

The Institute for Civic Engagement

Service Learning • Community Outreach • Research and Economic Development

Volume I Issue 5

March 2008

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Cortland's Main Street Classrooms Voted Most Likely to Succeed!

Celebrating its second year of operation, the Main Street SUNY Cortland campus, at 9 Main Street (the Beard Building) in historic downtown Cortland, has more than doubled the number of classes offered in its high tech classrooms. Next semester more than a dozen classes are scheduled at 9 Main Street. Classes range from service-learning courses that benefit from a close proximity to community organizations, to graduate courses that benefit from convenient access to parking, shops, and restaurants, to undergraduate classes that benefit from a close proximity to student housing (and downtown restaurants).

The facility includes two smart classrooms, with seating for up to 40 students at desks or tables, and wireless Internet. The classrooms are available for undergraduate and graduate courses. The walk from main campus is only 5-10 minutes downhill (both ways). Public parking lots are open across the street (free for three hours). Currently, there is no bus service from campus.

The schedule for fall 2008 has openings in all morning time slots as well as current openings all day Thursday, most of Friday, and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Interested faculty, please call Main Street SUNY Cortland at 753-4270, or stop in and visit, if you want more information about scheduling your classes at the Main Street SUNY Cortland campus in Historic Downtown Cortland.

President's Higher Education Community Service 2007 Honor Roll Recipient

SUNY Cortland is proud to be named to the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is the second consecutive year in which we have received this honor. The President's Honor Roll was launched in 2006 for recognizing innovative, effective and exemplary community service programs. This distinction recognizes SUNY Cortland's progress in building a culture of service and civic engagement on our campus.



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SUNY Cortland Participates in the Corporate Challenge

Last June, SUNY Cortland entered its first ever team into the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge in Syracuse. After a cancellation in 2006 due to extreme heat, the 2007 JPMorgan Chase Corporate

Challenge went on as scheduled and 6,179 runners and walkers from 268 companies withstood 90+ degree temperatures and still air at Onondaga Lake Park. It was the 25th edition of the Corporate Challenge and the 10th consecutive Challenge with more than 6,000 people. SUNY Cortland's first foray into the event brought a nice team of

about 30 members. Graciously supported by the college, the crew sported team t-shirts and enjoyed a nice catered meal at

Event Info:
June 24th, 2008 @ 6:25pm
Onondaga Lake Parkway
3.5 miles – run or walk
Party afterwards
Proceeds benefit local charities

the conclusion of the race.

The local media embraced the spirit of the event as the *Syracuse Post-Standard* provided a race-day feature on the front page and, as is

custom, the four primary television affiliates in the market broadcast the start of the race live at 6:25pm.

Looking forward to this year's event, the team is hoping to double in size and learn from last year's experience to make this one even more memorable. Look out for campus wide emails as registration begins and the team develops. Runners and walkers are welcome; it's truly an event for all employees. For further information, feel free to contact John Beecher at beecherj@cortland.edu.



Service-Learning

Service-Learning Coordinator : John Suarez

The Office of Service-Learning is located in the Learning Commons, which is on the first floor of the library just beyond the Bookmark Café.

Service-learning stipend applications.

The 2008 round will begin soon. Applicants should contact John Suarez for an application or for additional information. suarezj@cortland.edu, (607) 753-4391.

Sandwich Seminars by the 2007 Service-learning stipend winners:

Wednesday, April 2, 12:30 to 1:30 in Jacobus Lounge. The History Department's Gigi Peterson and Jim Miller will present, "AED 391 and Learning Service-Learning: Students Model their Methodology."

Thursday, April 10, noon to 1:00 in Jacobus Lounge. Judy Bentley (Foundations in Social Advocacy), Stephen Halebsky (Sociology), Kathy Lattimore (English), and Nicole Morris (English) present "Opportunities, Obstructions, and Options in Designing a Service-Learning Course."



Community Outreach

Community Outreach Partnership Center Coordinator & SUNY Cortland VISTA Member: Kathy Gallagher

SUNY Cortland Participates in Virginia Tech's ENGAGE Initiative

SUNY Cortland faculty, staff and students are being asked to volunteer 10 hours of community service this spring as part of a national effort to memorialize and honor the Virginia Tech students who died tragically in a campus shooting incident on April 16, 2007.

Virginia Tech created the effort, known on our campus as "The Power of 10," explained Kathy Gallagher, a SUNY Cortland Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) member and coordinator of the Community Outreach Partnership Center. "Virginia Tech's mission is to encourage everyone everywhere to do volunteer work as a way to give back to the community," explained Gallagher, who is coordinating local participation from her Main Street SUNY Cortland office in downtown Cortland.

Those interested in participating in Cortland's "Power of 10" should contact Kathy Gallagher. An online registration form can be found at: <http://www.cortland.edu/civicengagement/>

"SUNY Cortland is joining the effort and will give back to the local community here. Our goal is 10 hours of service each from 1,000 people for a

total of 10,000 volunteer hours. Bringing the SUNY Cortland campus and the greater Cortland community together in this fashion is part of the mission of the College's Institute for Civic Engagement and the Community Outreach Partnership Center."

