

State University of New York College at Cortland

- A President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member With Distinction
- Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement

Institute for Civic Engagement

www.cortland.edu/get-involved

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AmeriCorps Applications are Now Being Accepted

Applications are currently being accepted for 41 AmeriCorps volunteers to spend a year in Cortland County to help a variety of local community organizations. AmeriCorps offers 75,000 such opportunities around the nation.



AmeriCorps members receive a living stipend (\$12,100 for a full-time member) during their terms of service to help with housing and food. Full-time members are also eligible for health care benefits.

SUNY Cortland students, especially those who may be graduating in December, are encouraged to think about spending a year in AmeriCorps.

You can find information about the AmeriCorps program and apply online at www.americorps.gov. Search for programs in New York State and look for SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps. If you are unable to apply online, contact Dr. Kendrick directly at richard.kendrick@cortland.edu.

Upon completion of service, full-time members will receive a Segal Education Award of \$5,550 which can be used to pay for college costs such as graduate school or student loans. Stipends and educational awards are pro-rated for part-time members.

A federal grant of \$370,068 was awarded to SUNY Cortland and the surrounding community from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The New York State Commission on National and Community Service received AmeriCorps funding requests this year totaling \$29,878,887 from more than seventy eligible applicants, but was allocated only \$16,905,994 to disperse.

AmeriCorps is one of three initiatives created by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal organization that engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America.

"We are very excited to have received this award for our AmeriCorps program from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service," said Dr. Richard Kendrick, AmeriCorps Project Director and Director of the SUNY Cortland Institute for Civic Engagement. "This will mean that programs in our community can continue to affect the lives of hundreds of Cortland residents in all aspects of community life, such as preschool, daycare, environmental education, afterschool programs, health education, and much more."

SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps is a community-based coalition that seeks to strengthen communities and increase civic involvement through volunteering and service.

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Student Spotlight: Victoria Maione

Childhood Education and Spanish major Victoria Maione has deepened her understanding of her future students through her civic engagement activities across three states.

A native of East Northport, NY, Maione volunteered at Stony Brook (Long Island) Hospital's pediatric ward, where she developed ways of playing with children so that they would forget their surgeries, at least for a while.

Children's situations were "sometimes super sad," she said recently, "but other times the kids and I would have a lot of fun, like when one young girl and I played 'Pretty, Pretty Princess.'"

Maione noted that, through those experiences, "I learned that the children relied on me, that I shouldn't take anything for granted, and that I had to prepare well so that I got the job done right."

She carried that lesson with her to Cortland, where she prepared and served food to the hungry and homeless at Loaves and Fishes. Here, Maione (who was awarded the Borg-Warner TEC Scholarship in the April 2011 *Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards* Recep-



tion) grew to understand more deeply some of the struggles faced by people – especially children – living below the poverty line. This experience also helped her refine her teamwork skills.

Maione's strong teamwork skills and her dedication to effective preparation made her a more effective volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Raleigh, North

Carolina, and in Sumter, South Carolina. In each city, she polished her team problem-solving skills. In one case, for example, she worked with her colleagues to solve a problem that had kept volunteers from reaching the roof of a building they were repairing.

As a teacher, Maione will apply her skills and her understanding of marginalized populations. She said that "I have worked with parents and children who are less fortunate than me. I need to know that some of the children in my classroom will not be able

to afford school supplies or sometimes even food because that might get in the way of their learning. I know that I need to collaborate with teachers and parents to help children learn. It is my job as a teacher to inspire my students to learn, no matter what hardships they face. I am fortunate to have had these experiences."

Victoria Maione's future students will be fortunate to have her as their teacher.

New "SLRN" Courses

Service-Learning Coordinator: John Suarez. The Office of Service-Learning is located at Moffett #2105

In spring 2012, two of the English Department's Professional Writing courses will carry the Registrar's SLRN (service-learning) attribute.

- Business Writing (PWR 398) has been taught as a service-learning course by Full-Time Lecturer Tim Emerson since fall 2006.
- Writing in the Digital Age (PWR 209) will be taught by Assistant Professor Guiseppe Getto. This is SUNY Cortland's twenty-ninth SLRN course. PWR 209 also brings the total number of courses taught through service-learning methodology (including those without the SLRN attribute) to forty-two.

To assign the SLRN attribute to a course, contact John Suarez, Coordinator of the Office of Service-Learning, at john.suarez@cortland.edu or at (607) 753-4391.

October is Poverty Awareness Month

Current U.S. Census Bureau data show New York State's poverty rate is 16 percent. Central New York children's poverty rate is a more severe 25 percent.

At Cortland's City Council Meeting on October 4, Mayor Susan Feiszli will sign a proclamation stating that October is Poverty Awareness Month in the city.

A number of local events will help city residents, including SUNY Cortland students, staff, and faculty, participate in activities that can help us understand effects of, and address, local poverty:

Oct. 3 through 7 – The Cortland County Community Action Program (CAPCO) is collecting new and used coats for children and adults from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for its Coat Giveaway. That event will take place on October 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish. Contact CAPCO at (607) 753-6781.



