

Tufts University CSO
Fruitage Report for TMCYouth CSO site

Although the Christian Science students at Tufts University were not yet recognized by the University as an official organization, that didn't stop them. Having only 3 students to plan a lecture was no deterrent. The fact that final exams were about to begin at the end of the year, didn't stop them either. Within about a week's time, the fledgling CSO succeeding in attracting 20 students to their lecture! 12 were brand new to Christian Science!

The CSO publicized this event with flyers, e-mails, chalk advertisements on pavement, and especially on www.tuftslife.com and www.thefacebook.com. Facebook turned out to be a very effective way to get the word out to friends and interested groups. With more lead time, they could have generated even more interest.

The lecture was held in a room in the Campus Center and the tables were arranged in a very large square and the CSO members brought some snacks which made the event informal and inviting. The lecturer began by asking each one why they came and what they hoped to get out of it. They said they came because different CSO members had told them about Christian Science and they really wanted to know more. Their answers included: very interested in Christian Science from what they've been hearing from their CS friends; one was going into some form of health care, but was questioning it, so wanted to know how we do it; some were exploring other religions because they were agnostic or between religions; the CS students had questions that hadn't been answered in Sunday School or at home--such as why matter is unreal.

The lecture was followed by a question and answer period and the students had great questions. In fact, they didn't seem to want to leave. The event went from 1:00 - 3:30. Their questions included using medicine, death, older/aging people, children, Christ and Jesus, scientology, matter and material senses; don't human politics and economy govern us? At the end, a sheet was passed around to get everyone's name and e-mail so that they could be contacted about future meetings and events.

After all the newcomers left, 8 CSO members from the different schools said they wanted to stay on to have a CSO meeting and talk about how to prepare for next year, plan ahead, and reach more students. They were all so gung-ho and devoted to making their CSOs work, and thrilled to have had so many newcomers at their lecture. During this meeting, the CSO students asked the lecturer about proselytizing, how to share with friends and how to answer hard questions. They also talked about ideas for *Science and Health* tables at the student activities fair in the fall, interfaith panel discussions, referring friends to TMCYouth site and to podcast lectures.

It was interesting that although using various human means to reach people, such as Facebook, was really helpful, what worked most of all was the CSO students sharing Christian Science with their friends on a regular basis!

If you want to ask the CSO about their event, contact Julie Furbush, President, at juliefurbush@gmail.com.