



# exCEL: The Power of WE!

*The Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership Newsletter*

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Fall 2006

## SLU Buddies Mentoring Program

*by: Candina Harmer '07 and Anne Townsend*

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SLU Buddies is a one-on-one mentoring program that pairs SLU students with elementary or middle school children to help them with academic and social

needs. Volunteers commit to meet with their buddies one hour each week, for at least two consecutive semesters.

The program's history is one of impressive growth and development. In the fall of 2002, the SLU Volunteer Center began a mentoring program through the national Big Brother Big Sister program, but discontinued the program a year later to start its own school-site program at the Canton Central Schools. The students in the program at that time chose the "SLU Buddies" name.

Forty-eight students volunteered in the first group of SLU Buddies in fall 2003. In the spring, that number quickly grew to 97 students, a two-fold increase in just one semester. As the program became known to students, the number of SLU Buddies continued to grow. Then, in the fall of 2005, SLU Buddies reached another milestone—the program expanded to a second school, St. Lawrence Central Schools in Brasher Falls. This year, both Canton and St. Lawrence Central Buddies total 164 SLU students and 164 little buddies. Although requests have come in from other schools for their own SLU Buddies program, because of strained personnel and funding resources, there are no short term plans to expand any further.

A SLU Buddies Board, made up of 8 SLU students who act as buddies to Canton and St. Lawrence Central students, meet weekly to help direct the program and plan large group social events. For example, SLU

Buddies-Canton kicked off a Family Night in October giving SLU students the chance to meet their buddies' parents while enjoying dessert and making arts and crafts projects with the buddies themselves. Central will hold theirs in early December. Plans for upcoming events include: inviting the children to the SLU climbing wall and a SLU hockey night in the spring.

Another exciting expansion of the SLU Buddies program, thanks to a SLU Alum, is Fishing Buddies. Keith Curley '03, from Trout Unlimited in Washington, D.C. and Tim Damon, from Wear on Earth in Potsdam, supervised 10 middle school students from Central, their SLU



Buddies and other SLU students during a mild October day fishing together in a local river. Trout Unlimited also provided the "Fishing Buddies" with free gear and expert instruction.

There is no question that SLU Buddies has become one of the more sought after programs on campus for students to volunteer. End-of-year surveys indicate high levels of satisfaction with the program, and a better understanding of themselves as role models. As one SLU Buddy wrote before graduating in '06:

*"It's been a spectacular several semesters of having been involved in the program and especially inspiring to work with others who are so committed, giving, and dedicated to this work. I am proud with what the program has evolved into and how much it has meant to me, my buddy, and the other St. Lawrence students in the program."*

## Directors Corner

### Community Based Learning Ron Flores, Director

#### Pilot Akwesasne Semester Program a Success So Far

After eleven weeks, all participants of the first ever Akwesasne Semester are ready to say, SUCCESS!! The Akwesasne Semester is an “off-campus” program where students take all of their classes on the St. Regis Mohawk reservation while participating in an internship in a tribal agency during select mornings and serving in the Akwesasne Boys and Girls Club as tutors and mentors in the late afternoon. While there have been a few bumps along the way (mostly on the roadways heading to the reservation), the teaching and learning experience of the six St. Lawrence students and three faculty participating in the pilot has been extraordinary. SLU students, Molly Fisher '08, Emily Stanfill '08, Ryan Arroyo '08, Jessica Sullivan '08, Doug Mabee '09 and Shannon Freire '08 have all developed close relationships with the children of the club who have benefited greatly from their commitment and dedication. During most afternoons, SLU students and club members can be seen working together on homework, arts and crafts projects, and computer games. You'll also see them all engaged in a rousing game of 4-Square or basketball. Most recently, a group of teens from the club and the SLU contingent spent a weekend in Cobleskill, New York (not too far from Albany) visiting the Iroquois Museum—it was an incredible experience for everyone. We're currently planning a year-end trip to New York to visit the National Museum of the American Indian in lower Manhattan.

