



# HC In Action

Holleran Center Newsletter, 4.2008



## Upcoming Events!

**4.24.08:** Teen Life Conference

**4.26.08:** Walk for Homelessness, 9a.m.

**5.6.08:** Gateway course final presentation, 1:15p.m., Hood Dining Hall

**5.9.08:** Last Day of Classes

**5.17.08:** PICA certificate Ceremony 1941 room, 1p.m.

**5.18.08:** Commencement, 10a.m.

## ORGANS FOR PEACE: AN INNOVATIVE GRASSROOTS PROJECT IN PARAGUAY



PICA scholar Andrea Burt and freshman Jazmin Acuña recently received \$10,000 from the Davis Foundation for their Organs for Peace project. The award was a gift from the 100 Projects for Peace program, started by philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis. This program awards \$10,000 to 100 promising grassroots projects to encourage and support college students to create and implement their own initiatives for building peace. Andrea and Jazmin's project addresses the important issue of organ trafficking in Paraguay. To facilitate organ donation, Paraguayan law considers every citi-

zen over the age of 18 to be an organ donor unless there is an explicit request not to be. However, there is limited awareness of this law and its purpose, and as a result, families tend to resist donating the organs of their deceased relatives. Because donations are so limited and the need is high, sale of organs on the black market has become ubiquitous in Paraguay and in the neighboring countries of Argentina and Brazil. Andrea and Jazmin's project has four goals: to raise awareness about the organ donation law; register Paraguayans for organ donation through creation of a registration database and driver's license consent box; and provide medical and psychological support for organ recipients. The Organs for Peace Project's underlying goal is to save lives by reducing the sale of black market organs. The Holleran Center congratulates Andrea and Jazmin on receiving this prestigious award.

## PICA JUNIORS CAMPAIGN FOR OBAMA

While most CC students were studying for midterms, PICA juniors Becca Saxon, Rosie Rosenfeld, and Haley Bentley flew to Texas to campaign for Barack Obama. The group canvassed in Jefferson County and made phone calls late into the night to encourage people to vote for Obama in the March 4<sup>th</sup> primary. Becca, Rosie, and Haley also went door to door educating residents about the two-step nominating process in Texas and urging them to participate in the caucuses as well. Overall, Texans they spoke with were enthusiastic about this year's election and eager to know more about the delegate distribution, the caucus, and how to make their votes count. For Becca, the experience enriched her PICA studies in race, gender, and politics, and was very rewarding. She hopes to work on Obama's campaign this summer as well. Becca encourages other students to get involved in the election and know their candidates so they can make an educated decision.

## HOLLERAN CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW FACULTY DIRECTOR

The Holleran Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Sunil Bhatia, Associate Professor of Human Development, as Faculty Director beginning on July 1, 2008. Professor Bhatia has served as a Steering Committee member since joining the college in 1999, and has both taught and advised numerous students in the Center's Program in Community Action and Public Policy (PICA). Sunil's extensive experience with community learning, his expertise in transnational social activism, his leadership in organizing college-community partnerships to educate our community about global poverty and support lasting social change in India, and his own scholarship in transnational community influences on identity make him a natural fit for this position. He will bring an important international perspective to the work of the Holleran Center that will strengthen the scope and impact of ongoing work in the local community and other communities in the US. We look forward to an exciting three years of growth under his leadership.



## C.CHANGE! WORKING TO SUPPORT LOCAL NON-PROFITS

C.Change is a student-run organization started by Sarah Grimaud '08 that raises money for local and national projects addressing poverty and health issues. C.Change directs its primary efforts to secure small donations with students and this semester has expanded its work to connect with the entire campus community. Each semester the organization collects approximately \$3,600 in three donation periods. C.Change donates these funds to local non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity, the Gemma Moran Food Pantry, and the Opportunities Industrialization Center. Last semester C.Change donated the money it raised to the Jimmy Fund as part of a larger effort to help support research for cancer. This year C.Change is making a documentary about the faces behind C.Change—both the individuals and organizations who benefit from C.Change donations and the students who coordinate C.Change fundraising. If you would like to contribute to C.Change, contact Sarah Grimaud at [ssgri@conncoll.edu](mailto:ssgri@conncoll.edu). For the month of April all donations to C.Change will be multiplied by the Feinstein Foundation for the Feinstein One Million Dollar challenge, a donation drive to raise funds for hunger fighting agencies nationwide. See [www.feinsteinfoundation.org/multiply.htm](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org/multiply.htm) for more information.

