

# CRF news

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Greetings to all! This has been an amazing semester in many ways, especially in how quickly it has flown by. God is doing both a convicting and a reforming work in the lives of many students. It's a delight to be a part of it.

As we conform our lives to the Word of God--"the perfect law of liberty"--as James puts it, freedom results, freedom from envy, freedom from lust, freedom from self-absorption. This is life changing business.

### BIBLE STUDIES

One of the most important aspects of campus ministry is a thriving small group system. In small group Bible studies deeper relationships are built, more personal application from the Word is discovered and accountability is established. In small groups, the introverts find a place where they feel comfortable speaking their mind and sharing their thoughts. It's also the place where extroverts can learn, (though some need sitting on), the value of listening and letting others speak first.

The purpose of small groups is, primarily, to get students into the Word of God, with the hope that they will not only be hearers but "effectual doers." A Bible study that doesn't have this emphasis isn't



actually a Bible study. Beyond the central goal of getting into the Word, lesser goals may vary. On a secular campus an

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important component of the small group may simply be fellowship. Hours spent in hostile classrooms can be very draining.

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# ICE SK

CRF has traditionally ended the semester by singing Christmas carols for a portion of the semester.



## **BIBLE STUDIES, cont.**

In a small group study with other committed believers facing the same battle, the camaraderie and refreshment can be very sustaining.

Being reminded that Christ is Lord and that there is such a thing as absolute truth is very needful. For students at a Christian college the temptations are different. Their temptation may be to coast, to drop their guard and to receive the riches of a biblical education as

merely academic. Both temptations are a real threat and must be guarded against. Consistent small group studies can be a great help in anchoring us to the personal application of God's Word, and uniting us to our peers who are fighting the same battles.

This semester 2010 we have had a record number of small groups. There were 21 weekly Bible studies, ten for guys and eleven for gals. Sixteen of these studies were student-led. This represented about 130 students.

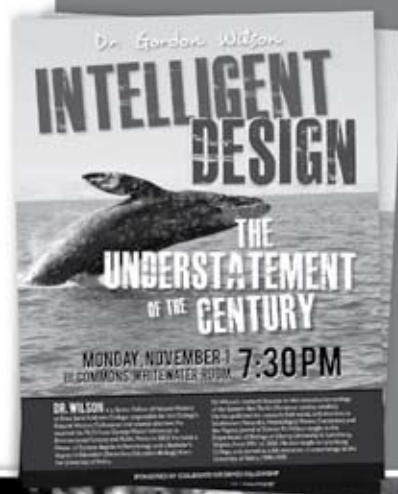


# ATING PARTY

semester's activities with an ice skating party at the local ice rink. This year we had 80-100 attend. We always  
n of the party. The acoustics in this ice rink are fantastic. It was delightful to fill the sky with our voices.

## EVANGELISM

On November 1, CRF sponsored an evangelistic event called Intelligent Design: The Understatement of the Century. Dr. Gordon Wilson, Senior Fellow of Natural History at New Saint Andrews College, laid out the case for undeniable design and complexity in the created order. But he didn't stop there. He went on to argue that this Designer was necessarily the God of the Bible. This made the presentation explicitly evangelistic. The meeting was well-attended, with a good number of non-believers in the audience. The Q & A session and discussions afterward were very good.



## LETTERS FROM YOU

Hi Laurie,

I just looked through this newsletter and wanted pass some praise! It looks wonderful and well designed.

CRF is very important ministry to me, as I was led to Christ through it back in Fall 1997. Talk about a "life-changing" freshman year at UI!

Thanks for your continued ministry the young girls. I remember your kindnesses and welcoming interaction at those meetings in the basement of the SUB. I never would have found Christ Church (Community Evangelical Fellowship) without CRF (SEF)—and I'm very thankful for both.

Blessings,

Lauren M.



## SPRING SEMESTER

I'm beginning to put together our weekly meeting calendar for nest semester. We've got another great line up of challenging speakers. We'll sponsor another "Grill a Christian" event later in the semester, focusing on the Easter story and the resurrection of Christ. Thanks for your prayers. They are deeply appreciated.

Until next time... **Matt Gray**

*Teaching elder & campus minister*