Randy Hill, Melissane Parm and Ron Flores are the SLU faculty participating in the program and are joined by Susan Stebbins of the SUNY-Potsdam Anthropology department. Each brings their own specialty to the semester; so students are engaged in a rich array of courses that range from Native American oral traditions, to family studies, to education, to history. While the workload has been intense, the intellectual rewards have been great. All the students and faculty agree – the past semester has been a transformative experience.

### Leadership Academy Peg Cornwell, Project Director

#### Civic Engagement and Leadership Suites

Having just recently passed the mid way mark for the semester, the Leadership Academy is reflecting both on what is happening currently in the semester and what is coming up next. Kate McCaffrey and Peg Cornwell taught a section of CBL 101-Leadership Development Studies, for the first time for the members of the CCEL Leadership Suites. Students from two of the four suites participated in the class along with 6 other students. Members from two of the other suites have been working independently with Ron Flores and Peg Cornwell on the creation of a course on democracy and dialogue to be taught by Ron Flores and Traci Fordham Hernandez in the spring of 2007.

Drew Crawford has agreed to be the Community Mentor for the Leadership Suites. In his role as CM he will assist the suite participants in the formulation and implementation of their community service projects which are to take place over the course of the academic year. Projects underway include the democracy dialogue project mentioned above, an after school homework group at the Canton Central School, and a youth soccer program.

#### Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is gearing up for its annual Student Leadership Conference to be held on Saturday, February 3, 2007 from noon to 5:00pm in the student center. As of this, writing programs and keynote topics are still being discussed. For more information contact Peg Cornwell, the coordinator of the event at [pcornwell@stlawu.edu](mailto:pcornwell@stlawu.edu).

#### Spring 2007 Leadership Course

Lastly, if you are a senior looking for a leadership capstone course experience, consider registering for EDUC 416A, Interpersonal Relationships: Communication and Leadership Strategies, which will be taught by Peg Cornwell and Carol Bate, Director of Career Services and Leadership Education on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Spring.

### Volunteer Center Anne Townsend, Project Director

#### Spring Break 2006

During Spring Break 2006, 18 St. Lawrence University students and 2 staff members volunteered for Habitat for Humanity on a mission to help rebuild a community in Slidell Louisiana after the devastation of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. The following is a testimonial by one of the participants, Mel Danielson '08.

“Slidell is a small town just 45 minutes outside of the city of New Orleans. According to the National Weather Service, Slidell sustained winds of 176 mph and gusts of 190+ mph during Hurricanes Katrina/Rita. In addition to the winds, Slidell was blasted by a storm surge of 23' - 26' tall that devastated much of the city. On the drive from the airport to the Southern Baptist Church where we resided for the duration of our stay, the meaning of the word devastation never became so apparent, just as its effects were never so clear. It was an unexpected sight to all twenty pairs of eyes. The week was spent working on various tasks, each just as rewarding as the next. Some students spent the week building new homes, while others “mucked” (the act of removing all household contents destroyed by the flooding and tearing down the house to its bare frame). We left Canton thinking that we were going to “save a city” and came back with the realization that we were only one small part of the rebuilding process. However, those few families that we were directly able to help were beyond grateful, and we helped them move a little closer to their goal of moving back into the place they once called home.”

#### Spring Break 2007

The SLU Habitat group will go to Charleston, SC, during Spring Break, March 16-25 to help build homes in an area where families make 25-50% of the median income. Anne Townsend and Cindy Atkins will lead the trip. Details for applying will come at an Informational Meeting.

A second Spring Break group will go to the St. Francis Inn, a Franciscan living and working community in the inner city of Philadelphia, PA, to help in its soup kitchen, women's center, and thrift shop. Joe Tebo and Rachel Lim '09 will lead the trip.

