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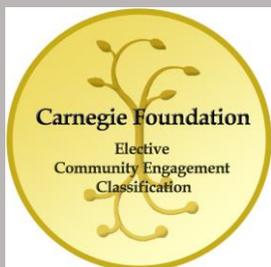
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President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member With Distinction



Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification in Community Engagement



## Cortland Votes!

### Cortland Votes Project

Poll workers say that student voter turnout on November 6 was unusually high.

Much credit goes to a consortium of student groups: The Institute's Action Team, College Republicans, Young Democrats, Political Science Association, NYPIRG, and Generation Vote.

This consortium developed a "Cortland Votes" project, which involves voter registration, GOTVote (get-out-the-vote) activities, and voter education events.

### Voter Registration

With the guidance of NYPIRG's Project Coordinator, Ethan Gormley, students registered over 1,360 other students during the fall 2018 semester. To do so, students visited classes, tabled, and "clip-boarded" across campus.



*NYPIRG set-up tables around campus to register students to vote.*



*Chelsea Grate, NYPIRG project leader, Mindy Strip, a student voter, Emily LoTempio, NYPIRG intern, and Sam Esposito NYPIRG board representative for SUNY Cortland.*

### GOTVote

On the day before Election Day, NYPIRG volunteers called over 900 other students to remind them to vote and to explain how to find their polling place.

On Election Day, 29 SUNY Cortland students encouraged others to vote by tabling, phone-banking, making announcements in classes, and chalking announcements on sidewalks.

The workers at the polling site on campus said that although this was a high-turnout year, the process with students was smoother than in most previous years.

*Continued page 2*

## Update: Community of Applied Learning Practitioners

Three SUNY Cortland programs that support faculty development in applied learning are *Problem/Project-Based Learning (PBL)*, coordinated by the PBL Team (contact person is Beth Klein); *The Common Problem Project*, whose principal investigator is Bruce Mattingly, and the new *Community of Applied Learning Practitioners (CALP)*, coordinated by John Suarez.

In October, a six-member Advisory Panel chose five faculty members' proposals to be supported by the CALP.

Those faculty members, their community partners, and their campus mentors will receive stipends to support development of their applied learning projects.

Find details about these accepted proposals on pages 5 and 6.

**Coming Events.**

*Free and open to the public*

**November 14.** *Sandwich Seminar: I Learned by Doing*, conducted by the Institute for Civic Engagement’s *Action Team* Interns. 12:30-1:30, Jacobus Lounge.

Eight interns will describe the learning they gained through their self-directed internship projects, which include the SUNY Cortland Cupboard, the Homelessness Project, Cortland Votes, and Marketing.

Presenters will explain ways in which their work helped inform their career choices and personal development.

We look forward to an engaging Q&A session that immediately follows the presentations.

*Cortland Votes, continued from page 1*

Gormley said that “at the end of the day we were using social media platforms, texting, emailing, calling, postering, and chalkboarding – but we really try to have the face-to-face announcements and interactions with students as much as possible.”

During the evening of Election Day, about 20 people gathered in Old Main’s Colloquium for an Election Watch Party. Participants included President Bitterbaum, Political Science Professor Jeremy Wolf, and Ethan Gormley.

In addition to voter registration and GotVote actions, this coalition of student organizations designed and conducted voter education events, including the Brindisi Town Hall event and two deliberative dialogues.

**Voter Education**

One recent voter education event was the November 5 Town Hall meeting with 22nd Congressional District candidate Anthony Brindisi.

Almost 100 people – faculty, staff, community members, and (mainly) students crowded into the Fireplace Lounge as Brindisi answered questions about money in politics, bi-partisanship, healthcare, the opioid crisis, mass incarceration, student debt, and the environment.

When asked, “What makes a good leader?” he replied, “Listening to people.”



*Brindisi spoke to about 100 people in a campus town hall, then talked directly with students.*

Another kind of voter education event is the Deliberative Dialogue. The October 23 dialogue addressed Homelessness. Eighteen people examined the benefits and challenges of three approaches to helping people without homes.

Those approaches were described in an information handout (called a “placemat”) that each participant received.

The placemat was created by Callan Klasek (the Institute’s Action Team intern who coordinates the Team’s Homelessness project), SUNY Cortland faculty, staff, and community leaders.

Callan, a Business Economics major, arranged the event and introduced the dialogue’s guest speaker, Andrew Lunetta. *Continued on page 4.*



Students, faculty, staff, and community leaders at the October 23 dialogue on Homelessness

DO GOOD;  
LEARN WELL

## Action Team Intern Speaks at AAUW Conference

Saturday October 27th, Political Science major and Institute for Civic Engagement *Action Team* intern, Ryann Hudson, spoke at The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Leadership Conference about the work she does in the community as a student leader.

Her panel was titled *Civics 101: Civics and Political Leadership*. She joined two other women talking about their work in the community.

