

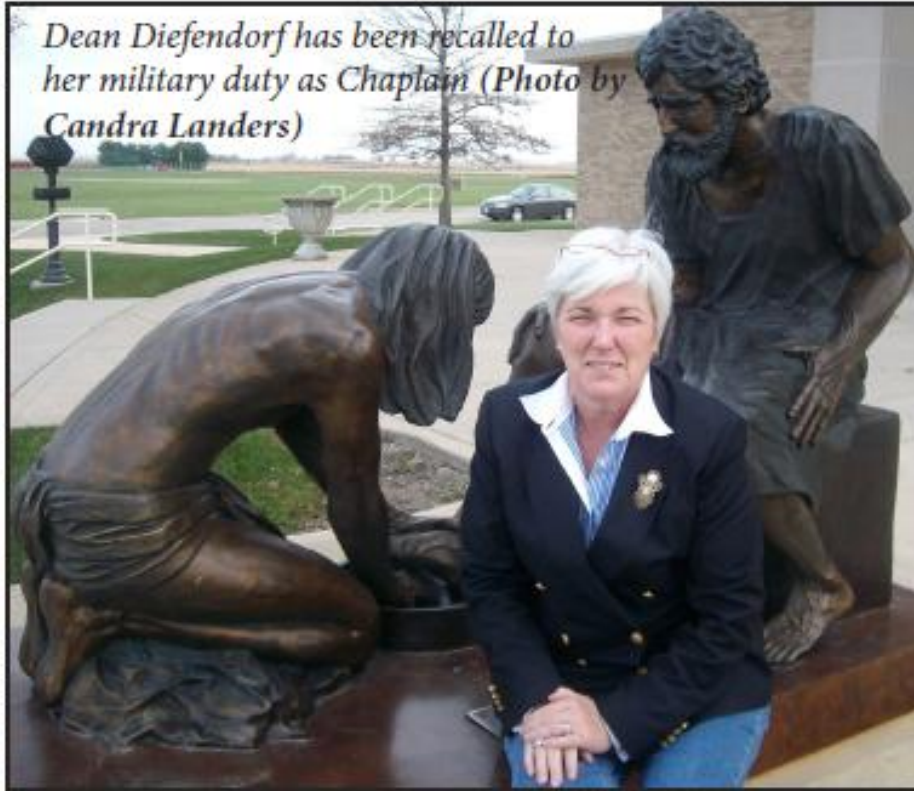


100 Campus View Drive Lincoln, IL 62656

## When duty calls, the Dean reports for action

Academic Dean Karen Diefendorf has been all over the world for God and country. For the last three years, her service has been here on LCU's campus. Just in time for Veteran's Day, she received word that she's been called back to active duty in service of her country.

When Dean Diefendorf retired from the U.S. Army, she knew that retirees are subject to recall until age 62. "Recalls can be either voluntary or involuntary," she explained. A retiree may voluntarily contact the military to return, or the military may find they are in need of certain skill sets that take years to teach. In that case, they may recall retirees who possess those skills. "This recall is a little of



*Dean Diefendorf has been recalled to her military duty as Chaplain (Photo by Candra Landers)*

for leadership roles. Recalls typically last one year. "[VP of Academics] Clay Ham will assume my duties during the day, and I'll catch up with him in the evenings. After all," she quipped, "I'm working what the military calls half-days: six a.m. to six p.m."

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) protects the civilian employment positions of soldiers called into active duty for up to five years. LCU is committed to keeping Dean Diefendorf's position open during her absence.

Dean Diefendorf will take back

• Continued on page 3

both," Dean Diefendorf said. "They called and asked how I would feel about a recall."

During her time as Chief of the Training Development Division, Dean Diefendorf will mentor young female chaplains, preparing them

### Inside

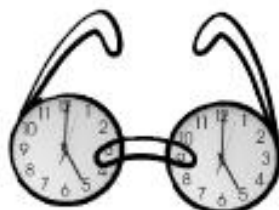
"I continue to trust God to direct my steps. I'm responsible only to be faithful to putting one foot in front of the other."

• Dean Diefendorf

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# LCU takes a trip to Peoria for the NMC

By Jess Rice  
Reporter

On November 20, 2009 all of the student body went to Peoria IL at the Civic Center for the National Missionary Convention and learned about the theme "God's Gift, My Response."

The natural question that comes to mind is "how should Christians respond to God's gift?" According to Professor Mike Nichols, Intercultural Studies, "We have to accept it."

The central text of the weekend was Ephesians 2:4-10, which talks not only about how we accept God's gift of grace freely, we respond in praise and with good works. Each speaker at the main session talked about a different way that we respond to God's gift through active service.

