



**ALLEGHENY
COLLEGE**
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Civic Engagement Newsletter

North Quad Will Be More Environmentally Friendly



Learning to Serve,
and Serving to Learn

By Dana Griswold
English 208: Techni-
cal/Professional Writ-
ing

Lighting. Air qual-
ity. Energy and water
efficiency. What do
these subjects have in
common? Everything.
Especially for Alle-
gheny College Envi-
ronmental Science
Professor Eric Pallant
and his junior seminar
dubbed “Going for
Green.” To them, these
are areas where Alle-
gheny College could
gain points toward
achieving a LEED Sil-
ver Certification.

LEED, which
stands for Leadership
in Energy and Environmental Design,
independently certifies “green,” or en-
vironmentally friendly, buildings. Alle-
gheny College’s new townhouse style
residence halls, called the North Quad,
may potentially become certified.

A voluntary rating system devel-
oped for the sole purpose of promoting
environmentally conscious buildings,
LEED certification marks the forward
movement of environmentalism. LEED
was also created to acknowledge envi-
ronmental leadership in the building
arena, increase the awareness of the
benefits of green buildings, and en-



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Students Provide Voter Education

By Phil Huffman
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

When Allegheny Economics Professor Don Goldstein began planning his introductory economics class, “Wealth, Poverty and Power in America,” he had one very important goal. “We focus some time on the basics of economics, but more importantly I want my students to see how real life, flesh and blood Americans live,” said Goldstein. One way he envisioned this would be possible was through an extensive service-learning project that will span the majority of the first semester.

The class will spend its time educating the clients of four Meadville agencies

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Writing and Revising

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

Professor Bomberger's Technical/Professional Writing class confronted the challenges of writing for a publication by creating one. They set a high standard for themselves, encouraging one another to keep reorganizing their materials, fine-tuning their language, and double-checking for accuracy. We hope you enjoy the result of their hard work.

Some students opted to write promotional materials for other organizations near and dear to them, both those on campus and those in the broader community. As a result,

- The Women's Services newsletter has an article on the importance of voting.
- The Women's Basketball Tip-off now sports an energetic new press release.



Back row: Jackie Vesci, Sarah Grudevich, Paul Gorse, Cate Todd, Dana Griswold, Sara Jamshidi, Michelle Manni, David Shope, Phil Huffman, Jason Carlson;
Middle Row: Chris Snowden, Amanda Linn, Janelle Hackman, Kristen Lyzen, Prof. Ann Bomberger; *Kneeling:* Martin Bobak, Megan Roby, and Elizabeth Bowland;
Missing from picture: Jeff Conroy and Ashly O'Donnell

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill will get more publicity about its meetings
- Kappa Alpha Theta's newsletter will include a description of a recent alumni event.
- An Alumna who is now the Assistant Secretary of Labor

- for Employment Standards will be featured in Kappa Kappa Gamma's Newsletter
- Up Til Dawn enjoys a brand new brochure.
- Grounds for Change has grounds to celebrate: a new brochure



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



Allegheny College, a selective liberal arts college of nearly 2,000 students in Meadville, PA, is one of the ten institutions to participate in Project Pericles, a national project of the Eugene Lang Foundation, committed to instilling in students a sense of social responsibility and civic concern.

Profiles of New VISTAs (Volunteers In Service To America)

By David Shope
English 208: Technical/Professional
Writing

Have you always thought that Allegheny students left Meadville after graduation? Well, you might be surprised to learn that some students have willingly stayed here in Meadville after graduation. In fact, there are currently five Allegheny graduates battling poverty in the Northwest Pennsylvania area thanks to Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

The federally funded, non-profit organization is working to eliminate poverty by supporting highly motivated and well educated individuals work in impoverished communities. The local program was set up by Allegheny College's Director of Community Service and Service-Learning, Dave Roncolato. In conjunction with the service programs from Gannon University, Edinboro University, and Mercyhurst College, Roncolato set up the program to specifically aid children in poverty in Crawford and Erie Counties.

With funding from the VISTA program, a committee selected several organizations in the area to receive a



Julie Langsdale, '04, works at the St. Benedict Education Center (SBEC), a center that helps people receiving welfare get access to additional education and job training.

VISTA. The job of a VISTA does not entail doing hands on service work for an organization, but instead requires working behind the scenes creating programs, events, or

See "VISTA," page 15

A New Way to Interpret Language

By Catriona Todd
English 208: Technical/Professional
Writing

When Elizabeth Ozorak's students go off campus and begin interacting with the Meadville community through service projects, they will be confronted by learning opportunities that will aid them in understanding the concepts they learn in class.

Ozorak teaches Allegheny College's Psychology 440 – Language and Social Cognition class and is an advocate of community service and service-learning as a means to stretch the boundaries of the classroom and help people in the process.

It is an idea of reciprocity that drives the service-learning program, the idea that students can exchange their time and effort and receive real life learning opportunities.

