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Public Service News

Cornell University Public Service Center

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Service LEARNING

Cornell and GIAC Celebrate Martin Luther King Day

On January 16, the Greater Ithaca Activities Center, the Multicultural Resource Center, Cornell's Public Service Center and a variety of community members presented a free program from noon-5pm at GIAC to honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This was a pilot project conceived by GIAC, the Multicultural Resource Center and the Public Service Center to address the community's need for more programming on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Cornell's Division of Student and Academic Services reassigned 24 staff people for the day to volunteer and help make this event possible. It was truly a collaborative effort and a very successful one at that. Over 200 adults and young people attended this first time celebration and there was great interest from the community in having an event like this again. The afternoons events began with a free luncheon from noon-1:30p, at which the Reverend Cleveland Thornhill spoke about the civil rights movement. Afterwards, there

were two performances by Busi Radebe-Mbata and Jackie Scott.

From 1:30-3:30, activities, including drumming, storytelling, African American haircare, and movies were held throughout the building. Participants were also invited to assist the artist, John Ewing, paint a portable mural honoring King. The mural will be displayed at public locations in the community.

From 3:30-5:00pm, two separate discussions focused on racism and community issues of importance to all people of color. Both of these discussions groups were well attended and both will have follow up meetings to continue exploring the various issues that were expressed. It was very exciting to have the downtown community and our division embark on this project together and then have it be such a success.

Ellen Baer

From the Director's Desk:

Welcome to Spring '95

Although the ground may be covered with the "three s's"—snow, sleet, and slush—for which January in Ithaca is noted, the Public Service Center is busily gearing up for spring activities. Whether working in the community, participating in National Volunteer Week, launching a new service project, or exploring alternative spring break options, the Center is the place to begin your quest.

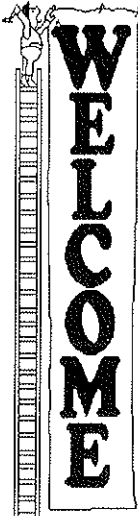
I invite you to stop by our office and check out our resource library, look over our bulletin board of campus and national happenings, find out the scoop on service awards and grants, or spend some time with the staff talking about your own service experiences. Whatever your service needs or interests, you will find the Center to be a welcoming spot to meet others on the campus with similar interests.

Take a moment to read through our newsletter, attend our gatherings, and share with us your

experiences, concerns, and suggestions for ways we can better assist you with your community service efforts.

All the best for the new term.

Katherine Dooh



Upcoming EVENTS

- March 2 The Coalition for Service Monthly meeting, 5pm at the Public Service Center
- March 11 Cabin Fever, Barton Hall, 10 am-6pm.
- March 23-26 - COOL National Conference on Community Service in Tempe, Arizona
- March 24- 26 - The Partnership for Service-Learning 12th Annual Conference, " Encountering other cultures through Service-Learning," New York City. Keynote speaker Chinua Achebe.
- April 7 - Take Back The Night will have a march and rally, beginning at 5 pm at Willard Straight Hall, to fight violence which oppresses all women.

Service OPPORTUNITIES

Update on School Programs

A.C.E. Homework HelpLine

The Homework HelpLine is a joint project between Students for Children and the Public Service Center that provides telephone tutoring services for students who participate in the Access to College Education Initiative. This service is available to help support the academic



success of six hundred high school students from 14 school districts in Tompkins and Cortland counties. The HelpLine is staffed by approximately

20 Cornell undergraduate students.

Graduate Students in the Schools

For the third spring, the Public Service Center will be supporting the involvement of 17 Cornell graduate students in area elementary, middle, and high schools through the Graduate Student Outreach Project. The graduate students will be offering mini-courses on various topics related to their areas of interest and expertise. Topics include poetry, rocks and fossils, microbiology, material science, entomology, environmental conservation, botany, veterinarian medicine, chemistry, American politics, history of English, fractal geometry, space science, and animal habitats.

Graduate students will share their knowledge and resources with students and collaborate with teachers to implement the mini-courses during one class period a week for eight weeks.

