



NORTHEAST REPORT

NEWS OF REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP IN THE NORTHEAST

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The Freshman Adjustment



My freshman year of college was as intense as they come. With ROTC training, switching majors, and serving on my residence hall's council, my schedule was packed from dawn to dusk. Luckily I found RUF, which became a shelter from the stresses of college life. After the long stretch from Monday to Thursday, I would trudge into RUF, grab a homemade snack, see a friend's smiling face, and be greeted with a hug from a senior. This welcoming environment helped me create strong relationships with God and other students. I had found a special group.

After an enjoyable first year, I was grateful to spend time with these people at Summer Conference. It's incredible how a volleyball court can bring people together. I also had the opportunity to explore what I believe and how God calls me to worship Him. I came out of SuCo with a more focused and confident belief in God, and excited about being a part of a community whose members relate to each another with honesty, care, and love. RUF has become family to me, and I look forward to growing with them during my next three years at PITT.

– by Matt Beck

RUF Finding Freshmen

Matt is not the only person who found his introduction to college life intense. The experience is pretty common – universal, I'd say. That is why the opening weeks of the fall semester are so critical for reaching students for Christ. Here are a few reports of how RUF is reaching freshmen around the Northeast.



Women's Bible Study at the University of Vermont

Leaping Ahead at Delaware

This fall RUF at the University of Delaware was starting our fourth year on campus. It was fantastic!!! Our students tabled and gave out Rita's Italian Ice and delicious donuts to welcome all the new and returning students. We reflected to them the reality that the God of the universe is generous and welcomes broken, messy, and sinful people like us to come and feast on the salvation He offers in Jesus. Our students did an amazing job not only serving and standing out in the hot sun for many many hours to meet new students – they also deeply cared for those who stopped by to grab a treat and learn about RUF. We had more students sign up than any previous year and for our first large group 20 new students showed up in addition to our RUF regulars. It has been exciting and encouraging to see this ministry blossom and take a significant step forward this fourth year at UD. *Nick Owens, Campus Minister at the University of Delaware*

Global Missions Boot Camp at Lehigh

All summer we prayed that the Lord would bring mature Christians, immature Christians, and non-Christians to RUF and he has! In answering those prayers, RUF has turned

into a global missions boot camp. From atheist Chinese students with Buddhist grandparents to nominal Roman Catholics, we are awash in gospel problems. How do you communicate the gospel to such a wide array of people from such different backgrounds? When do you challenge people about their unbelief and when or how long to you simply develop a relationship with them? *Michael Goodlin, Campus Minister at Lehigh University*



Freshmen Bible study at Lehigh University

Thankful for an Atheist

Kevin is an atheist who walked up to our table while we were giving away donuts outside of NYU's student center during Welcome Week. He said that now that he was in college he wanted to start considering things he'd always dismissed, and Christianity was at the top of his list. Since then we've met several times, he's attended a few of our events, and his interest in Christianity has deepened! I am so thankful that God has connected us to Kevin and several other non-Christian students to begin the year. *Matt Terrell, Campus Minister in New York City*



RUF donut outreach in New York City ←

Huge Response at Boston University

Four things to thank God for:

- 164 new student contacts we made during our tabling events, student club fairs, and outreach events. It's too soon to tell if they will stick around, but over 25 new students have attended events we have held so far.
- 2 stellar interns who are doing a great job connecting with students at BU.
- 3 Large Group meetings where the gospel has been preached. This is the first year we have had weekly large group and it's been going well so far, with student leaders making new students feel welcome and student musicians leading worship.
- 4 weeks of gospel conversations where we've had the opportunity to share the gospel, care for students through hardship, and discuss difficult issues of the faith. It has been a full September! *Nathan Dicks, Campus Minister at Boston University*

A New Record at RISD

Over 140 students visited last night for the RISD Kick-Off Gathering. That is a new record! They gave away prizes and food, followed by worship in song, prayer, and hearing from scripture the very words of God. The student leaders were overwhelmed with the line of people that wound down from the second floor fellowship hall down the stairs to the first floor. But they have been working hard all week to reach out to their peers new and old. Thank you all for helping us keep going. We are off to a tremendous start!

A crew of leaders are representing the ministry at RISD's Block Party (i.e. club fair) this afternoon. Tomorrow morning, they are organizing to take freshmen to church. Tomorrow night is Family Group Bible Study Dessert night in Sayles Hall. They are already looking to recruit for Fall Conference at the end of this month. What an answer to prayer!! *Eddie Park, Campus Minister at Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design*



RUF Brown/RISD Leaders

Tragedies and Opportunities to Minister at UMD

This past week I ran into a fringe student who is part of a

fraternity here. He was very shaken up and told me he felt like God had brought us together for our meeting...(it was "random" walking on the side walk!). I sat down with him and learned that several of the brothers had been in a serious car accident and one had died. Two were in serious condition. He asked if I could come over to the house and I did so later that night bringing some sandwiches. I met many of the brothers and then my friend said boldly after introductions and setting the Jimmy John sandwiches down: "Chris and I are going to be in the other room to pray and read the Bible, if anyone wants to come over and join us come over."

