College aims to educate about personal and social responsibility

By Anna Gengel
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

“Town versus gown.” Many students have never heard of this metaphor, which is used to describe problems that arise between the relationship of a college or university and the town in which it’s located. The term originated in the middle ages when European students admitted into universities wore long black gowns. These gowns designated the scholars and set them apart from members of the town.

One of the only times large masses of Allegheny College students are seen in black gowns is during commencement, yet there are still times when people feel a separation between the college and Meadville community.

Out of a pool of about 125 applicants, Allegheny was recently accepted as one of the twenty-five schools recognized by the Core Commitments Leadership Consortium for its desire to improve engagement between the college and Meadville community.

The Core Commitments program examines the ability of institutions of higher education to advance engaged citizenship, teach personal and social responsibility, encourage a respect for diversity, cultivate excellence, and implement programs that support community engagement.

Allegheny currently offers various programs that promote civic engagement: the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), the Office of Community Service and Service and Service-Learning in ACCEL, Community-Based Research (CBR), Engagement Through Writing, the Center for Political Participation (CPP), and the Values, Ethics and Social Action (VESA) program.
Prof. 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 the facts in their articles. We hope you enjoy the results of their hard work.

Other “real world” documents this semester include an addition to the Peace Psychology newsletter, a brochure for Crawford County Children’s Advisory Council, a website for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a newsletter & website for Miner and Sons, Inc., a press release for Plextronics, Inc, a website for Allegheny’s Equestrian Club and Team, a brochure for Jessie Flynn’s Center for Living, a brochure for Allegheny’s Rugby Team, and a website for KKG’s Carnival.

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Course in Nicaragua is Life-Changing

By Trista Szocs
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Imagine living in a garbage bag or perhaps a cardboard shack— if you’re lucky. Your surroundings do not include sidewalks, trees, or mailboxes; you can only perceive a massive sea of trash. And every day, rather than anxiously awaiting a hot meal at 6 p.m., you strain your eyes for a fresh dump trunk to deliver dinner.

This is the life of over 500 people living in La Chureca, the city dump of Managua, Nicaragua. Ten Allegheny students traveled to Managua this past summer offering their service.

Shuman, they could not have received a warmer welcome from the families. “We could barely get one foot on the ground before they were hugging us,” Shuman said. Shuman stated the reaction was partly because most people who volunteer at the project are unwilling to get their hands dirty. “The project receives a lot of donations,” Shuman said. “But [the families] knew we were coming to work.”

And work they did. The students assisted Project Chacocente in several ways, including clearing fields of plantain trees with machetes, painting houses, and digging holes. Shuman stated that she, Roncolato and the students cut down at least 1000 trees in the smoldering hot afternoons. Some pre-med majors assisted the project’s health provider while others participated in information sessions with children. According to Shuman, students worked hand in hand with the community workers.

The course educated students

Continued on page 8

$250,000 Keystone Innovation Zone Grant Received

By Allegheny’s Public Affairs Office

A regional partnership of four colleges and universities and four economic development organizations in northwest Pennsylvania has received a grant of $250,000 from Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to establish the Northwest Pennsylvania Keystone Innovation Zone (NWPA KIZ).

Governor Ed Rendell launched the KIZ program in early 2004 as a way to capitalize on the commonwealth’s network of quality colleges and universities. By encouraging those institutions to partner with community organizations and businesses, the program is designed to promote job growth in technology-related industries.

To date, more than $10.8 million has been invested in 29 KIZs throughout the commonwealth. This investment has led to the creation of 1,966 jobs, the retention of 2,763 jobs, the formation of 282 new companies and the leveraging of $368 million in new investments.

Amara Geffen is president of the NWPA KIZ board and director of Allegheny College’s Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED). “One of the most exciting aspects of this newly designated KIZ,” she noted, “is the development of regional partnerships that bring the excellent resources of our higher education institutions into focus, positioning northwest Pennsylvania as an emerging leader in sustainable business development, green building and clean technologies. We are delighted that our efforts to build this regional partnership have succeeded.”

The KIZ grant for northwest Pennsylvania will be administered by the Northwest Commission and will operate under the direction of the NWPA KIZ Board, which comprises four educational partners— Allegheny College, Clarion University, the University of Pittsburgh-Titusville and Thiel College—as well as financial institutions, economic development service providers and private industry.

Among the goals for the NWPA KIZ are to provide outreach and business assistance to up to 20 companies, to create four start-up businesses, to create as many as 20 new full-time jobs, to provide research support to 50 entrepreneurs, to file three patent applications, to place up to 15 interns at KIZ companies, and to facilitate the infusion of up to $500,000 in KIZ companies and/or KIZ-related projects.

The KIZ program will focus on four target industries: clean technology, including energy conservation and environmental sustainability; advanced manufacturing; information technology; and life sciences.

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This is the life of over 500 people living in La Chureca, the city dump of Managua, Nicaragua. Ten Allegheny students traveled to Managua this past summer offering their service.

Last May, Michaeline Shuman, Allegheny’s director of career services, and David Roncolato, director of community service & service-learning, ACCEL, organized an international service-learning course to Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the world. The course involved working with “Project Chacocente,” a resettlement program that relocates inhabitants of La Chureca to rural Masaya.

In Masaya, families receive education on how to live independently. This includes farming, reading, and writing skills, among many others.

Eight families were living in the project when Allegheny students arrived to help. According to Shuman, they could not have received a warmer welcome from the families. “We could barely get one foot on the ground before they were hugging us,” Shuman said. Shuman stated the reaction was partly because most people who volunteer at the project are unwilling to get their hands dirty. “The project receives a lot of donations,” Shuman said. “But [the families] knew we were coming to work.”

And work they did. The students assisted Project Chacocente in several ways, including clearing fields of plantain trees with machetes, painting houses, and digging holes. Shuman stated that she, Roncolato and the students cut down at least 1000 trees in the smoldering hot afternoons. Some pre-med majors assisted the project’s health provider while others participated in information sessions with children. According to Shuman, students worked hand in hand with the community workers.

The course educated students

Continued on page 8
De Graaff reflects upon affluence, the workplace, and fair trade

By Tim Bell
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

After meeting and interviewing John De Graaf, I can confidently say I would not mind having him as my Uncle. A sweet and knowledgeable man who wants to be engaged with students (“I don’t have fun when students aren’t speaking to me”), he carried with him ideas and views that people in this country simply seem to have forgotten.

