

Civic Engagement Newsletter of Allegheny College

Art Project Receives Grant

By Corey Jewart
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

A grant of \$17,500 was recently given to Allegheny College Professor of Art, Amara Geffen, to continue her artistic expansion on the *Read Between the Signs* project. The grant goes towards supporting phase two of the four-phase project that will be completed by 2005.

The entire project involves the ongoing partnership between Allegheny College, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and Geffen. The working project is designed to celebrate the French Creek watershed and surrounding landscape while promoting opportunities for community involvement and appreciation of art as a part of daily life.

The grant will enable PennDOT, Professor Geffen, and Allegheny College to continue their efforts to beautify the "gateway" to Meadville, located at the intersection of Routes 322 and 102. This intersection is one of the busiest roads in the county, with over 24,000 cars passing through



As part of phase one, students installed "flowers" made of street signs at the intersection of Routes 322 and 102.

every day.
PennDOT will provide

the work area for Geffen and interns, the signs and other materials, and will also provide access to welding equipment. Allegheny College will hire student interns to work on the project during the summer; PennDOT will hire an intern as well. PennDOT and Allegheny will allot funds equal to the value of the grant to pay for the interns and materials. Geffen

GRANT... (Continued on page 8)



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn

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NEW Civic Engagement Website: a Virtual Organization

By Erin Bastow
Eng 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

How can Allegheny students become more involved in the community? A recent addition to the Allegheny website, the Civic Engagement webpage provides access to a plethora of opportunities.

While focusing on important contributions of students and faculty, this website will operate as the hub for active community involvement in and around campus.

Dr. Judy Lynch, Coordi-

nator of Civic Engagement and Community Outreach, explained the goal of the website as "providing a virtual umbrella for civic engagement at Allegheny, so all
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Visit <http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu>

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Writing Interns Available to Work with Non-Profits

If your organization would like a writing intern, please contact Ann Bomberger, 332-4334 <abomberg@allegheny.edu>.



Standing: Jeremy Johnson, Brooke Woods, Marty Spieler, Karrie Presutti, Erin Bastow, Lacy Thelin, Aubrie Kohlmeyer, Missy Deco, Hanh Nguyen, Kate O'Donnell, Corey Jewart, Gina Esposito, Mike Stamcoff, and Jason Stronz. **Seated:** Brea Whitehair, Kristen Gall, and Prof. Ann Bomberger
Missing from Picture: Simona Wright and Rob Kyle

Newsletter Practices What It Preaches: Service-Learning

Students spread out across campus, posing questions, getting quotations, and revising, revising, revising, all to produce the *Civic Engagement Newsletter* you're reading here.

Professor Bomberger's Technical/Professional Writing class confronted the challenges of writing for a publication by creating one. They set a high standard for themselves, encouraging one another to keep reorganizing their materials, fine-tuning their language, and double-checking for accuracy. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work. Some students opted to write promotional materials for other organizations near and dear to them, both those on campus and those in the broader community. As a result,



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn

Our motto, "Learning to Serve and Serving to Learn" is taken from The Council of Independent Colleges with permission.

- The Happy Apple Pre-school (YWCA) now has a new brochure showcasing its services
- Students Advocating for Reproductive Options got some free PR work
- Hog Heaven, which rescues and cares for hooved animals, received a brochure to solicit volunteers
- A press release now promotes the AC football camp for kids.

Expanding Civic Engagement: Allegheny and Project Pericles

By Jason Stronz
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Allegheny is one of ten pilot schools participating in Project Pericles, an association funded primarily by the Eugene M. Lang Foundation dedicated to blending civic engagement into liberal arts education.

Each of the ten schools has been structuring its civic engagement mission for the past two years and will now meet, April 2-3, in New York City, to discuss the prospects and challenges of the project. According to Dean of the College Lloyd Michaels, the ten schools will bring delegations consisting of Presidents and Deans, trustees, key faculty members, students, and community leaders to decide on a starting point for collective action.

Currently, Allegheny is in the midst of six-year campaign to raise \$105 million, and the strategic plan for the capital growth includes an initiative to build a "Lifetime of Civic Responsibility."

The Lang Foundation provided a challenge grant that aided in starting this mission, and two unnamed trustees matched the sum. The Lang Foundation's commitment to success can also help complete the formidable task of successfully constructing Project Pericles.

The Lang Foundation is primarily known for its "I Have a Dream" project that began when Lang, a leading philanthropist, offered to pay college tuition for every sixth grader at Public School 121 in New York who graduated high school. The challenge gained national attention, and now 180 "I Have a Dream" Projects serve over 13,000 students. Allegheny delegates see the April meeting as an opportunity to further the goals of civic engagement while distinguishing Project Pericles from similar organizations.

"This meeting needs to strategize on two issues," Associate Professor of Political Science Dan Shea said. "First, how to best announce the founda-



Colleges Participating In Project Pericles

Institution

- Allegheny College, Meadville, PA
- Bethune-Cookman College,
Daytona Beach, FL
- Elon University, Elon College, NC
- Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
- Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN
- New England College, Henniker, NH
- Pace University, New York, NY
- Pitzer College, Claremont, CA

President

- Richard J. Cook
- Oswald P. Bronson, Sr.
- Leo M. Lambert
- Gregory S. Prince, Jr.
- Michael S. McPherson
- Ellen Hurwitz
- David A. Caputo
- Marilyn Chapin Massey

The Market Alley Project: Rejuvenating Downtown Meadville



By Rob Kyle
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Close your eyes and imagine: sounds of flowing water, walkers softly chatting as they cross a wooden footbridge, visions of local artwork as well as historical and ecological information, all while enjoying your lunch on a park bench with a good, relaxing book. Although this may sound like a fantasy in downtown Meadville, it

The current Market Alley that will be transformed into a park with a stream.

will soon be a reality thanks to the Market Alley Project. Market Alley is a currently run down and unattractive space that is predominately used for garbage storage behind Chestnut Street businesses such as Otters Pub, Travel Experience, and Valenti's Restaurant.

tion, and, second, how to strategize (the project's) funding opportunities." Shea, who also heads the Center for Political Participation (CPP) at Allegheny, continued, "All of the schools are doing good things, but we need help."

Associate Professor of Economics Don Goldstein, who will make his first appearance at a Pericles func-

PERICLES... (Continued on page 14)

The Market Alley Project seeks to transform the alley into a green space

MARKET ALLEY... (Continued on page 12)

Announcements

5 Students Attended COOL Conference

Karen Hoerst, Keith Lindner, Andrea McMillen, Caitlin Gembol and Ben Houghton represented Allegheny at this year's Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL) Conference in Cleveland, Ohio on March 13-15. The title of the conference was "Students Leading the Way."