Into the Streets Greets another Semester

Into the Streets planners are excited about a whole new semester of social education, awareness, and action for the Cornell community. The Public Service Fair is set

for Thursday, March 2 from 10 to 3:00 in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall. The Public Service Fair is an information extravaganza about local, national, and international service opportunities. There will be representatives from student service organizations, community agencies, and national and international organizations. This year's Fair will be co-sponsored by the Center and the department of Campus Life.

Into the Streets is also implementing a monthly calendar of educational workshops, followed by a day of service each month. Currently, different months are already nationally and internationally recognized as having themes, which are focused on social issues. Into the Streets, in conjunction with a variety of campus and community organizations, will plan at least one educational workshop/forum and one hands-on service project focused on each month's social issue. It is hoped that through this cooperative planning, Into the Streets can be a vehicle for focusing our community's energy on addressing pressing social issues through both action and awareness. As this monthly calendar concept is new for Into the Streets,

a c t u a l programming will begin in March when Ithaca goes "into the streets" for Women's History Month.



Into the Streets is currently looking for an Assistant Director. Any freshmen or sophomore interested in this leadership role as director-in-training should pick up an application at the Center. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Anyone interested in participating in ITS's spring events, whether it be as a group or individual, or interested in planning these events, should contact Into the Streets at 255-3836.

STAFF DIRECTORY

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PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

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To contribute an article or post an announcement, contact Public Service News, Public Service Center, Cornell University, Sage Hall, 14 East Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14853-6201; 607-255-1148.

The Center is open Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Thursday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Service OPPORTUNITIES

Coalition For Service

The Coalition for Service is committed to providing campus-wide leadership on public service issues in addition to its goals of encouraging collaboration and communication among all student service groups. The Coalition hopes to create forums for the discussion of issues in order to bring awareness to members of the Cornell community and ultimately, to spur action that will benefit the cause of public service.

Last semester the Coalition concentrated on the question, "Should students be allowed to earn academic credit for learning through public service?" In an effort to tackle such an enormous issue, the Coalition is exploring many possible answers and welcomes your input into these discussions.

Anyone interested in participating in the Coalition is welcome to attend the meetings. Although service learning is the Coalition's primary focus at this time, new topics of discussion and action are also welcome. The Coalition meets the first Monday of the month at 5pm at the Public Service Center. If you would like to get involved in the Coalition or would like more information, please call Aileen Garipey at 255-3836.

Community Jobs for Work Study Eligible Students

Do you have a federal work study award? Are you interested in working in the communities non-profit sector? CIVITAS may be able to help you find a job. The Community Work-Study program will be placing applicants who meet the necessary requirements for paid work-study positions in area human service agencies. Jobs are available in youth and daycare programs, the arts, women's organizations, the environment, mental health, planning, health care, and many more areas. If you would like to complete an application, please call 255-1148 to schedule an appointment.

Robinson-Appel Humanitarian Award

Cornell University's Public Service Center is pleased to announce the 5th annual Robinson-Appel Humanitarian Award for the Spring of 1995. The award was established by alumni Gerald and Margot Robinson, and Robert and Helen Appel to honor students who have made outstanding contributions to community service and to provide support for projects addressing the community social needs.

We encourage all Cornell undergraduate or graduate student to apply. Three awards of \$1,000 each will be granted to the winning proposals. Application and nomination forms will be available at the Public Service Center at 14 East Avenue and at Information & Referral in the Day Hall Lobby after winter break. Students may apply directly or they may be nominated by a fellow student, community member or a Cornell faculty/staff member.



Nominations are due 24 February 1995 and applications are due 17 March 1995. Applicants must be available for interviews on Friday, 28 April 1995.

If you have any questions, please stop by the Public Service Center or call us at 255-1148.

Public Service Talk comes to Print

The popular list serv, PUBLICSERVICETALK-L, is now coming to print. It will be featured as an editorial column, in the Public Service Newsletter, for anyone wanting to contribute their thoughts or suggestions or announcements. For those who haven't quite yet mastered electronic media, such as e-mail, this is the perfect opportunity for you to send letters to the editor about any issue concerning service.