## *Courses Available for Spring 2007 Semester*

*For More Information, Please Contact Your Advisor*

**BIO 389A: Advanced Neuroscience: T/Th 8:30 – 10:00am**

**Instructor: Ana Estevez & Joseph Erlichman**

Advanced neuroscience builds on the fundamental concepts presented in Biology 288 (Introduction to Neuroscience) and begins to examine neurobiology from a systems perspective. The initial portion of the course will be dedicated to examining the biological basis of sexual orientation. The following questions will be considered: How do the brains of males/females/homosexual/heterosexual differ anatomically? Is homosexuality genetically predetermined or a chosen lifestyle? Other topics presented in this course include: sleep and dreaming, sleep disorders, epilepsy and seizures, motivation and addiction, Alzheimer's disease, disorders of thought and volition, disorders of mood and the neurobiology of near-death experiences. Prerequisites: Biology 288.

**CBL 147A: SPTP: Project Democracy (3/01/07-5/4/07): T/Th 2:20 – 3:50pm**

**Instructor: Traci Fordham-Hernandez & Ronald Flores**

This course is an optional component of PCA 212A. Please read course description for PCA 212A for details.

**CBL 147B: Independent Study in Community Based Learning: Time arranged by instructor**

**Instructor: Ronald Flores**

**GS 347B: SPTP: Akwesasne, a Transnational Space: W 1:15 – 4:15pm**

**Instructor: Kallen Martin**

This course will examine the concept of Transnationalism in the context of a local nearby indigenous community separated by an international boundary. Does the construction of identity take on new formations inside a transnational space and how does this happen? The flow of goods, capital, and people between both sides of the border take on new significance as Homeland Security imposes additional restrictions. What do these restrictions signify and are the restrictions minimizing in function? How has the Akwesasne Mohawk nation maintained its identity given the transnational migration of some of its citizens? How does all this impact or influence social, cultural, and gendered practices? These and other questions on nationhood, culture and identity will be used to examine new boundaries of place that is local and trans-local. Readings will comprise historical and contemporary representations of the Akwesasne, and in addition those from other ethnic communities to explore the nature of transnationalism in Akwesasne.

**PCA 212A: SPTP: “Doing” Democracy: Theories and Practice of Engaged Citizenship and Intergroup Dialogue (1/22/07-3/09/07)**

**Instructor: Traci Fordham-Hernandez & Ronald Flores: T/Th 2:30 – 3:50pm**

This course will take place in conjunction with *Project Democracy*, a project sponsored by the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership that links St. Lawrence University students and local community partners in discussions around local, regional, national, and global issues. *Project Democracy* is a forum for promoting dialogue and understanding between students and our community—a process which, we believe, can enhance students' civic engagement around those issues. In this course, participants will learn theories and rhetorical strategies concerning intergroup dialogue and communication in order to become proficient as dialogue facilitators and engaged participants for the project. We shall analyze theories of dialogue, rhetoric, and communication, examine the role that engaged dialogue plays in the creation and maintenance of democratic society, and learn and execute practical strategies for engaged communication and strategic, deliberative dialogue.

**SOC 248A: SPTP: Social Service Agencies and Advocacy W/ CBL: T/Th 12:40 – 2:10pm**

**Instructor: Karen Dillon O'Neil**

In this course, we examine the structure, processes, and outcomes of human service organizations. We consider the promises and limitations of these organizations, including the political, economic, legal and cultural climate in which they operate as well as the point where policy is translated into practice in the hands of individual human service workers. We also explore issues and strategies related to “client” advocacy and empowerment. Integral to this course is participation in a placement (4 hours per week) with a local human service agency through a partnership with Community Based Learning.

**SOC 315A: Family & Relationship Violence W/ CBL: T/Th 10:10 – 11:40am**

**Instructor: Karen Dillon O'Neil**

In this seminar we examine the culturally relative and historically changing definitions of family violence, human rights, specific manifestations of family/relationship violence and its relationship to larger societal power arrangements, consequences of violence within the family for both individuals and larger society, and our normative, legal, and policy responses to family violence. Integral to this seminar is participation in a placement (4 hours per week) with a local agency that deals with family/relationship violence.