For instance, people seem to work too much in his eye, one of the main topics of his documentary film and co-authored book “Affluenza.” Being a college student and witness of the American workforce I can safely say that people would call him crazy for saying this; I thought it refreshing.

His candor along with his humor and knowledge of the social world made De Graaf come off as a man who I and most people would want to get to know. He puts his good natured attitude into his work of being a documentary film maker (he has made more than thirty films), author of books and magazines, public speaker and activist.

De Graaf was on the Allegheny campus to show his films “The Motherhood Manifesto” and “Buyer Be Fair.”

He made it abundantly clear the importance of the college student. In fact, he made it clear that Allegheny College was one of his favorite schools to visit; this was his third trip to Meadville.

When asked why not visit primarily bigger schools where your voice can be heard by thousands instead of hundreds, he simply smiled and told me that sometimes it’s the quality of the student and not quantity. This does not mean that he does not travel to larger campuses—some of them he loves to visit—but in his eye sometimes liberal arts colleges offer more engaged and interested students who are far more ready to act and become aware of the issues De Graaf engages.

What issues does De Graaf tackle? Having made thirty documentary films, around fifteen of which have been put on primetime television shows, it is safe to say that he has covered many areas. He covers environmental issues such as global warming but also things like foreign/domestic policy, women in the workplace, and general economic situations (affluence and fair trade). The common thread in all of his work is the betterment of society.

“Affluenza” highlights the “epidemic of consumption” that we as Americans are engrossed in. We sacrifice not only relaxation but also family, friends, physical health, and other incredibly important values for simply “having things,” as De Graaf put it. Americans want stuff. “Affluenza” shows how this obsession with having stuff can go way too far in this country.

“The Motherhood Manifesto” tackles the notion of women in the workplace, and how they deserve good careers the same as men. It is more than this, however, as it also shows how both men and women can make their families stronger in this work-driven world. Those who attend this film often find it incredibly relevant as it shows how the American, and not just the woman, can make a better atmosphere for the family. This film was shown in the U.S. Senate and premiered by senators Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Ted Kennedy and Chris Dodd.

“Buyer Be Fair” also focuses on economic issues. It takes the audience to all different places of the world and shows viewers how knowledgeable consumers coupled with willing businesses can provide a sort of justice in the market as well as an environmental independence. It is an attempt to show the benefits of the notion of product certification and it has become one of De Graaf’s most strong and relevant documentaries.

De Graaf finished the interview by praising the college student. Not only are we smart, open minded, and willing to change, but with the job market the way it is, we have some influence in the workforce. We can make a difference when it comes to the aforementioned “epidemic of consumption.” De Graaf made it clear that it is at this age that we should get informed. His documentaries, books, and articles are an effort to do just that: inform, educate, and hopefully drive this generation and many to come to action against lingering and extremely damaging societal problems.
Disenfranchisement alive in 21st century

By Allison Seib
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

“Your outrage is waiting,” summons the tagline of the 2006 documentary that says the 2000 and 2004 elections were manipulated to benefit the Republican Party. Together, Democrat State Representatives, congressmen, campaign workers and the public tell the story they say was never told.

On Oct. 24, Allegheny's Association for the Advancement of Black Culture (ABC), the Office of Diversity Affairs, the Center for Political Participation (CPP), and the College Democrats brought in Celeste Taylor, Pennsylvania state coordinator of African American outreach for People For the American Way. She introduced “American Blackout” and facilitated a discussion about it.

The CPP shows a film each year to increase political interest on campus, said Daniel M. Shea, director of CPP and associate professor of political science.

“American Blackout,” by Ian Inaba, explains how voters, specifically African Americans, were denied voting rights at a time when votes were desperately sought after by both major parties.

“Disenfranchisement of minorities has been an ongoing problem in American History. Many believe that we have left all that behind,” Shea said. “This film tells us that there is a great deal of work to be done.”

The film argues that George Bush would not have been president and the war on terrorism would never have been declared if Bush had not won Florida. The film makes it clear that if voting was conducted accurately and truthfully in Florida, that Bush would not have been our 43rd president.

Five months before the 2000 election, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, along with Secretary of State, Katherine Harris, created a list of 57,000 citizens who were labeled as felons and removed from the voting list. This list consisted mostly of Black and Hispanic citizens who were denied voting rights. Ninety-seven percent were innocent and unrightfully denied a voice. Bush won Florida by only 537 votes.

The powerful message this film brings to the forefront is one reason “American Blackout” was brought to the Allegheny campus. The film also discusses how young voters were disenfranchised during the 2004 Ohio State election when turnout for young voters was at an all-time high.

“I think first and foremost college students are allowed a voice when voting,” said Cherjanet Lenzy, new director of diversity affairs, who originally introduced the idea to show the film. “Students need to be introduced to this issue, and movies like this one can really outline such problems.”

Lenzy discovered the documentary as she was searching for documentary films to give as welcome gifts to her advisee groups. Her attention was captured by interviews promoting the film and one scene came right to her mind.

“There were interviews talking about the long lines—not like long lines waiting at McKinley’s—but lines down the street, around the corner, in the pouring rain where voters waited for the ballot,” she said.

The film proves that individuals were mistreated and their rights were taken away. The film voices that hiding these issues from the public is no longer and has never been acceptable. Lenzy believes that this is a film that everyone should see since civil rights belong to everyone. She also hopes this film will inspire others to take action.

“I am hoping [viewers] are motivated to make change,” Lenzy said. “I hope they are disturbed by it, and I hope they are moved.”

Students: Do you care about Climate Change?
Become an advocate for environmental policy changes by joining Allegheny’s d4d branch.

Debating for Democracy (D4D), a signature program of Project Pericles, provides a learning and advocacy experience that encourages students to research and develop thoughtful opinions and advocate them. Interested? Contact Amara Geffen at amara.geffen@allegheny.edu.
Could you imagine spending four years of college watching 900 movies? Instead of being couch potatoes sitting around watching movies, Bonner Scholars have committed themselves to serving the community the equivalent time of 1,800 hours.

There are currently five juniors, five sophomores, and five first-year students who are Bonner Scholars.

They were chosen to become Bonner Scholars based on their dedication to service during their high school years. To reward them for their service and their willingness to continue their service at Allegheny, they received a scholarship that lasts for four years.

