SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement is pleased to welcome Dr. Larbi Touaf, a Visiting Fulbright Scholar from Morocco, for the fall semester. Dr. Touaf is currently Associate Professor and former Chair of the English Department, Mohammed I University, Oujda, Morocco. His areas of expertise and research interests include: English and Postcolonial Studies; English and French Language; Teaching Twentieth-Century English and Francophone Literatures; Maghreb and Middle East Studies; Ethics in Literature and Criticism; Postcolonial and Postmodern Literatures and Theory; and Youth Civic Engagement.

In addition, he is the founder and coordinator of the “Research Group on Identity and Difference” at Mohammed I University; the Coordinator of a proposed Tempus European Union project for the modernization of higher education focusing on social entrepreneurship; and Coordinator of a Higher Education for Development project for a consortium of universities. In the fall of 2011, he was a visiting Civic Education and Leadership Fellow at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. While at Syracuse University, Dr. Touaf began learning about the work of the Institute for Civic Engagement at SUNY Cortland and visited our campus. Dr. Touaf visited the United States for the first time in his teenage years as an exchange student and he returned for graduate work at SUNY Buffalo, so he is very familiar with central and western New York.

The focus of Dr. Touaf’s visit is learning about how colleges and universities in the United States, particularly SUNY Cortland, have developed and run their community and civic engagement programs, including how they are organized, how campus/community partnerships are formed and sustained, and the role of service-learning in the campus/community connection. He is interested in the possibility of applying American models of institutionalized civic engagement and service-learning at his university in Morocco, and building a collaborative working relationship between his university and SUNY Cortland.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Touaf with us for the semester; his visit is an excellent opportunity to open a dialogue about community and civic engagement here at SUNY Cortland and internationally” said Dr. Richard Kendrick, Director of the Institute for Civic Engagement. “We are also very interested in learning more about Moroccan systems of higher education and the potential for developing campus and community connections in that country.”

Dr. Touaf is interested in speaking to classes, clubs, committees or campus groups about civic and community engagement in Morocco, about the Middle East and North Africa in general, the Arab Spring, or issues of gender in the Middle East and North Africa, including the role of women in the Arab Spring. Anyone interested in having Dr. Touaf speak to their class, club, or organization should contact Dr. Touaf directly at larbi.touaf@cortland.edu.

He will be speaking on November 13 as part of the Roseanne Brooks Lecture Series. The topic of his talk is Democracy and Women’s Rights after the Arab Spring.
SUNY Cortland and the Institute for Civic Engagement announce this year’s annual Constitution Day event. This year’s lecture, “Facebook Challenges the First Amendment: Would the Founders “Like” Modern Interpretations of the Constitution?” will be held in Jacobus Lounge, Brockway Hall on Tuesday, September 17, 4:30 p.m.

Their talk will center on a recent court case in which a municipal employee in Virginia was fired for “liking” his boss’ opponent in a political contest. The issue is whether or not “liking” someone or something on Facebook is free speech or not.

This year’s event will feature Dr. Jerome O’Callaghan and Paula O’Callaghan. Jerome D. O’Callaghan is Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences, and Associate Professor of Political Science, State University of New York at Cortland. He chaired the Political Science Department from 1997 until his appointment as Associate Dean in 2005. He publishes in the area of free speech law. O’Callaghan has published articles in five law reviews on topics ranging from free speech and the press to media and the courts. He has also published articles in five edited books, as well as in other journals, and regularly authors book reviews.

Paula C. O’Callaghan is Associate Professor of Management, University of Maryland University College where she has taught in the Department of Business and Executive Programs for six years. She teaches the Legal and Ethical Issues in Business course among other graduate level courses; she was recently awarded the Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award. Her research focuses on the legal aspects of speech in the workplace.

This presentation is based on the presenters’ co-authored paper, “As You ‘Like’ It: Facebook and Free Speech in the Workplace,” presented to the Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference, in August of this year, in Boston.

This event is free and open to the public. Please feel free to bring your class, club, or other organization.

Let’s Get Registered to Vote

SUNY Cortland’s Institute for Civic Engagement, the campus’ chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group, and the Cortland chapter of United University Professions will be working together to promote student voter registration during the fall semester. Last year, over 1,600 students were registered to vote. We would like to ensure that voter registration becomes a habit for our campus community, so we will be working to register students to vote in the largely local elections coming up in November.

Jessie Johnnes, Cortland’s new NYPIRG Coordinator, is scheduling visits to classrooms, clubs, and other organizations to promote voter registration. If you are interested in having Jessie as a guest in your class, please contact her at jjohnnes@nypirg.org or call 753-4815.

On Tuesday, September 24 we will be observing National Voter Registration Day with voter registration tables set up around campus and with a culminating event late that afternoon. Marc Dearstyne, Senior Counselor and Coordinator in the Educational Opportunity Program, will be coordinating UUP’s participation in this event with NYPIRG and the Institute for Civic Engagement. For more information about National Voter Registration Day, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

**Institute for Civic Engagement News**

**Let’s Get Registered to Vote**

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Millennials Not Interested in Public Service


Forget what you’ve read about the “Me, Me, Me Generation.” Here are four things you probably don’t know about the 95 million Americans born between 1982 and 2003:

- Millennials, in general, are fiercely committed to community service.
- They don’t see politics or government as a way to improve their communities, their country, or the world.
- So the best and brightest are rejecting public service as a career path. Just as Baby Boomers are retiring from government and politics, Washington faces a rising-generation “brain drain.”
- The only way Millennials might engage Washington is if they first radically change it.