For this particular course, Ozorak's students are studying language as it is used in social situations. Students used to be asked to keep their ears open around campus and listen for ways that people spoke to one another and put language to use in everyday situations, but college students are a rather homogenous group of people and so there was not a real opportunity for her students to bring in varied examples.

One reason the addition of service-learning to this course will be beneficial is that students are "involved in situations with people who are in some way or another on the margin," Ozorak said. In other words, the students will be involved with community members who are in need of assistance in some way.

Students are working with three organizations: Head Start, with at-risk

children; CHAPS, with mental health awareness; and the Make A Difference Day (MADD) set-up. For the latter, students are paired up with community members to make site visits to those who have applied for the services of MADD volunteers.

Ozorak explained that language plays a role in these service-learning opportunities because language can be affected differently by different groups: gender, age, social class, race, region and peer groups, just to name a few. These projects have given students the opportunity to hear language being used by people besides other students. Examples from these interactions with community members will be analyzed in students' journals, which they keep for class.

Site supervisors for the projects were contacted and informed about the

See "Community Service," page 5

Vice President Dick Cheney Comes To Meadville



The national presidential election heated up in Meadville when Vice President Dick Cheney came to town on October 13.

Six hundred tickets to the event were distributed to Bush/Cheney supporters by the local branches of the Republican Party.

The Republican party rented Allegheny's David Wise Center for Cheney's talk since the college doesn't sponsor single political candidate events.

Outside the Wise Center, pro-Kerry community members, students, and faculty protested Cheney's arrival and the process for distributing tickets.

A handful of pro-Bush supporters stayed outside the Wise Center to make their views known. ♦



Get out and Vote Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.

Don't let others choose for you.

Grants To Help Incorporate Civic Engagement into Classes

By Jackie Vesci
English 208: Technical/ Professional Writing

What makes a community strong? What encourages people to volunteer? How do local farmers treat food production? Allegheny courses tackle local issues like these with hands-on experience in the Meadville community. With the help of a \$20,000 grant from Project Pericles, Allegheny professors can create new courses or expand on old ones that incorporate service-learning or civic engagement projects.

The project, named Civic Engagement Courses Grants (CEC), encourages faculty to create civic awareness in classrooms by helping out in the community. Funds of no more than \$3500 per faculty member will be granted to allow professors to develop innovative ideas for designing courses. Professors can apply for one of the approximately three awards given out each year for the next four to five years.

Service-learning activities can exist in all academic areas and Allegheny encourages equal participation in applying for the CEC funds among the social science, humanities, and natural science divisions.

The development of new courses, especially in First-Year/Sophomore Seminars, will take priority for awarding stipends. For the incoming 2004 class, First-Year Seminars entitled: *A Good Place to Live: Getting There from Here*; *Learning About Yourself and Others Through Service-Learning*; *The Geography of Addiction*; and *Ecology and Conservation of French Creek* have all integrated a project designed for venturing out into the community. Courses such as these, which involve service-learning, environmental studies, and traveling outside of the college, are a few examples of the kinds of courses that may strongly benefit from receiving a stipend.

Professors who wish to participate and apply for a stipend must complete a proposal roughly two pages in length. The deadline for submitting proposals is December 1st. The Dean of the College, Dr. Linda DeMeritt, will choose a CEC application review committee. The committee will announce the recipients of the stipends for the summer of 2005 in February. ◇

Funding for Civic Engagement Course Application

This Application should be submitted to the Dean of the College by no later than **December 1, 2004**. The entire application should not exceed two single-spaced pages. You should address the following items:

1. What is the name and number of the course? Will this be a new or existing course?
2. Please describe in some detail the scope of the planned innovations. That is, how do you intend to incorporate a civic engagement dimension in the offering?
3. Please discuss the impact that this new material will have on student learning.
4. Are there any ways that this material will affect the community? If so, please explain.
5. Please describe your mode of assessment. That is, how do you intend to gauge what students and/or community partners got from the course?
6. Please provide a detailed budget justification. Keep in mind that funds are generally made available for your time, travel, books, equipment and other related expenses

COMMUNITY SERVICE (continued from page 3)

way in which the students would be using their service hours for class. No one thought that using examples of language would be an area of concern. Students have been instructed about maintaining confidentiality of the people

they may use as examples.

When asked how she thought her students would respond to the people in their service projects, these people "on the margin", Ozorak responded by saying, "When you look at what people say, I think it makes people more sensitive. If anything, this will make my students more sensitive to the problems facing these people." ◇

Visit <http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu>

Making Meadville Greener

By Jason Carlson
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

In the middle of Meadville lies 1.75 acres of useless land consisting of nothing but an abandoned Coke plant, weeds and warped asphalt. However, with the help of Meadville Medical Center (MMHC), Meadville volunteers and Allegheny Environmental Science Majors Michelle Logut and Emily Warner, this area will be transformed.

The plant sits across the street from Meadville Medical. In between MMHC and the Coke plant is part of Meadville's historic Mill Run, a major tributary of French Creek, and plenty of unused land. Throughout this next year the plant will be partially demolished, leaving a rehabilitation/wellness center for the inside and creating a meditation garden/recreation center outside.

