

The Institute for Civic Engagement

Service Learning • Community Outreach • Research and Economic Development

Volume I Issue 6

April 2008

Affiliated with NY Campus Compact & the American Democracy Project

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Inside this issue:

<i>Service-Learning</i>	2
<i>Community Outreach</i>	2
<i>SUNY Staff Community Service Survey Results</i>	2
<i>Weekly Meeting Dates</i>	2
<i>Research and Economic Development</i>	3
<i>Deliberative Polling Update</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	3
<i>AmeriCorps & VISTA Opportunities</i>	4
<i>Service Learning Spotlight</i>	4

A Green Idea: Moving Cortland to a Sustainable Future

Starting at noon on Saturday April 26, 2008, Cortland Students Advocating for a Valuable Environment (C-SAVE) will host an Earth Week conference entitled "A Green Idea: Moving Cortland to a Sustainable Future". C-SAVE is a student group dedicated to making Cortland a greener campus and community, raising awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability and stewardship, and educating the community on environmental issues. All Cortland faculty, staff, and students, as well as all members of the surrounding communities are invited to participate in this free conference.

Throughout the day of events, C-SAVE seeks to help facilitate the sharing of knowledge on important environmental issues and hopes to bring to the foreground topics which are of importance in our daily lives and to the sustainability of our planet. Workshops and presentations will be offered by members of SUNY Cortland's faculty including Professors Victoria Boynton (English), Jill Murphy (Health), Kathy Russell (Philosophy), Brice Smith (Physics), Gail Tooker (Childhood/Early Childhood Education), and Charles Yaple (Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies). Additional workshops and events will be presented by students, student clubs, and members of the Cortland and surrounding communities. Among the topics to be discussed are the environmental impacts of tobacco farming, processing, and use; how to teach environmental issues to children; nature deficit disorder; how to get renewable energy systems for your home; capitalism and the environment; how to make your dorm rooms and homes more sustainable; the advantages of a vegetarian/vegan diet; and much more. In addition, Neo-Vox, the International College Student Magazine, will be presenting the winners of its environmental writing/design contest.

Following the afternoon of workshops and activities, the conference will feature dinner and live music starting at 5:00pm. At 6:00pm the conference will close out its day of presentations by hosting Bruce Barcott, author of "The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Woman's Fight to Save the World's Most Beautiful Bird". Bruce Barcott is a contributing editor at Outside magazine and a former Ted Scripps Fellow in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado. He has had his work appear in the New York Times Magazine, Mother Jones, and Harper's Magazine among other publications. He will speak about his latest book which tells the story of Sharon Matola, the director of the Belize Zoo, and her efforts to protect the habitat of the Scarlet Macaw from destruction by a Canadian power company and the dam they sought to construct. The evening will conclude with additional live music following the keynote speaker.

Funding for the conference will be provided, in part, by the Student Government Association (SGA), the Office of the President, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Timothy Slack (Director, Physical Plant), Tom Pasquarello (Political Science), Colleen Kattau (International Communications and Culture), the Physics & Engineering Club, and the Education Club.

If anyone is interested in participating in the conference in any way or has any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact C-SAVE at csave10@yahoo.com.

A Sneak Preview of Next Year's Themed Speakers' Series

The 2008-2009 Theme Speakers' Series on campus is being planned around the theme of "Inequality." The committee is working hard to bring a variety of speakers to campus to talk about inequality.

One confirmed speaker for next year is Earl Shorris, who will be speaking on Oct. 15, 2008. He is a prime candidate for this series on "inequality" because he is founder and chairman of the advisory board of the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a college-level course in the humanities for people living in poverty. He has done fantastic work and we are very excited to host him at Cortland. For more information about Earl Shorris visit: <http://www.mfh.org/newsandevents/newsletter/MassHumanities/Spring2000/shorris.html>

Who? Students, faculty, staff, college groups, community members
What? Environmental Conference
When? April 26th 12pm-7pm
Why? To share knowledge on important environmental issues and bring to the foreground topics which are of importance in our daily lives and to the sustainability of our planet.
Where? SUNY Cortland

Service-Learning

Service-Learning Coordinator : John Suarez

The Office of Service-Learning is in the Library Learning Commons.

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."

Service-learning stipend applications are due April 21: Contact John Suarez for an application or for additional information. suarezj@cortland.edu, (607) 753-4391.

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.



Earth Day: April 22nd

Community Outreach

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

The Power of 10

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.

"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."

So far there has been a great response from the campus and community.

A recognition event is planned for **April 16 @ 4:30**

p.m. in Brown Auditorium, the anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy. To give people a chance to finish their projects final forms are due **April 30th.**

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 Staff Community Service Survey

Although SUNY Cortland promotes and acknowledges its students' community service, it is just beginning to identify the community service activities of its staff. This report begins that process.

