

SUNY Cortland Institute for Civic Engagement News

October 2012

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Update: Deliberative Dialogue on Climate Change



The Institute for Civic Engagement and Sustainable Cortland hosted a deliberative dialogue on climate change. The forum, entitled "A Campus Conversation about Climate Change," took place Wednesday, October 3, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Corey Union Function Room. Over 150 people attended the event.

Participants were pre-surveyed on the issue and their views of climate change; they were then given balanced background information on the issue.

At the event, participants were divided into smaller groups for

Presidential Debate Watch Parties

The Institute for Civic Engagement, NYPIRG, UUP, NeoVox, and the President's Office are hosting Debate Watch parties for each of the four Presidential and Vice Presidential debates. All viewings will take place in Sperry Room 106.

The first debate was on Wednesday, October 3, 9:00-10:30 p.m. The two candidates, President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, debated domestic policy.

The second debate between the Vice Presidential Candidates, Rep. Paul Ryan and Vice President Joseph Biden, will

discussion and each group was invited to formulate questions to be asked of a panel of experts. A second survey was conducted after the event to gather post-discussion thoughts about the issue.

The resource panel for the event consisted of local experts on the issue of climate change: Larry Klotz, Distinguished Teaching Professor, SUNY Cortland, Biology; David Barclay, Associate Professor, SUNY Cortland, Geology; David Eichorn, Adjunct Professor, SUNY ESF, Meteorology, and meteorologist for WSYRTV Syracuse for 20 years; Brice Smith, Climate Action Plan Committee member and Associate Professor, SUNY Cortland, Physics, and Gay Nicholson, President and Director of Programs for Sustainable Tompkins. Beth Klein, Interim Chair of the Department of Childhood/Early Childhood Education moderated the discussion.

cover foreign and domestic policy issues and it will be held Thursday, October 11, from 9:00- 10:30 p.m.

The third debate is Tuesday, October 16, 9:00-10:30 p.m. and it will be a town meeting format on both foreign and domestic issues for the Presidential candidates.

The final debate is Monday, October 22, 9:00-10:30 p.m. when foreign policy will be debated by the two Presidential candidates.

Free food and drinks will be provided during each of the debate parties, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Cross-Cultural Miscommunication Panel Discussion

“Examples of miscommunication include a U.S. President’s use of the word ‘crusade’ when referring to U.S. efforts in the Middle East”

The Institute for Civic Engagement and the Clark Center for International Education are hosting a panel discussion on Cross-Cultural Miscommunication as part of this year’s International Week events. The panel discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Moffett 2125.

With our global economy, and with our increasingly diverse U.S. population, an understanding of – and an appreciation for – the complexities of cross-cultural communication are crucial for understanding issues such as the economy, education, and health. Globalization and diversity increase the need for students’ education in a variety of subjects that enhance their cross-cultural understanding.

Examples of miscommunication include a U.S. President’s use of the word “crusade” when referring to U.S. efforts in the Middle East, which alluded – intentionally or not– to a time many in the Middle East consider to be one of invasion by Western powers, and to a teacher’s insistence on eye contact when speaking to parents of children raised in certain Asian cultures.

The discussion will feature five panelists, each of whom will share a narrative regarding experience with cross-cultural miscommunication, followed by a discussion.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information about the event e-mail John Suarez at john.saurez@cortland.edu.

Sandwich Seminar: Scholars from Middle East

Keeping with the theme of Cross-Cultural Communication, the Institute for Civic Engagement is hosting a Sandwich Seminar on Thursday, November 8, at 12 p.m. in Brockway Hall’s Jacobus Lounge. During the seminar, visiting scholars from the Middle East, participating in the Civic Education and Leadership Fellows Program at Syracuse University will be presenting. The topic of the Sandwich Seminar is stereotypes and misconceptions Americans have about Arabs, and misconceptions the scholars had about Americans before coming here. They would like to pose questions, invite questions, and create dialogue.

The scholars presenting at the Sandwich Seminar are:

Ali Jamal Saeed Arafeh, who holds a PhD in Curricula and Method of Teaching. Dr. Arafeh is from Oman and currently

serves as the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Nizwa in Oman.