Starting as Logut's senior comprehensive project (Spring 2004) at Allegheny and continuing as Warner's endeavor, phase one is finally underway. The first phase, which costs over \$30,000, aims to rid existing concrete, non-native plants and weeds from the area while creating a winding trail amidst the park grounds.

The transition will be gradual, with phase one being constructed sometime before the new year. The completed product, however, should add a whole new face to downtown Meadville, turning the concrete into a park and

the weeds into flowers.

Phase two will begin during the fall or winter of 2005, implementing a pedestrian bridge, tables lining the stream and a recreational park. A meditation garden will also be added, consisting of a vast array of floral life filling the area with lush scenery and the calming effects of Mill Run.

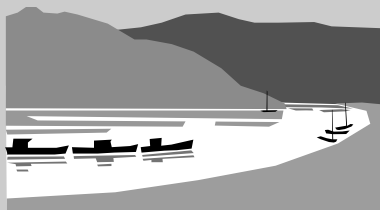
Meadville Medical director of support services, Jon Wallach, believes "the park will help restore Mill Run to its original beauty and will add a very nice aura to an otherwise blighted area...it will also provide a calming effect for ambulatory patients and families who are stuck at the hospital in otherwise traumatic situations."

The sharing of the land marks a large desire for MMHC to reach out to the community. However, the medical center is not alone in funding this expedition, the Committee Conservation Partnerships Program and their "Growing Greener" fund provided the project with \$28,000 to help cover the initial costs.

Likewise, Emily Warner is currently fueling Allegheny's efforts to step into the community and make a difference. She acts as a direct liaison between MMHC, Allegheny and Meadville as a whole. She states, "I'm excited about the simultaneous improvement of the natural environment and human quality of life...and the efforts to restore Mill Run and create an urban park in Meadville are definitely worthwhile for everyone."

Such efforts help accent the importance of Mill Run for the Meadville Community and Pennsylvania's French Creek. As one of the most revered creeks in Pennsylvania, French Creek owes its beauty to its major tributary, Mill Run. This project will consequently enhance both the Meadville community and French Creek.

In the end, the new park will be a place for children to play, athletes to jog, families to gather and elderly to sit in the midst of the meditation garden. It will be a little piece of heaven in the middle



Submit your work to

French Creek: The Journal of Undergraduate Environmental Writing and Art

Based at Allegheny, French Creek is an online journal that publishes original essays, poetry, fiction, and artwork focused on place-based or environmental subject matter.

To read past issues or learn how to submit your work for review, go to

<http://frenchcreekjournal.allegheny.edu/>

VOTERS (continued from page 1)

about all aspects of the voting process involved in the upcoming election. Active Aging, Women's Services, Meadville Housing Authority and CHAPS (Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program) will all benefit from the efforts of these students.

The main focus of the program will be providing education for these clients involving the election, registering those people who desire it, and ultimately assisting at the polls on November 2nd.

In early to mid-September, the students met with the clients from their respective agencies to discuss what issues most affect their clients in the upcoming election.

From information gathered at this meeting, the clients were provided an information sheet that outlines the candidate's positions on these issues.

Shane Sullivan, a student working with the Meadville Housing Authority commented, "By giving these potential voters information regarding their concerns, we hope to give them the feeling that they really do have a say in the political process." Goldstein hopes this will translate into informed voting come Election Day.

The registration aspect of the project is an important one, especially given the implication for this year's election. As important as it is that every vote is counted, and every possible voice heard, the class staffed a table at their chosen agency through the months of September and October, making sure that those who desire will be able to vote. Students also aided in requesting absentee ballots for those who need them. This was not successful everywhere though, and for good reason. At Active Aging, where the clients include senior citizens, "Most were already registered, and if not, knew why they didn't want to be," Goldstein

"By giving these potential voters information regarding their concerns, we hope to give them the feeling that they really do have a say in the political process," student Shane Sullivan

stated. This is one example of the different demographics chosen by Goldstein to give his students an all-inclusive look at the Meadville community.

Come November 2nd, votes will be heard, and Gold-



Leilani Abinosa shows a senior citizen the election issues fact sheet her team created based on election concerns voiced by seniors during previous visits.

stein's class will make sure of it. For those who do not have transportation, it will be provided to them through both the agencies and students. Along with this, any necessary assistance at the polls will be available, from reading the ballots, to the actual voting process.

The people of Meadville are not the only ones benefiting from this project. Goldstein classifies these efforts as "service-learning" and hopes that his students will learn a great deal as they work side by side with a lower income demographic. Through this cooperation, the students will try to answer a variety of questions posed by their professor. They will see how income affects the opinions and perceptions of different candidates and their platforms. Also, students will see how financial situations shape views on the voting process in general. Finally, they will find out themselves how they can help someone they don't know find a way to express themselves in hopes of bettering their situation.

