

Help Us Reach Our Annual Fund Goal

Another academic year has drawn to a close and the graduating students who we have grown accustomed to seeing on a daily basis are moving on. We have been blessed with their presence and involvement at the Newman Center – now it is time to send them out to be of service to others in their chosen career as well as in a parish in their community.



Celia Eckermann
Development Assistant

The financial support provided by so many of you allows the ministry of the Newman Center to impact the lives of these wonderful students and fulfill our mission of

preparing them to be disciples for the Church and the world. Your gifts through Offertory or to our Annual Fund provide more than 75 percent of the income needed to meet our annual operating budget of over \$800,000.

As we near the end of the fiscal year (June 30), we ask you to prayerfully consider a gift to the Newman Center's Annual Fund. To-date we have raised \$150,750 towards our goal of \$165,000—that's 91 percent! Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated—every gift truly makes a difference! Please consider making a gift to the Newman Center today to help us reach our goal by June 30!

With your support the Newman Center can continue to send off our graduates

each year better prepared to be disciples for the Church and the world. You may make your gift securely online at www.iowacatholic.org, or you may mail in your contribution using the enclosed envelope to the Newman Catholic Student Center, 104 E. Jefferson Street, Iowa City, IA 52245.

If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office at newmandonations@newman-ic.org or (319) 337-3106 ext. 104. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Newman Center!



2016 Fr. Edward Fitzpatrick Discipleship Award Recipients Named

The Fr. Edward Fitzpatrick Discipleship Fund was established in 2015 to acknowledge recent Roman Catholic graduates of The University of Iowa and the Newman Center who become involved in either a parish or a non-profit. \$500 awards are donated to the parish or non-profit in the name of the graduates. These awards are a concrete way to note how graduates are putting into practice the mission of the Newman Center to prepare disciples for the Church or the world.

"All of us who have been part of the Newman Center trust that our mission here has an impact in the world outside of the Center," says Fr. Edward Fitzpatrick, former director of the Center and the award's namesake. "These recipients are joyful evidence that this is true. We are all blessed by the positive impact that these Newman Center disciples have on their new community and ours. May they continue to use God's gifts to help others."

Kevin Biestek, St. Thomas the Apostle, Crystal Lake, IL

Kevin was the 2011-12 Bible Study Fellow at the Newman Center. He graduated in 2014 with a BA in Statistics and works as an Underwriter. He volunteers for the St. Thomas the Apostle Peer Ministry team working with 6-8th graders to help them grow in their Catholic faith.

Abigail Heaton, The Stewpot, Dallas, TX

Abigail (Graham) Heaton was a member of the Newman Center and a 2003 UI graduate. Abigail worked with The Stewpot organization to envision and build an urban community garden and horticultural therapy program (Encore Park Community Garden).

David Jung, Knights of Columbus, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Collins, CO

David is a 2015 UI Carver College of Medicine graduate, and is completing his residency in Family Medicine in Fort Collins. David has recently joined his parish's Knights of Columbus, which provides him with a wonderful opportunity to serve in parish-related stewardship activities.

Patricia (Patty) Nonnie, Marian Middle School, St. Louis, MO

Patty graduated in 2014 and is currently a dietitian graduate student at St. Louis University. She serves as a group leader for the Marian Middle School's enrichment program for 7th-grade girls from low-income families.

Kayla Schneider, Systems Unlimited Inc., Iowa City, IA

Kayla served the Newman Center as the 2014-15 Justice and Peace Fellow graduating in 2015. She volunteered for Systems Unlimited and recently became a permanent employee supervising several homes and fellow staff members.

Erin Walsh, Mercy High School, Omaha NE

Erin was the 2005-06 Justice and Peace Fellow at the Newman Center and a 2006 Iowa graduate. At Mercy she led class retreats and service trips as well as helped start Mercy's Kairos community, a Jesuit-influenced program where she serves meals, give witness talks, and is present for retreatants.