In spring 2007, four people designed a survey of staff community service: JoAnne Barry (Assistant Vice President for Human Resources), Leslie Hynes (Human Resources Intern), Diane Longo (Institute for Civic Engagement Intern), and John Suarez (Coordinator of Service-Learning). The survey was mailed in fall 2007, by which time Beth McMullen was the HR Intern, and Brittany Baig was the ICE Intern. These two students translated the results of the survey into an Excel spreadsheet. The report that follows is the result of their work.

872 surveys were mailed to staff employees of SUNY (639: 267 professionals and 372 classified staff), SUNY Research Foundation (58), and ASC (175). The surveys asked respondents to identify the agency or agencies with which they volunteer, when they have volunteered, and the kinds of activities in which they have been engaged. The 46 people who responded (5%) represented 28 departments, and they represent 70 community agencies or projects. (The reason for the low response rate could be that the surveys asked people to respond only if they are involved with community volunteer activities.) Activities

included administration of programs; helping the poor, fund-raising, volunteering in politics, teaching/counseling, and helping in the arts, emergency care, and the environment.

Eleven respondents (24%) volunteer with one agency or project; twelve (26%) volunteer with two agencies or projects. Nine people (20%) volunteer with three agencies, three with four (7%), two (4%) with five, and one person (2%) has volunteered with six. Six respondents (13%) have volunteered for two years or less; 14 (30%) have volunteered for between 3 and 5 years; six for between six and nine years; 15 (33%) between ten and fifteen years, and 3 have volunteered for between 16 and 32 years.

Here are few examples of staff service:

• **Larry Jebbett** (Maintenance) volunteers with his Lion's Club Little League. Mr. Jebbett was also a volunteer soccer coach, and he was a volunteer coach with the Boy Scouts of America.

• **Marthe Seales** (Center for the 4th and 5th Rs) began her volunteering career in 1976 with the YMCA, helping to build play equipment through the YMCA's KinderCare program, and serving on their Parents' Committee. At her local school, she volunteered in classrooms, and later she served on the school's Special Education Committee, on Parent Committees, and on the After-Prom Party Committee. At her

church, Ms. Seales taught religious education and served on the Parish Council and Life Choices Committee. She extended her community service to the Hospital Aid Society, where she helped raise money for the Maternity and Pediatrics Units of the hospital. With her son, she has also prepared lunches for the needy at Loaves and Fishes.

• **Lori Burns** (Student Health Services) volunteers at Loaves and Fishes, at her church (where she checks people's blood pressure and glucose), and at the YWCA, where through the Girl's Day Out Program she encourages pre-teens to consider a career in nursing. She also participated in the American Red Cross' Ground Zero Integrated Care Team at its inception, counseling survivors and the families of victims on 9/11.

• **Martha Howlett** (Registrar's Office) volunteers with the Cortland Council of Churches, where she has chaired the Program Committee for many years (and now serves as co-chair), helping to organize the annual Chautauqua, a 5-day themed educational and cultural event held during the first week in August on the Homer Village Green. She also leads a Brownie troop, she helps in her church's food pantry, and she has helped in fundraising efforts for the Cortland Repertoire Theater. For six years, Ms. Howlett served as Statistics and Section Leader for SEFA and for the Heart Association, and for 20 years she was a Sunday school teacher.

Weekly Meeting Dates

⇒ Cortland Students Advocating for a Valuable Environment (CSAVE): 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: BSUI3045@yahoo.com

Research & Economic Development

Community Research and Economic Development Coordinator: Lloyd Purdy
 Main Street SUNY Cortland at 9 Main Street

40Below Presents: "Bright Ideas for New Business in Cortland"

On Thursday, April 10, 40Below Cortland, the network of young professionals and entrepreneurs in Cortland, will host a public presentation called "40Below Presents" that will include the best business ideas for downtown Cortland developed by students in Homer High School's economics class with help from a SUNY Cortland Strategic Management class taught by Professor Tim Phillips.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Street SUNY Cortland campus at 9 Main Street in historic downtown Cortland. The evening will include a public presentation of three dynamic new business ideas developed just for Cortland. Three teams of students from Homer High School will each make a 10-minute presentation that outlines their business ideas

for Cortland.

Homer High School Economic students under the guidance of Joe Cortese developed 8 business ideas for Cortland last semester. With support from the SUNY Cortland Center for Economic Education, the Cortland Downtown Partnership and 40Below Cortland, these projects were revised, updated and presented to a panel of judges. Based on peer reviews and comments from the panel of 40Below Cortland judges, the three most promising ideas were selected to share with the public through "40Below Presents."

