Coalition to Enable Low-Income Home Ownership

By Eileen Gallagher
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

An innovative new program is making home-ownership a reality for some low-income households in Meadville. Currently in its initial phase, the program holds great promise for creating homeownership possibilities for those who thought they might never have the financial resources to do so.

Home Ownership plays an important role in creating social and financial stability in the community by encouraging a sense of both permanence and responsibility on the part of the citizen.

The Meadville Housing Authority, the French Creek Valley Community Improvement Center (FCVCIC) and Allegheny College’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity are collaborating to complete work on the first home being sold through this initiative.

The idea began in August 2005 with Bill Thomas of the Meadville Housing Authority, who wanted to give participants from the local Section 8 housing program the opportunity to obtain a loan and buy a home. The Section 8 program provides housing assistance for low-income households and is open to citizens of Crawford County whose income is less than roughly $16,500 per year. The program permits local low-income families to rent from private landlords.

Thomas had initially planned on choosing a candidate for the home ownership program from

(See HOUSING, page 6)

Allegheny Receives Service-Learning Grants

By Brendan Nelson
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

A college education does not always consist of sitting in a class, listening to lectures, and taking notes. Instead, students can learn by doing.

At least that is what Linda Dickerson and her organization, (501 (c) (3))² feel. This Pittsburgh-based company has donated $50,000 to be used for service-learning programs at colleges and universities in the Pittsburgh area. Initially, this donation was intended to only go to schools in the Pittsburgh area. Fortunately, the organization gave Allegheny special consideration, and included the school in this donation, awarding Allegheny with

(See GRANTS, page 10)
Technical/Professional Writing students scoured the campus asking questions, penned articles, and thoroughly revised their work in order to produce this Civic Engagement Newsletter.

Professor Ann Bomberger's class explored the challenges associated with writing for a publication by creating one. Students encouraged one another to reorganize, fine-tune, and double-check their articles. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work.

Some students opted to write promotional material for other organizations on campus and those in the broader community. As a result, the Crawford County READ program, The Sign Language Club, and the Environmental Club all have new brochures; the newsletter Peace Psychology contains two additional feature stories; and a newspaper column decries the use of torture.  

Allegheny College is a member of Project Pericles, a national organization of colleges and universities committed to make socially responsible and participatory citizenship an essential part of our educational program – in the classroom, on the campus and in the community.

http://www.projectpericles.org
Civic Engagement Fellows: A New Job Opportunity for Students

By Sarah Anthony
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Many Allegheny students hold jobs, but a new position offers a selected group the opportunity to perform more than the mundane tasks of copying papers and sorting mail. Sarah Grudevich ’06, Ashlee Hoffman ’08, Katie Reed ’08, Katie Southwick ’09, Norma Yocco ’08, and Amy Warnick ’06 are Allegheny’s new Civic Engagement Fellows.

“The Civic Engagement Fellows are charged with promoting and helping to organize the many important collaborations between the college and the community,” said assistant professor of English Ann Bomberger.

“Given the hectic schedules of most people involved with service-learning,” noted Bomberger, “It is necessary to employ people to help sustain long-term projects.”

Each student oversees a particular civic engagement initiative and meets regularly with her faculty supervisor to discuss progress.

This prestigious position is not available to all Allegheny students. Professor Ozorak, who

Marcia Metcalfe Joins the Center for Political Participation

By Liz Earley
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Allegheny College’s Center for Political Participation is pleased to announce Marcia Metcalfe as the new Education Coordinator of the Model Campaign USA program. Now three years old, Model Campaign USA is a program founded by Allegheny College where students absorb vital information, methods, and strategies of the political campaign process. The ultimate goal of the program is to extend this information locally in order to increase community involvement.

Previously Model Campaign USA (MCUSA) was run by Student Fellows, who were in charge of running and coordinating the entire program with help from Dan Shea, director of the CPP. Model Campaign USA is looking for a new approach this year, hoping to produce a more formalized and structured program. “One of my objectives is to supplement the program materials with more teaching tools so that the program coordinators feel better equipped to teach the high school students the campaign management material,” states Metcalfe.

Sam Breene ’06, a political science major, has walked step-by-step with the young program, watching it continually grow over the last three years. “Before with MCUSA, we were just playing it by ear, with the help of Dan Shea,” reflects Breene, “Marcia is helping us to build on the success we’ve had before and take it to the next level.”

With Metcalfe’s vast knowledge and expertise, the Student Fellows are looking to expand MCUSA beyond Allegheny. Breene notes that Metcalfe has all the necessary experience needed to build teamwork and communication skills.

Metcalfe’s credentials really showcase her capabilities, as her past experiences are just what the Model Campaign USA team needs to succeed. After completing her masters degree from the University of Michigan from the School of Public Health, Metcalfe initiated her professional career in health care management, and has worked with non-profit health care organizations for over 20 years. One of her most esteemed accomplishments includes a successful merger of a medium sized nonprofit health care delivery and financing organization in 2003.