After their arrival at Allegheny, each of the Scholars were assigned to a service site where they remain committed for their entire college career. Each school year they have to serve 300 hours.

Along with the hours of service during each school year, 300 hours is served for two out of three summers. The first summer is in Meadville and the other summer hours can be served wherever they would like. Service could keep them in the United States or take them to other countries.

Jessie Badach and Eric Hildebrand chose to go to different service sites around the country. On the other hand Jessica Edmunds and Jimmie Morris stayed put working in one area all summer. Xun Li went to China.

The outstanding experience that their summer service provided was a real eye opener. It not only provided them with the experience of helping people but also provided them with the experience of being proud of who they are.

Badach integrated her summer service to four different sites through an organization in Kansas. The first summer is in Meadville and the other summer hours can be served wherever they would like. Service could keep them in the United States or take them to other countries.

The series of stops included taking a step out of the norm and opening up to a different way of living.

Badach’s service included working with homeless people, cleaning a shelter with undocumented immigrants, talking one on one with elderly nuns in a convent and being involved with a seven day retreat promoting peace and non violence.

Badach says, “my experiences allowed me to learn how to love people better.”

Even though communication was tough at times, Badach stuck it out to meet the peoples’ needs. It is not an easy task going into service not knowing what to expect but going into it with an open mind, open eyes, and open arms helped her have personal success from her service. Through it all she learned to be proud of her national, spiritual, political, and global identities.

Junior Bonner Scholar Li worked with two programs. These programs were put together through Volunteers for China. Li traveled to China in order to do what he always wanted to do: to perform volunteer work in order to give back to the country where he was born.

Li’s service in China included teaching medical English to Chinese medical students and running an oral English camp for Chinese high school students.

Although Li specifically chose to teach English to these students, he found it frustrating, to say the least. He explained that he “got a taste of how frustrating it is for a teacher to ask a simple question and receive no response.”

Through this experience Li made many friendships, but most important was the experience he had working with the medical students furthering their education to become medical doctors. This personally relates to Li since his future goal is to become a medical doctor.

Bonner Scholars give a lot of their time to service. It is too late for you to sign up to be a Bonner Scholar, but it is never too late to become a part of the Bonner Leader program. Bonner Leaders receive an AmeriCorps educational award. For more information about service opportunities at Allegheny, contact ACCEL.
Allegheny challenges those in higher education to halt closed candidate “town halls”

By the Center for Political Participation

On the 150th anniversary of the birth of its pioneering investigative journalist, alumna Ida Tarbell, Allegheny College President Richard J. Cook invited institutions of higher education nationwide to join Allegheny in a democracy-strengthening initiative with the goal of ending the practice of political candidates of holding closed meetings on college campuses.

In a news conference at the college, Cook announced an initiative that invites leaders in higher education to join the “Soapbox Alliance,” a coalition of institutions that either have an open campaign-event policy or have pledged to work toward the goal of establishing an open-event policy by September 1, 2008.

“We encourage candidates and campaigns from all political parties to visit college and university campuses to engage students and the public in authentic discussion of the issues,” said Cook. “But we reject the notion of ‘town meetings’ being limited to hand-picked supporters. Campuses should not be used as convenient backdrops for staged events designed to represent something they are not.”

The idea behind the initiative sprang from the dilemma Allegheny College faced during the 2004 election season when it received a request from the Bush-Cheney campaign to rent its gymnasium for a ticketed event, with the campaign determining how the tickets would be distributed. At the time, Allegheny’s practice had been to welcome private groups to use its facilities with or without charge, depending on availability and circumstance. As a result, despite the college community’s distaste for the idea of a closed “town meeting,” it found itself without a sound basis to deny the request.

The experience caused members of the college community to look for a way to encourage candidates to visit campus while embracing the ideals of authentic political engagement and debate. Led by Professor Daniel Shea, nationally respected scholar and founder of Allegheny’s Center for Political Participation, and in collaboration with his faculty colleagues and the administration, the college adopted a policy that allows campaign organizations to reward supporters with tickets to an event but requires that at least half of the available seats must be made available to the general college community through a non-biased distribution.

The idea of encouraging other colleges to band together in order to strengthen the impact of such policies — and potentially end the practice of hosting closed campaign events on campuses altogether — was first described in a perspective piece by Shea that was published in “The Chronicle of Higher Education” in August 2006.

“The reaction to the article has been great,” said Shea. “But everyone realizes that colleges have to come together on this.”

“I’m convinced that students care deeply about genuine debate and are turned off by anything else,” Shea said.§

Check out http://www.soapboxalliance.org

It provides information about the Soapbox Alliance—its history, purpose and progress—and a vehicle for public discussion of the role of open political debate in America.

Invited Speakers
Linda Martin Alcoff, Syracuse University
Charles Mills, Northwestern University
Lucius Outlaw, Vanderbilt University
Shannon Sullivan, Pennsylvania State University

Allegheny College will host a two-day conference on whiteness and racism. This event will bring together scholars and students from a number of area colleges and universities concerned with investigating the hidden yet ubiquitous attitudes and points of ignorance that constitute white privilege.

Learn more at http://webtools.allegheny.edu/sites/whiteness/
Nicaragua

Continued from page 3

about economic and social issues in Nicaragua. To prepare for the trip, students were required to read books about Nicaragua. Students also independently researched a specific Nicaraguan issue that pertained to their reason for going on the EL term, and presented it to the entire group before their departure.

In addition, several students reviewed their Spanish language notes for communicating with the Nicaraguan people. Sophomore Abbey Conroy stated the families at the project appreciated students’ attempts to speak Nicaragua’s native tongue. “They loved to hear us try to speak Spanish,” Conroy said.

At the project, local countrymen and women provided presentations about the government, sweat shops, and healthcare in Nicaragua. Students also learned about what is being done to change the 70 percent unemployment rate.

On their fifth day, students traveled to La Chureca to see for themselves the former home of Project Chacocente’s families. According to Sophomore Abby Conroy, predeparture meetings attempted to prepare them for the ghastly “neighborhood” they were going to see, but many were still shocked. “I walked past empty bags of blood from the hospital or a dead animal,” said Conroy, “and I thought about what these people’s next meal was touching.” Shuman mentioned seeing a boy surrounded by vultures while picking through a pile of trash. The ground was covered with glass and needles, yet some people were walking around barefoot.

