

The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted



<http://www.ministryupdates.org/chau>

The Experiment

September 2014

For the past several years, UMass has been increasing their Honors College program. Their desire is to attract students who are academically on par with tier-1 schools but don't want the tier-1 tuitions. For several years now I've been working with the Honors College students, sharing the gospel, engaging in apologetics, and growing young leaders. Last year, the Honors dorms were completed and as I would visit the new dorms. It was incredible how different the atmosphere was from the other dorms on campus. Unlike the rest of UMass, Friday afternoons were not a time for getting ready for the party scene, rather it was a time to debate approaches to nanotechnology or History or poetic interpretation.

At the heart of the Honors dorm complex is "Roots Cafe" a 24 hour cafe where students can get food and do homework. It's also the place where guest lecturers come to engage with the academic elite of UMass.

Talking with Patrick, one of our honors area Cru leaders, about this coming year and how do we engage with the honors community. He shared that after coming back from Breakthrough Summer project, he missed the closeness of the body. There is a sense of unity in being on mission together, that is hard to recreate, with all the classes and homework and other activity.

That reminded me of Acts 2:42-47. So after some praying and talking with the others in the group, we decided to try an experiment.

Acts 2:42-47 describes a community of believers who met in the temple everyday, prayed for one another, devoted themselves to the Word, and shared life (and meals) together. They saw incredible growth, and God showed up in marvelous ways each day!

What if we did that? What if our community existed in a place for all to see and we came together each day? What if we prayed more for one another, and explored God's word and encouraged one another, daily?



**PATRICK SIPPING
BUBBLE TEA**

Well let's just try and see what would happen! Each week-day this semester we will be meeting at Roots Cafe to study, pray, encourage answer questions and engage with one another and with the Honors community.

Please pray for God to give us many divine appointments as we meet. ☁️

The Experiment

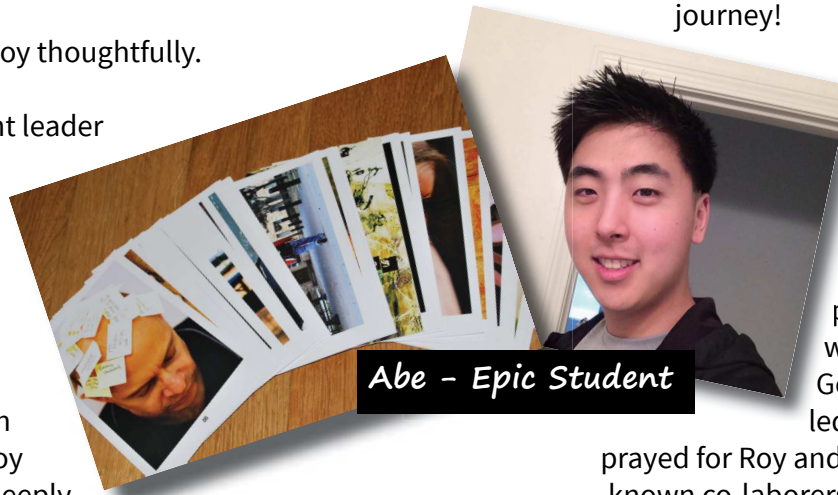
Monday: 10am-12pm @ Roots Cafe
Tuesday: 1pm-2:30pm @ Roots Cafe
Wednesday: 3:30pm-5pm @ Roots Cafe
Thursday: 10am-12pm "The Spot" (in the Student Union)
Friday: 10:30-12pm @ "The Spot" (in the Student Union)

"Roy, you mentioned that you believe that Jesus is the savior but is he **your** savior?", I asked.

Roy had indicated that he was interested in spiritual things on a survey he took at one of the four dining commons on Labor Day. Each semester we engage with the campus by asking students to fill out a short 5 question survey. This year we connected with nearly 1000 students.

"I don't know.", replied Roy thoughtfully.

Abe, an emerging student leader with Epic Movement (our Asian American minstry), and I had just finished doing the Sou-larium Spiritual dialog tool to hear more about Roy's spiritual journey. Lonely and isolated as an international student, Roy had shared how he felt deeply trapped by the expectations of his culture and family.



Abe - Epic Student

But coming to America as a senior in highschool, he was exposed to Christianity by a local church in Kansas.

"Well can we share a little booklet with you that would explain what that means?", I asked.

"Yes", he replied and afterwards, Roy said that he wanted to make Jesus **his** savior. Please pray for Roy as we follow up with him and continue to guide him in his spiritual journey!

As Abe and I left Roy's room, we marvelled at how good it is that God connected us with Roy, in whom a church in Kansas had labored for the gospel. They may not know what happened to Roy, but God did not forget him and led him to UMass. Abe and I prayed for Roy and thanked God for our unknown co-laborers in Kansas. 🐑

Prayer Corner

1. Please pray for Joe as he grieves the loss of his grandmother. The family will be flying out to California at the end of September.
2. Please pray for Joe and Jenny, that we would continue to experience God's overwhelming love. That we would make every effort to stay in step with the Holy Spirit.
3. Please pray for us as we seek to be wise and godly parents. Pray for our children that they will walk faithfully with the Lord all the days of their lives.
4. Pray for us to lead our team and our students in wisdom, boldness and compassion, so that our team and students will live out the gospel and experience God's grace and truth in community.
5. Please pray for our emerging Faculty ministry. We have been weaving opportunities for Christian Faculty to be involved in everything that we are doing and it's really exciting for both students and faculty. (more on this next time)
6. Please pray for our upcoming Fall Retreat, we are praying for over 100 students to attend and that it would be a real time of repentance and community, spurring us all on towards the mission of God.



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