



A STUDENT'S STORY: KAYLEY LAGROU - RA

Most days I hang posters, answer questions from residents, fill out paperwork, plan programs, glue door decorations, put up bulletin boards, and deal with all the joy of taking an 18 credit class load.

As a resident assistant at Pemberton Hall at Eastern Illinois University my job constantly has me doing something, and I do each task as an act of service and love.

I do the things that most people just expect to happen. Residents do not think about the amount of time I spend on them each day or how much work goes into making a door dec.

What most residents don't understand is that I am here for them. The door decs, programs, and endless posters in my mailbox are all for them. It is not my job to police them or to make sure they get all A's in their classes. My job is to invest in students to help them grow individually and become better people. It is an act of love I do for all my residents, so that they

can see that God loves them individually. Many students come to college thinking that Christians and God hate them, but I want them to know the truth.

I became an RA to show love to other students on campus and for them to see what it is like for someone to love them without judgement or conditions. The love I show my residents does not come from me, but from God, and I would not be able to do my job adequately without Him.

I do not think that God specifically wanted me to become an RA. God wants all of us to show His love to all people no matter what our occupation, and I want to be there for freshman who do not want to go home because they are scared they won't come back.

I became an RA because I want to serve people because that is what we as Christians are called to do and because I, for some reason, really like making bulletin boards!

I choose this job because I believe that for people to come to know Christ, I should be willing to go and meet them where they are at, instead of trying to get them to meet me where I am.



Kayley LaGrou, resident assistant at Pemberton Hall.



Growing deeper with God and each other

PRAYER NIGHT

OUTREACH CAN BE A DIFFICULT and daunting task on a secular campus, so praying in such a way that focuses on reaching students and empowering the body of believers at EIU seemed like a rewarding and appropriate opportunity. With this in mind I wanted to provide an opportunity for students to come together to shower campus, faculty, students, and each other with prayer before starting their weeks.

Focusing and equipping our hearts to love others and spread the gospel was my initial goal for this expedition, but my expectations were blown out of the water by the depth, sincerity, and fellowship that abounded.

We had seven students, my wife, and myself attend the first meeting at 8pm on Sunday, September 17th. I had prepared a small devotion about how the church is described in 1 Peter as a holy priesthood. We read 1 Peter 2:4-12 and had a great discussion about what it means to live holy lives in a hostile world. The insights that the students shared were inspiring, and led me to think more deeply. They revealed an extremely wise perspective on the passage that I had not even considered. I was elated. Before leaving for a prayer walk on campus, two students prayed for us to have strength through the hope of Christ to live godly lives so those on campus would see our good deeds and glorify God.

Starting at CCH, our group then spread out across campus to pray over the various

buildings, faculty, and students we saw as we walked. We met back at the large steps by the Doudna Fine Arts Building for some quiet prayer time followed by an open circle prayer.

I was blown away by the overwhelming sense of passion and authenticity. The Spirit was clearly moving and working within our group, and the prayer went on for around 20 minutes as we all prayed for God to use His people on campus to reveal the hope and joy He has to offer.

We ended the night with a sense of peace, thankfulness, and eagerness to go and be His hands and feet. I started the night with the expectation of a few people praying and a lot of silence, but the amount of participation and heart behind everyone's prayers was deeply moving. I have no doubt in my mind that God will move in big ways this year through our prayers. He is Sovereign, He is good, and I never should have doubted how He could move within our small group.

With smiles and camaraderie we walked back to CCH, where most of us talked and hung out for a few more hours. Though it helped that there was ice cream in the freezer, a true sense of community and friendship was displayed that night, and I believe we got a glimpse of what kind of loving and Christ-centered community God desires for His people. I thank Him for what He is doing here at CCH, and I can't wait to see what else He can do with us this year. ■ *Chris Fryer - Intern*

Fall arrives (even though we had a late summer heat surge) and students this year are building community, engaging God and growing in their faith.



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