Since then Metcalfe has been very involved as a political activist, working as a court appointed special advocate (CASA) with children who have been adjudicated as dependents, volunteering for the Meadville Area Free Clinic, and has been an active board member of Women’s Services. Along with her already well-established career, Metcalfe has done some adjunct faculty teaching here at Allegheny College in the Economics Department leading a

(See METCALFE page 4)
Getting Engaged with Raise Your Voice

By Edwina Flores
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Abortion. Gay Rights. Political Reform. These are issues that matter to you. Through the Raise Your Voice campaign (RYV) here at Allegheny College, you are given the opportunity to speak out and act on these issues, creating a more vibrant democracy.

This is what student organizer Tam Pham did. As a Pre-Health student concerned about health care, Pham joined RYV in hopes of raising awareness about the poor quality of health insurance in the United States. “People often don’t like to talk about this issue because it is such a sensitive topic. [But] we can’t just ignore it. There has to be someone willing to address it. That’s where I come in,” said Pham. “The least I can do is raise awareness.”

Pham, not knowing how or where to start, joined the campaign. With the help of RYV, a health insurance panel is now in the works, featuring speakers set to address the sensitive issue.

RYV first came to Allegheny in the spring of 2003 when President Richard Cook suggested Allegheny start a chapter. Since then, Dave Roncolato, Director of community service and service-learning has been involved as advisor for the campaign.

Roncolato is pleased to have worked with the student organizers on the campaign over the years. “Their dedication to raising voices of concern has been inspiring and challenging,” said Roncolato. “This year’s student leaders are no exception.” This year’s RYV organizers include Amy Warnick ’06, Norma Yocco ’08, Edwina Flores ’08, and Tam Pham ’08. They aim to get Allegheny students involved who do not participate civically.

The national RYV campaign was the result of a student summit held by Campus Compact, a non-profit organiza-
Integrative Educational Programs Brings Local Students to Allegheny

By Sam Breene
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

They wander through campus in gaggles, too young to be touring prospectives, too old to be a band of renegade preschoolers defecting from the co-operative in Oddfellows. You might do a double take seeing them in a Quigley classroom or dancing in Montgomery. Yet, our college has not admitted a flood of child prodigies.

These young scholars are part of Allegheny’s Middle School Arts and Critical Thinking Immersion or Gifted and Talented High School Student programs. Allegheny cooperates with Conneaut, Crawford Central and Penncrest school districts to let gifted and talented students take classes in different disciplines offered at the College.

On twelve Fridays throughout the school year, participating students come to the campus for classes taught by Allegheny professors. The students’ fees are covered by their school district. Each year this integrative educational program has grown to include more local students, academic departments and Allegheny student interns.

Middle school students in the Arts Immersion program may choose majors and minors in subjects including Creative Writing, Dance, Music and Theater. Associate Professor of English Kirk Nesset guides middle school students in creative writing. “[The classes] are versions of the creative writing classes I teach here [to Allegheny students].” Professor Nesset’s class does the same activities with the students that are a part of his college level writing workshops. The activities build poetry, story development and dialogue skills. Recently, the writing class of about 25 students has considered collaborating with a theater class to develop original plays.

While he does not give the students homework, Nesset denies taming the classes and envies the spontaneity and creative energy the young poets possess. “[The students] are more in touch with their creative impulses than your typical college student,” says Nesset.

Nesset says, “These kids have a passion for writing, they

(See IMMERSION PROGRAM page 11)
Internship Opportunities

Campaign Corps
Campaign Corps is a grassroots program open to college graduates. Each year, new college graduates are given extensive training and placed into Democratic campaigns. Interns are provided with free housing, travel expenses and a stipend. After the program, campaign corps will help launch your career in progressive politics. For more information and an application go to http://www.campaigncorps.org

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Interns have the opportunity to gain experience and earn college credit working with the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Interns work with the Office of Energy and Technology Development, which focuses to benefit the environment through community regulation and not enforcement. This internship involved research, analysis and policy development/implementation. For more information visit http://webpub.alleg.edu/group/esdept/listings.htm or contact Professor Bensel

Land and Water Conservation
Internships are available with the Crawford County Conservation District (CCCD) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Each organization works to protect soil and water resources in the Crawford County Area. Interns will participate in conservation education, flood prevention, watershed control and other tasks. For more information, visit http://webpub.alleg.edu/group/esdept/listings.htm or contact Professor Pallant

HOUSING

When contacted by Thomas, Ferrett eagerly agreed to help and promptly organized volunteers to start work on the repairs, which began in mid-February. She called on members of Allegheny College’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity to start several renovations to the home, including clearing brush and weeds from the property, replacing deteriorating siding and installing new windows and insulation. The repairs should be completed this spring.

