



THE CAMPUS VIEW

an update from Christian Campus House at Eastern Illinois University

Will's Story

by Micky Deming

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The Persistent Tug

In This Issue

- [Will Hurley's Story](#)
- [Annual Banquet Info](#)
- [Fall Semester Pics](#)
- [Jessica Gysin's Story](#)
- [Being A Mom at CCH](#)
- [Alumni News](#)
- [Prayer Needs](#)
- [Financial Update](#)
- [Contact Info](#)



Will Hurley is a freshman at Eastern Illinois University

Will Hurley

Lake Zurich, IL

Year:	Freshman
Major:	Geography

✦ Early On

Will Hurley felt a tug on his heart that he just couldn't ignore. He knew he needed to be baptized. He had been "baptized" as a child, but said he hadn't committed to living his life for the Lord until he was 16.

"At my home church they did baptisms twice a year, and every time I would feel a little tug." He said. "Even though I was baptized before, I thought, 'Maybe I need to be up there.'"

Will graduated High School in Lake Zurich, Ill. in 2007, and then joined the Marines. After finishing boot camp, he came to Eastern in January of 2008. He found Christian Campus House through Ashley Chamberlain, who is also from Lake Zurich. He was three weeks into his classes and regularly attending CCH events when he got the call. He was needed in Iraq.

✦ Off To Iraq

While in Iraq, he faced a lot of challenges as a believer.

"It is difficult to be a Christian in the military." He said, "It was draining and there were hardly any other Christians there for fellowship."

Will had to find new ways to find time with God, whether that was prayer at night when he went to bed, or asking God for strength while taking a walk. Being in Iraq also brought Will back to the tug in his heart.

"I thought about it a lot," He said, "I was just thinking, 'What if something happens and I haven't made that outward commitment on my own?'"

At that point, Will was ready to be baptized. As he stood in the Euphrates River, he thought about how cool it would be to be baptized there. However, the opportunity never presented itself. Fortunately, Will returned to the U.S. unharmed in August after a little more than 4 months in Iraq.

✦ Back to Eastern and Christian Campus House

Will immediately started with classes again at Eastern and was back involved at CCH. He joined a family group and his family group leader, Aaron York, was immediately impressed with Will.

"He's four years younger than me, and he is more mature," Aaron said. "He studies the Bible and always has a lot to add to the discussion."

As he continued to feel the "tug" inside him about baptism, and after hearing Roger speak about it in one of his messages, Will brought up the subject to Aaron. They went over a packet that Roger has put together for anyone who has questions about baptism.

"One of the main things that affected me was that even Jesus decided to get baptized," Will said, "If anyone didn't need to be baptized it was him, but he wanted to."

Will knew now was the time for him to take that step, to make this decision, his decision. At their next family group meeting Will asked Aaron if he would baptize him. And the next Wednesday night, after Bible Study, the students of Christian Campus House got to see Will baptized.

Aaron said he was excited to see Will make that decision and Will was even more excited to have finally answered the tug at his heart.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Saturday April 4th
at 6:00 pm.

Mark your calendar now for our 2009 Annual Banquet. The banquet will again be held in our own building here at Christian Campus House, 2231 4th Street in Charleston. This banquet is for people from our supporting churches, alumni, parents, and pretty much anyone else who is interested in our ministry to the students of EIU. Reservation information will be posted in our upcoming newsletters.



Fall Semester In Pictures



Fall Retreat is a great place to get out in nature and experience God while making friends that will last a lifetime.



Every semester Small Groups meet all over campus. From local coffee shops to dorm rooms, students learn to encounter God in community through study.



Students who gather for corporate worship on Sundays and Wednesdays are learning that these times only punctuate the worship they live out during the rest of the week while here at school.



And yes, the students still take time out for good old fashioned electric guitar simulation on a video game console...ok, maybe not old fashioned...but they do take time to have fun together too.



And to see students bringing all things to God in prayer is an amazing testimony to their growth. It's exciting to see what God is doing on this campus!

One Year Isn't Nearly Long Enough

by Jessica Gysin



Jessica Gysin

For as long as I remember, I was simply content with life. I have been blessed with amazing family and friends who always supported me, but something was missing. I was born and raised Catholic and when I first transferred to Eastern as a Sophomore I went to the Newman Center every few weeks. Over time, that dwindled down to a few times a year until I realized I needed something more in my life. I went to Christian Campus House for the first time this year, my senior year.

At first, I was terrified. I felt like everyone knew each other and I was just the outsider, but I was quickly welcomed with open arms by both staff and students. I threw myself into what I could by volunteering, joining the publicity team, going to Bible study, and attending as many social events as possible. Soon, I began looking forward to going to church instead of dreading it. I went on fall retreat to Little Galilee, which was one of the best experiences of my life. I became friends with some amazing people and finally felt like I was part of the fellowship.

