

The Institute for Civic Engagement

Service Learning • Community Outreach • Research and Economic Development

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Awards and Competition Winners Recognized

Leaders in Civic Engagement

Students, student groups, community members, and faculty and staff will be recognized for their outstanding community service at the seventh annual *Leadership in Civic Engagement Awards*, to be held on Thursday, April 21, from 4:30 to 5:30, in Brockway Hall's Jacobus Lounge. The event is free and open to all.

Student awardees are Amanda Cheetham, Julie Ciotoli, Jason Decker, Devon Keir, Michelle Krenzer, Carmela Laya, Grace McGeoch, Erica Raepple, Alaina Repetto, Alexis Robinson, Alaina Shanley, Lima Stafford, and Caitlyn Sullivan.

Student groups are the Education Club, Habitat for Humanity, and the Running Club.

Community members are David Beale, Michael Dexter, Kimberly McRae Friedman, Linda Kline, Prances Pizzola, Machell Phelps, Lindy Glennon, and Christella Yonta.

Faculty and staff are Karla Alwes (English), Judy Bentley (Foundations and Social Advocacy), Harland Bigelow (Budget Office), Diane Craft (Physical Education), Jeanette Dippo (Health), David Franke (English), Eddie Hill, Lin Lin (Childhood/Early Child

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Local Business Idea Winners

This year's *Creative Core Business Idea Competition* winner is Jeff Eves, a student in Joe Cortese's Economics class in Homer High School. Mr. Eves' concept is an application for smart phones that enables parents or employers to disable text messaging for cell phones.

Mr. Eves received his \$1,000 award at the April 1st Award Ceremony for the Emerging Talk Conference in downtown Syracuse's Tech Garden.

Three other Homer High School Students – Adam Sears, Courtney Purdy, and Zephan Kash – made the top 10 and were also recognized at the event.

Sixty-four students from SUNY Cortland and from Cortland County high schools also submitted proposals.

Other finalist's videos include Deane Michael Fish from Cincinnatus High School; Adam Sears, Collin Sears, Jeff Eves from Homer High School; and Carolyn Bernardo and Emilie Snyder from SUNY Cortland.

Finalists' video presentations are on public display at the Beard Gallery until April 8th at Main Street SUNY Cortland, 9 Main Street, 10:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

Service-Learning

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

New Service-Learning Faculty Member in the English Department

In the fall 2011 semester, SUNY Cortland will have a new service-learning faculty member: Guiseppe Getto (pronounced *get' toh*), who is ABD at Michigan State University. His expertise is in Rhetoric and composition, digital media, professional writing, and civic engagement. Getto's dissertation explores ways in which first-year-students improve their writing skills through new-media writing projects for community organizations.

He became interested in service-learning because he found that much of "classroom writing is divorced from the writing that goes on outside of the classroom." To that end, he wants his students to be able to understand and help build infrastructures [networks of technology, people, and resources] for writing in the local community. His research examines ways in which service-learning writing projects help students develop the ability to do so.

The students in Getto's research had some experience as volunteers, though not in situations in which they had "clients," as they did in the team-based service-learning projects they completed during his classroom-based research. Students worked in teams so that they could refine their skills in collaboration with each other, as well as with their community partners.



Getto videotaped students interacting with agency supervisors, as well as during their team composing sessions; he also interviewed them. He found that students and their community partners established collaborative relationships marked by mutual respect: students elicited feedback from their community partners, encouraging them to offer ideas.

Students learned how to respect agency knowledge and to communicate clearly. They also learned how to develop, conduct, and assess a project. Getto found that their academic and non-academic writing improved, showing that "students were able

to use different elements of an infrastructure to create various genres of writing."

Community members learned about new media from the students, with whom they were happy to work. Ironically, students felt that their community partners were a bit too accommodating: they felt that their partners could have asked for more rigorous results.

Getto has volunteered in a variety of capacities; one of which is as a consultant for nonprofit organizations. He has helped them communicate with each other by developing sustainable computer systems. He has also developed – and has written a grant for – shows for public-access TV and Web audiences.

Guiseppe's pedagogy mirrors his own volunteerism: He helps students "engage as citizens while writing."

(*Civic Engagement Awards*, from page 1.)

hood Education), and Amy Shellman (Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies).

Receiving the Leadership in Civic Engagement Award and additional awards are –

- Victoria Maione, the Borg-Warner Scholarship
- Lori Jean Magnelli, the Community Scholarship

- Jesse Campanaro, Alumni Association's Award
- Habitat for Humanity, Don Wilcox Award
- Ashley Mosgrove, Institute for Civic Engagement Scholarship
- Laura Brienza, Judson Taylor Presidential Scholarship
- Laura Platt, Judson Taylor Presidential Scholarship
- Juliann Lykos, Lambda Phi Delta Service Scholarship.

For further information, contact Kendra Duquesne at Kendra.duquesne@cortland.edu or at 753-2403.

Institute for Civic Engagement

Dr. Richard Kendrick, Director; Dr. Christopher Latimer, Associate Director.