Jeff Bradley, a longtime member of Habitat, feels that it is important for Allegheny students to contribute in this way to the community because “a lot of the projects are for people who really need the work done and have no way of paying for repairs.” Bradley says, “It helps people to feel less dependent when they own their home.”

Thomas was very happy with the volunteers’ work and credits them with a job well done.

Though only currently working with one participant, this program has the potential to create many new homeowners in the Meadville community. Both Thomas and Ferrett would not only like to see this program continue, but would like to see it expand in future years. Ferrett feels that “a lot of families would like to have the opportunity to participate in something like this” and confirms the need for it stating that 12.8%, or 11,505 people out of the 89,890 in Crawford County are below the poverty line.

Though some of these low-income families will be disqualified from the program by poor credit, many others stand to benefit tremendously from the responsibilities of homeownership, while positively contributing to the community. Giving low-income citizens the power to own a home and teaching them how to do it responsibly is one step toward reducing the oppression of poverty.
The Main Street Station: A Fun Time for All

By Rose Leous  
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

On Tuesday, February 24th, I joined a squirrel club. I, a twenty-one-year old college student, became part of an organization to promote squirrels everywhere. There are six current members, ranging from ages 10 to 21. At the Main Street Station, Allegheny students and Cambridge Springs Elementary School children are brought together and anything is possible.

Main Street station is an after school program for fourth through seventh grade students held Monday through Thursday. The program not only gives kids a safe, healthy environment; it also gives Allegheny students an exciting experience in education and service.

Main Street Station attempts to select students in need of extra help and attention, in academics or social skills.

It is part of the Children and Youth Project of Northwestern PA, of which Allegheny College is a partner. Hermitage House Youth Services is the agency sponsoring the program. The program began as a pilot program in spring of 2005 and included only fifth and sixth graders. During the fall of 2005, the program expanded to include four grades.

Sixth and seventh graders attend the Station on Monday and Wednesday, the younger grades on Tuesday and Thursday. A total of thirty-five kids are enrolled.

Parents pay nothing for the program and kids get a snack, help with homework, an organized educational and fun activity, and free social time. Main Street Station focuses on improving the interpersonal and study skills of elementary school students during an important time in their development.

Libby Massung, the program’s director, explains, “kids are starting to get tough homework” at these ages. It is important to help children establish a strong work ethic and motivation skills.

The program is held in a large, bright space that is well equipped for children. The room has ping-pong, foosball, plenty of tables and desks for homework, a kitchen area, music and many other resources.

Good structure makes the Main Street Station effective.

(See MAIN STREET page 15)
Buried Alive: Unc

By Emily Pfeufer
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Downtown Meadville blankets a buried treasure: a vibrant stream called Mill Run. In a joint capstone project, Allegheny faculty, students, and the Center for Economic and Environmental Development are charting the map to this treasure. Professor of Environmental Science Eric Pallant and Art professor Amara Geffen challenge Alleghenians taking the Interdisciplinary course “Envisioning Environmental Futures” to find solutions for current environmental and aesthetic problems in Meadville.

Although the project is formally known as Meadville, PA: Not Your Run of the Mill Community, Geffen emphasized that the initiative is greater than just a buried stream: “Mill Run is just a small part of what our program is trying to do.” An initial grant application written by Geffen illustrates the scope of the project, emphasizing the community, economic, environmental, and physical benefits. The grant outlines plans for “community and green business development, creation of stronger neighborhoods, and strategies to counter urban decentralization.” The participation of students in these endeavors provides an excellent learning experience. Chris Dersi, a student in “Envisioning Environmental Futures,” says, “Not only can the community benefit from what we, the college, can offer them, but also in the process we as students can learn about community dynamics and what goes into a successful community project.”

The Mill Run project has been slow to begin, thanks to the winter season, but Geffen mentioned that a portion of Mill Run has already been refurbished near the Meadville Medical Center. This summer the stream will undergo a daylighting project near Market Alley. Daylighting is uncovering previously underground areas of the stream.

In addition to the daylighting projects, there will be several “highlighting” projects conducted jointly with PennDOT. Some roadways would not allow for daylighting the stream, yet Geffen and other CEED members felt the need to raise awareness about Mill Run. On these

Meadville, Someplace Sustainable?

After several years of promoting environmental revitalization in northwestern Pennsylvania, CEED is promoting an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable Meadville.

Using Meadville’s Mill Run, a small stream that runs through, and largely under the city, as a geographic thread, CEED is contributing to several sustainability projects and partnerships.

City of Meadville

Local Foods Promoted at Market

At the Market House, CEED’s Local Foods Network is collaborating with the Meadville Area Local Growers (http://malg.allegheny.edu) and the French Creek Project (http://frenchcreek.allegheny.edu) to promote local foods and increase the number of MALG members. The number of MALG producers grew from zero to more than thirty during the first full growing year. MALG goods can be purchased every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm May through October.

