

## SUNY Cortland Strengthens Ties to Morocco

By Richard Kendrick

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Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



Over the past several years, it has been my privilege to work with scholars, activists, non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders, and journalists from the Middle East and North Africa involved in two programs that are housed in Syracuse University's Maxwell School for Citizenship and Public Affairs, Civic Education Leadership Fellows (CELF) and Leadership for Democracy Fellows (LDF). Through these programs, I met a number of scholars and activists from Morocco. At their invitation, I was able to spend two weeks traveling in northern Morocco and learning about Moroccan higher education, opportunities for civic engagement and partnership development between Moroccan universities and their communities, and the role of NGOs in Moroccan society.

While in Morocco from April 25 through May 7, I had the opportunity to visit universities in Casablanca, Oujda, Ifrane, Meknes, and Rabat. Altogether, I gave 11 talks, workshops, and class presentations at universities, community centers, and high schools in Morocco on the topics of civil society, civic and community engagement, and civic education.

I met with many students, faculty, staff/administrators, and community members, including high school teachers and administrators, and I reconnected with Dr. Larbi Touaf and his family, who visited Cortland in the fall of 2013. I also had a meeting (that included Dr. Nadir Ismaili, a CELF alumnus) with Jim Miller of the Morocco-American Center for Educational and Cultural Exchange and an informal meeting (organized by Dr. Ismaili) with two representatives from the U.S. Embassy.



With faculty and staff following my first presentation at Mohammed I University, Oujda, Morocco

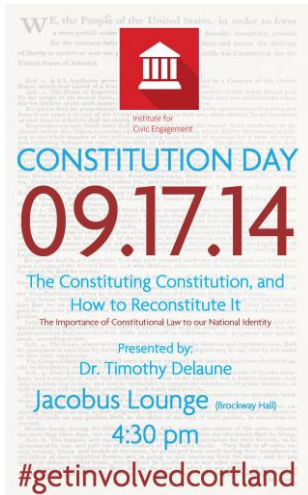
The enthusiasm that I encountered for the ideas related to civic engagement and civic education was remarkable, particularly among students, who seem to be especially eager to have this information and to act on it.

Many Moroccans perceive the time to be ripe to build the capacity of Morocco's institutions, particularly institutions of higher education, for strengthening democracy. Moroccan public higher education is free for nearly all students. There is one public American-style university that charges tuition. For-profit institutions of higher education are making inroads in Morocco, and many of those who can afford to do so send their children abroad for college or university training.

Moroccans are proud of their long-standing friendship with the United States. Many people that I met mentioned that Morocco was the first country to recognize the United States of America as a new nation in 1777. They would like to deepen their friendship with America. Yet, they find it difficult to have as strong a connection to the

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## Constitution Day Event



SUNY Cortland and the Institute for Civic Engagement announce this year’s annual Constitution Day event. Professor Timothy Delaune will speak at 4:30 p.m. on September 17th in the Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall. His talk, titled, “The Constituting Constitution, and How to Reconstitute It,” will focus on the nature of the Constitution as a set of principles that help define us as a nation.

The talk will also address how the Constitution is formally amended on its own terms and will emphasize the yet-to-be-used method of amending through a constitutional convention as an avenue for democratic change.

Dr. Delaune is a Professor of Political Science and a Pre-Law Advisor at SUNY Cortland. He is a graduate of

The University of Chicago Law School. He also studied at Tufts University and received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Dr. Delaune’s expertise lies in United States law generally and in constitutional law specifically and, in particular, in how it applies to legal traditions, political theory, and international law.

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave on September 17, 1787, recognizing all who, are born in the U.S., or by naturalization, have become citizens.

This event is open to the public and is free of charge. Feel free to bring your class, club, or other organization.



## Your Vote Counts – Register to Vote!

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

If you are not registered to vote – now is the time to do it! Elections in November include important state government positions such as governor and comptroller and congressional seats. Every vote counts and it is an important way to make your voice heard!

For information on how to register, go to <http://www2.cortland.edu/programs/civ-ic-engagement/make-your-vote-count/> at the SUNY Cortland Institute for Civic Engagement Website. If you have

previously registered, but have moved (changed your address) you will need to complete a NEW registration to ensure that you are registered to vote at the proper location.

If you are uncertain about your status and want to see if you are already registered to vote, go to <http://www.canivote.org/> and enter the information requested and it will advise you if (and where) you are registered to vote.

There will also be opportunities to register to vote on campus. September 23, 2014 is National Voter Registration Day and tables will be set up where you can obtain or complete a voter registration form.

