



Ming surrounded by members of his church family. From left to right: Erica, Geoff, Ming, Bonita, Sarah, Greg, and Ashley.

A Christian Family

Ming Jiang

graduate student in School of Information at University of Michigan

It was Sunday morning of my first week in the States and I was walking around campus when I saw a small church with an ongoing service. In the middle of the sermon, I walked in through the door at the front of the sanctuary and freaked out quite a few people. That was how I became a part of Campus Chapel.

My first few months at the Campus Chapel were a “religious cultural shock” to me. Before I came to the United States, I went to church every Sunday with my mom, who is a Chinese Christian. The church there is big and has all kinds of people. Campus Chapel, however, is a much smaller church with mostly UM students, and people enjoy having fellowship and talking with each other after each worship service. It took me some time to get used to it. I felt extremely nervous talking with people I didn’t know and I was terrible at remembering names! And the sermons were now in English. And the music! I, sitting in the back seat, always squeezed my eyes to see the music at the front, and tried very hard to keep in tune with the people around me. That was a really funny experience, if you ask me.

One problem usually troubling international students is loneliness. This, however, doesn’t trouble me anymore. Besides worship services, there are tons of activities going on around the Campus Chapel that I’ve never done before. We have community dinners; we have book clubs; we go canoeing. We even

watch the Super Bowl together! Being with Chapel folks is my best pastime.

The most important experience I have in the Campus Chapel is that I get to learn more about Jesus’ teaching. The pastors keep giving awesome sermons that I

“I’m glad that the Campus Chapel is a part of my life and is the window through which I see and learn the American culture and American Christians’ way of life.”

learn a lot from. Reading the book “Simply Christian” together this past summer is one of my most memorable experiences. There is also the early-morning Bible study group. Every conversation is engaging: so engaging that it makes seven o’clock in the morning seem not that early! Delicious breakfast, of course, is a part of the reason, too.

Looking back at my first year in the United States, I’m glad that the Campus Chapel is a part of my life and is the window through which I see and learn the American culture and American Christians’ way of life. And you ask me what the single most important thing is that I learned this year? I would say it is that Christians are like a family; and no matter where you are from, what culture you grow up with, or what language you speak, there aren’t any “foreigners” in this family.

www.campuschapel.org

What a Difference a Year Makes

Pastor Geoff Van Dragt

Pastor for Chapel Community

Just over one year ago, Ashley and I arrived to the Campus Chapel as interns, recently graduated from seminary and eager to take our first step in ministry. Over those first months, our time was spent meeting a lot of new people, orienting ourselves to a new city and learning the rich history and customs of the Chapel. This year, the first months of the academic calendar have looked quite different. With a year of experience under our belts and a passion to see the Chapel community grow in size and depth, when September rolled around we hit the ground running. With an exceptional group of invested student leaders working alongside of us, exciting things are happening at the Campus Chapel! Below are some of the Chapel happenings that we are particularly happy to report.



EXTREME MAKEOVER, CHAPEL EDITION: *This past summer, with the help of dedicated student volunteers, the Chapel basement got a much needed facelift. We ripped up the grungy thirteen year old carpet and replaced it with a beautiful stamped concrete floor. Between that, a fresh coat of paint and some new furniture you would hardly recognize the place. The transformation has made the Chapel basement a hub for ministry activity as well as a place for students to hang out in between classes.*



SMALL GROUPS: *The Chapel is excited to be offering four different small groups this fall. Participants are studying everything from Augustine's Confessions to the Sermon on the Mount to the issue of Christian faith and the problem of evil. These groups are excellent for both learning and building community. We're especially excited that students are involved as small group leaders this year.*



FELLOWSHIP: *Our newly formed Community Life team has planned the Chapel's fellowship events all fall. Among these have been game nights, outings to sporting events and a bonfire. An exciting development this year has been our weekly Wednesday evening community dinners in which 25 students descend on the Chapel basement for an hour of food, conversation and lots of laughter. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to touch base and decompress mid-way through the week.*



SERVICE: *This year, the Chapel community has committed to volunteering at the community kitchen housed in Ann Arbor's homeless shelter, the Delonis Center. So, the fourth Friday of each month a group of ten spends two hours cooking and serving a meal to the city's homeless population. As a community, we've certainly been as blessed by this opportunity as those whom we serve.*



Director's Corner : Engaging Ethos

Dr. Rolf Bouma

Director of CFS and Pastor for Academic Ministries

In my nine years at the University of Michigan, the ethos of the student population has shifted several times. Odd how these things happen so quickly. In 2002, it was the iPod era, with half the student body plugged into a little world of earbuds and iTunes, oblivious to anything or anyone else around them.

Just a few years later, iPods turned into cell phones. The iPod obliivators were still there, but they were joined by those carrying on chatty conversations with people in other places. Most recently, the cell phone culture has morphed. Now people are more likely to be texting on their cell phones or surfing the web on their smartphones than they are to be talking.