CEED and its many partners strive to make Meadville an economically, ecologically, and socially sustainable community.
covering Mill Run

corridor, which PennDOT had previous plans to expand. In this expansion, CEED is advising environmentally friendly options, addressing “lighting issues, façade improvements, and two Mill Run highlighting areas.” These improvements are slated to occur under PennDOT’s Transportation Enhancement grants.

On the community front, CEED has tentative plans to create a community-based green renovation company that would aid Meadville residents in refurbishing their homes. The organization plans to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) program to start up this company.

In addition to the renovation company, there are other economic endeavors hoped for in Meadville. Tentatively named Rags to Riches, the Solid Waste Authority is working with Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak to possibly create a textile recycling center where scraps can be made into alternative products like quilts, handbags, or other handmade products. More tentative plans include “an urban art program, ecotours of French Creek, and an organic food market.”

Job creation is just one more way the Mill Run Initiative will provide a breath of fresh air to Meadville.

The community feeling spreads far and wide within the project. While CEED spearheads it, there are a multitude of partners in the Mill Run effort. Along with the above-mentioned organizations, the City of Meadville, Meadville Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Children and Family Services, and many other community groups are creating and more importantly enactig the project’s ideas.

Meadville, PA Not Your Run of the Mill Community will address the past, present, and future of the town.

The heart of the program aims at strengthening the community, which is integral to the success of any hometown. The initiative is best summed up by Dersi’s statement, “Mill Run is one of many threads that can connect the community in efforts for a brighter future.”
Instead of going abroad for an EL Term, students have the
opportunity to complete a term in Meadville and get college
credit.

Students will participate in skilled and unskilled construc-
tion and repair around the Meadville community.

The cost is $25.00 for 3 weeks and college housing is pro-
vided. This EL Term is sponsored by ACCEL, Habitat for Human-
ity and the French Creek Valley Community Improvement Cen-
ter.

For more information, Contact Dave Roncolato
< Droncola@allegheny.edu>

$2,000 to benefit service-learning.

Dave Roncolato, director of community service and
service-learning at Allegheny has worked with Dickerson
before on other community service projects. Therefore,
she was not hesitant to include Allegheny in this large do-
nation. “It’s exciting to be part of a larger program that
involves schools throughout western Pennsylvania,” said
Roncolato.

Dickerson’s organization may have an odd name, but
it has provided a lot of assistance to non-profit groups in
the Pittsburgh area. The name refers to a description of
non-profit companies, which are tax-exempt, a rule that
comes under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS tax code.
Dickerson’s organization works with non-profit companies
to help them maximize their efforts, thus the name.

(501 (c) (3))² was recently asked to examine service-
learning in colleges and universities around the Pittsburgh
area. What they discovered was a lack of funding in ser-
vice-learning at many schools around Pittsburgh. Without
proper funding, it is difficult for schools to implement ser-
vice learning into their curriculum. (501 (c) (3))² decided
to help fund hands-on experiences in the classroom.

Schools in the Pittsburgh area, as well as Allegheny
and Waynesburg Colleges, were given the opportunity to
apply for mini grants in the amount of $1,000 to $2,000.
Not every school that was invited to apply for a mini grant
received one; however, Allegheny proposed some very
creative ideas when applying for the grant. Art Professor
Amara Geffen and Environmental Science Professor Eric
Pallant were awarded part the grant to be used on their
class participation in the project, “Meadville, PA: Not your
Run of the Mill Community” (See related article on page
8).

“We are still working out details for our project,” said
Geffen, but her class will be able to do more, now that they
have the proper funding. First, the class hopes to create a
garden as part of “Meadville, PA: Not your Run of the Mill
Community.” Also, a student will be hired to help in map-
ning the project, due to the grant from (501 (c) (3))². Gef-
fen would also like students to work with members of the
community to create murals around Meadville.

Allegheny is using the other part of the grant to fund a
service-learning class entitled, “Service-Learning Theory
and Practice,” where students will develop and implement
a service-learning project. The goal of the class is raise
awareness about the importance of service-learning.

Other schools receiving grants will be engaged in a
myriad of projects, like working with the poor at Carlow
University or the project at Waynesburg College where
students will study the ways in which pre-school children
develop their math skills. No matter what academic area
the grants are used in, all of these projects share one thing
in common, doing something proactive for the commu-
nity.

This May, all of the colleges and universities that have
received grants from (501 (c) (3))² will present their pro-
jects at a conference in Pittsburgh. The goal of this confer-
ence is to share ideas on what projects were successful and
unsuccessful in each school. Allegheny will be sending its
own representatives to this conference to discuss how they
have used the grants. (501 (c) (3))² hopes this conference
will improve service-learning programs at all of the insti-
tutions involved and provide guidelines for other institu-
tions to follow when developing their own projects.

