

# GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY

a bridging Christian community



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Hidden Inside this Issue:  
A Request for Much Needed Donations

## CAMPUS NOTES



## UNIVERSITY: FINDING UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The Body of Christ is beautifully diverse, and this diversity is well-represented on Guelph's campus, where approximately ten different Christian communities are present. Some groups are geared toward grad students, some target particular ethnic minorities, some appeal to extracurricular involvements, and some are inspired by specific traditions. Each one fills a niche, providing students with a faith-home throughout their time at the University of Guelph.

It's been delightful to dive into another school year, welcoming new students and seeking meaningful opportunities to share God's

love with this campus and city. It's exciting to watch the various campus ministries grow and flourish as students engage, explore, learn, and develop. What's been particularly exciting for me, however, is to glimpse the unity that is present in the midst of this diversity.

During Orientation week, the campus ministries collaborated to welcome students with a corporate worship service. This event, which GCM helped lead, emphasized the common foundation that we, as Christians, share: we worship a Triune God and long to see Him glorified in this world. We 'work out our salvation' in

diverse ways, but we share this vision and mission. It was inspiring to worship together, integrating practices from various traditions, listening to the encouragements of a Christian professor, and raising one voice in praise!

As we prepare another collaborative service for Advent, I think of a statement made by Ravi Zacharius. "The greatest search of all time," he says, "has been the search for unity in diversity." My prayer for the church—on campus and beyond—is that this "great search" will continually drive us toward the grace and truth of Christ.

—Sara Wyngaarden  
GCM Student Intern

## GCM FALL RETREAT

For the 2016 GCM Fall Retreat, a group of us spent the day at Zocalo Organic Farm learning, volunteering, eating, exploring our faith, and having some fun. Beth and Seb, the owners of Zocalo, gave us a tour and taught us a bit about organic farming. After our tour we got to work, moving potatoes, trimming and cleaning garlic bulbs, stringing peppers and helping out in the kitchen. As the morning went on and we got to talk with Beth and Seb, I was incredibly moved by their desire to grow food sustainably and to help people find a meaningful connection to their food and the land.

After the word was done, we spent the afternoon playing games, relaxing, laughing,

eating snacks, and just getting to know each other better. Then we took some time to focus on God and explore His word together. We reflected on the day and how food is something that brings us together; it is a way to share what we have and offer hospitality. We also looked at how we were called to be stewards of the earth and what that looks like with regards to what we eat, how we eat, and where our food comes from. We finished with the parable of the great feast and reflected on how God is desperate to have us come and eat from His table. He welcomes everyone, because His desire is for His house to be full!

Overall, I had a wonderful time and judging by all the smiles and laughter we shared I think it is safe to say that everyone else did as well. It was a great way to get away from the busyness of school and take some time to make new friends.

—Nicole Vanderwindt  
First-Year Student

### GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY



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A Circle of New Friends

# 10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW I DO

Campus ministry involves much more than organizing worship events, leading small groups, asking churches to prepare food for our Community Dinners and meeting one-on-one with students! There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes. Some of you might have a sense of the scope of my work on campus, but I'm guessing that there are some things in the following list that might surprise you. Here's the



Food & Faith Bread Making

Top 10 Things-You-Didn't-Know-That-I-Do:

1. Dedicate a tree in the Arboretum every September for all those students who passed away, ministering to their family and friends,
2. Participate in the recently developed wellness curriculum at the Ontario Veterinary College, speaking about spiritual wellness, core values and forgiveness,
3. Lead a memorial service every year for the cadavers used in the anatomy labs,
4. Help articulate the core values (Respectful, Caring, Determined, Engaged and Authentic) that are part of the "I am a Gryphon" pledge that every student is invited to sign,
5. Support Residence Life
6. Speak on behalf of the University at vigils like those that followed the Paris attacks and the nightclub shooting in Orlando,
7. Meet with students that aren't connected to our community, but who are referred to us by Counselling Services,
8. Sit down with local church leaders that inappropriately plaster campus with derogatory literature aimed at other religions, holding back the university from slapping them with a "No Trespass" order,
9. Participate in the university's Community of Practice that focuses on

Staff in responding to incidents of hatred perpetrated on this campus,

student advising and support,  
 10. Preach at almost 30 supporting churches, including many that are not Christian Reformed, trying to raise financial support to keep the ministry afloat.  
 The job description for a campus minister is full of diverse activities, and it is only made possible by the generosity of its supporting community. Our budget has been very tight as of late, and we want to ensure the long-term viability of this ministry. Please consider giving generously, especially in this Christmas season, to a ministry that does so much more than just run events for our Christian community of students! Donations can be following the instructions below.

—Jamie VanderBerg  
 Campus Minister

## RUNNING & READING CLUB: STUDENT IMPACT

For the last several years, GCM has been actively involved with the Running and Reading Clubs in the City of Guelph. These clubs take place after school at Willow Road PS, Brant Avenue PS and, a new start up location, Ottawa Crescent PS. This program's mission is to break the cycle of child poverty by providing ongoing educational support to at-risk school communities, especially for children Grades 3 to 6. The program was designed to nurture the children's mind, body and social health, so they are empowered to succeed and become role models for change. The mainstays of the

Running and Reading program include:

- Running practice to prepare for the year-end 5km race in Toronto
  - Circuit training and active games (relays, tag games, cooperative games) to develop overall fitness
  - Nutritious snack, Word of the Day, and journal writing
  - Reading practice, one-on-one with a leader or reading buddy, to instill a love for and enjoyment of reading.
- Tying all of this together are the volunteer coaches who, through positive role modeling, cheerleading, and unconditional support,

become "significant others" in the lives of these children. Many of the coaches, but not all, are active Christians in a variety of denominations.

GCM students who are searching for meaningful opportunities to serve have volunteered as team coaches for our Running and Reading Clubs. This partnership between GCM students and school-aged children provides growth and benefits for everyone involved. The children benefit from the energy, enthusiasm and positive relationships with their university-aged coaches,



Run & Read Race Day

while the university students see very tangibly the effects this program is having in terms of increased student fitness, improved reading scores, relationship building and goal setting. The GCM volunteers are invaluable to the ongoing success of this unique outreach program, and they are a blessing to the children in these schools.

—Andrea Moyer  
 Teacher & GCM Board Member

## YOUR DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPUS MINISTRY PROJECTS:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNSHIPS—\$3000  
 WORSHIP SERVICES—\$2000  
 DISCIPLESHIP, INCLUDING WINTER RETREAT—\$1500

HOSPITALITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DINNERS—\$1000  
 ON-CAMPUS SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES—\$500  
 AND, OF COURSE, STAFF SALARIES . . .

Donations can be made online at [www.guelphcm.ca](http://www.guelphcm.ca), or cheques can be made payable to "Guelph Campus Ministry" and sent to: University of Guelph, Raithby House Guelph, ON N1G 2W1