

Skidmore College and the
Hudson Valley Team

November, 2006

Coming Soon to a Staff Worker Near You...

December 6th

ULT Meeting: I will travel to Syracuse for a meeting with the Upstate Leadership Team, on which I serve because of my role as the team leader for the Hudson Valley.

December 9th

HV Team Meeting: The Hudson Valley staff team will convene to do our spring planning, and end the day with a Christmas celebration.

December 11th

CF Christmas Party: We'll hold our annual Christmas party and invite the Skidmore community to celebrate the birth of Christ.

December 26th—
January 1st

Urbana: Jeremy and I will help to staff InterVarsity's triennial missions convention.

Thanksgiving

I married into one of those families where it's a requirement around the Thanksgiving table every year to share what we are most thankful for. So, as a means of rehearsing for our Thanksgiving meal this year, I thought I'd share with you some of the things I am most thankful to God for as they pertain to this amazing ministry He has entrusted to us. You could share them around a post-Thanksgiving meal if you'd like!



I am thankful for Megan, a faithful leader of the fellowship who has been co-leading a Bible study through Luke with me as she serves as our Large Group Coordinator. She uses her gifts of organization to help things run smoothly, and

her studies as an anthropology major to ask really insightful questions of Scripture. She gives so much to the fellowship, and encourages me greatly.

I am thankful for Kipsy, a junior who attended our Expedition '06 retreat. She came back and gave her testimony to the fellowship, stating that she hopes a day never goes by where she doesn't talk with someone about Jesus.



I am thankful for a growing staff team in the Hudson Valley. We have 3 paid staff, 3 InterVarsity volunteers, and at least 7-10 additional people serving with us on campus in various capacities. We hope to hire at least 2-3 additional paid staff in the coming year or two, and are always looking to expand our staff team. It's exciting to see the way God is growing the ministry in the Hudson Valley.

I am thankful for Miriam, a sophomore who became a Christian just a year ago. She has friends coming to her daily to ask her questions about God, and she is faithful to listen and answer. Her heart breaks for those who don't know Jesus.



I am thankful for the success of Expedition '06. Students left the fall conference passionate about God and His Word, and ready to transform their campuses for the kingdom.

I am thankful for potential new leaders. God has raised up some incredible potential leaders for next year, and even a lot of potential apprentices who can be trained to serve in years to come.

I am thankful for an increased boldness in the students in the fellowship. I see many students fervently asking God to make Himself known on campus, and to use them to do it.

I am thankful for a team of people who pray for and give financially to this ministry. The work could not go forth without such a cloud of witnesses!

Would you join me in thanking God this year for His faithfulness?

I'm sorry this letter is coming out so late. We experienced a few technical difficulties in getting it out. Thankfully, it doesn't need to be Thanksgiving to give thanks!

Considering God's Call

"What would it look like for our fellowships to move from the periphery to the center of campus?" As I sat and listened to Greg Jao present the vision of why we're on campus, and what God could do with our InterVarsity chapters, my heart began to beat faster, and the excitement bubbled up within me. What if we were the group that influenced policy, culture, academic and social life on campus more than any other group? What if we were known for making the community a better place to be? What if students and faculty were actually being transformed, campuses were actually being renewed, and world-changers were actually being developed? This is what we're all about! This is *why* InterVarsity exists. How exciting! As I sat in my excitement, I looked two rows ahead of me, where sat Jibu. Jibu is one of the two volunteers who I supervise at Union College. Jibu is new to the InterVarsity family, having been encouraged to volunteer at Union by (and alongside of) his friend Eli, who had been involved with InterVarsity as a student. Jibu has seen a small picture of what InterVarsity is all about by serving at Union, but it occurred to me that this was perhaps the first time that he was hearing the vision of InterVarsity articulated with this amount of vision and passion. The excitement in me welled to new levels as I considered how he might be receiving this vision.

And then I looked around the room. At a retreat of 200 students and 50 staff from all over upstate NY, over 25% of the students were from the Hudson Valley area (Skidmore, Union, RPI, Russell Sage and Vassar). Even more exciting to me was that nearly 30% of the staff team was made up of staff and volunteers from the Hudson Valley. "Wow, Lord! Look at the ways you're growing this team! What a privilege it is to be called to serve and direct these, your servants, as they call students to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with you." I sensed within myself a deepening passion and vision for building up the kingdom work in the Hudson Valley, investing in and developing a staff team that will reach this generation of students with the depth and breadth of the good news. My excitement was growing in ways I never expected!

I recently attended an informational retreat for potential Area Directors. We were given information on the position of area director within the ministry, and also given time to reflect on our calling, our passions, our giftings, and our circumstances. I *love* the ministry of InterVarsity, and I am so excited about the ways that God is moving in the Hudson Valley. I am excited to see God raising up new, incredibly gifted staff to serve students in our area. In many ways, I have been equipped and groomed to care well for a staff team, both by the Lord, and by people who He has used to invest in me along the way.

As I consider investing in the Hudson Valley staff team on a deeper level, there are other factors to be taken into consideration. The work at Skidmore is at a critical junction. For the first time in my 6 years on staff there, I am finally seeing not just individual students, but the whole fellowship, have a passion to reach out to their community and to have an impact on the whole of the college campus. I'd like to see God raise up strong student leaders and staff to carry out the work (my goals for campus work reflect those desires). Another factor that will influence my decisions about the future is that I recently found out we are expecting our second child in June. Who knows what kind of new territory that will be, or how this new child will influence my ability to minister effectively?

Would you pray with me as I consider the next things that God might be calling me into? We studied Joshua's initiation to leadership in Josh. 1 at the Area Director event. Joshua had the privilege of hearing audibly from the Lord. I have to admit, I'm a little envious. With the full support of my family, and my colleagues, to make whatever decision God calls me to, I find the freedom a little overwhelming. Pray with me for discernment, and also that I am not anxious to make these kinds of decisions in haste (as would be my tendency).

Thank you for praying!