# Community Service Opportunities Through the CCEL

## Sexual Violence CM: Jennifer Schauger '08

The Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership (CCEL) is trying to raise awareness about sexual violence both on the St. Lawrence campus and within the Canton community. We feel that, through education, we can help to answer questions such as why does Sexual Violence occur? We believe that educating St. Lawrence students could lessen the acts of Sexual Violence and help students learn about the amazing options St. Lawrence and Canton provide. Stay tuned for future programs and opportunities.

If you or someone you know have been affected by Sexual Violence please contact one of there area resources:

- CAVA (Citizens Against Violent Acts.....386-37777
- Reachout Hotline.....265-2422
- SLU Counseling Services.....ext. 5391
- SLU Health Services.....ext. 5392
- SLU Security.....ext. 5555
- Canton-Potsdam Hospital.....265-3300
- Canton Rescue Squad/Village Police....."911"
- Women's Resource Center.....ext. 7240



## Canton Day Care CM: Allison Freeman '07

Established in 1977, Canton Day Care Center provides a positive learning environment for children in the area. The community based Center strives to enhance the development and health of local children. The Center has services for toddlers, pre-school and school age children and encourages each child to be individual. The Center hopes to incorporate education within the community and the world. The curriculum focuses on the physical, social, cognitive and emotional development of each child.

Each semester students, as part of Community Based Learning, step off campus and get involved in the Canton Community. Canton Day Care is a volunteer site. Students work in conjunction with Canton Day Care's staff to gain real life experience in the field of education and civic engagement. SLU students serve as role models for children in the Center as well as participating in service projects on site.

## Social Services Internship CM: Charlotta Chung '08

The Department of Social Services is seeking participants to function as interns in conjunction with its partnership with Adirondack Experiences. Interns work with at-risk teenage girls, serving as mentors and as friends in order to develop positive and affirming relationships. While the issues one may confront as an intern will be challenging and difficult to deal with, it is an invaluable experience.

As a personal testimony, I have worked with one girl for a little over a year, and the rewards we both have reaped have been almost overwhelming. This is not to gloss over the very real struggles you will potentially face as an intern, and the helplessness inevitable in a position with the Department of Social Services, but I can honestly say that the opportunity to truly impact another person positively, and to also be changed by the experience, is not something that should be readily ignored.

If you would like to be involved, please contact me, Charlotta Chung, at [clchun04@stlawu.edu](mailto:clchun04@stlawu.edu), or Kathy Rhinebold at (315) 379-2195.



## Social Services Supervised Visits CM: Valerie Kelly '07

Students and volunteers are trained by a professional of social services in order to do the visits. Once trained, students are assigned to respective families who are referred from Integrated Domestic Violence Court and the Department of Social Services. These families have been separated for various reasons and the children are put in foster care. The supervised visits, which are done on campus by St. Lawrence students, are the only opportunity these families have to see each other each week. It is a great way to give back to the families, surrounding communities and social services. The work the students do provides more opportunity for visits to occur since there is limited funding and staffing of St. Lawrence County Departments of Social Services. This opportunity also gives students hands on experience with social welfare. It is one of the most challenging and certainly the most rewarding job I have mentored yet. For anyone considering a job in the social services field and/or is a psychology, government or sociology major, this is a unique way to gain insight on the field.

Currently there are no open supervisor spots; however each semester, as families and needs change, we will send a notice over email announcing volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact Valerie Kelly at [vnkell03@stlawu.edu](mailto:vnkell03@stlawu.edu).

## Community Service Opportunities Through the CCEL

### Free Will Dinner Program

CM: Kelly O'Malley '08

If you would like the chance to interact with the community, make new and unforgettable friends, while providing those who are less fortunate with at least one hot meal a week, then participating in the Free Will Dinner Program is for you!

The Free Will Dinner Program occurs every second, third, and fourth Wednesday of every month, down at the local Canton Methodist Church from 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Activities include preparing or serving dinners, or just really engaging with the members of the local community. It is quite an eye opening and very rewarding experience to be able to help others out so much.

