

# 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

GetInvolved@Cortland.edu

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*Affiliated with NY Campus Compact and the American Democracy Project*

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### Students to Award \$10,000 in Grants to Local Nonprofits

SUNY Cortland, the Institute for Civic Engagement, and the Department of Political Science are excited to announce a new course being offered this fall that will enable the students enrolled to award \$10,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations. The grant was funded by the Sunshine Lady Foundation's Learning by Giving Program, and is intended to benefit undergraduate students interested in philanthropic work and not-for-profit organizations.



The political science course, *Philanthropy and Civic Engagement: Teaching Students How to Give* (pictured left), introduces students to subjects related to philanthropy, civic engagement, and the non-profit sector. Final decisions on the grant awards will be made solely by the students. The faculty members teaching the course are Professor Henry Steck and Professor Christopher Latimer.

"Dr. Steck and I are looking forward to this class and are very excited about strengthening the relationship between SUNY Cortland and the local community," Latimer said. The Learning by Giving Program has distributed over \$500,000 to 50 colleges and universities across the country whose undergraduate philanthropy courses have funded over 70 grants to improve the quality of life in their local communities.

### Inside This Issue

- Student Spotlight: Ashley Mosgrove 2
- The President's Interfaith and Community Service Challenge 2
- Service-Learning in Teacher Education 3
- Coming Events & Service Opportunities 4

### 2010-2011 Institute for Civic Engagement Annual Report Highlights

- A complete 2010-2011 Annual Report can be found on the Institute for Civic Engagement's web site: [www.cortland.edu/civicingagement](http://www.cortland.edu/civicingagement).
- At least 18% of all undergraduates enrolled in the spring 2011 semester took at least one service-learning class; 26.4% of all seniors have taken at least one service-learning class.
- The service-learning program included 34 faculty members, 41 courses, and 1,489 students contributing 24,431 hours of service (all increases over last year).
- 33 members were recruited for the SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps program, who contributed 21,666 hours of service to the Cortland community.
- Main Street SUNY Cortland was the location of 299 meetings and events that were organized by 77 different community groups; 16 courses enrolling 237 students; and 11 art exhibitions.
- Earned "President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction."



## Student Spotlight: Ashley Mosgrove



**Major:** Inclusive Special Education (second Bachelor's)

**Hometown:** Bath, NY

### How have you been engaged with the Cortland community this past year?

In October 2010, I began my AmeriCorps term of service at the Cortland City Youth Center, where I plan activities and trips and try to get youth involved in community service and fund raising efforts. Last fall, I also started a campus club called Cortland Animal Allies, dedicated to raising awareness about animal rights issues.

I've also volunteered for an organization founded by former Cortland Adjunct Instructor Anthony Nocella, called Save the Kids, which is dedicated to working with and supporting youth who are/have been incarcerated. In my work with Save the Kids, I've mentored youth and facilitated workshops at Hillbrook Youth Detention Center with members of the Criminology Club.

Also, a lot of my classes in the Foundations and Social Advocacy department are practicums in which I've been able to work with children in both Parker Elementary School in Cortland and Martin Luther King, Jr., School in Syracuse.

### How has your work in the community impacted you?

I feel more connected to Cortland and the world in general. I feel a sense of responsibility for my fellow human beings and have realized that if problems exist in the community, then I have a personal responsibility to get out there and work towards change. Otherwise, nothing is going to happen. Not only does community service look good on a résumé, it also benefits others.

### How has your work benefitted the community?

I think I've helped expose the youth of Cortland to new things and new ideas. The Youth Center, where I work, serves free meals for kids and is a safe haven for youth. My goal is to be an advocate for groups that have been silenced and marginalized (people and youth of all ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds & also animals).

### How has your involvement in the community changed your perspective?

As a college student up on the hill, it's easy to forget about the community; my work helps me think more critically about how the college affects Cortland, its businesses and its youth. It helps me appreciate and see the strengths of people from all different walks of life.

**Get involved at the Cortland City Youth Center or with Cortland Animal Allies: [amosgrove@gmail.com](mailto:amosgrove@gmail.com)**

## College Takes On President's Interfaith and Community Service Challenge

President Obama has invited colleges to participate in the *President's Interfaith and Community Service Challenge* as a way of helping college students understand people whose spiritual traditions differ from their own.

SUNY Cortland will participate by conducting a long-term Mentorship-Training project designed to help reduce local poverty through educational opportunity, and by conducting Habitat for Humanity projects, including its *Blitz Build* on September 10 and 11 (details on page 4). Mentorship training will be done in collaboration with established community mentoring programs. To reinforce the *interfaith* nature of the Challenge, these projects will be coordinated by Campus Ministries. Individuals of all religious and non-religious backgrounds and traditions are encouraged to participate.

The Challenge officially begins on Sunday, September 11th. A 9 p.m. SUNY Cortland Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of September, 11, 2001, will be held in front of Corey Union. The Commemoration's theme will be "Looking Forward." At the end of this event, students will be encouraged to sign-up for volunteer projects, including the Challenge's Mentorship-Training Program.

Those interested in joining in this project can contact Rev. Vicki Johnson, the College's Protestant chaplain, at (607) 753-1002 or [vicki.johnson@cortland.edu](mailto:vicki.johnson@cortland.edu), or Marie Agen, the College's Catholic chaplain, at (607) 753-6737 or [marie.agen@cortland.edu](mailto:marie.agen@cortland.edu).

## Service-Learning in Teacher Education

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

Two SUNY Cortland teacher-education programs have begun integrating service-learning into their curricula.

Because service-learning methodology can help improve children's academic learning and their social and emotional development, teacher-educators want future teachers to learn how to use service-learning in their own classes.

