

Skidmore College and the
Hudson Valley Team

March, 2008

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

February 29– March 1

SLAC Evangelism

Consultation: Staff from small liberal arts colleges (SLACs) across the northeast gathered to discuss what it looks like to do evangelism in our specific context (see right).

April 17

Road Trip to Smith: When it comes to encouraging students to reach out to their campus, I sometimes face this sentiment: “I feel like InterVarsity is forcing us to do things that won’t work at Skidmore.” In order to demonstrate to students that InterVarsity and I care very much, in fact, about reaching out in ways that *work*, I am going to take several of them to Smith College, which has a climate that is spiritually, socially, and intellectually very similar to Skidmore. We will participate in some evangelistic outreach that they will be doing on their campus. I hope our trip will inspire Skidmore students to think about how to contextualize the gospel in their circumstances and their community.

May 9-15

Basileia: Our fantastic year end retreat! Be praying for our recruitment. I’d love to see at least 15 Skidmore students attend.

SLACing in Evangelism?

Sex, drugs, and rock and roll. That’s all those young ‘n’s care about these days. If I were to say it better, I’d say that’s all they *used* to care about *those* days. The kinds of things I hear students caring about these days are poverty, the environment, AIDS, genocide, war, hatred...the list goes on. And though he’s the only one who has them, very few people are asking Jesus for the answers!

Why is this so?

Did Jesus cease to become relevant somewhere along the journey between 30 AD and today? Or are people today (both Christians and not) having a hard time keeping up with just how relevant Jesus is? How do we, as Christians, engage with our culture, while trying to overcome the stereotypes that we’ve earned for ourselves over the decades (of being hypocritical, unloving, irrelevant and out to convert, amongst others)? How do we point them to Jesus as they try to solve all the world’s biggest problems, without getting them hung up on his followers’ greatest failings?

This and more is what we discussed as we gathered for a consultation about evangelism at small liberal arts colleges (SLACs). It was most encouraging to be in a room of people who care passionately about students coming to know, love and follow Jesus, and who also want to see that happen in a way that is natural and sensitive to today’s students and their campus culture.

Some overall themes to our discussion included communicating the whole gospel (cross and kingdom—personal, relational, and systemic redemption), connecting the good news with issues on God’s heart (eg., “What does the cross have to do with the environment?”), and earning trust by asking good questions, not being too quick to give the “right” answer.

Recently, an agnostic student attended one of our campus fellowship meetings to film it for a class project (cool, right?). As I engaged him in conversation afterward, he asked, “So, what is Christian Fellowship anyway?” Where I finally landed in my answer was this: “We’re a group of people who don’t think the world works the way God wants it to. We come together so that He can make us more like He wants us to be, so that we can then go out and make the world more like He intends for it to be. That’s why we do things like this fund raiser you just heard about...”

The Christian Fellowship at Skidmore is raising funds for an organization that is working to abolish child sex trafficking. For the second year in a row, they’re baking bunny cakes to sell to the campus and the community (they couldn’t choose something easy like selling candy bars). *Cont. on back...*



Carolyn, one of the spearheads of the fund raiser, sits at the table to sell bunny cakes.

Hudson Valley Happenings



Jibu

Eli

Update from Jibu Abraham and Eli Marsh @ Union College:

We need prayer for next term. We will be focusing on evangelism.

Please pray for:

The Preparing - That students will take part in evangelism training and be receptive to it

The Prayer(ing) - That students would pray hard for their friends that are lost

The Caring - That students would embrace and love their campus

The Sharing - That students would be bold to share the good news. The Gospel will be presented many times at LG. Pray for good soil

The Declaring - That students would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

If you would like more info. about what's happening at Union, please email Jibu at: jibu.abraham@gmail.com

Odds 'n' Ends

Funding Update: Thank you to all who faithfully give of your hard-earned finances to help God's work go forth at Skidmore and in the Hudson Valley. God has provided all I have needed for the past few years with very little maintenance on my part. That being said, as my children get older, if I were to choose to spend more than 12 hours/week doing this ministry, I would need to see more support come in. If you would like to help make that possible (by beginning or increasing your support), please go to http://www.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Danielle_Bailey or contact me directly.

Alumni: Wondering what ever happened to Jane, that friend of yours from college who went off to start a church in Wyoming? If you'd like to contact, connect with, and update your friends from college, join the IV Grapevine! It's a great place to find and reconnect with those old college friends. And if your friends aren't there yet, make sure they know about it. Go to: <http://www.ivupstate.org/alumni.php>

Email List: If you are still receiving a hard copy of this letter, but would be willing to instead receive it via email, please let me know. Also, I send out shorter email prayer requests and updates a little more frequently than I send these longer letters. If you're not on my email list, and you'd like to be, email me and let me know:

danielle_bailey@ivstaff.org

That includes those of you who have changed your email addresses and I don't know your new one!

Update from Niki Campbell @ RPI & Russell Sage:



Niki

Sage: Recently the exec. board of Russell Sage got a note from the Dean of Students. It was a glowing message to let the women know how much he appreciated their efforts to engage the entire campus. That all their activities have made the student life more exciting and interesting and that he is convinced that these women in InterVarsity really do care about their fellow students and even their professors. Recently, their faculty advisor's father has been in pretty tough shape health wise and it has been a concern. Everyday that she was in, a member of the chapter has brought her lunch and took 20 min. out of their schedule to pray with her. The other people in her office have been shocked at how much the girls in the chapter care for their advisor and it has been a great witness for all in the office!

RPI: Over this break there are 4 people attending InterVarsity's NYCUP project. The chapter has been so supportive of these 4 students that they have been investing their own money and starting fund raisers to make sure these 4 students are able to go. They as a chapter are personally investing in fellow members learning how to serve in poverty stricken areas of the Bronx.

If you would like more info. about what's happening at RPI or Russell Sage, please email Niki at: campbn@gmail.com

SLACing... (cont. from front)

They'll be making close to 100 cakes this year, raising thousands of dollars for the organization, and involving the campus in something that both they, and God, thinks is really important. It breaks down a wall, and makes Jesus seem a little more relevant to a campus who might otherwise have chosen to write him off.

I realize the gospel is infinitely more complicated than my brief description to my new agnostic friend. But I am praying for opportunities for more conversations with him, to flesh out a bigger picture for him. Jesus, what he did on the cross, and what he taught about the kingdom, are as relevant as it gets *these* days. It is imperative that we as Christians catch up with him, and learn how to connect our broken world to its restoring Creator.

Family Corner

The family's doing great! Thanks for your continued prayers as we grow together.

See photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/BallstonBailey/>

May God bless and keep you!

- Danielle