After World War II, millions of the young Americans who would be known as the Greatest Generation found work in swelling government bureaucracies. Many entered elective office. Millennials, however, are much less likely to exercise their sense of civic purpose through public service, and that’s bad news for good governance.

As Baby Boomers approach retirement, the federal government will need to hire more than 200,000 highly skilled workers for a range of critical jobs. A successful transition depends on the interest of the 95 million Millennials -- a pool larger than the Boomers by nearly 20 million people. The Government Business Council recently reported that while Millennials make strong candidates for public service, fewer of them are pursuing government jobs than in past years. In short, they are opting out of government.

College students increasingly prefer the private sector, graduate school, or non-profit work, according to the Partnership for Public Service’s analysis of the 2011 National Association for Colleges and Employers Student Survey. In 2008, 8.4 percent of students planned to work for local, state, and federal governments after graduation. That number reached an all-time high of 10.2 percent during the 2009 recession, before dropping to 7.4 percent in 2010.

Now, just 6 percent of college students plan to work for public sector institutions, and only 2.3 percent want to work at the federal level.

And that’s just the bureaucrats. When top-shelf talent abhors politics, it stands to reason that the pool of political candidates gets shallower. “I want to change the world,” said grad student Brian Chialinsky at the Kennedy School. “I can’t do that in elective office.”

In their landmark books on Millennials, the sociologists Morley Winograd and Michael Hais compare young Americans today to other great “civic generations” that cycle through U.S. history every eight decades, starting with the Founding Fathers and including the generation that elected Abraham Lincoln and of course the Greatest Generation that won World War II. Raised in troubled times, “as adults, they focus on resolving social challenges and building institutions,” Winograd and Hais write in their recent Millennial Momentum. The authors believe Millennials have the makings to be the next great generation.

The trouble is that Millennials believe traditional politics and government (especially Washington) are the worst avenues to great things. They are more likely to be social entrepreneurs, working outside government to create innovative and measurably successful solutions to the nation’s problems, even if only on a relatively small scale. One is Matt Morgan, a Kennedy School student, who launched a website that helps readers respond to articles with political action. “There are so many problems Washington can’t fix that we can,” he says. Another is his classmate Sarah Estill, who wants to provide police departments with technology to fighting crime. “For my generation there are more ways we can effect change than in the past -- more tools in the toolbox,” she said. “Why not use all of them?” A generation ago, government had a monopoly on public service. To Millennials, the world is filled with injustice and need, but government isn’t the solution.

Full article available online at:
STEM and Literacy Tutors Needed

The Field Experience and School Placements Office and the Institute for Civic Engagement have partnered with area schools and agencies to fill urgently-needed tutoring positions, especially in Literacy and in STEM (Science / Technology / Engineering / Mathematics) subjects.

Each of the programs listed below provides supervision and on-site training, with opportunities for tutors’ input on planning and assessment of lessons.

The Institute provides transportation for the 20- to 30-minute ride to each program.

Each program offers SUNY Cortland students an excellent opportunity for professional growth.

Contact John Suarez, Coordinator of the Office of Service-Learning, at john.suarez@cortland.edu or at 607-753-4391 to apply, or for more information.

Lafayette Big Picture (Alternative) High School
- Coach teens in a project-based learning environment
- Tuesday or Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Lafayette Central School District, Grimshaw Elementary School
- Tutor in Literacy and/or in Mathematics
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 2:00 to 3:15
- Tutoring would begin September 23, with tutor training beginning before then

Liberty Partnerships Program, Groton and McGraw High Schools
- Tutor middle school students in grade-appropriate math, science, English, and social studies
- Work with teens to develop résumés and cover letters, and to conduct online career searches

Tully Regional Enrichment Program
- Tutor second- to sixth-graders in project-based science/technology/engineering/mathematics learning activities
- Agency provides additional training

Upcoming Events

September 7
Judicial Primary Candidates Forum
Elks Lodge, 9 Groton Ave, 9 a.m.

September 12
Forum on New York State SAFE Act
Cortland County Office Building (3rd floor) at 5:00 p.m.

Dowd Gallery Artist’s Talk: Lin Price on exhibition “Connective Existence,” Dowd Gallery, 9 Main St., 3rd Floor, 5 p.m.

September 17
Constitution Day: “Facebook Challenges the First Amendment: Would the Founders “Like” Modern Interpretations of the Constitution?” Jacobus Lounge, Brockway Hall at 4:30 p.m.

September 18
“Conflict Resolution in the Congress: An Oxyoron?” presented by Dr. Jay Pierson. Moffett 2125 at 4:30 p.m.

September 19
NYS Constitutional Convention Conference. 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Function Room, Corey Union.

September 24
National Voter Registration Day. Let’s get registered to vote in November.