

Off Court Street



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

• *January 2006*

*Please join us for a very special event
on Friday, January 27...*

“JONATHAN DOES THAI”

CHEF JONATHAN MILO LEAL,

owner of Gourmet Your Way Personal Chef &
Catering Service and Milo's Whole World Gourmet,

will prepare a tantalizing feast to benefit UCM.

You won't want to miss this one!

•••• MENU •••

APPETIZER

● **THAI SPRING ROLLS WITH SWEET GARLIC SAUCE**

STARTER

● **COCONUT LIME GINGER SOUP WITH UDON NOODLES**

MAIN COURSE

● **PAD THAI WITH SAUTÉED BEEF (VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE)**
Pad Thai, spicy stir-fried rice noodles with a distinctive blend of sweet, sour, & salty tastes, is one of the most traditional dishes of Thailand.

DESSERT

● **RUM-GLAZED PINEAPPLE SLICES
TOPPED WITH COCONUT-GINGER ICE CREAM**

JONATHAN DOES THAI

Oh, what that man can do!

JANUARY 27

FRIDAY, 5:30 P.M.

downstairs at ucm

♦ **\$25 - \$75** ♦

on a sliding scale

DISCOUNT RATE: \$15

student/low-income/senior

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

593-7301 or

ucm@frognet.net

*All proceeds will benefit
UCM: Center for Spiritual
Growth & Social Justice.*

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UCM CALENDAR:

TUESDAYS...

SOUP FOR THE SOUL: THE ROOTS OF "-ISMS"
lunchtime discussion series,
Jan 17-Feb 21, noon - 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAYS...

A GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO ACTIVISM - monthly discussion series for women;
Jan 25, Feb 25, March 29,
6:00-7:30 pm, UCM lounge

THURSDAYS...

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS - weekly meeting of UCM's student organization,
1:00-3:00 pm, Baker Center Front Room (see page 3)

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

JANUARY 16

MLK DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKDAY (see p.3)

JANUARY 22

INTO-WORSHIP-*"What Do We Expect? What Is Expected of Us?"* interfaith service & potluck dinner, open to all, 5:30 pm (see page 3)

JANUARY 27

JONATHAN DOES THAI - Chef Jonathan Leal will prepare a tantalizing feast to benefit UCM, 5:30 pm

FEBRUARY 2

JUSTICE ON THE BORDER EXPERIENCE - Presentation for campus & community on UCM Alternative Winter Break Trip, 7:30 pm, Scripps Auditorium (see pages 3-5)

MARCH 10

AROUND THE WORLD & BACK AGAIN - international taste-o-rama to benefit UCM

APRIL 29

FINDING EACH OTHER... FINDING OUR VOICE - UCM Spiritual Activism Conference, details TBA

WINTER QUARTER PROGRAMS:

SOUP FOR THE SOUL: THE ROOTS OF "-ISMS"

Where do our prejudices come from? Come to UCM's winter quarter **Soup for the Soul, The Roots of "-isms,"** to discuss the contexts of negative -isms, such as sexism, racism, ageism, heterosexism, and classism. We will be looking at the historical roots in America's and the world's past of systems of oppression, as well as the political account of such schools of thought. We will also be exploring how various religious traditions and texts both perpetuate and challenge oppression. Guest speakers will share their ideas during this six-week discussion series. Open to everyone; free light soup lunch. Please call ahead if you're bringing a large group.

 **Tuesdays, noon - 1:00 pm, downstairs at UCM**

 **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- Jan. 17 Rev. Jan Griesinger, UCM Director Emerita
- Jan. 24 Steve Brown, Assoc. Pastor, First Christian Church
- Jan. 31 Jessie Roberson, Assoc. Prof. Management Systems
- Feb. 7 Rev. Lynn Miller, Christ Lutheran Church
- Feb. 14 Rabbi Danielle LeShaw, Hillel
- Feb. 21 TBA

A GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO ACTIVISM

UCM's new monthly discussion series, **A Girlfriend's Guide To Activism**, will focus on bringing women together to foster intergenerational dialogue, to encourage networking and, above all, to provide inspiration. We hope that gathering together a multi-generational group of women in a comfortable, informal setting, will prove to be an empowering experience for everyone involved.

Each month we'll bring in a different local activist as guest speaker. After an interview with the featured activist, a lively question-and-answer session will follow. **Susan Burgess**, Department of Political Science and Women's Studies Program at OU, will moderate. The first gathering is on **Wednesday, January 25, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** Light refreshments will be provided.