Some people may have gotten the impression that everyone has to be a missionary to respond to God's gift. However, Professor Nichols said "No, but everyone needs to be involved in God's plan."

At the convention, there was a lot to do and see, including workshops,

people—whether friends or family that you know."

Some students wondered why attendance was mandatory. Mary K. Davis, who works in the Admissions Department, said "It's for the missionaries, so they could show us what was available and so we could listen to their testimonies about what it was like on the missions field what they did while on the field as well."

Students learned a lot at the convention about spiritual gifts, the same way teaching people how to read and write, or how to speak English. A gifted craftsman could help build things. The important thing is to use your gifts to help other people. I hope people had a great time at the National Missionary Convention and I can't wait till next year.



speakers, exhibit booths, and missionaries that shared their testimonies. The energy and excitement at the convention had a lot of us thinking about whether or not we might be called to missions.

To be prepared, Professor Nichols suggested "Get confirmation from

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# LCU Dean recalled to duty

• Continued from page 1

during her time at LCU. “Chaplains are never truly in command positions,” she said, by virtue of the function of their role, “so this is the first command position I’ve been in. I naively believed that a group could come to consensus and everyone would be happy with the decision. I had to realize that everyone didn’t have access to all the information, and they might not agree with my decisions. I beat myself up over that and I had to grieve over that, but God grew in me the ability to make decisions and not second-guess them.”

Dean Diefendorf is thankful for the friendships she’s developed

on campus, and the support of President Keith Ray, Vice President of Academics Clay Ham, and the Associate Deans. “I owe whatever success I’ve had in this position to a great team of Associate Deans,” she said, adding, “Leadership is very lonely. It ought not to be entered into without a very strong prayer life.”

While she is away, Dean Diefendorf will miss watching God grow our students. “I am thankful that God brought me here,” she said. “And I continue to trust God to direct my steps. I’m responsible only to be faithful to putting one foot in front of the other.”

## Have an opinion to share?

### Write a letter to the editor!



Letters to the editor can be sent to Megan Livingston or Candra Landers. Letters should be no more than 200 words and submitted electronically. *The Luminary* reserves discretion in what will be published and will edit as necessary for grammar and inappropriate content.

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# A Christmas Carol

Classic film remade with darker tone



## MovieReview

Danny Allen

As the holidays approach, Disney has released a new star-filled, animated version of a Christmas classic. On November 6, Disney released *A Christmas Carol* based on the novel by Charles Dickens.

The well-known story revolves around Ebenezer Scrooge (voiced by Jim Carrey), a terrifying old money-grubber who seems to have no love for anyone or anything except his stack of money. In various scenes, his mere presence causes the environment around him to lose all of its

mirth. Carolers stop singing and children run away. He is surprisingly scary for being a Jim Carrey role.

He is in for some change though when the ghost of his late business partner, Jacob Marley (also voice by Gary Oldman), visits him to tell him that he will be visited by three spirits (all of whom are also played by Jim Carrey) who will show Scrooge the error of his miserly ways. What follows is a surreal adventure through past, present, and future to show Scrooge what the results of his actions are.

The first thing that viewers should know about this movie is that though it may be animated,

it is definitely not for children. This is a rather dark take on the story. Compared to Disney's earlier version, *A Mickey's Christmas Carol* with Scrooge MacDuck, this movie would be traumatizing. It was even creepier than the 70's version which was considerably dark and gave me nightmares.



Jim Carrey's portrayal of Scrooge is surprisingly scary compared to his normal zany roles (Photo from [www.jimcarreyonline.com](http://www.jimcarreyonline.com)).

Disney's latest version took all of the freakiest parts of them both, including the grave scene and the metaphorical children of Scrooge, and made them even darker. *A Christmas Carol* contains numerous jump scenes and ghastly images of phantoms from the beyond. Following his visit from Marley, Scrooge looks out his window to see hordes of ghosts wailing into the night with the sorrow of their wasted lives. Another section has Scrooge fleeing from a carriage driven by Death.

The film also took extra steps to highlight Scrooge's stinginess in ways most other versions have

not shown. This can be seen with Scrooge taking the coins off of the eyes of his recently deceased partner so as not to waste tuppence. Likewise, Scrooge's negative qualities are further shown by him even having a lock on his coal box so Mr. Cratchit does not waste any. This is a far cry from the begrudgingly-giving

Scrooge of the other versions previously mentioned.

Jim Carrey's performance was rather different than usual. For one thing, he takes on multiple roles as he plays Scrooge through the various stages of his life as well as all three spirits.