Shuman felt visiting La Chureca revealed the importance of what Project Chacocente is doing. In addition to rescuing inhabitants of the dump, the project provides them with a healthier way to live. For the first time, the families are receiving dental and medical care, and learning trades that will earn a decent living. More importantly, however, the project is giving the families a new outlook on life. “These people were called flies and trash,” says Shuman. According to Shuman, the project instills self-confidence in its inhabitants that never existed before.

Participating in the course undoubtedly took a toll on several group members’ emotions. Conroy stated a handful of them were in tears every night during reflection. But on a more positive note, Shuman believed the trip was life changing for many. “It taught us the interconnectedness of the world,” said Shuman “the Project is such a unified, cohesive community.” According to Shuman, several students plan to keep in contact with the project and continue volunteering their services to similar organizations.

Conroy was most impressed by the way project families received the group. “I learned that Americans don’t have to be tourists,” Conroy said. “The people wanted to know everything about us; they didn’t ask us for money or help.”

Conroy felt the families truly appreciated the students’ help as well as everything Project Chacocente has given them.

Pittsburgh Quilting Artist Visits Allegheny

Louise Silk (right), artist and quilter living and working in Pittsburgh, has been creating art for over 30 years that combines aesthetics and functionality with meaning and memory. Her primary work is quilt-centered, using spiritual themes, photo transfers, recycled fabrics from old clothing, and embroidery. Her new book is entitled The Quilting Path: A Guide to Spiritual Discovery through Fabric, Thread, and Kabbalah. Silk came in late September to give a lecture and teach a workshop. The Values, Ethics, Social Action program and the Dean’s office sponsored her visit.
Richard Schindler, professor of art and coordinator of the VESA program, believes the Core Commitments program essentially brings all the current civic engagement programs together. “[The Core Commitments program] gives us a chance to centralize our common initiative,” he said. “I believe one of the reasons we were chosen is because we’ve become an educated member of the community. It’s one thing to be book smart, but to walk out of college with a sense of community and responsibility can take you a lot farther.”

Promoting dialogue between the college and Meadville community is an essential component to the Core Commitment program. On September 27th, an official launch of Allegheny’s Core Commitments took place in the Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center, where the program’s board members held an open dialogue with a little over 100 students, faculty, alumni, and community partners.

Stephen Goldsmith, artist and community planner, came to Allegheny on October 8th to lead dialogues on the future shape of Meadville among community leaders, alumni, students, and faculty.

On Friday, November 16th, Brian Hill, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Allegheny alumnus will facilitate a dialogue on “College - Community Collaborations for Enhancing Environmental Responsibility.”

Core Commitments

continued from page 1

of the VESA program, believes the Core Commitments program essentially brings all the current civic engagement programs together. “[The Core Commitments program] gives us a chance to centralize our common initiative,” he said. “I believe one of the reasons we were chosen is because we are ahead of the game in terms of the number of groups involved in this idea of civic engagement. It brings all the different groups together and shows their support for the Meadville community.”

Although many students are passionate about civic engagement, others remain apathetic. Some students seem to possess the “town versus gown” attitude and feel no remorse for using the term “townies” when referring to members of the Meadville community. Core Commitments is a step in the right direction in improving the college/community relationship.

Amara Geffen, professor of art and team leader of the Core Commitments team, has taken steps to foster participation. Geffen has student interns help promote upcoming events.

“My hope is that the interns will do peer to peer work in help promoting our events,” Geffen said. “I hope they bring dialogue to dorms and various student organizations.” Both Schindler and Geffen also encourage professors to incorporate civic engagement in their curriculum.

Brittany Rechtin, ‘09 is one of the four student interns whose participation in civic engagement has changed her outlook on community relationships and the value of a liberal arts education. Rechtin is currently enrolled in a class taught under the instruction of Geffen, Envisioning Environmental Futures. The class explores solutions to contemporary environmental problems while incorporating civic engagement. Rechtin and classmates are currently working on improving the water quality of Mill Run and revitalizing Shadybrook, a run-down park located beside the creek.

“I used to overlook what it meant to be part of the Meadville community,” said Rechtin. “I’ve learned so much through my experience in this class; I’ve talked to members of the community at Shadybrook and attended meetings with city leaders. I don’t really care about the grade in the class, because I’ve become an educated member of the community. It’s one thing to be book smart, but to walk out of college with a sense of community and responsibility can take you a lot farther.”

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The Allegheny Core Commitments Team:

- Team Leader: Amara Geffen, professor of Art and director of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development
- Team Leader: Jacquelyn Kondrot, associate dean for wellness
- Dan Shea, professor of Political Science and the director of the Center for Political Participation
- Richard Schindler, professor of Art and the director of the Values, Ethics, and Social Action Program.
- David Roncolato, director of Community Service and Service-Learning, ACCEL
- Marian Sherwood, director of Institutional Research
- Ann Bomberger, assistant professor of English
By Seth Olen
Eng. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Driving into Meadville, it is hard to miss the “Read between the Signs” project on Conneaut Lake Road. The project, which consists of old road signs converted into seasonal objects, such as flowers and snow, obstructs the view of the PennDOT Building. The result of a collaboration between the Center for Economic and Environment Development (CEED), Allegheny College, PennDOT and the local community, it’s a testament to the power of collaboration and emphasizes the importance of a community having a sense of place.

This year, CEED’s Art & Environment Initiative, under the direction of Amara Geffen, have worked with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to help make the community look a little nicer and thus strengthen the community. “What started as one project has spanned into several,” explains Geffen, who is CEED’s director and an art professor at Allegheny. According to Geffen, the projects were awarded by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The program is an initiative to help beautify and clean up the state. “The (KPB) program has three different facets to it,” said Geffen. “There is litter control, site cleanup, and road beautification.

CEED’s Art & Environment Initiative mainly works to use art to beautify our community while engaging community members in the process of this work.”

Two of the interns, Josh Dracup and Berry Breene, are recent graduates of Allegheny College. A third, Ariel Dungca, is a student from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The interns were given a site to work on and told to take as much time as needed. Josh Dracup created a sign art mural by Voodoo Brewery, and Ariel Dungca collaborated with Geffen and community partners to transform an empty lot next to Meadville Market House into a stormwater garden.

Other interns created a sign art mural for the Municipal Parking Garage located on Arch and Water Streets.