GIRLFRIEND'S GUESTS

JANUARY 25: SUSAN HEITKER is the outgoing executive coordinator of the Buckeye Forest Council. Susan came to Athens in 1991 from Cincinnati to attend Ohio University. While Susan was interested in environmental and human rights issues in high school, her activism kicked into high gear while attending OU. On campus, Susan was active with Amnesty International and the Buckeye Forest Council and co-founded the Free Burma Coalition OU student group as well as Ohioans for a Free Burma, a statewide organization. In the summer of 1995, Susan did an internship with Rainforest Action Network in San Francisco. In 1998, Susan was hired as Buckeye Forest Council's state forest campaign coordinator and took over as executive coordinator in 2003. Susan has been involved with various protests to stop logging and mining on public lands, including a 2001 protest of logging in Zaleski State Forest in which Susan spent eight days in a tree and 30 days in jail. Susan has been involved in co-organizing various events including the 2002 and 2003 eastern forest defense action camps and the 2004 North American Anarchist Conference.

FEBRUARY 22: CAROL KUHRE, Executive Director of Rural Action from its inception until her retirement in 2004.

MARCH 29: TBA

MLK DAY: A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Plan to honor the spirit and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by volunteering at UCM's community service work day on **Monday, January 16, from 2:00 - 5:00 PM**. Pitch in to help clean up the space we use to cook and serve our weekly free meal, *Thursday Supper*. For 12 years, we've provided free meals for 30-45 community members every week. The supper is staffed by UCM interns and community and student volunteers. The kitchen and dining room need some TLC, so roll up your sleeves and help us continue to offer a clean and welcoming place for members of our community!

INTO-WORSHIP

UCM will launch its **Interfaith Nontraditional Time of Worship (INTO-Worship) Sunday, January 22, at 5:30 pm**, with a service titled "What Do We Expect? What Is Expected of Us?" presented by **Evan Young** and Spiritual Growth Intern **Sarah Michelson**. There will be a potluck dinner after the service. Students and community members are welcome to join in this exciting opportunity to build community among UCMers. Contact: Evan, ucmevan@frognet.net

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Progressive spirituality and social justice come together in **Circle of Friends**, UCM's student organization. This quarter, COF will be meeting on **Thursdays, from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Baker Center Front Room**. There will not be a formal discussion topic, but we will continue our exploration of progressive spirituality through discussion. Open to students of any faith, or no faith, tradition and all spiritual journeys. Contact: Sarah Michelson, serph17@yahoo.com

JUSTICE ON THE BORDER EXPERIENCE

Listen and learn about the "Justice on the Border" experience at a **Campus/Community Presentation on Thursday, February 2, at 7:30 pm in Scripps Auditorium**. Students who participated in UCM's Alternative Winter Break Travel Seminar will describe the week they spent learning about human rights, globalization, and immigration policy on the Arizona-Mexico border. See the story on pages 4 & 5.



OUR DEAR FRIEND ED FISHER, OWNER OF PURPLE CHOP STIX, HAS BEEN VERY ILL AND HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL IN COLUMBUS SINCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THE WORD IS THAT HE WILL RECOVER, BUT WILL HAVE TO SPEND A COUPLE OF MONTHS RECUPERATING. ED, ONE OF THE SWEETEST GUYS IN THE WORLD, HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO OUR COMMUNITY - NOW THAT HE NEEDS SOME HELP, IT'S TIME FOR US TO RETURN THE FAVOR. LET'S ALL SAY "THANKS ED," BY SENDING A FEW BUCKS TO HELP COVER HIS MEDICAL BILLS AND KEEP HIS RESTAURANT OPEN. SEND CHECKS PAYABLE TO ED FISHER TO PURPLE CHOP STIX, 371 RICHLAND AVE, ATHENS OH 45701

GET WELL SOON ED!

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

JANUARY 29

FEDERAL VALLEY RESOURCE CENTER BENEFIT CONCERT - including performances by Calliope Feminist Choir, Megan Cameron, Carole Weiner; \$5 donation, 3:00 pm, at FVRC in Stewart (formerly Federal-Hocking Middle School)

MARCH 5

WOMEN'S HERSTORY PROGRAM - including music, drama, Women's Herstory trivia game, poetry, and food; \$10 - \$25 on a sliding scale, 2:00-5:00 pm, Walter Hall, co-sponsored by UCM

APRIL 23

CALLIOPE FEMINIST CHOIR SPRING CONCERT - 4:00 pm, Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville, details TBA