If you have any questions or comments concerning or would like to participate in the Free Will Dinner Program, please contact Kelly O'Malley at [kmoma04@stlawu.edu](mailto:kmoma04@stlawu.edu). So grab your hair net, a smile, a friend or two, and make a difference!



### Meals on Wheels

CMs: Neil Coutinho '09 & Rachael Manchester '09

The Meals on Wheels Program in Canton, NY is a division of the Office for the Aging and provides elderly people, 55 and over, hot meals throughout the year. Everyday both lunch and dinner are prepared in the kitchen and served in the senior housing development on Riverside Avenue as well as delivered to those seniors around St Lawrence County unable to prepare their own meals.

The Meals on Wheels Program is constantly looking for volunteers not only to deliver the food with a certified driver, but also to aid in the kitchen cooking and serving food. There is a great need in this area for the Meals on Wheels program and it wouldn't be possible without volunteers to get the food to the people in need. Volunteers in this program speak notably of the bonds and relationships they forge with the elderly residents they interact with on a daily basis. These visits, to many of the elderly, are a high point in their daily lives as they look forward to conversing with those that deliver their meals as these volunteers are sometimes the only few people they interact with. The moral rewards of being a part of this program make it a project worth supporting.

For more information, please contact Barbara McBurnie at the St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging, (315) 386-4730.



### Senior Buddies

CM: Kacey Anderson '08

The United Helpers Nursing Home is located in Canton. The Canton Nursing Home has a total of 160 beds and includes a chapel, courtyard, gardens, and an activities room. This is the third year the Senior Buddies program has been offered to St. Lawrence students. The program matches up students with one or two senior buddies. The student then goes and visits their buddy on a weekly basis. Students have the option to participate in the many different activities United Helpers plans daily. Some of these activities include bingo, coffee hours, arts and crafts, dances, and board games. Students can also attend day trips with their buddies. Some students choose to sit and visit with their buddy or spend the afternoon watching television or working on a puzzle.

Through my experience, I have learned how much the elderly population is in need of care in rural communities such as Canton. Students coming in to visit often gives them a bit of company, and something to look forward to each week. The Senior Buddies program is a great way for students to participate in a rewarding experience in the Canton community. For more information, please contact Kacey Anderson at [kbande04@stlawu.edu](mailto:kbande04@stlawu.edu).

## *The Crinkled Card: What I Learned Through Community Service*

*By Kaitlynn Reyell '09*

As I opened a small crinkled card made of notebook paper, I glanced at its drawings of people on a stage on Broadway. Words were written carefully on the inside; "Dear Kait, thank you for bringing music into my life. You'll always be my 'Broadway diva/prima Donna/graceful voice/fancy actress.' Thank-you with love from my heart." This heartwarming note was made especially for *me* by a young member of the NYSARC group I volunteered for.

When I was a prospective student looking for colleges, I hoped that I'd end up at a school that embraced community service and all that it had to offer. I wanted to know that I could learn about what many believe communities are *truly* comprised of. After choosing St. Lawrence as my school, I found that the FYP class I was enrolled in would involve participating in community service in Canton, which made me even happier! I wanted to continue doing community service as I had been doing in high school, and was eager to learn about what Canton was like as a community.

With the help of the St. Lawrence University's Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership, each member of the class was placed in a different community service activity group. When I was placed with the arts activity group at NYSARC, a local center for the mentally handicapped, I realized I had no experience working with mentally handicapped people, and questioned whether I would be able to help them in any way at all. I decided to challenge myself to try and teach the people at NYSARC to the best of my ability. I'll never forget the first day that I stepped into the room where "my" group was sitting with their kind staff leader, Andrea.

My palms were sweating as I smiled nervously and announced my name. To my relief, I saw nothing but smiles from

everyone as they immediately thanked me for coming to play games with them! The people that I stood in front of ranged in age from 21 to my grandmother's age. The youngest stood up, called me over to be next to him, then kissed my hand and pulled out a chair for me. When he pushed my chair in as I sat down, I knew that I was starting down a path toward an unexpected and wonderful adventure.

