Much like the cold weather, the energy of the fall semester remained present throughout the spring. In late February, the Center for Civic Engagement staff and four Community Mentors traveled to Valparaiso University to participate in the 2014 IMPACT Conference. Renee Lavigne, Alie Mihuta, Sophie Owen-Jankowski and Molly Plunkett, all members of the Class of 2014, presented a workshop that focused on student leadership. Using their experiences as Community Mentors, they provided the audience with essential skills needed to be effective student leaders and tangible items to put inside their “toolkits” for success. A big thank you goes out to these young professionals for representing the CCE and St. Lawrence University, so well. In early March, we conducted interviews for our CCE Housing Suites and awarded two groups with an opportunity to continue their engagement with the local community. One group will be working with NYSARC: Community Arts Program and Fitness, and the other group will be working with Campus Kitchens. This spring we started a new tradition within the Community Mentor Program and held a “senior retreat” in late March. The retreat was offered to give graduating seniors a space to reflect on their time as CMs and to take a break from the busyness of their last semester to just bond over board games and conversation. In early April, we engaged in a bittersweet process of interviewing our next set of Community Mentors, as we say farewell to seven seniors. Every year, the applicant pool continues to get stronger and this year, we saw more applicants than we have in recent years; although, we would like to see more males apply! This fall, we will welcome 10 new CMs and they will join our six returners. "Kick It", in honor of Zach Hamilton, was a huge success. We moved from a Zumba packed agenda to alternating forms of fitness to give participants a nice balance and perhaps, a chance to catch their breath. In addition, we had our biggest student organization turn out ever, with approximately 18 groups offering activities. Although we had less course offerings and fewer CBL students this spring, the Festival of CBL was full of excitement. We welcomed students from the Sustainability Semester, saw some new faces and engaged in conversations about how to expand our current programming; all of which gives more power to purpose of this particular event. Looking ahead, the CCE will welcome the HEOP Class of 2018 in July and immerse students directly into service (and the local community) with NYSARC Fitness and the Free Will Meal Program at the Canton United Methodist Church. In the fall, we'll work with eight courses committed to CBL, hold another CBL Roundtable for students, faculty and community partners, and hold our annual "Shawna’s Walk for Wishes" event. Best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Brenda Papineau, Director of Community Partnerships
Contact Brenda: bpapineau@stlawu.edu or 315-229-5255
Community Partner Spotlight: Anne Wheeler ’14
~Renee Lavigne ’14

Annie Wheeler is not only the Community Partner for the Campus Kitchens Project at St. Lawrence University (CKSLAW); she is also a St. Lawrence student, the president of the women’s club hockey team, a SLU Admissions Fellow and a dedicated SLU Buddies mentor. An avid community service volunteer in high school, Annie immediately became involved with Campus Kitchens her first semester in college. Acting first as a volunteer, preparing and serving free weekly meals to the community at the Canton Unitarian Universalist Church, she quickly moved up the ranks and took a leadership position as the logistics and operations coordinator. In the subsequent three years, Annie consistently held a spot on the leadership team every semester and now acts as the CKP coordinator. With Annie’s management and guidance the program has only missed one meal in the past four years, due to uncontrollable weather circumstances. Annie’s organization, passion and determination make her the perfect role model for younger volunteers. Annie selflessly and unknowingly fostered the next generation of SLU leaders, making her the ideal Laurentian. Her absence will be greatly missed as she graduates this spring.

Community Partner Spotlight: Canton Central School
~Julia Hall ’14

Mrs. Sue Bastien, a 3rd grade teacher at Canton Elementary school, opens up her classroom each semester for SLU students to connect and become involved in the Canton Community. She initially got involved through economics professor, Cynthia Bansack, FYP program based on children’ literature and economics. Mrs. Bastien's enjoys having SLU student's in her classroom because each student's brings their own special talents and interests, which enriches the classroom. By having the college students in the classroom the Canton students are provided with more positive attention within an academic setting. Mrs. Bastien sees the SLU students as "wonderful role models" for the Canton students because they are able to see that education is the key to having choices and having the life they want. Overall, Mrs. Bastien the CBL program is a wonderful way to connect the Canton and SLU community since the college students are in leadership role, which gains respect from people community member.
Community Coordinator Updates

I began my job as Community Coordinator for the Center for Civic Engagement in January of 2013. One of my main roles in the Center is to facilitate professional development and leadership opportunities for the Community Mentors (CMs). In the last year, our student staff have participated in the following workshops:

- Facilitation 101: How to be an effective facilitator
- Networking 101: How to build your network
- Budgeting 101: How to manage your money
- Exploring Excel: Basic formulas and data entry
- Job Applications: How to write an effective resume and cover letter
- Interviews: What to expect and how to respond
- Etiquette Dinner: Business etiquette skills
- Linkedin: How to navigate the most popular networking site on the web
- Google+: Creating an online portfolio
- Skill Scan: What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- Leadership Survey: identifying your unique leadership strengths
- Being a Role Model: Love it or list it?
- Community Mentor Alumni Panel: Where are they now?

In the year that I have been in this position, it has been extremely rewarding to watch the CMs apply the knowledge and skills from their experiences to their future beyond St. Lawrence University. I am thankful to the staff in Career Services and our community partners who have volunteered their time and knowledge to facilitating some of these workshops and look forward to offering similar opportunities in the future.