Public Service Talk will be featured in our next newsletter. So, don't be afraid to overwhelm us with your ideas. To submit articles, either send e-mail to jef6@cornell.edu (Jason Francis) or drop by the Center on 14 East Avenue.



Take Back The Night

Preparation has begun for the April 1995 Take Back The Night (TBTN) march and rally. TBTN is a celebration of women's strength, as individuals and as a unified group. Take Back The Night is a movement to reclaim what rightfully belongs to all women — lives free from all forms of violence. We march not only to take back the night, but also the day... not just the street, but our homes, our schools, and our workplaces. We march to take back not just these three hours of rallying and marching, but our entire lives. We urge the community to come together as people of all abilities, ages, ethnicities, economic levels, and sexual orientations to protest

**SERVE
FOR A
CHANGE...**

Community

**Service
Works!**



violence faced by all of us. Let us begin to work to educate ourselves about the ways in which we oppress each other and to learn to work together toward positive social change.

The TBTN march and rally will be on Friday, 7 April, 1995. It will start at 5 pm at Willard Straight Hall and participants will march downtown from there. At 6 pm, the group will meet at the Commons, march through downtown Ithaca, to end at 7 pm with a rally.

The TBTN Collective is non-hierarchical and looks to fight violence which oppresses all women. If you would like to be active in the TBTN Women's Collective, please contact IRC at 273-5589, or Christina at 277-7288.

Service PROFILES

Empowering Our Community : The Community Partnership Fund

by Donna-Liu Weiss

There is little doubt in our minds that there have been times when you have said to yourself "I wish I could do something more for my community..." only to come to the stark realization that there are too few funds and not enough organizations that are able to support you. Times are tight these days, and existing organizations tend to fund established programs that have proven results, or have their own programs that you can join, but can do little to change. Regardless of all of this, however, don't just give up on your ideas of doing that project you know can make a difference! Don't just give up on getting involved with the administrative end of public service, because there is a way! The Community Partnership Fund (CPF) of the Public Service Center can help you realize these goals, and then some.

The Community Partnership Fund strives to embody partnership, student management, social responsibility, and education in the projects that it funds and supports. By funding and promoting proposals that attack social inequities, foster student leadership, and empower the outlying Ithaca community, the CPF assists the Cornell community in bringing to life its hopes of improving our society through social action.

The ideology behind the group's goal is to create a mutually beneficial relationship in which both students and community members work side by side to improve the quality of community life by studying the causes and effects of social problems. We offer guidance and assistance throughout every step of the projects we fund, as well as for those we do not. Our job is to foster a sense of cooperation between the Cornell and Ithaca communities, and facilitate the implementation of as many viable and worthwhile projects as possible.

Through the empowerment of our community, The Community Partnership Fund Board helps people help themselves through progressive education. Our funding is seed money to be used in the establishment of a long lasting tie with the community so that the benefits and results of the projects we fund can be reaped for years to come.

Among our own members, the CPF offers several opportunities to develop organizational and leadership skills. We all rotate responsibilities, enabling each other to take minutes, write agendas, and run meetings. We all serve on separate subcommittees that cater our needs, from publicity and documentation to finance.

This year, we awarded funding to a variety of service projects at Cornell such as the Minority Communication and Entertainment Leaders who are assisting Ithaca's Southside Community Center in establishing a video production studio. We are also funding a project that will initiate the creation of a Hispanic Civic Association in the greater Ithaca area. In addition, we are funding a project sponsored by the brothers of the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity that will enable them to work on physical improvements at The Ithaca Area Church and Community Day Care Center, including the painting of a mural in the gymnasium.

The Community Partnership Fund has the power (and money) to change lives. Members of CPF can help make it possible for great ideas to become realities. Please contact the CPF at the Public Service Center (14 East Avenue) if you are interested in applying to the Board or for our funding, and help us empower our community.