

From the Area Director

Dear Friends,

I have some difficult news to report. February 28th will be my last day at InterVarsity, as I have accepted a pastoral position at The River, a church plant in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. I have mixed emotions. On the one hand, InterVarsity has been an enormous part of my life for the past 12 years of ministry, five of which I spent as Area Director. I'm sad to leave, and in fact I am hardly able to imagine my life apart from InterVarsity. During my dozen years of ministry, I have been given so much for which I am profoundly grateful. InterVarsity has shaped me as a leader, and formed me as a Christian. I have formed lasting relationships and learned so much from both staff and students, and I trust that in one way or another, InterVarsity will be with me the rest of my life.



On the other hand, I am looking forward to a new role as Executive Pastor, and I feel that God is calling me to this church at this time in my life. It isn't a complete goodbye, since I definitely will support and partner with InterVarsity in my new position. In fact, I'm excited about what we've accomplished these past few years, and about what lies ahead.

God has done dramatic things with us at InterVarsity. We've seen the Veritas Forum successfully expand to include a year-round lecture series, drawing hundreds of students to explore life's most significant questions in light of the Gospel of Christ. The NYC Urban Project has expanded as well, now providing year-round opportunities for students to connect their faith with their service. Commuter-school ministry has increased, student-led evangelism has taken off, and volunteers have taken on increased roles, becoming a core part of our mission. Revenues have grown substantially and dedicated alumni are participating more than ever. In short, we've done a lot in these few short years, and much is yet to come.

The important work of InterVarsity will continue. My supervisor, Greg Jao is working together with the NYC Board of Advisors to search for my successor, and I am confident that they will find the best person for the job. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you as you continue to work diligently for His kingdom and share the Gospel with the students of New York.

Shalom,
Kevin Oro-Hahn
IVNYC Area Director

Financial Reporting

| | <u>Q4 2006</u> | <u>Fiscal Year to Date</u> | <u>Last Fiscal Year</u> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenue | 133,064 | 177,517 | 583,639 |
| Expenditures | 139,175 | 220,679 | 565,639 |
| Rev/Exp Ratio | 0.97 | 0.80 | 1.03 |

In View is a quarterly publication of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, NYC Area; Kevin Oro-Hahn, Director.
IVCF-NYC; 74 Trinity Place, Suite 600; New York, NY 10006; www.ivcfny.org; office@ivcfny.org

INTERVARSITY

New York City Area

In-View

January, 2007

Columbia Considers God and Science

On November 20th, about six hundred people filed into a Columbia University auditorium to learn about the reality of God. At this year's Veritas Forum, Alister McGrath, professor of historical theology at Oxford University, and David Helfand, the chair of Columbia's astronomy department, talked candidly about how modern science should factor into our understanding of religion. Dr. McGrath, who is a bio-physicist and one of Britain's most well-known evangelical Christians, explained to the audience how he came to faith in Christ. His scientific training, he told agnostic Prof. Helfand, did not point away from Christ but rather towards Him.



Oxford Professor Alister McGrath and Columbia Professor David Helfand discuss the relationship between science and religion. (Media credit: Hung Nguyen)

The audience, composed of students and faculty alike, posed numerous questions to both panelists and came away with much to think about. One Columbia freshman, who described himself as an atheist, remarked: "I was really surprised at how strongly the panelists could disagree and still consider each other's ideas. I want to reconsider what I believe." Another non-religious student, a sophomore studying biology, asked: "Can science provide all the answers, or are there questions that it cannot answer, such as what is good and evil, what is justice, and what is the meaning of life? Do we need religion to answer these questions?"

Thanks to this fall's Veritas Forum, hundreds of Columbia students and professors were presented with life's hardest questions and pointed toward the One who is the answer. We followed up personally with many of them, and we've been excited to see God working in their lives. At the heart of a university that often works against faith in Christ, events like the Veritas Forum are changing hearts and minds. We feel blessed to have the chance to be a part of what God is doing here in New York, and we're thankful to be blessed by the support of so many friends who make it all possible.

"As a scientist, you went from atheism to Christianity. That surprises me — I would have expected you to go in the other direction. I'm honestly interested; how did you come to faith?"

--Prof. David Helfand, *Veritas Forum* panelist,
Director, Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory

Our **VISION** IS TO SEE: **STUDENTS & FACULTY** **TRANSFORMED** **&** **WORLD CHANGERS DEVELOPED**
campuses renewed

New York IntersVarsity Students Attend Urbana Conference

This December, over 22,000 Christians with a heart for missions came together at IntersVarsity's annual Urbana Conference, and thirty New York students were among them. For the first time ever, the conference outgrew its original home in Urbana, Illinois, instead filling St. Louis with young people, pastors, youth workers, and missionaries from around



the globe. Among the highlights were speakers Ray Bakke and Rick Warren, along with church leaders from Kenya and Sri Lanka, all of whom challenged students to preach the Gospel and serve the poor and the suffering.

