

COMMON GROUND

Newsletter of United Campus Ministry

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From the office:

This past weekend my wife and I were at the house of some friends of ours (Amy and Travis) helping them to clear some of their property of brush and logs. I worked fairly hard and on our breaks I drank mostly root beer and only a little water. I wore a sweatshirt for a long time because I did not want to scrape up my arms. To make a long story short, I strained my muscles quite a bit and I got a little dehydrated.

I also slept awkwardly on my pillow that night and when I woke up I had a bit of a crick in my neck. I tried to drink a lot of water to rehydrate myself, but once my neck gets really tight, it is hard to get it loose again. My three-year-old daughter Eryn and I went ice skating that morning, though I should have stayed home. At the ice rink I was cold and began to tense up, making my neck even stiffer. That was a problem, because it is kind of important to turn your head when you are ice skating--especially when skating backward.

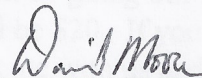
Anyway, by 5 PM I was ready for help, so we called the chiropractor, and, fortunately, we were able to get in that evening. By that time I was moaning and groaning loud enough to make a small child in the waiting room run behind her mother. Eryn, however, was not afraid, possibly because her mother was laughing and at times I was too.

So I spent the next few days where I could not pick Eryn up; I did not read her books in bed, I did not rock her in her bear blanket, and we certainly didn't go ice skating. I missed being able to hold my child, and I couldn't stand the fact that I was unable to do some of the simplest things with her.

In the same way, our Heavenly Father misses us when we are separated, but He does not have a crick in His neck, nor is He unable to pick us up. On the contrary He carries us in good times and bad, but we can choose to break His heart by choosing not to seek Him. In fact, it is we children who create the separation when we refuse to let Him pick us up.

Although God never withdraws His love, many young men and women choose to use this time of their lives to test uncharted waters and to move away from God and His love. I hope that this is not your choice; I hope that you will seek God's face and find the life and love that we all need.

I believe that United Campus Ministry is a place where you can find God's love and be able to grow closer to Him during your college years. I encourage you to check UCM out--stop by the office, join us for the Fall Kickoff Cookout, or drop in at any of our regular activities. God bless and have a great year!



David Moore, Director

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY: "Ra-Mon-Day"--Have a free Ramen lunch with friends in the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall). Drop in anytime between 12 and 1:30.

Music Practice--Come to sing, play guitar or just listen as we practice the music for Tuesday's Vespers service

TUESDAY: Vespers--Casual worship service, Upper Lola Tilly Commons, 7:30 PM

THURSDAY: Lunch Bunch Bible Study--Bring your own lunch; we'll bring snacks. 307 Gruening @ 1 PM. This semester we are discussing James.

SUNDAY: Leadership--Open to anyone interested in planning UCM activities 307 Gruening @ 3 PM.

****Weekly events begin the week of September 5th, with the exception of Music and Ra-Mon-Day (Labor Day)****

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FREE KICKOFF BARBECUE! Let's kick off this semester on the right foot! Meet at the UCM office (306 Constitution Hall) at **5:30 PM on Friday, September 3rd**. We will caravan to Jim and Judy Harris' home for good food and a great time. Bring a friend!

LEADERSHIP will be held on **Sunday, September 5th at 3 PM**. We will be reading The Theology of the Hammer, by Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity. We are looking for a few good leaders...so come with your fresh outlook and ideas. This means YOU!

VESPERS is an informal worship service held upstairs in the Lola Tilly Commons every **Tuesday night at 7:30 PM**. The first Vespers of this semester will be **Tuesday, September 7th**. It's a great opportunity in the middle of your busy week to "take time out" for God!

LUNCH BUNCH is a weekly Bible study held on **Thursdays from 1 PM to 1:50 PM**. The first Lunch Bunch will be **Thursday, September 9th**. This semester we will study and discuss the book of James. Bring your lunch, Bible, and a friend. Snacks are provided.

FALL RETREAT will be **September 17th-18th**. We will meet at the UCM office on **Friday, September 17th at 6 PM**. We will be doing missions projects around Fairbanks on both days and will spend Friday night at First United Methodist Church. We will cap off the retreat Saturday night by going out to eat and will return to campus the same evening. The cost will be \$20. If you cannot afford this, please speak with David. We want you to come with us and we'll help you in any way we can!