



MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

2008 - 2009

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“An education that teaches you to understand something about the world has done only half of the assignment. The other half is to teach you to do something about making the world a better place.”

Johnnetta Cole

Sustainability Intern Stephanie Gutierrez '11 at this year's Recycled Materials Crafts Fair

A Note from the Civic Engagement Council Chair

Welcome to the 2008/09 issue of the Civic Engagement Council's (CEC's) newsletter, available in both limited print form and as an interactive online PDF (found on Allegheny's Civic Engagement website). Established in 2002, the CEC engages students, faculty and community partners in collaborations that develop responsible citizenship, improve community conditions and build the capacity of our communities, while also enhancing learning, scholarship and civic responses across a wide variety of disciplines at the College.

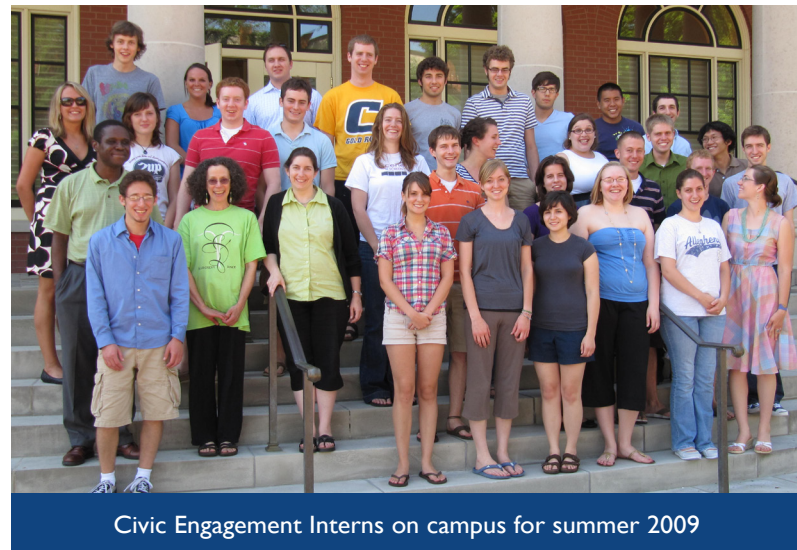
During 2008 – 09 the CEC continued our participation in the American Association of Colleges & Universities Core Commitments program. Through this initiative we hosted six College-community dialogues to explore revitalization of the College's gateway neighborhoods, three campus dialogues focused on conduct and civility, and a student-generated effort to emphasize personal, social and environmental responsibility through development of a community pledge and the creation of the EcoReps program. This work has helped shape the College's strategic planning discussions, which began this summer and will continue throughout the coming academic year. Please visit our website for more detailed information at <http://civicengagement.alleggheny.edu/corecomm.php>.

In March the CEC assisted our new president, James H. Mullen, Jr., in hosting a College-community Placemaking workshop, led by Project for Public Spaces Senior Vice President Steve Davies and Vice President Phil Myrick. PPS is a nonprofit organization based in New York City that has served two thousand communities in 48 states and 26 countries, focusing primarily on transportation, public markets, buildings and parks. More than 30 campus and community partners participated in the workshop to identify strategic locations for placemaking on the Allegheny campus, in the Meadville community and in the surrounding region. We hope to continue our work with PPS in the coming year.

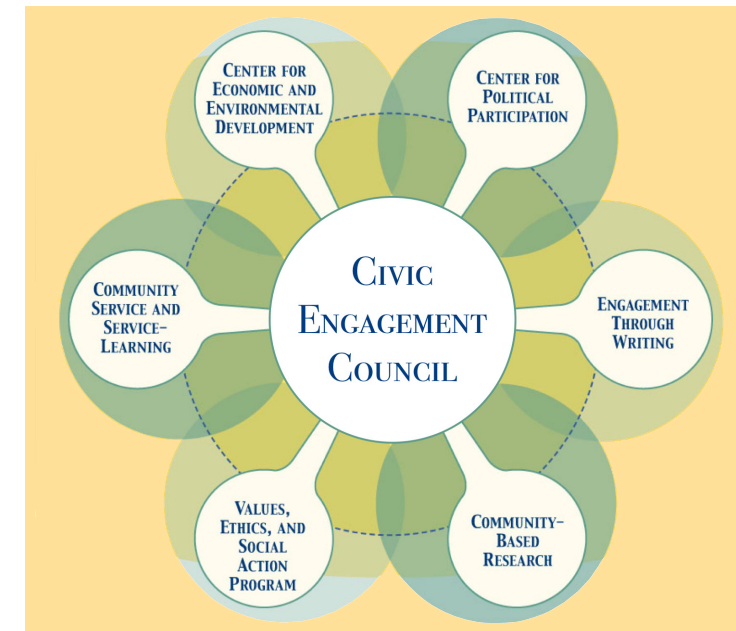
This summer we have 33 students on campus working in collaboration with faculty, staff and our community partners on projects that emphasize art, beautification and community development; business, entrepreneurship and economic development; political engagement and policy; energy, environment, health and sustainable communities; and education. Stay tuned for project summaries early this fall, when we will help launch the Year of Social Change, a series of projects and programs that will focus on understanding the mechanisms and triggers for social change while simultaneously generating opportunities for student engagement. Through these sorts of initiatives we are working to create programmatic synergies and strengthen connections among our curricular, co-curricular and cultural programs.

As we hope you will discover, Allegheny College supports an impressive array of innovative programs, each modeling best practices in public scholarship, applied liberal arts learning, civic and political engagement, and community service/service learning. We hope you enjoy learning about our work and the Alleghenians who infuse our campus culture and community partnerships with their energy and ideas. Feel free to contact us at cec@alleggheny.edu if you would like to become involved in any of our programs or have a project that you would like to recommend to us.

Cheers!
Amara Geffen
Professor of Art, director of CEED and chair of CEC



Civic Engagement Interns on campus for summer 2009



The Civic Engagement Council

Interested in helping with this newsletter or other projects?

Contact us at
cec@alleggheny.edu,

Or visit our website at
civicengagement.alleggheny.edu.

A Welcome from the Writer

Spring semester 2009 was my first opportunity to work as a Fahrner Fellow with the Civic Engagement Council. Writing the Civic Engagement Newsletter was an eye-opening experience that gave me the opportunity to dive into the realms of social activism and civic engagement here at Allegheny College. While writing the newsletter, I met with dozens of professors, students, Bonner and Davies leaders, and individuals associated with the Allegheny College Center for Experiential Learning, the Center for Political Participation and the Center for Economic and Environmental Development to learn more about the amazing work being done by Allegheny students, faculty and staff in the Meadville community.