In spring 2011, Inclusive Special Education majors from Michelle Kelly's and Brian Barrett's *Introduction to Urban Education* (FSA 101) classes were part of a pilot service-learning learning-community that also included John Suarez's *Writing in the Community II* (CPN 103).



A student works with children at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Science Magnet School, Syracuse, NY.

This set of paired courses embodies a key reason for integrating service-learning into teacher-education programs: As Brian Barrett (Assistant Professor, Foundations and Social Advocacy) notes, these future teachers were able to "read about, experience, and reflect on ways in which the social context of urban education in the United States often provides students with unequal access to educational resources, including qualified teachers and quality curriculum, resulting in inequitable learning opportunities."

Students volunteered at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Science Magnet School in Syracuse, NY, where 98% of the students are Black, and where many students or their families come from other continents. Michelle Kelly (Inclusive Special Education Program Coordinator) said that "students found the course pairings valuable

because they were able to focus on their experience at Dr. King School across courses and write about it in different ways for each course. They also had more discussion time between the two courses to process their experiences."

During this fall semester's pre-registration, Inclusive Special Education (ISE) majors and Adolescent Education, English, (AEN) majors were encouraged to register for *Writing Studies in the Community I* (CPN 102), the service-learning version of *Writing Studies I* (CPN 100). For spring 2012, the English Department's Writing Program is offering one section of CPN 103 dedicated to ISE majors, and one dedicated to AEN majors.

Students in these programs will be encouraged to take additional service-learning courses, including methods courses in which they will learn how to use service-learning in their own classes.

In a similar move, SUNY Cortland's Liberty Partnerships Program is incorporating a Service-Learning Train-the-Trainer component into its professional development program. Director Tracie Johnstone invited the college's Office of Service-Learning to design and conduct a year-long program in which LPP's thirteen coordinators will learn why and how to apply service-learning. LPP's coordinators will then train their staff in service-learning methodology.

Approximately 250 children in thirteen school districts are served by SUNY Cortland's Program, which is part of a New York State Education Department program designed to help at-risk children graduate from high school and attend college or find good jobs.

SUNY Cortland's *Bringing Theory to Practice* project, now in its second year, is generating data that explore in greater detail how high impact learning practices such as service-learning help improve students' learning outcomes, especially those related to flourishing, including identity formation, perspective-taking, emotional competence, and resilience.

**For more information on the Liberty Partnerships Program, Contact Tracie Johnstone at (607) 753-5696 or [Tracie.Johnstone@cortland.edu](mailto:Tracie.Johnstone@cortland.edu)**

## Get Involved: Upcoming Events & Service Opportunities

Tenth Anniversary of September 11 Commemoration  
**Sunday, September 11, on the Corey Union steps, from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

This Commemoration will include a tribute to alumni who died in the attacks, and a call to service. A related event is Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build Blitz project. **Habitat for Humanity's Build Blitz project** will be held on **Saturday, September 10 at 198 Clinton Ave., Cortland, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday, September 11, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Lunch will be provided Saturday and volunteers are required to bring a reusable water bottle and closed-toe shoes. A 2 p.m. community worship service, sponsored by the Council of Churches, will be held at the United Presbyterian Church of Cortland at 25 Church St. during Saturday's build. For information, contact Rachel Ditch at [rachel.d@habitatnys.org](mailto:rachel.d@habitatnys.org) or (607) 898-4148.

Service-Learning Orientation for Students:

**Monday and Tuesday, September 12 and 13, 2011, in Corey Union's Function Room, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Students in service-learning classes are invited to one of these two Service-Learning Orientation sessions. This Project Adventure-based event helps students understand that their participation in a community project is an important commitment to real people, many of whom are children. To reserve room for your students, contact John Suarez at [john.suarez@cortland.edu](mailto:john.suarez@cortland.edu) or at (607) 753-4391.

Constitution Day Lecture:

**Wednesday, September 14, 2011, in Jacobus Lounge, Brockway Hall, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

"To Be a Celebrity or Not to Be A Celebrity: The Constitution and Your Right to Control Your Name and Likeness for Commercial Use." This lecture, by Mark Dodds, Associate Professor in the Sport Management Department, SUNY Cortland, will discuss whether athletes can have their images appropriate for commercial use, such as in videogames, without their permission.

The Uses and Abuses of Civility: A Roundtable  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2011, in the Brown Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

This roundtable discussion will raise many questions about civility, civic engagement, and civil behavior, all topics that will be discussed throughout this year's series. The event will provide plenty of opportunity for audience participation and questions. Panelists will explore the relationship between civil society and civility, the current state of American society, and community engagement. Panelists include Richard Kendrick, Director of SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement; Grant Reeher, Director of Syracuse University's Alan K. Campbell Institute for Public Affairs; and Tina Nabatchi, Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Syracuse University.

State of Poverty Simulation:

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011, in the Corey Union Function Room, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.,**

This simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand the challenges that a typical low-income family faces while trying to survive from month to month. For further information or to schedule a simulation, please 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.

2011 River Clean-Up!:

**Saturday, September 24, 2011, at any river, stream, or pond in Cortland County, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

To register or for more information, contact Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District at 607-756-5991, or e-mail Michael Catalano, [mike.catalano@cortlandswcd.org](mailto:mike.catalano@cortlandswcd.org). Group registrations welcome! Registration deadline September 9<sup>th</sup>.



*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 Sponsored Programs, the Faculty Development Committee, the MacDonald Foundation, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Cortland Fund, the Cortland College Foundation, the Division of Institutional Advancement, the Auxiliary Services Corporation, Bringing Theory to Practice, and the Office of former Congressman Michael Arcuri.*