Best,

Alexandra (Alie) Sarhanis, Community Coordinator
Contact Alie: asarhanis@stlawu.edu

Community Based Learning Courses Offered
Fall 2014

FYP's:
Reiff College [Eileen Coyle, Tom Ryan, and Elisa VanKirk]
Priest College: [Matt McCluskey and George Repicky]
Ford College: [Karen Gibson]
Herrick College: [Cynthia Bansak]

Other Courses:
CBL 100-01: Community Based Learning, Bob Cowser
EDUC 3002-01: Museum Education with CBL, Sharon Williams
PCA 4005-01: Theatre for Youth with CBL, Ann Marie (.5 credit, start date: 10/20/14)
SOC 238-01: Social Services, Agencies & Advocacy with CBL, Karen O'Neil
Kick It for a Cause
Fitness and Fun Day for Zachary Hamilton
~Taylor Capuano '14

This year was the third annual Kick It for a Cause event and we had the pleasure of sponsoring a Canton 7th grader, Zach Hamilton who has been fighting Neuroblastoma since he was in 4th grade. We wanted to team up with the Hamilton's and all of the "Zach the Fighter" supporters to lighten the burden of all of the travel expenses that go along with frequent travel to NYC and Syracuse for scans and treatments.

This year the event featured Zumba, Tabata, Kick Boxing, and Yoga- all taught by instructors from across the North Country. Countless SLU organizations participated by setting up children's activities like pie toss and tie dying, making it one of the most fun Kick It's so far. It was great to see so many SLU students come together with hundreds of North Country community members-all at the event to support "Zach the Fighter".

Throughout the event, we raised about $6,000, but when we included the money we raised ahead of time through an online campaign, The CCE was excited to write the Hamilton's a check for $9,000. While we are ecstatic with the amount of money we were able to raise for the Hamilton's, there are no words to describe how inspired everyone at the event was by Zach and his family's energy and positivity. Zach's smile was contagious and no one left the event without a big smile on their face. Thank you to everyone who attended the event to make it so special. Also, thank you to the Hamilton family for being such great partners throughout the event- we are excited to continue or friendship for years to come!

Looking Forward: 5th Annual Shawna's Walk for Wishes
~Julie Johnson

On Saturday October 25, 2014, the fifth annual Shawna's Walk for Wishes will take place at St. Lawrence University's Newell Field House from 11am - 3pm. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Make-A-Wish® of Central New York to grant wishes of St. Lawrence County children who are diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions. With the support from local businesses and the community, the "Shawna's Wishes" group has raised over $37,000 to date to grant wishes. Shawna is excited again to "give back". In addition to the walk, there will be a silent auction, a raffle, craft vendors and tons of activities for kids. Register or Donate Today!

Student Recognition

Community Mentor Special Recognition: Student Leadership Awards
Renee Lavigne '14
Sophie Owen-Jankowski '14
Marissa Traver '14

Excellence in Community Based Learning: Moving Up Day Awards
Faculty Spotlight
Jennifer Hansen
Dean of the First Year and Professor of Philosophy
~Lexie Vining ’16

Professor of Philosophy, Jennifer Hansen is very fond of the CBL courses offered, and has taught several throughout her teaching career here at St. Lawrence. She believes that “when students work directly in the community, they understand more deeply the joys and challenges of living in a rural impoverished community”. Professor Hansen also thinks that, “CBL more powerfully challenges students to see the variety of ways people live in this country, and that no one else can generalize the experience to others. CBL promotes empathetic attention and hopefully compassion.” The CBL courses, organized by the Center for Civic Engagement wouldn’t be possible without the support and enthusiasm of teachers like Professor Hansen. Her dedication to this program and her students certainly does not go unnoticed.

Festival of Community Based Learning
April 28, 2014

The spring Festival of Community Based Learning was held on Monday, April 28th in the Eben Holden Conference Center. Over 100 students presented through oral, movie/video or poster presentations. Community partners, faculty, staff and fellow students all came to show support for their hard work and dedication of engaging in the local community. View Presentations.

Getting Involved
Community Mentor Program

As a Community Mentor (CM) of the CCE, the CM’s primary responsibility is to work with local agencies and organizations to develop, implement and coordinate community-University partnerships designed to address unmet needs as defined by the community. As part of their partnership building, the mentors will train and support fellow students placed in Community Based Learning engagement activities. In this role, the student will develop professional and communication skills, as they act as a liaison between students, faculty, community partners, and
CCE staff. Other responsibilities include organizing fundraising activities such as Shawna’s Walk for Wishes, Kick It For a Cause and other events benefiting the local community.

Annual recruitment is held in March of each year, however a student may complete an Online Community Mentor application at anytime as we can keep it on file if openings develop. For more information, please visit the CCE Website.

Getting Involved
Civic Engagement Housing

The CCE offers students the opportunity to continue their work outside of the classroom through Civic Engagement Housing that is combined with reflection opportunities. This opportunity allows students to integrate civic responsibility into their residential life. The goal of the program is for students to work in teams with community partners to maintain existing campus community programs that will enhance the citizenship of students and meet specific needs in the community. Students choose a theme and volunteer as a group, allowing them to develop a long lasting bond with roommates and the community.

Annual recruitment for CCE Housing is held in February of each year. Students who are interested should visit the CCE Website.

Getting Involved
Volunteering in the Local Community

St. Lawrence's Volunteer Services creates learning opportunities for students to develop, practice, and incorporate principles of leadership and service. All programs are student led and staff supported. Check out the Volunteer Website.

For more information, please give us a call, email or stop by our office and introduce yourself.