A culminating local event to recognize Cortland's efforts is being planned for April 16, the anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Deliberative Polling Initiative Update

Our Deliberative Polling Initiative is moving forward under the capable direction of Christopher Latimer (Political Science) and Karen Hempson (Childhood/Early Childhood). This initiative is both a research project and an opportunity for a community-wide dialogue on an important subject. The topic to be discussed will be about Wal-mart and its impact on communities like Cortland. A random

sample of Cortland community members and SUNY Cortland students is being drawn. Invitations to participate in the process will be mailed soon. Participants will be asked for their opinions about Wal-mart and its impact on communities like ours. After a day of deliberation, including conversations with experts on Wal-mart and the various ways communities are affected by Wal-mart

stores, participants will be surveyed again. The researchers will be analyzing if (and how) opinion shifts. The day of deliberation is scheduled for April 19. This project is part of a national program directed by researchers at Stanford University and sponsored by the American Association of State College and Universities' American Democracy Project.

Weekly Meeting Dates

- ⇒ Students Advocating for a Valuable Environment (SAVE): Thursdays at 7 pm in Corey Union rm. 301
- ⇒ New York Public Interest Research Group Meetings (NYPIRG): Mondays at 5 pm in Corey Union rm. 215

- ⇒ Moving In Congregations, Acting in Hope (MICA): Contact Marie Agen at agenm@cortland.edu
- ⇒ Black Student Union: Mondays at 6 pm in Corey Union Voice Office Contact: BSU13045@yahoo.com

Research & Economic Development

Community Research and Economic Development Coordinator: Lloyd Purdy

The Research and Economic Development activities are operated from Main Street SUNY Cortland which is located at 9 Main Street

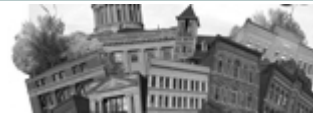
The Downtown Data Project

SUNY Cortland and the Cortland Downtown Partnership continue to work on community focused projects that turn historic downtown Cortland into a living laboratory for SUNY Cortland Students.

Through this semester's Urban Sociology and Urban Geography service-learning classes students are gathering physical, social, economic and geopolitical data about the people, buildings, and systems

found in Downtown Cortland. The data gathered will help build an online database of characteristics about downtown Cortland. This data will eventually tie into a web based 3-D model for use in planning and economic development. Students, both individually and in teams, from Dr. Stephen Halebsky's Urban Sociology class and Dr. Elizabeth Fraser's Urban Geography class are tackling this first of its kind project this year.

While the immediate result will be a database of current data about downtown



Cortland, the project may evolve to include

historic data and even comparative data from other small upstate communities. "This is another great example of SUNY Cortland faculty and students learning in their community," said Lloyd Purdy. "Extra curricular and service-learning experiences that build upon a classroom education benefit the students, the community and the school."

Civic Engagement News

Get Ready for the Fall 2008 Elections: The Institute for Civic Engagement is starting to plan for a voter registration, education, and participation campaign for the fall of 2008. In 2004 we registered 1,400 new voters. We would like to surpass that number in 2008. If you would like to help out with our campaign, please contact Richard Kendrick. We will begin meeting later on in March to plan for the fall general elections.

Civic Engagement Leadership Awards: Please nominate students, staff, faculty, or community members who have contributed to the quality of life in Cortland County. A nominee should be someone who has not been awarded this award previously. Send

nominations to John Suarez. The deadline has been extended to **March 3rd**.

Call for papers: "Social Advocacy and Systems Change," a new, peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, addresses issues related to social justice via the systemic transformation of socially constructed systems. Original research and commentary is expected to trouble the discourse of entrenched stereotypes and privileged paradigms, by facilitating voice and visibility for marginalized constituencies.

Editors will publish:

- Artwork, essays, and poems from students Pre-K – 12

- Action research from teachers
- Original research and commentary from university students & faculty

The theme of the May 2008 issue (the first issue) is: "Hear My Voice." Write about your experiences with inclusion and exclusion. Please contact Judy Bentley, Editor, at bentleyj@cortland.edu

We welcome Cindy Campagni, the Secretary to the Associate Provost, to Main Street on Tuesdays! She will be staffing the reception desk, among other duties. We are excited to have Cindy working with the ICE team.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Campus Community

Shop Talk / Sandwich Seminars These informal meetings encourage reflection, collaboration, and problem-solving. They are open to faculty, staff, agency supervisors, and – of course – students. Shop Talk will meet in Corey 209 on the following Tuesdays from 2:50 to 4:05, March 18th & April 8th.

End-of-Semester Reflections on Civic Engagement: Join faculty, staff, and students and community partners on Tuesday, April 29, from 3:00 to 4:30 in Corey Union #209 for this popular event. Previous *Reflections* have highlighted students' good work; these discussions have also generated solutions to civic engagement challenges.