Watching the group play improvised acting games, speak monologues, and act out scenes together was an eye-opener. Although they were dealing with conditions such as Down syndrome, they were high-functioning and "smart" in their own ways. I was able to help plan out different acting games, and when I found out that many of them loved music, I told them I'd been singing and playing piano for years. They were so excited when I brought in my keyboard for them to listen to, sing along with, and even learn some of the keys. We enjoyed Broadway and Christmas sing-alongs together.

After many activities and hours spent together with the NYSARC group, I started to feel like a friend to them, and, discovered more about how they operated as a community. They couldn't wait to tell me about their interests and hobbies, which included Star Wars movies, tap dancing, and "Backstreet Boys" music. One of the men in the group was passionate about watching the Donald Trump TV show "The Apprentice," and would play jokes on me by laughing hysterically and imitating Trump by yelling "you're fired, Kait!" when I walked into the room. The group would laugh and tell him to stop joking because they loved having me there every week with them, and didn't want me fired!

My learning regarding communities continued with the discussions I had with my peers. Some of my classmates had been working to help children from harsh backgrounds, while others had

been working with people in nursing homes and other organizations such as local soup kitchens. We talked about the difficulties we encountered in the communities in which we were volunteering. There were people facing Alzheimer's disease in the nursing home, families who depended on Meals on Wheels for some of their food supply, and many who depended on food from Free Will Dinners or Church and Communities Program.

We started to observe how each community dealt with the issues it faced, and although some agencies didn't deal with certain issues well, many of us found it rewarding to see that others used support to get through hard times. They gave to others in their community and tried to keep upbeat attitudes. By watching them, we were all exploring the notions of what actually *makes up* communities, large and small, throughout society. A community isn't just a town or city; it can be a classroom, workplace, school, home, or arena like NYSARC.

I plan on framing the plain but meaningful card given to me at NYSARC. It will be a reminder to me of the values and aspects of the different types of communities I learned of through my experiences with leadership and community service. Most important, it will remind me of what I learned about myself.

*Kait Reyell is a third-generation Laurentian from Saranac Lake, N.Y. She is an Augsburg/North Country Scholar as well as a Community Service Scholar and was a student government senator in her first year on campus. She is pursuing a double major in English and Performance and Communication.*

"This article is adapted with permission from the Summer 2006 StudentScope, a publication of the St. Lawrence Admissions Office."

## A Special Thanks...

For the past few semesters, Community Based Learning Programs has been working with the local court systems and Department of Social Services to offer a valuable service to the Canton and surrounding communities. The Supervised Visitation program is a partnership which facilitates court ordered visitations for many families in distress; where all visitations occur on campus in our commons lounge. Until recently, only students enrolled in courses with a community based learning component were allowed to supervise such visitations. However, the increased demand for more visitations per week had exhausted the number of available students enrolled in Community Based Learning courses.

In the spring of 2006, the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership expanded the visitation program to include student volunteers as a means of sustaining our maturing partnership. Our first attempt to draw interest in the program yielded approximately thirty-five students. After the application process and training, thirty of those students chose to stay with the program. To say the least, we were simply amazed at our student's willingness to give up their valuable time to support such a cause. I have to admit, the road has been bumpy, but through it all, our student volunteers remained consistent and available to the families in need.

As we began yet another semester, we fell into a harmony of both CBL students and student volunteers. Again, we had an overwhelming number of student volunteers interested in getting started, and those alike, with staying involved from the previous semester. However, one thing would remain...our bumpy road. I am certain that if you asked any student involved to describe one word the best illustrates the program, it would probably be "inconsistent" (ex: family no-shows, lack of families, too many families, etc.). And so you stop and think...that's probably not the best choice of words one would use when talking about a maturing partnership. Considering the context and daily experiences of our students and volunteers, "inconsistency" has become normal to them. Why? Perhaps, because they are beginning to feel a small glimpse of what the families we serve feel on a daily basis.

So...I take this opportunity to publicly thank and acknowledge the persistent dedication and commitment of our students. Whether you are enrolled in a course or volunteering, the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership applauds your efforts and appreciates your flexibility and understanding while working with the Supervised Visitation Program.

