

# The Institute for Civic Engagement

Service Learning • Community Outreach • Research and Economic Development

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## Students can apply for, or be nominated for, civic engagement scholarships

Each of us probably knows at least one student who successfully combines academic strength with community involvement. The Institute for Civic Engagement and the Office of Institutional Advancement offer scholarships to such students. Students, faculty, staff, and people in the greater Cortland community can nominate students for specific scholarships through the nomination form available at [www.cortland.edu/civicengagement](http://www.cortland.edu/civicengagement). (Look for the button at left.)

Nominations are reviewed by a committee composed of SUNY Cortland staff, faculty, and students, and Cortland community leaders; nominees for these scholarships are automatically considered for a Leadership in Civic Engagement Award, one of three non-monetary awards also administered by the Institute for Civic Engagement. (The nomination form describes those awards.)

Award recipients will be announced in campus and community publications in mid-April 2011; the Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4:30 in SUNY Cortland's Jacobus Lounge (in Brockway Hall).

Please e-mail your completed nomination form by Friday, February 24, 2011, to The Institute for Civic Engagement at [getinvolved@cortland.edu](mailto:getinvolved@cortland.edu). Should you have any questions, please call The Institute for Civic Engagement at 753-2403.

Here is a summary of the scholarships available:

*BorgWarner Morse TEC Scholarship.* First preference will be given to family members of BorgWarner Morse TEC employees living in Central and Southern New York, including Syracuse, Binghamton, Elmira, Watkins Glen, Ithaca, Waverly, Penn Yan, and Cortland. If there are no qualified candidates from this group, application is open to all. Minimum GPA: 3.0.

*Community Scholarship for Student Volunteers and Interns* who have demonstrated initiative and dedication to community service. Minimum GPA: 2.5.

*Institute for Civic Engagement Scholarship* is open to all majors who are freshmen, sophomores, or juniors, and who have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at SUNY Cortland. Students must have shown exemplary civic engagement leadership and entrepreneurship during at least one academic year at SUNY Cortland. Minimum GPA: 2.50.

*The James H. and Dorothy A. Sarvay Scholarship for Community Service* This merit/need-based scholarship supports SUNY Cortland juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are from Cortland County and who have demonstrated leadership in making a positive impact on the SUNY Cortland campus and/or in land Community. Minimum GPA: none.

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## Institute for Civic Engagement

*Associate Director of the Institute for Civic Engagement, Christopher Latimer*

### Moot Court Success

Ten members of SUNY Cortland's Moot Court team participated in the 2010 Undergraduate Moot Court competition at Fitchburg State University from November 19-21. The event included forty teams representing colleges and universities from New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Virginia..

Dr. Christopher Latimer, SUNY Cortland's Moot Court advisor, accompanied SUNY Cortland's five two-member teams: Danielle Singer and Shea Tilton, Trevor Curry and Michelle Schnirel, Grace Mellen and Kyle Martin, Michelle Witowski and Sandra Erickson, and Liz Polonski and Tricia Collado.

The competition case involved complex issues related to congressional authority under the commerce clause and the ability of a state to ban same-sex marriage under the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses.



All five teams made it through the first set of three elimination rounds on Friday. Three of the five teams made it through to Saturday, with two teams reaching the round of 16 (only eight teams remaining) before being eliminated. Additionally, Danielle Singer received an award as the 6<sup>th</sup> best individual competitor (out of 80 competitors) for the entire event.

Two teams also received enough points to possibly get a wild card to Nationals, which will be held in Louisiana. This was Cortland's second year participating in Moot Court, and we look forward to participating again next year.

### AmeriCorps "Kick-Off" Event

Main Street Community Outreach Coordinator: Stephanie Plude

SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps members represented Cortland at the annual AmeriCorps kickoff held in Albany, NY by The New York State Commission on National and Community Service.

The November 19, 2010, event united thousands of AmeriCorps members from New York State to acknowledge current AmeriCorps members for their year of service and to swear-in new AmeriCorps members for the upcoming program year. Members also listened to testimonials by AmeriCorps alumni, attended a service fair to allow members to network with each other and to learn more about the services being provided throughout the state.

In addition, members engaged in a mass service project in which they wrote inspirational messages in, and signed, 3000 Christmas cards; the cards are being mailed to American troops overseas.

Keynote speaker La-Verna Fountain, founder of Defiant Hope, reflected on the impact of AmeriCorps members' dedication. La-Verna also facilitated an interactive Conflict Resolution presentation, which was conducted along with Disaster Preparedness workshops.