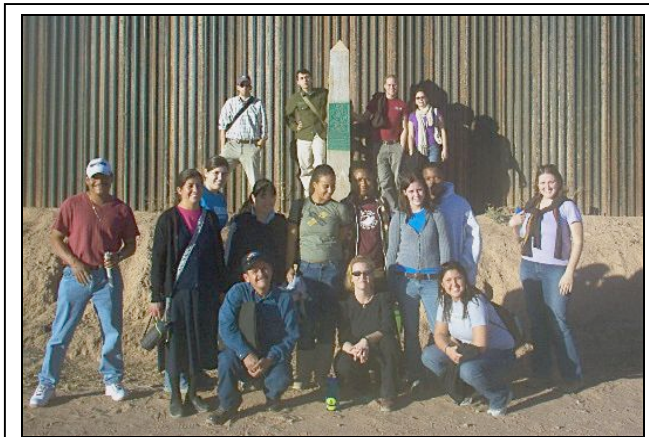
JUSTICE ON THE BORDER:

REFLECTIONS ON UCM'S WINTER BREAK TRIP TO THE US/MEXICO BORDER

MELISSA WALES, UCM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Over winter break, I had the pleasure and privilege of accompanying eleven OU students to the US-Mexico border for a week, to examine the impacts of US economic and immigration policies. We were hosted by **BorderLinks**, a faith-based nonprofit with nearly two decades of working on the border, beginning with Central American refugees in 1987 and continuing now with a focus on immigration issues and global economics. **BorderLinks** is committed to providing experiential education for people from developed countries. www.borderlinks.org

We flew into Tucson and received a brief history of US-Mexico border relations and the history of **BorderLinks** by founder and current Moderator for the Presbyterian Church, **Rick Ufford-Chase**. He explained that in 1994, NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) resulted in increased pressure on the border with the establishment of free trade zones and a dramatic increase in US-owned manufacturing plants (*maquiladoras*). US Border Patrol stepped up to tighten the major cities along the border, pushing migrants into the inhospitable Sonoran Desert, presumed to be a natural barrier to illegal migration. But the push of poverty in Mexico and Central America and the pull of employment opportunities in the US have proven to be stronger forces than fear of the serious dangers of the high desert.



Agua Prieta, Mexico: UCM Alternative Winter Break travelers stand in front of the corrugated metal border wall.

The results of what most would agree is a failed US immigration policy have been tragic and immoral: more than 2000 men, women and children have died while attempting to cross the desert in Arizona alone in the last 5 years. Recently, people of faith came together to struggle with how to respond to the crisis, and founded **No Mas Muertes: No More Deaths** with three goals: 1) to provide water, food, and medical assistance to migrants walking through the Arizona desert; 2) to monitor US operations on the border and work to change US policy to resolve the "war zone" crisis on the border; 3) and to bring the plight of migrants to public attention. www.nomoredeaths.org

Last summer **No More Deaths** received national attention when the Border Patrol arrested volunteers **Shanti Sellz** and **Daniel Strauss**, who were transporting three sick migrants to a medical facility. **No More Deaths** had been in continuous communication with US Border Patrol about their

humanitarian work and their operations have followed a mutually agreed-upon, transparent protocol. But amid fear of "outsiders" in this post-9-11 political climate and a growing uneasiness about job security and the restructuring of the US economy, the US-Mexico border is becoming more and more militarized.

"Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime" is the campaign to drop the charges against Sellz and Strauss. At this point, no trial date has been set and **Amnesty International** has declared that Sellz and Strauss will be designated prisoners of conscience if found guilty.

Perhaps the most memorable moment for me, in an intense week of many memorable moments, was meeting with Sarah, a 22-year old migrant from northern Guatemala who'd been traveling for a month and had just been returned to Mexican immigration after jumping the wall in Nogales (yes, there are walls, made from salvaged military landing strips, along many miles of the border). I'll never forget her sitting small and afraid in the cement cell, offering up her story to us as tears streamed down her face. I'll never forget her bravery: risking her life to provide for her impoverished family and her willingness to share her personal struggle with strangers.

We spent most of our time in Agua Prieta and Nogales, Mexico to get a better understanding of life on the border. We toured a maquiladora and met with an organizer from the **Border Workers' Alliance** who educates and organizes workers about their rights. The *maquiladoras* offer the "best" employment at \$40-\$70/week (a wage that keeps people in poverty) and often times in unsafe working conditions. We participated in a weekly vigil at the border to remember and honor people who have died in the desert. We walked along the wall separating a people from themselves and reflected on history, geography and a quote we'd heard from a resident of the borderlands, "I didn't cross the border, the border crossed me."

