

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry
P. O. Box 750118, Fairbanks, AK 99775
(907) 474-7804 / fbucm@uaf.edu

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God's Image

By David Moore

Last night I went to a Parent Teacher Association presentation on "Reviving Ophelia." We watched a video on how the media portrays young women. One of the things our discussion focused on was print media and that often times these magazines are just one big commercial with scantily dressed, beautiful, thin girls selling perfume, make up and designer jeans. These ads sell the idea that if you wear these things you will be beautiful as well. The magazines offer very little content and substance that has any real value.

We also discussed young men and the "Tough Guy" image, men who either lacked emotions or showed violent actions towards women in movies. Our society often tries to sell us foolishness and sometimes we see it as just that, but as we view things over and over we begin to look more like our culture and less like imitators of God.

Many years ago I heard this story: Once there was a Balloon man giving away balloons, a child came to him and said, "Can I have the red Balloon." The balloon man said, "Yes" and the child asked the question, "will the red balloon fly as high and as far as the rest of them?" The balloon man said, "Yes, because it is what is on the inside that counts." Then the next little girl came up and asked for a blue balloon. She asked if the blue balloon would fly as high and as far as the rest of the balloons and the Balloon man again replied, "Yes, because it is what is on the inside that counts."

This is true with us as well! We are more than our looks or our tough guy image. We fly high because of what we have inside of us; our minds, our hearts and our desire to be like Christ and to serve others because of our love for Him. I hope that you young women would make yourself beautiful by wearing a heart of love, putting on the jewelry of kindness, and the sweet perfume of service. I hope that we as men will be strong in our faith, tough in our persistence to seek out God and solid in our service to those around us.

March Event Up Date

Ice Alaska:

On a cold Monday night we met in the UCM office and headed to the Fairbanks Ice Park. It was a wonderful evening that included laughter and yelling as we slid down ice slides, wandered through mazes and piled into an ice hot tub (that did not contain water). Once we had warmed up from our activity we wandered through the rest of the park in awe and amazement at the intricate ice sculptures.

Student Testimony

By Megan Faulkner

I would like to share how UCM has been a blessing to me in my college years and has become a part of my family. After my senior year of high school I was extremely scared about leaving high school and home to go to college and a new place. When I arrived in Fairbanks I had one foot still clinging tightly to the home nest and was certain that I was not going to get through college. But I got involved slowly with UCM and gradually felt I was going to survive.

Many people get involved with groups of friends that party and drink but the people who go to UCM are like me. They believe in God and have similar values. When we do not believe in the same things we do not shun one another but accept it. Most of the friends I have now I have met through UCM and I am glad that Clarissa pushed me into joining. I know that God has brought me to UCM to make me realize that anyone can survive in any situation as long as one has a good group of friends. I am blessed the God has brought UCM into my life. I still have a good hold on the home nest but it is gradually loosening as I realize I can survive without my family on a daily basis. I will be alright as long as I can realize that I have family and friends that will be there for me whenever I need them and being involved with UCM helped me realize that.

United Campus Ministry
University of Alaska Fairbanks
PO Box 750118
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0118
(907)474-7804

UPCOMING UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

Vespers: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the lounge above Lola Tilly to participate in an "Evening of worship." Come join us for singing, prayer, a message, and time with friends!

Bible Study: Thursdays from 1-1:50pm we meet in the lounge above Lola Tilly for a mid-week Bible Study. We are discussing and learning from the Leaders from the Old Testament.

Music Ministry: If you play an instrument or like to sing, come join us on Sunday afternoons. We meet at 3pm in the UCM office and work through songs to sing for Tuesday Evening Worship.

Mission Fest: Saturday, April 8th we are going to a convention at Friends Church to learn about different mission opportunities both in town and abroad. **We will meet in the UCM office at noon** and should be back on campus by 2:30pm. The event is free but since this will set up like a convention, we suggest you bring money if you would like to purchase something to eat.

Thank You Dinner: Sunday, April 23rd we are hosting a thank you dinner for our sponsors. **We will meet at UCPC at 4 pm** to prepare the meal and our guests will arrive at 6pm. The evening will include memories from this past year, accomplishments, singing, student testimonies and a slideshow. Please come join us and help thank our sponsors.

Care Packages: Sunday, April 30th we will be meeting in the UCM office at 5pm to pack the care packages that have been purchased for students by their parents as a fund raiser for UCM. It is a time of fun and service that ends with pizza. Please come help out if you are able.

