

State of the Area

This has been a very productive fall for IVCF in New York City. We are seeing fruits of the Kingdom in a number of different areas, including leadership development, evangelism, and ministry funding.

Developing leadership is core to our identity. We are by design a student led organization. Students carry responsibility for building a campus fellowship and sharing faith on campus. As students gain experience, they move into more responsibility. Our objective is to graduate students who are leaders.

This Fall saw good progress in our leadership development program. We continue to benefit from partnership with Frances Hesselbein, formerly CEO of the Girl Scouts and currently Chair of the Leader to Leader Institute. Frances has influenced our student work as we strive for an integrated concept of leadership for students – leaders who know how to do, but more deeply, students who know how to be.

Frances was a guest panelist on our forum on "Developing Leaders of Character for the City" in early October. This panel brought together a variety of leaders on and off campus including chaplains, pastors, administrators and faculty. Discussion centered around the processes and methodologies for strengthening the kind of leader-

ship that our society will need.

At the student level, a leadership conference at the beginning of November brought together teams from campuses throughout NYC. Drawing particularly from the excellent leadership book *The Leadership Pipeline* and from Hesselbein's article "Managing in a World That is Round", the conference laid out the substance of a plan to develop younger students into effective leaders.

Students are demonstrating leadership in **evangelism**. At Baruch College, the leadership team decided to replace their usual weekly meetings with a program specifically designed for those outside the Christian tradition. They are in the midst of relearning how to speak of the hope they have in Christ in an accessible language.

At Columbia University, the evangelism team re-launched "The Edge". This event pulls together a Christ-centered message with various elements of popular culture. They worked with the movie "Punch Drunk Love" this year.

We continue to design our student conferences to be both welcoming and challenging to those who are seeking faith. Two NYU students made decisions for Christ at our October *Big Event* retreat (see inside for story!), and one friend of a Baruch alumni

volunteered in our kitchen and was struck by community he saw. He made a decision to be a Christian in a Bible study the following week.

In **fund development**, we continue to see God's faithfulness in the midst of a tenuous economic climate. Initiatives such as our alumni tea with IV President Alec Hill are helping us to reconnect with people who care about and love the campus and college students. We continue to strive to greater partnerships for the sake of the mission.

Our experiment with new paradigms for funding continues. The staff team is working hard at community and teamwork. We are committed to responsible development of every category of potential income. Our investment in this area is critical to the long term health of the ministry, and is part of our commitment to our financial donors to be good stewards of their gifts.

In all, it was a fall filled with productive activity in the service of students and the campus. We are deeply grateful to God for the opportunity to engage in significant work and to you, our partners, for your investment in this ministry.

Kevin Oro-Hahn is the Area Director for NYC .

View us online at our website: www.ivcfnyc.org!

In View: the Big Event

Big Events at NYU

It's the final night of The Big Event. Attending the retreat is a junior philosophy major named Byron, a committed atheist. After the evening worship session, Byron walks into the prayer room and sits down. A staff worker walks over and prays with him. Head hung, face in his hands, Byron continues to sit alone, slumped in his chair. I finish praying over a student and move to where Byron is.

Anna: (sitting down) Byron, what are you doing up here in the prayer room?

Byron: (looks Anna straight in the eye, with a serious expression) I just asked Jesus into my heart...and I'm so scared.

Anna: (falls off her chair) Holy Cats! (pause) You should be!

We proceed to talk and pray through next steps, walking back to the NYU chapter time where students are bowed in prayer, weeping and praying passionately. They are processing the three student deaths at NYU within 6 weeks. They were praying that Byron would be saved AS HE WAS RECEIVING CHRIST. Byron makes his announcement.

Byron: (mumbles) I just asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior.

The room full of MEFers and AACFers is stunned. Pins drop. Jaws drop. The room erupts with a roar! We pray over Byron. I see Paige, who has been sharing her faith with Byron for the last 2 years in both her lifestyle and in her words, weep and laugh and weep and laugh as she prays deep blessings over Byron's new faith. Byron is weeping and laughing. The room full of students join them.

One of the students is Carmen, a senior business major who has been involved with NYU's Asian American Christian Fellowship (AACF). Carmen says, "Wait, Wait! I have something to share!"

We all turn to Carmen as she continues, "I know you think I'm a Christian, but I'm not." (Context: Carmen is a Chinese American woman who has been

attending AACF since her freshman year, particularly involved in a GIG, God Investigation Group, for the last two years. Her dad, a devout Buddhist, has said he would disown her if she converted.) "But I want you to know I pray. I pray to Jesus. I pray all over the place. I pray in the shower, on the bathroom (nervous laughter). I don't become a Christian because of my dad. I'm afraid I'll lose his love."

Carmen takes a deep breath, "but I want to let you know that I want to be a Christian...RIGHT NOW."

Pins drop. Jaws drop. Then the room ERUPTS again. A slew of women from AACF jump up and run over to Carmen, piling on her with hugs, tears and laughter. Carmen weeps and laughs.

"It's too much, Lord! It's too much!" The president of New York University's Multi-Ethnic Fellowship (MEF) is laughing and crying, overwhelmed with joy.

Carmen invited Jesus to usher in His kingdom into her world that night. We all prayed with her, praising God. Byron's first prayer, other than the one for himself, was for Carmen, that Jesus himself would guard the faith He had begun and that God would reconcile Carmen's father to her, and to Jesus himself. Amazing.