That trip definitely marked the beginning of my spiritual journey this semester. I came back with a whole new attitude and began meeting with another girl once a week who was one of the biggest influences on my spiritual growth. I look at my relationships in a completely different light and have re-evaluated my life and what I can offer. I am also planning on being baptized at the beginning of next semester. I thought about going into the ministry, but I don't think that's where I would reach my potential. My parents always wanted me to be the big business woman of the family but I have decided that after graduation in May I would like to use my degree to work for a non-profit group and not just "climb the corporate ladder." Ultimately, I want to do something that will glorify God and help others. That's why this summer, I am going on a mission trip to Arizona. I will get the opportunity to work with the Children's Bus Ministry and I couldn't be more excited! Thanks to Campus House this semester has been my best semester of college and I only wish I had started coming sooner. One year isn't nearly long enough.

Motherhood

by Danah Himes

Motherhood has only been a blessing and I praise God for the strength and constant peace He has given Brad and me during this new season of life. Unlike most babies, Stanley is not at home with mom or in daycare. He's my assistant! The Board of Directors, with the approval of Roger and Matthew, agreed to allow me to bring Stanley to work. My life has changed...and so has the Campus House!



Danah and Stanley Himes

I want to give you a peek into what this last semester has looked like. Six different students volunteered to watch Stanley once a week for 2 ½ to 4 hours. I have continued to nurse Stanley, change most of the poopy diapers, and usually put him down for naps. My student sitters feed him solids, study while he naps, and spend a lot of time playing with him. On Tuesday's Brad picks Stanley up around 5:30pm, and takes him home (Mattoon) for playtime, bath, bottle, books and bed. I then have from 5:30 - 9:15pm to catch up on work or schedule extra meetings before our leadership meetings. Stanley joins us for Staff lunch on Tuesdays. When sitters cancel, he sits in on my meetings. He helps me greet people before services and often ends up being passed around to everyone who wants to hold him. I was not sure how this was all going to work but everything has worked out wonderfully. I get to see Stanley and still take care of him throughout the day, but thanks to the wonderful women who love watching Stanley, I am able to keep working here full time!

It seems that Stanley has had his own ministry here at the Campus House. It did not take long for the office environment to change significantly. I, for one, had to loosen up a little bit on my schedule. Formerly very task-oriented, Stanley has helped me to slow down and focus more on the people around me. It's not uncommon for the staff to all be in the office lounge hanging out with Stanley. He has definitely lightened up the atmosphere and brought a lot of laughter into the office. Cherie, our secretary, frequently comments on how she cannot imagine the office without Stanley and she definitely looks forward to coming to work on the days that she gets to see him.

Stanley has been a great blessing to our students as well. Countless students tell me that they love him and that he makes their day. One girl told me that she didn't know if she wanted to have children, but after seeing me with Stanley she is more confident in her ability and desire to be a mother one day. Numerous girls communicate how special it is for them to see another side of me as a mother. Simply put, he brings a lot of joy and love into the students' lives.

All in all, I cannot imagine life without Stanley. And I cannot imagine the Campus House without Stanley. He just started crawling at 8 months, so its time to set up a babyproof play room for him. We will all continue to enjoy this little man that God has entrusted to Brad and me. He has brought us so much joy & laughter and we thank God for him everyday.

What's New With Our Alumni

✂ **Weddings**

- ◆ Mandi Grissom and Brent Walters were married on June 28th, 2008.
- ◆ Joanna Best and Seth White were married on July 19th, 2008.
- ◆ Erin Ebel and Dave Bradshaw were married on September 27, 2008.

✂ **Babies**

- ◆ James and Jessica Drayton celebrate the birth of Abigail Jeanelle Drayton, born on October 5, 2008. She weighed 8 lbs, 3 oz, and was 20 3/4 in. long.
- ◆ Linnaea Louise Slattengren was born to Jason and Jessica Slattengren on December 17, 2008. She weighed 5 lbs, 14 oz and was 20 inches long.

✂ **Campus House Prayer Needs**

- 1) With the economy in turmoil all non-profit organizations suffer. This is certainly true for both churches and missions (like us). We could really use your prayers for our finances. Over the past couple of months we have already received notices from some of our regular donors that they would be either reducing their support or discontinuing their support due to their own financial situation. We need both prayer and action on this crucial problem.
- 2) Please pray for our students and staff as they travel over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- 3) Roger would appreciate your prayers for his recovery from surgery. On December 11th he had surgery to repair the damage to his nose caused by the post-operative infection from his cancer surgery back in January 2008.
- 4) Pray for our ministry's effectiveness as we begin a new semester in January.

Financial Update

✂ **Building Fund**

Our current indebtedness (as of 12-9-08) stands at \$219,478.32. The CCH board of directors' goal is to retire this debt by the end of 2010. Donations to the building fund have also dropped, in part due to the economic slump. Want to help? Send your check to us and mark it for "Building Fund."

✂ **General Fund**

Our general fund is running behind—reflecting the current economic crisis. From November 1 through December 9th we ran nearly \$5,000.00 in the red.

✂ **Alumni – Can You See Yourself As The Key?**

Of the tens of thousands of students who have been through our doors since 1970 only a small percentage regularly donate to CCH. We would like to see more of our alumni come on board as regular contributors to our ministry. If you would like to partner with us, send your check to Christian Campus House, PO Box 172 Charleston, IL 61920.

CONTACT US

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