

Skidmore College and the
Hudson Valley Team

March, 2007

Came and Coming Soon to a Staff Worker Near You...

January 19-21

Leaders' Days: We provided our new student leadership teams in Eastern NY with training and planning/prep time for their new year of leadership on campus.

April 13-14

Traveling Team Retreat: The Traveling Team, a missions mobilization organization, will be visiting the Hudson Valley to provide a retreat which will help students in the Hudson Valley to become world-changers.

May 11-17

Basileia: Our annual chapter camp. I will work closely with the student leaders from Skidmore to plan for the fall.

June 2nd

HV Fund Development Dessert: The Hudson Valley staff team will present the vision and need for participation in the ministry of InterVarsity in the area. This event will be hosted by a local church. If your church would like to host an event like this in the future, please contact me!

5, 10, 45, 65...

No, these aren't random guesses made by students of how many pounds Danielle might gain with this second pregnancy. These are actually goals, *numeric goals*, set by Skidmore's student leaders at our Leaders' Days retreat in January.

Specific goals like this are rare at Skidmore. Often we hesitate to strive toward numbers, because it feels impersonal, and seems to dictate to God what we think He should do. But I think what the Skidmore students gained vision for at Leaders' Days is that all these numbers represent people, *actual lives*, that matter to Jesus. We set numeric goals because they honor God's desire to work in the lives of people on our campus.

Would you pray with us that God helps us to honor Him in reaching these goals?

5—people to come into relationship with Jesus in the '06-'07 academic year

10—students to attend Basileia, our end of the year chapter camp

45—students involved in the fellowship by semester's end

65—students involved in the fellowship by the end of 2007

The rest of this letter will reflect some of these goals in further detail. I hope you enjoy reading about what God is up to!

Alysia's Enthusiasm

I received one of the best responses I've ever received from a student recently...

When thinking about how to grow the chapter from 25 to 45 in a semester, we realized that we probably already have close to 45 people who do things with the fellowship, who come here and there, but who aren't committed or involved.

We know that what needs to happen is we need to care well for these people on the fringe, and to invite them into deeper relationship and community. The student leaders can't do all the work in that department. So, I called upon a (committed) freshman to follow up with another (non-committed) freshman, since they had both been in the freshman small group last semester, and it seemed like a natural connection. This is the response I got...

"I'd love to, mostly because I feel like Eliza and I are a lot alike in these ways. It would be equally beneficial for me! but, I'm gonna need help. Eliza and I pretty much don't interact, so it would be really weird if I just dropped by her room or something. ... and I am pretty awkward with the praying together and checking up on spiritual progress and so on and so forth, I imagine she is too. These aren't excuses though. Yes, I think this is a good thing for both of us, and I want to do it. but, as I said, I haven't the slightest clue how and am gonna need some guidance. So talking more about it would be great. What works for you?"

As a staff worker, I live for these kind of responses. This represents an incredibly humble, teachable young woman who wants to be obedient to Jesus, and wants to grow! I am meeting with Alysia weekly, both to help her reach out to her peers, and also to plan the Luke Bible study that we are co-leading this semester. Pray that God uses these 4 years of college to grow and develop Alysia into the woman He wants her to become, and that He raises up more students like her to help grow the work on campus.



Evangelism Training

At Leaders' Days, we gave students a significant chunk of time specifically directed at planning evangelistic efforts on campus. While Skidmore students had great ideas about where the gospel and the campus culture intersect (particularly in areas of social justice, where students understand Jesus' heart), they had a hard time figuring out how we approach those issues in ways that would be distinctly Christian, and that would point people to Jesus in the midst. We decided that we needed to provide the chapter with training as to how to share their faith with their friends, and articulate the gospel in the midst of pursuing Jesus' purposes of justice and equality. I have been training students in evangelism in our large group meetings this semester, and we have been having some great discussions! Last week, while teaching students how to help their friends cross the line of faith, I actually got to pray with one of our students to do just that. Andy* had grown up in church, and had always gone through the motions, believed the things he was taught, etc., but never made any sort of official decision for himself. He just sort of went along with everything. He started coming to the fellowship this year as a senior because all his friends had graduated last year and he was looking for new ones. I sensed when I met with him in the beginning of the year that he got more of the "going to church" stuff and less of the "living the life of a Jesus follower" stuff. As we were "practicing" helping people cross the line (he was my partner), and I was realizing that this conversation was more than practice, I explained to him that sometimes it's helpful for people to ask Jesus to forgive and lead them in a decisive moment, simply to know that they've committed themselves to this lifelong journey. We prayed together, and he was thrilled. I never really know what to do with the "I've been a Christian all my life but I'm praying the prayer anyway" kind of stories, but God has certainly been transforming Andy this year through his involvement in the fellowship. I'm excited to see what this brings about in his life as he continues to grow and pursue this relationship with Jesus.

* not his real name

Staff and Volunteers Needed!

In order to see the vision of InterVarsity carried out in the Hudson Valley, we need more workers! I would love to see God raise up at least 3 new InterVarsity staff and 3+ volunteers for our area. If you are interested in working to see *students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, and world-changers developed*, please contact me and we'll discuss the plethora of opportunities available!

Basileia

Basileia is our regional year-end chapter camp. When exams are all finished, we send students off to a week of camp, to be trained as disciples, worship God, and grow in community. The leaders at Skidmore see this retreat as key not only to students growing in Christ, but also in developing a sense of commitment to each other and to the community on campus. It's a week of intense fellowship, undistracted by academics or other social engagements. So, we want to see at least 10 Skidmore students attend this year, in hopes that those 10 will bring back a vision for developing the community on campus. It will cost \$3,150 for 10 students to attend Basileia. Not all the students can afford the \$315 fee.

Would you consider giving a special one-time gift to help us achieve our goal of getting 10 Skidmore students to this strategic time of training and fellowship? If interested, contact me, or go directly to intervarsity.org, click on "donate" in the lefthand column, and you can give online to the ENY scholarship account.

Family Update

All's well at the Bailey household. As I gain more energy in my second (going into third)

trimester, I've been able to get more done around the house, which gives Jeremy, Ian and me more time to spend together as a family. Jeremy and I are thoroughly enjoying watching Ian grow and learn new things every minute. He has an inquisitive mind and a huge vocabulary! The new baby is healthy and active, awake and kicking at all kinds of inconvenient times day and night. They suspect it's a girl this time, though they couldn't be certain. We'll have a boy name picked out just in case. She's due on June 20th, just in time for a nice summer maternity leave!

I'm enjoying the balance of work and home at the moment, and am in no hurry to make any decisions any time soon. We'll cross that bridge at the end of the summer, after there's been time to adjust.

* actual # of lbs. Danielle has gained with baby #2 so far

Thank you for your faithful support! You are a blessing to me!
- Danielle