It did not take me long on the job to realize that this newsletter would not exist if not for their help and participation. I would like to thank every student and staff member I interviewed and consulted for information this semester; this newsletter is dedicated to you! I would also like to thank Sam Rigotti '10, Katherine Bense '09, Erin Horning '09 and Jinnie Templin '11 for contributing articles, reflections and other items to this issue of the Civic Engagement Newsletter. Your hard work is appreciated. I would also like to recognize the work of Professor Geffen, who introduced me to the realm of civic engagement, guided me through the process of writing the newsletter, and played a huge role in the editing process. Please enjoy reading the newsletter and feel free to contact me with any additions, corrections or story suggestions at bachele@alleggheny.edu.

Sincerely,
Emily Bacheller '11



Emily Bacheller '11, primary writer of this newsletter

Local AmeriCorps VISTA Program Expanded and Recognized Nationally

The Children and Youth AmeriCorps VISTA project of Northwestern Pennsylvania will be expanded in 2009 – 10 as a result of additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With this extra funding, agencies and organizations in Erie and Crawford counties will be able to host 28 AmeriCorps VISTA workers this year, approximately 30 percent more than they hosted last year.

AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program designed to alleviate poverty. In Crawford and Erie counties, the Children and Youth VISTA program of Northwestern Pennsylvania addresses the physical and mental health needs of local children and youth in poverty, as well as their families and households. The program also helps to improve parenting skills and family communication, and enhances educational programming for primary school children. Local VISTA workers offer assistance to parents, create intergenerational programs, foster communication and collaboration among different age groups and enhance curricular and co-curricular education for children and youth in poverty. VISTA workers also collaborate with the International Institute of Erie to resettle recent immigrants and help them to develop effective English literacy skills.

A collaborative project of Allegheny College, Edinboro University, Mercyhurst College and Gannon University, the Children and Youth AmeriCorps project was chosen to represent Pennsylvania in VISTA's annual report because of its superior organization and successes over the past six years.

The architects of the program in Northwestern Pennsylvania are Allegheny alumnae and former VISTA workers Rebecca Gebhart '03 and Rebekah Gayley '03. Dave Roncolato, project director and director of community service and service learning at Allegheny College, says, "We are particularly honored that our project was selected to represent Pennsylvania because it's a testament to the hard work of our partnership schools over the past six years, and especially of the initial work of Rebecca and Rebekah."

In just five years, the local VISTA program that these young women set up has received national recognition and has expanded substantially. Roncolato reports that in 2008 – 09 the VISTAs and their agencies mobilized 187 college students to work with 2,494 elementary school children, 412 middle- and high-school students, and 21,272 families in low-income communities. In addition, more than \$140,000 in cash donations and \$22,460 in in-kind donations have been raised. This year, with increased publicity and funding, it's expected that the VISTAs will contribute even more to community enrichment and poverty alleviation. •



See how to minimize your environmental impact on the Real Gators are Green blog: gatorsaregreen.blogspot.com

Head over to our new Civic Engagement blog to stay up to date on the events and work being done by CEC interns: alleghenyengagement.blogspot.com

Interested in becoming a VISTA after graduation? Contact Dave Roncolato, director of community service and service-learning, at droncola@allegheny.edu.

Allegheny Begins Year of Social Change

written by Jinnie Templin '11

During the 2009-2010 academic year Allegheny College will highlight a wide array of exciting programs focused on the theme "Year of Social Change." What is the Year of Social Change, and why does it matter? According to the year's coordinators, it will be a series of programs, including lectures by world-class speakers, art exhibits, workshops and class integrations, that encourage the Allegheny community to unite in defining, questioning and enacting social change.

"We want to get everyone at the College involved in learning about activism, advocacy, diversity and civic engagement," Zack Rearick '10, a student coordinator, explained. "Allegheny has been making strides in all of these areas, but this year represents a chance to step up these efforts and bring them together under the umbrella of 'Social Change.'"

High-profile speakers lined up for the year include Kathy Eldon, founder of the My Hero project (September 25), Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* (October 7), Vandana Shiva, world-famous ecofeminist (October 26), and Michael Pollan, author of *In Defense of Food* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (February 25).

Various departments will be sponsoring events that intersect with the theme. "This is meant to be an initiative that everyone can be a part of in their own way," said Emily Chivers Yochim, visiting assistant professor of communication arts and one of the year's faculty coordinators. Clubs and organizations are encouraged to contact Professor Ishita Sinha Roy or Professor Yochim in the Communication Arts Department if they would like to host an event.

Yochim explained that the year is very much about inspiring student creativity and student-led programs. "I want to be available as a resource for students to facilitate their ideas of change," she noted.

A preliminary schedule of events is listed to the right. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Professor Sinha Roy at iroy@allegheny.edu or Professor Emily Yochim at eyochim@allegheny.edu, or the Civic Engagement Council at cec@allegheny.edu. •

Calendar of Events

September 25, 2009

Lecture by Kathy Eldon, internationally acclaimed writer, activist, journalist, 7-9 p.m., Vukovich Center

October 7, 2009

Lecture by Greg Mortenson, humanitarian, international peacemaker and author of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. lecture, 8:30 p.m. book signing in Vukovich Center

October 26, 2009

Lecture by Vandana Shiva, physicist, environmental activist, ecofeminist, author and leader of International Forum on Globalization, 6-7 p.m., Shafer Auditorium

November 3, 2009

Opening and Artist's Talks for "Engineering Eden". 7 – 9 p.m. Bowman, Penelec and Megahan Galleries. National artists explore our human relationships to the world's environments. The exhibit will be on view from November 3 through December 1, 2009.

January 26, 2010

Opening and Artist's Talks for "In Between". 7 – 9 p.m. Bowman, Penelec and Megahan Galleries. International artists visually deconstruct oversimplified notions of ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The exhibit will be shown from January 26 – February 16, 2010.

February 23, 2010

Opening and Artist's Talks for "The Art of Persuasion". 7 – 9 p.m. Bowman, Penelec and Megahan Galleries. Political posters demonstrate how visual culture can influence public opinion on critical issues. The exhibit will be shown from Feb. 23 – Mar. 16, 2010.

