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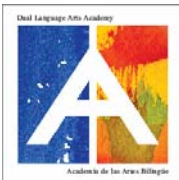


IMPORTANT PICA APPLICATION DEADLINES!

10.10: Deadline
for meeting with
application advisor

10.24: First draft
of application due
to advisor

11.15: Applications due by 5 pm



ACADEMIA DE LAS ARTES BILINGÜE

The Dual Language Arts Academy, Academia de las Artes Bilingüe, is a new joint initiative of the New London and Waterford Public Schools designed to build a student body that is bilingual, biliterate and multicultural. The middle school has a comprehensive arts-enriched core curriculum designed to enhance students' understanding of academic content, themselves and the world by embracing the arts. It is located in renovated space at the B.P. Learned Mission/Child and Family Agency in New London and includes a new black box theater. Families and community partners are integral to the school and Connecticut College, Hygienic Art, Inc. and ALVA Gallery are three of the many local partners. The Academia de las Artes Bilingüe participated in the OVCS Community Fair and several students are completing placements at the school. In addition, students from the Conn Freshman Seminar, Arts and Community, taught by Professor Margaret Thomas and Director of Arts Programming Rob Richter, are interning at the Arts Academy. There are additional opportunities for faculty, staff and students. For more information email Head Teacher Mirna Martinez at martinezm@newlondon.org.

BUILDING COMMUNITY BONDS AT HOME AND ABROAD

While most Americans go to the Dominican Republic (DR) for vacation to enjoy Caribbean beaches, Sarah Lindsay experienced a very different side of the DR. Last summer this PICA senior worked closely with the people of a small rural community and a local non-profit to build safe houses for families and set up a preschool which provides affordable education to the children of the community.

The non-profit Sarah worked for is called Cambiando Vidas, which means "changing lives" in English. This organization is not a charity; it provides initial funding and skilled laborers to build houses along with volunteers from the United States, but also incorporates help from community members, allowing for cross-cultural exchange and friendships to be made. Unlike many houses in the rural communities of the DR, the houses Cambiando Vidas builds have electricity and indoor plumbing, providing a safe environment for the families who will live in them. The ultimate goal of the organization is to establish community self-sufficiency.

Education is part of this self-sufficiency plan. There are few preschools in the surrounding area. Thus, when children start first grade, they have had no prior schooling, and are often not prepared or interested in classroom learning, which can create risk for school drop out later in life. Over the summer, Sarah went door to door taking a census and assessing interest in a new preschool. The overwhelming response was yes. Community members were enthusiastic about Cambiando Vidas starting a preschool program for their children. Sarah helped to design the classroom layout and develop the school board. The community members agreed to support the preschool in any way possible, including donating food, volunteer hours in the classroom, and small amounts of money. The goal was for the organization to open the preschool and for the community to adopt it as a project of its own.

The positive experiences Sarah had in the DR and with Cambiando Vidas led her to an idea. Since the Conn winter break is five weeks long, why not take advantage of that time and bring Conn students to the DR to help Cambiando Vidas build houses. She is planning a ten day learning

experience that will give the students an opportunity to connect with the Dominican people and advance the partnership to build homes and preschools. This international community learning trip is open to Connecticut College students who have a strong desire to get involved and a willingness to help with fundraising efforts for the projects and the trip. Sarah is working towards making this an on-going sustainable program with annual opportunities to work in the Dominican Republic with Cambiando Vidas building houses and schools. If you are interested in fundraising and/or building a home in the DR, email Sarah Lindsay at sblin2@conncoll.edu and check out

www.cambiandovidas.info.



Sarah with members of Cambiando Vidas and friends of the community.

PICA ACCEPTING SOPHOMORE APPLICATIONS

Attention sophomores! Are you passionate about social issues? Do you want to extend your learning beyond your major and beyond the classroom? Do you want to make a difference? If so, we hope you will consider applying for the Holleran Center's Certificate Program in Community Action (PICA). Students in PICA conduct an individualized course of study organized around a central theme such as educational inequality, youth development, women's reproductive rights, healthcare access, immigration, activism through the arts, oil dependence, and affordable housing. The PICA program involves interdisciplinary coursework outside of the major, an internship and a senior integrative project. Students also complete a foundational course in Public Policy and Social Justice, and seminars that facilitate community learning, and skills development in the areas of leadership, public speaking, conflict resolution, and grant writing. PICA offers you the opportunity to individualize your



education, broaden your learning, integrate your educational experiences, and make connections with others who share your passion for social issues and community action. Contact Sarah Barr at the Holleran Center (sbar@conncoll.edu or x2596) to set up an appointment.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Echoing Green Foundation awards two-year fellowships to emerging social innovators creating new organizations. The awards go to individuals with innovative ideas for creating new models for tackling seemingly unsolvable social challenges. The fellowships are to provide awardees with opportunities to develop and test their ideas in communities. The fellows launch, manage and grow organizations that implement and continually expand their ideas for creating lasting social change. During the two-year fellowship, Echoing Green provides both financial and technical support. Echoing Green holds an open application process through which anyone who meets the eligibility criteria and has a compelling new idea for social change is welcome to apply. The 2007 deadline is December 3.



