

Transitions

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body." 1 Cor. 12:12

1 Cor. 12 is one of the passages in all of Scripture that most stirs my heart. It's a beautiful thing to me when people come together and use their gifts to compliment each other, such that the body of Christ is evident through the cooperation of its many diverse parts. I love to build teams, inviting each person to play his or her part for the good of the whole. I like to encourage feet to be feet and hands to be hands. I take great pleasure in recognizing gifts in those who aren't participating, and inviting them to be the nose or elbows or eyes that are missing, in order to see the body function even better. I enjoy training the body to work together, helping the different parts understand how to do their own jobs better, but also how to work in partnership with others who have different jobs. Perhaps all that makes me a joint or a ligament in the body of Christ – I don't know. What I do know is that it makes me someone who is really passionate about seeing the work of Christ expand through concentrated efforts of partnership and teamwork.

My role as team leader for InterVarsity in the capital district has been a deep joy for me in that regard. It ignites my passions and affords me opportunity to use those gifts of team building and development. As my supervisors have recognized this in me, and have seen the need for a more focused effort to build up the ministry on the local college campuses, they have encouraged me to pursue the position of Associate Area Director for InterVarsity in the capital district. After a few years of prayer and consideration, and some concerted effort to raise up a replacement for myself at Skidmore, I am ready to accept their invitation.

As of July 1 of this year, I will focus all of my time with InterVarsity on developing the team of local staff that has been entrusted to me, raising up new staff, and generally expanding the work of InterVarsity in the area. Stepping back from campus will afford me more time and energy to develop, train and invest in staff – equipping them to better serve the students in their care. As staff are better trained and equipped, so students will be also. I will be able to spend strategic time on each campus (RPI, Russell Sage, Union and Skidmore), coaching the staff, and perhaps working directly with a key student leader or speaking at a large group meeting on occasion. I will also have time to meet with, interview and hire new staff, to continue to grow the work on our local college campuses. There are many campuses in the area with little or no visible Christian presence. We'd love to see that change!



The capital district staff team of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

You're likely wondering what will happen with Skidmore. Caleb LaRue, who served with me last year on campus, will be taking my place. (He's on the far left in the photo on the front page of this letter.) We will be working hard this semester to make a smooth transition for everyone. The students are excited to have Caleb come back, and I know he will be a huge resource to them. He brings with him not only great knowledge and experience in ministry, and relationships with the students he worked with last year, but relationships with faculty, staff and administration on campus. He has lived and worked in the community of Saratoga Springs for the past 15 years. He will not only be a great asset to InterVarsity at Skidmore, but also to the Skidmore community as a whole. Caleb has been hard at work this year raising his budget. Pray with me that he surpasses his goal of 70% funding by March 10th, so he can return to campus after spring break to begin the transition process.

What this means for you as my partners in this ministry is that your prayers and finances will be used to build the work of InterVarsity in the entire capital district, influencing the lives of thousands of students! You will continue to impact the work at Skidmore, and will also have more of an influence at Union, Russell Sage and RPI as well. I also hope that it will give you more opportunities to partner with us in ministry. I hope that as I develop in this role, the ministry of InterVarsity will become increasingly visible in the capital district, and that we will look for strategic ways to partner with local churches, businesses, and organizations to serve and participate in the community around us.

My plans for the near future are to finish out the semester at Skidmore, and then pending a smooth application process, I will attend new area director training at the end of June/beginning of July in Madison, WI. The rest of my summer will be spent securing funding and revamping my website to help create an identity for the capital district team.

My supervisor has always lived 3 ½ hours from me, and for the first 4 years of my staff life, my teammates and colleagues were spread out across half of New York State. What God is doing in the capital district to build up a team of people who work *closely* together to advance His kingdom on the local college campuses is truly a gift. I consider it a privilege to be invited to make this transition, and develop this team. I covet your prayers for the transition, and for the journey ahead.

For His glory,

Danielle

p.s. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I'd love to hear from you!

To donate to the ministry, please visit http://www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Danielle_Bailey

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