## Research & Economic Development: Cortland Art Downtown at Main Street SUNY Cortland

Cortland Downtown Partnership Executive Director (and Main Street Building Administrator): Adam Megivern

*The Research and Economic Development activities are operated from Main Street SUNY Cortland which is located at 9 Main Street*

### Enjoy this year's *First Night* Celebration

Join us on *First Night*, Friday evening, December 31st, for our traditional countdown and ball drop, followed by a fireworks display. First Night is Cortland County's 2011 New Year Celebration event in Historic Downtown Cortland.

Celebrate Historic Downtown Cortland's cultural heritage by bidding a collective farewell to 2010, and by expressing our joy and hope for 2011.

Want to get involved? Have an exciting idea? Visit [www.historicdowntowncortland.com](http://www.historicdowntowncortland.com) to

- Volunteer at the event
- Help plan this year's event
- Become a sponsor of First Night
- Make an online contribution.

You can also call the Cortland Downtown Partnership's office at 753-4270.



First Night, December 2009

If you are not already receiving our downtown e-newsletter, please e-mail [adam@cortlanddowntown.com](mailto:adam@cortlanddowntown.com) and ask to be added to the electronic mailing list. Additionally, please find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for the most up-to-date downtown news and events. After signing up for the newsletter, watch for the First Night flyer with information on all the special sales and celebrations within the district on New Year's Eve .

The Cortland Downtown Partnership has collaborated with the city of Cortland, the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce, Clocktower owner John Scanlon, and the local business Coffee Mania to leverage our resources for the revival of the event.

## Service-Learning

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

### Upcoming Events

- Join your campus and community colleagues for the end-of-semester *Reflections on Civic Engagement*, which will be held on Tuesday, December 14, from 3:00 to 4:30 in Corey Union #209. We will assess this semester's projects and plan spring 2011 projects. For further information, contact John Suarez, Office of Service-Learning Coordinator, at [john.suarez@cortland.edu](mailto:john.suarez@cortland.edu) or at (607) 753-4391.
- Participate in—and invite students to participate in—the January 26, 2011, *Civic Engagement/Volunteer Fair*, which will run from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Corey Union's Exhibition Lounge. For further information, contact Pat Edwards, in the Career Services office, at [pat.edwards@cortland.edu](mailto:pat.edwards@cortland.edu).

## Voter Registration Success

Guest article by Taryn Bunger, NYPIRG's SUNY Cortland Project Coordinator

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is pleased to announce that its voter registration efforts resulted in nearly 900 registered or re-registered SUNY Cortland students. Participation from the Institute of Civic Engagement and the Political Science Association helped make the Fall 2010 Voter Registration Drive a success.

Encouraging political enthusiasm in a non-presidential election is a difficult task, especially in the frenzied environment of a college campus and in an “off year,” during which registration strategies must be particularly bold, so as to engage as many students as possible. Because of this, visibility was an especially important criterion for NYPIRG's strategies, and it was employed through countless posters, e-mails, tabling sessions, and in a pizza-fueled *Rock the Vote* event sponsored by the Political Science Association. Students also responded to residence hall-based registration programs and to NYPIRG's presence in their classrooms.

Through these activities, many students were surprised to learn that—because Cortland is a college of the State University of New York—the decisions made by elected officials will directly influence student life on this campus. Funding for education, for

example, is a constant source of debate in our state, and a subject that is far too easily brushed aside if our voices are not loud enough. Students' realization that they alone can represent the issues they value convinced many students to register to vote and stand up for themselves on election day.

Politics aside, student empowerment was the backbone of the registration drive. The misconception that one vote does not matter is all too common, especially among a generation that has been repeatedly criticized for its apathy. The act of voting functions as a minimal element of the electoral process, and learning about the issues raises awareness of the world outside of SUNY, and helps solidify students' roles not only as college students, but as citizens of the city of Cortland. Students who vote are socially aware, they believe that their opinion is valuable and respected, and most importantly, they are actively engage in their education and community.

NYPIRG would like to thank the faculty members who opened their classrooms to us throughout the registration drive; your investment in the holistic development of your students is inspiring, and we sincerely appreciate your time and enthusiasm.

*“Scholarships,” continued from page 1.*

*Judson Taylor Presidential Scholarship* is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to community betterment by volunteering or interning at local schools or non-profit organizations. Minimum GPA: 2.75.

*Lambda Phi Delta Service Scholarship.* Nominees must have demonstrated a record of active participation and positive impact in service to the SUNY Cortland community. Must have completed 2 full years at SUNY Cortland, and must have at least 1 year remaining at SUNY Cortland. Minimum GPA: 2.5.



*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 the Associate 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, the American Association of Colleges and University's Bringing Theory to Practice, and the Office of Congressman Michael Arcuri.*