Service, Justice, Love

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Upcoming Events

- Operation InAsMuch Saturday, September 17th
  This campus-wide day of service is to educate students about community needs and promote service with local non-profits and organizations. In 2010, over 500 campus and community members volunteered their efforts. Alumni are welcome to serve or request a service team for a project with a non-profit. For more information contact bonner@cn.edu

- C-N Bonner Program 20th Birthday Bash! Saturday, October 22nd
  Join us for a Cookout from 11am to 2pm at the Bonner Center during homecoming week. Come celebrate 20 years of providing Access to Education and Opportunity to Serve for Bonner Scholars and the entire Carson-Newman Campus. Saturday, October 22nd, 2011.

- Want to Know About Future Events? Find Us On Facebook
  Friend Carson-Newman Bonner on Facebook to keep update on all the latest happenings. Keep a lookout for Twitter and other social media outlets coming soon!

New Bonner Center Staff Members

Dr. Nicole Saylor is the Director. Dr. Saylor joined the staff in August 2010. She is originally from Nixa, TN, and currently resides in Knoxville. Dr. Saylor is also an Assistant Professor of Psychology.

Reneé Dudley is the Bonner Center Logistics Coordinator. Reneé is from New Albany, IN. She has lived abroad in Guyana and Honduras, as well. She now resides in Knoxville with her husband, C-N Alum, John Dudley.

The Center also welcomes Patrick Gruber as Bonner Scholars Program Coordinator. Patrick is originally from West Virginia and has served two years as an AmeriCorps* VISTA at Siena College in Albany, NY.

Amie Misaiphon has joined our team as an AmeriCorps* VISTA. She is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Bonner Scholars Serve in Camden, New Jersey

Students from the First Year Bonner Scholars Cohort traveled to Camden, NJ, in May. Thirteen students, accompanied by the Bonner Center staff, spent the week learning about urban poverty and volunteering at local agencies by participating in the Urban Challenge at the Romero Center in Camden, NJ.

Carson-Newman is part of a national network of over 75 colleges and universities affiliated with the Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, a non-profit organization in Princeton, NJ, dedicated to “providing access to education and opportunities to serve.”

The Romero Center Ministries is an urban retreat and social justice education center in the heart of East Camden, NJ. It is a ministry of St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral. The work sites used in Urban Challenge include housing rehabilitation, work in schools and preschools, work at centers which provide hot meals, the South Jersey Food Bank and at other social service agencies in Camden and in nearby Philadelphia.

“...the goal of the First Year service trip is not to make a difference. You are not going to solve the problems of Camden in one week.” Patrick Gruber, Bonner Scholars Coordinator says, instead, the goal is to “create an encounter for our students where they learn about urban poverty and realize more fully the need for the training that they receive in the Bonner Scholars Program.” Incoming Bonner Scholars will make a similar trip in May 2012.
C-N Leads the Way in Community Service and Service Learning

Institution receives President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for second year.

Carson-Newman College has been named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. It was recognized last year as well.

Carson-Newman was one of 511 institutions honored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual award. Colleges and universities were noted for the impact they make on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice.

“Recognition, particularly at this high level is pleasing, but the life-changing value of service our students learn is most precious to us,” said C-N President Randal O’Brien. “Inclusion on the President’s Honor Roll recognizes that our students are making a difference here and abroad, with programs like Appalachian Outreach and Samaritan House, including international spring break trips.”

C-N’s Community Service and Service Learning Committee worked with the Campus Ministries Office to compile the data, much of which was obtained through last fall’s service-learning survey. “Creating high quality service learning and community service projects that enhance the academic experiences of Carson-Newman students is at the heart of the mission of the Bonner Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement,” said the Center’s director, Dr. Nicole Saylor. “The transformative power of service benefits our students, faculty, staff and the community at large.”

Altogether, students complete about 187,000 hours of various types of community service during the academic year. An additional 68,000 hours are served at campus events such as alternative break trips (SPOTS) and as a part of the campus-wide day of service, Operation InAbBite. Finally, service-learning courses contribute an additional 50,000 hours this indicates that the average C-N student serves 134 hours, or about 4 hours per week during the academic year.

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BOOST Programs Receive Literacy Grant

Carson-Newman College’s BOOST (Bonner Out of School Time) Program recently received a $2000 Dollar General Literacy Grant. The contribution funded an academic summer program at Jefferson City Housing Authority’s Hillview neighborhood.

“After operating for two years on a shoestring budget, Dr. Nicole Saylor says the donation “provided high quality literacy programming for Jefferson County elementary school students.” Using the theme of “Music and Art from Around the World,” C-N Bonner Scholars and volunteers encouraged students to read and learn in innovative ways.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS is a select group of 4-6 student leaders who receive a small stipend for their work connecting student volunteers with community needs. If you have volunteer needs at your nonprofit or civic organization, or if you, your club, class, or hall is interested in any type of community service, please call the office at (865) 471-4830 or email comconn@cn.edu.

HELPFUL LINK MyJeffCounty.Org is an online resource maintained by Community Connections. When the site launches in August 2012, you will find a database of volunteer opportunities, available social services, or a worthy cause for your financial support. If you have questions, or wish to add or change your agency’s information to the database, contact comconn@cn.edu.

Student Focus

Irina Grigoryants, Junior, Turkmenistan

Irina is spent her 2011 summer of Bonner Service organizing a social entrepreneurship camp for teenage girls in her home country of Turkmenistan. Working as the Teen Social Entrepreneurship Project Coordinator, she developed curriculum, raised funds, and networked with community leaders to plan and implement a multi-week program geared at empowering teens to develop community building initiatives in their communities.

Irina partnered with the Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to developing and encouraging civic values, international experience, and community engagement in the peoples of Turkmenistan.

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“This project, like most successful ones, has had many people who have made it possible,” complimented Saylor. “The Dollar General grant-writing project and operation of the program is led by the Bonner Center, but the education department at C-N, Jefferson City Housing Authority, and Bonner Scholars and federal work study students all make it a success. We also have partners that provide lunch, donate supplies, and assist in multiple ways in order to provide for the BOOST summer program.”