

The Honor Roll

A Quarterly Newsletter for Honors
Students, Alumni, Parents and Friends

Winter 2011: Issue 6

A focus on our Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

This edition of the Honor Roll focuses on the Center for Civic Engagement and the community partnerships that help enrich our students' educational experience. Since 2003, the CCE has worked with students, faculty and staff to address community needs and improve the lives of residents in and around the University. Here are a few of their stories.

A Message from Dean Dave Jones



In his commencement address last fall, President John Fry shared his vision of a Drexel University intricately involved with the welfare of its immediate surroundings. He announced the University's commitment to the improvement of our neighborhood economically, educationally, and culturally.

The Honors College is strongly positioned to contribute to the realization of President Fry's vision. The Center for Civic Engagement, housed in the College, has been involving Drexel students in community service since the Center's

An Interview with Dan Dougherty, Executive Director of Drexel's Center for Civic Engagement

Dan, Could you please explain the Center for Civic Engagement and Drexel's commitment to civic engagement?

The Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) is a department of the Pennoni Honors College, and offers an interdisciplinary approach to co-curricular and extra-curricular programming that seeks excellence in all that we do. Whether that is engaging all Drexel students in public service through UNIV 101 or developing long-term civic engagement activities through special initiatives and our student leadership programs, we are very excited about the high-quality programs and activities that take place through our center. While the CCE is not the only department at Drexel to promote civic engagement, we are the most comprehensive department to do so. Our mission is to work with faculty, students, and staff to fulfill the university's strategic commitment to the broader community.



What types of programs do you run to carry out the CCE's mission?

We support four types of initiatives in order to facilitate civic engagement activities. We work with faculty to support co-curricular offerings and share information about "best fit" practices. Our largest co-curricular commitment is through UNIV 101, where we coordinate civic engagement opportunities for every first year student. We run several student leadership and

establishment in 2003. Its initial responsibility was to place each of the University's freshmen in a brief service assignment in the Philadelphia community. Under the leadership of Executive Director Dan Dougherty, it has since taken on additional and increasingly ambitious projects, many of which you will read about in this issue of the Honor Roll.

Although the Center for Civic Engagement serves all Drexel undergraduates, its mission is consistent with that of the Honors College as a whole, which is to enhance the educational experience of Drexel students, regardless of major. We believe engagement with the community is an essential component of a solid, rounded undergraduate education. Community engagement is experiential and it is, at this University, reflective. We strive to emphasize the potential relationship of community engagement to all Drexel curricula and its role in living a full and responsible life.

Dave Jones
Dean



Four students to represent Drexel at Education Without Borders 2011: Dubai, UAE

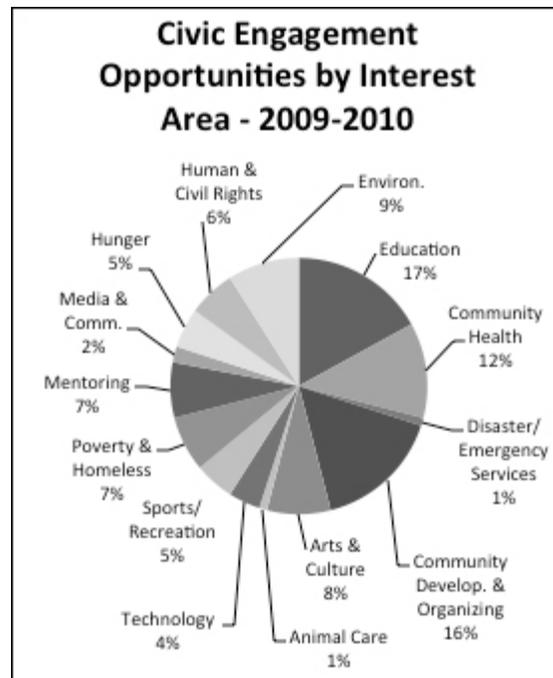
In late March, Drexel Honors students Alyssa Bellingham, Sylvia Herbert, Natalie Gogotsi and Elias Okwara will travel to Dubai, UAE to participate as delegates to the 6th International Education Without Borders 2011 Conference. The students were selected from more than 1,500 applicants to represent Drexel University and the United States.

