

Chapel Ministries Use of Evidence of Student Learning

Over the last three years, the Office of Spiritual Development has benefited from the collection and evaluation of data related to Chapel attendance patterns throughout the academic year. Examining Chapel schedules and attendance records, this work has been the emphasis and focus of an on-going Senior Honor's Project that hopes to aid the Chapel Planning Committee in programmatic development and achieving overall objectives.

In the 2009-10 report (Rickett), data revealed that as each semester comes to a close, overall attendance drops considerably as students meet their Chapel attendance requirements, reducing the overall number of students present in each Chapel service offered throughout the week. This data was confirmed by simple observation; however, served as a concrete explanation for the drop in numbers. The data further revealed that the female attendance significantly dropped off while the male attendance increased.

As a result of the data established by this report, the 2011-2012 Chapel Planning Committee determined to block off seats in the rear of Brown Chapel the last two weeks of each semester in order to move students closer to the front of the auditorium in hopes of facilitating an environment that creates greater opportunity for participation. Furthermore with consideration for end of the semester chapel traditions some changes were made to accommodate the changing population.

Data from the 2011-12 Honors Thesis (Anderson and Waggoner) will inform future planning.