Senior Citizen Recognition Day

Friday March 28th will be the annual Senior Recognition Day at Allegheny. Senior citizens will be touring the campus and visiting classes. Student volunteers are needed. Please contact Dave Roncolato, 332-5318, if you would like to help out.

CPP to Publish Newsletter In Fall 2003

The Center for Political Participation will debut its first newsletter in the Fall of 2003, honoring CPP's first anniversary. Keep your eyes peeled! Contact Christine Norwood, <cnorwood@allegheny.edu>, for more information.

Rush to Recycle

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Northwest Regional Director Kelly Burch presented Allegheny College President Richard Cook with a token of appreciation for Allegheny College's participation in Pennsylvania's first ever "Rush to Recycle" on March 10, 2003.

The event also featured Allegheny College students helping local preschool children create an art project as part of the national "Earth Day Groceries Project," and a visit by the costumed characters "The Recycle Team."

Forest Landowner Workshop "Visualizing Your Forest"

Come out and enjoy a visual presentation on woodland management practices and decision-making alternatives on your own woodland property.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

*DR. JIM FINLEY - Associate Professor of Forest Resources
Penn State School of Forest Resources*

*PAUL ROTH - Research Assistant
Penn State School of Forest Resources*

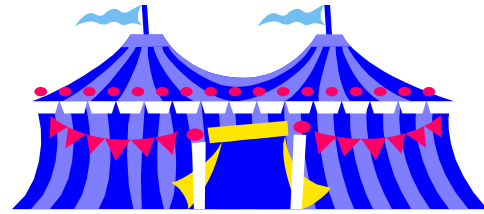
Thursday, March 20, 2003

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Quigley Hall, Rm. 101.

Contact: Terry Bensel (332-2787), or Kathy Uglow (332-2713) for more information.

Lambda Sigma Children's Carnival



Date: Saturday, March 29th

Time: 11am-1pm

Place: Wise Center

There will be food, games, and prizes for children of all ages. Over 30 student groups will be running games and booths. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact junior Karen Hoerst, <hoersk@allegheny.edu>.

Bonner Brass Visited Allegheny

Allegheny College welcomed Bobby Hackett, Vice President of the Bonner Foundation, Hillery Campbell-Christensen and Julie Charubusapayon, other Bonner officials, to the campus on March 12th.

The Bonner group met with President Cook, the AmeriCorps Bonner Leaders, David Roncolato, Brooke Martin, Judy Lynch and other members of the Coordinating Council for Civic Engagement to discuss the AmeriCorps Bonner Leaders' program and a possible new grant for community-based research.

Community-based research is a new civic engagement initiative. Allegheny is hoping to be able to accept requests from the community to utilize the human resources of faculty, students and staff at Allegheny to assist the community in information gathering and analysis. The Bonner grant for community-based research will make this initiative a reality.

Summer Research Opportunity in Participatory Politics

The Center for Political Participation (CPP) is pleased to announce a Summer Research Stipend of \$1500.00 for a collaborative research project between one student and one continuing faculty member from any department in the broad area of participatory politics. Two stipulations exist: 1) the student must play a substantive role in the project 2) the research will be presented at a fall reception. CPP staff and a panel of Allegheny faculty will review proposals. Applications may be obtained from the CPP office or website and returned to CPP, Box 98. The deadline is May 1, 2003. For more information, contact the Center at cpp.allegheny.edu, or extension 6201.

Raise Your Voice Week

By Hanh Nguyen
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

"It doesn't matter if you are for or against certain issues, as long as you speak out," states Judy Lynch, a coordinator of Civic Engagement & Community Outreach Programs in the Center for Political Participation. Allegheny College and 600 other colleges nationwide proudly provided students the opportunity to discuss critical issues through *Raise Your Voice Week*, [Feb. 16-23rd]. The program is an initiative by the Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges dedicated to civic engagement. The organization's function is to enhance, deepen, and celebrate more student involvement in political campaigns and causes on campuses. It is sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts for colleges across United States.

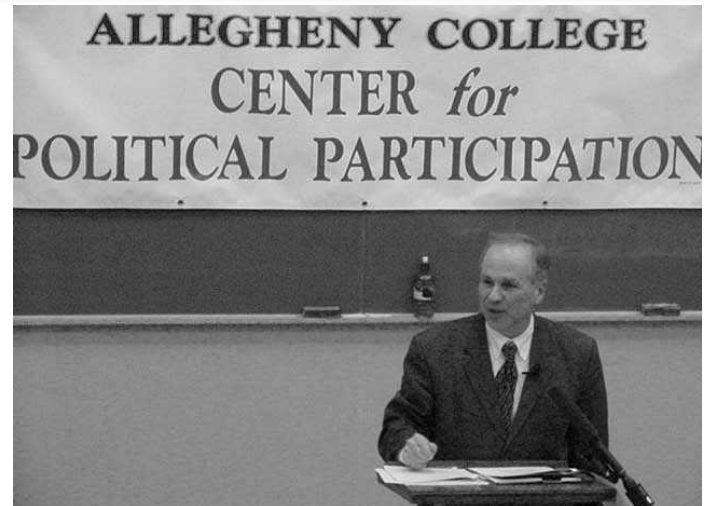
Allegheny College students celebrated a full week of *Raise Your Voice* activities. Initially, President Richard Cook invited eight students from the Allegheny Student Government, Allegheny Service Network, Center for Political Participation and the Emerging Leaders Program to a luncheon meeting to brainstorm the issues they felt most significant to the student body and to plan the activities for the week.

Andrea McMillen, a student leader and chairman of the *Raise Your Voice* Steering Committee, says, "It is complicated. A lot should be improved and students' voices have the ability to produce change." Three issues emerged in the student discussion as the most compelling and controversial: capital punishment, poverty and Iraq. The Steering committee planned events around these issues. Seven organizations informed students how to get involve in *Raise Your Voice Week* at the Issue Fair on Feb. 13.

Capital Punishment: On Feb. 18th, about 13 students saw an episode of *The Practice* in Brooks Dining Hall, which was followed by a discussion led by students Anne Shoupe and Dominic Randazzo. Shoupe pointed out that one of the problems with capital punishment is discrimination. Statistics confirm that more males than females, and more blacks than whites are eventually executed. Randazzo, however, argued that capital punishment is a deterrence to crime and that some crimes are so violent that only the death penalty makes sense. It was noted that the state of Illinois has just commuted the sentences of its death row inmates to life in prison and that many other states may be following Illinois's example. Capital Punishment is one of Amnesty's topics, an international organization designed for students' interests in civil rights movement.