"I'm happy to give my students a chance to go out there and deal with the local community" says Goldstein of the project. Over the next three months, with a combined total of approximately 1200 hours of service, his students will do just that.

This is a project that will work both ways, in that it will not only give local citizens a chance they may not have previously had, but will also provide an experience these students can reflect upon and learn from for a long time. Votes must be heard on Election Day, and these students are doing their part to make sure they are. ♦

Make a Difference Day



2004





Getting to Know the Neighborhood: The Meadville Chamber of Commerce

By Jeff Conroy
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Can you name the third oldest chamber of commerce in the United States? If you guessed the Meadville Chamber of Commerce then you know your Chamber history. The Meadville Chamber of Commerce was established in 1899 but flourished from 1807 to 1899 under a different name, the Meadville Society for Encouragement of Domestic Manufactures and the Useful Arts.

Fast forward to the year 2004. What does The Meadville Chamber of Commerce exactly do? What is the mission and goal of the Chamber? Who is a part of the Chamber?

Nowadays, the Chamber represents 700 businesses--large, medium, and small--and their 15,000 employees.

While it is completely non-profit, the Chamber stresses very much that it does not receive any government funding. All members are expected to pay annual dues to the Chamber of Commerce. Assistant to the Chamber CEO, Shelly Berasi states, "We always finish in the black but look around...the office furniture is not exactly state of the art." The paychecks and office space may be small but the mission is to serve the companies, not pull in profits.

The Chamber provides Meadville and other western Crawford County businesses with opportunities for growth, general business assistance, and exposure to the community. In addition, the Chamber offers health insurance to all Chamber members including small or self-employed businesses who otherwise may not have insur-

ance available.

One of the more interesting facets of what the Meadville Chamber of Commerce creates is the annual magazine, *Images of Meadville-Western Crawford County*. *Images* points out the finer assets of the area. The publication includes articles and a vast amount of color photography. Whether the article entails a community project, business or person, *Images* promotes the beauty and opportunity for the Meadville area. According to Chamber CEO Charlie Anderson the goal of the publication is to attract the attention of outside developers.

Numerous business-to-business networking opportunities exist for Chamber members. These activities include gold outings, Breakfast of Champions and Business After Hours.

Breakfast of Champions entails breakfast and a guest speaker who provide important information to members. In September 2004, representatives from The Home Depot spoke with Chamber members about the home improvement store's reasoning for opening business in Meadville. Business After Hours is simply a get together with other members of the Chamber. Members enjoy dining and drinks while networking with other Chamber members. This past August, Business After Hours was held at Mickey's Central Fire Station in conjunction with the opening of Mickey's outdoor patio.

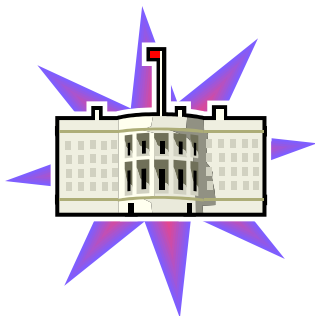
For more information on how the Chamber can help you or to simply learn more about the dedicated organization call (814) 337-8030 or visit the Chamber on the World Wide Web at www.meadvillechamber.com ♦

FCVCIC (continued from page 14)

nesses. Most projects will involve cost sharing between the project requester and the FCVCIC; companies such as 84 Lumber and Home Depot are interested in donating materials. The FCVCIC also received a \$17,000 state grant through Senator Robert D. Robbins, and community fundraisers are being planned.

Calvert and Roncolato expect an abundance of volunteers at the center. They do not anticipate problems fulfilling an expected need of 20 per week. A number of skilled supervisors have offered to lead various projects in their areas of expertise. Organizers predict many Allegheny student volunteers, including Greek life philanthropies and athletic teams. It is also likely that community members will donate time. All volunteers have the opportunity to choose which projects they prefer to work on. Skilled supervisors, Allegheny students, and community members will be integrated to complete projects, further promoting partnership and enriching the serving experience.

The Mission Statement of the FCVCIC reads: "A coordinated volunteer effort to help members of our community, especially those with special needs or limited income, to make their homes safe and accessible." Thanks to the FCVCIC, community members will have somewhere to turn for help year round. Volunteer groups will be available for assistance and no one will be left standing alone. Be a part of the FCVCIC's campaign for a stronger and healthier community. ♦



Election Night Extravaganza

Come watch the election results on two big screen TVs in a lively group setting.

Tuesday, November 02, 2004

8 p.m. - midnight

Campus Center Lobby

Sponsored by the Center for Political Participa-

Fighting Lead Poisoning

By Sara Jamshidi
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Imagine yourself relaxing with your friends or family in the comfort of your own home. Did you ever stop to think that surrounding you on the walls and in your yard is the poisonous substance lead? Probably not, but Dr. Caryl Waggett realizes this all too frequent problem and wants to help you. Dr. Waggett, a second year environmental science professor at Allegheny College is taking her concerns to the forefront and is on a quest to study the potential lead contamination in low income housing in and around Meadville. This study, which took off about a year ago, is still truly in its early stages, but will provide important information to Meadville residents that can greatly affect children's health.

