

CAMPUS MINISTRY TESTIMONIALS TO SHARE



Adriane Curtis

Co-chair of the Campus Ministry Affinity group - Trinity/Salem UMC in New Castle

In October 2009, I started serving in the Indiana Conference to represent Young Adults, Campus Ministries and Higher Education at the Conference Leadership Table. There are many reasons that I am passionate about campus ministries and their importance to the Conference. I grew up as an Indiana Conference preacher's kid. It's not easy finding your own identity in the church when you grow up in the shadow of a minister parent. It wasn't until I got to the University of Indianapolis that I felt able to truly discern my call and have since graduated with a degree in Social Work. At UIndy, it wasn't long before I became active in campus ministry, chairing it my sophomore year. To lend an extra voice to religious concerns, I became the student body vice-president my junior and senior years.

At UIndy in campus ministry, I found myself going places and doing things I never expected. I worked to plan retreats and outreach and went on multiple work trips. One of my most memorable was when I learned to use a circular saw for the first time as we did insulation for a trailer in the cold, rainy mountains of West Virginia. I even went to Bosnia with other campus ministries students from across Indiana. There we volunteered to work at a youth house for two weeks.

My experience in Bosnia helped me decide to go on to get a masters degree at Seton Hall in International Relations and Diplomacy. Before heading east, I met Shawn at a United Methodist Student Movement conference in Denver. We were married the summer of our college graduation.

When I couldn't shake God's call to ministry, I served for five years as the youth director at Edwards Memorial UMC. I currently serve at Trinity and Salem UMCs in New Castle as a local part-time pastor. Meanwhile, I'm working toward ordination by taking classes at United Theological Seminary.

I presided at my first funeral in 2009, while being pregnant with my daughter, Evangeline. Rather than being overwhelmed, I remembered back to my time tackling new situations at UIndy and I drew on my experiences in campus ministry. Every day, I realize more and more how well my time at UIndy's campus ministry prepared me for the path God has set before me.

It has not escaped me that I am subjecting my children to the same fate that I had growing up as a preacher's kid. Even though my children are still very young, I find myself thinking towards the future and hoping they will be lucky enough to find a place, where they also can feel free to discern the call God has on their lives.

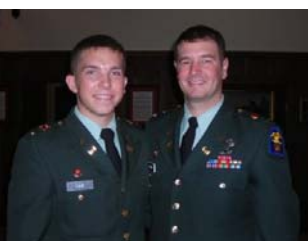
I want to make sure that 10 years from now, there will be a campus ministry to help Sullivan, just like my campus ministry helped me. For this reason, I recently volunteered to become the Young Adult, Higher Education, and Campus Ministries representative for the Indiana Conference and co-chair the Campus Ministry Affinity group with Jack Leonard.



Amanda Glidden

Student - Purdue University, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry

I want to share how the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at Purdue University has impacted my life. When I came to Purdue as a Freshman, I was scared and felt alone in this big campus. I heard from my home church about Wesley and decided it would be a good place for me to look into. After attending for the first time, I was amazed at the attention and kindness I received and after that, I have almost never missed a Sunday service or a Tuesday Bible Study and Communion. Wesley is the place where I know, no matter what, I will feel safe and have someone who cares about me ready to listen. Wesley is not just the place that I go to worship, the people there have become a second family to me and I know that they always will be family. The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at Purdue is such an important place to me and I wanted to share this with you.

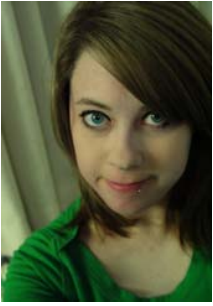


Andrew Saik

Alumni - Purdue University, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry

Thank you for your continued support of the Purdue Wesley Foundation. As an alumnus ('03-'08), I reflect on my experiences at Purdue and realize that my time at the Wesley Foundation was essential for my growth and development as a Christian. College is such a critical point in the lives of many young people and must not be neglected. The Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at Purdue University was such a positive influence on my life that I continue to support it with my prayers and donations even after my graduation. Thanks again and God bless...

