

UIW Mission News

Volume 5 Issue 1

January-February, 2009

Special points of interest:

- UIW will celebrate **INCARNATE WORD DAY** on March 25th. All are invited to join the parade, picnic, special liturgy, and special presentations.
- A **Religious Vocation Weekend** for single adults, ages 18-20, will be held at OLLU, May 29-31. Check www.cdptexas.org/lifeawareness.html.
- Women's Global Connection will commission its 2009 **Reach Out Africa** group on March 18th. During the summer, these volunteers will offer workshops in Zambia and Tanzania.
- In preparation for **Lent**, Campus Ministry is sponsoring a 24-hour "**Prayathon**," February 26-27. For information, contact Lauren at wapelho@uiwtx.edu
- "**Rock the Earth**" promoted awareness of environmental issues on February 19th. Live music, food, electric cars and speakers attracted an enthusiastic audience.

Catholic Universities Invited to be Centers for Creative Thinking on Church Matters

At the ACCU annual conference in Washington, DC, **John Allen**, Vatican reporter for NCR and CNN, gave the keynote address on megatrends affecting the Church today. He singled out two for special attention: **growth of the Church in the global south and evangelical Catholicism**.

Allen pointed out that **75% of all Catholics now live in the global south** and this fact will have a marked influence on the Church. Catholics from these countries

tend to hold traditional religious value systems; to be liberal on social systems; to be biblically grounded, not speculative or academic; and to recognize the challenges of religious pluralism.

Allen believes that today's Church policies are made in context of widespread secularism so there is an emphasis on a strong public proclamation of traditional Catholic identity as a **conscious strategy against secularism**.

Allen challenges Catholic Higher Educa-

tion campuses (1) to become **laboratories** for creative thinking about how to do justice to the trends impacting the Church while avoiding the extremes of "Catholicism Lite" and "Taliban Catholicism;" (2) to foster a **global perspective**, including being in solidarity with Africa as the Pope travels there next year and prepares for the synod; and (3) to create space for **Catholic conversation** to achieve common understanding about our true Catholic identity.



Red Dress Fair Emphasizes Heart Health

On February 10th, nurses, fashion designers, other schools and local vendors teamed up to offer advice on how to maintain a healthy heart.

Asian New Year: International Students Celebrate Incarnate Word's Diversity

The UIW Mission invites the community to welcome diversity with the hope of advancing the "discovery of truth, mutual understanding, self realization and the common good."

During the celebration of the Asian New Year, UIW's diversity was on display. Students from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and other parts of the globe shared their food, language, customs and wonderfully colorful ceremonial costumes with the UIW community.



A Variety of Disciplines Present Innovative Research at 2nd Annual Faculty Colloquium



Faculty and students from a variety of disciplines welcomed discussion of their research projects during the Research Day on February 20th. The 27 projects ranged from ways to reconnect contemporary students with the civil rights movement to use of a family history tool to identify cardiac risk among working adults. At left, Dr. Lieveld discusses her research on access to

clean water in Tanzania and demonstrates two useful products that make water potable.

Dr. Vichcales, Graduate Dean, remarked that the research presented "not only showcases disciplinary accomplishment in the art and practice of discovery," but it "illustrates UIW's commitment to academic excellence."

S.T.A.N.D. Studies Injustices in Africa

The group, **S.T.A.N.D.** (Students Taking Action Now for Darfur) organized a presentation on the injustices taking place in Darfur. Dr. Sally Baynton shared her experiences in Uganda and showed how each person can help facilitate change for the



Students examine "Beads of Life".

victims of rebel forces and corrupt governments.

The students sold hand-made Ugandan "Beads of Life" and t-shirts to raise money for a school for refugees. They offered free samples of a typical meal to illustrate Gandhi's saying: "Live simply so others may simply live."