So the next time you find your class doing something
proactive in the Meadville community, you might be able
to thank Dickerson and (501 (c) (3))².

College Republicans visit D.C
for Conservative Political
Action Conference

Members of the Allegheny College Republicans had an op-
portunity to attend the Conservative Political Action Con-
ference (CPAC) in Washington D.C. February 9-11. They
attended lectures given by well-known conservatives Newt
Gingrich and Ann Coulter. They also attended lectures
about academic freedom and visited booths of various con-
servative political organizations.

Instead of going abroad for an EL Term, students have the
opportunity to complete a term in Meadville and get college
credit.

Students will participate in skilled and unskilled construc-
tion and repair around the Meadville community.

The cost is $25.00 for 3 weeks and college housing is pro-
vided. This EL Term is sponsored by ACCEL, Habitat for Human-
ity and the French Creek Valley Community Improvement Cen-
ter.

For more information, Contact Dave Roncolato
< Droncola@allegheny.edu>
supervises four Fellows commented, “Students are chosen based on their demonstrated commitment to civic engagement and academic strength. It is an honor to be asked.” Bomberger emphasized the highly selective application process by adding, “Students have to have a medley of skills in order to effectively do their job.”

Grudevich, Hoffman, Warnick, and Southwick work directly with Professor Ozorak, professor of psychology and the coordinator of the interdisciplinary Values, Ethics and Social Action (VESA) minor, to increase awareness and understanding of the VESA program.

Professor Ozorak created a “wish list” of projects that she wanted her students to complete and also accepted their input. Together they agreed to undertake various projects that accomplish their ultimate goal of promoting the VESA program, such as gathering photos, updating bulletin boards, and creating a website.

In addition to promoting the VESA program, one student helps to plan the events that will take place on campus during the upcoming Nonviolence Week (see related article on page 5) while another devotes her energy to the Sustainable Meadville Project.

The Civic Engagement Fellows position is not limited to a single department. Reed works with Bomberger in the English department to create The Civic Engagement Newsletter. In addition, she helps research, update, layout and edit other projects like the Civic Engagement website.

In a building across campus, Yocco is organizing the various service opportunities on campus and compiling them into a brochure. She remarked, “My favorite part of the job so far is meeting so many students who are doing amazing work on campus. I had no idea how many of Allegheny’s students devoted their time to good causes.” Working with Dave Roncolato, the director of the office of community service and service-learning, Yocco’s objective is to make service opportunities more accessible to students. Once she has completed this task, she plans to do the same for the office of Career Services.

Yocco believes that her work as a Fellow has given her a new set of skills, “I definitely have learned to be even more organized than I already was. I also have better skills in planning large events and working around many people’s schedules.” By working with their supervisor to achieve common goals, students also learn important collaboration and administrative skills.

Grudevich and Yocco agree that their role as a Civic Engagement Fellow will help them in their careers because “it is so different from other work study jobs.” Work as a Civic Engagement Fellow provides students with the opportunity to take on large, significant tasks.

While the Civic Engagement Fellows position is meant to be ongoing, two of this year’s Fellows will graduate, leaving positions available for a new group of students. Grudevich offers advice to future Fellows: “I would tell future fellows to take advantage of the opportunity that they have been given to advocate civic involvement to professors and peers of the college. I would tell them to take advantage of their position by using it as a tool to truly promote and spread the word about service, something that is dear to the heart of every civic engagement fellow. Moreover, I encourage them to really make their position their own and bring to the table any creative ideas or goals for civic engagement at the college.”

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**IMMERSION PROGRAM**

(Continued from page 5)

have an energy that can and will dissipate as they become civilized and enter higher education.”

Diverging from the standardized material required in public school classes is a major part of the Critical Thinking Immersion program. Instead of reading textbooks, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience David Anderson is teaching students to read minds—or at least how it is done. His class Why People Believe Weird Things uses science to uncover myths from ESP to Bigfoot. “The class is based on a Freshmen Seminar I have taught. We apply logical and scientific thinking to explain strange phenomena,” says Anderson. After learning how one walks on hot coals, students might debate modern ethical dilemmas in one of Professor Bywater’s Philosophy classes or learn math-based problem solving with Jill Hyatt.

High school students in the Gifted and Talented program have the freedom to combine classes from the humanities departments with a broader selection of science classes for their Friday schedule. Biology Professor Glen Wurst teaches a Human Genetics class with the help of two interning Allegheny biology majors. “We try to learn about the basics of human genetics and do a little lab work such as DNA fingerprinting,” says Wurst. The 9th to 12th grade students use this base of knowledge to discuss the social implications of recent advancements in the field.