The Impact of Poverty: Approximately 20 students came to discuss the class differences and poverty issues that affect the Meadville community, Pennsylvania, the United States and the world. Poverty in Meadville and in Pennsylvania are very close to the national average: 10%

RAISE YOUR VOICE... (Continued on page 12)



John White, author of *The Values Divide: American Politics and Culture in Transition*, lectures about the role of values in motivating political participation. His talk was sponsored by the Center for Political Participation as part of *Raise Your Voice Week*.

Non-Profit Workshop

By Karrie Presutti
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Students learned to "Put Your Idealism to Work" at a Careers in the Nonprofit Sector Workshop co-sponsored by Allegheny College's Center for Experiential Learning (ACCEL) and Actions Without Borders / Idealist.org on Feb. 12. With over 44 attendees participating, the event marked success.

Dan Kessler, Campus Outreach Manager of Idealist.org, directed the workshop and provided useful information about nonprofits, such as statistics compiled by Independent Sector, a nonprofit research organization. They report that over 1.5 million nonprofits exist in the United States, raising \$670 billion in annual revenues, and employing one in twelve Americans.

Idealist.org exists as a nonprofit organization

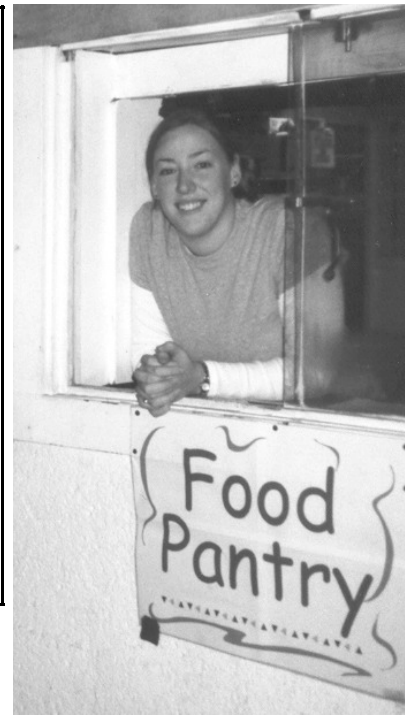
and a "complete online resource center for the global nonprofit community." Visitors to the website find an assortment of information regarding nonprofit jobs, organizations, services, and more. The organization also provides various workshops, such as this one, to students and organizes nonprofit job fairs. Interested applicants can subscribe to receive e-mails regarding specific job openings, volunteer opportunities, nonprofit events, and more. Useful information is provided for first time and experienced users.

During the workshop, Kessler answered rumors regarding work in nonprofits, such as the opportunities for moving up in an organization, making a sufficient salary, and political beliefs. He provided handouts and discussed each rumor thoroughly.

A panel of three Allegheny alumni and one life-
IDEALIST... (Cont'd on page 14)



Allegheny Students
Having an Impact
Through Service



The Vanishing Forest

By Brooke Woods
Eng 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

The United States is losing its forests.

Forests cover 33% of this country, and private citizens and companies own 58% of this total. Because of the spread of residential and commercial development, as well as ongoing, destructive forest practices, such as substantial logging, there exists no guarantees that many privately-owned forests will be around in the near future.

According to Allegheny College Professor Terrence Bensel, private forest owners are free to use their properties as they wish to seek economic gain. In an effort to sustain privately-owned forests of Erie, Crawford and Warren counties, Bensel works as an associate member of Northwest Pennsylvania Woodland Association's (NWPWA) advisory board. NWPWA is an association of private forest landowners, managers and interested others. Their intent is

to emphasize heightened awareness and implementation of "forestry for the future," meaning forest management practice that would allow for the conservation of forests, as well as landowners to meet their economic objectives.

The NWPWA was formed in 1998 as a result of work in previous Environmental Science [ES] Junior Seminars at Allegheny College. A requirement for all students who pursue the major in Environmental Science or Studies, the ES Junior Seminar is designed to get students to begin thinking about upcoming senior research, and provide them with the opportunity to develop a sense of community involvement. In an effort to combine learning and civic engagement, Bensel designed his ES Junior Seminar to focus on extensive reading, exploration of research methods, and hands-on work pertaining to private forest-



land ownership and management in Pennsylvania. Bensel encourages his students to seek answers to the questions, "What *are* the best forest management practices for private forest landowners?" and "Why care?"

The focal point of Bensel's seminar, and also its title, is "Sustainable Development," which can be defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This is why Bensel's students will work with the NWPWA and visit

FOREST... (Continued on page 8)

Spring Break! Cullowhee, NC, Here We Come?

By Simona Wright
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

When you hear the words "Spring Break" you might envision a bunch of college students going wild, roasting under the sun, and forgetting all worries. Well, there is an alternative to that.

This year marks the tenth annual year Allegheny has offered the Alternative Spring Break program. This program is in connection with Break Away, a national non-profit organization supporting the development of quality Spring Break

programs. The trips are specific experiences in which Allegheny students travel off campus and engage in community service. The students gain access to "hands-on" experience that exceed the typical volunteer service.

Each group was composed of one faculty member, two student leaders and eight students.

Each year the location of the trips vary. This year Allegheny offered five trips, which is impressive for a small college. They were:

- Buffalo, NY - Students assisted the VIVE International Refugee Center in



Last year, an Alternative Spring Break trip to Tennessee focused on clearing trails of a local park.

providing recreational and educational services. They also helped provide the basic needs of individuals and families who have been relocated from their home country because of dire circumstances.

- Cullowhee, NC- Students assisted the elderly and disabled by engaging in activities of emergency home repair, including construction of handicap access ramps. On this trip students experienced the rich Appalachian culture and faced rural poverty issues.

ASB... (Continued on page 10)

GRANT... *(Continued from page 1)*

is also looking to draw help from the neighboring community, such as the Crawford County Area Vocation-Technical School.

The upcoming phase of the project will span approximately four months, beginning in May and lasting until August of this year. The goal is to complete at least 400 more feet this summer, leaving 600 feet to work on for the next two years. PennDOT will provide the maintenance and care for the project in the years after the relief is completed.

The collaboration between Allegheny College and PennDOT began nearly seven years ago with the CEED project, *Greening the Gateway*, headed by Professor Eric Pallant. CEED, the Center for Economic and Environmental Development, takes class concepts and ideas and turns them into hands-on activities involving both students and members of the community in an effort to better the environment.