We learned that most migrants *don't* want to leave their families and homes but NAFTA and other forces of globalization have pulled the economic rug out from under many Mexicans, especially rural coffee growers. We visited a roasting facility for **Just Coffee**, a cooperative coffee business owned by 25 families in Chiapas, a region in Southern Mexico that has seen a dramatic increase in out-migration since coffee prices fell in the early part of the decade. **Just Coffee** markets organic, high-quality coffee while keeping the profits with the growers, who can then remain on their land and offer a more promising future to their children. Another great reason to buy fair trade products! www.justcoffee.com

There are now several hotly-debated immigration bills to keep an eye on in the US Senate, with solutions ranging from building more fences to recognizing the reality of the US economy and pushing for the decriminalization of migrant workers. And **President Bush** (who happened to fly into Tucson the same day we did) is cautiously promoting a dubious guest worker program while weighing the very vocal concerns of border state politicians and vigilante ranchers with those of agribusiness, construction companies and other US employers who rely on an undocumented workforce to fill their low wage jobs.

Absent from much of the media's presentation of the debate is the perspective of progressive people of faith, who have much to offer on the topic of US immigration policy. **No More Deaths** has outlined a proposal for immigration reform that can be found at www.nomoredeaths.org/faithbasedprinciples.html

The day we left, I picked up a copy of *US News and World Report* at the airport, with the cover story "Border Wars," and tried to reconcile a perspective that portrayed migrants as mostly would-be terrorists and dangerous drug runners with our encounters with Sarah and others, who are pushed to the border's edge in desperate attempts to provide for themselves and their families. I thought of the migrant community in Southeastern Ohio, employed by large commercial farms along the Ohio River. Did their journeys begin in Chiapas or Guatemala, leaving family and friends and the only home they'd ever known? Did they pay thousands of dollars for a "coyote" to guide them through the desert with the promise of better wages and the chance to lift their families out of grinding poverty? The border is not "down there." The border is here: picking our produce, slaughtering our meat, building and cleaning our homes, and caring for our children. We all have a stake in creating an immigration policy founded in compassion and justice.

CLARISSA KORNELL, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

What word can capture the energy surging through the small coffee cooperative that was started by a single family in order to save an entire community in southern Mexico? How can I possibly describe the moment at which our hearts broke simultaneously as a young Guatemalan girl shared her courageous story of leaving everything she knew in order to save her brothers and sisters? Even though English has more words than most, if not all, languages, sometimes there just aren't words.

In Spanish, a language with significantly fewer words, there is a word that perfectly describes the experience that I shared with ten other OU students and Melissa while participating in a BorderLinks trip to the US-Mexico border; that word is *convivencia*. *Convivencia* is used to describe a shared meal...something like a potluck, but it means so much more. When broken down into grammatical parts, *convivencia* literally means *to live with*. Its understood meaning, however, describes the act of sharing openly and fully with everyone around you.

Together these three interpretations of this one word capture the spirit of our border experience. We *shared meals* with different people throughout the trip including children of women who worked in U.S. and other foreign factories and with migrants who had traveled from as far as Paraguay just to try to get into the United States where they might actually be able to earn something resembling a living wage. We *lived with* women who volunteered their mornings and nights to prepare food for these migrants and make them feel a little less far from home. Along the way we continued to ask questions of those who invited us into their space and of ourselves. We shared openly with each other and with those who were so generous to share with us.

At its deepest meaning, *convivencia* expresses a human bond and a commitment to those around you. Over delicious meals, during challenging discussions, and in memorable visits we formed bonds that turned strangers into friends and committed us to the effort of seeking and promoting understanding of the economic, social and cultural complexity of the border region.

GAIL BUMBURY, GRADUATE STUDENT, LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

My name is Gail Bumbury, I am from Guyana, South America. I became interested in the Mexico Border trip, essentially because my area of focus is Latin America. However, understanding the dynamics of Mexican and Central American migration to the U.S. through the border appealed to me mainly because Guyana has experienced large-scale flight of its citizens within the last 20 years to North America and I wanted to draw comparisons between the two countries, particularly the factors that serve to influence migration.

The first thing that struck me was the fluidity of the border, it was remarkable to see people with shopping carts walking along the strip of concrete with their groceries from the U.S. side to the Mexican side (Douglas, Arizona/Agua Prieta border); a daily reality that is not often dealt with by the press in the U.S.