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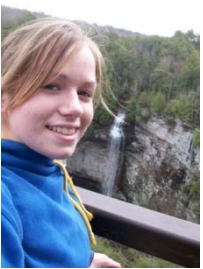
Ayrielle Kristin Davis - United Campus Ministries, Indiana State University

In 2005, I was starting a new chapter of my life – college. I was excited and a bit nervous, and I got even more nervous when I was looking for a job. Luckily for me, Indiana State University was having a job fair for the incoming students to easily find a job on campus. Unluckily, no one was looking at me at this fair or paying any heed that I could be a valuable asset. It might have been the Sycamore Blue hair I had dyed in my excitement that I got into ISU, which I tried to wash out, but sort of turned into a greenish-blue at this point. It could have been the fact I never had a real job while I was in high school, though I did have plenty of after school activities and clubs where I held very high accountable roles. I was always told by my parents that school was my real job. Only one person behind his booth gave me a friendly smile, greeted me warmly, and happily took my application. This was the Reverend Jack Diel of United Campus Ministries, which I later got a call from, had an interview, and got the job...and I am still happily working there.

This place though, is more than just a job for me; it is my home away from home. First off, they have the same philosophy as my family that school is my real job. My family at United Campus Ministries (UCM), like my family at home, just wants me to succeed in higher education. They too, help me develop my “real-world” skills and give me other opportunities that I might not have as a college student.

Another reason why UCM and the people there are like family is that we eat together. One of the programs I hold very dear to my heart is called Table Talks. We meet every Wednesday and a member of the board brings a meal (often home-cooked). While we eat this meal, students from Indiana State, Rose-Hulman, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, along with faculty and friends, discuss whatever is on our minds. Sometimes it is light, sometimes it is grave, but I feel it is important. It gives me a moment to let stress out, to nourish my body, nourish my mind, and just simply be with friends. We all share our own thoughts and beliefs. I may not agree with them, but at least I can have this moment of learning where I can see how other people assess the world around them, and I feel this understanding has made me a wiser person. There is a level of respect at the table and that is something I rather enjoy, because most times you don't get that when you eat at a table with someone that is completely different than you.

I know that family is a place you can leave and they always welcome you back with open arms. I say this, because there came a point in my life, when ISU no longer offered my major. I was heart-broken but I put on a tough face and packed my bags and went to Ball State. One would think studying Latin shouldn't be that hard. It hasn't changed in 2,000 years and it used to be the foundation of the education of the “learned” person. Just one semester with Ball State and I knew that was not the place for me. Later ISU reinstated my major. I so desired to go back to school so I could have a job that I loved. I was both delighted and uncertain about returning to ISU but I was ecstatic about returning to United Campus Ministries. You see, most of my friends who were still at ISU are a part of UCM. When I came back, I got my job back, I got my friendships back, and my hope for getting a higher education back. If UCM had not been there, I would not be in college right now.



Emily Lumpkin, Student

While still a Senior in high school, I was greatly impacted by Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry at Purdue University. My brother has attended Wesley during the majority of his schooling at Purdue. Through this connection, I have been able to not only attend and participate in Wesley worship and fellowship on Sunday afternoons, but I have also been privileged to participate in one Spring Break Out Mission Trip to Mountain T.O.P., Tennessee, and one Bikers for Jesus trip. Due to very positive experiences, I am planning on attending more activities associated with Wesley, even though my college choice is elsewhere. Wesley Foundation at Purdue, along with other youth (church camp), young adult, and campus ministries need continued support by the Indiana Conference. If we neglect our youth and young people, we therefore neglect our future. Proper stewardship is not limited to only money, but also to the most valuable resource: the future generation. Please keep Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries alive for the future generations.