The project was initiated to try and beautify PennDOT's grounds by placing shrubbery, trees, and flowers in front of the fence. This project didn't quite do the trick. In 2001, PennDOT approached Professor Geffen hoping she could help them reconfigure the look of their parking lot. A group of students in her "Art and the Environment" class came up with the idea to construct giant flowers out of discarded road signs. The project, *Signs and Flowers*, resulted in a post-industrial garden made of old road signs, recycled soil, and ground tires used as mulch.

These two projects were part of CEED's Art and Environment Initiative and are directly related to the new project, *Read Between the Signs*. Professor Geffen, working alongside PennDOT employees and Allegheny interns, began the project last summer. The relief they created, 10 feet high and 200 feet long, consists of a repeatable modular form creating a series of rolling mounds that suggest a road complete with two cars, two hills, a section of grass, and 40 feet of water. "The idea here is to allow the undulating mounds to evoke various components of the landscape of the French Creek Watershed—including the Allegheny Mountains and French Creek," says Geffen. The relief is also designed to make reference to PennDOT's contribution to the community with images of roads and workers.

"The original goal was to 'cover up' our cluttered grounds and to 'green the gateway' to Meadville but it has come to do much more than that," says Jack Molke, PennDOT's District Manager. "It has provided for a relationship with many partners that will hopefully continue to improve our area."

All sides benefit through involvement in this project. PennDOT has received more positive public feedback in the past four years during its partnership with Allegheny than any individual project they had done in the years prior. Interns learn the importance of technical skill in the design and creation of works of art and gain experience in community-based public art.

The public will have direct involvement in the process with open discussion forums where they can give their ideas and input. This will lead to a greater sense of community ownership of the fence and a greater respect for art as a part of our lives. "The community has ultimately benefited by gaining an art form to make their drive to Meadville more interesting," says Molke. ♦

For more information on the project or a possible internship, contact Amara Geffen (<ageffen@allegheny.edu> or visit the CEED website (<http://ceed.allegheny.edu/ceed/ceedhome.html>)

Creek Connections Symposium Middle & High School Students presenting



FOREST... *(Cont'd from page 7)*

local private forestland and wood processing facilities. The aim of "Sustainable Development" is to get students to provide citizens with the foundation for proper forest management activities, which will take into consideration the conservation of forests in this region.

"It's been my experience," says Bensel, "that students are more engaged to material if they really believe there is potential for their work to matter to someone else, other than just the professor and for grades." To help his students make a connection between the material they read and community service, Bensel is having the class develop and conduct a comprehensive survey of NWPWA. The purpose of the survey is to assess NWPWA members' knowledge and interest in

cutting edge conservation tactics of private forest management

Student Tommy Flaherty recognizes that working with the NWPWA is going to take a lot of effort, but feels the survey has great promise. He believes it will help community members see there are "ways to gain economically, while conserving the environment." Classmate Lindsey Hayes also feels that coming in contact with NWPWA is a "huge worthwhile experience."

"I am gaining greater insight of the interrelationship between economics and the environment that individuals need to work with." ♦

If you are interested in learning more information about NWPWA, or would like to become a member of this association, visit <http://merlin2.alleg.edu/group/nwpwa/>

WEBSITE... *(Continued from page 1)*

opportunities can be accessed through a single door." Indeed, with a single click, interested students will find a gateway into six areas of civic engagement. These areas are Politics, Environment, Service, Outreach, Education, and Expression. Each area provides links to organizations and projects providing some sort of community involvement and support. These links include the Center for Political Participation (CPP), the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), Community Service and Service-Learning in ACCEL, Community-Based Research, Values, Ethics and Social Action Program (VESA), and Writing and Investigative Journalism. The

website brings all of these groups together into a unified "virtual organization," which is perfect for students searching for ways to be involved in civic engagement activities. For those contemplating taking service-learning courses or becoming political activists, this website will provide the necessary tools to search for and identify a fulfilling project.

Senior Rod Troupe, a political science major, contributed to the development and design of the site. He described the design as "very basic," which allows for easy navigation and exploration. He added that the website was "designed for both prospective and current students to learn how to become more involved in the community." First-year student, Stephanie Kreutter, agreed with Troupe. Upon viewing the site for the first time, she commented that "the setup is really well done be-

cause it's attention grabbing, and easy to interpret and find what you're looking for." To further facilitate searches for Kreutter and other interested students, the site will provide a calendar of events, which will list ongoing and upcoming opportunities for civic engagement. These opportunities will include future community-based research projects, which will stem from the community, but utilize student involvement to carryout the tasks.

The website provides "a virtual umbrella for civic engagement at Allegheny, so all opportunities can be accessed through a single door."

– Judy Lynch

Details of several current undertakings can be found on the site as well. One of the current community-based research ventures is the Tool and Die Study, an in-depth look at the most important industry in the Meadville area (see article on page 16). Major links include Project Pericles and the *Civic Engagement Newsletter*. Allegheny College is a founding member of Project Pericles, which is a multi-college program for enhancing civic engagement (see article on page 3). This edition of the *Civic Engagement Newsletter*, as well as future editions, will be available online as one of the many resources highlighted on the Civic Engagement Website.

The website can be accessed at <http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu>, and will eventually have a link on the Allegheny homepage. The doorway to community involvement is open and waiting for visitors. Every student and faculty member can benefit from visiting the site as we explore this "virtual organization" for civic engagement at Allegheny College. ♦

Getting to Know the Neighborhood:



By Gina Esposito
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Between a construction site and a busy street, a parking lot and a mall, there is a place to find help, support, and comfort. Whether cleaning supplies, clothing, counseling, or new toys are needed, the Center for Family Services (CFS) can provide assistance to those in need.

Located in downtown Meadville on West Center Street, the CFS assists the area's low-income families and offers support programs.

With Crawford County's unemployment rates climbing from 5.7% in 1997 to 7.1% in 2001 and the mean household income at just \$33,560 per year, it is not surprising that there is a need for organizations like the CFS.

The CFS operates a free store out of the building, and they welcome donations of clothing and household items, such as bed sheets and dishes. The CFS also oversees a program that collects and distributes used furniture.

According to Melissa Rubin, Bonner Leader for the CFS, "the most important thing the CFS needs right now is personal care items including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, feminine products, etc."

Melissa is looking towards her peers on campus to help. "We are looking for a group or groups who would be interested in taking on a personal care drive as part of their organization," Rubin explained.