These programs have helped attract talented local students to continue their education at Allegheny College. Katherine Bensel ‘09 took courses at Allegheny since middle school through these programs and now works as an intern with Arts Immersion. “I was asked to be an intern by my professor and I hope to continue with it through my four years at Allegheny,” says Bensel. Interns for the program act as role models, leading students by example during the classes and often following them from one period to the next throughout their schedule.

Other students interested in the program should contact Jan Hyatt at <janyce.hyatt@allegheny.edu>
“Nonviolence begins with each one of us,” said VESA Professor Elizabeth Ozorak. “We must communicate in a way that will convey respect and allow for win-win problem solving.”

Junior seminar students are divided into three groups of three students. Each group’s responsibility is to organize a nonviolent project in the Meadville community.

Amy Warnick ’06, Ashlee Hoffman ’08, and Jennifer Holtzman’s, ’07, project is to organize a nonviolence workshop with Sister Anne McCarthy, a Benedictine Sister from Erie who is a trained facilitator with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Their project aims to resolve conflict in everyday life using the teachings of such great sages as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi.

Sarah Anthony ’07, Sarah Grudevich ’06, and Norma Yocco ’08, activism project is to explore the emotional violence experienced by senior citizens by discussing topics of importance to them, such as politics. Anthony explained, “Our society tends to focus on children as holding the key to the future and ignores the positive contributions that the elderly can have on society.”

Jessica Adler ’07, Katie Caldwell ’06, and Danielle Gray ’08, are working on a school bullying project with the Meadville Area Middle School Gifted and Talented program. “We think it is important to educate youth about nonviolent ways,” said Gray. “To mediate conflict, especially the gifted youth, so that they can transfer the message to their peers.”

As you can see, violence is not only physical but emotional as well. The goal of the nonviolence week is to help us realize the effects of today’s violence and learn ways to create a positive change. Ozorak noted “Every time I have a conversation, I have the opportunity to create more violence or more peace; that is not easy.”

Nonviolence is a discipline. Ozorak suggested meditation as one way to find the peace within. You can also start practicing nonviolence through respecting differences of opinions, listening when others try to explain, being appreciative, considering other’s feelings, and taking responsibility for your action or inaction.

Last semester Jason Kolcun's name was inadvertently omitted from the Civic Engagement Newsletter article he wrote about the Center for Political Participation. Our apologies.
Soups and sandwiches are more than just a meal at Meadville’s The Pampered Palate -- they’re an experience. The local café and bistro is cooking to order, offering up a wide variety of freshly made, largely organic treats with names like “The Toolcity Club,” “Main Street Monte Cristo” and “The Park Avenue.” Seattle seems to meet Meadville as walk-in customers are greeted by coffee aromas, tantalizing arrays of fresh baked pastries and an illustrated white board featuring the Soup of the Day.

I sat beneath a decorative indoor awning amidst lively conversation and framed coffee house style posters, contentedly sipping crab bisque when I heard a nearby woman exclaim a bit cautiously to her waitress, “You know, I think I’ll go with the bisque if it’s not too late!” I watched impressed as her original order, now about ten minutes old, was changed without any hassle. The Pampered Palate’s motto is “Fill the mind and feed the soul,” and according to owner and executive chef Jason Bakus this kind of individual and caring service is “feeding the soul.”

Bakus plans to fill the minds of Meadville café goers by offering a higher level food experience, standing apart from the usual fare found at Quizno’s or Subway. “There is more to sandwiches than just ham and cheese. A sandwich does not just have to be a sandwich,” says Bakus, a Vermont native with over 20 years of experience in the restaurant business working for luxury hotels and inns all over the East Coast.

Anyone looking for a tasty lunch with a locally and socially conscious twist will notice the organic and fresh seasonal themes in the Pampered Palate menu. According to Bakus, going organic is his way of giving back to the Meadville community while introducing people to the often delicious values of staying local. Living in Vermont, he grew up with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, another organic company. Much of Pampered Palate coffee is supplied through Green Mountain, which guarantees fair market prices for farmers and encourages environmentally responsible farming techniques. The menu uses fresh, seasonal and local ingredients as much as possible and changes in accordance to farmer production and availability.

The café also caters for special events upon request. Located on North Main Street and just steps away from the Allegheny College campus, students and professors are frequently sighted sipping soup or enjoying a sandwich in the café’s cozy dining room. Allegheny sophomore Allison Fogg is one of many coming back for more saying, “I always look forward to walking in and getting something different. A lot of other places I just want to get in and get out- here I like to relax, talk and enjoy a nice lunch.” In fact, some students have moved in permanently. Allegheny student and Pampered Palate employee Molly Lennon comments, “Working here is my way of contributing to the community. I can take a break from staying on campus and experience what Meadville has to offer.”