Berry Breene, who is working on the Community mural on the side of Hovis Annex Building on Park Avenue, started her project before she graduated. “For my senior composition, I created a concept painting of a mural to reflect the Meadville area,” Breene said. “Amara knew this was a good idea for the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful project and helped me fill out the application and get the internship.” All the interns began working on their projects in June. Each was paid $2500 for their work, plus extra funds for materials. The Richard’s family made a gift to CEED’s Art & Environment Initiative to support a series of community art projects in Meadville. Breene’s mural is one of the projects and is being done in honor of Mrs. Richard’s daughter Gwen Barboni, who was “the director of the Meadville Council of Arts before she died,” she said. “Her family donated money to my mural as a memorial to her and her work.”

Breene chose to depict the Market House because she always liked going there as a student. She describes the mural as a collage of images. “The mural has two separate images connected by a central image,” Breene said. “In the center, sits a woman on a chair. She is ‘The Spirit of Meadville’ and also a representation of Gwen. To the left of her is a rural setting, with a giant cow as its centerpiece. To the right is a more urban setting with a person riding a bike.” While Breene is doing most of the work, she has worked to get many people in the community involved. She has held drop-in hours where groups and the community have been invited to help her paint the mural. She hopes the mural will be completed and up before the end of the year. As for Geffen and CEED, they have their goals set for the future. Look for Meadville to look a little more beautiful in the coming years. 

Allegheny Helps Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in Meadville

Carlos Lopez helps paint a community mural that will be part of Market Alley

Allegheny Helps Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in Meadville

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Allegheny Helps Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in Meadville

Allegheny Helps Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in Meadville

Allegheny Helps Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in Meadville
Ivania Beautiful in Meadville

The Read between the Signs project on Conneaut Lake Road consists of old road signs converted into seasonal objects, such as flowers and snow, obstructing the view of the PennDOT Building. This project is a testament to the power of collaboration and emphasizes the importance of a community having a sense of place.

This year, CEED's Art & Environment Initiative, under the direction of Amara Geffen, have worked with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to help make the community look a little nicer and thus strengthen the community. "What started as one project has spanned into several," explains Geffen, who is CEED's director and an art professor at Allegheny. According to Geffen, the projects were awarded by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The program is an initiative to help beautify and clean up the state. "The (KPB) program has three different facets to it," said Geffen. "There is litter control, site cleanup, and road beautification. CEED's Art & Environment Initiative mainly works to use art to beautify our community while engaging community members in the process of this work."

Two of the interns, Josh Dracup and Berry Breene, are recent graduates of Allegheny College. A third, Ariel Dungca, is a student from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The interns were given a site to work in downtown Meadville, to take as much time as needed.

Josh Dracup created a signart mural by Voodoo Brewery, and Ariel Dungca collaborated with Geffen and community partners to transform an empty lot next to Meadville Market House into a stormwater garden.

Other interns created a signart mural for the Municipal Parking Garage located on Arch and Water Streets.

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“The mural has two separate images connected by a central image,” Breene said. “In the center, sits a woman on a chair. She is ‘The Spirit of Meadville’ and also a representation of Gwen. To the left of her is a rural setting, with a giant cow as its centerpiece. To the right is a more urban setting with a person riding a bike.” While Breene is doing most of the work, she has worked to get many people in the community involved. She has held drop-in hours where groups and the community have been invited to help her paint the mural.

A garden was planted next to the Market House this summer. In addition to beautifying the area, it helps absorb storm water.

She hopes the mural will be completed and up before the end of the year.

As for Geffen and CEED, they have their goals set for the future. Look for Meadville to look a little more beautiful in the coming years. §
The path that our life takes us can never be predetermined. This is the main lesson Karris Jackson learned throughout her life. Jackson graduated from Allegheny in the spring of 1997 and considers the experience she had here “life changing.” The path that led her to Allegheny and the education that prepared her to become the Executive Director of Urban Youth Action, Inc. (UYA) is the real cause for excitement.

Growing up in inner city Pittsburgh, Jackson, along with the majority of her peers, did not receive many advantages when it came to education. UYA changed this for her significantly. Through academic enrichment, mentoring, job readiness training and internship opportunities, UYA exposed her to opportunities she had never imagined.

“It allowed me see that, wow, the world is so much more then I thought it was,” Jackson said. This guidance and assistance inspired her to apply to and later attend Allegheny.

When Jackson arrived at Allegheny, her plans were to major in Economics. As soon as she started taking introduction to American education during her first year, her plans changed.

“I started to think, who cares about supply and demand? What’s going on with our education system?” Jackson said.

Jackson experienced the error in the system personally. “I’m not saying that my peers were smarter than me, but it was obvious that they had been exposed to information and literature that I hadn’t been,” she explained.

Jackson’s passion for education never wavered, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Pa. Teacher’s Certification in secondary language.

After college, Jackson went into the education field receiving both teaching and administrative positions. She never forgot the impact UYA had on her.

“I would donate financially, and go back and give presentations and speeches to the kids,” she said. Her dedication and admiration for the organization never faltered, so in February of 2002 when she was offered the position as Executive Director of UYA it was an obvious choice.

“Although it was a cut in pay, I couldn’t get over what an opportunity it presented. I’d get the chance to participate in an organization that had been so critical in my life,” Jackson said.

Now, six years later Jackson still feels the same way. As Executive Director she is the face of the organization. Raising funds and reaching out to the community, making them aware of UYA’s cause is her mission everyday.

Urban Youth Action works with grades 9 through 12. The goal to make sure at-risk youth graduate from high school and make a successful transition to post secondary education and/or the workforce.

Jackson believes it also has a tremendous effect on the teens’ self-image. Jackson states, “It only took one person at UYA to believe in me and say, ‘You have potential; you deserve and can do better than this.’”

Knowing UYA gives teens that encouragement is where Jackson gets the motivation to go to work every day. She believes every child deserves that chance and experience.

In the future, Jackson hopes to write and have books published. The exposure she has received in the educational field has given her many insights into the importance of mentoring. She said, “My personal experience has shown me how having someone there to connect the dots for you can change your life.”

Mentors, Jackson believes, do this. “In affluent families this isn’t such an issue but with lower-class minorities, many don’t have the education or connections to guide their child’s career and educational path,” Jackson said.