Hudson started her speech by explaining that when she first came to Cortland she was shy about getting involved, but once she joined the Political Science Association she found her place.

Hudson soon became the first SUNY Cortland student to join The League of Women Voters, and the first to join the local League's Board of Directors.



ICE Intern Ryann Hudson

Hudson's description of her path through politics was motivating. She has been a member of the Institute's Action Team for two semesters and is working with the Cortland Votes project on voter registration and voter education through deliberative dialogues

Hudson continues to be a leader on the Cortland campus and contributes to the Cortland community by getting students involved and educated in politics.



## Dragons' Dress for Success Free Business Garb for Students

by Julianna Santamaria

Student Government Association has taken the initiative of implementing a professional clothing closet to support students' success in their professional careers. *Dragons Dress for Success* was an idea conceived by Student Government's President, Sophie Umansky.

Umansky had the idea of a professional clothing closet while at a diversity retreat where students felt uncomfortable attending because they did not own professional clothing. She felt that by creating a resource for students to obtain professional clothing they would have a start toward pursuing their desired career.

*Dragon's Dress for Success* will be a donation based closet. Student Government will be asking alumni and faculty members to donate any clothing they have that would be appropriate for a professional setting; business casual, general business, and even formal attire. These clothing items will be featured in pop-up events around campus where students will also be able to obtain information regarding networking tips and creating a résumé.

[Editor's note: Alumna Ronnie Silver independently proposed a clothing closet. This dual effort underscores the importance of this concern.]

*Cortland Votes/Voter Education continued.*

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Lunetta, founder of the *A Tiny Home for Good* program in Syracuse, described the challenges that he faced as he tried to buy land for Tiny Homes.

Initially unsuccessful in buying privately-owned property, he launched his program by buying publically-owned land. When people noticed how well Tiny Homes owners maintained their property, they were glad to work with him.

Owners are people who have been homeless; they pay rent that is based on a sliding scale, based on their income.

After his presentation, Lunetta joined 17 other people from on- and off-campus to discuss steps that students could take to address this issue locally.

The homelessness problem in Cortland County is shown, in part, by the number of people whom the Department of Social Services has helped.

In 2017, DSS provided temporary housing for 246 instances of homelessness, with an average length of stay in shelter at 28 days:

- 221 separate cases (23 households were housed twice; two households were housed more than three times)
- 116 single adult males
- 47 families

Community partners at the dialogue noted that these figures do not necessarily count children who left their houses to “couch-surf” at the homes of friends and family members.

Participants agreed that one barrier to establishing a *Tiny Homes* program in the City of Cortland is the lack of vacant lots – though it might be useful in rural parts of the county. In contrast, Habitat’s *Home Repair* Program has the potential of addressing the issue because it could refurbish existing housing stock.

However, some participants noted that the ownership element of the *Tiny Homes* program could motivate people to take good care of the houses because those individuals would know that they will be in those homes for a long time – as demonstrated in Syracuse.

In the final portion of the dialogue, the *call to action*, eleven people signed-up to develop details of two actions:

- Conduct a holiday support plan that addresses “niche” concerns that are, so far, unaddressed.
- Research into ways in which other communities are addressing specific groups, such as families and youth, that are experiencing homelessness.

Klasek is leading the work on these projects.

The dialogue’s participating students were from Economics and Public Speaking classes, NYPIRG, and the Institute’s Action Team. One of the students is an exchange student from Germany.

The dialogue’s participating community partners were Dr. Shari Weiss (Catholic Charities), Jean Rightmire (Habitat for Humanity), Rebecca Rathmell (Southern Tier Homeless Coalition), David Rutherford (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County), and Rich Cunningham (Thoma Development).

Terence Cahill (Director, College Stores), NYPIRG Project Coordinator Ethan Gormley, and the Institute’s John Suarez also participated.

The other voter education dialogue explored ways of addressing Climate Change-Enhanced Extreme Weather Events. Watch for a detailed account of the dialogue on this critical topic in the December newsletter.

Student groups, faculty, staff, and community members are working together to conduct voter education events for the spring 2019 semester.

The Institute for Civic Engagement will continue to invite and inform our campus and the greater Cortland community about these events.

## The CALP Professional Development Program is Launched.

The new *Cortland Applied Learning Practitioners* is a mentor-based professional development program for faculty who want to incorporate applied learning (“learning-by-doing”) pedagogies into their teaching.

Mentors, in sharing their applied learning expertise, form a *community of practice*. The five CALP faculty members named below will serve as mentors for faculty a year from now.

In this way, the members of SUNY Cortland’s CALP program are a resource for those who want to design or refine their own applied learning courses. They will also be part of the SUNY-wide Community of Practice program.

SUNY’s program helps expand and hone applied learning across the SUNY system so that graduates are well-prepared for a basic job-interview question that can challenge many new graduates: “So, what experience do you have?”

