

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

Bishop's University & Champlain College

2013-2014

The year at a glance

It has been a very rewarding year in Campus Ministry. In this report I have included some of the highlights.

Prison Ministry

Every second Monday evening the campus minister along with student volunteers travelled to the Drummond Federal Penitentiary to take part in the Bible Study evening organized by the prison chaplain. Prison volunteering is rewarding experience. We are deeply aware that our presence shows God's love for the inmates in a very tangible way. Sarah, who has volunteered for two years says, "I believe that my time volunteering has given me invaluable experiences that a text book could not. The most important thing I have learned is the remarkable impact of volunteer work. It is necessary for the prisoners' rehabilitation to have volunteers visit them. I think that volunteer work is also necessary in balancing my life. It keeps student life in perspective and it is a grounding community."

Food plays a key role

Something special happens when food is shared. Campus Ministry has partnered with area churches, Anglican, Presbyterian, United and Unitarian Universalist, to provide free suppers to students on Friday evenings. The churches provide both the financial and human resources to put on the suppers. The students really appreciate being able to enjoy a home cooked meal and to sit down at table at the end of a busy week and enjoy fellowship with others. One particularly stormy Friday evening this winter the host church thought that no one would come. Instead a large number of students showed up happy to enjoy a hot meal and reluctant to leave at the end to go back out to the storm.



From the Lennoxville United Church website

A second project involving food is the very popular exam refreshments. At the end of each semester the Campus Ministry Committee hosts an evening of refreshments in the staff lounge of the library. This is 'crunch time' for students so making time to grocery shop and prepare food are almost impossible. Students are grateful for this opportunity to relax for a few minutes and enjoy some home cooked treats.

Empty Bowls

This is a North American grassroots movement to help provide for the hungry in local communities. We hosted the first ever event in Sherbrooke. Local potter and Champlain College counsellor Lucy Doheny collaborated with Campus Ministry to make this amazing event happen. Lucy made most of the bowls and then we hosted a decorating event one beautiful September afternoon. Students came to put their artistic talents to good use and Paul Kaeser, the director of Champlain and Michael Goldbloom, BU principal also got involved.

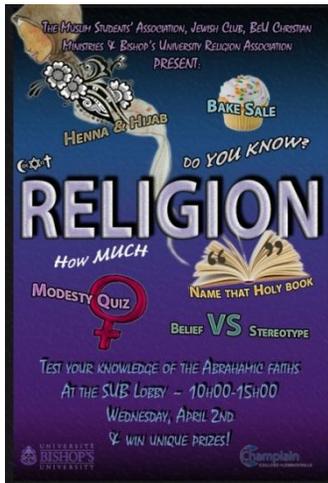


On October 19 the lunch took place at Hope Community Church who generously donated their space. Each person attending got to choose their bowl (which they got to keep), enjoy home-made soup prepared by local chefs and bread donated by local bakeries as well as fresh apples donated by the local Provigo. The money raised was donated to the Lennoxville Elementary School Breakfast Program, Cornerstone Food Bank and the Campus Ministry Pastoral Fund which assists needy students. The second annual Empty Bowls lunch is being planned for this fall.

Religious clubs

There are three religious student clubs on campus: The Jewish Students Association, The Muslim Students Association and the BeU Christian Student Ministries. There is also an academic club for students who are studying religion. This year for the first time we started a council of the leaders of these clubs and did some activities together.

We hosted a discussion evening at which students were asked to share how their faith impacted on their daily life on campus. In April we hosted an event in the Student Union Building entitled, "Religion – How Much Do You Know".



Poster created by Madhiha Taseen

There were fun activities such as Guess that Holy Book, Henna and Hijab, Modesty Quiz and Belief vs. Stereotype. There was lots of interest and we had both students and faculty stopping by the tables to try our quizzes and win prizes.

Sacred Spaces

Our campus has three sacred spaces.

The Muslim Prayer Room is located at the side of 5 Mackinnon Drive and is available daily for prayer.

The labyrinth is located on the lawn beside Divinity House. Although available anytime for personal use, on Friday afternoons in the fall semester the campus minister and one of the counsellors

held a drumming circle and a guided walk of the labyrinth. **St. Mark's Chapel** is open every day for prayer and meditation. The chapel is also used for activities during the week as well as for worship on Sundays during the academic year.

Our partners

Campus ministry could not function without the generous support of our partners.

- Anglican Diocese of Quebec
- Bishop's University Committee on Life
- BU Foundation
- Bishop's University Student Representative Council
- Champlain Regional College
- Quebec Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Canada
- St Francis Deanery
- St. Peter's Anglican Church
- St. Mark's Chapel, BU/CRC campus
- United Church of Canada, Mission and Service Fund
- Individual donors

Campus Ministry Committee

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