The Bonner Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement at Carson-Newman College invites everyone to join us for the 2012 Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) from June 4th-June 7th, 2012. The Summer Leadership Institute is the largest gathering of the Bonner Foundation and will welcome over 400 students, faculty, staff, community partners, and alumni of the Bonner Network to Jefferson City, TN. Participants in SLI will work through various tracks and workshop sessions sharing best practices and innovative programs in service-learning, community organizing, justice, and social entrepreneurship.

"With Carson-Newman’s renewed focus on service-learning and social entrepreneurship, making the decision to host the Summer Leadership Institute was easy. We are excited to welcome the Bonner Network to our campus and to East Tennessee,” commented Dr. Nicole Saylor, director of the Bonner Center at Carson-Newman.

In addition to local and regional Bonner Programs, Carson-Newman will be welcoming programs from as far away as Albany, NY and San Francisco, CA. Traditionally, programs are only able to send one or two students to national conferences; however, as the host campus, all fifty of the Carson-Newman Bonner Scholars will have a chance to participate connect with the national Bonner Network. Fifteen Carson-Newman Bonner Scholars have even joined the Leadership and Planning team of the conference and are deeply invested in making sure the conference is a success. "Working on SLI has given me a clear picture of just how much work goes into planning a national conference...a lot!" joked SLI programming committee student member Adam Tarver.

While the bulk of the conference will be on campus, SLI offers a unique opportunity to highlight the East Tennessee region and some of our local partner organizations. Over 100 Bonner Scholars will work with Bonner Center staff to complete a two day community-based research and service project to identify and address local community needs. Students participating in this side of the conference will work in the community for two days and create a presentation of learning to describe their experience during the conference closing.

Registration is live now! Go to www.cn.edu/bonner to find out more information about the conference and affiliated events. Everyone is welcome, see you there!
Carson-Newman Focuses on Service Learning to Enhance Student Learning

Carson-Newman College will have its regularly scheduled site visit by its regional accrediting body, Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (SACS) in February 2013. As a part of the reaccreditation process, all schools develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

SACS states that “student learning is at the heart of the mission of all institutions of higher education. Developing a QEP as a part of the reaffirmation process is an opportunity and an impetus for the institution to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning.”

Carson-Newman will focus on service learning for its QEP in an initiative known as C-Nvolved. A committee of faculty, administrators, and staff are currently developing a plan that will provide faculty development on implementing best practices in service learning, that will enhance the culture of community engagement on campus; and that will improve student learning in ethical reasoning and other selected areas.

“The focus on service learning for the QEP, will only serve to strengthen and enhance what many of our faculty are already passionate about: high quality education and service,” stated Bonner Center Director and Assistant Professor of Psychology Nicole Saylor.

In the fall semester of 2012, Carson-Newman will launch a new Master of Arts degree in Applied Social Justice. The program will be low-residency, requiring some designated time on the C-N campus for a week or two at different times throughout the program. However, the majority of the course material will be offered in an online format.

The degree will offer two tracks; one in Christian Community Development, and another in Social Entrepreneurship. The CCD track is inspired by and offered in collaboration with the Christian Community Development Association (www.ccdca.org). This track seeks to “inspire, train, and connect Christians who seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God by reclaiming and restoring under-resourced communities.” This track prepares graduates to assume leadership roles in faith-based organizations and projects designed to solve problems of social injustice by applying the eight components of Christian Community Development. These components include Relocation, Living among the people; Reconciliation; Just Distribution of Resources; Leadership development; Listening to the community; Church-based; Holistic approach; Empowerment.

The Social Entrepreneurship track seeks to develop students who want to become individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems. This option prepares graduates with interests in missions and business to apply principles of social change and sound business practices to start and build innovative organizations designed to solve problems of social injustice by addressing root causes in ways that can be sustained and replicated in other places.

The program is currently accepting applications for the upcoming fall semester. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Laura Wadlington, dean of Social Sciences for more information.

The Bonner Center would like to welcome Matt Cummings, AmeriCorps State Member, to our staff as the new BOOST After-School Program coordinator. Matt graduated cum laude from Johnson University majoring in Urban and Biblical studies. He is currently enrolled at Eastern University attempting to obtain a Master of Arts in urban studies and community development. Matt has been married for six years and has a beautiful 18-month-old daughter and is expecting a baby boy in March. Matt lived in Shanghai, China for two and a half years teaching English and enjoys bicycling, cooking, vegetarianism, debate, and reading. Matt currently resides in South Knoxville but was born and raised in Bloomfield, Indiana. He can be reached at mcummings@cn.edu

Carson-Newman Celebrates 20 Years of Bonner Scholars

In 1991, Carson-Newman became one of the inaugural class of twelve institutions to join the Corella and Betram Bonner Foundation Network. Twenty years and over 200 graduates later, C-N continues to offer the Bonner Scholarship for students to have access to education and opportunity to serve. To commemorate 20 years, the Bonner Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement hosted a cook out for all Bonner Scholar alumni. The Center wants to thank the many alumni who attended. Current students were inspired by alumni, their families and by their successes. Looking forward to the next twenty years of the Bonner Scholars program at Carson-Newman, the Center envisions more alumni involvement in the program. If you would like to stay connected, friend us on Facebook at Carson-Newman Bonner where we will post news about upcoming events and ways to be involved.

Jared combined his passion for online and social media with his call to service by launching a new online social magazine titled Inkerro. Inkerro.com is a space designed to offer writers the opportunity to express opinions about news, culture, and justice while at the same time contributing ad revenues for education initiatives by World Vision, a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. In addition to creating the website design and development from the ground up, Jared has recruited a wide range of contributors to provide high quality content from diverse perspectives. Belcher’s project is an example of social entrepreneurship that utilizes a revenue producing project to address a social need; in this case, the educational needs of children throughout the world.

1 John 3:18-19

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