These personal items are what the CFS has the most trouble getting and people desperately need. "Our sorority organized a clothing and toiletry drive to benefit the shelter. It was really easy, and they were so thankful for our support," Allegheny student Colleen Riley reports.

According to administrative secretary for the CFS, Jackie Waring, the CFS is working to strengthen their educational programs. "Many of the teens who come in for anger management classes are court ordered, so we try to make the services readily available and inexpensive," Waring explains.

The CFS also offers a "transparenting" class, which is now required by Crawford County for families with divorcing parents. Classes are priced on a sliding scale so they are affordable to those

CFS... (Continued on page 10)

Habitat for Humanity

Fundraiser



5K run / walk

April 26, 2003

**We are building a house for a Meadville Family,
beginning in August 2003.**

We only need \$5000 more.

For more information:

**e-mail: habitat@allegheny.edu
or call 332-2800**



ASB... *(Continued from page 7)*

- Washington, DC - Students worked with Food & Friends, Inc., a non-profit agency that prepares and delivers food and meals to individuals in the greater DC area. Besides preparing and delivering food, they had some personal contact and visitation with those linked with Food & Friends, Inc.
- Huddleston, VA- Students volunteered at the second largest lake in Virginia and took part in these various activities: maintenance, construction, and nature interpretation.
- Statesville, NC- Allegheny's Habitat for Humanity chapter sponsored this trip to build housing for low-income families. They also examined housing and poverty issues.

As expressed by Dave Roncolato, Director of Community Service, "These are 'alternative' spring break trips because students are asked to live and work as a community, something that is counter-cultural indeed! Students engage in activity, gaining countless experiences and skills. Through ASB, students learn not only about a particular social issue but also

what it means to tackle a problem as a team." This experience is comparable to the service learning components attached to many classes here at Allegheny or Make A Difference Day. But this experience is far more intense.

The Alternative Spring Break works so well because of the enormous contribution of student leadership. "There is no doubt that the single most significant factor in the success of our ASB programs over the years has been the outstanding student leadership," said Roncolato. Student Leaders selected the trips, helped select the teams and then co-lead the week of service. The leadership skills gained from this week help tremendously in service projects at school, home and even in the everyday activities.

Another reason for the success of Alternative Spring Break is attributed to the dominating learning component. Living and working amongst a diverse group of people, students gain an ample amount of cultural awareness and deal with global issues they may not have been exposed to while at Allegheny. On top of all that, you depart from this experience possessing many fond memories, developing solid friendships, and knowing you made a difference in someone else's life.

To summarize the level of satisfaction from participating in Alternative Spring Break, student Rosa Diaz best expressed it, "This experience has been thrilling from my head to my toe." ♦

If this is something you'd like to do next year, contact Dave Roncolato, Office of Community Service, Reis Hall, 332-5318, or droncola@allegheny.edu for any further details.

CFS... *(Continued from page 9)*

who need them.

The CFS's newest programs are a tobacco-free program geared towards the schools in Crawford County, and a parenting support group for parents of young children who feel overwhelmed.

The CFS also employs housing advocates and counselors who aid families in danger of losing their homes, and these counselors work with the families to secure affordable and appropriate housing.

Volunteers at the CFS fulfill a multitude of duties which include answering phones, filing, or working at the food pantry located on Arch Street.

The CFS often needs assistance for one-time projects that require much more time and energy than the basic staff of the CFS can provide. These include events like the boot drive, where donated boots are individually sized to the client and distributed. ♦

The CFS is open weekdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Interested volunteers can contact Bonner leader Melissa Rubin at rubinm@allegheny.edu, or the CFS at 814-337-8450.

Football Camp for Youth

Date: Saturday, April 26th

Location: Wise Center

Time: 9 AM- 12 PM .

The camp is free of charge and is open to all children in grades two through six. Lunch, a T-shirt, and prizes are included. To sign-up your child contact Lori Thompson at (814) 332-3350.



Participate— Be a Candidate Workshop

By Michael Stamcoff
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Politician.

Perhaps no other word incites as many diverse and powerful emotions. Greater numbers of people are apathetic to politics and many offices are vacant. With this dilemma in mind, the Allegheny College Center for Political Participation (CPP) hosted the *Participate - Be a Candidate* workshop on February 4.

The panel encouraged local citizens to run for political office. "Voters deserve a choice!" exclaimed Political Science professor Daniel M. Shea in explaining the high incumbent reelection rates because of a lack of opposition. Numerous vacancies currently exist in several low level offices simply because there are few civic-minded citizens in the community.

Former 20-year Erie County Executive and accomplished politician Judy Lynch added, "Anybody gains in running for office, even if you don't win. It teaches you a lot about the democratic process."

"People are interested, but unaware of how to begin the process. They are intimidated and we aimed to help overcome barriers with the relaxed forum," said Shea, author of *Campaign Craft: The Strategies, Tactics, and Art of Political Campaign Management*.

The panel held before a crowd of about fifty citizens and students included not only guest speakers, but also vibrant interaction among the attendees along with a thirty-minute question/answer segment.

Marsha Furno of Crawford County Voter Services provided the details pertaining to deadlines, rules and regulations.

Jane Smith, political correspondent from the *Meadville Tribune* assured potential candidates that the press tries to "present as much to the public as possible" and provide fair coverage for all candidates.



Participate - Be a Candidate panelists (from L to R): Marsha Furno, Clerk of Elections (Crawford County); Professor Judy Lynch; Jane Smith, political reporter, *Meadville Tribune*; Professor Dan Shea; Jane Anderson, League of Women Voters; and David Kennedy, student government advisor, Social Studies Dept., MASH. The forum took place in Henderson Auditorium Feb. 4 and was sponsored by the CPP.

Student Government Advisor David Kennedy spoke of "nurturing and making public service attractive to youth" through his program at Meadville High School and detailing the growing trend of disengagement among young people.

The need for the John and Jane Does of the community to be involved was the issue of the day.

"It's important for the system because diversity of candidates leads to a fuller exchange of ideas," said Shea. Lynch provided an extensive candidate checklist for getting started and organizing campaigns, and she

spoke of the need for passion in a candidate. "A particular mission - driven by self-serving intentions" often creates the best candidates and used former Governor Tom Ridge as an example.

She also reiterated that the process is very difficult and candidates must know what voters are looking for. Lynch later summarized that "civic engagement is a very broad area. So many things can be involved...There is no community - no glue without civic engagement."