February 25, 2010

Lecture by Michael Pollan, author, activist and director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism at UC Berkeley, 6-7 p.m. Ford Chapel

Check out the Inside Allegheny newsfeed to keep abreast of other events as part of the Year of Social Change

Student Leaders Play Role in Downtown Revitalization

Over the past twelve years, Allegheny's involvement with the local community has been strengthened through the efforts of our Civic Engagement Council (CEC) programs such as the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) and the office of Community Service and Service Learning, among others. For over a decade, CEED faculty and students have worked closely with community partners to facilitate sustainable development. CEED has partnered with

Meadville Redevelopment Authority to promote sustainable practices and the economic development of Meadville.

Last summer, Cole began to work on the "Make It Meadville" project under the direction of RDA interim director Jill Groves and former director Andy Walker. This project is a volunteer-run downtown revitalization effort to "preserve, promote and improve the unique historical character, arts, culture, and educational opportunities of downtown and act as a catalyst for economic development."

The program is composed of local business people and volunteers who aim to develop and diversify the downtown business scene. Volunteers have formed four committees to focus on various aspects of the revitalization process, including Promotions, Design, Organization and Economic Restructuring. In the past year, the Promotions Committee organized and held a 1950s-style Block Party in August, the Scarecrow Festival in October (supported by Allegheny's Student Art Society) and the Shop and Drop event in November.

Working both on campus and in the community has helped Cole to recognize the importance of maintaining a strong relationship between the College and downtown community. In order to strengthen this relationship, he hopes to revive the "I Heart Meadville" program to encourage students to shop at locally owned businesses. "Both the downtown and the College can benefit from each

other," he says. "I feel that it would be great to build on the relationship we already have with Meadville and break down the preconceptions that we have of each other."

Recently, Cole has assisted CEED in their collaboration with the RDA on a competitive five-year grant for the Main Street Program, which is funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This program supports the preservation and development of historic downtown areas. The grant will provide funding for the full-time employment of a downtown manager and give grants for local façade improvements in the central downtown business district.

The RDA recently secured an Elm Street Program

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Meadville citizens enjoy the 50's Block Party thanks to the efforts of Davies Leaders like Ryan Cole '10

the city of Meadville and the Meadville Redevelopment Authority (RDA) on the "Meadville, PA: Not Your Run of the Mill Community" project since 2003 and beginning in 2004, students working through the Davies Community Service Leaders Program joined these efforts to help strengthen the economic vitality of our local community.

Through the Davies Program, students are paired with local non-profit agencies to further Allegheny's tradition of campus-community partnership and civic engagement. Over the past two years, Megan Perry '08 (Environmental Science major and Art & Environment minor) and Ryan Cole '10 (Biology major) have served as CEED students and/or Davies Leaders working with the

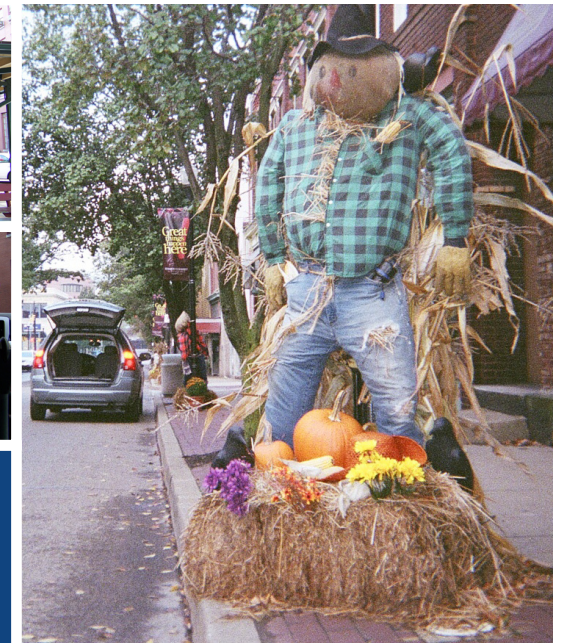
continued from Student Leaders ...

grant to begin renewing the residential area between downtown and the Allegheny campus. Both the proposed Main Street and Elm Street project areas will overlap geography in Meadville's recently formed Northwest Pennsylvania Keystone Innovation Zone. Together these programs seek to transform Meadville into a truly unique place and ensure that we are able to "Make It Meadville...Not Your Run of the Mill Community."

If you are interested in the revitalization effort, don't hesitate to contact CEED at ceed@allegheny.edu or check out www.makeitmeadville.com for more information. •



Decorative scarecrows and events at the Market House are part of the Make it Meadville revitalization effort



Students Partner with MMC to Gauge Community Needs

As part of the Year of Health, students in Professor Caryl Waggett's Environmental Health class partnered with staff at the Meadville Medical Center (MMC) to assess which medical issues and concerns in the community most require additional attention and services. The assessment analyzed over 4,000 surveys completed by Meadville residents, as well as reports from community focus groups. The students spent half of the semester reviewing the surveys to find how to better identify any pertinent health issues that need to be more adequately addressed.

The findings suggest that the surveys did not thoroughly address issues of children's health, learning disabilities, environmental exposure to pollution, obesity or mental health. The students recommended that the MMC integrate these topics into the next community health assessment, which is due to be released later this year.

In order to better measure the prevalence of these neglected issues in the upcoming community health assessment, the students also made suggestions for more diversified and sophisticated methods of gauging the health environment of the community. Blood, tissue, water and soil sampling were suggested as a possible means to scientifically collect information about harmful environmental contaminants that may normally go undetected. The students also thought it wise for the MMC to partner with professionals in local schools to focus on health issues such as ADHD and autism that pertain especially to children and teenagers. In order to address obesity issues, the students also emphasized the importance of city infrastructure in the support of healthy lifestyles.

At the end of the semester, the class presented their findings to representatives from the MMC and local health organizations. They

discussed how the next survey could be improved to discover community health needs. In the words of Professor Waggett, the students were "extraordinarily excited" to be part of this project and many wanted to continue their involvement in the ongoing efforts. Professionals with the MMC were impressed by the students' enthusiasm and invited them to work as interns in the creation and analysis of the new survey. The work that the class did strengthened the partnership between the college and the MMC, and opened the door for continuing collaboration with the local medical community. •

For information about volunteering at the Meadville Medical Center, call 814.333.5702



Shadybrook Project Continues, Groundbreaking Planned for Fall 2009

Nestled in a residential neighborhood between North and Morgan Streets is a small park situated on the banks of Mill Run. Despite its convenient location, Shadybrook Park is underutilized and due for improvements. In the fall of 2007, students in the capstone class for the Arts & Environment minor began to develop concept plans and secure funding to revitalize and beautify the neighborhood park. Since then, these efforts have been continued by individual students under the direction of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED). Working with the city of Meadville, CEED has secured a Growing Greener grant worth \$67,500 from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to fund improvements for the park and the section of Mill Run that lies alongside the park.