Classroom etiquette has shifted as well. Three years ago, instructors only had to cope with students texting surreptitiously on their cell phone. Now the issue has become laptops. All classrooms at the University of Michigan have wireless web access. Students can access the Internet during class. Web surfing, e-mailing, instant messaging, Facebooking, YouTube watching -- it's all fair game during a lecture. Most of my colleagues have gone to banning laptops in the classroom, and I, myself, did so beginning this fall.

The lament among teachers is that no one can sustain attention any longer. It's not that students habitually multitask -- have multiple things with which they occupy their attention. It's that attention, even when captured, cannot be sustained for anything more than a few minutes or a few pages. Gone are the days when a professor can assign a 40-page reading and expect that students will be able to follow the argument from beginning to end. It's not that students won't read anything that

long, but that they can't. We are losing the capacity for sustained reflection on a topic.

Critics of culture will point to multiple arenas in which the effects can be seen -- shallow and inconsistent political discourse, faddish and knee-jerk economic behavior to name just two. Is it possible that the realm of religious faith has escaped these influences? Not a chance. Spiritual convictions can, like anything else, lose their depth.

"Too often our spiritual convictions show little depth other than historical or emotional attachment. "

How does one buck the trend, recognizing the nature of the times without becoming its victim? I have changed my approach to teaching. Required readings are shorter. Video clips are now sprinkled throughout the lecture. Philosophical arguments run no more than 15 minutes at a time. I try to allow for different ways of accessing knowledge and expressing it. At the same time, there are some non-negotiables. Opinions have to be reflective opinions. Viewpoints have to engage the world as it is, not as it's assumed to be. Experience counts for something. Experience plus thoughtful reflection counts even more.

It also makes me appreciate both people and settings in which consistent reflection takes place. It's one of the reasons I enjoy so much working with Christian graduate students. There is something about faith commitments that keeps people engaged in thinking about what they're doing and why they're doing it. And that's why I think attentiveness should be at the top of the list of Christian virtues at a place like U of M.

Renewing the Positive Interface between Science and Religion

Dr. Denis Alexander, director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at Cambridge University, gave two talks on the current state of science and religion on a recent swing through Michigan. He noted that the popularized conflict with atheism and theism that uses science as a crowbar to keep the two apart is not to be found in academic circles where a number of fruitful dialogues are taking place.



The January Series

CFS will again host a remote broadcast of the January Series lectures from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. One of the most acclaimed lecture series in the country, the January Series spans 15 days during the month of January. The lectures run from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and will be shown in the downstairs of the Campus Chapel. This year's lecturers include Krista Tippett, Temple Grandin, Andy Crouch, Cal Ripken, Jr., and Jean Twenge. For a complete list of speakers, visit:

www.calvin.edu/january.



Ryan Bebej is a Ph.D. candidate at University of Michigan in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Exploring the “Valley of Whales”

Au Sable Grad Fellow Ryan Bebej achieved every graduate student's dream when he found himself part of a featured article in the August 2010 *National Geographic* magazine. NG followed Ryan and the rest of University of Michigan professor Philip Gingerich's paleontology lab on their December trip to Egypt to uncover whale fossils strewn throughout the Wadi Al-Hitan (meaning “valley of whales”). As Ryan tells it:

“After spending the first several years of my time as a Ph.D. student working in UM's Museum of Paleontology on whale fossils my advisor had collected over the years, I finally got my own chance to go to the “Valley of Whales” to help find, excavate, and collect new fossils. The location was absolutely breathtaking and certainly lived up to its name. I saw a large sampling of the thousands of whale fossils that UM teams have documented since my advisor began fieldwork there nearly three decades ago, and I participated in excavating several new specimens that expand our knowledge of the marine mammal fauna in this region during the late Eocene. This research will help to elucidate the details of the transition from the last semiaquatic whales to the first fully aquatic forms, further documenting arguably the best example of macroevolution in the fossil record.”

Ryan expects to complete his dissertation work in the spring of this year.



Veritas Forum: The Music, Art, and Ethics of Suffering

On October 28, a variety of Christian campus ministries sponsored a Veritas Forum at the Power Center on the theme of suffering. Presenters were Ray DeVries (bioethics), Tim Lowly (art), and John Rapson (music). Lowly and Rapson gave additional presentations at the Schools of Music and Art, as well as providing music at area worship services on the weekend.



Top Row: John Rapson, Professor of Music in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa.

Next Row: students and Ann Arbor residents fill the Power Center at University of Michigan to attend this year's Veritas lecture.



Next Row: Tim Grubbs Lowly, Gallery Director, Artist-in-residence, and Assitant Professor at North Park University, Chicago.



Bottom Row: Raymond G. De Vries, Professor of Bioethics, School of Medicine at the University of Michigan.

