

February 2013  
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**Individual Highlights:**

- New Intern: Colleen Honan 2
- Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards 2
- CPN 102 and 103 3
- Upcoming Events 4

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member With Distinction



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



By: Michael Bersani

“Americans Who Tell the Truth,” an exhibition by Maine-based artist Robert Shetterly, features 28 paintings of activists who spoke out against injustice, often under difficult circumstances. A special, posthumous portrait of William “Bill” Griffen '50, the former peace activist and SUNY Cortland professor of foundations and social advocacy, will be included in the art display that runs from Tuesday, Jan. 22, to Saturday, March 9, at the College’s Beard and Dowd galleries.

Both galleries are located at Main Street SUNY Cortland, 9 Main Street.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Both are closed Sundays, and the Dowd Gallery is closed Mondays.

Each piece in the exhibition includes a painted portrait and a quotation by the subject scratched into the painting’s surface. The Dowd Gallery will feature 22 portraits of activists, including Ali, Chavez, Shirley Chisholm and Alice Waters.

The Beard Gallery’s six works are

themed around activist women in the arts. They include Dorothea Lange, Susan Coe, and Lily Yeh.

Shetterly began his work on the collection because of the frustration he felt about the war in Iraq. He believed President George W. Bush’s administration leveraged propaganda about the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as justification for war. He originally set out to paint 50 portraits, one for each state.

To date, he has created more than 150.

According to Shetterly, the painting subjects gaze back at the viewer with an invitation to act.

The “Americans Who Tell the Truth” exhibition is sponsored by SUNY Cortland’s Art and Art History Department; the College’s Institute for Civic Engagement; the Cortland Fund; the Cortland College Foundation; the Center for Peace, Ethics and Social Justice, and the Haines Fund.

Additional funding is provided by Syracuse University’s Middle East and North Africa Programs; its Executive Education Program, and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Group tours of the exhibition are available. Contact Gallery Director Erika Fowler-Decatur at 607-753-4216.

## New Intern: Colleen Honan

My name is Colleen Honan, from Rouses Point, NY. I am an International Studies major with a minor in Political Science. I have always had an active interest in international affairs, but more importantly in how those issues impact citizens and the world around us. These interests have inspired me to intern and work with organizations that maintain close relationships with their community.

I have previously interned for my local Congressman, and worked closely with SUNY Cortland's International Programs. Such jobs have allowed me to work with people from all backgrounds in order to provide assistance, and connect to them. As an intern for Congressman Bill Owens, I spoke with constituents, and aided in

resolving issues that they faced. As an intern for SUNY Cortland's International programs, I was given the opportunity to meet and work with international students that led to many friendships and cultural learning.

For my final undergraduate semester, I am involved with Model European Union, as well as an independent study in which I will give a presentation to faculty and students to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Interning for SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement is a great opportunity to become more involved with the student population and the Cortland community. I look forward to helping organize events for the community as well as starting the SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement's first blog.

## Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards and Scholarships

SUNY Cortland is committed to excellence in service to the community. Since April 2005, the college has presented awards to area students, faculty members, college staff, and community members to recognize the significant contributions of individuals and groups to our community's quality of life through their leadership in a variety of civic engagement activities.

SUNY Cortland students, faculty, staff, and people in the greater Cortland community can nominate another person, a group, or themselves.

Last year, twenty-five students, two student groups, three community members, and five members of the faculty and staff received the Leadership in Civic Engagement Award.

This year's nominations will be reviewed by a committee composed of SUNY Cortland staff, faculty, and

students, and Cortland community leaders.

To nominate someone or yourself for the Leadership in Civic Engagement award, fill out the nomination form found on our website: [www.cortland.edu/get-involved](http://www.cortland.edu/get-involved). The deadline to make nominations is Friday, March 15, 2013.

In addition, six Civic Engagement scholarships are available at [cortland.academicworks.com](http://cortland.academicworks.com). Use the keywords, "community service," to search and find all relevant scholarships. The scholarship deadline is March 2, 2013.

The Leadership in Civic Engagement Award ceremony will be held Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in Jacobus Lounge (Brockway Hall).

If you have any questions about the nomination process you can e-mail [getinvolved@cortland.edu](mailto:getinvolved@cortland.edu) or call 753-2298.