Robyn Snelling '09, a senior Environmental Science major and CEED's Davies Leader, collaborated with community members to guide part of the revitalization efforts. Snelling met with the Meadville Junior High School cross country running coach and team to discuss the creation of a trail through the park that could be used for team practices. She also laid the foundation for a partnership with the Crawford County Career and Technical Center (CCCTC) to build a footbridge as



The park's playground will be redesigned with input from local school children

part of a water filtration system to be constructed in an effort to purify stormwater from the area above the park. The footbridge will be constructed from recycled plastic wood by CCCTC students and designed based on historical photos of Shadybrook Park. These photos show early footbridges that date back to the 1940s, when Shadybrook was known as Arboretum Park.

Snelling also assisted with data collection as part of an environmental assessment of the Mill Run watershed, also funded by a Growing Greener grant. Developed by Allan Messenger '09 and Amanda Bresnahan '09, the assessment focused on macroinvertebrates and water quality, while also providing details of the stream corridor. Messenger and Bresnahan worked with Professors Scott Wissinger and Milt Ostrofsky on these assessments in fulfillment of their senior projects.

Another part of the Shadybrook Park project involves revitalization of its existing playground. Julia Rozewicz '12, a Civic Engagement Council intern, is working with area schoolchildren to address this need. Her goal, she says, is to create "a dream playground for the kids that will incorporate sustainable construction." In order to do this, Rozewicz has been in contact with local elementary schools to allow the children to draw their dream playground. The students' plans will inform the final design for the renovated playground, which will be

continued on next page...

Rendering of stormwater filter, trail, and footbridge based on student design. Courtesy Chris Brown, Derck & Edson.



continued from Shadybrook Park...

developed during the coming year.

A 3-dimensional model of these plans is being built by Emma Cook '12, and research on property along Mill Run has been conducted by Chris Plano '12, who also worked to develop GIS maps for the park. The work of all of these students will be included in community meetings with local residents.

Thanks to these efforts, Shadybrook Park will soon be a place where children can play safely, adults can exercise and community members can meet and mix while enjoying the park's natural beauty. •



Students who participated in making birdhouses—and birds of their own

Houses and Homes: Connecting Community through Art and the Environment

written by Katherine Bensele '09

"Houses and Homes" is a community art project that engages local children in learning about birds through building and decorating bird houses and feeders. These items will be hung in Shadybrook Park and along Mill Run to beautify the Park and provide a safe habitat for native birds.

Kay Sadowitz '09 and I created the "Houses and Homes" project to educate local children about the impact of humans on native bird species, engage them in creative educational activities that benefit both themselves and their community, and encourage a sense of ownership toward Shadybrook Park.

"Houses and Homes" began as part of an independent study capstone class for the Arts and the Environment minor. Kay and I spent fall semester 2009 exploring theories and examples

of environmental/community art and environmental education. Our studies inspired us to incorporate all three disciplines and simultaneously benefit the environment and educate the community. The result of this desire was the Houses and Homes curriculum, a loosely organized series of lessons for elementary students designed to complement the Shadybrook Park rehabilitation.

During spring semester, I piloted the curriculum with third graders from STARS, an after-school program at the Second District Elementary School in Meadville. The lessons and activities for the children incorporated many interactive games and creative projects. For instance, the students created masks, poems and instruments, and sang songs. I replaced lectures with board games, art and writing to explore the subject of birds. Through art, writing and music, the children learned about everything from bird diet and beak characteristics to bird calls and songs. As a final project, they

built and decorated bird houses and feeders. While doing so, the students discussed the materials used for construction and the importance of the houses themselves. The houses and feeders were constructed from FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood to emphasize the importance of responsible forestry practices. The students also discussed the issue of habitat loss due to poor forest management.

At the end of the school year, the children's songs, games, sculptures, illustrations, birdhouses, and written work was publically displayed. The students named the display "Amazing Birds: We Touch the Sky Because We Fly So High." The art projects were displayed several times in April and May 2009 at Allegheny College and in the community. •

Want to get involved? Contact the Civic Engagement Office at cec@allegheny.edu

Election Excitement

On the night of November 4, just as thousands of citizens congregated in Chicago's Grant Park and New York City's Madison Square Garden, hundreds of students gathered in Allegheny College's Henderson Campus Center.

The majority of the student body converged at the Campus Center for the Election Night Extravaganza, an event sponsored by the Center for Political Participation (CPP), Allegheny College Democrats and Allegheny College Republicans to celebrate the U.S. presidential election.

Students anxiously watched the election results come in on several large screens and televisions while socializing and enjoying free refreshments provided by the CPP. Members of the Allegheny College Democrats and Allegheny College Republicans handed out stickers and literature and answered questions regarding the candidates.

The atmosphere was charged with energy and spirits were high as the students watched the results come in. Excitement was heightened by the fact that most Allegheny students were first-time voters in this election. Students cheered as the electoral results for Pennsylvania (a swing state) were announced and stayed together at the Campus Center late into the night to share and celebrate the historic event of Barack Obama's victory.

The evening highlighted Allegheny's strong commitment to the political future of our nation, and was successful in bringing students together to celebrate the landmark occasion with their peers in a communal setting. •



Hundreds of students celebrate on election night in the Henderson Campus Center Lobby



Rigotti '10 and Sullivan '11 with Senator Casey

Allegheny students Sam Rigotti '10 and Megan Sullivan '11 traveled to Washington, D.C. on March 30-31 as part of Project Pericles student Beth Coleman's (Berea College '09) efforts with a nationwide campaign against mountaintop removal coal mining. Rigotti and Sullivan met with legislators and policy analysts in an attempt to gain support for H.R. 1310, the Clean Water Protection Act. They were able to meet with the staffs of Senator Bob Casey and Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper, as well as personally meeting with Rep. Jason Altmire. "I feel that the support is out there, but we need to keep up a strong campaign of awareness," Rigotti stated. Sullivan agreed; "It seems that the Pennsylvania legislators are onboard with H.R. 1310," she said, "but we need to keep up the pressure in order to push it through during this session."