This year's theme was taken from Ephesians 4:1, urging Christians to "Live a life worthy of the calling" given to us by Christ. Patricia Pendergrass (*pictured with a student at Urbana*), an InterVarsity staff member at Hunter College, spoke about how she was

convicted of God's desire to see His church unified. We need to be "humble and gentle to others in response to God's grace," she said. Students like Emmanuella Anyanwu, a student at Hunter College, were also challenged to grow in their faith and witness: "What really impacted me was the role of Christ's body, the church, in being ambassadors of Christ by preaching the word, feeding, clothing, providing shelter and sharing hope in Christ with poor. It is not just a work of charity. It is the duty of Christians. God straightened my priorities at Urbana."



Thursday morning plenary in the Dome at Urbana 06 in St. Louis

"I had a rough time growing up. My father abandoned my family when I was 5 years old, and he left a giant hole in my life. My mom and brother loved me, but I couldn't help but wonder: Why did my dad leave us? Didn't he love me? The pain and resentment only grew, and I hit a low point during my freshman year of high school. I even thought seriously about killing myself. But one morning, after a particularly bad night, I was somehow struck by the beauty of the sun and sky that streamed in through my bedroom window. Being alive in a world this beautiful, I thought, was more than enough reason to carry on. After that, things started to turn around. My sophomore year, I made some real friendships with Christians on the volleyball team. They invited me to church and I went along, but I didn't really get it. Then came college. One of my friends invited me to join IntersVarsity, and I did. It was the best decision of my life. Through discussion in my small group, I began to see how real Christianity was. I started to learn that God wanted to have a relationship with me, and that He loved me. I started to read the Bible more often, hoping that God would reveal Himself. To no surprise, He did. I began to see how God has been working in my life all along, and what His grace really means. Even through the rough times, the Bible said that Jesus has promised never to leave us. In my own life, I knew that was true. Reading through the book of Romans, I came across the verse where Paul says that God is visible through the creation He has made. Immediately, I thought back to that morning after I'd come so close to killing myself, when I'd been strangely filled with joy at the beauty of God's creation. From that moment on, I realized that I had to live my life for Christ. How could I do anything else? He's always protected me, even in my darkest hour."

--Jennifer, Columbia College '08

At Hunter College, New Nursing Fellowship Launched

Hunter College has one of the most prestigious nursing programs in New York City, but until this past fall semester, it had no Christian fellowship for young nurses-in-training. Thanks to hard work and God's grace, that has now changed. Here's what Jason Gaboury, IntersVarsity staff member at Hunter College, reports:

On the last Monday before fall semester ended, I sat in a room full of nursing students. There were 15 students who had come to learn about a new Christian fellowship we were trying to start.

A young man named Immanuel stood up and began to share his vision for a Christian community inside the nursing school. It would be a place, he said, where the vocation of nursing and the call of Christ would be explored mutually. "I want to provide students here with a opportunity and community to know and follow Christ, because he is the source and goal of direct care. As Mother Theresa said, 'When we serve the sick, we serve Christ.'"

The air was electric. I thought back to the first time I had met Immanuel two years ago. I thought about the year I mentored him in leadership, and about how he had grown as a communicator and as a leader.

When I stood up to invite students to become charter members of the newly formed Nurses Christian Fellowship, all 15 students responded. One week later the chapter had grown to 20.

I am excited to see God expanding our witness on campus by enabling us to plant new chapters. I'm grateful to see years of investment in student leadership development blossom. I worship God in response to the gift of sharing in this good work with you.

Spring Break '07: Destination-- New York City Urban Project

Many college students head off to places like Miami or Acapulco for spring break. But this spring, from March 3rd to April 5th, over 100 students will live in the South Bronx, serving the poor at non-profit agencies and diving into what Scripture says about justice and racial reconciliation. IntersVarsity's New York City Urban Project gives hundreds of students the opportunity to put their faith into action.



A New York City Urban Project student from last summer investing in kids

spring break, we're looking forward to seeing our students encounter God in new and powerful ways by living out the biblical call to care for the neediest among us.

This semester we are also blessed to have an intern. Laura Blair is a sophomore at Hamilton College with a passion for Christ and for justice. The internship will provide an opportunity to explore ways that faith based organizations can effectively address poverty and contribute to social justice in the urban context.



Caption for photo