Education Without Borders (EWB) is a biennial international student conference that creates networks across cultures in order to understand and generate solutions for some of the world's greatest challenges. The conference attempts to achieve this end by engaging the "world's most innovative students and leaders in business, technology, education and humanitarian sector in a collaborative forum that culminates in a commitment to action." (<http://ewb.hct.ac.ae/>)

development programs including the Drexel Community Scholars program. Our programs are all supported through a range of community partnerships. Each year we maintain approximately 75 partnerships with community-based non-profit organizations that translate into over 200 public service opportunities. Finally, we have several special initiatives that round off our programming, including the Lindy Scholars program, the High School Mentoring program, "Guide to the Credit Path" through Learn and Serve America, and America Reads/America Counts.

What types of challenges do you face in facilitating civic engagement?

The largest challenge is to run sustainable, consistent and high quality programming. Every time we develop a community partnership or begin a special initiative, we want to be able to carry through on our commitment to that organization or cause. Fortunately, we receive wonderful support from the University and are well-situated by being in the Pennoni Honors College. We also receive extensive support through donors, such as Philip Lindy, who generously funds both the Lindy Scholars program and the High School Mentoring program, along with other funders including the Corporation for National and Community Service and the TD Foundation. Finally, the CCE has a dynamic, hardworking team of staff that use their talent and passion to overcome a myriad of challenges in their programming.



Drexel Lindy Scholars Program




Public Service Leadership and Development Opportunities

Through Drexel's Center for Civic Engagement, Drexel students can take part in a number of public service leadership and development opportunities. Drexel Community Scholars (DCS) is the CCE's premier student leadership program. DCS students serve as liaisons with community-based organizations or within issue-focused areas to recruit and retain other Drexel students in civic engagement. LIFT is one example of such a partnership.

LIFT is a national organization with community-based resource centers in Boston, Chicago, New York, North and West Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Its mission is to combat poverty and expand opportunities. LIFT harnesses the resources and knowledge of college students to empower individuals in the community to help break the cycle of poverty.

"Essentially," Drexel Community Scholar Nirali Patel '14 explains, "LIFT teaches the skills necessary to be successful. We work on building résumés and cover letters, performing mock interviews, facilitating job searches, applying for housing and public benefits, and filing taxes. Basically we help clients with anything they might need assistance with."

Nirali works one-on-one with clients twice a week in the office doing whatever it is each client needs to accomplish that day. "I am also responsible for attending bi-weekly reflection times where all the volunteers have 'brush-up' training sessions on a particular resource and reflect on their volunteering," she says.



Begun in 2008, the Lindy Scholars Program is a collaborative project between the Pennoni Honors College and the School of Education that is managed by the CCE. The goal of the Lindy Scholars Program is to improve mathematics, writing, and literacy for students in grades 6-8 enrolled in one of three elementary schools in West Philadelphia. Additionally, the program provides workshops for parents of children in the Lindy Scholars Program and teachers at partner schools. Drexel staff, faculty, and students work closely and in an ongoing way with school administrators, community leaders, students, and parents to provide programming on campus and within the community that is expected to make measurable positive improvements in students' academic performance and retention.



Next Steps...

The Pennoni Honors College is dedicated to the development of Drexel's best and brightest students. Your contribution of \$20 or more will help us defray the increasing costs of quality programming and fund the participation of students to cultural events and travel-integrated courses. We encourage you to visit our website (www.drexel.edu/honors) to get more information about our programs. And always feel free to call the Pennoni Honors College at 215-895-1267 with questions.

To support the important work of the Pennoni Honors College, please send donations to – Pennoni Honors College, c/o John Keleher, Ed.D., Assistant Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Pennoni Honors College.

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Questions? Ideas? Suggestions? honorscollege@drexel.edu | (215) 895-1267

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