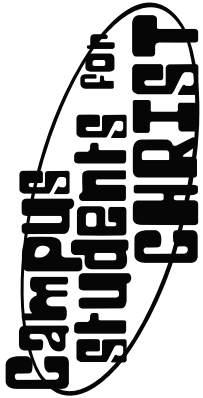


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Western Illinois Campus
Evangelism Association
1545 Riverview Drive
Macomb, IL 61455

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Hi everyone! My name is Olivia Luzadder and I am a secondary science education student at Western Illinois University. I have been attending services and events at Campus Students for Christ since the fall semester of 2019 with my friends from back home in Flora, Illinois. CSC is actually one of the main reasons that I chose to come to WIU. I was able to take a tour with Alicia and fell in love with the idea of a campus ministry.

I started to get involved by participating in Bible and book studies which led to making new friends and solidifying my place at CSC. After a year of attending services, I joined the worship team and have been singing and playing the piano with them ever since. I also joined the women's leadership team in 2021 and have been working with my partner Emma Bird this year on Bible studies, book studies, and new events for the women of CSC. Because of CSC, I was able to go on my first mission trip to Red Bird, an organization that serves those in the mountains of Kentucky. After Red Bird, I was also fortunate enough to go to Casas Por Cristo in Juárez, Mexico to help a family by building them a home. I had always wanted to go on mission trips, but had never gotten the opportunity until joining CSC. Some of my favorite events at CSC have been our Barn Parties for Halloween and the cookouts that we do for the first Wednesday night services.



Olivia (far left) hanging out with some friends after a trip

I now live at Campus Students for Christ in the apartment building with some of the good friends that I have made throughout my time here. I met Sarah Von Qualen in my first Bible study and we have gotten really close over the last four years. Emma Bird is not only my women's team partner but a great friend who I was fortunate enough to help baptize in December of last year. Our newest roommate, Reilly Dersien, is a transfer student who is already becoming a fast friend here at CSC as well. My younger sister, Emma, is also heavily involved in everything here at CSC and I am excited to see her in the same environment that I was when I started college.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Randy Gariss is a well-known name in the Illinois Campus Ministry circle. He is a life-long pastor, counselor, and spiritual mentor. Every third year, Encounter ISU, one of our Illinois sister ministries invites Randy to reframe our students' concept of what love, marriage, and a relationship with Christ can look like. He covers topics ranging from spiritual wholeness to understanding pornography addictions to emotional maturity. One of the passages that he preaches on during the weekend is 2 Thessalonians 5:23-24, "23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." Notice two things; Paul's prayer is for our whole being to be kept blameless, to be completely sanctified, and second that it is God, the faithful one, who will do it. The call on our lives is to surrender completely every aspect of who we are: emotions, relationships, aspirations, desires and aspirations both good and bad (and everything else). Yet we often try to hold back parts of who we are from the transforming grace of God's Spirit out of fear or shame or pride or ignorance or just plain selfishness. Worse, we often try to fill up what we know is lacking in ourselves with others. We use people and activities that we enjoy to feel better and "completed" while avoiding the real changes God has called us to. We were made to participate in the very life of God. Randy draws this out beautifully in his messages on wholeness in Christ alone and emotional maturity. His messages, as they do every year, hit home in really hard, really good ways. In our small groups we had students breaking down as Randy helped open their eyes, not to the brokenness in their lives, because they already knew it was there, but to why that brokenness was so pervasive. We were made with an instinct to love and be loved, but the ability to truly love and be loved only comes from a relationship with the God who made us to be like Him, in His image. Randy's messages about wholeness and right concepts and living in wisdom fit our Wednesday night series like a glove.

On Wednesday nights we have been doing a topical study of spiritual formation. We have called it the regula series with the intention that students would understand that we don't accidentally grow closer to God, we intentionally structure our lives to submit to His will. As Randy's version of Matthew 6:21 goes, "Where your investment is, there your heart will be also." As we study things like prayer, fasting, guidance, worship, study, and other habits that we can cultivate in our lives this semester, our prayer is that students would learn to invest in the faithful God, knowing that it is the faithful God who gives the transformation, but also knowing that theirs is a call to seek Him, obey Him, to know Him and to love Him. May God grant you all peace as you pray for us and our students. We look forward to seeing you all on April 22nd to share what God has done this year!



Staff and students attended Winter Retreat at Little Galilee Christian Camp with other Illinois campus ministries. The topic was "Love Reframed".

PICTURES FROM CSC



Avery and Shannon took 4 students on a mission trip to Pioneer Bible Translators in Dallas, TX. They learned from missionaries, made improvements to PBT's prayer trail, and connected with Jeremy Hummiston, a CSC alum.

Spring Open House
 Saturday, April 22, 2023
 1pm-4pm
 1545 Riverview Drive

Come for an afternoon of fun for the whole family!
 Refreshments, inflatables, & games
 with a short program and tour of CSC!



Student, Emma Bird was baptized at Maple Avenue Christian Church by Olivia Luzadder and Alicia Dickerson



Students serve at the Elms Rehabilitation Center every other week by providing worship, devotionals, and activities for the residents.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year is July 1-June 30

	As of 2-1-23	Budgeted
Church gifts:	\$35,074.83	\$58,000
Individual:	\$40,393.93	\$76,000
Rent Income:	\$36,318.19	\$33,000
Building Fund	\$1,665.06	

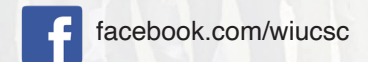
STAY CONNECTED

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