The Educational Programs Division of The Rotary Foundation exists to achieve understanding and world peace through the exchange of people internationally. It is the specific mission of the Educational Programs Division to provide quality programs and services to those individuals who apply for funding and logistical support to undertake a term of study or teaching abroad. The Division, in conjunction with Rotarians, Rotary clubs, and Rotary districts provide assistance through scholarship and fellowships. Learn more about the individual Educational Programs-Ambassadorial Scholarships, Rotary Peace & Conflict Studies, and Rotary Grants for University Teachers at www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/.

Tracee Reiser, Associate Dean for Community Learning, Associate Director of the Holleran Center, and OVCS Director can provide further information as well.



WOMEN'S CENTER

Connecticut College students, staff and faculty are working to create a brand new space for the Women's Center on campus. The Women's Center has been a presence at Conn for almost 35 years in various forms, moving from it's first few years in the Health Center, to Fanning, and then into a first-floor dorm room of Freeman. The initial creation of the Women's Center was established in response to the growing needs of women after the campus went co-ed in 1969. This center served as an essential meeting place to discuss new healthcare options and various social issues. Special interest seminars were also held there, one of which was self defense. Through hard work

and relentless dedication, Connecticut College students made this center a reality. Construction is currently underway to transform part of the Smith-Burdick basement into the new home of the Connecticut College Women's Center. Last spring, a group of students known as SAFE (Sexual Assault Free Environment), winners of an Athena Social Entrepreneurship grant from the Holleran Center, sought to reinvigorate the presence of the Women's Center on campus. A passionate group of staff, faculty, administration and students came together to revive the forgotten and often unknown resource that is the Women's Center. Together, this group established the guiding principles and role of the Center and searched for a new, bigger and better location.

The mission of the Women's Center is to provide a safe, welcoming space for every woman to engage and discuss gender issues, and to encourage men to engage in these discussions also; to pay special attention to the way gender identities are complicated by race, nationality, class, sexual identity, religion, age, physical or mental ability; to educate and provide support services for student advocates seeking social change on gender issues; and to celebrate the emergence of vibrant young women. The Women's Center will have open hours in the evenings, from 6pm to 10pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, 6pm to 1am on Thursdays, and 8pm to 1am on Saturdays, with student staff to maintain an alternative evening space

and host fun alcohol-free events. The Women's Center will also be a space where clubs and other members of the college community can choose to hold meetings and events and engage in gender equality activism. The involvement of the college community is vital at this crucial and exciting stage of development of the Center. The Women's Center urges the entire college community to get involved in making this a space that our community can claim and take pride in. It is an opportunity for the Conn community to dream big and create a space worthy of a progressive liberal arts school and former women's college. Please contact the Holleran Center for more information on how to get involved with the Women's Center.

MARGARET SHERIDAN COMMUNITY LEARNING GRANT AWARDED

Six Connecticut College faculty are grant recipients in the Holleran Center's first annual Margaret Sheridan Community Learning Grants Program. The Center has a long history of supporting community learning, and this newly established program will regularize support and mentoring for faculty who wish to incorporate community partnerships into their teaching or research. Awards were made to faculty in Education, Human Development, Film Studies, and Anthropology. Grants will support Michael James in a critical literacy action research project involving community conversations with New London teachers and Connecticut College students and faculty; Roxanna Walker-Canton in a summer course for New London youth on documentary film-making as art and action, with mentorship from Connecticut College students; Shubh Mathur in the development of a new course connecting Connecticut College students who have studied/interned abroad with the international student community at New London High School; Michelle Dunlap in the incorporation of a community-based youth mentoring and enrichment program into her freshman seminar, Development of Black Children and Families; and Jennifer Fredericks in her community-based research on motivational factors influencing after school program participation. Funds support stipends, travel, supplies/materials, and student assistantships. The annual call for proposals will be released in April with a late June submission deadline.

Holleran Center Staff
Audrey Zakriski, Director
Tracee Reiser
Sarah Barr
Jen Manion