Waggett, along with two student researchers, Suzanne Young, a Senior Environmental Science major and Seth Wilmore, a Junior Environmental Science major, have been working on the lead contamination project since the fall semester of 2003. With the aid of a \$3,500 grant from the Shanbrom Research Fund, the project has been able to

flourish.

In order to conduct research, Waggett and her students have divided the project into three components, the first component being actual sample collection from houses in Crawford County. For this study, dust samples from inside the home and soil samples from the surrounding yard are collected and analyzed for the presence of lead. To date, 20 samples have been collected, and Waggett hopes to enroll another 100 residences to complete this research.

The second and third components of this project will be examined if the results from the project's first component provide evidence that lead might be an issue in this community. One project would examine the perceived risk of individuals in the community. What Waggett hopes to learn is if families are aware of the risks of lead contamination. Do they realize the severity? Do they know that *they* may be at risk?

The final project would actually screen children themselves in an effort to learn whether children are actually ingesting or breathing in any of the lead present in dust or soil samples. Additional resources will be needed to pur-

See "Lead" page 12

A New Face at the Center for Political Participation

By Paul Gorse
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

What new member of the Center for Political Participation (CPP) at Allegheny College is working on a project that could ensure a case like O. J. Simpson's will never happen again?

Rebecca Harris, a recent addition to the CPP and the Allegheny community, is excited and more than ready to take advantage of the opportunities at Allegheny College. Harris, graduate of The University of Illinois and native to Portland, Oregon, is the new pre-dissertation fellow at the CPP, a position that is new to Allegheny College this year as well. Dan Shea, associate professor of political science at Allegheny College and Director of the CPP, came up with the idea to bring in a pre-dissertation fellow.

Professor Shea explained how the CPP was fortunate enough to receive grant money from the federal

government in order to broaden the work of the CPP.

After much thought, the CPP finally settled on the idea of creating a pre-dissertation fellow. Once the CPP decided on what to do with the money, the organization contacted graduate department chairs and eventually brought in Harris. Unfortunately, the money given is called 'soft money,' which means the funding to keep Harris here is only going to last a year. Professor Shea hopes the funding will continue and said he is 'very pleased she is with us' when asked about Harris.

What exactly is a pre-dissertation fellow and what exactly is Harris doing here at Allegheny you might be wondering? Harris is here working to get her Ph.D.

One of the projects she is taking on is to write her dissertation, which is on the judicial processing of scientific information. With forensic science reaching new levels every year, the problem of translating scientific information into terms a jury could understand is becoming more difficult. During the O. J.



Rebecca Harris joined the staff of the Center for Political Participation this year.

Simpson trial, jurors complained that all the information about DNA confused them and did not help them reach a verdict at all. Obviously this is a problem within our judicial system that needs to be addressed. Harris is working to provide judges with a much better understanding of the difference between 'good' scientific data

See "CPP," page 12

LEAD (continued from page 11)

sue these final two components, but they are integral to understanding risk in rural NW Pennsylvania.

Although they have only recently started to go into the community and collect samples, Waggett's team has finished working on the preliminary steps, which were to prove the lead research project was truly worth conducting.

Lead, which can have severe health effects on both children and adults, primarily attacks children, especially at a young age. In Pennsylvania alone, lead poisoning ranks number two in children's health issues next to asthma. Exposure can cause decreased IQ, learning disabilities, ADD, ADHD and memory problems. In children, these problems are elevated because a child's brain has not been fully developed, therefore allowing lead to contaminate and hinder development. Frequent hand to mouth contact seen in children also increases a child's exposure.

While Pennsylvania does not require children to get tested for lead poisoning, it does host lead prevention programs. The problem though is that these programs are set up only in urban areas. The lack of prevention programs in rural Pennsylvania drove Waggett to act.

"The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that every child be screened for lead. Unfortunately, the economic realities force states to make difficult decisions and Pennsylvania has focused their limited funds on high density urban regions. It is very important that we identify whether children living in rural regions like Crawford County are at risk. We just don't know," Waggett explained. "We know enough about the severity of this disease and how to prevent lead poisoning that this should be a high priority."

Because children are more susceptible to lead poisoning, a child's nutritional status is a key factor in determining how susceptible a child is. If a child is healthier nutritionally, lead does not have as severe of an effect. What Waggett and her students found was that a city such as Meadville, with a lower socioeconomic background, leaves children at a greater risk. This results in children having a poor nutritional background, therefore placing them at a greater risk for lead poisoning.

In her research, Waggett also found that 75% of the homes in Meadville were built before 1950. The significance of this fact is that prior to 1978, lead was a primary ingredient in paint as well as other products. Houses built before 1950 undoubtedly have been painted with lead based paint. While we may believe paint is simply on the walls, trace amounts of lead may also be found in the soil and yard due to chips and dust from both interior and exterior paint removal.