While each experience/aspect of the trip was invaluable in its own right, the one experience that resonated with me was an interview with a Guatemalan migrant who had been caught by the U.S. Border patrol attempting to enter the United States and was awaiting deportation at the Mexican Instituto de Migracion in Agua Prieta. As he related to us, his three unsuccessful attempts to cross into the U.S., the financial burden of each failed attempt, and the expectations of his family back home, his demeanor spoke volumes. He had once again failed in his attempt to enter the United States, and had become resigned to that fact. His look of disappointment left an indelible imprint upon my memory. People attempt to enter the United States to realize the dream of a better life that has become unreachable in their home country, not for the mere sake of traveling to a foreign country

To Serve the Spirit

by Evan Young, UCM Spiritual Director

This is the year Something about the beginning of a new year calls out this kind of thinking. Just past the threshold of the new year, and we're looking ahead to all the stuff that's going to happen—or that we hope will happen.

This is the year I'll graduate. (No, really, it is!) This is the year OU will transcend its party-school image. This is the year the Cubs will win it all. This is the year—well, you fill in the blank.

That's the appeal, isn't it? We have stretching out before us a blank year, like a fresh and unspoiled blanket of snow, and we can imagine anything we want into that space. It's unmarked, unblemished . . . perfect.

A year ago, that's how we were looking at 2005. Now that year is passed, and in place of the hopes we had a year ago for its pristine calendar pages we have memories joyful and painful. I find, looking back, that 2005 carries some pretty hefty shadows: from the aftermath of the Christmas tsunami, to the revelations of scandal and corruption in Washington, to Katrina and Rita here on our shores, to the earthquake in Kashmir. There are joyful memories too, but (for me, anyway) they seem smaller and more personal: preparing and leading a memorial service for my great aunt Margaret, accepting this job as UCM's Spiritual Director, embarking on my last year in seminary, celebrating birthdays and officiating at weddings and being in community with my communities.

Closer to home, and with smaller shadows—but they're there in the archives too. Funny thing is, most of them never crossed my mind a year ago.

Our hopes for the coming year can be a distraction—they can obscure what is, and is right in front of us. We can be so wrapped up in what we want to happen that we miss what is happening. And what is happening, whether small joy or great tragedy, is the time, the story, the life we have been given. To accept both the grace of its joys and the challenge of its sorrows is to be present in the moment, to be aware of our own experience and invested in the experience of those who share the world with us. It is a great and sometimes terrible gift we are given, but above all a gift—and we do well to remember that.

So—perhaps, standing here on the edge of yet another new and unspoiled year, we can remember together: "This is the year the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and give thanks."

WALKING AHEAD IN THE NEW YEAR By PEGGY GISH, BAGHDAD, JANUARY 1, 2006

Area resident Peggy Gish is once again in Iraq, continuing her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams. In late November, four CPT workers were kidnapped in Baghdad; their current status is not known. See www.cpt.org for more information.

The New Year began in Baghdad with firecrackers, flares, and even some colorful fireworks, but also with bombs and shooting that killed at least twenty people. Celebrations of this day usually symbolize the hope for new beginnings, new possibilities. Iraqis still have that hope, but it's a struggle to maintain it when the changes in their society and government have resulted in greater insecurity and continued violence.

As part of the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq, my hope is challenged by seeing the daily pain and hardships of the Iraqi people, as well as the unresolved disappearance of our four colleagues. One of the effects of kidnappings, killings, and bombings, whether they are done by the resistance or the state, is to instill fear in the people. This fear leads to feelings of helplessness and paralysis. It drains the hope that their actions can lead to change. People become afraid to speak out and take action against injustice. We see this in Iraqis, and we find it creeping into our consciousness as well.

We, as peacemakers, often feel pressure from others to be more realistic in our work, to see that the world's economic, military and governmental structures are so strong and entrenched that they are truly impossible to change. We are aware that when we work for change, we can be eliminated any time our work is seen as threatening to those wielding power. Our government's and the world's networks of violence appear overpowering, but we must not be seduced into believing that they are invincible. I continue to believe that the power of truth and love is stronger than all these forces. This does not mean that there won't be a struggle and suffering. It is when the dissent is having a powerful effect and the structures of power feel threatened, that the greatest crackdown on it occurs.

We are encouraged when we walk alongside courageous Iraqi people who daily take risks addressing injustice and corruption, but we must also make wise and critical decisions. We need to discern how to respond, where to focus our energies, whether this is the time to be more publicly confrontational or whether moving forward must wait. Whatever the decisions, we do not want fear to immobilize us.

