Alumni debut on Christian music scene

Jennifer Kormann
Staff Writer

“I’m sinking deep in sin/Jesus, drop down and please cleanse me within.” So begins the first song, “Drop,” from Partners in Christ’s debut album, “You & Me.”

Partners in Christ, made up of former Union students Sam Mizell and Keith Felton, make their mark on Christian music with this album. “You & Me” presents a combination of coffeehouse and alternative music relaying simple messages of encouragement to current Christians and to those who may be seeking God.

The themes of Partners in Christ’s songs range from “A Relationship,” which deals with a person asking God into their life and growing in Christ, to the love ballad directed to Jesus, “Anything and growing in Christ, to the love person asking God into their life Relationship,” which deals with a Christ’s songs range from “A

Not only do their messages vary, but so do their styles. Upbeat songs such as “You and Me,” “Strange to Me” and “Drop” blend into mellow songs such as “Mercy Saves,” “Gatherer of Wind” and “Less Than Perfect.” Their styles can be enjoyed by people who listen to all kinds of music.

Both Sam and Keith have dedicated their music to Jesus. They want their listeners to experience God through their songs. Sam and Keith want their listeners to remember Psalm 115:1: “It does not belong to us, Lord. The glory belongs to you because of your love and loyalty,” each time they listen to the album.

All vocals and instrumentation are performed by Sam and Keith. I found this collection of songs extremely encouraging and inspirational. The blend of both practical and spiritual applications in the songs makes the album a dynamic one.

Alumni foundations for future

By Amy Balthrop
Staff Writer

Lambda Chi Alpha and Kappa Delta each began a new era this fall by beginning work on new houses. After many years of waiting, the fraternity and sorority are finally seeing their plans being put into action.

Lambda Chi had a house on the old campus and has been raising alumni money since 1975. “It’s great seeing a dream become a reality. I’m glad that the new guys are gonna get to spend the next four years in the house and be a part of the tradition,” said Steve Phipps, senior.

Lambda Chi took a major step toward its goal when alumni Mark Anderson, owner of Golden Circle Concrete, donated the foundation and the beginning work as a gift. He will be the general contractor.

“The chapter owes a great thanks to all of our alumni because, without their sense of brotherhood, this would not be possible,” said Michael Scrivner, junior.

The remainder of the house will be paid for by pledges from alumni, family members and brothers who feel the need to give. The fraternity’s dues will not increase.

According to Scrivner, the house will be a 3,200 square-ft. Greek, Gothic-style house with 12-foot columns. Groundbreaking for the Lambda Chi house was Sept. 26. It is scheduled to be completed on Feb. 21 for Homecoming.

The Peacemaker’ only add to fall cinematic bhahs

By Stephen Phillips
Staff Writer

With the explosive summer finally over, it comes time for Hollywood’s least exciting time of the year: the fall movie season. The few immediate choices for college students at the cinema are actually narrowed down to two genre movies, “The Edge” and “The Peacemaker.”

At first, you think, “The Edge... hmm... isn’t that that ice skating movie from a few years ago?” No, no...that’s ‘The Cutting Edge.” However, that skating movie is a great deal more realistic than this recent film about a billionaire, photographer and porn star.

Then again, “The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” is more realistic than this typical survival movie starring Anthony Hopkins, Alec Baldwin and Elle MacPherson.

Filmed in the breathtaking Alaskan wilderness, it pits man against beast, and later, man against man. Where the plot lacks in originality, it makes up for with unbelievably gruesome special effects of humans being eaten by large bears. And if you like that, then you’ll love supermodel MacPherson’s even more gruesome acting skills.

“The Peacemaker,” on the other hand, is an innovative film from Steven Spielberg’s new Dreamworks SKG studio. It stars George Clooney and Nicole Kidman as members of an anti-terrorist nuclear-smuggling branch of the government, as well as eight 40-megaton nuclear missiles.

This is one of those movies that seems to go on forever. Just when you think the action is over, the bomb seems to slip through the good guys’ hands and ends up halfway around the world. The movie has a little too much exposition. You could easily miss the first 30 minutes and still have a fairly good idea of what’s going on; however, you would miss Dreamworks’ stunning visual signature at the beginning of the movie.

The special effects in the movie are extraordinary. Ranging from a CGI (computer generated imagery) nuclear missile blast to a four-car demolition derby and a complete CGI helicopter dogfight, the cost of the movie should have been over $100 million. However, with a cost of only $50 million, “The Peacemaker” should have little problems paying for itself.

RATINGS (on a 4.0 scale):
   "The Edge" -- 2.21 GPA
   "The Peacemaker" -- 3.35 GPA
By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

Off-campus ministries are back and better than ever.

With April Frank heading up the outreach program for the second year in a row and increased student involvement, off-campus ministries have started the year off with a bang.

The program, now titled Urban Outreach Ministries, received its new name from the Office of Campus Ministries. Despite the renaming, the focus of the program remains the same.

“Jesus is the main focus,” Frank, Urban Outreach Ministries coordinator, explained. “I think our goal is not only to get out there and share our faith with different kinds of people, but also to get students involved and to give them these kinds of opportunities.”

Students involved in Urban Ministries may choose from four different opportunities: the detention center ministry, the apartment ministry at the Parkway East Apartments and Parkview Apartments, Youth Town or the nursing home ministry. Each project targets a certain group of people to whom students can minister.