The voices and characters he is able to slip into are extremely diverse and it is rather impressive. Jim Carrey's straight performance as Scrooge was rather unlike his usual roles. It wasn't until the very end that his typical zaniness broke forth.

All things considered, the movie was not that bad. It may be a frequently used movie plot but it still managed to get by with several innovations not previously used. While Disney's *A Christmas Carol* may seem like a combination of the animated movie *Beowulf*, in graphics only, and *the Grinch*, it still turned out to be a decent film. Just don't take the kids.

# All that glitters is not gold: Twilight with Socratic irony



## BookReview

Susan Wood

A wise man from the near vicinity of Betelgeuse once said, "Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so." I shall begin by attempting to convey my profound joy that, with the release of *New Moon* in theatres, there are now enough Twilight books and movies out to waste so much of my elusive time!

I must admit, when the first *Twilight* book came out, I was a little apprehensive. From the summaries, it almost seemed as though the book was about vampires, adventure, and a romance that young women could use as a guide to a decent, healthy relationship. I'm so glad I actually gave *Twilight* a chance, or I may have continued to believe it was that sort of book! In reality, *Twilight* is actually quite different from that.

The main character of *Twilight* is also the narrator, so all the lucky girls of the world can pretend they're her. It's so exciting to pretend I'm a fictional teenage girl, and would be even more so if I were actually a forty-something mother. Her first name, Bella, means "beautiful." Her last name, Swan, is a creature that is . . . beautiful. I see what you did there, Stephenie Meyer. I only wish *my* name were "beautiful beautiful." It would boost my perpetually low self esteem, even though it didn't seem to help Bella much, since her self-esteem stays extremely low even after at least five guys fall in love with her in as many chapters.

Bella is so cool because she's unique, too. I know she's unique because Meyer told me so for two or three pages in the first chapter. Apparently, all the girls of North America are either "tan, sporty,

or blonde," but since Bella is *clearly* "slender, but soft somehow" and has dark hair, she is very unique and cool.

Well, statistically, brunettes are more numerous in North America than blondes, but I trust a

children's author way more than any silly university studies; they're all just jealous, just like everyone else in *Twilight* is either jealous of Bella, or admires her scintillatingly beautiful beauty. It's a good thing Bella ignores all of her human friends and treats them horribly, because they're stupid, boring, normal and not amazingly gorgeous and lovely.

Additionally, Stephenie Meyer has one of the best, most amazing writing styles of any author ever. She probably has to spend a lot of time looking through her thesaurus for synonyms of "gorgeous," "beautiful" and "pale."

It's no wonder that she has an



Socratic irony: n. a pose of ignorance assumed in order to entice others into making statements that can then be challenged.



overly simplistic writing style; I'd be too worn out to write well, too, from so much thesaurus-diving. I really admire her for owning such a big thesaurus to help her write stuff like, "... his shirt [was] open over his

sculpted, incandescent chest, his scintillating arms bare. His glistening, pale lavender lids...smooth like marble, glittering like crystal."

I'm glad that Meyer decided not to write about vampires. I was getting bored hearing about those scary creatures of the night, anyway. People that are just really pale, really strong, occasionally talk about drinking animal blood (luckily, we never see this happen during the four books, which is good, because that sounds too much like a vampire to me), no fangs and no unnatural adversity to sunlight is so much better!

I wish *I* had a boyfriend that "literally sparkled, like thousands of tiny diamonds were embedded in the surface [of his skin.]" Edward is *so* the perfect boyfriend! Anyone who knows anything knows that all girls love it when a guy comes into her room at night to stare at her, or dismantles her car and constantly "overrules" her opinions (girls should only date guys who are completely perfect in every way, and know better about everything). Also, it's so hot when a guy tries to forge a girl's signature, or dictate her choice of friends, or holds her in his house against her will. Every girl needs the perfect guy who is just like that.

# Photography by Allison Jackson



## The Cry of the Godless By Erin Hookham

Mine eyes looked to the heavens,  
but saw only blue.

Where be the God of the skies,  
who rules o'er the earth?

Thy fathers' Lord is away,  
He does not exist.

So mine eyes shall not weep tears,  
for they have lost naught.

Yet my soul aches;  
longing for a thing unknown.

### Submit your artwork!

We welcome submissions of drawings, poetry, short stories under 400 words, and photographs. If you are a painter or sculptor, we ask you to submit high-quality photos of your best work and send them in. Send submissions to [clanders@lincolnchristian.edu](mailto:clanders@lincolnchristian.edu).