## DROP-IN LEARNING CENTER'S ANNUAL TEEN LIFE CONFERENCE

On April 24<sup>th</sup> Benny Dover Jackson Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders will come to Connecticut College for the Drop-In Learning Center's annual Teen Life Conference. The conference will offer a series of thirteen workshops that cover life skill topics such as health and wellness, career exploration, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention. PICA gateway students have worked closely with the Drop-In Learning Center to organize the event, assist the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in choosing workshops, and prepare for an engaging day of dialogue and learning. The keynote event of the conference will be a performance by Looking In Theatre Group, a theater group based in Hartford. Looking In will perform a series of skits covering important teen issues such as drug abuse, bullying and domestic violence. At the lunch break, CC student musical and dance groups will provide entertainment for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. CC students, faculty, and staff are looking forward to creating a comfortable and supportive environment for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to address and discuss key issues affecting today's youth.



## PICA PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT FOUNDATION FOR A PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER



After graduating, PICA alumni use their knowledge and experiences to make connections, get involved in

their communities, and create sustainable change. Anne Lind '06 is an example of how the PICA experience enables students to network effectively and develop a career in public service. Anne is currently working at Idealist.org, an organization that connects people with non-profit jobs, provides resources and tools for community building, and enables community outreach. At Idealist, Anne coordinates start-up meetings that create

relationships in the community and provide resources for people interested in making change. One of the projects she has been working on is called "Idealist Groups," a resource that allows anyone (not just official non-profits) who wants to develop a project to use the Idealist website as a starting point to create discussion, post jobs, and recruit people with similar interests. Anne is also currently enrolled in a fellowship program at NYU's Wagner School. The 6-month program, Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service, combines mentoring and networking with a series of speakers and career development workshops over the course of six months. The program provides professional development and networking opportunities aimed at assisting fellows in developing plans for successful public service careers. Anne has used the pro-

gram to shape her public service career and to make connections with other people interested in community building. Those interested in NYU's Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service should visit <http://wagner.nyu.edu/felps>.

According to Anne, PICA allowed her to hone her interests within the field of public policy. She learned how to implement change in her community, network, and research issues that she found most important. For future PICA students, Anne had the following advice:

Take advantage of the opportunities the certificate program affords you. Make connections in your community, explore your interests, and create lasting and sustainable change. Don't limit yourself to one thing; take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.

## WALK FOR HOMELESSNESS

On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Walk for Homelessness will take place in downtown New London. Students in the Holleran Center's Gateway course have worked diligently with the Homeless Hospitality Center to organize the event. The money raised from the walk will benefit the

Homeless Hospitality Center, an organization that provides New London's homeless community with a night shelter, a day center, and resources such as Internet access, a mailing address, and assistance with the transition to permanent housing. To learn more about their work, visit the Homeless Hospitality Center's Website at [www.nlhhc.org](http://www.nlhhc.org). Registration is at 9 a.m. and the walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation located on 19 Jay Street. Pre-registration is taking place in Cro and Harris on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>. For questions on how to sign up,



## 2009 PICA INTERNSHIPS

The PICA juniors are hard at work arranging their summer internships. Here are a few of the confirmed internship sites for PICAs in the Class of 2008:

*Project Baby, Boston*

*Council for Opportunity in Education, Washington, DC*

*National Institute for Ablation and Transplant, Paraguay*

*Art Search, New York, NY*

*Federation of Damanhur, Italy*

*Bill of Rights Defense Committee, Boston, MA*

*Lake Champlain Committee, Burlington, VT*

*US District Court, Baton Rouge, LA*

*The Independent, New York, NY*

*U Penn Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research, Philadelphia, PA*

*National Office of War Resisters League, New York, NY*

*Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA*

*Greenbelt Alliance, San Francisco, CA*

*Zing, Australia*

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