Class of '11 Senators Bring Invisible Children to Campus

Allegheny Student Government (ASG) Class of 2011 senators first considered *Invisible Children* at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year when Senators Jesse Horan '11 and Rachel Faber '11 suggested that they raise awareness about the Ugandan war by bringing *Invisible Children* representatives to campus. "We feel that part of our duty as Senators is to provide opportunities for the student body to...serve some social good," explained ASG Senator Ali Trunzo '10. "*Invisible Children* is a worthy cause that people can be involved in not only through the ASG book drive, presentation, and fundraiser, but also throughout their lives. As long as the conflict in Uganda continues, there will be opportunities for us to speak out for morality, humanitarian action and social betterment."

During the fall semester, the senators set up book drop collection sites around campus for the *Invisible Children* "Schools for Schools Campaign." At the end of the year the books were shipped to Better World Books, a company committed to providing a chance for economic, social and political freedom through literacy. Better World Books collects unwanted books, sells them online and forwards the proceeds to numerous non-profit organizations, including *Invisible Children*. In this way, they have raised over \$5.2 million for global literacy projects, including the construction of new schools and the purchase of school supplies for children.

The Senators of 2011 hosted other events to raise awareness for *Invisible Children*. On March 25 a scavenger hunt was held to raise more money for the effort. Twenty-three teams (115 people overall) participated, representing

Invisible Children is committed to "seeking sustainable solutions to foster an environment that encourages peace" in Northern Uganda, where a rebellion has raged for nearly two decades, leading to the abduction of an estimated 20,000 children, the displacement of more than 1.6 million people, and the death of tens of thousands of civilians. The organization helps to improve the quality of life of war-affected children in this area by providing access to quality education, enhanced learning environments and innovative economic opportunities for the community. Visit www.invisiblechildren.com for more information.

Greek Life, ASG and other organizations. Professors and administrators also took part by passing out clues to the teams.

The second event was held on March 29, when four representatives from *Invisible Children* (Ivory Mobley, Nathan Canning, JoLeah Stiles and Sarah Caplin) gave a presentation in Shafer Auditorium. Over 300 students attended, and emotions ran high as they watched *The Rescue of Joseph Kony's Child Soldiers*, an overview of the war in Northern Uganda and the work that has been done to negotiate peace with rebel leader Joseph Kony and to free the thousands of child soldiers held in his army against their will. *Invisible Children* merchandise was on sale to raise funds for the effort as well.

After watching the film, students were invited to help end the war by "kidnapping" themselves and participating in a demonstration in Pittsburgh on April 25. ASG provided buses to shuttle students to and from Pittsburgh to participate in the 24-hour demonstration in support of ending the war in Northern Uganda and freeing the child soldiers.

Over \$3,600 dollars was raised on campus in just two days through merchandise sales, donations, a cupcake sale and scavenger hunt entrance fees. "It says a lot about our campus community that people are really able to jump on board with a new cause," said Senator Jamie Havens. "The passion and excitement we've seen over the past week about *Invisible Children* has been contagious."

Senator Shane Downing remarked that working with the *Invisible Children* organization is "the least we can do...show our respect and empathy towards these amazing individuals... [and] build international bridges to help push aside ethnic, racial and class divisions and offer aid to our fellow human beings. *Invisible Children* is an amazing organization and we as a class are willing to help out in any way possible." •



ASG Senators stand with representatives from the Invisible Children campaign

Service-Learning Connects Students with Community

During spring semester, students in Professor Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak's Community Psychology course (Psych 375) enjoyed studying community dynamics in both the classroom and in the community. The class explored how communities function, paying special attention to local and national issues. While students studied psychological theory in the classroom, they also had to complete 15-20 hours of volunteer work in the community.

The vast majority of the students worked at the Meadville Area Senior High School (MASH) and helped out in the home economics classrooms of Mrs. Hasychack and Mrs. Mayfield, teaching high school students lessons about respect and diversity. They also had the high school students create books about themselves and their families. Laura Oliver '09, ACCEL's service-learning fellow, presented five lessons on environmentally conscious consumerism and also taught the students money management skills. Other students in the class worked for the Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS), the Thurston House (where pregnant or parenting teenagers learn healthy parenting methods) and at the Forest Green Headstart Program, where students read to children from low-income families.

In the words of Professor Ozorak, the psychological theories that her students learned in class were "constantly tested through application to local events" and through the students' own experiences within the community. "This course focused on assets



Many students participated in this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day, some for class and others for recreation or personal interest

and strengths first, while still recognizing the problems and challenges that typically arise in communities," she explained. This approach required students to move beyond simple critique and to think about what generates success. It was designed to foster creative problem-solving, self-efficacy and theoretical competence. The hands-on approach allowed students to better understand the issues that communities face while simultaneously creating positive change.

Ozorak's Community Psychology course was one of four community engagement courses offered during the 2008 academic year that were co-funded by Project Pericles and Allegheny's Civic Engagement Council's (CEC's) community engagement course grants. Project Pericles "encourages and facilitates commitments by colleges and universities to include social responsibility and participatory citizenship as essential elements of educational programs."

At the end of the semester, with support from the CEC, members of Transformasium, a group of artist-activists based in Braddock, Pa., met with students and presented a public lecture on their work, which uses the arts to transform ideas into tangible social and economic benefits.

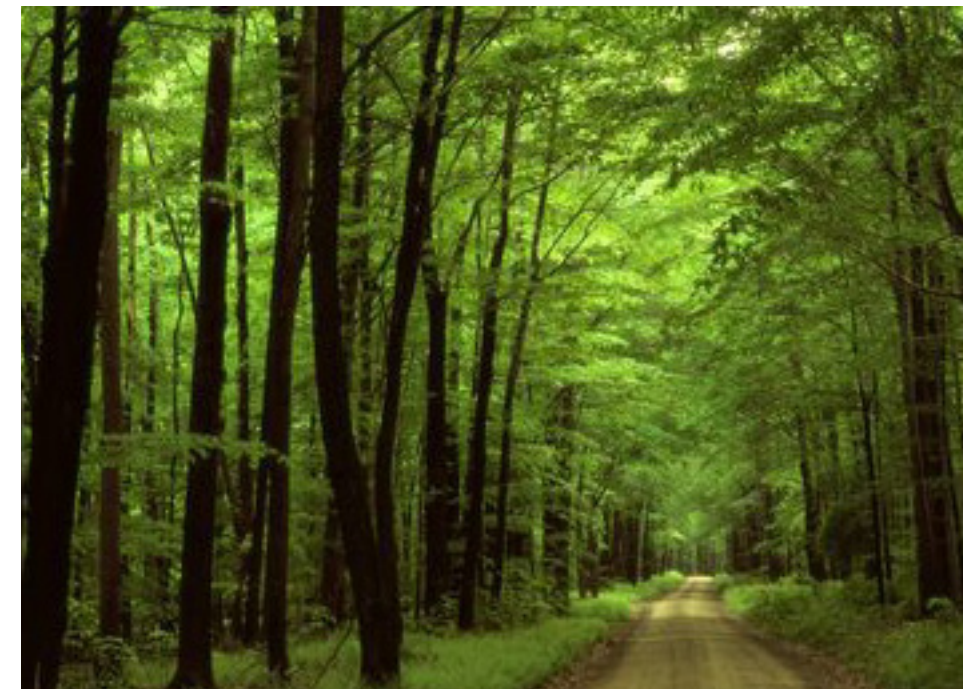
Ozorak's Community Psychology course is one of a number of service learning and community engagement classes offered at Allegheny. Both the Civic Engagement Council (CEC) and ACCEL's Service-Learning Challenge work to engage Allegheny professors in courses that involve experiential or applied scholarship focused on our local community. Through students like Service-Learning Fellow Laura Oliver and the work of the Civic Engagement Council, faculty can easily and effectively find assistance in identifying and connecting with community partners and developing successful collaborations. •

