

# In community

Tales from FISH House

Stephanie Mayer '09

A Carleton senior and former FISH House resident recently came to visit me in Chicago. There was lots of laughter and teasing as we reminisced about our times together at FISH when I managed the house in 2008-2009.

Although the number of people I know at Carleton has already decreased since I graduated in 2009, most of “my” house members were still around last time I visited campus, whether still in school or working in the area. We were able to share dinner and reconnect, and we all chatted on speaker phone with the one person who wasn't there.

This year, I have been leading a small group at my church called '80s Babies Living the Kingdom Now. One of the key things my home church emphasizes is being in community with other believers. In fact, it is something God wants for us. He calls the church a body in 1 Corinthians 12:12, indicating that the church is not complete without each person functioning in the way he or she is uniquely gifted.

Funny thing, '80s Babies is modeled after FISH House and Mustard Seed (Mustard Seed is the weekly

student-led worship service at Carleton). As we did at FISH, our small group rotates all the responsibilities for cooking a meal, leading worship and studying the Bible together. All of this is to say that FISH House is a strong model of what community in Christ looks like and a place where believers can push and encourage each other to grow in Jesus. FISH also offers a warm and friendly environment for other believers and students on campus.

One of the things my Carleton friend said when she visited was that everyone worries about how they will make friends post-Carleton. Since graduating, the one thing I long for is intimate community like I had at Carleton. FISH House was a good example of a tight-knit spiritual family where people share their joys, sorrows and frustrations. Most importantly, it was a place where we could meet with the Holy Spirit in prayer. Our relation-



FISHies gathered for a house meeting in 2006.

ships spurred us to deeper walks with Jesus and molded us to reflect the qualities of our Lord and Savior.

I have many good memories of my life in FISH. In addition to my year as manager, I was also a FISHie my sophomore year. Sharing food was one way that we fellowshiped with each other and it was always fascinating to see what people concocted. My sophomore year it was a marvelous array of different Asian dishes and during my senior year we definitely had a Midwest majority (I was fully introduced to the slow cooker).



“ FISH House is a strong model of what community in Christ looks like. ”



The college years always make room for the zany. The only time we could schedule pumpkin carving as a house was at 3 a.m.! There was also a lot of love and support for one another and we decided that as a house we would be the cheerleaders for one of our housemate's Ultimate Frisbee games. We rounded up bicycles and

FISHies gathered as a house, fall 2010.



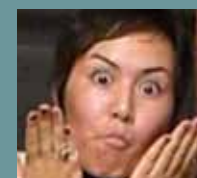
set off as a fully equipped fan club with posters, pompons and Lecrae rap blaring over boom-box speakers. Deep down, we know our Ultimate-playing housemate appreciated the loud cheering and hip-hop music from the sidelines.

My FISHies have stories about me (ranging from bizarre to just plain silly) that will follow me to the grave! For me and many others, FISH was and still is the prototype for living in community in Christ. FISH made my time at Carleton unique and memorable in the most positive sense. Living there was truly Fellowship In the Son's Hope (FISH). ♦



The FISHies, top photo, headed off on their bikes to encourage Richard Scheele '11 (a.k.a. Jiffy) as he played Ultimate, and (above) formed up with their cheerleading props, fall 2008.

“The college years always make room for the zany.”



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