"40Below Cortland does a lot to cultivate and harness the energy of Cortland's young professionals and entrepreneurs," said Lloyd Purdy, Director of the Cortland Downtown Partnership. "40Below Presents is a chance to share these successes with the Cortland Community."

The Business ideas presented during 40Below Presents on Thursday April 10th were developed with the support of SUNY Cortland's Center for Economic Education. Student mentors from Professor Tim Phillip's class worked with Homer High School students as business consultants. The SUNY Cortland Center for Economic Education is helping to underwrite the cost of the first ever 40Below Presents.

If you would like to attend this April 10th event please RSVP to lloyd@cortlanddowntown.com or call 607.753.4270 before April 3rd. Seating is limited.



Deliberative Polling "Day of Deliberation" Coming up on Sat., April 19th

The Deliberative Polling Initiative moves closer to its April 19 "day of dialogue." The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Old Main and includes breakfast and lunch. Invitations have been sent out to a random sample of Cortland community members and to a random sample of Cortland students. We hope to have at least 200 participants (ideally, 100 community members and 100 students) at

our day of deliberation on the question, "Is Wal-mart Good for America?" Fourteen moderators have volunteered to lead small group discussions on this question. The discussions will be followed by opportunities to ask questions of experts on the topic. Seven experts from the Cortland community and the SUNY Cortland faculty have agreed to participate. If you have received an

invitation to participate, please join us for this opportunity to discuss this important issue and, at the same, participate in a national research project. The project coordinators are Karen Hempson (Childhood/Early Childhood) and Chris Latimer (Political Science). If you have questions you can contact Chris Latimer at latimer@cortland.edu and Karen Hempson at hempsonk@cortland.edu.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Campus Community

The Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Committee is hosting a program titled: **"If the World Voted: Global Views on Who Should Be the U.S. President"** The event is planned for: **April 8, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. in the Jacobus Lounge.** It will have at least five panelists representing China, Russia, Africa, and several areas of the Middle East. The format will be for presenters to answer several questions based on their expertise, and then the panel will take questions from the audience.

Shop Talk on Service-Learning. This informal meeting encourages reflection, collaboration, and problem-solving. It is open to faculty, staff, agency supervisors, and – of course – students. Shop Talk will meet in Corey 209 on **Tuesday, April 8th**, from 2:50 to 4:05.

"Earthy Matters" presents William Reese April 8 @ 7:30 p.m. Brown Auditorium, Old Main

A population ecologist at the University of British Columbia, William Reese explores the connection between economic development and ecological stability. He is the originator of 'ecological footprint' analysis. Communities across the country and around the world have used this methodology to assess the sustainability of their economic development. For more information, contact Kevin Sheets, (History), Chair of the Cultural and Intellectual Climate Committee, at sheetsk@cortland.edu

Civic Engagement Leadership Awards and "Power of 10" Recognition: April 16th • 4:30 p.m. • Brown Auditorium

The Institute for Civic Engagement will hold its fourth annual Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards ceremony and its first "Power of 10" recognition for those who have completed the Virginia Tech ENGAGE challenge by documenting 10 hours of community service during the spring semester. All are welcome to attend. A

reception will follow the ceremony.

What's Happening at the Main Street Campus?

Art Gallery:
 3/20 - 4/25 "Earthy Matters" Environmental Exhibition Reception 4/22 @ 4pm
 4/28 "Iterations" Art Show Reception 5/2 @ 4pm

Events:
 4/10 - 5:30pm 40Below Presents Homer HS Business Models
 4/22 - 6:00pm Earthy Matters Video Screening



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

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.

New York Times Architecture Critic to Speak on April 17

Nicolai Ouroussoff, the architecture critic for *The New York Times*, will speak in on April 17, 2008, in Sperry room 105 at 4:30 p.m. on the topic of green architecture. His presentation is free and open to the public. Mr. Ouroussoff was named the architecture critic of *The New York Times* in 2004, where he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2006. At *The Los Angeles Times*, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2003 and 2004.

Are You a Student Wondering What You Will Do Next Year?

Wondering what to do next year? Think about volunteering for AmeriCorps or VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Both programs offer opportunities for you to volunteer doing important work in communities across the country. Volunteers earn a small stipend (around \$11,000 per year – a little more or less depending upon the service site) and they also earn credit toward tuition (\$4,725 for each year of service completed). This credit can be applied to college tuition (e.g., graduate school) or to pay off student loans. For more information (and to see a list of openings nationwide), go to the AmeriCorps*VISTA Web site at www.americorps.gov. What do AmeriCorps volunteers do? According to the AmeriCorps Web site, they “address critical needs in communities all across America. As an AmeriCorps member, you can tutor and mentor disadvantaged youth, fight illiteracy, improve health services, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, manage or operate after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, [and] build organizational capacity.”

