Turnover Isn’t a Problem

Who’s Leaving?

By Zachary Kurtz
Contributing Writer

Before the beginning of next semester, at least seven full-time EMU faculty are leaving—but this isn’t a problem, says Undergraduate Academic Dean Maria Morris.

Two faculty are retiring and four have submitted resignations. In addition, EMU is cutting a position in the Intensive English Program because of lack of enrollment.

According to Morris, EMU currently has about 110 full-time faculty contracts. Morris believes the number of faculty leaving is not particularly unusual.

Morris admits, “I only know of one faculty member [for whom the ongoing debate over academic freedom is] part of their reason why they’re leaving, and that’s Scott Jost.” And he’s been very open about that.

Vigils to Remember Iraqi, U.S. Dead

By Christopher Fretz
Staff Writer

Monday saw the beginning of a solemn observance that planners say will continue nightly until the war in Iraq ends: ringing the bell outside Hartzler Library to remember those killed in the conflict.

Faculty, students, and community members solemnly lit candles to join in the ceremony, which is being held every night at 7:30.

“Whenever human life is taken it’s important to mark that person who’s lost,” said Earl Martin, a community member who has helped organize the bell ringing. “Any loss of life is tragic; it’s even more tragic if no one remembers, or mourns, or grieves.”

“It’s a time to have the community come together every night and remember the fallen, both American and Iraqi, and to meditate and reflect within the support of community,” said student organizer, Senior Rus Pyle.

Organizers of the nightly gathering were quick to point out that it is being done to emphasize solidarity for the suffering and recognition for the dead over it being done as a demonstration.

“I think in all actions for peace, we do them out of a cry of the soul, not out of any calculation for strategy or social impact,” said Earl Martin.

“It keeps our awareness level up that there are people dying, grieving, and in pain,” said Shanti Martin, an organizer from the Conflict Transformation Program. “It has potential to bring awareness to other people, but there are other, more proactive things we can do to oppose the war.”

The bell ringing is just one of many activities that were planned in response to the war. This past Saturday, Pyle and Shanti Martin held a meeting to brainstorm ways that EMU could respond to the war.

“EMU’s been pretty lack-adissical in their response,” said Pyle. “They didn’t have a response prepared when they knew the war was coming, Peace Fellowship didn’t plan anything, and no students were doing anything—either. I wanted ideas of what to do, but wasn’t sure how they could be implemented, and who would help with them.”

Pyle called Shanti Martin, and together they organized the public brainstorming session. Other activities planned are making Iraqi relief kits, having an EMU ‘refugee camp’ to show solidarity with displaced Iraqis, and a media campaign emphasizing international and alternative news sources.

Peace Fellowship is setting up a news board in the campus center, which will have daily articles from both mainstream and alternative sources.

“It’s important to have some kind of balance between them,” said Junior Conrad Erb, who is putting the board together. “We just want to give general information about the war. It seems like people are thinking about war, but not talking about it, and it’s a big issue and it’s important to talk about it. People are disappointed with the relatively little amount of discussion on campus.”

Bible and Religion Instructor Kathleen Temple is handing out lists of alternative news sources to those who are interested, and Junior Jill Humphrey is working on Earth Day, April 22, and April 23–24, events.

N E W S B R I E F S

Guest vocalists Margaret Kelly Cook and Richard Bordas will present a recital of music by Handel, Bellini, and other opera composers Mar. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Martin Chapel.

Entries in an oratorical competition on the subject of the Anabaptist peace stance may be heard in Martin Chapel starting at 9 a.m. Friday, Mar. 28.

Senior Theater major Joanna Doyle will present her senior show in the Commons Studio Theater this Friday, Mar. 28 and Saturday, Mar. 29, at 7:30 p.m.

The final Writers’ Read for the 2002-03 school year, featuring the writing of EMU Language and Literature majors, will be next Thursday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the West Dining Room. For tickets, contact the EMU Box Office at 432-4582.