Children at CAPCO's Coat Drive

Oct. 8 – Habitat Workday. Two Habitat-related organizations will build homes. Ithaca First Presbyterian Church volunteers will work on a house on Clinton Street in Cortland. Contact Nicole Duarte, SUNY Cortland Habitat for Humanity Club President, at nicole.duarte@cortland.edu.

Women Build will work on a house in Homer. Women Build is sponsored by Lowe's. The focus is on building women's independence and strength by teaching them skills to build and repair their own homes. To register, contact Women Build Coordinator Andi Baldwin at andrea.b@habitatnys.org

Oct. 11 – Bridges Out of Poverty. This workshop helps participants understand causes of poverty and explore "hidden rules of class." To register, contact CAPCO at 753-6781 or at capco@capco.org. Registration deadline is Oct. 5.

Oct. 19 – Poverty Simulation at SUNY Cortland, 3 - 5 p.m. Contact John Suarez, Coordinator, Office of Service-Learning, at john.suarez@cortland.edu.

Oct. 29 – Empty Bowls at the Homer Center for the Arts from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Refer to the article on page 4. For more information, contact Professor Jeremiah Donovan at jeremiah.donovan@cortland.edu.



Habitat for Humanity's "Blitz Build," September 2011

You can volunteer throughout the year. For example,

- To mentor a child between the ages of 5 and 12, contact Sara Earl at bridges@cortlandywca.org.
- To mentor a child between the ages of 13 and 17, contact Family Counseling Services' AmeriCorps member, Kim Mullins, at kimberly.mullins87@yahoo.com.
- The SUNY Cortland Emergency Medical Squad invites volunteers to help with flood relief in Binghamton on the weekends. Register at campusrescuedisasterrelief@hotmail.com.

Volunteers should wear a hat or cap, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and boots that do not breathe, such as work- or rain-boots. Long hair should be tucked under a hat or cap. Volunteers should bring lunch and something to drink.

EMS also needs volunteers with their own cars..

On a Saturday or Sunday, meet in the small parking lot next to Corey Union at 8:00 a.m.; plan to be back in Cortland at about 5:00 p.m.

A comprehensive list of community agencies that need volunteers is available at the Seven Valleys Health Coalition's Website: <http://www.sevenvalleyshealth.org/>

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AmeriCorps members mentor disadvantaged youth, fight illiteracy, improve health services, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, manage or operate after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters.

Previous Cortland AmeriCorps volunteers have worked with a variety of local organizations, including Cornell Co-operative Extension in Cortland, Lime Hollow Center for

Environment and Culture, the Institute for Civic Engagement, Cortland Downtown Partnership, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Seven Valleys Health Coalition.

For additional information, contact Wendy Burton, the SUNY Cortland Institute for Civic Engagement Program Coordinator, at (607) 753-4270, or e-mail her at wendy.burton@cortland.edu.

“Empty Bowls” Feeds the Hungry

This year’s Empty Bowls event will take place at the Homer Center for the Arts on October 29, 2011, from 6 to 8 p.m. and is open to the community. People attending make a donation at the door and then select a hand-made bowl for the meal. They take the bowl home after as a reminder of those in need.

Empty Bowls is “an international grassroots effort to fight hunger,” created by The Imagine Render Group (<http://www.emptybowls.net/>); it is active across the U.S. Art and Art History Professor Jeremiah Donovan has led the Cortland area’s Empty Bowls campaign for the past twenty years.

Donovan said, “my students and I work with area high school students and teachers. I donate clay, glazes and firing and a place to work. Usually, I have a gathering of local potters or interested community members here in the Ceramics Studio spending an evening or two making bowls for this event. This year we had Paul Yaman [of Yaman Real Estate], Kim Hill [the Director of Cortland Loaves and Fishes], and local high school teachers making bowls.”

In addition, area restaurants, organic farms, and individuals donate various soups, salads and bread. Last year’s event raised \$6,000.



Students created an “Empty Bowls” commemorative bowl.

Coming Events

(For additional October events, please refer to page 3.)

Friday, October 7, 3 to 5 p.m. at Main Street SUNY Cortland (9 Main Street): Wine and Cheese Reception with a special focus on **Transformational Education**. Learn from faculty how you can work toward tenure and promotion by integrating teaching, scholarship, and service. New faculty and professional staff members are particularly invited to join us. For more information, contact Professor Mecke Nagel at mecke.nagel@cortland.edu or at 607-753-5784.

Wednesday, October 12, 4:30 in Moffett Center, Room 2125: **We, the People: The Constitution and the Culture of Civil Rights**. Presenter: Gouri Bhat, Berk Law (and formerly of the ACLU). A reception to welcome our speaker begins at 4 p.m. in the Brooks Museum (Moffett Center, Room 2126). This presentation is part of the Brooks Museum 2011-2012 Lecture Series: Culture and the Written Word. For more information, contact Professor Sharon Steadman at sharon.steadman@cortland.edu.



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