel finds you when you need it, and offers you its divine peace. You deserve it.

--Evan



SJ Award Recipients, continued from page 1...

PAT REDDAN, for his dedicated work in support of UCM's Thursday Supper as the lead volunteer from Christ the King University Parish. For over three years, Pat has consistently provided wonderful home-cooked meals prepared with fresh, wholesome ingredients that he purchases himself, on the second Thursday of every month. Over this time Pat has coordinated approximately 30 Christ the King parishioners who have cooked or otherwise assisted. He also works closely with UCM Interns and student volunteers and makes himself available for emergency backup during university breaks. His valued and reliable contribution to Thursday Supper has been greatly appreciated by everyone involved. Pat serves on the Christ the King Pastoral Council and the Parish Community Service Committee; he plans to travel to Louisiana in June for volunteer hurricane relief work.

SHARE KENYA-OHIO, a clinical program in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, for its commitment to deliver healthcare in rural Western Kenya. The program has been making annual trips to Kenya since 1997, typically for several weeks during November and December. Students, faculty, and clinicians volunteer for the program and pay their own travel costs in order to provide healthcare for rural people and become immersed in the culture of a developing nation. In 2004, the group saw more than 8,000 patients in four

Continued on next page...

THANK-YOU!

- Open Doors has raised \$3,000 to refurbish the UCM lounge Truly Amazing! Many, Many, Many, Thanks!
- We're grateful for all the talent and hard work that made the Vegan Adventure dinner on May 5 such a delightful success: our chefs, the residents of ACME Co-op, Nick Polizzi, Chris Barcroft, Laura Ferrell, Travis Stevens, Jenn Girouard, Jenn Cassarly, and Lisa Schelling; Art & Peggy Gish and Austin Yeomans for their beautiful organic vegetables; and hard-working volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega and The OU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. We raised \$800 to help pay the bills at good old UCM! Zowie.
- The OU Center for Community Service's SCORE grant program, which supports the development of community service projects by students, awarded \$200 to fund a makeover for the basement dining and meeting area devised by our enthusiastic Thursday Supper Intern, Joe Buzzelli. A big thank-you also to all the interns, board members, and volunteers who worked sooooo hard on the May 6 Basement Work Day. They pulled off an incredible transformation. Apparently, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Joe's parents, who made a surprise appearance, like the cavalry coming to the rescue, bringing expertise and power tools to save the day, including a particularly obstreperous vent fan.

THURSDAY SUPPER IN THE SUMMERTIME

During the academic year, Thursday Supper is staffed largely by student volunteers, which makes recruiting help for summer a bit of a challenge. We very much appreciate the help we get from a variety of community organizations, church groups, and area residents. If you, or your group, would like to volunteer for a Thursday or two, please call UCM or contact Melissa at ucmcf@frognet.net.

CONGRATULATIONS EVAN!!!

Spiritual Director Evan Young will graduate from Methodist Theological School in Ohio with a Master of Divinity degree on May 20 and was also nominated for a Senior Service Award. Evan assures us that, despite his lofty new status, he will remain, as always, a humble man of the people. We're proud of you!

SJ Award Recipients, continued from page 6...

rural sites; in 2005, the program's tenth year, 30 people, including medical and pharmacy students, preceptors, physicians, nurses, and other volunteers, participated. **Dr. Benson Bonyo**, originally from Kenya and now practicing in Akron, founded SHARE Kenya-Ohio, which has set up clinics in his village and several others. As Chair of the International Programs Advisory Committee, **Dr. Gillian Ice**, Asst. Professor, COM-Social Medicine, oversees the program.

CHRISTIE TRULY, for her ongoing dedication to local activism and community service. In 2001, Christie came to Athens and became Development Coordinator for Appalachian Peace & Justice Network. Since then she has worked on a wide range of projects intended to enhance the lives of area families. Among them, Christie obtained funding for the Athens County Public Library's Ohio Bicentennial project, "Life as a Kid: An Intergenerational Film Project," which provided video equipment and instruction so children could interview their elders about what life was like when they were kids; she joined "We Care," a women's group that takes on community service projects in support of area non-profit organizations; and she co-founded what has recently been incorporated as the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery, designed to have broad appeal to families, both children and adults.

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Joe Buzzelli • Adrienne Conley

Lindsey Daniels • Angelina Johnson

Sarah Michelson • Cherrelle Turner

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SUPPORTING DENOMINATIONS

OHIO CAMPUS MINISTRIES:

American Baptist Churches

Christian Church, Disciples of Christ

Episcopal Church

Presbyterian Church, USA

United Church of Christ (UCC)

United Methodist Church

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS:

Athens Friends Meeting

Church of the Good Shepherd

First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

of Athens (UUFA)

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We depend on individual donors like you for a large portion of our annual operating budget. UCM is a registered non-profit organization.

Contributions are tax-deductible and will finance operating, facilities and programming expenses.