Middle East and North Africa Scholars Visiting SUNY Cortland on April 14

Seven scholars from the Middle East and North Africa who are participants in Syracuse University's Civic Education Leadership Fellows (CELF) program will be visiting SUNY Cortland on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Four members of the group will present a Sandwich Seminar on the topic, "Egypt and Tunisia as Inspirations for Revolution: The State of Democracy in the Middle East and North Africa," at noon in Jacobus Lounge of Brockway Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

"Given recent events in the Middle East and North Africa, this is an incredible opportunity to hear from those who live, work, and study in that part of the world," said Dr. Richard Kendrick, Director of SUNY Cortland's Institute for Civic Engagement.

The Institute is working with Syracuse University's CELF program to sponsor the event. The panelists will include Atef Ahmed (Area Manager, Education Reform Program and Education Development Specialist, Egypt), Sara Kamal (Teacher, Faculty of Commerce, Ain Shams University, Egypt); Halima Oumouch (Professor, English Studies Department, Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco); and Imen Yakoubi (Professor, English Literature, Higher Institute of Human Sciences, Jendouba, Tunisia). Julia Ganson,

Program Manager for the Middle East and North Africa in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, will be the moderator.

In addition to the Sandwich Seminar at noon, the group will be meeting with Dr. Kendrick's Civil Society sociology service-learning class to learn more about service-learning, what the students in the class are doing for their service projects, and how service is integrated into coursework. They will also be discussing conditions of civil society in their own countries with the students in the class.

In the afternoon, the group will meet with representatives of Cortland's social service and not-for-profit agencies and our AmeriCorps members to learn more about how colleges form partnerships with community agencies, and they will be describing the partnerships their own campuses have formed. "This is the third group of CELF scholars we have hosted on our campus," Dr. Kendrick mentioned, "and it always exciting to learn about how institutions of higher education in the Middle East and North Africa think about their connections to their own communities."

For more information, contact Dr. Richard Kendrick, Director of the Institute for Civic Engagement, SUNY Cortland, at 607-753-2481 or e-mail richard.kendrick@cortland.edu.

New Course Teaches Philanthropy

SUNY Cortland students have a unique opportunity to take a class during the fall 2011 semester in which they will gain practical experience concerning civic engagement and philanthropy. The course, *Philanthropy and Civic Engagement: Teaching Students How to Give* (POL 129), introduces issues related to philanthropy, civic engagement, and the non-profit sector.

Political Science Professors Christopher Latimer and Henry Steck, who will team-teach the course, have secured a \$10,000 grant from the Sunshine Lady Foundation; students will distribute the grant's funds among local non-profits as an investment in solutions to community problems. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students for which we are very excited," Latimer said. "This Learning by Giving grant will enable our students to experience firsthand the art and science of philanthropy. The grant also encourages the growth of undergraduates' philanthropic values and leadership activities over their lifetimes." The course will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 – 2:30.

Community Clean-Up: Saturday, April 16

Each year, the snow melts, leaving sand, dirt, and litter in the neighborhood, and each year, the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce and the Cortland Common Council sponsor a city-wide clean-up to start our spring fresh! This year premieres a new online registration system. To register as a volunteer and to get updates and important information about the event, go to www.cleanandgreenforaday.com/cortland. You can register as an individual or as a group leader beginning the first week of April.

This year, Community Clean-Up Day is April 16th. Coffee and bagels will be available from 8:30-9:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building, 37 Church St. The Clean-Up will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Contact Stephanie Plude for more information at (607) 753-4270 or at stephanie.plude@cortland.edu.

While we clean the city, youth ages 1-10 are invited to the free Egg Hunt at Beaudry Park from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. There will be live music, caricatures, face painting, and Mr. Bunny. Both events will be followed by the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day - featuring program demos, clinic, healthy snacks, and games from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Egg Hunt is sponsored by the Cortland Youth Bureau, the YWCA, and CAPCO. For more information on these two events, call 607-756-2893, e-mail dave@cortlandymca.org, or visit www.cortlandymca.org.

This Community Clean Up is going to be the largest so far, with hundreds of volunteers picking up litter and sweeping sidewalks all across town. The clean up of each Ward will be organized by your personal alderperson to make sure that trouble spots get the attention they need. Be sure to pick up a t-shirt from the Chamber of Commerce before you start cleaning so that your neighbors will know that everyone is working together and will be encouraged to join.

The Saturday morning city-wide clean-up is only the first event kicking off Sustainability Week for SUNY Cortland and the City of Cortland: Throughout the week there will be volunteer opportunities, community-wide presentations, conferences, workshops, and educational film showings. Thursday, April 22, is Earth Day 2010, and there will be plenty of action opportunities for all ages. For more information about other Sustainability Week events, contact Brice Smith at (607) 753-2822 or brice.smith@cortland.edu.

Coming Events

March 23 through May 6: *The Legacy of Angkor and Champa* at downtown Cortland's Beard Gallery, weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The images focus on the visual legacies of the Angkor Dynasty from 9th- to 15th-century Cambodia, and the Champa Dynasty from 2nd- through 5th-century Vietnam. Impressions of the people and practices of today's Cambodian and Vietnamese cultures are reflected in additional photographs.

Wednesday, April 13, from 3:00 to 4:00 in Corey Union, room 204/206: *End-of-Semester Reflections on Civic Engagement*. Join us to discuss "What worked and what didn't?" in civic engagement this year, and discuss ideas for new projects. Contact John Suarez at john.suarez@cortland.edu or at 753-4391.



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.