Then we burst into spontaneous worship.

Two weeks later, Raysa, a senior at NYU leads a GIG in the Gospel of John with her suitemate, Christina, who we had been praying for. Christina is a junior majoring in sociology and political science. Raysa asks Christina, "Is there any reason you wouldn't want to invite Jesus into your life?" After thinking a moment, Christina says, "No," and invites Jesus in. She will be disciplined by Raysa.

God continues to do amazing things at NYU, empowering students to build witnessing communities growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people, and God's purposes.

Anna Lee is a staff worker at New York University.



Summer Missions

Noise, Stillness & the Gospel of Luke

I wake up to the radio telling me that the Lincoln tunnel is backed up in both directions. I imagine the sound of car horns is like the kid's voices echoing from the school playground below. How is it that this city is already filled with noise? Heading to the train I see two versions of the same newspaper with big headlines that visually shout at me. A woman is selling coffee from a cart. My cell phone has six new messages. The subway is full of people carrying extra stuff these days, making it hard to move. Everyone is in a hurry.

Advent seems like a time for stillness. But the woman selling coffee, the kids, commuting, go on loud as ever.

A group of college students gathered around a table, their heads bowed. Spread out in front of them is God's Word, manuscript style. 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.' There is silence.

After a while I ask, "So, what did you see?" Slowly at first, students share what they saw in the first chapter of Luke. One woman notices the way Mary is praised by the angel, while her relative was scolded. A young man asks why Mary's song is so violent. Angels, kings, priests, old and young, people are gathered together in this text. Their story sets the stage for something great. Children are going to be born. God is going to do something.

Have you ever sat with a piece of scripture long enough that it surrounds you? Long enough that it begins to ask you questions? Have you ever watched as someone experiences God speaking to them through scripture for the first time?

This semester studying the gospel of Luke has been a source of grace and stillness for me. I have seen students encounter God as I sit with them in scripture. We are learning to be quiet, to observe, to listen. I pray that God would bring stillness so that students would be surrounded by his word.

Jason Gaboury is a staffworker at Hunter College.

From Urban to Urbana

From Manhattan-ite to Madisonian-ite, I moved to InterVarsity's National Service Center to help prepare for Urbana: our triennial student mission convention that serves over 20,000 students, missionaries, and church leaders. I've traded in my bagels for brats, MTA subway card for a car, and campus for a cubicle. My ministry tools are now video editing equipment, photoshop, and computer-aided drafting programs. As a member of 2100 productions (IVCF's Multi-media team) I am helping produce Urbana videos & exhibits that express this convention's theme: *YOUR KINGDOM COME*. The videos are just one small piece that goes into planning InterVarsity's



Urbana '00



Backstage at Urbana '00

jam packed mission convention happening **December 27-31**. There are small group Bible studies, theatre, daily Bible exposition, music, missionary testimonies, seminars, mission agencies and many other ways that God's Kingdom is being communicated at Urbana. AND, the 5 day convention itself is just one piece of the bigger picture of Urbana's impact in world missions. God is using Urbana to challenge college students to commit their lives to God's purposes in the world. For more information check-out www.urbana.org. Also see Urbana Numbers and Prayer Requests on page 4.

Jen Ikoma is a staffworker at NYU, currently on loan to 2100 Productions.



Jen Ikoma with Diana Collymore (staff at Hofstra) and the Urbana '03 stage model

Alumni News

Urbana '03 Numbers

To make you say "Praise God!"	To make me say "Praise God!"	To make us say "Help, God!"
<p>20,000... students, missionaries, and church leaders attending</p> <p>60... year legacy of challenging students through Urbana conventions</p> <p>350... mission organizations & seminaries exhibiting</p> <p>300... seminars offered</p> <p>5... days of worship, praise, and teaching as delegates explore their place in God's Kingdom</p>	<p>1996 ... year I attended Urbana as a college student from Cornell University</p> <p>3-5 ... year commitment to serve in missions. The box I checked off at Urbana 96</p> <p>5 ... years served as Campus Staff at NYU's Asian American Christian Fellowship</p>	<p>22... number of days left until Urbana! [at printing]</p> <p>PRAYER REQUESTS</p> <p>STAFF: All IV staff work at the convention; here are a few examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason Gaboury, Hunter Staff: Theatre Team - Anna Lee, NYU Staff: Prayer Team - Jennifer Ikoma: 2100 Productions <p>STUDENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scholarships - Understanding parents - Transportation - Goals: recruitment #s, etc.

Alumni Tea

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship held our first annual Alumni Tea Party on Sunday, October 5, 2003 at Columbia University to celebrate the way InterVarsity's mission has been lived out among our alumni from New York City schools, or who have settled in New York City after graduation. Alec Hill, President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, USA, was our keynote speaker. If you were not able to attend, but would like to keep updated on our events, help connect InterVarsity to long-lost alumni or your church, please check out our city-wide website, www.ivcfny.org, or contact us at Webmaster@ivcfny.org.

Matching Funds

Did you know your company may be able to **match your donations** to InterVarsity, effectively doubling or tripling the original gift? Do you work for an organization or corporation that provides matching funds? Contact Anna Lee at nyumef@yahoo.com for more information!

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
 c/o Simplicity Office Solutions
 140 Essex Street E303
 S. Hamilton, MA 01982

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info@simplicityofficesolutions.com

IVCF-NY/NJ
 2489 Broadway, 5th Floor
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www.ivcfny.org

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