The event was another in a long line of CPP projects designed to merge "what we're doing at the Center with the broader community," added Shea. The CPP is one of the many civic engagement projects at Allegheny designed to "bring students and the community together in a common experience of citizenship, democracy and growth."

Sponsored by the Meadville-Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, other guest speakers included Jane Anderson from the League of Women Voters, Christine Norwood of Allegheny College and George Wright of SCORE. ♦

Allegheny College's Center for Political Participation is dedicated to fostering an appreciation for the vital link between engaged, active citizenry and a healthy democracy. The non-partisan Center has a broad range of activities which include student-centered programs, distinctive community outreach projects and scholarly activities. Students may contact the CPP via our web site at <cpp.allegheny.edu> or by calling Christine Norwood, Program Coordinator, at 332-6201.



MARKET ALLEY... (Continued from page 3)

that will be a central part of the Urban Pedestrian Walkway, and nearly \$350,000 has been allotted from a federal grant to do so. The Project will link recreation with business downtown by re-facing the building facades that face the alley and placing a footbridge over a "daylighted" portion of Mill Run, a stream that has its headwaters in Tamarack Lake, runs behind the high school, comes into town near North Street, runs under much of downtown, through Market Alley, under the French Creek Parkway, and into French Creek.

The Project, a joint effort between Allegheny College and the City of Meadville, is moving forward this semester with students Michelle Logut and Mike Soltis, who are doing an independent study under Professor of Environmental Science Eric Pallant. Shortly after this story went to press they were to present their plans to the Meadville City Council and then to PennDOT a few days later. City manager Joe Christ and councilman Brian Hill are the city's leaders on the project. According to Hill, the project is moving ahead with the City government fully behind it.

The Project started well over a year ago, when Amara Geffen, Professor of Art, and Rich Bowden, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, took the City's idea to create an urban pedestrian greenway and put it into motion in their Liberal Studies 301 class, the culminating course in the Arts and Environment minor. The course set up a plan and model for the Market Alley Project, and last semester, Prof. Pallant kept the project rolling in his Environmental Studies class, "Junior Seminar in Sustainable Development - Market Alley."

The class examined a number of the Project's important issues, including renovating the backs of businesses, the environmental impacts of opening up Mill Run, plans for waste reduction and removal, and plans for installing a number of plaques along the walkway which would give both historic and ecological information about the site. The full class reports can be found at <http://merlin2.alleg.edu/dept/envisci/epallant/FinalReports.html>.

Some of Pallant's students walked through Mill Run under downtown, found the stream in great condition, and discovered at least eight species of fish, as well as crayfish, frogs, insects and spiders. While some of these animals require darkness and cool water, "daylighting" a small portion of the stream would not adversely affect them.

While the Project is environmentally safe to stream wildlife, sixteen large trash bins and two large dumpsters must be removed from the alley to make it a safe, attractive place. The Project seeks to alleviate this problem by enforcing the city's recycling laws, ensuring that trash is picked up at least three times a week, and installing a trash screen that would centralize and minimize storage space. This requires the cooperation of the businesses along the alley, whose back facades would need to be refaced. This would not only help beautify the alley but would also improve the visibility and sales of these businesses.

The Market Alley Project is well on its way to becoming a

RAISE YOUR VOICE... (Continued from page 5)

of people and 15% of children in Pennsylvania live in poverty, compared to 11.3 % and 16.2 % nationwide, respectively. The Hunger and Homeless, directed by Becky Ritterhouse, raises awareness of poverty on campus each semester.

Focus on Iraq: What are the driving forces that lead the Bush administration toward Iraq? A tape of the documentary "The War Behind Closed Doors," from the "Frontline" program that aired on PBS was shown to 30 students. A member from the Meadville community came and challenged the students with five questions. Students were actively engaged in the discussion of the affect of the war on their lives. About three weeks ago, an organization called "Allegheny College Peace Coalition (ACPC)" was born; ACPC is designed for individuals who are against the Iraq war.

Peace Vigil: On Feb. 23 approximately 40 students and community members assembled at Diamond Park. Despite the biting cold, all who were there expressed their hope for peace. Various speakers stated praying for peace was something everyone could do.

Most Allegheny students are busy with overburdened schedules and have no time for another commitment. However, *Raise Your Voice Week* was an opportunity to explore and speak our concerns and skepticisms. ♦

Miles for Minds Fundraising Walk

Help raise funds to create a Service-Learning scholarship by

sponsoring one of the team's walkers. If you'd like to make a donation, contact Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak at <eeozorak@allegheny.edu>.



reality, to create an aesthetically pleasing green space in downtown Meadville that will connect business and recreation. Professor Pallant is currently teaching another Junior Seminar that will use the example of the Market Alley Project and assess the feasibility of daylighting other parts of Mill Run. "How many places can there be a park?" Pallant wonders. Thanks to his efforts and the efforts of many others there will be at least one in Market Alley. ♦

Setting the Standard

By Kristen Gall
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

In 1998 Allegheny College became the first institution to offer the AmeriCorps Bonner Leaders program to college students. Bonner Leaders commit to performing three consecutive 300-hour terms of service at one agency. Allegheny "Bonners" can be found working with the elderly at Wesbury United Methodist Community, with at-risk youth at Bethesda Children's Home, and with the mentally ill at CHAPS. Others are kept busy at Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center caring for animals. Bonners can be found in more than fifteen agencies in Crawford County!



Bonner Leader Abby Klinshaw and Peer Project Leader Jess Buck lead a group of first year students to Bethesda to do some service.

As compensation, dedicated 2-year Bonner Leaders receive work-study during the school year(s), an Allegheny and agency stipend for summer service, and a substantial education award at the completion of 900 hours.

Brooke Martin, the Assistant Director of Community Service, proudly emphasizes that "Allegheny was used as a test case" for the new program in 1998. Now over 40 campuses have adapted this program to fit their campuses and communities. Allegheny caught the attention of the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation partly due to the strength of the Allegheny-initiated Peer Project Leader program. Peer Project Leaders (PPLs) are students that operate as liaisons between the college and community service sites. As student leaders, PPLs act as advocates for their agency, recruit and train other Allegheny students, and work alongside with volunteers at the site.

While other institutions that adopted the Bonner Leaders program frequently send their students elsewhere during the summer months, Allegheny Bonners remain in the county to meet needs in the local community. The agencies are especially grateful to have

Allegheny students in the summer. From May to August there remains a real need for service in the community. Martin claims "summers are the best learning experience for students" because they are "entrenched in what's going on" at their sites. Allegheny offers 300-hour summer-only Bonner Leader positions as an option for students who cannot make the two-year commitment. After spending a summer on campus, Martin claims the individual student's "perceptions about Meadville change." She believes that "all the way around, Bonners become greater advocates for the community."