While these problems could be fixed, many people in the area don't have the money to repaint walls and clean their yards. Therefore the problem goes unfixed, putting people at a great risk for lead poisoning.

All of these factors led Waggett, Young and Wilmore to believe that the lead research would indeed be a beneficial and worthwhile undertaking for the Meadville community. ♦



"Key Environmental Health Concerns Facing Pennsylvania's Children"

Wednesday, November 17, 2004
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Carnegie 212

Becky Smullin, '00, senior analyst for environmental health policy, will be discussing key environmental health concerns for children of PA including air pollution, asthma, urban sprawl, obesity, and diabetes. After graduating from Allegheny, she received her Masters from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. She currently works for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials where she has partnered with the CDC and the states to establish a national environmental public health tracking program. This lecture is sponsored by Luce funding.

Visit <http://ceed.allegheny.edu> for more information.

CPP (continued from page 7)

and 'junk' data, making the judicial system much more effective in producing accurate verdicts.

Not only is Harris working on her dissertation, she is also giving back to Allegheny by teaching government courses. This is an experience Harris described as invaluable. She has much experience in teaching as well; for seven years she taught at UI. Her plan for the future is to teach at a small liberal arts college, just like Allegheny. Harris is thrilled to have first hand experience in what she plans on doing for her career. She also complimented the students she works with calling them enthusiastic and is glad she is getting to know them on a more personal level, something she could not do at a big university such as UI.

If her plate is not full enough already, Harris is going to be involved in outside research with Professor Shea throughout the entire year. Currently they are both conducting a study on how gender affects local party leadership in the county. Professor Shea said scholars are beginning to discern the differences in gender leadership and this is a topic worth studying. The next topic they are going to pursue is the effectiveness of the high school outreach programs conducted by the CPP.

Rebecca Harris has already proven herself to be a valuable asset to the Allegheny community and hopefully her work will continue to go well. ♦

Empowering High School Students to Vote

By Janelle Hackman
English 208: Technical/Professional Writing

Allegheny's Center for Political Participation (CPP) and Meadville High School are working hard to encourage young people to register to vote. Both groups have created innovative strategies aimed at high school kids. The issues themselves—the war on terrorism, gas prices, and unemployment—are also influencing kids to become involved in the political world around them.

The CPP is an organization designed to get young people more involved in politics through outreach programs in and outside of the Allegheny College community.

This summer, students Adam Fogel, '06, and Sara Schmitt, '06, created the project "Why Bother? The Importance of Voting in America," a multimedia presentation offered in 15 local high schools this fall.

Fogel said the program was designed for seniors in high school and covers why students should vote, the major differences between the candidates and how to register to vote. The presentation uses examples relative to situations high school students might find themselves in.

With colorful graphics and popular music, the piece stresses the importance of every vote. The presentation goes on to give a brief history of the birth of our democratic nation and the values upon which our government is based. The program concludes with pictures showing students how to physically vote.

The Social Studies Department at Meadville High School is also doing their part to encourage young people. Every four years they offer a Mock Election to students in the ninth to twelfth grade. In this poll, conducted the week of October 25th, nearly 850 kids got the chance to "vote."

Political Science teacher David Morfenski said kids seem to be talking more about political issues now because the issues are directly affecting them. Many of the students have friends overseas involved in the war. With the Internet, kids today have more access to information than ever before. Morfenski described a situation where one of his students graphically described the beheading of a US citizen he witnessed on the Internet.

In the past the turnout for young voters has been extremely low, perhaps because they find it difficult to relate to issues like social security and health care; however, the War in Iraq seems to be instilling more deliberation in young people. Polls from the Harvard Institute of Politics, the Pew Research Center and MTV are predicting the biggest turnout in history for the upcoming election.

"Making an informed decision is the most important thing," says Fogel. You can learn more about the candidates and their political views by going to www.johnkerry.com, www.georgewbush.com, or presidentmatch.com/Guide.jsp2.

The upcoming election is November 2nd. Make your voice heard! ♦

Statistics on Young People and Voting

# of people under 30 who said they registered to vote in 2000	47%
—————	
# of people under 30 who said they registered to vote in 2004	58%
—————	
# of young registered voters who say they plan to vote in November (up from 67% four years ago)	85%

Did you know . . .

Allegheny's Civic Engagement Newsletter recently was honored by being added to the Campus Compact database of "Best Practices" ?

Campus Compact is a national organization that promotes Civic Engagement in Higher Education.

<http://www.campuscompact.org>

Humanities Lecture Series:

Dan Shea, "Big Money, Swift Boats, and 527s: Lessons Learned from the 2004 Election"

Date: Monday, November 15, 2004

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

303 Campus Center

NORTH QUAD (continued from page 1)

courage competition for green buildings.