THANK YOU.

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Signature _____

Please make checks payable to UCM

FINDING EACH OTHER... FINDING OUR VOICE

an interfaith and ecumenical mini-conference for progressive people of faith

On April 29, UCM's conference, Finding Each Other...Finding Our Voice, successfully brought together nearly sixty progressive people of faith from the Athens area and around Ohio including folks from Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati and New York. For support and outreach for the conference, I'd like to thank, the Gault Center for Christian Leadership at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Ministers for Social Justice, Hillel and the OU Muslim Student Association. I'd also like to thank the UCM Board and Staff for all their efforts to make this event possible. A special thanks to UCM Board members Rev. Bethany Fulton, Susan Roth, and Mickey Hart for extra efforts in organizing various aspects of this event.

Keynote speaker Ron Buford, of the United Church of Christ "God is Still Speaking" campaign, met with students of SHADES, the OU organization for LGBT students of color. Thanks again to Mickey Hart of the LGBT Programs Center for organizing this and for providing a most delicious brunch! Mr. Buford then spoke to a crowd of nearly 100 students, community members, and conference attendees, inspiring us with clips of the innovative Still Speaking advertising campaign (you know the one, bouncers in front of a church) and his participation in ongoing struggles to make the church a living, welcoming, affirming place for all minorities. Thanks to Alice Leeds, Ron's publicist for arranging this visit, providing much pro-bono support to our efforts, and attending the event. Thanks to the following organizations for co-sponsoring of Buford's presentation: OU Student Activities Commission, Circle of Friends, the OU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Programs Center, the OU College Democrats, and Students Teaching About Racism in Society.

Thanks to the panelists, including Rev. Jan Griesinger, Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Katy Heins, and Rev. Eric Williams for an engaging panel discussion that highlighted progressive faith issues in Ohio (living wage, health care, and separation of church and state) and the challenges inherent in interfaith organizing and coalition building.

Thanks to OU senior Kat Tildes for running the a/v equipment during Ron Buford's presentation and for helping out with the conference.

Thanks to the amazing UCM interns, including Sarah Michelson for organizing a powerful street theatre presentation on the College Green which energized the conference-goers and inspired hundreds of other passersby who stopped to experience the event. Congratulations Sarah! We're so proud of you! And thanks to intern Lindsey Daniels, we got this performance on video tape - stay tuned for a special UCM screening! Special thanks also to Adrienne Conley and Cherrelle Turner for helping with outreach and registration and keeping me sane behind the scenes!

A special thanks to my co-director, Evan Young, for his vision, enthusiasm and belief in the power of faith, community and social change. It's been a pleasure working with you in our first year as co-directors!

Finally, thanks to all of you who gave up a beautiful spring Saturday in Athens to attend some or all of the event. Meaningful connections were made, challenges and struggles were shared; and inspiration and hope were offered up to continue the important work we have to do together. You will be hearing from us soon! UCM looks forward to continuing our role in progressive faith works in Athens and Ohio. Stay tuned.....

--Melissa Wales, UCM Program Director

This performance was not only a part of UCM's "Finding Each Other, Finding Our Voice" conference, but also Spiritual Growth Intern Sarah Michelson's senior thesis project for the Honors Tutorial College. Thirteen other students and graduates worked with Sarah to organize a performance with current messages and a political punch, which would stick with the audience. The performance started with a parade from Scripps Auditorium to the College Gate, which was transformed into a military checkpoint. The audience was then moved to the Baker Center steps, where the troupe performed a satirical version of the evening news, with international news, local news, commercials for SUV's, a game show in which the audience had to decide which story was real, and a Hurricane Katrina update. The news was interrupted by a speech from our President declaring the beginning of World War III, and the performance ended with a Die-in, where the actors laid on the ground to symbolize people killed for hateful reasons. The performance was a huge success, drawing in a crowd of about 150 people. Even Sarah's sister cried, and her adviser told her that this was the best attended thesis ever. Subversive street theater lives! And will live on in Sarah as she travels to NYC this fall to pursue other nontraditional forms of political theater.

WAKE UP!

A Street Theater Project



UCM ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK TRIP TO VENEZUELA

◆ DECEMBER 7 - 16, 2006 ◆

- * Hosted by Witness for Peace,
a US-Latin America solidarity organization.*
- * Examine the impacts of US foreign policy on Venezuela.*
- * Hear many Venezuelan perspectives on the
current socio-economic and political climate in their country.*

Open to Ohio University students. Some fundraising assistance available.
Contact Melissa or Lindsey at 593-7301 or ucmcf@frognet.net

UCM: CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH & SOCIAL JUSTICE
18 NORTH COLLEGE STREET
ATHENS OH 45701



OTHER AGENCIES HOUSED AT UCM:

APPALACHIAN PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK

592-2608 • APJN@FROGNET.NET

MARA GIGLIO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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ATHENS AIDS TASK FORCE

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