Brenda Papineau  
Assistant Director, Community Based Learning Programs

## Community Mentor Reflections

Serving as a community mentor for the St. Lawrence NYSARC (New York State Association for Retarded Citizens) has allowed me to develop interpersonal skills. As a liaison between the NYSARC and St. Lawrence University, I've learned to communicate more effectively. Communication occurs on many levels; managers at the agency, community mentor colleagues, and volunteer students. The variety of communication levels has taught me to become more empathetic to the needs of different people. Leaders listen and are sensitive to the needs of others; community mentors are service leaders. At the end of the day, we are all part of a much larger team, therefore it's necessary to communicate effectively to complete goals efficiently. Being a part of the community mentor team has helped develop me as an individual because I have become part of something bigger than myself.

-Christopher Kerr '07



Last fall I was not mentoring a class, but rather attempted to start a relationship with a new community partner. This fall I am mentoring for Dr. Pamela Thacher's Introduction to Clinical Psychology course and it has been an exciting change for me. The class is small, so it is manageable, and there are four different community partners we are working with. At the beginning of the semester I was able to visit all of the community partners at each of the sites and hear firsthand their philosophies and ideas for the students that were going to be placed with them.

I am also taking the course as a student so I am able to see the impact that the placements have on our in-class discussions and learning. We are able to use our experiences to make concrete connections between different theories or approaches and the manifestation of the various practices we see played out at our sites. In many regards, I see this course as developing into a model CBL course by keeping the enrollment numbers low and relying on the CBL component as a source of knowledge integrated into other course components and texts.

-Lora Wu '07



## Upcoming News & Events

### THE CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Hulett-Jencks Common Area  
Canton, NY 13617

Phone: 315-229-5095

Fax: 315-229-7462

Email: [ccel@stlawu.edu](mailto:ccel@stlawu.edu)

#### Coming Soon

**Leadership Academy:**  
Will be held on February 3, 2007  
starting at 5p.m in the Student  
center.

**The New CCEL Website:**  
Be sure to be on the look out for  
information on the new Center for  
Civic Engagement and Leadership  
website, expected completion date:  
January 2007!

#### Alternative Spring Break Trips

**Habitat for Humanity**  
Charleston, SC

**St Francis Inn**  
Philadelphia, PA

### Meet our Staff

Ron Flores  
Director, Community Based  
Learning Programs

Peg Cornwell  
Project Director, Leadership  
Academy

Anne Townsend  
Project Director, David Garner  
Center for Collegiate  
Volunteerism

Brenda Papineau  
Assistant Director, Community  
Based Learning Programs

Julie Johnson  
Assistant to the Directors,  
CCEL,  
Newsletter Co-Editor

Christine Akin '08  
Office Assistant  
Newsletter Co-Editor



### Community Mentors

Elizabeth Burns '07  
Allison Freeman '07  
Candina Harmer '07  
Valerie Kelly '07  
Theresa Kelso '07  
Chris Kerr '07  
Lora Wu '07

Kacey Anderson '08  
Charlotta Chung '08  
Drew Craword '08  
Molly Fisher '08  
Kelly O'Malley '08  
Jennifer Shauger '08

Neil Coutinho '09  
Rachael Manchester '09

### Positions Available

#### Community Mentors needed for Spring 2007

For job description and application  
information, please visit the CBL website at:

[www.stlawu.edu/cbl/communitymentor.htm](http://www.stlawu.edu/cbl/communitymentor.htm)

The mission of the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership is to increase and enhance opportunities for students to be agents of positive social change both on and off campus. The Center combines academic and co-curricular activities within a living-learning community where students work together with community partners to develop and direct community projects that address locally identified needs. The emphasis of the programming is to develop citizenship and leadership skills through: community based learning including course work, independent studies, participatory action research and dialogue training; volunteerism, where students, faculty and staff support and enhance community initiatives that address community needs; and, leadership training, practice, and reflection.