Jackson wants to expose the community to organizations like UYA that can make the situation better. Jackson hopes to continue to help the educational field and the youth who will benefit from it.
Graduate serves students through Sodexho

By Ray Smith
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

For some, Meadville is home for four years. For others, it becomes a part of their life.
Meadville has seen thousands of faces come and go since Allegheny’s founding in 1815; however, some choose to stay.
Graduates can have different motives for remaining in the seat of Crawford County.
Some enjoy the location, a small city with a welcoming community surrounded by rolling hills.
Grads also stay annually to work in the community as a “volunteer in service to America” through the national AmeriCorps VISTA program.
Meadville is located between Erie, Pittsburgh and Cleveland and the close proximity with many metropolitan areas provides an opportunity for a good living and career choices.
However, there are some exceptional students that see a need for change and decide to pursue local opportunities.
Meagan Zeune ’07 saw an area in which Allegheny College can improve. She decided to stay in Meadville following graduation to give back to a community that has been a home for her for the last four years. Zeune is the special projects coordinator of Allegheny dining services.
“I feel after four years of being here I have a grasp on how we can improve,” Zeune said.
This is the first time that Allegheny Dining Services has a special projects coordinator.
“This is a new position. I was hired by the general manager, Ron Simko. He recognizes the importance of sustainability and wants to be a leader in the region on efficiency and environmental stewardship,” said Zeune.
Like many colleges, Allegheny has students who are bothered by the food service. Zeune has decided to act on the issue. She began using the information she learned in college and is trying to expand her experiences to Sodexho. Zeune is working with students, managers, and local farmers to make the food service more environmentally sound.
One of her main goals is to have Sodexho use local foods. From the time environmental science students first step in the door of a classroom, the importance of locally grown products is stressed. Not only is it deeply beneficial for the community itself, but it also cuts down on fuel and carbon emissions through the way large companies ship foods from place to place.
Many students that have taken an environmental science class are informed about our changing world. The environmental science department educates students about advocating change in both national and local problems. Zeune has decided to take her education and put it into action here at Allegheny.
One of her professors, Eric Pallant, commends the work that Zeune has decided to do.
“She is doing amazing things. Meagan is making the changes that we talk about in class,” Pallant said.
From Columbus, Ohio, Zeune saw something she liked about Meadville when she first got here. “I liked the history of the town. I liked that it has the old mansions and an actual downtown. It’s different from where I am from, where everything is very spread out,” said Zeune.
Zeune studied environmental science here at Allegheny and minored in German. “I came to Allegheny because it was the perfect distance but also I wanted to study abroad in Germany my sophomore year,” said Zeune.
Zeune knows her work here will not last forever. However, she would love to see her influence passed on.
“I would like to see a system in place where local and organic foods are used more. Also, I would like to see fair trade which gives fair prices to international and local farmers.”
Zeune’s influence is rooted deep in Meadville. The “I Love Meadville” program was also started by Zeune in her senior year. The program encourages students to stay away from the big market services like Wal-Mart or Taco Bell. Instead, the program tries to promote local businesses in Meadville. If a student spends $25 dollars in local food shops, such as “Whole Darn Thing” or “The

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Getting to know the Neighborhood: The Johnson Shaw Stereoscopic Museum

By Alison Berkebile
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Optical illusions abound in the world of entertainment today. For example, many big-name amusement parks have attractions where shows are presented with the aid of blue and red 3D glasses. Before technological advances like these, there were stereoscopes, binocular-like devices where two almost identical photographs were inserted and then could be viewed, with the aid of some mirrors, in three dimensions.

Tucked away on Chestnut Street, there is a small, unassuming colonial building that is home to the Johnson Shaw stereoscopic museum. Larry Johnson, one of the current directors, is there to greet visitors of the quaint museum.

The tour starts with the history of the Keystone View Company, which was founded in 1892 in Meadville by B. L. Singley and was in operation until 1976. Johnson’s ancestor, a Swedish immigrant, came to America and started to work for the company soon after it was founded.

“Many of my relatives afterwards worked for the Keystone View Company up until it closed in the 1970s,” Johnson stated.

All the while his relatives collected many Keystone View Company memorabilia, including an impressive array of stereographic images.

The Keystone View Company was a prosperous business in its time, making what was all the rage in entertainment in the late 1880s to early 1900s, and it was based right here in Meadville.

“All after your turkey dinner, there were no radios, televisions or computers to keep you entertained,” said Johnson, “So people bought stereoscopes and stereoscopic images.”

The most popular collection was the “views from around the world.” This was a collection of over 60 slides. The technology gave people who could not afford the luxury of travel views in 3D of what was outside their tiny American towns. The machines were so popular at the time that most middle and upper class Americans had one of these machines in their parlor.

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Habitat for Humanity Hut-a-thon: Braving Cold to Help Those in Need

By Peter Turcik
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Everybody at Allegheny knows how cold November can get in Meadville, and it seems even colder for those unable to afford housing.

Volunteers and members of the Allegheny Chapter of Habitat for Humanity stood out in the cold during their annual Hut-a-thon, helping to collect donations for future housing projects. Each small group of volunteers took a two-hour shift standing by an improvised hut outside of Reis Hall on North Main Street.

This event is part of the “Neighbor to Neighbor” project, which has been running for six years. In this project one family is selected to have a house built from the ground up. Funding on Allegheny’s part is provided by the Allegheny Student Government as well as through fundraisers like the Hut-a-thon.

This year Habitat for Humanity is hoping to raise $4,000 to add to their housing fund, so when the decision is made and a new family is found, Allegheny students can spring right into action and start construction.

The Allegheny chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been running since 1990 and has adhered to its mission statement from day one, which reads: “Above all else, we, the members of Allegheny College’s Habitat for Humanity aim to adhere to the idea of being a good neighbor to the community of which we are a part. In doing so we will fulfill the three main functions of a campus chapter: educating the campus and community, providing labor for projects and raising money for Crawford County. In accomplishing these tasks we can help those in need in the surrounding areas and provide opportunities for students to work together in an educational and fun atmosphere.”

In 2003, the Seekins family had their dream of being selected come true.

“It’s almost like there’s an overwhelming feeling of ‘Wow! This is actually happening,’” said Ken Seekins of Franklin, Pa. His wife, Charlotte, said that without the help of the Crawford County Affiliates and Allegheny, “this would not be possible and it means so much to us, and it is so overwhelming.”