New York Campus Compact has AmeriCorps VISTA positions starting in August, 2008, at 25 colleges and universities across New York State. The main difference between AmeriCorps and VISTA positions is that VISTAs coordinate projects and programs whereas AmeriCorps members provide direct service. For example, a VISTA can set up a tutoring program – recruit and train volunteers and identify clients for the program. AmeriCorps members can do the tutoring.

NY Campus Compact VISTA members serve as: campus advocates on issues of hunger and homelessness, help with at-risk youth intervention, assist with community development, and promote access to higher education. They are liaisons between community organizations and students, faculty, and campus resources. They are resources for students and student groups looking to volunteer. They are resources for faculty developing service-learning courses. They can be mentors and leaders for service-learning students and volunteers.

VISTA members have created lasting change in the communities they have served. Their experiences working and living in poverty have helped these volunteers become powerful leaders, scholars, and community advocates. More information about the program, applications, and publicity materials can be found online at <http://www.nycvista.org>. The application deadline is **June 1, 2008**.

Service Learning Spotlight

• by John Suarez who, in 2006, spoke with students in Professional Writing courses. Adare talked with Mario Hernandez' class about writing for markets and about publishing; Gladstone spoke with David Franke's students about writing with a sense of place.

Culture shock often partners with service-learning students who volunteer with people from different socio-economic backgrounds, including people from cultures developed in different parts of the globe. For many of Linda Rosekrans' (English) students, those cultures evolved on North American soil.

Rosekrans, a 2005 service-learning stipend winner, has brought many of her ENG 256 (Native American Literature), CPN 102, and CPN 103 (Academic Writing in the Curriculum I and II) students to one of three Native American communities: At Kanatsiohaheke (Ga-na-jo-ha-lay-kay) Mohawk Community (west of Albany, near Fonda, N.Y.), students help with a range of projects, including farm chores and building repair and painting. At the Cayuga's S.H.A.R.E. Farm (near Union Springs), students work the earth. ("S.H.A.R.E." stands for Strengthening Haudenosaunee–American Relations through Education. "Haudenosaunee" is the Iroquois Nation name for itself; the word means People of the Longhouse.) Students who volunteer at the third community, the Onondaga Nation school on the Onondaga reservation (near Syracuse), tutor and mentor youngsters in the after-school program.

Rosekrans initiated these partnerships through her long-term interest in Native American cultures. That interest has led her to conduct a variety of awareness-raising activities, such as hosting Native American speakers' visits to SUNY Cortland. Those speakers include Sierra Adare and Jack Gladstone

Although some of Rosekrans' students volunteer with non-Native American organizations in Cortland, many others volunteer at a reservation or community. For those students, culture shock often involves differences in approach to interpersonal communications. Many students, for example, encounter a culture that emphasizes a more positive attitude than their own, and one that values listening over speaking. Students also experience a community that understands spirituality in ways different from their own notions, especially as that concept relates to the Earth.

Some of these differences may well be the result of students' levels of maturity. At Kanatsiohaheke, for example, the Mohawks had just completed their thanks-giving ceremony before beginning the meal, when one college student rushed to the huge buffet-style lunch as though he had not eaten in weeks. The Mohawks noticed, but said nothing. When Rosekrans apologized, the community members said that they appreciate all the work that the students do.

Some of Rosekrans' course refinements stem from her students' cultural "disconnects." For example, in spring 2008, she began interviewing students, looking especially for students' level of

maturity. This move created much more satisfactory experiences for all concerned. In fall 2008, many of Rosekrans' students will be Adolescent Education (English) majors; their volunteering activities at the communities will give them valuable hands-on career experience, especially as the U.S. increasingly becomes a nation of mixed cultures that interacts with other nations. Some of the nations in "the mix," themselves, feel the blending of cultures.

At the Onondaga Nation School, for instance, SUNY Cortland students are volunteering in a tumultuous cultural mix: Native American youngsters must meet New York State-mandated curricula. To help them reach that goal, mainstream young adult American citizens (SUNY Cortland students) provide tutoring. At the same time, the Native American students take courses in Onondaga language and other cultural studies. In addition to studying culture, they practice it: On Friday afternoons, for example, they conduct a Closing Ceremony. As a result of such courses and activities, children develop a strong cultural identity. One youngster asked Rosekrans, "Where are you from?" Rosekrans replied, "from Buffalo." "Oh," the girl said, "you're from New York State. I'm Onondaga."

Rosekrans will continue to bring students to the Mohawk, Cayuga, and Onondaga, because she knows that cultural exchanges between these nations and other parts of New York State are inevitable – and desirable. Rosekrans points out that "this will be a wonderful experience for them, certainly for the Onondaga children."

For more information, visit two websites:
<http://www.onondaganationschool.org/>
<http://www.mohawkcommunity.com/>