Forest Ecosystems Education Program Makes Strides

Allegheny College's Northwest Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Project, an initiative of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), was founded by Environmental Science Professors Terrence Bensel and Richard Bowden in 2006 "to improve private forest management practices and to increase the economic contribution of the wood products industry in this region." After several years of holding forestry workshops and events with local landowners, who were typically over the age of 60, Bowden and Bensel recognized the need to reach out to the younger generation and help teach the importance of regional forest resources to local schoolchildren.

Bowden argues that in local public schools "there is a lack of good information to show the complexity of the field of forestry sciences." Because Pennsylvania is heavily forested and the forest products industry is the fourth largest industry in the state, it is especially important that future Pennsylvania landowners understand forest dynamics. However, this sort of forest education has largely been neglected in local public schools until now.

To jump-start the Forestry Education Project, several student interns have worked with Professors Bowden and Bensel to create nine teaching modules—each complete with background information on a specific topic, pre- and post-tests, equipment lists and activity descriptions—that high school science teachers can use to introduce their students to forestry sciences. The topics of the modules range from forest growth and measurement to sustainable forest composition and deer-feeding habits. The modules are intended to foster creative thinking and hands-on investigation and include research-based field trips to sites such as Asbury Woods.



Bowden's program hopes beautiful scenes like this remain for years to come

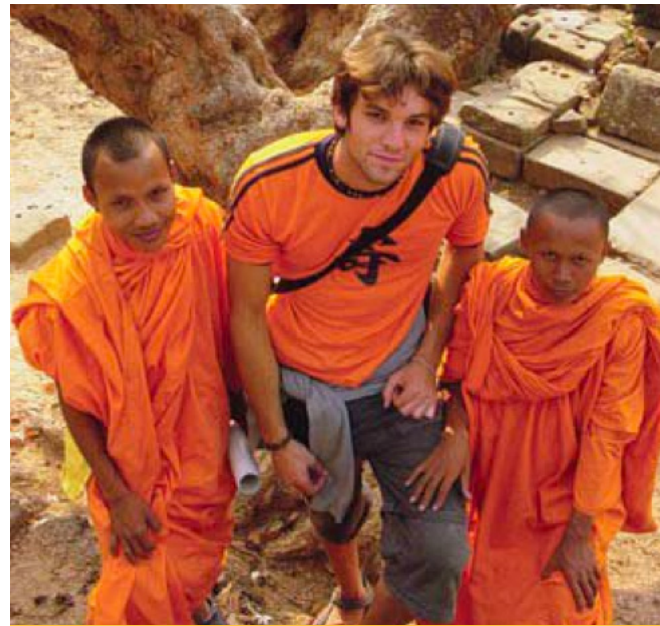
Last year, Forestry Education intern Paula Carey '08 completed her Senior Project on the Forestry Education Project and designed several modules that she tested in classrooms at Corry High School. "Teachers who participated in the activities thought that the modules were easy to use, enjoyable and convenient," Carey reports. "All of the participating teachers said they would be interested in utilizing these and similar forestry modules in the future."

Thanks to the hard work of Alessandra Trunzo '11 over the past year, it will soon be possible for teachers to continue to use the modules in their classes just as Carey had intended. Over the summer and past two semesters, Trunzo has worked with Professor Bowden to edit and standardize the modules and construct a website so that the modules can be easily accessed online. Allegheny student and Crawford County Conservation District intern Liz Fager '09 also works with the Forestry Curriculum project, and is working to identify topics for additional modules.

The Forestry Education Project is funded by a Rees Foundation Grant as well as a \$40,375 grant from the Pennsylvania Wild Resources Conservation Program to be used over the next two years to purchase books and scientific supplies and instruments for use by participating classrooms. •

International Engagement: Alumnus in Action

Tobias Rose-Stockwell '04 (BA in Studio Art) brings "civic engagement" to a whole new level—the international level. Rose-Stockwell is the founder of the non-profit organization *Human Translation*, a collaborative project with a mission to "translate human awareness into human action." Rose-Stockwell's interest in international engagement began during his junior year when he spent a semester studying in South Africa, where he met many people mired in poverty and longed to help and connect with them on a personal level. After graduation, Rose-Stockwell traveled to Bangkok, Thailand. In his travels he realized that he disliked the fact that as a tourist "people see you as a dollar sign. I felt there was a culture I wasn't connecting with, so I decided to dive in and seek that connection." His quest for authenticity led him to rural Southeast Asia, where he made so many personal connections that he was inspired to stay and help. Rose-Stockwell created *Human Translation* to serve



Rose-Stockwell '04 with two monks in Cambodia



Cambodia

"It is our collaborative purpose to translate human awareness into human action."

Human Translation's mission begins with empowerment.

It is our belief that every human has the ability to improve a life if given the proper tools. Our goal is to raise qualified awareness and funds for people in need, and to help them realize their own potential to create a sustainable future.

We are focused on building the capacity of organizations and individuals trying to make a difference, by helping compassionate people deal with the uncertainties of humanitarian aid, and providing support for exceptional projects.

We have begun to build a new methodology of collaboration, compassion, and accountability, which will improve and save lives around the world."

(from www.humantranslation.org)

two purposes: first, to connect the American public to the rural poor in Southeast Asia through the artwork, stories, blogs, photographs and projects that are featured on the organization's website (www.humantranslation.org) and, second, to help the people of that region fulfill sustainable development initiatives. Some of the projects completed by *Human Translation* include a scabies elimination health initiative, flood relief coordination, fundraising for HIV-positive children in Thailand, and medical rehabilitation projects for veterans of civil war.