Newman Center alumni are strongly encouraged to apply for this annual award. Applications can be found on the Newman Center's website of www.iowacatholic.org and should be completed and submitted by April 1 each year. Recipients are selected by a committee and awarded by the end of May.



Newman Outreach

A Publication for Alumni, Parents and Friends of the Newman Center at The University of Iowa

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Mission Statement

As a Newman Catholic Student Center, we provide Roman Catholic ministry to those associated with The University of Iowa to promote their development within a faith community and to prepare them as disciples for the Church and for the world.

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www.facebook.com/iowacatholic

Donations accepted online at
www.iowacatholic.org/donations.html

Encouraging a culture of discipleship

The Newman Center encourages a culture of discipleship. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide various programs and retreats that empower students to grow in their relationship with Christ and instill a love of servitude to the Church and the world. As I get to know our students, their questions and struggles with vocation seem to come up frequently. They want to know: *What is God asking of me? Where do I turn to find out what God wants? Do my desires confirm or conflict with God's will? Is this what I should be doing? How do I know?*



At some point in time, we all have asked these questions or similar ones. **We accept that personal vocation is God's call to each person to live the unique life that God has prepared for him or her.** This spring semester at the Newman Center, our programs, lecturer seminars, and retreats focused on vocation.

Discerning our vocation begins with the knowledge of scripture and Church tradition. Fr. Steve Witt and Dr. Corrine Winter instructed the college level theology course *Catholicism 101: Scripture and Tradition*, early in the semester. Dr. Winters encouraged students to, "live with the complexity of the question and try not to simplify." Most Reverend Bishop Pates and Vocations Director Fr. Joe Pins from the Diocese of Des Moines fielded questions from students, during a "Stump the Bishop" session in February. At the Newman Center, we provide a sacred and safe place for students to ask questions and recognize that inquiry is an important part of faith formation and discernment.

I am thrilled to announce that Christine Wissink will be joining our staff in August as the Director of Outreach and Education. She is a Cedar Rapids native who will be relocating with her husband from Sacramento, California, where she has worked as an Associate Director for Campus Ministry at three Newman Centers in the Diocese. Christine has a master's degree in Ministry from Loras College. Thank you for your support of the Outreach and Education Fund which provides for this vital position.

Our priests, students, staff, and community contribute their gifts generously. A heartfelt gratitude to all of you for helping us encourage a culture of discipleship at the Newman Center. Fr. Jeff Belger agrees: "It has been refreshing to hear conversations around the Newman Center concerning prayer, discernment, and focus on both present and future vocation in the lives of the students within the Church. It's good to know they are connected and listening to the voice of God and one another." Our graduates are sharing their gifts and serving in the community. See back page for this year's Discipleship awardees.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable ministry forming our students, preparing them for a life of discipleship.

Peace,

Laurie Harris, Newman Center Executive Director

What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.

— Hans Urs von Balthasar

2016 Spring Semester Highlights

- The graduate and young professional retreat, “Livin’ on a Prayer” was held on January 23 at Prairiewoods in Hiawatha, Iowa. Traditional, meditative and contemplative prayer practices were explored that helped participants deepen their personal relationships with God and each other.

- Most Reverend Bishop Pates and Vocations Director Fr. Joe Pins, from the Diocese of Des Moines, fielded questions from students, during a “Stump the Bishop” session on February 11. There was captivating student dialog on a range of topics, such as pastoral approaches to those suffering from economic downturn, serving the growing Hispanic population, insight on evangelizing to youth, and overcoming partisan divisions.

- The “Discover” undergraduate vocation retreat on the March 14 weekend offered 30 students time to step away from the busyness of campus life to explore the question of “What is God calling me to do with my life?” Students had opportunities to hear from peers and priests about their personal experiences of self-discovery, discovering God’s love and helpful tools to listen for and recognize God’s call. Throughout the retreat they had occasions for prayer: personal reflection time, spiritual direction, Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, and Rosary (especially for vocation), Mass, and Reconciliation.