## Writing Studies in the Community I and II (CPN 102 and 103)

*At nine years-old, Robbie is dealing with 'adulthood' (Oshio, Sano, and Kobayashi, 2009, p. 84). He is forced into a fatherly role. His single mom works two jobs to support her six children. She is not home to cook him dinner or tuck him in at night, nor is she around to make decisions that most parents make for their children. He decides whether he should eat his dinner all at once or save some of it for tomorrow, knowing that he probably won't eat again until tomorrow night unless the school provides him lunch. After he puts his younger siblings to bed, he climbs in next to them and struggles to stay awake until he knows his mom came home from work. Robbie's increased responsibilities at home, accompanied by his mom's lack of availability, affect Robbie's ability to play rec sports, which has recently been linked to a child's ability to do well in school."*

This fall 2012 student's essay demonstrates how students can develop writing skills and professional competencies through a service-learning writing course in which they volunteer as tutors. To that end, SUNY Cortland's *Writing Studies in the Community I and II* (CPN 102 and 103) provide content and methods that are particularly valuable for our education majors' professional needs.

In fall 2012, 53 *Writing Studies in the Community I* (CPN 102) students, including twelve education majors, volunteered at after-school programs. During this spring semester, 62 students in CPN 103's three sections are volunteering in career-oriented service-learning placements; eighteen Inclusive Special Education majors are volunteering at Syracuse's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary School through *Introduction to Urban Education* (FSA 101), taught by Professor Michelle Kelly. Kelly coordinates her course's content with the CPN 103 instructor, John Suarez. Thirty-three of the other 44 students are education majors in a variety of fields.

Most students are tutoring and mentoring at after-school programs such as the Child Development Center's After-School Program at Barry Elementary School. Physical Education majors volunteering with programs through the YMCA and YWCA apply their skills in ways that help children enjoy and develop from physical activity.

All the programs include supervision, and some provide additional training, such as Family Counseling Service's *Homework Help* Program, which trains students in mentoring techniques. The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County's After-School Program and the Tully Elementary After-School Program provide training in planning lessons, specifically lessons that focus on mathematics and science.



Students volunteering for Family Counseling Services' Homework Help program Fall 2012

The Lafayette Central School District's *Big Picture* (Alternative) High School offers education majors a chance to tutor teens who work in a project-based, multi-disciplinary environment. For both the Tully and Lafayette programs, the Institute for Civic Engagement has reserved a college van to transport students.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

CPN 102 and 103 help students prepare for, and succeed at, their agency placements through six professional development workshops that focus on professionalism, tutoring skills, and cultural considerations. Through course work and through these workshops, students begin developing an appreciation for their role in their host teachers' Annual Professional Performance Review. They also begin practicing skills that they will need for their Certification exams.

By the end of the fall semester, supervisors were so impressed with SUNY Cortland students' performance that three wrote letters of recommendation for many of those students. The letter from a Cortland Youth Bureau supervisor praised one student, Samantha Bindrim (planning to become an Adolescent Education, Mathematics major) for "her enthusiasm. Samantha was a tutor to a Cortland high

grade has risen since working with Samantha." Ms. Bindrim and two others were offered part-time jobs; the Child Development Center's Barry After-School Program supervisor offered a part-time position to a SUNY Cortland student who volunteered there.

Contact the Office of Service-Learning Coordinator, John Suarez, at [john.suarez@cortland.edu](mailto:john.suarez@cortland.edu) for additional information.



CPN 102 Student volunteering for The Child Development Center's after school program at Barry Elementary School, Fall 2012.

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Jan. 22, to Saturday, March 9**

"Americans Who Tell the Truth"

Dowd and Beard Galleries

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Both Closed Sunday, and Dowd Gallery closed Monday

**Tuesday, February 12, 5:30-6:30 pm:**

Sandra Steingraber Talk "Speaking Truth to Power about Fracking", Dowd Gallery (9 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Wednesday, February 20, 4:10-5:30 pm**

Cross Cultural (Mis)Communication Panel Discussion (Moffett 2125)

**Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm:**

An Evening with Robert Shetterly, hosted by the Center for Ethics, Peace and Social Justice, (tentatively scheduled for Sperry room 205).

**Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 pm:**

Robert Shetterly's artist talk for Americans Who Tell the Truth exhibit

**Thursday, March 7, 7:00pm:**

Reception Celebrating the Induction of Bill Griffen's Portrait into the Americans Who Tell the Truth, Dowd Gallery (9 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Thursday, April 18, 4:30-5:30 pm:**

Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards (Jacobus Lounge)

**Sunday, April 14: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice Student Conference

**"Save the Date": Sunday, April 21:**

Cortland Blooms Community Festival and Green Fair