New CFS Fellows

Three new CFS Graduate Fellows have been appointed during the 2011 Fall term. Graduate students in Ph.D. programs at the University of Michigan are eligible for appointment. The new Fellows are:



Aaron Iverson is a second-year PhD student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program studying tropical ecology and agroecology. His research takes him to southern Mexico to study biological control in coffee agroecosystems. Aaron has a background in Christian environmental studies. Prior to beginning his graduate studies he worked as an intern at ECHO, a faith-based tropical agriculture training and resource farm. He also spent a year in Mozambique working in agricultural development.



Melody Pugh is a second-year PhD student in English and Education at the University of Michigan. Melody is a graduate of Wheaton College, with an M.A. in English Literature from Loyola University Chicago. She worked for Christianity Today International and spent more than three years teaching writing and literature in the English department at Wheaton College. Melody hopes that her current research will contribute to our understanding of the way that Christian students draw on religious beliefs and traditions as they learn to engage in the argumentation and writing practices of their academic communities.



David Heetderks is a sixth year PhD student in the music theory program in the University of Michigan School of Music. A graduate of the University of Maryland with a Masters degree from Yale University, David is a violist and an accomplished composer, having received numerous awards for his compositions, including a Young Composer Award from The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. His dissertation work focuses on competing theories of tonality in mid-20th century music.

New Au Sable Graduate Fellow



Since 2002, the Au Sable Graduate Fellows program has helped Christian graduate students in the biological and ecological sciences keep their vocation and their faith in creative relationship. Now a number of these students are finding their way into teaching positions at colleges and universities and into responsibilities with non-profit organizations with environmental impact. At a recent Au Sable board meeting, program coordinator Rolf Bouma reported that former Grad Fellows now hold teaching positions at the University of Minnesota, the University of Guelph, Bethel College (MN), Grace College (IN), Calvin College, Ohio State University, and Montreal College. Other Grad Fellows are engaged in such diverse jobs as salmon habitat restoration, land conservancy, EPA administration, and organic farming.



Keith Hayes-Gregsen is a Masters student in aquatic sciences at University of Michigan in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. He is studying the environmental impacts of aquaculture production in Asia, and researching ways to ecologically reduce aquaculture waste products. His interest is in understanding the trophic and nutrient linkages in ecosystems and humans effect on them. Keith did his undergraduate at Westmont College studying Sociology. Prior to Michigan, Keith led wilderness backpacking trips for Summit Adventure, a faith based wilderness expedition organization, and worked at LCC International University in Lithuania as the Intercultural Programs Coordinator.

A Chapel Welcome

Sarah Shubitowski

graduate student in School of Public Policy at University of Michigan

I have the unique experience of being able to say that the ministries of the Campus Chapel began impacting my life even before I moved to Ann Arbor. Prior to moving, I heard about the Chapel's book club and so I got the name of their book of the month and planned my arrival around the date the book club was scheduled to meet.


I moved to Ann Arbor with only a few suitcases, a new address, and nervous anticipation of what the adventure of graduate school would bring. Little did I know, I would be overwhelmed with gratitude as members of the Campus Chapel helped me settle into my new life. Between picking me up from the airport, frequently inviting me to dinner and even lending me a car to do my grocery shopping, folks from the Chapel made me feel so welcomed and cared for. From the first week, I knew that the Chapel was a community I wanted to be a part of and contribute to.

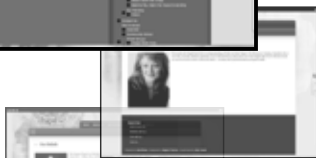


Left: Sarah setting up tables for a Friday meal at Community Kitchens.

Right: Students having fellowship with one another over a Wednesday night dinner.

The life of a university student is rarely predictable. Group meetings and assignments (read: stress) can pop up out of nowhere. But at the Chapel there is an understanding that it is ok when we can't do everything, and that we are all in it together. If you're on campus until 6pm on Wednesdays, there is a hot meal and fellowship waiting for you in the Chapel basement. If you want to do service in the Ann Arbor community, you can sign up to work at Food Gatherers Community Kitchen. Through shared food, experiences and new friendships, the Chapel provides ample alternatives to the numerous, and often unhealthy, activities that take place on campus.

I am thankful for the relationships I've formed and experiences I've had at the Campus Chapel. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of a truly welcoming, intentional and caring community. 



www.campuschapel.org

We're pleased to announce that the Campus Chapel has a brand new website where you can find more Chapel information than you ever cared to know.

*We invite you to take a few minutes to check it out. Please take note that, under the "Resources" tab, you can opt to receive a paperless version of *Inklings* via email, beginning with the Spring 2011 edition. Also, you will soon be able to donate to Campus Chapel Ministries electronically via the website. Happy browsing!*

STAFF

Rolf Bouma, Pastor for Academic Ministries +

Director, Center of Faith & Scholarship

Geoffrey Van Dragt, Pastor for Chapel Community

Ashley Van Dragt, Pastor for Chapel Community

Natalie Wiersma, Office Administrator

Sabrina Na, Intern for Music & Worship

Rachel Stehouwer, CFS Program Assistant

Campus Chapel
1236 Washtenaw Ct
Ann Arbor, MI 4814

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