

Athletes in Action

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“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”

John 1:18

Greetings! This semester our curriculum on campus involves having the students study the book of John. To be honest, when Colby first proposed the idea of John my first thought was to wonder why we couldn't study a different book, one that I am not as familiar with. After all, we had just studied that book with the students two years ago. However God, in His grace toward me, drew my attention to John 1:18 (printed above). In that verse we are told that Jesus has made God known. Another version says Jesus has “explained” God. Therefore, if I want to know God better, one way to do that is to carefully observe how Jesus lived His life...the things He said, the way He treated people, how He invested His time. So, in this reading of John I have been really trying to focus on seeing the Father through the life of Jesus. And what I see is a God who tenderly initiates into the lives of people, beckoning them to come and see who He is. At the wedding in Cana, I see Him caring about the details of my life. With Nicodemus and the woman at the well, I see Him calling me to think eternally and walk by faith. With the clearing of the temple, I see Him jealous for His own glory and desirous of my worship. And with the lame man by the pool, I see Him radically initiating into the life of that man and reminding me that His work in my life is a work of His sheer grace. It is like I am falling in love with God all over again as I see Him reflected in these pages. My prayer is that God will use His Word in a similar way with the students as they read John this semester, drawing them into deeper relationship with Him. Thank you for your partnership which allows us to walk alongside these student-athletes as they journey with Jesus.

Serving in the D

If you are not from Michigan, you may not know that Detroit is sometimes referred to here as the “D”. It has been a huge blessing for us the past few years to go to the D and partner alongside an incredible community transformation organization there called Mack Avenue Community Church (MACC) Development.

On Saturdays sprinkled throughout this semester we will be sending students to serve with MACC. The pictures to the right are from September's trip where the students helped to clear a lot the church planned to use for a harvest party, as well as to canvas the neighborhoods with information about the opportunities MACC provides.

Many hands make light work...and many strong student-athletes hands make it go even quicker :) We were so proud of the way they all got to work and got the job done!



It was so fun to see the students pick up weed whackers and lawnmowers and just do it!

A Surprise Leader

Our desire is to model our ministry on campus after the way Jesus did His ministry. In light of that, just like Jesus poured into the Twelve disciples, equipping them to do the work of the ministry on their own, as staff we want to pour into Core leaders who will then lead others. So early in the semester Colby and I invited faithful and teachable students to be in our Core groups for the year. I guess we thought it went without mentioning that those Core groups were kinda closed to other members without our invitation ;)

Well, we are glad that Kevin, one Colby's Core guys, decided just to bring his cross country teammate, Isaac, with him to Core group a few weeks ago! Isaac had been in one of our discipleship groups last year and after having an incredible summer of growth through a local church, he came back to campus this fall ready to pour his life into others.

When Kevin heard about Isaac's heart to lead, he brought him unannounced to Colby's Core group. Colby's first thought was that he was going to have to talk to Kevin afterward about how this was not the group to invite new people into. However, after interacting with



The core ladies — Mary Kate, Shaina, Lauren, Morgan, Natalie, Taylor (not pictured: Maurgen)

Please pray...

...for our students as they study the book of John this semester. Pray God would reveal Himself to them through His Word.

...for our students to be inviting their non-Christian teammates to their discipleship groups — and that people would come.

...for our Operation Christmas Child outreach on Nov. 12th. Pray many new students would want to be a part of this event.

...for our kids' hearts to be drawn toward Jesus.

...for God to protect our marriage amidst a very busy family and ministry schedule.



Some of the guys on the track and cross country teams. Isaac is the fifth one in on the top.

Isaac and understanding his heart for ministry, Colby wholeheartedly invited Isaac to be one of his Core guys.

God has been gracious and there are now two student-leaders investing in the Michigan men's cross country team. Kevin and Isaac have been faithful to reach out to teammates and as you can see in the picture above, guys are checking out Jesus. To God be all the glory!



We are so grateful that God has called us back to our alma mater to work with Athletes in Action. We love that our kids get to grow up around Wolverines who love Jesus!

You are very much a part of what goes on here at the University of Michigan through AIA! Your partnership is invaluable to us — thank you from the bottom of our hearts!