Junior Karen Hoerst, the Bonner for Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council, spends at least 10 hours a week prepping projects for her troop, planning field trips, and meeting with her twelve girls at Gill Village. In addition, Hoerst is Allegheny's Bonner Congress Representative. As the liaison between Allegheny and the Bonner Foundation, she attends two national conventions a year where she meets like-minded service leaders from across the nation, helps shape Bonner policy, and learns about what other schools are doing with the program.

As the best testimony to Martin's claim about Bonners being great advocates for Meadville, Hoerst was busy cutting out paper letters for a *Raise Your Voice Week* event while being interviewed. She was creating a trivia game with questions about the country and the Meadville community for the "Impact of Poverty" program. Passionate and dedicated, Bonners tend to hold many leadership roles on and off campus. Frequently, the work that students perform as Bonners relates directly to their studies and/or career interests. Hoerst, not surprisingly, has self-designed a Values, Ethics, and Social Action major that requires a significant service leader position.

Just as beneficial to the community is the Peer Project Leader program. Melissa Burlingame, the Office of Community Service Program Coordinator, describes PPLs as students who wish to take "an extra step" more than a regular volunteer to make the experience more meaningful. PPLs "lead by example" as they recruit their friends, halls, and organizations to volunteer at their sites. This is a great option for students like Jess Buck, a Resident Advisor, who could not commit to the time requirements of a Bonner. Other students work in pairs like PPLs Josh Maxwell and Tom Donovan at Neason Hill Tutoring Program.

Burlingame finds the Peer Project Leaders "really inspiring" because they devote from two to five hours a week to sites such as Adult Basic Education and the Humane Society strictly as volunteers with no compensation. Whether a Bonner, PPL, or volunteer, Allegheny students are, as the AmeriCorps motto states, "getting things done!" ♦

Find out more about either program by contacting the Office of Community Service at 332-5318, Brooke Martin (<bmartin@allegheny.edu>), or Melissa Burlingame (<mburling@allegheny.edu>).

While you're surfing the net...

Check out

[Http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu](http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu)

PERICLES... *(Continued from page 3)*

tion, added, "We will be looking to see the extent to which participation furthers our goals in civic engagement."

Over the past five years, Allegheny's participation in civic engagement has expanded significantly. The Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), for example, earned three Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence and the Three Rivers Environmental Award for Higher Education. The project, headed by Eric Pallant, Professor of Environmental Science, served as a model for the CPP, which works to encourage political participation among young Americans.

These steps have worked collectively with the development of the Coordinating Council for Civic Engagement, a gateway for furthering civic engagement at Allegheny. The College hired Dr. Judy Lynch, chief executive of Erie County for the past 20 years, as the Director of Civic Engagement and Outreach programs, and she founded the council in addition to establishing national connections promoting Project Pericles.

"Project Pericles is about stimulating civic engagement," Lynch said. "If (civic engagement) is not enhanced, future generations will not have the civic commitment necessary for sustaining democracy."

Many challenges face Allegheny and other Pericleans. According to Michaels financial constraints and uncertainty in the nation's economic and political landscape are the largest concern. "The foundation's track record has branded us as a school particularly attracted to community service," Michaels said.

However, the mark of the Lang Foundation still does not clearly distinguish Project Pericles from other

IDEALIST... *(Continued from page 5)*

long activist/volunteer described their personal experiences in nonprofit jobs and answered questions from the guests. Students learned not only about the "real world" but life in nonprofit work as well.

Heather Bossert, '93, currently works at City High in Pittsburgh, a charter school "that changes the traditional learning environment for students and teachers." Students of City High are taught "academically, technically, personally and socially" to face life after graduation. Bossert also has shown dedication to nonprofits in many other locations throughout the world.

Nicky Mason, '00, has recently ended a two-year commitment to the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa, where she worked with food protection and preservation. She currently works at Creek Connections on campus.

Idealist.org is a search engine for nonprofit job opportunities (over 33,000 organizations are in the database). It also lists volunteer opportunities, a Nonprofit Career Center, and information regarding career fairs.

Jennifer Smith, '97, helps low-income students through the Teach for America program in Baton Rouge. This program places teachers in most-needed areas throughout the United States. Smith teaches first grade students.

Michael Stoops is one of the founders of the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) and a lifetime activist and nonprofit worker. NCH advocates for basic human rights for the homeless from Washington,

DC by believing in "the principles that affordable housing, civil rights, access to health care, and living wages are fundamental rights in a civilized society."

Associate Director of Career Services, Jim Fitch, explained his goals for the workshop as helping the students understand what nonprofit actually means, presenting information on the nonprofit world, and having the students interact with the panel. He was very happy with the success of the workshop.

Fitch claimed the workshop to be "the most rewarding single event since I have been [at Allegheny College]."

He also hopes to hold the workshop annually with Idealist.org and recommends students attend. There are "things we are passionate about especially when we are young and it's easy to lose sight of those passions," states Fitch. Attending this workshop can help students discover what their passions are and find a satisfying resolution in the nonprofit world.

Students undoubtedly left the workshop with a new outlook on their own lives and more clarity in their direction in the nonprofit world. One student thought the event was "helpful" and enjoyed "being able to meet other like-minded students and people already in the job market."

Another student found "the workshop to be an incredible, educational experience that has helped immensely." ♦

To learn more information about the panelists' careers, visit www.cityhigh.org, www.peacecorps.org, www.teachforamerica.org, or www.nationalhomeless.org.

competitive groups such as Campus Contact, of which Allegheny is a founding member.

"It is not clear to me what makes Pericles distinctive yet," Michaels said. "What is the value added? What are we going to do together? These are questions we will have to answer in April." ♦

Writing About the Environment

By Kate O'Donnell
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

College students concerned with the birds and the bees - and the rest of the environment of Meadville - actively participate through their "Writing About the Environment" class. Taught by Professor Kerry Bakken, this course gives Allegheny students a chance to really connect with Meadville's natural surroundings. What is unique about this class is it encourages students to turn off the computer and

put down the remote, go outside and experience the natural beauty of Meadville. As in other English classes students are required to focus a certain amount on course readings, but there is another component to this class that really is like 'a breath of fresh air.' Along with the reading and discussion, students must also participate in one of four Service Learning Projects: Creek Connections, French Creek Journal, Meadville Trees Project, or the Crawford County/NW Pennsylvania Eco-tourism

Website.