Eric Lumpkin – Alumni, Purdue University, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry

Through my four years of college at Purdue University, the Wesley Foundation has been there for me in many ways. It is a home church away from home. I can go there not just on Sunday, but every day. Glen and Lana are very open for talking about whatever needs talked about. The staff of pastors, interns, and secretary is very supportive and caring. I feel like I'm at Senior High Institute all the time! My time at Wesley as the Sound Technician makes me want to continue to be a Sound Technician at my next home church. I want to thank The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church for what it has done and ask that it supports all ministries that encourage the children, youth, and young adults of this world to grow in faith. Wesley Foundation is the voice of the United Methodist Church to the people of Purdue University. Keep the children in the church and the church will grow.

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Pastor John Groves
First United Methodist Church, Vincennes

On a regular Wednesday evening, at 7:37 p.m., students would come to the Student Union Building on the campus of Vincennes University and gather for worship. On this particular evening, I was asked to be the guest speaker. The entire service was planned and prepared by the students. The music was awesome. The testimonies of service and faith in Christ were incredible. I was given the topic "Trust" to fit their theme of the evening. I was asked to provide power point slides and a video clip.

I was deeply moved by the passion and focus the students gave to the worship experience and afterwards. After worship, they asked me to hang out and visit with them. I left the Student Union that night at 11 p.m. when it closed. The entire time was spent talking to the students and listening to them share about their faith in Christ and commitment to service. Campus Ministries, you do touch lives!!



Kelly Rietman
Student - Purdue University, Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry

Wesley means so much to me despite that fact that this was my first semester ever going there. I am actually Roman Catholic, but I have never really liked church or felt any connection until I attended a service at Wesley. In fact, I actually haven't attended any service for years, let alone many weeks in a row until this school year. I love Wesley so much because of the people, how I can actually relate to the sermons, and all the different fellowship activities we do. Wesley has changed my life in so many ways and the only regret I have is not going sooner.



Melissa Zimmerman
Student, Depauw University

I was a senior double major in Religious Studies and Greek at DePauw University. I came to DePauw knowing that I am working towards ordination as an elder. I am now attending the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Campus ministry has been very important for my life in my time at DePauw. One part of DePauw's campus ministry that has been most important for me is the Sunday night Bible study, called BS with the Chaplain. P.T. Wilson started it at the beginning of my Sophomore year, and I have been attending ever since. We have covered a broad range of topics, and some of my experiences in the Bible study have helped me grow spiritually. I remember trying to explain to a fundamentalist girl about the different sources of the two creation stories in Genesis, or more recently trying to explain to a girl from China the concept of God, or a god at all. This has been an important opportunity for me to learn and grow and develop a language to say what I believe. Among other things, our campus ministry has been important in support for me and others as we discussed going into full-time ministry. Once a month, we have a dinner called Ministry and a Meal. A few of us have been regulars since its beginning and through the years, we have changed in numbers as people came to explore the idea of ministry. Each month, we can get together with others who know exactly what we are going through. They are also looking at seminaries, working through processes to ordination in various denominations, or trying to develop a stronger understanding of their call. Having the opportunity to connect to each other has been one of the most valuable things the Spiritual Life office did to support us.

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Ryan Grossman
United Campus Ministries, Indiana State University Student

Wonderful friends, opportunities to serve and a soothing environment would not be as readily available had United Campus Ministries never opened their doors to me and other students. The wide, unconditional acceptance of students and community members allows for a low stress, highly enjoyable and spiritually uplifting environment for everyone and anyone seeking the comforts of fellowship and God amid the struggles of life.



Ryan Kreger
Greater Fort Wayne Campus Ministry, IPFW student

Campus Ministry continues to encourage my personal spiritual growth while allowing ministry opportunities to watch God work in the lives of other students on the IPFW campus. I believe God has used Campus Ministry to nurture and spur on new growth in students through our student leadership and our staff. It is very encouraging to see students praying and studying God's word on any given day or time. I believe this demonstrates the amazing work God is doing on our campus.

While college life may pose many new challenges, it is refreshing to know you are surrounded by those who pray with you, and stand with you when tests come. My prayer is that God would continue to form us in every capacity to the likeness of Christ. Not only is God using Campus Ministry at IPFW but God is training men and women to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world!

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