Currently, Rose-Stockwell is working on three projects with a long-term strategy for lifting Cambodian communities out of poverty. The first involves a partnership with the Cambodian government and Engineers without Borders to reconstruct a reservoir in Siem Reap, giving 9,000 people in the area an opportunity to grow rice crops. The second project is a collaborative health initiative with the Trailblazer Foundation to bring water filtration systems to Balang Commune. Finally, *Human Translation* has undertaken a literacy education project in Trach Village to renovate a schoolhouse and implement an English-Khmer education program for the local children, who have had little to no literacy education.

Rose-Stockwell currently resides in Cambodia and can be best reached at tobias@humantranslation.org.

Reflection on ACCEL Trip to Nicaragua

written by Erin Horning '09 (malletrass@gmail.com)



Erin Horning '09 (center in black) and Jenny Kawata (left in blue) prepare to return from Nicaragua. The effort to establish a medical aid program in Nicaragua has been an Allegheny effort in recent years

Over spring break I traveled to Nicaragua with ACCEL to explore options for future Allegheny programs. In two days my traveling partners (Marin Ping '11, director of international programs Jenny Kawata and director of community service Dave Roncolato) and I met with healthcare organizations in the capital city of Managua, the suburb of Jinotepe and the rural village of Jicaro. Our first visit found us with Dr. Reyna, who works with the Luke Society in Managua to support community health through citizen "health promoters."

From Managua we drove 6.5 hours north to Jicaro, where we toured a local government-run clinic, where both the positive and negative aspects of government-run rural care were evident. The next morning, we toured a local farm, owned by a man named Aurelio, who is both a veterinarian and a healthcare provider in his community. When Aurelio cannot treat or diagnose a problem, he sends his patients to the larger government clinic, which is half an hour away by car.

Finally, we met Dr. Laura, an American physician who married a Nicaraguan doctor. She and her husband started the AMOS project, a unique effort that integrates community healthcare promoters with government

clinics, so that the community promoters can get more education from local doctors and the doctors can have more contact with the rural communities they serve.

In those two days we realized that many medical programs in North America that sponsor healthcare missions to developing nations such as Nicaragua are unable to create lasting change because of the transient nature of most humanitarian trips. Additionally, such mission trips create reliance on North American money and service rather than teaching people how to treat and care for themselves. Seeing this firsthand showed us the importance of sustainability of both resources and programs. We saw that although many non-government organizations start strong, they weaken because they are not self-sustaining, and we learned the importance of approaching people with an attitude of humility, because without humility we would not have been open to receive these lessons.

If you have an interest in public/international health, the structure of developing nations or environmental sustainability, or if you can envision other ways that Allegheny might provide a lasting and meaningful service in Nicaragua, please contact me and join us in the fall for future discussion.

Lecture on Sustainable Solutions in Domestic Economy

On February 26, Allegheny's Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), the Managerial Economic Department of Allegheny College, the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) hosted a presentation and fundraiser for the CPA entitled "Fixing America's Economy." The presentation identified the steps necessary to strengthen the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Moderated by Stephen Onyeiwu, associate professor of economics at Allegheny, the forum featured two speakers—David Frengle and Charles Blum—who presented their views on the state of U.S. manufacturing. Their presentation provoked a lively discussion among local business leaders about how to strengthen the area manufacturing sector. Dr. Onyeiwu, who is also the co-director of the college's Managerial Economics program and director of CEED's Sustainable Manufacturing Project, analyzed the state of the manufacturing sector in the U.S. and northwestern Pennsylvania. He drew attention to a recent report by the Associated Press that showed a decline in manufacturing output from 15 percent of the U.S. GDP in 2000 to 14 percent in 2007. He then explained how the impact of declining output in the manufacturing sector affects employment in that sector, which has declined dramatically, from 16.2 percent of total employment in 1990 to 8 percent in 2008. In January 2009 alone, Onyeiwu noted, the U.S. lost 207,000 manufacturing jobs, the largest loss in a single month since October 1982. After this, Onyeiwu opened the floor to Frengle and Blum.

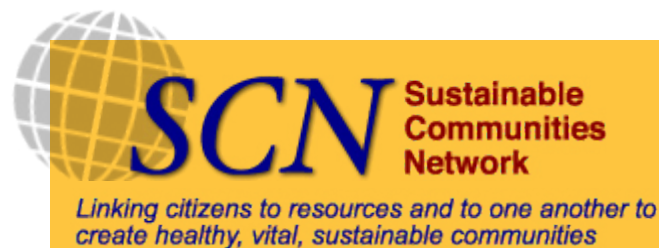


David Frengle speaks on trade reforms and slowing off-shore production

David Frengle serves on government and policy committees of the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Tooling and Machining Association, the Precision Metal-forming Association and the Butler County Chamber of Commerce. For this presentation, he spoke from his role as director of government affairs at Penn United Technologies. He gave details on his company's strategy for crafting economic policies and trade reforms that will slow off-shoring production and maintain a competitive advantage for American manufacturers over foreign producers.

Finally, Charles Blum, diplomat, founding member and president of the international advisory services group of the CPA, and assistant U.S. trade representative for industrial trade policy for multilateral negotiations, spoke about the importance of the CPA. He claimed the CPA is an organization "committed to working for a new and positive U.S. trade policy that delivers prosperity and security to America, its citizens, farms, factories and working people." The CPA advocates the creation of a new U.S. trade policy to support U.S. manufacturing interests, rather than corporate interests.

Attendees of the event included Allegheny students, faculty and staff as well as local businesspeople and politicians such as Crawford County Commissioner Morris Wade, State Representative Brad Roae, Susan Heilman of the Industrial Resource Commission, Jerry Knight of the Precision Manufacturing Institute and Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper's congressional aide. •



If the topic of a sustainable economy interests you, the Sustainable Communities Network website (http://www.sustainable.org/economy/econ_index.html) can help to provide you with a vast network of resources about how to create businesses committed to a better, sustainable tomorrow.

Students and Leaders Discuss Sustainable Development



Geffen and students discuss ways to promote sustainable development in the greater Meadville area

During the fall semester 2008, students enrolled in Professor Amara Geffen's freshman seminar on "Climate Change, Art and Activism: Triggers for Sustainability" explored ways in which citizens and activists could collaborate to effect positive change in local communities. The impact of sustainable development and its role in economic and community development were researched, and case studies of cities similar to Meadville were developed. In particular the students sought examples of cities that have used the arts and environmental guiding principles to inform economic revitalization efforts. With the case studies in mind, the students identified steps that Meadville could take to become a leader in sustainable community development and reduce the community's environmental impact.