The local flavors won’t be turning sour anytime soon; Bakus has no plans for expansion or any new locations. Instead, he looks forward to preserving the café’s personal touch while sharing a good relationship with both Meadville and the college.

The Pampered Palate is located at 748 North Main St. in Meadville. For more information, call 814-337-2100 or visit www.pamperedpalate.net
Attention Non-Profit Organizations:

Allegheny Students Available to Write Drafts of Documents

My students can learn much more about writing when they have the opportunity to write documents that will actually be used. By working with them, you would have the opportunity to get some writing projects started that you’ve perhaps put off because of more immediate needs. If you have a number of writing projects, a writing intern might be most appropriate; for a document or two, I can assign it as a short term project for someone enrolled in my class.

Kinds of Documents:
Brochures Instructions
Grants Press Releases
Meeting Minutes Web Sites
Summaries of Complicated Material for non-specialists

Attention Students:

Writing Internships Available for College Credit

Develop a professional writing portfolio and get concrete experience in the workplace by interning at a local non-profit organization during the semester (Prerequisite: English 208)

Contact Ann Bomberger for more information.
- work (332-4334)
- home (333-6472)
- email (ann.bomberger@allegheny.edu)

Raise Your Voice

Issues Fair
Wednesday, March 29th
5:00pm–7:00pm
CC Lobby
Any Student Organization working on a Local, National or International issue is invited to apply
Contact Norma Yocco for more information
<yoccon@allegheny.edu>

RAISE YOUR VOICE

(Continued from page 4) tion promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning on college campuses nationwide. Those attending the summit sought to address the power of students’ voices and identify ways to get those voices heard. The answer, they found, was RYV.

Today, the campaign is on more than 250 campuses across the fifty states, with hopes to “increase, celebrate, and deepen the student civic engagement efforts of college campuses around the country,” according to the campaign’s website. Since its creation, students from California to Vermont have engaged in letter writing initiatives, camped out for a cause, or have done something as little as hosting a toy drive in efforts to speak out on issues that matter most to them.

The campaign exemplifies that political engagement is not just about arming oneself with picket signs in protests and instead highlights how something as simple as volunteering can sometimes have a great political effect. RYV further emphasizes the impact service may have on one’s ability to make informed political decisions. Most importantly, the campaign encourages the inclusion of all, a cornerstone of the RYV campaign.

The campaign does not center itself on any side of the political spectrum. Though the issues raised tend to be from a more progressive standpoint, what really matters is that students’ voices are heard, no matter what their political beliefs may be.

This year’s campaign will span a total of three weeks and will begin with an Issues Fair, to be held on March 29th, from 5-7 p.m. in the Campus Center lobby. Most of the campus’ political organizations are expected to be present, supplying information on issues of most importance to them. The campaign’s organizers hope the fair will reach out to students who are not politically involved.

The rest of the campaign’s events are currently in the works, and students are encouraged to look out for posters and fliers for more information.

For more information on the Raise Your Voice Campaign visit: http://www.actionforchange.org. Or for more information on Raise Your Voice events at Allegheny, contact Norma Yocco (<yoccon@allegheny.edu>).
Main Street

(Continued from page 7)

The first hour is devoted to reading and homework, and then Allegheny students lead a fun, educational activity. Finally, kids get free time and are rewarded for completing activities. They receive tokens to recognize improvements in schoolwork and behavior.

As a two- or four-credit independent study, Allegheny students help run the Main Street Station one to two days a week. On the day I visited, there were three Allegheny students and twelve kids! Such a small ratio gives each kid a chance to have one-on-one conversations with students and get help on homework and projects.

Dr. Nancy Lowmaster, Coordinator of the Teacher Education Programs at Allegheny, established this interdisciplinary studies class to provide an outlet for students interested in education. Students are required to describe and reflect on their experience in journal entries each time they attend the program. At the end of the semester, students develop a long research project corresponding with their interests. Nine students are enrolled in the class this semester.

Rainey Sethman ’07, Graham Collins ’07 and Hong-Diem Nguyen ’08 make the fifteen minute drive to Cambridge Springs every Tuesday, arriving promptly at 3:15 to set up. Collins tells me the program is his “favorite part of the week because we get to be around a different crowd, even if it is fourth and fifth graders.” Sethman also loves the experience, claiming that her favorite activity thus far has been “drawing squirrels with Erik.” Sethman’s enthusiasm for squirrels and nature is contagious, as she and the kids eagerly draw badges for members of the squirrel club.

The Allegheny students I met each have experience working with kids, but Nguyen tells me she is learning a lot. “I have little cousins and am used to little kids so it’s a bit of an adjustment,” says Nguyen. Sethman served as an Americorps volunteer in Dallas, TX during 2005-06, also running an after-school program. She enjoys the Main Street Station because “the kids are so well behaved. It’s a different demographic than inner-city Dallas.”