The Luminary staff will decide which submissions will be featured in the Arts section, and may need to cut, crop, or edit for content and fit. Don't worry; we're artists, too, and we'll treat your work with all the respect we'd want for our own. The Luminary is not only circulated on campus; it's also available on [lincolndailynews.com](http://lincolndailynews.com). Share your gifts with the campus and the world.

## Viewing time in the creator's eyes



The World  
According to Jiryis

Jiryis Shaheen

I often watch the clock. I keep track of time. It possesses me. "I have so many minutes till," or "I should have done that an hour ago," "I took too long," or "wow that was fast".

We are trackers of time.

There are so many questions about time that I don't know the answers to. When I sit in zombie mode and my eyes doze off to nowhere, thoughts begin to pop like bubbles.

How does time reflect our Creator? POP

How does it reflect us? POP

Can we find truth in time's honest actuality? POP

What would time look like if not seen on a clock? What would it feel like if our biological clocks were truly natural and not culturally automated?  
POP

Time is made up of 3 main things: the past, the present, and the future. That is about all I know honestly.

Ancient cultures such as the Mayan, Greek, Hindu, and Jainist have a cyclical concept of time, a constant circle of existence. God, the creator of time, displays it as linear to us. The Bible sets up a linear story. We are given a model of perception. I think God gave us this model so that our being, understanding, and living our existence would always symbolize and reflect His character.

Our clocks, the sun, the moon, rotation of the earth, all track time, measuring it—but only we can experience it. I think if we have a better understanding of how to really experience time, and not just measure

it, we can better understand its creator.

I was reading a blog the other day (<http://byspeakingflower.blogspot.com/>) that told a story about a man walking on a beach next to a beautiful woman. They walked together, standing under the same stars, feeling the same luring passion for each other and aching to let each other know about it.

They were both experiencing the moment, the aroma of salt, the cool whip of the wind, the gritty/ soft sand falling between their toes. Then the man looked up at the moon and realized a very human and true realization.

The moon is just a watch with no face.

This experience shows me how time can be both experienced and measured.

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you were outside of time? You just completely forget that it even exists. Instead of worrying, you were living.

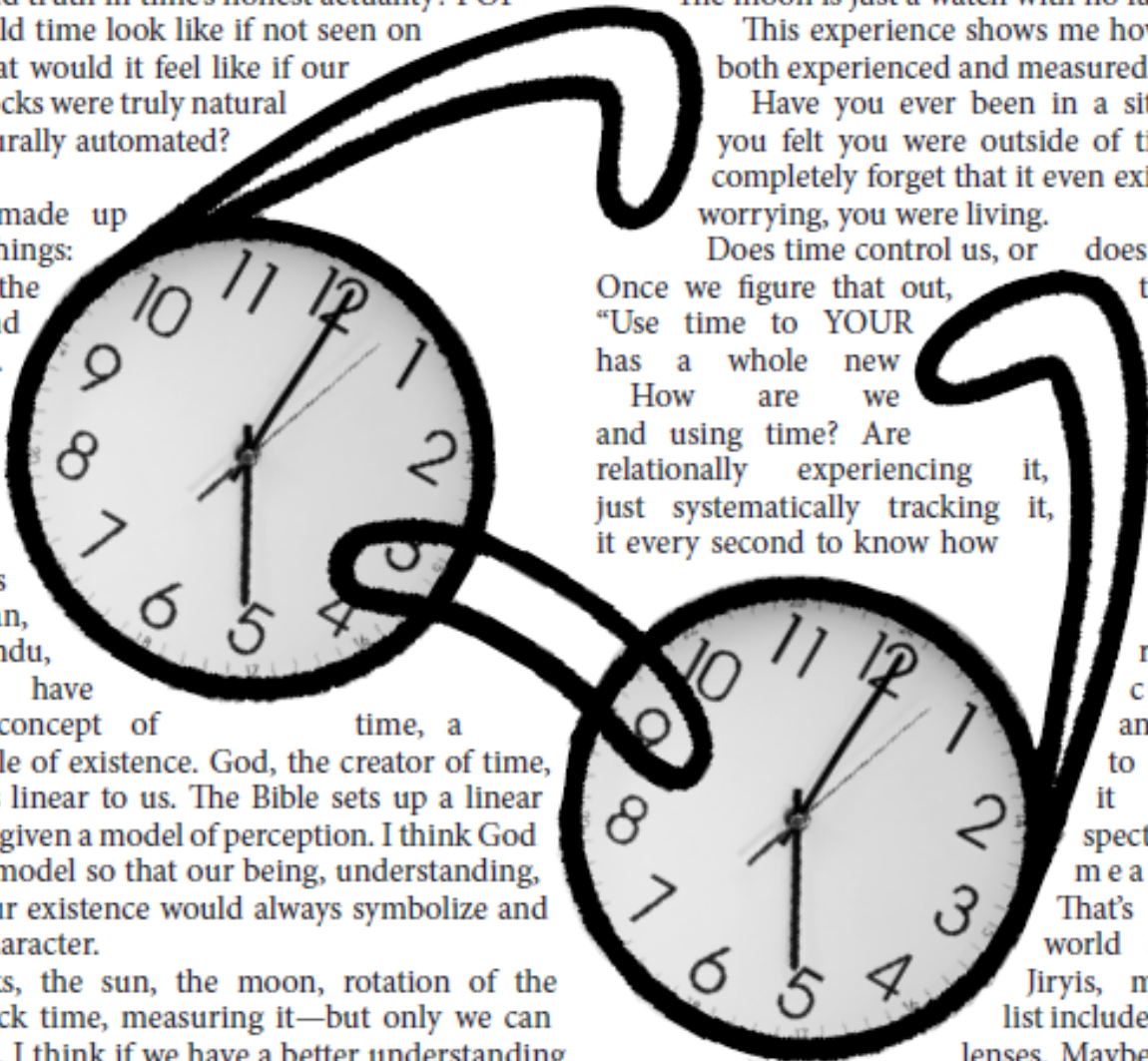
Does time control us, or does our Purpose?