Applied Learning’s real-life, authentic-learning experiences give students the opportunity to answer that question clearly and confidently.

The following descriptions of these inaugural CALP courses demonstrate the courses’ breadth and depth. Students will pioneer mutually-beneficial multicultural projects while developing nuanced understandings of specific civic decision-making processes.

**Assistant Professor Amanda Tepfer** will integrate service-learning into her *Lifespan Motor Development* course. Students will create and implement developmentally-appropriate motor activities for children from different cultures.

Tepfer explains that students will apply their course learning in small groups as they design activities that “will help children maintain motor skill development across their life-spans. These activities will help those children keep their mobility into later life.”

Students in this Physical Education course will, then, be able to craft activities that take into account the developmental “arc” of people’s

typical motor-competence, from childhood to adulthood.

To help her students work with children from a variety of backgrounds, Tepfer is partnering with three organizations: The Cortland/Homer Afterschool Motor Program (CHAMP), the YWCA, the SUNY Cortland Day Care Center, and the Franziska Racker Center.

Tepfer will work with Janice Meyer (a SUNY Cortland alumna) at the YWCA. Associate professor Tim Davis, Adapted Physical Education, will serve as mentor for Tepfer.

Davis will also serve as mentor for **Assistant Professor Erica Pratt**, who is partnering with International Programs to develop a new applied learning course that, like Tepfer’s course, involves children in a multicultural context: *International Studies in Physical Education*.

Pratt’s course provides students with a team-based approach to the teaching, analysis, and assessment of activities.

“Students must be able to work early-on with children from cultures different than their own,” Pratt says, so she is developing this new course as a way for first-year students to have culturally diverse teaching opportunities before student teaching.

Students will work and study in Dublin, Ireland, with *Project Fun Direction* as they develop a community physical literacy program for urban youth, especially girls, who have special needs, are underserved, or who are displaced.

“Physical literacy” is the ability to improve one’s holistic health by moving effectively in many different situations.

International Programs is facilitating the course’s travel-abroad logistics, and it is providing the stipends for Pratt and for her community partner in Ireland.

*Continued on page 6.*

CALP, continued

**Alex Balas, Director, Clark Center for Global Engagement**, is also taking an international approach as he redesigns his course, *The Making of the Modern World*. Balas will ask his students to create an aggregate needs-assessment for foreign-born people in Cortland County, based on students' blending of course-based knowledge of immigration policy and interviews with Cortland-area immigrants.

Immigrants living in Cortland County are from countries such as the Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, India, Brazil, Mali, Mexico, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, France, and China.

Balas notes that, "as students interact with their immigrant partners, they'll develop an understanding of the role of immigration policies on culture shock and shifting cultural identities."

Students' community partner will be Interfaith Works of CNY, whose mission statement is, "InterFaith Works of Central New York, through education, service and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding among us."

Valerie Widdall, Childhood Education, will serve as Balas' mentor.

**Kent Johnson, Assistant Professor, Sociology/Anthropology** is developing a new course, *Advanced Forensic Anthropology*, in which students will partner with the Cortland County Coroner's Office.

Johnson says that, in the course's culminating experience, students "process a mock crime scene staged at Hoxie Gorge. They'll search for, recover, and document 'human remains,' such as a plastic skeleton or pig carcass that I will bury months in advance."

Back at the college, students will be assigned a set of unidentified human skeletal remains from the Anthropology Department's teaching collections. Students will apply laboratory skills including determination of sex, age at death, stature, and ancestry from skeletal remains.

Among other actions, students will develop a search and recovery protocol based on their experience to be used for future consultations.

The Coroner's Office investigates all deaths in Cortland County, regardless of the cause of death. The Office works with law enforcement agencies, as need be. Professor Greg Phelan, Chemistry, will mentor Johnson.

**Melinda Shimizu's** course takes us from below ground (in Johnson's course) to tree tops. Shimizu, an **Assistant Professor of Geography**, is developing the "Cortland Tree Canopy Project."

Her *Advanced GIS Techniques* students will partner with the city's Landscape and Design Commission (LDC) to update LDC maps of plantings and to create tree-planting options.

To do so, students will conduct spatial overlay analysis, and they will use teamwork skills as they work with LDC employees.

Through a Department of Environmental Conservation grant, City of Cortland property owners can apply to LDC for a tree to be planted on their property at no cost to them. The owner promises to maintain the tree.

Shimizu points-out that "these maps and these options are important because the LDC will be able to determine the kinds of trees to plant.

"LDC will consider concerns such as utilities, site conditions, and tree availability. They'll also listen to the property owner's ideas."

Assistant Professor of Geology, Christopher Badurek, will serve as Shimizu's mentor.

CALP's first year is funded by a grant from the SUNY Office of Applied Learning and, mainly, by a grant from SUNY Cortland's Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee.

The Institute for Civic Engagement and the CALP participants appreciate the opportunities that these grants make possible.