Professor Pallant has been attempting to progress Allegheny College towards the direction of these “green buildings” for several years now. He tried to convince the college of LEED’s benefits during the construction of the Wise Center, but the drawings had already been finalized. Professor Pallant’s next effort involved the future theatre and performing arts/ communications arts building on campus, but that fell through as well. In the end the Dean of Students at Allegheny, Joe DiChristina, offered Eric Pallant a say in the North Quad project. Now Professor Pallant’s “Going for Green” seminar shares his dream for LEED certification, and this dream hopefully soon becoming a reality.

This semester Professor Pallant’s “Going for Green” class will work side by side with Cannon Design, an international architectural firm, and Allegheny College’s North Quad committee to come up with ways to construct the new residence halls so they contend for silver certification from LEED.

The committee consists of Joe Miller, Director of Residence Life; Ken Hanna, Director of Physical Plant; and Joe DiChristina, Dean of Students. Each one of these leaders on campus is excited about the North Quad project for many reasons: one, on-campus living will increase from 75% to 85% of students; two, student enrollment will rise; and three, if achieved, Allegheny College would be among the leaders promoting LEED certified buildings.

“We’re trying to get as much student feedback as possible,” stated Joe Miller and that’s where “Going for Green” comes in. Not only are they researching building materials, lighting options, water-saving toilets, and more energy efficient heating/ cooling systems, but they also are looking very closely at the costs of all these products.

“In order to get LEED certification, we’re going to need to make some hard decisions,” said Director Ken Hanna about the economical feasibility of acquiring a silver certification.

For the new North Quad dormitory to contend for silver certification by LEED, Allegheny College needs 33-38 points out of a possible 69 points. There are five specific categories “Going for Green” looks at when considering probable points: sustainable, or competently maintained, building sites; water efficiency; energy and atmosphere; materials and resources; and indoor environmental quality. Two examples of the points within these categories the college could obtain: 20% of the materials used in the building process were manufactured locally or regionally and/or 75% of spaces within the dorm had access to daylight and outside views.

Interested in this project? For further details:

- **LEED homepage:** http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEED_main.asp
- **Carnegie Mellon’s Green Dorm:** <http://www.housing.cmu.edu/buildings/newhouse/>
- **Professor Eric Pallant’s web site:** <http://webpub.allegheny.edu/employee/e/epallant/>
- **Cannon Design homepage:** http://www.cannondesign.com/start_frameset.htm

The North Quad dormitory will be located directly across from the Oddfellows Building on North Main St. and just north of the Campus Center. The site is outlined by Limber Road, John Street, North Main Street, and Highland Avenue.

The nine buildings will be apartment style townhouses clustered together in groups of three with a proposed 279 student capacity. Each individual townhouse, housing a proposed 5 students, will have its own porch and mini-quad for students to gather and throw a Frisbee or toss a football, Ken Hanna noted.

Construction will begin immediately following graduation in May of 2005.

The juniors in the “Going for Green” seminar will present their research and findings to the Cannon architects, President Richard Cook, and the entire North Quad committee at the end of this semester.

Their research will then be brought to the Board of Trustees, who have already approved the funding for a ground source heating and cooling pump, which stores heat underground for the winter and cool air in the summer. The Board has also given a thumbs-up to the eco-star roof, a roof made from recycled materials.

Despite the immense amounts of research, uncertainty, and financial boundaries, Professor Pallant and the students from “Going for Green” seem extremely eager to see Allegheny College working on the design of a green dorm. Bringing home a LEED Silver Certification could be one of the most groundbreaking accomplishments this campus has ever achieved. ◇

VISTA (continued from pg 3)

volunteer training within the organization.

Here is a look at just what the five Allegheny graduates have been up to.

Jay Calvert

For the past two months Jay Calvert has been working to help create the French Creek Valley Community Improvement Center (FCVCIC), a non-profit organization seeking to aid those confronting rural poverty (*See related article on pg. 16*). Every year Make a Difference Day helps to assist impoverished people in the area; the FCVCIC hopes to keep the spirit of Make a Difference Day alive year round. Calvert's job at FCVCIC is to organize volunteers, skilled laborers, and materials to work on the projects that can not be finished on Make a Difference Day. According to Calvert, "The one attribute every [VISTA] must have is compassion... if you feel for the people and care about their problems then you'll fight for them."

Julie Langsdale

The St. Benedict Education Center (SBEC) works with individuals on welfare to further their education and employment possibilities. One of SBEC's objectives as a program is to increase the job retention of those who come to them for assistance; as a VISTA for SBEC, Julie Langsdale focuses on creating programs to reach this goal. In Langsdale's two short months of being a VISTA, she has found a new respect for those facing economical difficulties in their life, "I had never before realized how many obstacles people must overcome to get off of welfare... being a VISTA has helped me to realize how much I take for granted." She now works long, hard hours to do significant and essential work for SBEC, in hopes that she may help those on welfare overcome some of the daily difficulties they face. According to Langsdale, so long as she can make a small difference, the effect will be worth it, "[Being a VISTA] has also helped me to realize that small changes can make a big difference."