Once we figure that out, the phrase "Use time to YOUR advantage" has a whole new meaning.

How are we seeing and using time? Are we truly or are we relationally experiencing it, or are we just systematically tracking it, measuring much we it every second to know how we have left?

Time is too relationally complicated and beautiful to just view it through the spectacles of measurement.

That's why in the world according to Jiryis, my Christmas list includes a new pair of lenses. Maybe yours should too.



# Is this all there is?

By Candra Landers

*Faculty Liaison*

The room was packed and a little stifling. Enthusiastic ideas were flying around the room like popcorn inside the bag. We emerged from The Luminary's first planning meeting of the year with rosy cheeks and high expectations.

Then reality hit. As the semester got underway students started dropping like Japanese beetles. "Too busy," was the mantra. When the dust settled, The Luminary was left with four veterans and three rookies to shoulder the load of twelve pages of reporting, editing, copyediting, layout, photography, and printing.

The Luminary is succumbing to the epidemic sweeping our nation. A disease that, could it be measured, would likely be shown to cause more harm than H1N1 and the seasonal flu combined. Our society is afflicted with Busyitis.

We are Americans, after all. We want it bigger and more of it. Supersize it and put fries on the side. We wear stress like a badge of honor. We are so important to so many people, there is no possible way we could meet all of our obligations. People need us. Therefore, we are worthy. Right? Right?

Not according to Jim Collins. In *Good to Great*, he told organizations to ask themselves: "Am I the best in

the world at this?" "Can I become the best in the world at this?" and "Am I passionate about this?" Seth Godin applied this same principle to individuals in *The Dip* when he asserted that winners not only quit, they quit often: "Quit the wrong stuff. Stick with the right stuff. Have the guts to do one or the other."

Dan Pink agreed in *The Adventures of Johnny Bunko*: "Successful people don't try too hard to improve what they're bad at. They capitalize on what they're good at . . . What do you do consistently well? What gives you energy rather than drains it? What sorts of activities create 'flow' for you?"

Most of us haven't examined our lives in this way. We wander through life trying to keep all the plates spinning, not letting any of the balls drop, until, inevitably, one does and the whole system comes to a crashing halt. Maybe those fifteen students have determined what they care about, and The Luminary is not it. Maybe. My money is on the wrong stuff overpowering the right stuff.

You might have noticed that this edition of The Luminary is shorter than usual. That's because when the deadline for submissions hit, only two people submitted articles. It's a good thing, too, because the team



that was supposed to sell ads never showed up. It costs thirty cents to produce each copy of a regular-sized Luminary that's distributed after Chapel. A few of us tried, but really—ad sales aren't our strength. This is what happens when an ear tries to see, or a hand tries to speak. One part of the body cannot play all the parts.

The issue you hold in your hand is either a wake-up call or a death knell for The Luminary. If the paper doesn't receive more help and more money, the lights go out. If you enjoy The Luminary, let us know by sending a letter to the editor. If not, no response is needed.

In either case, it is my fervent hope that this issue inspires you to remake your life into what you want it to be. What can you be the best at? What are you passionate about? Go—quit the wrong stuff. Have the guts to find your flow. Your calling is . . . well, calling.

Lights out for  
The Luminary?