At the end of the fall semester, on December 10, the 14 students enrolled in the class presented their findings to Meadville City Council members Cheryl Burkey and Jason Amory, Mayor Richard Friedberg, Zoning

Officer Gary Johnson, Vernon Township Manager Dave Stone and Allegheny College President James Mullen. The students recommended the establishment of a community committee for sustainable development along with community energy teams to investigate ways to reduce energy consumption and waste proliferation. They also emphasized that adoption of the Keystone Principles, the Commonwealth's principles for sustainable development, could assist in securing state funding for economic and community development initiatives, while also providing clear mandates to support sustainable development.

The meeting led to ongoing discussion about College-community partnerships focused on sustainable community development. In the spring semester, a survey of regional businesses involved in clean technologies and alternative methods of energy production was conducted, and the results were sent to local politicians with a recommendation that they be funded via President Obama's economic stimulus package. •

**"This is the moment when we must come together to save this planet."
- Barack Obama**

Civic Engagement Council Prize Awarded

Wyatt Schroeder '09 received the Civic Engagement Council (CEC) prize for his remarkable role in organizing the campus and reaching out to the local community through his support of Barack Obama, work as a staff member for Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper's campaign, and his paper "The Invisible Youth Vote: A Case Study in Mobilizing the Forgotten Youth Vote."

"Wyatt is perhaps the most effective student political operative I have ever seen on campus," said Bruce Smith, professor of political science. The CEC prize is awarded to the junior or senior student who has produced the most outstanding project in academic community-based learning and has modeled the qualities of civic engagement embodied by the College's mission statement. Recipients are selected by a subcommittee of the CEC and announced at the annual Honors Convocation at the end of spring semester.



What is RecycleMania?

RecycleMania is an annual national college competition aimed at waste minimization. In 2009 Allegheny College participated for the second time in the program, which is coordinated on campus by the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), the EcoReps and Kelly Boulton '02, Allegheny's sustainability coordinator, with support from staff at Physical Plant and St. Moritz Building Services. This year's campus goals for RecycleMania focused on reducing unwanted bulk mail, limiting printing in offices and labs, developing employee and student orientation programs to support waste minimization, and promoting the One Less Cup Campaign.

Throughout the competition this year, Allegheny reported recycling and trash data and then compared the data with that from over 500 other schools. Participants totaled 4.7 million students and 1.1 million faculty and staff, who collectively recycled or composted over 69.4 million pounds of waste throughout the ten-week competition. This amount garnered huge environmental gains by preventing the release of more than 88,739 metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE). In real world terms, that reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to eliminating the annual impact of emissions from 16,187 passenger cars, electricity use from 12,258 homes, or the burning of 462 railcars' worth of coal. These results prove that when organizations work to limit waste, we can create viable change in greenhouse gas emissions.

Allegheny is proud to participate in a competition that encourages minimizing waste produced on campus and we look forward to another robust competition next year. •

Who are the EcoReps?

The Allegheny EcoReps program is a student generated initiative established to foster an environmentally aware campus through peer motivation. Last year, Jessica Longobardo '10 a transfer student from the University of Vermont, suggested the idea of starting an EcoReps program on campus and explained that the program had been very popular at her former university. Longobardo's idea met with enthusiasm and the program was formed at the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year.

The kick-off event for the fall semester was the "One Less Cup Campaign," in which Green Gator travel mugs made from biodegradable, recycled plastics were sold in an effort to educate the campus community about the importance of reuse and waste minimization. Approximately 200 mugs were sold and distributed throughout the academic year. Statistics provided by Parkhurst Dining Services confirm that last year McKinley's sold about 150 refills per week. However, after the implementation of the One Less Cup campaign, McKinley's sold an average of 450 refills a week. This means that about 15,300 cups will have been saved this year due to refills, three times more than last year. Thanks to the support of Parkhurst Dining Services, Green Gator travel mugs are still available for purchase at McKinley's for \$3.

Jinnie Templin '11, a Civic Engagement intern, is currently working as a Fahrner Fellow to research best practices for strengthening the EcoReps program at Allegheny. She is working to ensure that the EcoReps can collaborate with Residence Life and encourage more sustainable practices in residence halls. •

If the EcoReps program sounds like something you'd like to contribute to, please contact Kelly Boulton '02, Sustainability Coordinator, at kelly.boulton@allegheny.edu, or CEED at ceed@allegheny.edu

Getting Crazy with RecycleMania

On the evening of March 6, students from Allegheny College gathered in the lobby of the Campus Center to get creative at the Recycled Materials Crafts Fair. The program was sponsored by the EcoReps and was coordinated with assistance from Jinnie Templin '11, a Civic Engagement intern, and Dave Valentine '10, a resident director and past intern with the Core Commitments Program. EcoReps Carlyn Johnson '11 and Stacy Goforth '12 used the event to raise awareness on campus about the RecycleMania program and to emphasize the importance of and possibilities in reusing materials in innovative ways.

Several organizations hosted tables where students could make different kinds of recycled crafts. Students for Environmental Action (SEA) demonstrated how to knit potholders out of plastic bags, and the Student Art Society (SAS) hosted a table where students could decorate glass bottles, transforming them into vases. The Allegheny Democrats demonstrated how to make newspaper holders, while sustainability coordinator Kelly Boulton '02 and intern Stephanie Gutierrez '11 helped students make notebooks out of reclaimed paper. Allegheny Christian Outreach participated by selling cloth napkins made by women in India to support fair trade and to reduce paper waste. The first 50 people at the fair received Green Gator mugs that were paid for by SEA. Pizza from the Creative Crust, a family-owned business in Meadville, was served courtesy of the CEED program.

When asked what she hoped students would take away from the event, EcoRep Carlyn Johnson replied, "I would really like to see students start thinking differently about their day-to-day habits. Students here are fairly good about recycling, and that's great, but what would be even better is if our consumption was not so high in the first place. At the Recycled Materials Crafts Fair, students learned creative, yet simple ways to reduce consumption by reusing materials." •



Allegheny Christian Outreach sells napkins made by women in India to support fair trade practices



From left: Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Boulton '02, intern Stephanie Gutierrez '11 and a prospective student make notebooks from recycled paper.

If you have ideas for how to make RecycleMania even better next year, let us know!

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