

Leading the Way

Rev. Gini Norris-Lane



As Schreiner University campus minister, the Rev. Gini Norris-Lane's

typical day runs the gamut from students with relationship problems to existential questions like, "What is God's plan for me?" and she takes it all in stride.

"This is all part of what I do," Norris-Lane said. "I am honored to be a part of these students' lives. They are all so special."

Norris-Lane was installed as Schreiner University's campus minister in a Jan. 22 ceremony, but she has been serving the campus since August.

"Care for our students and our campus community's spiritual life is one of our core goals, central to our identity," said Schreiner University president, Dr. Tim Summerlin. "Gini Norris-Lane has the energy and compassion to take the lead in pursuing that goal. I am delighted to see the difference she has brought in a few short months to the campus ministry program," Summerlin said.

Norris Lane said Schreiner University's students have a real desire and thirst to develop their spiritual life. "They ask all of the hard questions and I have to step up my game in order to lead them," she said.

On any given day there is a steady stream of students visiting Norris-Lane's office in Hoon Hall. Since she and her husband, Wes Lane, and their 2-year-old son, Austin, also live on campus, students tend to stop by frequently to discuss their problems and concerns. "It is very much like leading a congregation because you are always on call," Norris-Lane said.

Sophomore Elizabeth Boulware said that from the day Norris-Lane came to Schreiner she has made every student feel important.

"She is fun, loving, supportive and committed," said Boulware. "Gini has been a valuable addition to my Schreiner experience and my life."

In addition to ministering to students, Norris-Lane conducts chapel every Sunday night and hosts a dinner at her house after the service. She also coordinates missions, including a recent trip to Taizé, France.

"I wear many hats," Norris-Lane said. And that is quite an understatement. Norris-Lane also oversees seven faith-oriented recognized student organizations Celtic Cross, Methodist Student Ministry, Baptist Student Ministry, Young Catholic Adults, Episcopal and Lutheran Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Jewish Campus Community.

Also, as a part of her duties, she leads services for annual school events, such as the farewell benedictus during freshman orientation and the Recall worship service during Schreiner's homecoming.

So how does Norris-Lane hold on to a sense of calm in the midst of it all? "I hand it all over to God and trust that He will lead me in the right direction," she says. "Some days it is a challenge, but that is what makes it worthwhile." Norris-Lane said she feels because of Schreiner's personal attention to the students, it is a wonderful environment for them to explore who they are. "Schreiner is a really special place," Norris-Lane said. "I feel really blessed to be a part of it."

Norris-Lane holds a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin and a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Baylor University in Waco. She has served as associate pastor at Northwood Presbyterian Church in San Antonio; as associate pastor at Conyers Presbyterian Church in Conyers, Ga.; as the Coordinator for the Pastoral Leadership Search Effort with The Fund for Theological Education in Atlanta, Ga.; and as ministry associate at Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church in San Antonio.