Ali Said Ali Alkasbi holds a Master of Arts in English Literature. He is from Oman, and is currently an English language lecturer at Mazoom College, where he has also served as a staff member in the human resources department.

Khadija Safi-Eddine holds a PhD in Comparative Literature. Dr. Safi-Eddine is from Morocco, and is currently a professor of American and British Literature at the Hassan II University in Morocco. She also teaches World Literature in Translation, World Literature in English, Literary Studies, and Literary Criticism.

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Community Partner Spotlight

Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture

Lime Hollow is a member-supported not-for-profit organization whose mission is to "provide year-round environmental education and recreation opportunities through utilization and protection of the natural and cultural attributes of the Lime Hollow area."

Our SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps program currently has members serving at Lime Hollow as Environmental / Naturalists. They work cooperatively with members of the educational team to provide education programming for area youth and adults. Lime Hollow has also been a consistent partner over the years in placing many students in internships with their programs.

Lime Hollow has over ten miles of trails, and an outdoor amphitheater. It offers a variety of programs for both the public and local schools at its visitor and education centers

The Lime Hollow visitor center is open Tues-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat-Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture

State of Poverty Simulation

The Institute for Civic Engagement and The Office of Service-Learning hosted a State of Poverty Simulation on Wednesday, September 12.

This simulation, which is conducted by the Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO), is designed to help participants begin to understand – intellectually and emotionally – the challenges that a typical low-income family faces while trying to survive from month to month. It is a simulation, not a “game”: the object is to sensitize participants to the realities of low-income existence.

In the simulation, participants assume the roles of up to 26 families facing poverty. Some of those family members are newly unemployed, some are recently deserted by the “breadwinner,” and other are recipients of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). Still others are disabled or are senior citizens receiving social security. The task of the “families” is to provide basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute “weeks.”

A total of 85 students participated in the simulation. Participants in the event found that, besides money, the major challenges for low-income families are transportation, food, time management. Most participants came away from the simulation with a better understanding of the circumstances of poverty, and how hard it is for poor families to live week to week.



Students participating in State of Poverty Simulation



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Nabil Chedid holds a PhD in Sciences of Information and Communication Public Relations. Dr. Chedid is from Lebanon, and currently serves as a Professor in the Faculty of Information and Documentation at the Lebanese University, and as a Professor in the Army Command and General Staff College of the Lebanese Army, where he teaches courses on administration, marketing, public relations, and the media.

Nada Mohammed Alenzi holds a Master of Science in Social Research. He is from Kuwait, and currently serves as the Director of Assessment of Academic Performance and Quality Assurance and is an Instructor in the College of Business Administration at the Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait.

Naif Khaldy holds a PhD in Economics.

Dr. Khaldy is from Isreal, and currently works as a lecturer in the Department of Communication and Marketing and is the head of the extra-curricular Department at the Nazareth Academic Institute.

Mohammad Ibrahim holds a PhD in Transport and Tourism Economics. Dr. Eraqi is from Egypt, and currently serves as a Professor of Economics and Tourism Studies and as a Vice Dean for Education and Students Affaires at Fayoum University, Egypt.

Rima Moqattash holds a PhD in English Language and Literature. Dr. Moqattash is visiting from Jordan. She is a retired police officer and currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the English Departments at Al-Issra Private University, the University of Petra, and the University of Jordan.

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems and in placing more students on a lifelong path of civic engagement by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful and measureable outcomes in the communities they serve.

SUNY Cortland has received the President's Honor Roll designation for six straight years, most recently with distinction.

In 2012, 642 institutions were recognized for the President's Honor Roll. Of those 642 institutions, 513 were named to the honor roll, 110 received the recognition of honor roll with distinction, 14 were finalists, and five received the Presidential Award.

This year, we are again applying for this designation. As part of the application process, we have gathered data on community service-related internships.

From summer 2011 through spring 2012, for example, 124 students from political science, sociology, and anthropology engaged in community service-related internships, serving 28, 448 hours at not-for-profit sites, and government agencies.

We are just beginning the application and data gathering process, but with our impressive internship and volunteer participation, we hope to receive the President's Honor Roll designation for a seventh straight year.