

Transforming MU NEWS FROM UWE

MARCH — APRIL 2004



Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is a community where we love people, care for people, are passionate about Jesus Christ and the things of God.

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Greetings from Mizzou! It's hard to believe, but it's finals week and the semester is over. It passed rapidly, yet so many lives were touched. It's not only at our weekly service, not only at our monthly activity, not only at our prayer meeting, or even our cell group Bible studies that students worship, but they glorify Jesus through their daily life. It's not about their faithfulness to certain activities, but about character and life transformation.

I am honored to be a part of God's movement among college students at MU. Once again, there is not enough space to report about all the highlights and testimonies of just the last two months. I will only be able to share a few stories. But though this is the end of the semester, it is not the end of relationships, it is not the end of Christ's plan and work, and it is not the end for our need to grow closer to Jesus.

As this newsletter should arrive at your homes, I am in Haiti with 12 other people from Chi Alpha, serving Jesus in the poorest country of the Western hemisphere. I am always floored by the genuine thankfulness and worship of the Haitian people. What an honor to be able to touch and disciple those who already follow God and to share the good news with those who don't yet. Although there are so many differences between Haiti and the US, the purpose for our creation and the message of Christ's sacrifice for us remains the same. In prayer and worship, let us stand in the gap together for the sake of Christ.

UNUSUAL OUTREACHES

In Chi Alpha we always try to find new ways to make new contacts and build new relationships with people. Throughout the semester we invented new games and service projects, and we also used established and success-proven ideas.

One of our established inventions is **Flamingo Football**. It is full-tackle football, but the guys have to jump on one foot at all times. For the first time in the last three years, the guys were the winners of this year's competition.

Once in March, we added an outreach to promote our regular service: We gave out **hot chocolate and bagels** at one of the study places, together with our flyers and a free CDROM about Chi Alpha.

On April 6, we had a very special event at Chi Alpha: We had the **Christian band** "The Professional Americans" as guests. We also provided food for this occasion. About 200 students came, checked Chi Alpha out, and enjoyed the concert. Many new relationships were planted and stereotypes were broken.



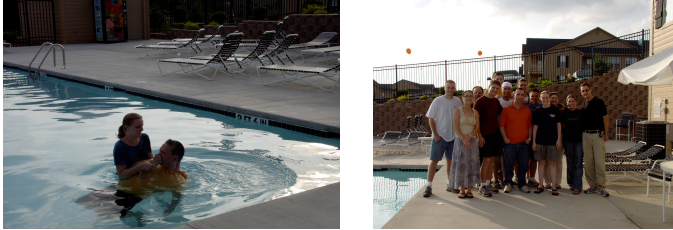
For ISF (International Student Friendship) we always prepare an educational, but fun activity. Our last ISF event this year was a trip to a **farm with a fishing pond** nearby. Many internationals caught their first fish in their lives.



"For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime" (Psalms 30:5)

BAPTISM

In my last newsletter, I told you about my Albanian friend **Hektor**. Like many Europeans, who might be sprinkle-baptized as babies, Hektor was never fully water-baptized. It is with great pleasure that I can report that Hektor decided to fill this void, before he left for his home country.



Hektor's baptism and group of witnesses



Hektor and I

FINAL BANQUET

On April 30th we held our end of the year **formal banquet** with 100 students attending. It was a great evening in which we captured memories and embraced the growth and friendships that have taken place this year. Graduating seniors were recognized as well as those who are leaving this semester. We rejoice to have many new students come to Chi Alpha and into our lives. When it is time to say goodbye, it's hard to part with the ones we have given so much to and received so much from.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

In April we took 28 students and our 8 staff on a **Leadership Retreat** to Excelsior Springs, MO. These students will make up our Leadership team for the next year. At the retreat, there was praise and worship, training sessions, dream sessions, and a great deal of planning. It was so awesome to see the team grow for next year and to see students really begin to take ownership of Chi Alpha, to see them build closer relationships with each other and with Jesus, and to see them prepare with great anticipation.

WHAT'S NEXT?

While the winter semester is over, the summer has just started. I would like to let you know about a few things I and Chi Alpha will be doing over summer:

- Between May 17 and June 1, 2004, I will join 12 other people in going back to Petit Goave, Haiti. We are planning to preach, pray for people, play soccer with the kids, teach discipleship classes, teach English classes, help with the feeding program and much, much more.
- Between June 14 and June 26, 2004, I and two of my fellow staff members will be attending Reach the U Institute (RUI) which is a national training conference in Springfield, MO. We will be going through the staff track and we hope to gain a vast amount of knowledge and training. We will also be taking several students to participate in a 5 day student track.
- For the first time at MU, Chi Alpha plans to hold an informal weekly service during the summer semester (mid-June to the end of July), completely led by the students.
- I will spend most of my remaining time raising my budget. It is crucial for me to complete my budget and fundraising in order to stay on campus full-time next year. Your giving truly impacts students and their decision to follow Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As always, I desire your prayers. I like to repeat the truth: Prayer precedes everything.

Please be led by the Spirit whenever you pray for me. I believe that God will show you my prayer needs clearer than what I can ever ask for. The main prayer requests that came to my mind this time are these:

- Guidance and protection for our missions trip to Haiti. While we have many specific prayer requests, we want to see God's will done, and He has always something unexpected for us...
- Effective learning at RUI; that I will grow closer to Jesus through world-class teachings, and that I will be able to apply and use them on the missions field.
- Blessing and anointing for the summer services of Chi Alpha.
- Success in increasing my support team during this summer, and reaching 100% of my budget.