- The Spring Seminar Series “Lunch and Learn” started on March 22. These noon-hour seminars featured three speakers (Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Fellow in Catholic Studies at the UI; Joes Welter, deacon formation program; and Dr. Nick Rossi,



Thirty Newman Center students took an exciting adventure in discovery on February 26 to Camp Wyoming in Wyoming, Iowa for the undergraduate “Discover” Retreat. They found that the surest path to happiness is to discover what God is inviting them to do with their life and to accept that invitation.

Emeritus Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the UI) addressing the spirituality of Family, Food, Living our Faith and Vocation in the context of our Catholic faith.

- Newman Center Catholic Studies Scholar Emma Miller Shindelar presented her research on May 3, regarding the Bible, science and Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si* to answer the question: What is Christianity’s role in preserving the Earth? Emma’s scholarship is funded by the Newman Catholic Studies Scholar Fund, held at the UI Foundation.

“Vocation is responding with our gifts to the needs of the world,” Sr. Alicia Torres said during the April 17 lecture at the Newman Center. Donor gifts to the Center helped fund honorariums to our diverse facilitators, such as Sr. Alicia, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist in Chicago and winner of the Food Network reality show “Chopped.” She shared her faith journey, discernment and calling to her vocation. Her recipe for discerning vocation: “do something bold for God each day.” Sr. Alicia put her culinary skills to work, instructing a cooking class for students as they prepared meals to serve a community dinner at the Center for 300 guests. Another 150 meals were prepared for our friends at the Free Lunch Program.



Alternative Spring Break: Chicago



“When we can make an impact to help students to have an experience—like the students did in Chicago—it really makes us feel good,” says Spring Trip benefactor Tom DePrenger (above, left, with spouse Joan), “and we were really pleased to do it. We were so moved when we had the event after the trip, to find out from the students how the experience impacted them. We want to keep giving; it is from the heart.”

Thanks to a generous year end gift designated for a student service trip, 15 students experienced the joy of serving others at Port Ministries in Chicago.

Students participated in a series of faith based workshops, learned more about the community, and served in the community. “The students were awesome representatives of the University of Iowa and the Newman Center through their spirited service,” says Laurie Harris, Newman Center director, who led the retreat. The students tutored

Latino children, assisted with ESL and the free health clinic, served 2,000 meals off a break truck, and prepared food at Su Casa Catholic Worker.

They also learned about closed loop sustainable systems—such as aquaponics—at The Plant Chicago, prepared 4,063 loaves of bread at the Chicago Food Depository to be distributed to 650 agencies, received food from the Food Depository (and served at Casa Catalina, United Human Services Center), sat in

proximity with offenders and victims of gang violence at the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, saw how juveniles incarcerated for life without parole expressed their faith and feelings through art, and completed much needed indirect service projects at the Port Ministries, including restoring classrooms, administrative offices and a health clinic after a boiler broke.

Tom and Joan DePrenger served as benefactors for the trip. “Giving to the Newman Center, is part of our life,” says Tom, at a trip reunion and appreciation dinner. “We have been Iowa City residents since 1988. I was lucky enough to find the Newman Center early in my career at the University, and it has become our home. We have been so grateful to Fr. Ed for all of his efforts over the years. Two of our kids were baptized, all three confirmed and one daughter was married by Fr. Ed. So it is really home to us and to our family. The Newman Center mission is something we believe in. It is important to educate our college students in the faith, and I can not think of a better place than the Newman Center to do that.”

If you are interested in supporting a service immersion trip over Spring Break 2017, please contact Newman Center Director Laurie Harris at laurie@newman-ic.org



Fr. Steve commissioned and blessed the Center’s current—and nine new—Ministry Development Fellows during Mass on May 1. This commissioning offered an opportunity to show our support of our wonderful student leaders.

Save the Date: Sunday, October 2, 2016

Our Founder’s Club appreciation event will be held once a year in the Fall. Please save the date, on The University of Iowa Homecoming Weekend 2016, Sunday, October 2, at noon, following the 11 a.m. Mass.

The Founder’s Club is the recognition group for those whose lifetime giving total is \$5,000 or more and commit to annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to Newman Center Funds (excluding offertory).