With that we went to the other room...slowly one by one about 12 or more guys came over. I just read comforting passages and prayed and spoke the hope of the gospel. Another of the guys also read a prayer. This was amazing as I've never been able to connect in the fraternities. I see this as an open door and want you to pray for that. My student is going to suggest that I come over again...so pray that there might be a consistent start to something like a Bible study here. Pray for the family that lost a son and for God to bring his grace and comfort to a dark situation. *Chris Garrlott, Campus Minister at the University of Maryland*



RUF Maryland hikers

Stay Connected to RUF!

Isn't God doing amazing things through RUF in the Northeast this fall? For many of our ministries, the response to our outreach activities was the best ever. Just as wonderful are the chance encounters with unbelievers and the opportunity to bring gospel hope into tragic situations.

There are more stories of God's work on our website. You should check it out! Go to <http://rufnortheast.org/> or scan this code →



You can make donations to our ministry here: <https://www.givetoruf.org> or scan this QR code. → Type the school or campus minister you wish to support in the box.



If you would rather receive these newsletters by email, contact us at Northeast@ruf.org. And if you would like to receive weekly prayer requests by email, also contact us at Northeast@ruf.org.



University of Connecticut RUF

Focus on Joe Dentici



Perhaps most widely known for their enthusiasm for football, Penn State students exert a similar degree of passion and dedication to all aspects of their lives. Joe Dentici, the RUF minister, describes the campus culture as "work hard, play harder." The students are driven academically and socially. Believing they have no limits, they pursue their goals doggedly. But recently,

Joe has seen God transform this culture for His glory.

During student leadership meetings, Joe outlines a vision for the ministry, and the students quickly implement the vision. For example, the ministry was struggling to find a single, effective platform to advertise RUF events. Many students no longer use Facebook, or use it with a myriad of other social apps, making Facebook an increasingly obsolete way to announce upcoming events. Does anyone have a better idea? Joe asked the students. The students decided to create a page on Penn State's portal dedicated to RUF. Through the portal, the information can be accessed easily by all students at Penn State.

Not only are students taking initiative, but Joe has also noticed RUF members express an increased passion for serving God. Recently, the student president of RUF changed his major to one that would allow him to study theology in preparation for the ministry. He is considering becoming a RUF intern next year.

More dramatically, an atheist from a Hindu family rejected both his former views and his family's heritage to embrace Christ as his savior. Since his conversion two months ago, this student eagerly reads his Bible and every book he can find on Christianity. His passion for the gospel has energized the other RUF students, who are praying for opportunities to invite friends to RUF throughout the year.

"We could see ourselves loving them where they were"

Until five years ago, Joe and his wife, Melissa, were convinced that they would never leave the Deep South, where they both grew up. Yet after serving for six years as the RUF minister at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Joe felt called to seek a new campus. When the position became available at Penn State, Melissa suggested that they pray about the decision rather than immediately refuse to live north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Joe says that Melissa's willingness to leave their friends and family was one sign that God might be calling him to Penn State. After meeting the RUF students at Penn State, Joe and Melissa knew they had found their new home. Joe recalls that "the students loved where they were, and we could see ourselves loving them where they were."

Joe and Melissa moved to Pennsylvania with their two children, Anne Charlotte, who is now six years old, and Cannon, now four years old. Two months ago, they were joined by their youngest son, Beck. The Dentici family has discovered that they enjoy all four seasons and has found themselves immersed in a loving and warm community. As an unexpected benefit to their move, Melissa's multiple

sclerosis symptoms have become less severe. Extreme heat can aggravate M.S. Nursing and pregnancy also relieve the symptoms of Melissa's mild form of M.S., and she currently does not need to take medication.

In addition to caring for her family, Melissa supports RUF as much as possible. She enjoys meeting regularly with the RUF intern and several female students, and she will sometimes provide meals for students on campus. Melissa also prays fervently for the ministry and the students.

Melissa, Joe, and the ministry team at RUF are praying that God continues to bless the ministry and the students in RUF this year. They hope the RUF members will use their enthusiasm to learn more about Christ and to share that knowledge with others. It's a promising year, Joe reflects. "I feel as if God's having his way with us. There is a general excitement about knowing who God is and wanting to follow him in our group right now."

– by Rebecca Trudeau

Autumn Reflections



"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6

The tremendous success of RUF this fall would not have happened without the labors of campus ministers, staff, interns, and students working together to find and welcome new students. They toil from morning til night in the opening weeks of fall semester seeking the lost and needy. This year's harvest is the result of many years of such efforts. We salute the labor of these hard-working servants of God!

But their efforts would be fruitless without the work of God. As Paul said on several occasions, we have no occasion for boasting. We rejoice in the success of our ministry, but all boasting is in the Lord who alone must receive praise for the salvation of the lost, comfort for the hurting, and the growth of His Kingdom!

David Green





NORTHEAST

Prayer Requests, Sept. 2018

1. Praise God for a great fall outreach, so many new students!
2. Pray for God to raise up many gifted, committed students to fill leadership roles for these growing ministries.
3. Pray for campus ministers as they identify, recruit, train, and supervise students in leadership.
4. Pray for training conferences in Lancaster and Pittsburgh to motivate and equip many students for ministry.
5. Pray for preaching and Bible studies to be powerful and persuasive – to transform lives.