Last year, Frank said that involvement in off-campus ministries was good, but transportation problems hindered a couple of the projects. Backyard Bible Club apartment ministries and Youth Town were the only two that really seemed to take off, she said.

This year, however, response has been phenomenal, due to publicity generated before and during GO Week. The variety of ministries is also appealing to students, Frank said, especially because opportunities are available for four out of seven days a week.

Already, she has received calls from people who read about the opportunities in the GO Week brochure and want to know more.

“It’s really been exciting,” Frank said. “We’re adding new people to our list (of volunteers) every day, and people are calling and asking about Urban Ministries. It’s tremendously bigger, and there are more opportunities and better access. Everyone could be able to do something...a ministry is offered almost every day.”

Each ministry targets distinct groups of people, a factor that lets students see how others live.

The detention center ministry allows male students to visit the Jackson-Madison County Juvenile Detention Center on Sunday afternoons and develop relationships with the youth there. On Tuesdays, apartment ministries provides students with the chance to work with children and youth in a Backyard Bible Club setting. The nursing home ministry brings students to the Maplewood Health Care Center on Wednesday afternoons to spend time with the senior citizens who stay at the center. Youth Town gets students involved in a mentor program with teenagers in a group home setting, letting them visit with the youth on Thursdays.

Frank sees the projects as valuable to both students and the community.

“The nursing home ministry in particular benefits students. They can see how real it is. We’ve just started an Adopt-a-Grandparent program, and it’s one way to help us bond with the people there,” she said. “All (the residents) want is for someone to listen to them, and many times, students can learn life applications from them,” she explained.

“In the apartment ministry, students work with children and get to see how they live,” Frank continued. “I hope they develop a burning passion to love them and maybe even change the environment they live in,” she added.

Frank also said she believes the outreach has a long-term impact on students as well. For the immediate future, participants in inner-city GO Trips can receive training at projects. Their participation could provide defining experiences for future careers in missions, she said.

While they share their faith with other people, however, many times it is the students who receive the blessing.

“(Urban Ministries) give students the opportunity to actually reach out to the community and open their eyes to the world around them instead of being sheltered on campus,” said Lane Richmond, who heads up the detention center ministry. “They can realize that there are others in need, and they can do something about it.”

Apartment ministry leader Kelli Ross agreed. “It’s a really easy way to get involved,” she said. “Students can come one afternoon every week and have a really good way to help the Jackson community and work with kids,” she explained.

“For the future, Frank said expansion is a possibility, but her main focus is to continue its early success.”

“We’re really content with the way things are going,” she said. “For me, it’s exciting to see where things are this year compared to last year. We just want to get Urban Ministries going and keep it on its feet.”

For more information on Urban Outreach Ministries, contact April Frank at extension 4721, or stop by the Office of Campus Ministries.

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Students discover ‘a whole new world’ while working for Disney

By Jane Rice
Staff Writer

Smithy Sipes and Melissa Baldwin visited Disney World this summer, but their trek to the “happiest place on earth” were not exactly vacatons. Out of 10,000 applicants, only 1,500 college students were chosen to work there for the summer—and Smithy and Melissa made the cut.

Navigating one of the eight “Friendship” boats at Disney World became Smithy’s job for 12 weeks. Each boat was 66 ft. long, seated 150 people and cost $1.4 million. He steered the boat full of passengers from Epcot Center to Disney MGM Studios 40 or more hours a week. He did have one mishap with the boat. He steered it into a concrete pole while trying to dock the boat, tearing the door off and causing $16,000 in damage.

Melissa worked in the Magic Kingdom in Fantasy Land at a children’s store called “Tinkerbell’s Treasures.” The store sold items such as children’s costumes and toys.

Smithy and Melissa did not spend all their time working, though. They participated in a college program that required them to take classes like “Disney Traditions I and II,” “The Changing of Corporate Society” and “Managing People Through Leadership.” Smithy also wrote a 25-page paper on his classes and his own personal experience at Disney World to receive his “Ducktorate” degree.

A graduation ceremony was held for all those receiving degrees. Smithy received a pair of Mickey Mouse ears and a tassel in honor of his achievement. Melissa was given a “Certificate of Completion” for her hard work and participation at Disney World.

Even though Smithy and Melissa traveled to Disney World separately, they managed to live next door to one another. Many friends were made while staying in the apartments in Disney World. The other college students were from countries all over the world like Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Canada and the United Kingdom.

“My overall experience was great. It taught me a lot about working with other kinds of people,” Smithy said.

Not only were several countries represented at Disney World, but many beliefs were also shared among the student workers.

“I learned a lot about life being around Catholics, Mormons, atheists and Christians. It was eye-opening because I was able to catch a glimpse of the real world,” Melissa said.

Smithy plans to return to Disney World next summer and hopes to work in Disney’s advertising department.

“If I had a choice of what I could do at Disney World, I would want to be an ‘imagineer.’ ‘Imagineers’ design rides and other items in the park by using their imagination. Then the design is given to the engineers to see if the dream is really possible,” Smithy said.

Melissa may visit Disney World in the future, but does not plan on working there.

“It was definitely the best summer of my life, but I missed my Christian friends,” said Melissa.

So, if students see Smithy or Melissa roaming Union’s halls, they may notice that their ears have gotten a little bigger!