Clearly, the Allegheny students and kids enjoy each other’s company. Sethman and the kids discuss their favorite country music while eating snack. The kids even have nicknames for their “favorite” volunteer Collins, calling him “Graham Cracker” or “Grandma”.

The kids also do not mind doing homework at the program. A fifth-grade girl named Bethany explained to me excitedly that that her school’s Accelerated Reading program requires 30 minutes to an hour of reading outside the classroom.

Although Sethman, Collins and Nguyen may not realize it, they are setting an example each time they interact with the kids. Massung tells me “I love when they talk about their majors, where they’re from. Last year, an Allegheny student told the kids his major was political science and they asked ‘What is that?’”

The Main Street Station gives Allegheny students a chance to take leadership roles and learn about kids while helping out a brand new, successful community program. Squirrels, math homework, and snack: who can resist getting involved?

Eyes Wide Open is a national exhibit, but it was displayed for the first time in Pennsylvania in the Bush-Tippie Alumni Center here at Allegheny College in February.

Similar exhibits exist in other states.

Allegheny’s exhibit portrayed 111 pairs of boots to symbolize and honor Pennsylvania natives lost in Iraq. The display also featured other symbolic items, such as infant’s clothing, a woman’s high heel and tennis shoes from a teenager. All are meant to represent an individual or group who is effected by the war, including the civilian population in Iraq. Student Coordinator Ashlee Hoffman emphasized that it was meant to be a memorial and not a political action protest.

Eyes Wide Open display
Honors Fallen Soldiers in Iraq

Celebration of a Child!
May 5, 2006, 10am-2pm

Students, clubs, and agencies can sign up to have a booth and offer developmentally appropriate activities for children ages 3-7 years old.

Students who volunteer at local agencies that work with children can also sign up to attend with a group of children.

The usual turnout is between 500 and 700 children.

For further information or to receive a sign up sheet, please contact: Barbara Newcamp at 763-6833.
Junior Seminar Highlights Meadville’s Hidden Gems

By Kurt Hoffman
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Did you know that Meadville has at least three theater groups, 30 restaurants and a museum dedicated to the stereoscope? How about snow-tubing, more than five golf courses, hiking, biking and an Italian Civic Club? Highlighting Meadville’s “hidden gems” is the target of a new Junior Seminar in Environmental Studies, created by Eric Pallant and Caryl Waggett, called “There’s More than Meets the Eye Off I-79.”

The students in the seminar are charged with creating an “Insider’s Guide” to all the mentally and physically stimulating offerings here in town. Initial brainstorming in the classroom created five broad categories: dining, outdoor recreation, activities and entertainment, retail and services. Class members are responsible for gathering information like business hours, prices, descriptions and contact information for options within each category.

“The seminar is designed to teach students to solve real-world problems,” said Pallant. “By preparing an ‘Insider’s Guide’ to Meadville, students are learning research techniques that will serve them as they work on their senior projects, and, I know from experience, will be helpful to them in the years to come. The added advantage is that their product will benefit Meadville’s economy and self-image.”

Image is an issue Allegheny College must contend with on a daily basis. Scott Friedhoff, Allegheny’s vice-president of enrollment, made an appearance at the seminar early in February.

His insights into the problem of marketing Meadville to prospective students encouraged the class to research other schools in rural or economically depressed areas. The findings were not surprising: most schools had not effectively addressed the issue or ignored it altogether. The analysis led to ideas about the final product of this project, however, suggesting that a website and brochure combination would reach the largest audience. Students are considering an ‘Attractions’ sign on the interstate as a third option.

“Given my interest in community development and land-use planning, I find this class fascinating!” said Christine Dersi ’07, a member of the seminar. “Combining college credit with community interaction benefits everyone involved.”

Another student, Chrissy Ungaro ’07, noted, “We are promoting a lifestyle that is healthy for the community through increased revenues, for the individual through increased outdoor activity, and for the environment through recommending local, organic, and frugal purchases.” The potential to rekindle community spirit in Meadville has proven to be an excellent motivator.

Many students have expressed the feeling that even though we live, work, and study in Meadville for four years we enter and leave feeling like guests. Making students feel at home in Meadville means alerting them to the presence of community resources, a goal the seminar hopes to expand to the whole Meadville community.

The Admissions Office is another stakeholder in the project, indicating that any final product could become part of the arsenal of materials given to visitors and applicants. “Some schools have the allure of a major city or geographic advantage,” said Friedhoff. “Bates College [in Maine] is thirty minutes from the state capital, the coast, and the mountains. They do not have to market their community. Meadville has some great resources, but they aren’t as obvious as an ocean, which makes this project so crucial.”

So if you are looking for a good steakhouse, independent film, round of golf, or night at the theater, don’t assume you have a long drive to Pittsburgh ahead. Meadville has all these offerings and more, frequently within walking distance of your home or dorm room. ♦