In the Creek Connections project, students work to develop a nature-writing course designed for elementary students. They will go into a middle school in Conneaut Lake in April of 2003 and teach kids about the environment. In this way, Allegheny students pass on the devotion to nature to eager young minds.

The French Creek Journal, while bearing a similar name to Creek Connections, is a very different project. Students will work to publish undergraduate art and writing relating to the environment. In addition to college writing, the journal will also publish children's writing, giving kids a chance to see their work in print. This project is particularly interesting because it showcases a different approach to environmental concerns and allows budding artists to share their work.

The Meadville Trees Project may appeal to history lovers in the class. Students will survey historical trees on campus and in the city of Meadville and determine their environmental benefits such as air, climate and improvement of quality of life. After researching the trees, students will be asked to write brochures about their research as well as articles possibly to be published in *The Meadville Tribune*.

The final project is to work with the Crawford County/NW Pennsylvania Eco-tourism Website. Students will leave their dorm room and actually go on

eco-tours, which can be driven, hiked or biked. Although this assignment may seem like a nature-lover's vacation, students are required to address an environmental issue such as concerns about the French Creek watershed. Their work will be published on the website.

"Writing About The Environment" is a fantastic opportunity for "students to find meaning on campus," says Professor Bakken, which will foster "a commitment to the local environment." She hopes that the projects will help students feel not just like four-year visitors of Meadville, but like residents of the city.

In addition to working on their service-learning project, students are also required to choose a location on campus and keep a journal of their reflections. They should go at least twice a week but are encouraged to visit as often as they like. Journal entries must be at least 250 words long and students may bring colored pencils with them and sketch pictures.

The journal is one of sophomore Kaitlin McCormick's favorite parts of the class. To her they are "a great opportunity to get outside, experience things and bring it back into the classroom." Indeed, this class is not an ordinary English course because it brings in a diverse group of students including English and Environmental Science majors. All of the students are concerned with studying and preserving the beauty of Meadville. ♦

TOOL AND DIE... *(Continued from page 16)*

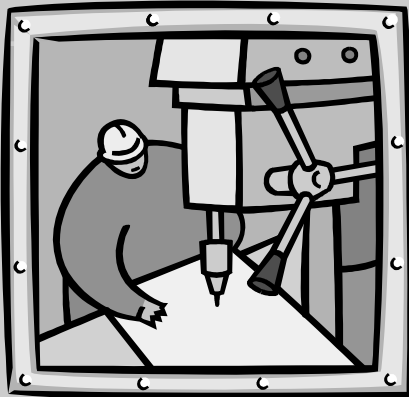
more cost efficient. Cost can be reduced by the use of new technologies."

Shops must also become aware of "modern techniques of management," because most "don't know how to manage their companies." He says the research found most of the managers are high school graduates with no training in management, and they are not aware

of the economy. The industry is very dependent on the dynamics of the global economy because "if people are buying fewer cars, then the car companies will make fewer spare parts."

He also believes that the government should assist failing shops by cutting taxes, offering management classes, and reforming the health care program to make it easier on companies to provide health insurance to their workers. He says that the government should take a more active role in its domestic industries.

The tool and die industry will survive, Onyeiwu says, "but it will not be the same as we knew it five to ten years ago. It will be weaker." Most of the larger manufacturing companies will not be using domestic shops. "The trend is for manufacturers to go abroad to take advantage of cheap labor." ♦



Examining Meadville's Tool and Die Industry

By Jeremy Johnson
English 208: Technical/
Professional Writing

Meadville's biggest industry is dying. The tool and die industry, that is.

Tool and die companies make tools and molds used by automotive, electronics, and medical equipment manufacturers.

In Crawford and Erie counties, there are about five thousand people employed at more than 400 tool and die shops. However, since January 2001, there has been a 20% loss of jobs and 40% of the shops are projected to close. The tool and die industry does not seem to have a bright future.

Profs. Stephen Onyeiwu and Judith Lynch are attempting to make a change. Onyeiwu has been studying the practices of local shops and those of shops that seem to be growing to discover the reasons why the local industry is drying up. He began the project because his "research interests focus on small business enterprises," and also because he "knew that Allegheny College is committed to helping the community grow, which encouraged me."

Meadville's position in the industry came as a direct result of the invention of the zipper, but exact stories differ depending on whom you ask. Onyeiwu says the story that receives the most support states that the tool and die grew out of the Talon apprenticeship program. In the 1930s,

Talon focused on making zippers, a product which was invented here in Meadville. It trained apprentices to make zippers and also the tools for making them. Most of Talon's staff consisted of high school graduates who wished to receive training. Following World War II there was an increase in demand for spare parts, tools, and molds. Talon began to meet the demand. In the 1950s and 1960s, people trained by Talon began to establish their own businesses out of their garages, hoping to get in on the ever-growing market.

Right now the industry's domestic shops are being threatened by foreign competition. These foreign companies are being utilized more because they offer lower labor costs, faster return times, and they position the OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturer, which are companies that have parts shipped in from the individual tool and die shops and assemble these parts to produce cars, etc.) to enter newer, expanding markets. One company, the Ford Motor Co., announced within two years time they will be purchasing \$10 billion in parts from China to try to re-



The Multi-Tool Inc. Building, one of several local tool and die companies.

duce its \$90 billion yearly purchasing costs. China produces spare parts and molds at 30% of the cost than local shops.

Changing technology also hurts the industry, as most of the small shops here find it difficult to keep up with ever-evolving technologies. The increasing use of computers in the work-

place allows the foreign companies to charge less because as more machines are used less people are needed to work. Most domestic companies still utilize more labor-intensive systems of production, which raises costs. The U.S. industry is also hurt by the technology due to higher purchase costs – rapid changes are leaving many shops behind because they cannot afford to keep up. New technologies have also made the industry more transportable, meaning location is not always a strong advantage.

Also, less skill is necessary to work in the industry now, and with this new ease comes more opportunities for very cheap labor. The foreign market therefore becomes very desirable to OEMs looking for a larger profit.

The domestic industry has advantages that the foreign market does not, such as being small and therefore flexible to the needs of the individual OEMs, containing a highly skilled workforce, maintaining a reputation of high quality, and having a location closer to the companies that allows for an easier way to check progress.

Onyeiwu says there is still much that can be done to help the failing market. "[The shops] need to understand why [they are losing business]." He says they must "find ways of reducing costs and becoming

TOOL AND DIE... (Continued on page 15)

Centers for Civic Engagement
<http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu>