

Campus Highlight

Fall 2009

Our largest chapter on Long Island is the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) located at Kings Point, L.I. It is a beautiful campus located right on the sound of the north shore. Gene and Carol Guest are volunteers that serve the cadets.

Every Thursday on campus a 4-5 hour long Cookie Café draws nearly half the campus to Land Hall. Students are met by "Mom" and "Dad" Guest who serve them freshly baked cookies. Fellowship and conversation ensues often leading to discussions of faith and spirituality. Over 400 midshipmen attend every week. The Guest's state, "It is the place we often meet the cadets for the first time. From there we invite them to our bible studies, band of sisters and special events.

Band of Sisters is a weekly gathering of women cadets. They share their stories and support one another in what can be a very challenging environment. Women cadets can be taken advantage of, especially as freshmen. Band of Sisters provides a safe place for them to be honest and vulnerable with the struggles they have as women on a predominantly male campus. Many of these women hear the gospel for the first time in these gatherings.



Cookie Café on Thursday afternoons

Overall the fellowship numbers about 125 students. More than 90 of these young adults started the semester by meeting weekly in small group bible studies. The Guest are training the leaders of these groups and encouraging them spiritually as they care for their fellow students as small group leaders. The chapter also gathers weekly as a large community for CFC (Christian Fellowship Club). The Guests also organize and stock the "KGB" library which stands for "keep, borrow, give away". It has been a great hit with the students.

As an area we are presently working with over 350 college students every week... As these students graduate and move out into the world, God's

Spirit and power moves with them. It is exciting to hear where some of these graduates end up. Carol Guest at the USSMA recently shared the following story...

"We received special encouragement on the Sunday of parents' weekend. A USMMA graduate came up to Gene and told him that a talk Gene had given in 2000 had greatly affected his life. He then proceeded to give the points of the talk and even quoted the scripture used. We had not seen him since 2001 when he graduated and went into the marines. He is now being trained to be a helicopter pilot for Marine One, the President's helicopter."

Please continue to remember Long Island InterVarsity in your prayers and giving. As our chapters and campuses grow, we face new challenges that call us to pray with dependence on God. Please pray:

- For our staff team. We all are working second jobs to supplement our income and be able to continue serving on campus. The economy has forced many to decrease or discontinue their giving. Pray that giving would stabilize and staff could increase their hours on campus in the coming year.
- For students to embrace Jesus with a passionate love. That their service to their campus would flow from their love for Christ and their fellow students.
- Pray for hearts to be open to the gospel and for many students to come to know Christ in the New Year.



USSMA Christian Fellowship Club weekly mtg.

Gene & Carol Guest