Civics Education Panel Discussions. These discussions will explore the role of Net-based News in American citizenship. They are open to all, and will take place on the following Thursdays, from 4:05 to 5:40 in Corey Union's Fireplace Lounge: March 20 and April 17.

The March 20 discussion will feature Professor Robert Spitzer (Political Science), on the topic, "Democracy and Citizens' Rights & Obligations in a Time of Unlimited News Access."

Community Roundtable: "Healthful Living in Today's Environment" Thursday, March 6th at Main Street SUNY Cortland, 9 Main Street. 7:45am refreshments and 8-9am presentation & discussion. Event is free and open to the public. Attend this roundtable to find out what's happening in our community to

maintain a safe, healthful environment. Find out how SUNY Cortland is generating less waste, putting fewer and less toxic chemicals down the drain, and recycling more materials. Increase your understanding of organic foods as part of a sustainable, regional food system which is ecologically sound and economically viable. Learn what you can do to prevent foodborne and waterborne illnesses, maintain adequate septic systems, and reduce radon exposure. Speakers include Audrey Lewis (Director of Environmental Health, Cortland County), Robert Perry (Organic Farmer and Inspector), and Amy Twiss (Safety Specialist, SUNY Cortland).

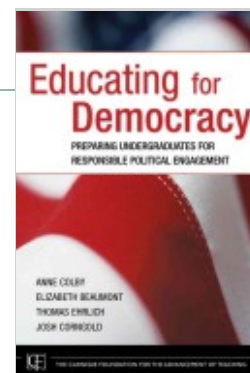
The activities of the Institute for Civic Engagement and Main Street SUNY Cortland are made possible through the support of the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Associate Provost, the Office of Sponsored Programs, the Faculty Development Committee, the MacDonald Foundation, the New York State Music Fund, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, the Division of Institutional Advancement, and the Auxiliary Services Corporation.

Book Chats in March – Educating for Democracy

The Institute for Civic Engagement and the Faculty Development Committee are sponsoring three book chats in March focusing on a new book, *Educating for Democracy: Preparing Undergraduates for Responsible Political Engagement*. The book chats will be held *March 3 at 12:30 p.m.* (led by Richard Kendrick, Director of the Institute for Civic Engagement and Chair of the Sociology/ Anthropology Department), *March 5 at 2 p.m.* (led by Randi Storch, Associate Professor of History and member of the Cultural and Intellectual Climate Committee), and *March 6 at 4:30 p.m.* (led by Joy Mosher, interim chair of the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department). All three discussions will be held in the Learning Commons area of the Memorial Library.



This book is the culmination of a lengthy research project, the Political Engagement Project, which examines ways various colleges and universities across the country have been successful at developing the knowledge and skills for political participation among their students. It offers practical suggestions for colleges and universities that want to do a better job of educating their students for participation in the democratic processes and institutions of our society. At the same time, it is an outstanding example of research that falls within the domain of the scholarship of civic engagement. The book is by the co-authors of *Educating Citizens* (the book we used when we launched the Institute for Civic Engagement and our affiliation with the American Democracy Project). The co-authors are Anne Colby, Thomas Ehrlich, Elizabeth Beaumont, and Josh Corngold. If you are interested in participating in one of the book chats, you can sign up by contacting Laura Gathagan in the Faculty Development Committee office at gathaganl@cortland.edu or extension 2088.



“Citizenship, Politics, and Civic Engagement”

An excerpt from Chapter 1 of *Educating for Democracy*

by A.Colby , E Beaumont, T. Ehrlich, J Corngold

By definition, democracy is a creative work in progress. Three quarters of a century after Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address identified government of, by and for the people as “unfinished work,” John Dewey argued that creating democracy remains “the task before us” during the “critical and complex conditions of today” [“Creative Democracy: the Task Before Us,” p. 225 in *The Later Works of John Dewey*]. While acknowledging the danger of external enemies of democracy . . . Dewey stressed that the gravest threats are internal: the failure to cultivate an understanding of democracy as a way of life involving personal commitments and actions

reflecting those commitments. Democracy’s persistence, Dewey urged, will ultimately hinge not on military protections or the formal mechanics of elections but rather on our devotion to ideas such as those that Lincoln identified and “the attitudes which human beings display to one another in all the incidents and relations of daily life” [“Creative Democracy,” p. 225].

The struggles of both fledgling and established democracies confirm Dewey’s insight: democratic institutions are only as sound as the citizens, actions, and goals that animate them. Democracies need a culture of ideas and

practices that can support citizens’ involvement in and control over social choices and directions. They also need a culture of responsible participation that can engender and sustain fair, trustworthy, and appropriately accountable political institutions - whether legislative assemblies, courts or police forces. Although democracy means many things to many people, as we see it democracy is fundamentally a practice of shared responsibility for a common future. It is the always unfinished task of making social choices and working toward public goals that shapes our lives and the lives of others.

<http://www.cortland.edu/civicengagement/>