Jonathon Kuberry

"It's great; its creativity with an educational purpose, a purpose that helps others," comments Jonathon Kuberry on his current VISTA position. Working to create after school programs in four Erie school districts, Kuberry seems to have found the perfect place to fulfill his desires. According to Kuberry, "I want experience in the museum industry and working with kids; this way I get both." As a VISTA, Kuberry gets the opportunity to help create and repair exhibits for the museum, while creating programs for under served children. In the small amount of time Kuberry has been a VISTA, he has already found great pleasure in his work, "I love the small museum staff and sense of closeness with other VISTAs."

Vicki Kajder

As an Allegheny student Vicki Kajder never realized that the small secluded college on the hill is vastly different from the rest of Crawford County. Since becoming a VISTA working at Child to Family Connections, Kajder has become widely exposed to the many needs of the area. Currently, Kajder is eagerly working to create a curriculum full of activities to aid foster children dealing with common foster care issues, such as grief, identity, and self-esteem. So far, the experience has been a happy one: "The part of my job that I most enjoy is actually being with the children and working one-on-one with them." Originally Kajder had planned to go straight to graduate school after college, but after a suggestion from her college advisor she reevaluated her options, "I realized that a year of experience working with children and providing service for the community would be a great benefit before I go to graduate school."

Heather Osterwise

"All anyone needs to be a VISTA is a big heart and a willingness to work," claims Heather Osterwise and like most VISTAs she has exactly that. Presently involved with the Meadville Housing Authority, Osterwise is working to create three different programs focusing on teen health, parent-child relationships, and an after-school tutoring program. So far life as a VISTA has given Osterwise many enjoyable opportunities, perhaps the most important being the chance to apply herself: "It feels really good to finally be using my education to make a difference in the town that became my home over the four years I spent at Allegheny." Even when summing up the most difficult part of being a VISTA, Osterwise stays optimistic and enthusiastic about her work, "Sometimes the level of responsibility is a bit daunting, but if I can make a difference in one person's life, then my time will have been well-spent."

The five VISTA leaders have worked on a wide range of projects and performed invaluable services to the community. The desire of students to be involved with the VISTA program is displayed through the fact that all five VISTA leaders come from the graduating class of 2004. Roncolato sees the ability of the program to draw in five such eager and dedicated individuals so quickly as impressive. Even more remarkable is the fact that a few of the VISTAs have already expressed interest in continuing their service after the normal one year period.

Obviously the VISTA program is having a positive impact on these five Allegheny graduates as well as the programs they are serving. Hopefully the enthusiasm of all involved with VISTA will help to generate more eager volunteers, while aiding children in poverty. Based on the passion of the five Allegheny graduates who became VISTA leaders the programs success is sure to continue.◊

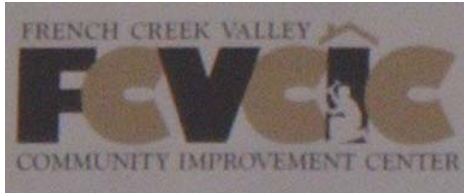
Making a Difference Every Day

By Megan Roby

English 208:
Technical/
Professional Writing

As the brisk wind blew through Crawford County on October 16, Make a Difference Day 2004 embarked upon a new tradition. When the sun set that evening, volunteers rested, work clothes were hung up, and paint brushes were washed out, but only temporarily. The spirit of Make a Difference Day was not tucked away until next year. Instead, the newly established French Creek Valley Community Improvement Center (FCVCIC) will continue the energy and partnership of Make a Difference Day throughout the year.

Following Make a Difference Day 2003 and the completion of nearly 150 projects, it became clear more critical needs for volunteer work existed than could be handled. Requests for aid were turned away due to lack of time and resources. All the fundamental needs of the community could not be met in a single day. In response, the FCVCIC was created. According to David Roncolato, Director of Community Service and Service-Learning at Allegheny, "The center is possible because it is built on the good will and relationships of the community which developed over many Make a Difference Days." The primary goal of the FCVCIC is to make a difference



through community service every day, not just once a year.

The FCVCIC, currently operating under the United Way of Western Crawford County, is the first organization of its type in our area. Jay Calvert, an Allegheny graduate of 2004, is coordinating the center. Calvert expects the FCVCIC to begin work later this year on projects that were not completed on Make a Difference Day. Community members, who are in need of assistance with the maintenance of their home, will then have the opportunity to request work. If it is determined as a critical need, resources and volunteers will be gathered to complete the project. The center will provide a variety of services, ranging from yard work and



VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Jay Calvert, '04, introduces the French Creek Valley Community Improvement Center (FCVCIC), a center that will connect volunteers with local service projects all year long.

painting to building porches and ramps. Generally, the organization will "move as quickly as possible...to make safer, more accessible homes" in the community, said Calvert.

Roncolato describes the FCVCIC as a "service program in the paradigm of partnership." The program will strengthen ties between students, community members, and local busi-

See "FCVCIC," page 10

Centers for Civic Engagement
[http://civicengagement.
allegheny.edu](http://civicengagement.allegheny.edu)