## Service-Learning 2013-2014



**John Suarez**  
Service-  
learning  
Coordinator

During the 2013-2014 academic year, 1,738 students engaged in service-learning projects through 62 courses across 15 departments. Together, they devoted 262,260 hours to the community, valued at nearly \$7 million. Many of those hours came from student-teachers, whose classroom experiences and contributions form the basis for reflection. Reflection is a key element of service-learning; it is the main way through which students process praxis (the application of theory in the field). The topic of reflection is treated in the Institute for Civic Engagement's new *Service-Learning Manual*. (Refer to article in next column)

Last year also saw growth in the number of courses (or specific sections of courses) that have the Registrar's SLRN (service-learning) attribute. The Physical Education Department, in particular, added the designation: it now offers 16 SLRN courses.

Our School of Education was also busy with service-learning projects: Dean Andrea Lachance and Valerie Behr (Lecturer II) worked with Institute for Civic Engagement Director Richard Kendrick to secure a *Bringing Theory to Practice* Grant that is helping to support the Flourishing Teachers; Flourishing Students learning communities.

These learning communities are dedicated to first-year Childhood/Early Childhood Education majors, who will benefit from field experience in their first year at college. The learning community has two sections in the Fall, and two in the Spring.

## New Service- Learning Manual

The Institute for Civic Engagement is pleased to announce its *new Service-Learning Manual: A Short Guide to Best Practices*. Although the manual is designed for the novice service-learning instructor, we expect that it will also be useful to the seasoned practitioner.

The manual's guidelines are reinforced with practical suggestions and with examples from service-learning courses. It describes service-learning as a holistic pedagogy that focuses on the process of learning. It includes chapters devoted to Reflection and Service-Learning Learning Communities.

The service-learning manual is in PDF form at

<http://www2.cortland.edu/dotAsset/b4e251b5-afc4-4e48-b31d-b8ef430143e5.pdf>

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### *Morocco – Continued from page 1*

United States as they would like, given our history of involvement with Israel in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, momentum seems to be building to develop further Morocco's public institutions of higher education by adapting American programs of civic engagement to the Moroccan culture. I sat in on a service-learning class in Casablanca, and I learned about what students are doing to form a Civic Engagement Club at Mohammed I University in Oujda. I also heard about programs that young people had started in their own communities to promote literacy and cross-cultural understanding.

I am looking forward to returning to Morocco in December to learn even more about how we might work together to build our programs of civic and community engagement.

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Upcoming Events

In the Community

Poverty Simulation  
Wednesday, September 17

NYS State Grange, 100 Grange Pl  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Work together to understand the challenges low income families face in our community and find ways to support them as they seek to strengthen their families and, by doing so, our community.

Participants will assume the roles of different families living in poverty and take on the task of providing the basic necessities and shelter for one month. The simulation is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to be part of a low income family trying to survive from month to month.

You will need to register to participate  
**To register** contact CAPCO at 753-6781 or [info@capco.org](mailto:info@capco.org) by 9/11.

Silent Crisis – Addressing Hunger in Cortland County

Thursday, September 18

Port Watson Mini Conference Center  
131 Port Watson Street

9:00 a.m.

Join local community members and service providers for a conversation about hunger in Cortland County. More than 44% of the children in Cortland County are eligible for free/reduced price lunches. SNAP participants in Cortland County have increased 62% between 2007 and 2011. Learn more about this silent crisis and what we as a community can do to help. If you would like to participate, **please RSVP** to 753-6781 or to [info@capco.org](mailto:info@capco.org) by 9/15.

At SUNY Cortland

9/2 & 9/10 Service-Learning Orientation /Tutoring Workshop  
4:30 to 6:30 in Corey Union’s Exhibition Lounge.

9/17 Constitution Day

“The Constituting Constitution, and how to Reconstitute It” a talk by Dr. Timothy Delaune at 4:30 p.m. in the Jacobus Lounge at Brockway Hall

9/17 Brooks Museum Lecture: “Culture, Technology, and Sustainability”

Reception 4:00 in Moffett Room #2126  
Lecture 4:30 in Moffett Room #2125

9/23 Voter Registration Day

locations and times TBD

10/1 Cross-Cultural (Mis) Communication Panel Discussion  
4:30 – 6:30 in Moffett Room #2125

10/15 State of Poverty Simulation  
2:50 – 5:00 in Corey Union’s Function room. (Space is limited so please contact John Suarez at 753-4391 to sign up to participate)

10/15 Brooks Museum Lecture: “Population Control as Unsustainable Development”  
4:30 p.m. in Moffett Room #2125

All events are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact John Suarez, Coordinator of the Office of Service-Learning, at [john.suarez@cortland.edu](mailto:john.suarez@cortland.edu) or at 607-753-4391 or Cyndi Guy at [Cynthia.guy@cortland.edu](mailto:Cynthia.guy@cortland.edu) or at 607-753-4271