This New Year is the time for more of us to become part of movements that powerfully expose the real sources of terror and the lies behind lofty reasons given for war and occupation. It the time to live out alternatives to the dehumanization and emptiness of our society, to build communities of love, which more justly share the world's resources. It is time to keep walking ahead, even though we feel individually weak, and to allow God to work powerfully through our combined efforts. It is time to affirm what we know deep inside, that love and truth are more powerful than any evil force.

☀ SAY HI TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER:

"Hello, my name is **LINDSEY DANIELS** and I am the first-year Social Work graduate student who will conduct her field placement with UCM winter and spring Quarters. I moved to Athens when I was a year old and have been here ever since. I graduated with my Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from Ohio University in June of 2003. Upon graduation I served two years in AmeriCorps tutoring local children in reading. Currently, I am working toward my Master's in Social Work."

We're pleased to welcome Lindsey to UCM and we're looking forward to working with her. She'll be teaming up with Joe on Thursday Supper and researching potential sources of grant funding. And who knows what else? The sky's the limit at UCM!

*** ALUMNI UPDATE:**

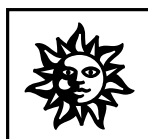
SARAH ENGLER tells us, "I am now employed as the Marketing/ Communications Coordinator for Children's Hunger Alliance, a statewide nonprofit organization based in Columbus, fighting a serious battle against childhood hunger in Ohio. Most of my job entails writing - our newsletters, press releases, etc. - and teaching others in the organization how to write well." Sarah graduated from OU in 2005 with an MA in English; she went on UCM's 2003 Alternative Winter Break Trip to Koinonia Partners in Georgia.

☀ MANY THANKS...

UCM has always depended on the kindness of a whole bunch of people - generous people who give their time, their labor, their money, their knowledge, expertise and experience, and their stalwart support. We'd like to devote a little space and a lot of gratitude to say, we appreciate all you do! Thank you:

- Thursday Supper volunteers during fall quarter and winter break (please forgive us if we have omitted your name): Delta Sigma Theta, Pat Reddan & Christ the King University Parish, the Black Student Communication Caucus, the Ohio University Recruiting Society, Rev. Bethany Fulton & the First Presbyterian Church Youth Group, Kathleen & Harry Sullivan, Anna Nagy & Jason Heinrich, Ellen Smith, AmeriCorps volunteers, Julie White, Susan Urano & her daughters, Tim & Dee Dee Dransfield, Canaan Baer, Ashley Dunmore, Chris Tomazic, Amy Flowers, Misha Barnes, Deanna Bray, Steve Fellingham, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in The Plains, CIVITAN, and Barry Tadlock.
- Dr. J.W. Smith's COMS430 class and Dr. Francine Childs' Gandhi & MLK class for their fundraising projects for Thursday Supper.
- Wil Chandler of Athens Realty, Gifford Doxsee, Rev. Jan Griesinger, Margaret McDargh, Rod & Linda Nippert, and Ohio University's Office for Diversity, for their financial contributions to defray travel costs for students participating in the "Justice on the Border" Alternative Winter Break Travel Seminar.
- Thyme & Again Gardening for the autumn spruce-up of our yard.
- Dr. Judy Millesen for her consultation on UCM's long-term strategic planning process.
- Dr. Greg Kessler for his indispensable computer tech support.

And, as always (it can't be said enough) thank-you ever so much to the UCM Board members, the hardest working board in show business. UCM has been riding the transition roller-coaster for the past year-and-a-half and our board has gone the extra mile to support the staff and help keep the place running smoothly. You're the best!



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PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO UCM...

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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Please make checks payable to UCM

YOUR TASTE BUDS WILL JUMP FOR JOY WHEN "JONATHAN DOES THAT"

Oh, what that man can do!

JANUARY 27 AT UCM - SEE PAGE 1

**finding each other...
finding our voice**

UCM SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM CONFERENCE

for progressive people of faith

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

✦ guest speakers ✦ panel discussions ✦ subversive street theater
watch this space ➔ _____ for details...

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OTHER AGENCIES HOUSED AT UCM:
APPALACHIAN PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK
592-2608 · APJN@FROGNET.NET
MARA GIGLIO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR
CHRISTIE TRULY, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: BIG-TIME THANKS to DONORS and SPONSORS WHO SUPPORTED UCM'S 23RD ANNUAL DINNER & BENEFIT AUCTION in NOVEMBER!!