Families hoping to have a house built by Habitat must go through a long application process and just being chosen is not the end. Selected families must pay for building materials and must put in at least 300 hours of work on the project.

However, it is through the help of volunteers that the house goes from lumber and nails to a house. Habitat pays for all tools needed in the construction with funds given by the student government and through fundraisers like the Hut-a-thon.

People interested in joining the Allegheny Chapter of Habitat for Humanity should contact habitat@allegheny.edu.

Food

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Pampered Palate” and can provide receipts, the student will receive a free t-shirt. The program is obviously non-profit and was created just to promote small businesses.

“Our first time was a success. We had about 500 students take part in the program,” said Zeune. Now that Zeune has graduated, it is up to students to continue the good work that she started here at Allegheny.

“Down the road, I would like to see students more involved in businesses downtown. Not only would students be shopping there, but also I would like to see the businesses be able to come out and say they could use [student] volunteers,” said Zeune.

Allegheny has an opportunity to become a large part of this town, and people like Zeune are causing Allegheny’s reach to go beyond the intersection of Loomis and North Main.
Reproductive Rights: Where Do You Stand?

By Jennifer Chrispen
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Oh, the controversial issues of abortion, birth control and sex. These issues, plagued our country’s political sphere and questioning our moral standards, force people into the uncomfortable situation of having to take a stance.

Students Advocating Reproductive Options (S.A.R.O) is a student-run organization dedicated to creating a comfortable environment in which students can address all of the issues. The president of S.A.R.O, Julia Greenhill, explains that meetings are a place where “people can come together and feel at ease discussing the improvement of these issues.”

S.A.R.O has the support of one of the nation’s renowned feminist organizations, the Feminist Majority Foundation, which strives for political, economic, and social equality of women through research and activism. Greenhill hopes to bring these local and global issues of equality to the Allegheny campus to “raise awareness of how they influence our community.”

As an affiliate of the Feminist Majority Foundation, S.A.R.O will be developing different activities for events to celebrate reproductive options, as well as other issues related to women such as domestic violence and body awareness.

Previous to this year’s activism, S.A.R.O has conducted several events around campus to raise awareness. Throughout last year, seminars regarding women’s issues and discussion boards were held so that students and parents could debate reproductive options.

This year, Greenhill hopes to enlist more students to actively engage in the struggle for women’s rights. Greenhill wants to collaborate with other on-campus organizations to bring students together regardless of their opinion on reproductive options.

Ashley Teal, one of the active members of the organization, doesn’t necessarily support every reproductive health option, but she feels that women should have the right to different reproductive options. According to Greenhill, one of the benefits of S.A.R.O is that “members do not necessarily have to agree with all of the options available to men and women engaging in sexual relationships, rather just the principle that people should at least have options to choose from.”

The free condoms handed out at the activities fair are just one of the many ways S.A.R.O advocates safe and healthy sex.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming events that S.A.R.O plans to provide for Allegheny students.

The first item on the list for Greenhill and the other members of the organization is to bring Plan B to campus. Plan B, also known as the morning after pill, is only given to students who specifically tell the nurse that the condom broke.

However, there is a limited supply available to students. Since Plan B is extremely expensive, it will no longer be available to students after this supply is depleted. The organization’s contention is that it should be available to students, even if they have to pay.

Among other events, the members of S.A.R.O threw a “Spice of Life” party to celebrate Love Your Body Day in October, which was open to all Allegheny students.

For Teal, the most exciting event she will participate in as a member of S.A.R.O is the national conference held in Washington, D.C. Here, students from around the country engaging in women’s studies and reproductive options organizations will be able to meet renowned activists and work in seminars related to these issues.

Teal states that “the chance to work with renowned activists of our time and join forces in the struggle for women’s rights is a learning experience that I couldn’t pass up.”

To celebrate National Day of Support for Abortion Providers in March, S.A.R.O will be campaigning and writing letters to abortion clinics in the area to thank them for supporting reproductive options and servicing women despite rising debate over the moral and legal concerns regarding abortion.

These are only a few of the ongoing activities that S.A.R.O’s members will be conducting throughout the upcoming year.

So why should more students join this organization? These issues may be controversial, but they affect everyone. S.A.R.O is “making headway on a global and local level step by step,” as can be seen by the amount of support it has already for its first petition for Plan B.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Quigley Hall and everyone is welcome to join. By “directly getting to know the student body” through petitioning and campaigning, Greenhill hopes that more students will feel compelled to actively engage in changing the community. §
Switchgrass may become an alternative source of energy

By Travis McQuiston
Engl. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Recently, associate professor of economics Stephen Onyeiwu and Commonwealth Community Energy Project Director Kathy Greely partnered with Allegheny College students and performed an investigation of an exciting new energy source.

This energy source could be manufactured right here in Meadville, Pa. While oil prices have grabbed many Americans by their pocketbooks, Meadville is “planting” a new form of energy to drastically relieve the pressures many economies face.

Over the summer, Onyeiwu and a few students worked with a local company named Ernst Conservation Seeds, acquiring information on a possible new energy source known as switchgrass.

When asked why he participated in this project Onyeiwu, said, “I know energy is a big issue right now. I have an interest in the area businesses, and I wanted to identify a project that would better the local economy.”

While a difference in opinion occurs amongst scientists, Onyeiwu argues the benefits from switchgrass technology truly outweigh the benefits from corn-based ethanol.

Greely also believes switchgrass can provide a cheaper solution to an inevitable energy crisis, and ease the world’s dependency on crude oil. The exhilarating concept of cheaper energy sources excites many people. In fact Greely said, “A locally grown fuel, right here in northwestern Pennsylvania would be something that people around here could get excited about.”

Onyeiwu described switchgrass as “a source of supplemental heat energy.”

Interviews conducted by the research team revealed speculation that within the next five to ten years, switchgrass could heat both residential and industrial applications.

In collaboration with Penn State University, Ernst Conservation Seeds turned their focus towards converting switchgrass into pellets, stated Greely.

Ultimately, the company hopes to sell the pellets in stores, which would enable consumers to burn the pellets in furnaces producing heat.

Due to the abundance of switchgrass, using it as a primary heat source should be inexpensive. Switchgrass is a common variety of prairie grass which grows on marginal lands.

Also, switchgrass would not minimize the harvest amount of other crops, because special land is unnecessary for growth, unlike the significant amount of land needed to grow corn for corn-based ethanol. “This will bring back an energy balance,” said Greely. An energy balance occurs when the overproduction of energy sources ceases and returns to normal levels of production.

Environmentally safe, switchgrass also helps to keep the environment clean. “The combustion of switchgrass, unlike fossil fuels, does not increase the amount of carbon released into Earth’s atmosphere, and therefore will have minimal effect on global warming,” as Greely explained.

Also, by choosing switchgrass as a supplemental energy source, the demand for fossil fuels will decrease. Aside from benefiting the environment and minimizing global warming, the decrease in demand for fossil fuels would also boost our economy as explained by Onyeiwu, “If (switchgrass) catches on and people embrace it, the demand for natural gas will fall and if supply does not change the price will decrease.” Onyeiwu stated savings on monthly energy bills created by switchgrass could be near 30 percent and would result in a higher standard of living, a welcomed sight for many struggling families.

The drawbacks of the switchgrass energy source are miniscule compared to the benefits. Onyeiwu and Greely both said time is the primary drawback associated with this project.

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Speaker challenges students to confront privilege

By Anna Rose Elson
Eng. 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Imagine being discriminated against just because your eyes are blue. Your professors ignore you in class, you aren’t allowed to sit in the booths at McKinley’s and, for some reason, Norm is always suspicious that you are trying to steal milk from the fridge.

In 1968 Jane Elliot, a school teacher in Riceville, Iowa, decided to teach her all-white third grade class about prejudice. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated the day before Elliot began her exercise, and she wanted to explain to them why he was murdered so violently.

Elliot created an atmosphere of prejudice within her classroom by dividing her children into blue-eyed and brown-eyed groups. On this given day, the children with blue eyes were considered inferior while children with brown eyes were treated better.

The children’s reactions were incredible. The blue-eyed children reacted with extreme distress when Elliot ignored them in class, and the brown-eyed children reveled in their newly discovered superiority. The oppressed blue-eyed children performed poorly on their school work that day while the brown-eyed children showed improvement.

The next day the roles were reversed and the results were astounding. The previously oppressed blue-eyed children became violent on the playground with the brown-eyed children and delighted in their new position as the “better” group. The blue-eyed children also showed improvement on their school work, in comparison to the previous day, while the brown-eyed children’s school work worsened.

Elliot’s experiment is still relevant today; she knew that if her 3rd graders realized what it felt like to be discriminated against, they would have a greater understanding of their world and, ultimately, not be prejudiced against others.

Elliot is an internationally renowned diversity educator and has been giving lectures and implementing her exercise in schools and workplaces around the world for years.

Internationally acclaimed diversity trainer Jane Elliott captivated the attention of several hundred students, faculty, and administrators recently at Allegheny.

last year, Ishita Sinha Roy, assistant professor of media studies, decided to bring her back for another workshop.

Sinha Roy stated that attending the workshop “was an opportunity for true enrichment.”

It is not often that Allegheny College hosts someone who has created an internationally renowned science experiment and allows students to interact with that person. Attending this workshop meant taking a step towards change and personal growth.

Sinha Roy noted, “It is an Allegheny student’s duty to take the initiative to broaden their horizons and challenge their ways of thinking. Allegheny College’s mission statement says that the college produces well-rounded global citizens and diverse thinkers. It is through these workshops that Allegheny graduates succeed in fulfilling these objectives. If students want to change the world, they cannot accept the common ways of thinking— they must take advantage of opportunities to acquire new ideas.”

Allegheny students who attended the workshop found their ways of thinking challenged and learned how to change the world, beginning with our campus. Students walked away from Elliot’s presentation with a better understanding of discrimination and a better understanding of themselves. Her workshop at Allegheny College challenged all in attendance to change the world around them and make positive changes in their thoughts concerning prejudice.

Find out more about Allegheny’s civic engagement initiatives by going to http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu
Companies such as Ernst Conservation Seeds have yet to find the most efficient way of converting switchgrass into pellets. Onyeiwu reasoned the success of the project rests on a steady, significant, and reliable supply of switchgrass pellets.

Another concern includes consumers finding low interest loans in order to convert to a switchgrass heating system.

In order to increase public awareness, a critical issue facing this project, Greely and Onyeiwu plan on hosting a switchgrass workshop in the spring.

Switchgrass has enough potential to become the world’s next energy source, but first the world must make a change in the use of energy. America needs to switch to cleaner and more abundant, resources. The price of crude oil will only increase, driving up the cost of living to unprecedented levels.

The switchgrass project conducted by Greely and Onyeiwu offers a glimpse of hope for the future of energy sources. This future could very well be located in Meadville, Pa.§

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As the turn of the century came about, automobiles and radios became more popular and stereoscopes as entertainment became obsolete. The Keystone View Company shifted gears to produce optometry machines and educational slides for school children. Some of these optometry machines are still in use today to test vision for automobile licenses.

The most popular model of the educational school set was called “the 600 set.” These sets were used to teach things such as history and geography to schoolchildren. A large wooden chest was used to store all the varied stereoscopic images, and stereoscopes were supplied for the viewing of the slides. The Johnson Shaw museum has one of these sets on display.

“It was said that all school districts surrounding the greater Pittsburgh area had at least one of these 600 sets,” said Johnson.

Today the stereoscope is easy to forget in our fast paced technological era of computers, television and movies, but Larry Johnson does not want the public to overlook this part of Meadville’s rich history.

The charm of seeing historical images such as Lou Gehrig, Gandhi, and Meadville brought to life as someone would a century ago is unquestionable and has captured the attention of many stereographic enthusiasts. Stereographic equipment and Keystone View Company memorabilia have become collectable antiques. But to Johnson, these objects are not just collector’s items, but pieces of his ancestor’s past, and a big part of the history of Meadville.

“We easily have the largest collection of these types of images in the entire world. My goal is to help preserve this history for generations to come,” Johnson says.

And to think, all this is right in our backyard. §

Stop by the Doane Art Gallery to see

Community-based Art -

works by artists who engage with local communities in a variety of ways

Exhibit Nov 6 – December 1

Continued from page 14

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Support Our Community

Shop downtown at local merchants.

They have things the big box stores don’t have and you also support the local economy.

http://civicengagement.allegeny.edu